LEWIS CLARK
STATE COLLEGE

17th Annual Research Symposium

May 6th - 8th, 2026

Connecting Research to Life

Mission

The mission of the Lewis-Clark State College Research Symposium is to celebrate academic achievement, enhance professional development, and promote scholarship and research excellence by providing students, faculty, and guests the opportunity to present and share their work.

Participating Programs

Business & Computer Science Division
Business
Computer Science

Humanities Division
Communication Arts
English
Art

Nursing & Health Sciences Division
Nursing

Physical, Life, Movement & Sport Science Division
Biology
Chemistry
Exercise Science
Kinesiology
Sport Management

Social Sciences Division
History
Justice Studies
Social Sciences
Social Work

Technical & Industrial Division
Auto Mechanics
CNC Machining
Computer Information Technology & Security
Engineering Technology
HVAC-R
Industrial Electronics

2026 LC State Research Symposium Committee

Symposium Chair: Dr. Nancy Johnston

Committee Members:

Dr. Tracy L. Adkins
Dr. Faqruddin Azam
Dr. Ralph M. Barnes
Ms. Magen R. Fairley
Dr. Renee Harris
Mr. Billy Lemus
Ms. Fatema Meem
Ms. Marte White

A special thank you is extended to the following people who made the 2026 Research Symposium a reality:

Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, President
Dr. Fredrick Chilson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Rocky Owens, Director, North Idaho (Region 1) Strategic Initiatives
Mr. Martin Gibbs, Dean for Liberal Arts & Science
Dr. Krista Harwick, Interim Dean for Professional Studies
Dr. Royal Toy - Interim Dean for Graduate Studies
Ms. Jenny Scott - Business & Computer Science
Dr. Amanda Van Lanen - Humanities
Ms. Michelle Pearson-Smith, Nursing & Health Sciences
Dr. Rachel Jameton - Physical, Life, Movement, and Sport Sciences
Dr. Christopher Riggs - Social Sciences
Ms. Jennifer Weeks - Technical and Industrial Division
Ms. Vicki Cooper – Provost Office Management Assistant
Ms. Angel Huddleston - Events & Conferences
Ms. Hailey Denton -Web Coordinator
Ms. Monika Pande - Sodexo
Ms. Julie Wilson and Mr. Andy Tuschhoff - Graphic Communications

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE 2026:

Wednesday, May 6

9-11:30 AM .....Culinary Wars (MTB 105)

9:15 AM ..... President Welcome (SAC 115)

9:30 AM-12 PM .....Nursing (SAC 112, 115, 208)

10AM-12 PM ..... Computer Science (ACW 133)

12-1 PM .....Provost Welcome (SAC 115)
Faculty Panel (SAC 115)

1:15-5 PM ..... Physical, Life, Movement & Sport Sciences (SAC 115)

3-5 PM .....Business (TJH 108)

4-5 PM ..... POSTER SESSION (SUB 1st FL)

5-6 PM .. Physical, Life, Movement & Sport Sciences Awards Reception (SUB 1st FL)

Thursday, May 7

9-11:30 AM .....Technical & Industrial Display (STC)

12-1 PM .....Welcome, KEYNOTE
Joe Barnes, Wildlife Biologist (SAC 115)

12-5:30 PM .....English/Communications (LIB 2nd Floor)

3-5 PM ..... Justice Studies (ACW 134)

4-6 PM ..... Art Reception (LIB 1st Floor)

COEUR D'ALENE (CDA) CENTER

Friday, May 8

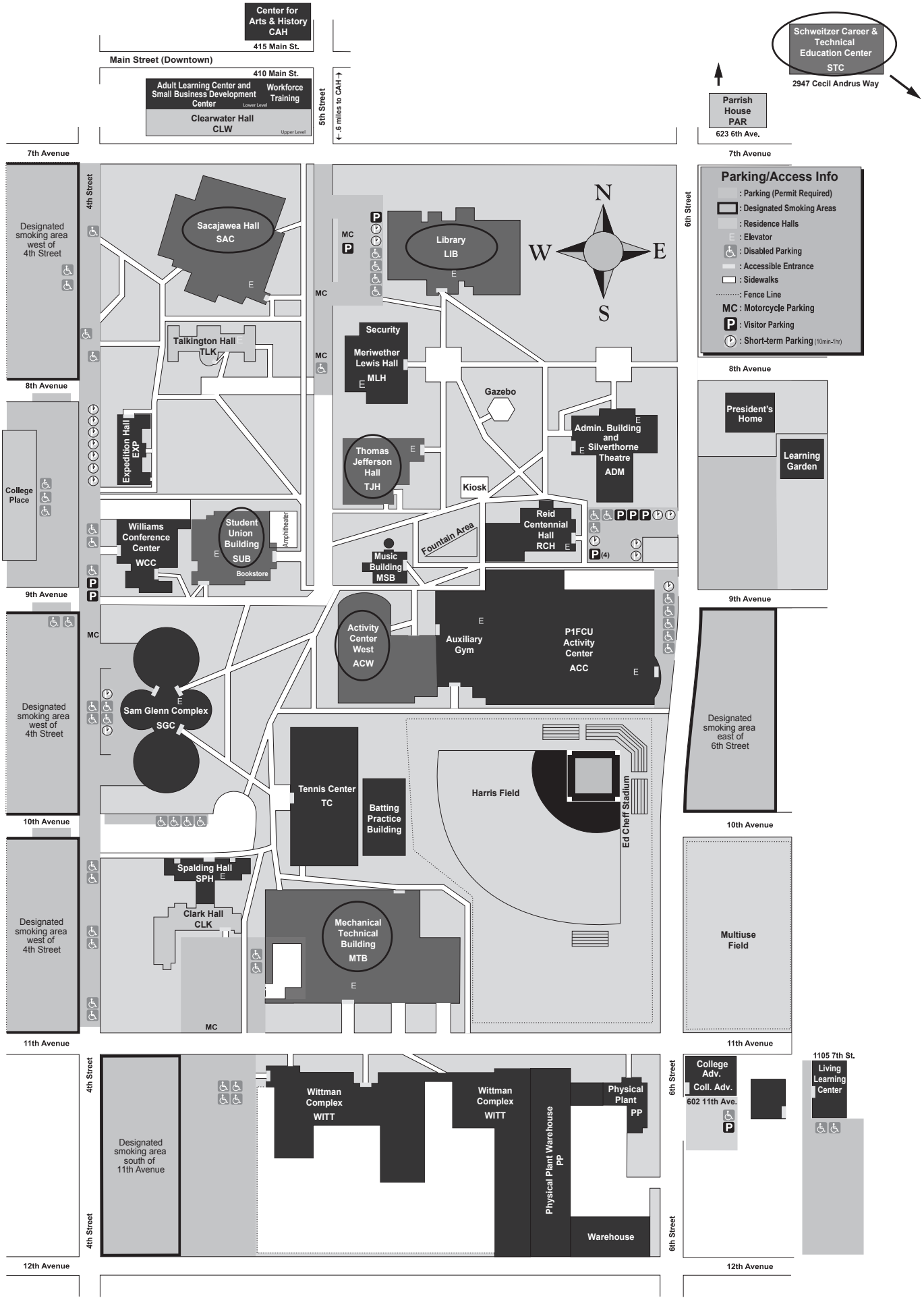
12 –4 PM .....Business (DeArmond Bldg 110, CDA)

12-4 PM .....Social Work (DeArmond Bldg 107, CDA)

4-5:30 PM ..... Grad Reception, DeArmond Bldg Commons,
North Idaho College (NIC)

5:30 PM.....Social Work Pinning Ceremony
(NIC Student Union Building, Lake CDA Room)

Activity Center West (ACW)
Library (LIB)
Mechanical Technical Building (MTB)
Sacajawea Hall (SAC)
Schweitzer Career & Technical Education Center (STC)
Student Union Building (SUB)
Thomas Jefferson Hall (TJH)


Center for Arts & History
CAH
415 Main St.
Main Street (Downtown)
410 Main St.
Adult Learning Center and Small Business Development Center
Lower Level
Workforce Training
Clearwater Hall
CLW
Upper Level
5th Street
← .6 miles to CAH →
Schweitzer Career & Technical Education Center
STC
2947 Cecil Andrus Way
Parrish House
PAR
623 6th Ave.
7th Avenue
Parking/Access Info
: Parking (Permit Required)
: Designated Smoking Areas
: Residence Halls
E : Elevator
: Disabled Parking
: Accessible Entrance
: Sidewalks
: Fence Line
MC : Motorcycle Parking
P : Visitor Parking
: Short-term Parking (10min-1hr)
N
W
E
S
4th Street
6th Street
Designated smoking area west of 4th Street
Sacajawea Hall
SAC
Library
LIB
MC
P
Talkington Hall
TLK
Security
Meriwether Lewis Hall
MLH
Gazebo
8th Avenue
Expedition Hall
EXP
College Place
Thomas Jefferson Hall
TJH
Kiosk
Admin. Building and Silverthorne Theatre
ADM
President's Home
Learning Garden
Williams Conference Center
WCC
Student Union Building
SUB
Amphitheater
Bookstore
Fountain Area
Reid Centennial Hall
RCH
Music Building
MSB
9th Avenue
Activity Center West
ACW
Auxiliary Gym
P1FCU Activity Center
ACC
Designated smoking area west of 4th Street
Sam Glenn Complex
SGC
Designated smoking area east of 6th Street
10th Avenue
Tennis Center
TC
Batting Practice Building
Harris Field
Ed Cheff Stadium
Spalding Hall
SPH
Clark Hall
CLK
Mechanical Technical Building
MTB
Multiuse Field
11th Avenue
Designated smoking area south of 11th Avenue
Wittman Complex
WITT
Physical Plant
PP
Physical Plant Warehouse
Warehouse
College Adv.
Coll. Adv.
602 11th Ave.
1105 7th St.
Living Learning Center
12th Avenue

Spring 2026 Research Symposium - Faculty Panel Participants

Wednesday, May 6th, 12:00-1:00
Sacajawea Hall Room 115

BUSINESS & COMPUTER SCIENCE DIVISION

Mr. Christopher Webb
Assistant Professor of Business

Bio: A business professor with a terminal degree in applied economics and experience across corporate, government, and entrepreneurial settings. He brings real-world insight into the classroom, equipping students to understand markets and adapt to rapidly evolving technologies like AI.

Topic: *Educating from a Place of Expertise in an AI Environment*

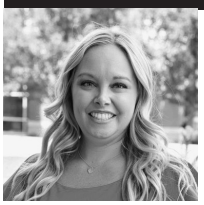
LIBRARY

Johanna Bjork MLS
Director of Library Services

Bio: Has served as Library Director at LC State since 2017, working to transform the library into a central hub for student support. Awarded the rank of Professor in 2025. Outside of work, she and her children enjoy hiking, spending time by the rivers, and exploring the region.

Topic: *Evolving the Library: Partnerships, Student Support, and the Future of Innovation*

NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES



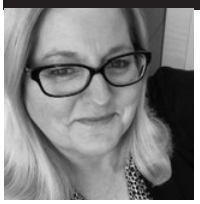
Ms. Chelsea Cronin MSN, RN, OCN, CHSE
Associate Professor of Nursing / BSN Program Coordinator

Bio: A certified oncology nurse and simulation educator with 16 years of nursing experience. Integrates high-fidelity simulation and theatrical techniques to bridge classroom learning and clinical readiness.

Co-presented with Dr. Peggy D. Mata.

Topic: *Participation of First Semester Nursing Students in an "Unhoused" Simulation with Use of Standardized Patients*

NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES



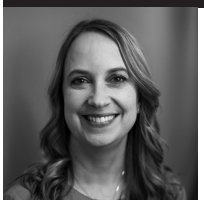
Dr. Peggy D. Mata DNP, RN, PHN
Associate Professor of Nursing

Bio: Associate Professor at LC State since 2023. Earned her DNP in Healthcare Leadership from the University of San Diego and brings 9+ years of clinical placement coordination and nursing faculty experience.

Co-presented with Chelsea Cronin.

Topic: *Participation of First Semester Nursing Students in an "Unhoused" Simulation with Use of Standardized Patients*

PHYSICAL, LIFE, MOVEMENT & SPORT SCIENCES

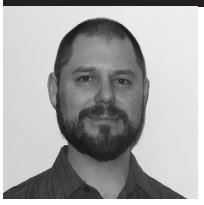


Dr. Nancy A. C. Johnston Ph.D.
Professor of Chemistry

Bio: Has taught Chemistry at LC for over 20 years, leading an undergraduate atmospheric chemistry research group. Recently appointed Idaho INBRE's Statewide Student Program Director, helping LC students and those around the state benefit from INBRE's mission of biomedical research excellence.

Topic: *Biomedical Research Spotlight: 25 Years of INBRE at LC*

SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION



Dr. Ralph M. Barnes Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Bio: Earned his PhD in experimental psychology from Ohio State University, focusing on auditory and music perception, and now researches reasoning, decision-making, argumentation, and group dynamics.

Topic: *Dynamic Social Influence*

TECHNICAL & INDUSTRIAL DIVISION (T&I)

Joshua L. Rogers
Associate Professor of Computer Information Technology

Bio: A first-generation college graduate, has taught computer information technology at LC State since 2016, after starting as a TRiO tutor in 2008, and focuses on how people adapt to rapid advances in artificial intelligence.

Topic: *AI in 2026: A Practical Overview*

Welcome & Opening Remarks:
Dr. Grace Anderson,
Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness

Introduction of speaker by Dr. Ralph Barnes

Keynote Address 2026
Joe Barnes

Wildlife Biologist

"Twenty-two Years of Raptor Studies in the Arid Lands of Nevada"

Thursday, May 7th 12:00-1:00
Sacajawea Hall 115

Biography: Joe Barnes has been working with the U.S. Department of the Interior (as an employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) since 2022. Before working with the U.S. Department of the Interior, he was a wildlife specialist for the Nevada Department of Wildlife. He has also worked as a raptor specialist for the Institute of Wildlife Studies in the Channel Islands in California and the American Eagle Research Institute in Arizona. Besides Nevada, California and Arizona, Joe has also worked as an ecologist and/or wildlife specialist in New Mexico, Texas, Washington, and Alaska. Joe has published over 15 peer-reviewed publications, most of which involve his research on birds of prey. Joe earned his master's degree in Biological Sciences from University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Abstract: Join Joe Barnes for a description of various aspects of raptor research and monitoring he has been conducting over the past twenty-two years across the Great Basin and Mojave deserts of Nevada. As the driest state in the U.S., and with additional stressors stemming from large scale habitat conversion, pervasive spread of various invasive species and novel diseases, and increased wildland fire regimes it is no wonder that many of Nevada's raptor species face significant conservation challenges. Joe has specialized on Peregrine Falcons, Golden Eagles, and Ferruginous Hawks with emphasis on understanding population dynamics, studying movement and habitat use, diet, and assessing exposure to environmental contaminants. Much of his research has been conducted with state and federal agencies with an underlying goal to address conservation threats and to understand impacts raptors face from large-scale landscape development projects. His presentation will detail various aspects of the rise and subsequent decline of Peregrine Falcons and understanding the population dynamics of the iconic Golden Eagle.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

Mechanical Technical Building (MTB) 105 • 9:00 *CULINARY ARTS*

Faculty Mentor: Ms. Magen Fairley
Course: Advanced Culinary Class CULPT-290
Title: Chef Wars
Abstract: Two student culinary teams go head-to-head in a live kitchen competition. Each team has designed three original appetizers for symposium guests to sample and savor. After tasting both menus, guests cast their votes to crown the winning team Best Chef. Symposium attendees are invited to watch the action unfold live in the kitchen and play a delicious role in deciding the champion. The action starts at 9:00, and the first round of tasting will start coming out around 10:30.

*****Welcome: Opening Remarks - President Cynthia Pemberton*****

Sacajawea Room 115 - 9:15 am

Sacajawea Hall (SAC) 208 • 9:15 – 12:00 *NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES*

NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE PRESENTATIONS:

Student Authors: Laura Fischer, Kathryn Kirk, Lyndsie Walker, Kathryn White
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sheri Cutler
Project Title: Workplace Violence in Healthcare
Abstract: Workplace violence is experienced by 70–90% of nurses, compromising personal and patient safety and impacting the quality of care. This evidence-based project addresses the issue by providing specialized training and prevention tools to medical/surgical nurses.

Student Authors: Dylan Baxter, Jaden House, McKenna Jackson, Megan Kelly, Gugulethu Nhliziyo
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sheri Cutler
Project Title: Neuroprotective Therapies in Preterm Neonates
Abstract: Adverse neurodevelopmental complications in infants born at or before 37 weeks of gestation result in long-term neurological disability and healthcare costs upwards of 26 billion annually. Neuroprotective strategies to reduce adverse outcomes and empower caregivers will be made available to parents and caregivers via evidence-based education targeting sensory and nutritional support and oro-motor bundles to promote optimal growth trajectories.

Student Authors: Victoria Pitts, Lucie Ranisate, Ashley Sexton, Brooklyn Wells, Avalon Zborowski
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sheri Cutler
Project Title: Second Victim Syndrome
Abstract: Nearly 50% of healthcare clinicians involved in serious adverse events experience Second Victim Syndrome (SVS), resulting in emotional distress, burnout, impaired performance, and increased patient risk. Evidence supports formal peer and systemic support. This project implements a two-part intervention: an annual hospital-wide SVS training program and institutional deployment of the PTSD/SVS Coach app for ongoing, confidential symptom support.

Student Authors: Rachel Gourley, Kenzie Paris, Caristae Robinson, Avery Sabatke, Brooke Schoenfeld, Dawson Teats
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sheri Cutler
Project Title: Preventing Post-Extubation Failure
Abstract: In the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), approximately 10% of recently extubated patients require reintubation, adversely impacting morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs. This evidence-based project highlights the need for a standardized protocol that minimizes extubation failure. The proposed protocol will include non-invasive ventilation, high-flow nasal cannula, and steroid use.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

Sacajawea Hall (SAC) 112 • 9:15 – 12:00 *NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES*

NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE PRESENTATIONS:

Student Authors: Megan Halstead, Keirstan Knutson, Moriah Littlefield, Rylie Overton, Lily Richard
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Tracy Adkins
Project Title: Mitigation of Perinatal Environmental Toxin Exposures
Abstract: Women of childbearing age are unknowingly exposed to myriad environmental toxins associated with infertility, miscarriage, and adverse fetal outcomes. Screening, education, and prevention efforts are implemented inconsistently. This project aims to provide evidence-based education programs for perinatal care providers to enhance patient screening and support the reduction of pre- and perinatal exposures.

Student Authors: Richard Angeles, Andrew Fletcher, Andrew Hunt, Ethan Mitchell, Teagan Riley
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Tracy Adkins
Project Title: Sepsis Bundle Compliance: A Vital Step in Saving Lives
Abstract: Septic shock is a potentially deadly condition that requires immediate evidence-based care to reduce morbidity and mortality. Although the Sepsis Bundle from the Surviving Sepsis Campaign improves outcomes, clinician guideline adherence is inconsistent. To improve patient outcomes and lower sepsis-related healthcare expenditures, this evidence-based project implements a code sepsis team program to support guideline compliance and improve mortality rates.

Student Authors: Nya Barber Castro, Megan Crea, Nicole Jones, Natalie Scheib
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Tracy Adkins
Project Title: Procedural Trauma in the Pediatric Population
Abstract: Healthcare-induced distress can give rise to anxiety, trauma, and trauma responses in pediatric patients, with long-term repercussions. Evidence demonstrates that distraction strategies can mitigate risk. This project integrates proven techniques in a portable toolkit to decrease procedural trauma in this population.

Sacajawea Hall (SAC) 115 • 9:15 – 12:00 *NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES*

NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE PRESENTATIONS:

Student Authors: Nolan Hansen, Braden Patrick, Amy Paul, Alivia VanSchoiack, Samantha Wendt
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deena Rauch
Project Title: Retention and Job Satisfaction Among New Registered Nurses in Outpatient Settings
Abstract: Nearly 18% of new outpatient nurses plan to or do leave their jobs in the first year. New nurses face transition challenges that increase stress, burnout, and attrition. Evidence highlights leadership, work environment, workload, and structured support as key factors. This project implements targeted evidence-based strategies to improve retention and system performance.

Student Authors: Andrea Fassio, Katie Gray, Edward Mugo, Ethan Samayoa, Madysen Sunell
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deena Rauch and Ms. Katie M. Roberts
Project Title: Quality of Life in Long-Term Care Residents
Abstract: In long-term care (LTC) residents, quality of life can be affected by loneliness, as well as mental and physical health. Quality of life is a multidimensional construct encompassing varying aspects of health status, including psychological well-being, social relationships, and engagement in meaningful activities. Our project identifies evidence-based therapeutic activities that promote the autonomy and well-being of this population.

Student Authors: Hanna Blum, Hannah Knutt, Mark Kogo, Teagan Kramasz, Kaitlyn Rainville
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deena Rauch and Ms. Katie Roberts
Project Title: Treatment Approaches for High BMI in Youth (Ages 2–19)
Abstract: In youth, a high body mass index (BMI) impacts children, their parents, and health systems. This presentation will review the evidence about chronic health complications, adverse psychosocial outcomes, and treatment options. Promoting education and awareness for pre-licensure nurses informs the nursing community how to care for this unique population.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

Activity Center West (ACW) 133
10:00 – 12:00
BUSINESS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Type: Capstone Presentation
Student Author: Computer Science Capstone Design (Group Project)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stan Gotshall
Project Title: Iterative Development of Mobile Applications
Abstract: The Capstone Design class was organized into four software development teams, each focused on a team-chosen mobile application project. Using the Scrum framework, teams delivered demonstrable functionality in two-week iterations. They continuously prioritized and delegated value-driven tasks, progressing from proof of concept to a minimum viable product (MVP). Each team member assumed a defined Scrum role, supporting a balance of priorities, productivity, and effective collaboration.

*****Wednesday, May 6th Featured Symposium*****
12:00-1:00, Sacajawea Hall 115
Welcome: Provost Fredrick Chilson
FACULTY SHOWCASE:
A symposium session highlighting the scholarly endeavors of LC State faculty. See page 4

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Sacajawea Hall (SAC) 115 • 1:15 – 5:00
PHYSICAL, LIFE, MOVEMENT, AND SPORT SCIENCES

Student Author: Grace Tiegs
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy A.C. Johnston
Project Title: Overview of Three Years of Research in the LC State A.I.R. Lab: A Scientific and Personal Journey
Abstract: Over the last three years, I have been a member of the LC AIR Laboratory and have contributed to a wide variety of scientific research projects. Topics include levels of volatile organic compounds and toxics in wildfire smoke, quantification of melatonin in breast milk, pollutants around a former oil refinery site in Philadelphia, formaldehyde in the LC Valley, operation of NASA instruments to track aerosols, and more. In this talk, each project will be overviewed, and the major scientific results as well as subsequent community impacts will be discussed.

Student Authors: Jessica Riggs*, Connor Alexander, Abigail Brown, Ava Hasenoehrl, Tesla Presnell
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Eric Stoffregen
Project Title: Comparative Analysis of DAM2 and Zantiks Systems for Monitoring Drosophila Activity and Circadian Rhythms
Abstract: We conducted an experiment to compare circadian rhythm monitoring between the Drosophila Activity Monitor 2 (DAM2), which tracks movement via beam crossings, and the Zantiks video monitoring system. We hypothesized that the DAM system may fail to track meaningful activity occurring away from the infrared beam. After comparing the data from the same experiment conducted in both systems, we discovered that while they both yielded comparable results in sleep and general activity, the DAM system misses meaningful differences in circadian rhythmicity.

Student Authors: Connor Alexander*, Abigail Brown, Ava Hasenoehrl, Tesla Presnell, Jessica Riggs
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Eric Stoffregen
Project Title: Drosophila Blm Mutant Males Show Increased Meiotic Nondisjunction
Abstract: Bloom syndrome in humans, caused by a lack of BLM protein, leads to developmental abnormalities and cancer. In Drosophila, Blm is known to ensure proper crossover patterning and chromosome segregation in female meiosis, but its role in male meiosis, which lacks crossovers, is unclear. We found that male Blm flies exhibit a 3-fold increase in sex chromosome nondisjunction. A lack of clustering suggests these events are meiotic, rather than pre-meiotic in nature, although pre-meiotic damage may be the root cause. This demonstrates Blm is vital for meiotic genome stability in both sexes.

Faculty Author: Dr. Nancy A.C. Johnston
Project Title: Sabbatical Overview — Integrating Air Pollution and Health Research
Abstract: The LC AIR LAB is run by Dr. Nancy Johnston and undergraduate students. This talk will overview sabbatical activities from Spring 2025, including wildfire smoke studies in LC Valley and Idaho, and an air toxic study in Philadelphia. Current and past air monitoring and results will be discussed, including the incorporation of data in general chemistry and earth science laboratories.

Student Authors: McKelvy Specht, Peyton Norland, Zane Leslie
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kirby Boehm
Project Title: Relationship Marketing Among DGPT Stakeholders: A Qualitative Study
Abstract: Social media allows athletes to interact with fans and promote themselves. The purpose of this study was to investigate relationship marketing and self-presentation of niche athletes on social media. This study included six social media accounts, representing athletes and manufacturers. The results are related to the six objectives of social media. Results suggest that social media is a tool both athletes and companies can use to strengthen their brands by sharing personal content and disc golf events; however, they differ in how they present themselves and engage with their fans.

Student Authors: Payton Hymas, Tanner Sibert, Cooper Biery, Jackson Cloud
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jessica Savage
Project Title: Ankle Flexibility and Functional Balance in Women's Basketball: Examining the Relationship Between Range of Motion and Y-Balance Test Performance
Abstract: Female basketball players commonly sustain ankle injuries. To better understand reducing injury and re-injury risk, we studied 13 female LC State collegiate players (ages 18–22) using an ankle intervention, with pre- and post-Y Balance Test—Lower Quarter and ankle plantar/dorsiflexion measures. This study examines how improved ankle mobility and stability influence balance and performance. The intervention uses targeted exercises to enhance strength, flexibility, and neuromuscular control. Significant differences were found in right dorsiflexion, right plantar flexion, and left plantar flexion.

Student Authors: Ailani Gomez, Landon Webb, Cameron Carrara, Naiara Montero
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kirby D. Boehm
Project Title: Sustainability in Sport: LEED Certified Stadiums
Abstract: This research study analyzed how CPKC Stadium achieved LEED Gold certification through sustainability initiatives in energy, water, and waste management. The stadium generates approximately 14% of its energy from solar power, saves around 1.5 million gallons of water annually, and implements rigorous recycling and zero-waste practices. The results demonstrate that achieving LEED Gold certification requires meeting all prerequisites, utilizing integrated sustainability strategies, and applying efficient planning throughout the entire process.

Student Authors: Grace Osborne, Carol Carrillo, Devan Olsen, Sondre Normann
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jessica Savage
Project Title: Wildland Fire Fighter Exercise Prescription
Abstract: Wildland firefighting requires high aerobic endurance, muscular endurance, and functional strength to perform prolonged work on steep terrain while carrying heavy loads. This study developed an off-season training program for wildland firefighters using evidence-based training principles and tactical research. The periodized program emphasizes progressive overload, load carriage, high-intensity circuit training, and posterior chain development. The goal is to improve work capacity, reduce injury risk, and better prepare firefighters for the physical demands of fire season.

Student Authors: Emily Collins, Zoe Kempton, Jesus Sandoval, Richie Vecchio
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jessica Savage
Project Title: Grip Strength and Cognitive Performance: A Correlation Study with Middle-Aged Adults
Abstract: Early detection of cognitive decline has prompted investigation into the relationship between physical activity and brain health, with grip strength emerging as a potential marker of cognitive function. This study examined the association between grip strength and cognitive performance of faculty and staff aged 30–50 at Lewis-Clark State College. Correlation analysis of Montreal Cognitive Assessment scores and grip strength measured with a handheld dynamometer revealed no significant relationship ($r = -0.13$), highlighting a need for further research into early indicators of cognitive decline.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Thomas Jefferson Hall (TJH) 108
3:00 – 5:00
BUSINESS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Type: Capstone Presentation
Student Author: Senior Strategic Seminar (Group Project)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brent Booth
Project Title: Driving Innovation and Growth: Strategic Opportunities for Micron
Abstract: This Senior Seminar Capstone Project brought together four student teams that developed strategic opportunities for Micron. Each team conducted research into the company's position, industry trends, and competitive environment to identify areas for growth and innovation. Through analysis of market conditions, technological developments, and business strategy, the teams proposed actionable recommendations designed to strengthen Micron's long-term success. The teams will present their findings, highlighting critical thinking, collaboration, and the practical application of business concepts in a real-world context.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON POSTER SESSION
4:00 – 5:00 • Student Union Building (SUB) First Floor

BUSINESS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Student Author: Juan Naranjo Penna
Faculty Mentor: Mr. Billy Lemus
Project Title: Macroeconomic Policy Report
Abstract: This presentation examines how U.S. economic policies shape growth, jobs, and prices, focusing on monetary policy, fiscal policy, deficits, and current challenges. Using models like IS–LM and AD–AS, it connects theory to real data. It shows how the Federal Reserve manages inflation and recessions, how government spending impacts demand and debt, and how trade-offs affect long-term growth.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Student Author: Levi Johnson
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Angela Wartel
Project Title: The Nation at 250: Exploring History, Politics, and Justice in Washington, D.C.
Abstract: This poster documents students' experiential learning during a field exploration in the United States capital, Washington, D.C., coinciding with the nation's Semiquincentennial commemoration. Through visits to governmental institutions, historic landmarks, and museums, students deepened their understanding of political science, history, and criminal justice. Experiential field education transforms abstract concepts into lived, meaningful knowledge.

Student Author: Tristan Hoffmann
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Angela Wartel
Project Title: Education in Action: How Field Trips Enhance Student Learning
Abstract: This poster explores the educational value of an academic field trip to governmental and historic locations in Washington, D.C. during the U.S. Semiquincentennial. By visiting historic landmarks, museums, and government institutions, students were able to connect their experiences to the field of public history. The trip strengthens historical understanding, critical thinking, and civic awareness while increasing engagement and retention. Overall, the experience shows how field trips enhance learning by turning academic concepts into active, meaningful experiences.

Student Author: Tristan Hoffmann
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Canfield
Project Title: Learning Beyond the Lecture Hall: The Educational Impact of a Public History Internship
Abstract: This poster examines the educational impact of a public history internship completed at The German Electricity Museum in summer 2025. Responsibilities included researching and cataloging phones, translating texts, assisting with tours, and leading educational workshops. The museum's public events are highlighted. The internship connected academic history with practical museum work and demonstrated how experiential learning beyond the classroom enhances a student's professional development while helping with historical preservation and public engagement.

Student Authors: Gautam Balakrishnan*, Rayana Shah, Grace Tiegs, Miccael Sonner-Cranney, Benjamin Vernon, Kaitlynn Butler, Jacob Liapis
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy A.C. Johnston
Project Title: Air Toxic Monitoring in the Western US
Abstract: Over the past two decades, wildfires in the western United States have increased in size and begun altering air composition in ways not fully understood. This study samples air across the west, including Idaho, New Mexico, and Alaska, comparing air toxics and particulate matter (PM2.5). Using sorbent tubes and EPA Method 325 with thermal desorption–gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (TD-GC-MS), concentrations of harmful pollutants like benzene and other air toxic compounds were found to be elevated during wildfire smoke events, causing potential health risks.

Student Author: Miccael Sonner-Cranney
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy A.C. Johnston and Dr. Leigh Latta
Project Title: Drought, Wildfire Smoke, and Air Toxics in Idaho
Abstract: Idaho has experienced a pronounced escalation in wildfire occurrence over the past decades. In fact, Lewiston is among the top 25 smokiest cities in the U.S. This study investigated data on drought and wildfire occurrences from the National Interagency Fire Center and the National Integrated Drought Information System to assess correlations between environmental conditions and smoke exposure. Preliminary results show geographic variation in pollutant concentrations. These findings suggest that increasing wildfire frequency due to drought may also elevate long-term health risks in affected Idaho communities.

Student Authors: Rayana Shah*, Gautam Balakrishnan, Grace Tiegs, Miccael Sonner-Cranney, Benjamin Vernon, Kaitlynn Butler, Jacob Liapis
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy A.C. Johnston
Project Title: Wildfire Smoke in Idaho: Analyzing Benzene Exposure and Associated Air Toxic Health Risks
Abstract: Wildfires increasingly degrade Western U.S. air quality through PM2.5 and gaseous toxics. This 2025 study monitored indoor and outdoor air across seven Idaho locations using Tenax tubes and EPA Method 325A/B. Findings from Boise and Lewiston revealed that indoor air often had higher toxic levels than outdoor air. Elevated BTEX levels (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes) during smoke episodes significantly increased lifetime cancer risks, highlighting the critical impact of gas-phase pollutants.

Student Authors: Jake Liapis*, Cooper Howell*, Benjamin Vernon
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy A.C. Johnston
Project Title: Quantification of Melatonin in Human Breast Milk
Abstract: The goal of this research is to investigate maternal sleep disruption and its effect on melatonin content in breast milk. Melatonin is a sleep-regulating hormone that assists in the synchronization of circadian rhythms. Milk samples undergo acetonitrile extraction, centrifugation, and filtration, followed by vacuum evaporation and reconstitution in a methanol/buffer solution. Quantification of melatonin is then performed using liquid chromatography–mass spectrometry (LC-MS), targeting ions with mass:charge ratios of 233 and 237 amu for precise measurement. This method is essential for comparing melatonin in breast milk samples during various times of the day to determine circadian rhythms.

Student Author: Kaitlynn Butler
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy A.C. Johnston
Project Title: The Impact of Air Quality on Mental Health in Idaho Cities
Abstract: Air pollution is a growing public health concern in the Pacific Northwest. Fine particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5) is a major component of polluted air, which has a known effect on cognitive function. This study aims to determine whether an increase in PM2.5 leads to an increase in mental hospital admissions. Adult mental hospital intake data was obtained from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and PM2.5 data was obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (2019–2024). A distributed lag model was used to assess the relationship between mental health hospital admissions and PM2.5. Preliminary results suggest a significant increase in intakes with PM2.5 at lag 0 and cumulatively one week after exposure.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON POSTER SESSION

PHYSICAL, LIFE, MOVEMENT, AND SPORT SCIENCES (cont.)

Student Authors: Benjamin Vernon*, Grace Tiegs
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy A.C. Johnston
Project Title: Measuring Air Pollution with LC State's NASA AERONET Instrument
Abstract: Since July 2021, Lewis-Clark State College has been part of NASA AERONET (AErosol RObotic NETwork). We use an AERONET device to measure air pollution in the valley. The device records the number of aerosols in the air (AOD) by measuring the scattering of light between the instrument and the sun at different wavelengths. Smaller wavelengths pick up smaller particles, and vice versa. The AERONET data is consistent with PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) measurements from the state of Idaho, providing another method to measure local and industrial air pollution.

Student Authors: Jessica Schroeder, Jadelyn Barrow, Michaela Miller, Rayana Shah
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lloyd Mataka
Project Title: Ginkgo Biloba Flavonoid Antioxidant Properties
Abstract: This project investigates the antioxidant properties of Ginkgo biloba flavonoids. Using ultrasonic extraction, rotary evaporation, and UV-Vis spectroscopy, we monitored flavonoid reactivity against hydrogen peroxide. We expect to find that 80% ethanol is more effective than 60% ethanol at extracting flavonoids. This information is crucial for optimizing natural medicines and food preservatives, as it ensures that these antioxidants can be effectively extracted.

Student Authors: Kaitlynn Butler, Kailey Druffel, Talon Jamison, Trinity Wykoff
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lloyd Mataka
Project Title: The Efficacy of Rose Oil Against Escherichia Coli
Abstract: Antimicrobial resistance is a growing health concern, establishing the need for alternative therapies. Previous research suggests that rose oil exhibits antimicrobial properties. This group aims to extract rose oil from rose petals using hydrodistillation and concentrating the extract with a rotary evaporator. The rose oil is tested against E. coli in various concentrations and the absorbance is measured. This research supports the development of plant-based antimicrobial agents as alternatives to conventional antibiotics.

TEACHER EDUCATION & MATHEMATICS

Student Authors: Stanley Searcy, Haythem Baccar
Faculty Mentor: Faqruddin Azam
Project Title: Curvature Analysis of Blood Vessels Using the Frenet Framework: A Computational and Geometric Approach to Medical Imaging

Student Authors: Baye Mbodji, Jessica Schroeder
Faculty Mentor: Faqruddin Azam
Project Title: Flux as Flow: Understanding Fluids Through Surfaces

Student Authors: Logan Gehring, Wayne Clark
Faculty Mentor: Faqruddin Azam
Project Title: Understanding the Stokes' and Divergence Theorems

Student Authors: Piet Kongsatt, Brice Bensching
Faculty Mentor: Faqruddin Azam
Project Title: The 37% Rule of Making a Decision

Student Authors: Brooke Blaydes, Piper Parsells
Faculty Mentor: Faqruddin Azam
Project Title: Exploring the Limitations of PageRank

PHYSICAL, LIFE, MOVEMENT, AND SPORT SCIENCES
Awards Reception **• Student Union Building (SUB) First Floor •** ***5:00-6:00***

Student Authors: Gavin Askew, Korbin Hammack, Orin McNare, John Millard, Hayden Ramos, Abe Von Tersch, Jacoby Whipple
Faculty Mentor: Mr. Josh Tyler
Course: Networking Support II (LHS/LCSC Dual-credit)
Project Title: The Full-Stack Infrastructure Challenge
Abstract: From the server rack to the switch port, this project tasks students with building a complete, routable network. By integrating Windows Server roles with a multi-tier switching architecture, students demonstrate mastery over VLAN segmentation, DHCP scope management, and enterprise-grade routing. This is one large group project presented across three consecutive slots (Presentations 1, 2, and 3).

Student Author: Forrest V. Delka-Wicks
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Fatema Islam Meem
Course: IT272 – Cybersecurity II
Project Title: Securing a Self-Hosted Homelab
Abstract: As self-hosted systems become more common, securing them is increasingly important. This project presents a secure design for a personal home lab that includes network-attached storage, a media server, and other self-hosted services. It applies key cybersecurity practices such as network segmentation, access control, encryption, and monitoring in a small-scale environment. The goal is to show how enterprise-level security concepts can be effectively used in personal infrastructure.

Student Author: Jayden Boren
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Fatema Islam Meem
Course: IT271 – Cybersecurity I
Project Title: Cybersecurity Threats (To Be Finalized)
Abstract: This project presents an introduction to fundamental cybersecurity concepts, including common threats, basic defense strategies, and the importance of protecting systems and data. It highlights key ideas such as safe practices, risk awareness, and simple security measures used in everyday computing. The goal is to build a foundational understanding of cybersecurity principles for real-world applications.

Student Authors: Keanu Melton, Kevin Carpenter, Tyler Wemhoff
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Julee Moore
Course: ENGTE 390 DS
Project Title: ArcGIS Story Map
Abstract: This project showcases a set of ArcGIS StoryMaps developed by students in ENGTE 390 DS. The work highlights the use of geospatial tools to create interactive, data-driven narratives that communicate real-world issues. Each StoryMap integrates maps, visuals, and descriptive content to present spatial patterns and insights in an engaging and accessible format. Specific project topics are currently being finalized and will be available at the time of presentation.

Student Author: Gabriel F. Ackerman
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Fatema Islam Meem
Course: IT274 – Cybersecurity IV
Project Title: Simulating a Man-in-the-Middle (MITM) Attack and Exploring Defense Mechanisms
Abstract: This project demonstrates a controlled simulation of a Man-in-the-Middle (MITM) attack within a safe and isolated network environment. The goal is to understand how attackers can intercept and manipulate communication between two systems. The project involves setting up a temporary network, performing a basic MITM attack (such as ARP spoofing), and observing its impact on data transmission. In addition, the project explores common defense techniques, including encryption, secure protocols, and network monitoring tools, to prevent or detect such attacks. The outcome provides both practical insight into network vulnerabilities and an understanding of effective cybersecurity defenses.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

Schweitzer Career & Technical Education Center (STC) • 9:00 – 11:30
TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL (cont.)

Student Author: James M. White
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Fatema Islam Meem
Course: IT274 – Cybersecurity IV
Project Title: Enterprise Risk Assessment Overview
Abstract: This project provides an overview of key risks faced by an organization, including operational, cybersecurity, physical, and compliance-related risks. It categorizes these risks by severity and outlines practical strategies to manage them. The project highlights high-priority risks such as phishing, system downtime, and unauthorized access, and presents mitigation approaches including staff training, access controls, and backup systems. The goal is to demonstrate how organizations can identify, assess, and reduce risks to maintain security and operational stability.

Student Author: Christopher J. Nieto
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Fatema Islam Meem
Course: IT274 – Cybersecurity IV
Project Title: Communication and Incident Response in Cybersecurity
Abstract: This project explores the role of communication in cybersecurity, focusing on how different stakeholders — such as IT teams, management, legal teams, and customers — coordinate during security incidents. It covers incident identification, escalation processes, and response strategies, including containment, recovery, and reporting. The project also highlights best practices for clear and secure communication during incidents and examines a real-world case study to demonstrate the impact of effective and ineffective response.

Student Author: Jenna P. Kuther
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Fatema Islam Meem
Course: IT274 – Cybersecurity IV
Project Title: Ransomware Analysis and Defense Strategies
Abstract: This project explores ransomware in cybersecurity, including how attacks are carried out, how they can be detected, and how organizations can defend against them. It also examines incident response strategies to reduce damage and recover from attacks. The project will use diagrams and structured explanations to clearly present how ransomware operates and how effective security measures can be applied.

Student Author: Everest R. Jackson
Faculty Mentor: Ms. Fatema Islam Meem
Course: IT274 – Cybersecurity IV
Project Title: Understanding Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) Attacks and Mitigation
Abstract: This project explores Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks and how they impact networked systems. It includes a controlled demonstration of high-volume traffic to simulate attack behavior and examines methods used to detect and mitigate such attacks. The project highlights practical defense strategies such as traffic filtering, rate limiting, and firewall-based protections. The goal is to provide a clear understanding of how DDoS attacks work and how they can be prevented in real-world environments.

TECHNICAL & INDUSTRIAL — PROJECT SHOW / INTERACTIVE DEMOS
9:00 – 11:30 • Schweitzer Career & Technical Education Center (STC)

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS

Student Author: Industrial Electronics Program Students
Faculty Mentor: Mr. Tony Kuphaldt, Mr. Robert McDonald, Mr. Justin Stewart
Course: Industrial Electronics Program (IETTI-102, 105, 220, 236)
Project Title: Industrial Electronics Petting Zoo
Abstract: Students design and build several projects over the course of two years in the Industrial Electronics program, and some of these are installed in the hallway to function as hands-on demonstrations for visitors and prospective students. Come see the projects and learn what it takes to bring them to life.

TECHNICAL & INDUSTRIAL — PROJECT SHOW / INTERACTIVE DEMOS
9:00 – 11:30 • Schweitzer Career & Technical Education Center (STC)

HVACR TECHNOLOGY	**Student Author:** HVACR Technology Program Students **Faculty Mentor:** Mr. John R. Kok **Course:** HVACR Technology Program **Project Title:** Cold Plunge Prototype **Abstract:** This project presents a student-designed cold plunge prototype developed by the HVACR Technology program at LC State. The system demonstrates applied principles of refrigeration, heat transfer, and electrical control through a fully functional, hands-on design. Visitors can explore the construction, operation, and performance of the system while learning how classroom concepts are translated into real-world engineering solutions.
AUTO MECHANICS	**Faculty Mentor:** Mr. Dave France, Mr. Bowie Rose, Mr. Marc Riendeau, Mr. Tom Nail **Title:** Auto Mechanics Tour **Abstract:** Join the Auto Club President for an inside look at the program's cutting edge Auto Shop. This tour highlights the technology students use every day from advanced diagnostic systems to industry standard repair equipment and showcases how the program prepares future technicians for real world success.

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Dr. Grace Anderson
*****Thursday, May 7th Keynote Address*****
12:00 – 1:00, Sacajawea Hall 115

Joe Barnes, Wildlife Biologist
Twenty-two Years of Raptor Studies in the Arid Lands of Nevada

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

LIBRARY (LIB) 2ND FLOOR • 12:00 – 1:10 *HUMANITIES - COMMUNICATION*

Student Author: Luke Hull
Project Title: Event Experiences: How Environments Communicate Meaning and Influence Guest Engagement
Abstract: Modern event design emphasizes how physical space, atmosphere, and interactive elements shape the guest experience. Drawing from real-world event planning, this project highlights strategies such as immersive environments, interactive activities, and personalized experiences. These elements work together to create emotional connections and encourage active participation. By examining both industry practices and practical applications, this project explores how intentional design choices can transform events into meaningful experiences.

Student Author: William Mason McCann
Project Title: Music and Sound Design in Video Games: A Look Into the Emotional and Influential Effects
Abstract: This project examines the effects music and sound design have on a video game player's emotions and actions. The paper explores the emotional and influential effects of music and sound design in video games. The project examines different musical tracks from video games in relation to the action and momentum in the game. The paper also explores possible reactions to various forms of music or sound.

Student Author: Mya Peterson
Project Title: Enhancing Communication Through Equine Interaction
Abstract: This study examines how working with horses can improve skills such as active listening, empathy, and clarity in communication. Drawing on existing research and examples from equine-assisted programs, the project highlights the potential benefits for personal development, therapy, and professional settings. Ultimately, it argues that human-horse interactions provide a unique and powerful way to strengthen interpersonal communication.

Student Author: Josie B. Kelley
Project Title: Artificial Intelligence in English Language Learning
Abstract: This project explores artificial intelligence within the realm of language learning. The research question asks, "How does artificial intelligence support, or hinder, English language learning in classroom settings?" To find an answer, this project uses content analysis by exploring professional and educational information on YouTube, websites, and other media.

Student Author: Miranda Fish
Project Title: Tone Anxiety: Interpreting Tone in Electronic Messages
Abstract: Considering the lens of the modern workplace, where digital communication dominates, understanding tone is important. Tone anxiety, a form of psychological strain, is a product of organizational structure and error in tone decoding. This research utilizes critical paradigm theory to investigate digital communication within organizations, specifically the perceived tone of electronic messages. Using content analysis of trigger phrases and linguistic markers in emails, this study evaluates whether tone may be interpreted as neutral or not.

BREAK - 1:10 – 1:20

LIBRARY (LIB) 2ND FLOOR 1:20 – 2:30 *HUMANITIES - COMMUNICATION*

Student Author: Sheighlyn Wimberly
Project Title: Streaming Platforms: A Uses and Gratifications Approach
Abstract: Streaming platforms give individuals more choices than ever before when deciding what media they consume, from user-generated videos posted to YouTube to curated programming on platforms such as Netflix and Hulu. Drawing on uses and gratifications theory, this paper explores what drives people to choose certain media types while disregarding others. This project examines online user discussions to better understand users' unique preferences.

Student Author: Joseph Perez
Project Title: Sports Messaging and Youth: Exploring Portrayals of Youth Sports
Abstract: Research shows that youth sports play an important role in helping children grow and develop, often pointing to life skills such as teamwork, discipline, leadership, and responsibility. This project explores the language of youth sports, or how youth sports is messaged to the public. By examining websites, advertising, and various media, the project explores how youth sports is portrayed and understood.

LIBRARY (LIB) 2ND FLOOR • 1:20 – 2:30
HUMANITIES - COMMUNICATION (cont.)

Student Author: Brooke Warthen
Project Title: Framing the Grid: Media Representation of Women in Motorsports
Abstract: This project examines how media representation in motorsports shapes perceptions of women in a male-dominated industry. Research shows female drivers are often covered differently than male drivers, with less enthusiasm and more focus on novelty than performance. This study will use content analysis to evaluate language, tone, and narrative framing in media coverage of male and female drivers. The purpose is to understand how representation influences perceptions and opportunities for women in motorsports.

Student Author: Jenyce English
Project Title: Reinforcement of Patriarchal Gender Roles Through Hit Music
Abstract: Music is an extremely powerful tool for shaping and expressing one's identity, and an effective method for learning new information about the world around us. This project will use rhetorical analysis to explore feminist themes of gender roles from the top five Billboard songs over the last three decades. This research aims to understand how themes in hit music are used to perpetuate roles established by the patriarchy.

Student Author: Connor J. Heersink
Project Title: Cultural Differences in Nonverbal Communication Through Film
Abstract: Nonverbal communication is essential to conveying meaning in film through facial expressions, body language, and space. Although cues may appear universal, their meaning is influenced by culture. This study examines how nonverbal communication differs in U.S. and international films using content analysis. The project explores how U.S. films highlight direct emotion, while international films favor subtle cues.

HUMANITIES
Award Reception • LIBRARY (LIB) 2ND FLOOR • *2:30 – 2:50*

LIBRARY (LIB) 2ND FLOOR • 2:50 – 4:00
HUMANITIES - ENGLISH

Student Author: Cameron Paradise
Faculty Mentor: Harold Crook
Project Title: Carrying the Flame: Two-Spirit Identities
Abstract: This presentation examines how colonial systems disrupted Indigenous gender roles and suppressed Two-Spirit identities. Using texts by Qwo-Li Driskill, Arielle Twist, and Ma-Nee Chacaby, it argues that storytelling serves as a form of cultural reclamation. Contributing to Indigenous literary studies, this presentation showcases how Two-Spirit narratives restore identity and continue to build communities. It demonstrates that these identities are not new to Indigenous history and have been vital to cultural survival.

Student Author: Karson Ireland
Faculty Mentor: Peter Remien
Project Title: The American Dream in Reality
Abstract: Institutions of power have, since the beginning of hierarchy, perpetuated false hope. These institutions can be governmental, institutions of wealth, or even social institutions. Although there are systems in place that block the path to success, who is it that defines success? This paper uses The Great Gatsby to explore this question and relate it to modern life. Denying the importance of these institutions will push one further away from one's "dream." When we realize we define our own success, these institutions no longer have a lasting effect on our lives.

Student Author: Kayleigh Philippi
Faculty Mentor: Kimberly Tolson
Project Title: Trauma Theory in Narrative Form
Abstract: Slavery's traumatic effects persisted across generations, shaping the lives of survivors and their descendants. Toni Morrison's Beloved and Octavia Butler's Kindred model trauma theory by showing how the effects of slavery are represented and experienced through narrative form. Analyzing these novels alongside scholarship on trauma and memory by Cathy Caruth and Marianne Hirsch reveals how literature engages with the lingering intergenerational impact of slavery.

BREAK - 4:10 – 4:20

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

LIBRARY (LIB) 2ND FLOOR
4:20 – 5:30
HUMANITIES - ENGLISH (cont.)

Student Author: Iden Gardner
Faculty Mentor: Harold Crook
Project Title: niimíipuum titwatiyaw$^{?}$áat tim$^{?}$néepe (The People's Storyteller of the Heart Place)
Abstract: In the modern age, indigenous oral languages like nimipuutímt (Nez Perce) are critically endangered, with fewer than 10 fluent speakers on average. Through analyzing the niimíipuu creation story "Heart of the Monster," this paper illustrates how oral storytelling in original indigenous languages transforms words into knowledge. Stories inform listeners about cultural identity while guiding moral lessons about life, death, and rebirth in connection to land. Engaging with stories of the past ensures that cultural history remains alive.

Student Author: Braden Snell
Faculty Mentor: Dana Perlman
Project Title: Educational Philosophies' Effects in the English Classroom
Abstract: Educational philosophies are taught in many colleges, but how do they impact student learning depending on the subject? By analyzing Existentialism, Experimentalism, Idealism, and Perennialism and comparing them to ELA curriculum, this paper finds that no single philosophy perfectly fits the English subject. This is important because it demonstrates that educators of various philosophical backgrounds can teach any subject with the same aptitude as other educators.

Activity Center West (ACW) 134 • 3:00 – 5:00
SOCIAL SCIENCE - JUSTICE STUDIES

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gene T. Straughan

Student Author: Kamryn Elizabeth Curry
Project Title: Casualties of the War on Drugs: Drug Offenses, Mandatory Minimums, and Disproportionate Sanctions

Student Author: Adriana Enriquez-Gonzalez
Project Title: Executive Authority and Immigration Enforcement Priorities: Legal Justifications for Prosecutorial Discretion Across Four Presidential Terms

Student Author: Amanda L. Goldsmith
Project Title: The Impact of Correctional GED Programs on Recidivism Among Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

Student Author: Hayden T. Holobaugh
Project Title: The Death Penalty and Deterrence: A Critical Examination of Capital Punishment's Failure to Reduce Serious Violent Crime

Student Author: Levi E. Johnson
Project Title: Suicide Among Law Enforcement: What Are the Causes and Exploring Prevention

Student Author: Jessica L. Juan
Project Title: The Police Use of Deadly Force: Constitutional Requirements, Actual Practices, and Racial Minorities

Student Author: Hailey E. Kelsey
Project Title: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and Human Rights Protection: Human Dignity and Expanded State Responsibility

Student Author: Dylan G. Moore
Project Title: The Effectiveness of Realistic Scenario-Based Training for Police Officers: An Analysis of How Law Enforcement Training Impacts Stress Management and Decision-Making

Student Author: Cameron R. Parsons
Project Title: Crime Television and Juror Expectations: A Secondary Data Analysis of the CSI Effect and Forensic Evidence Perceptions

Student Author: Jose L. Ruiz
Project Title: The Use of Body-Worn Cameras in Policing: Analyzing Their Influence on Officer Behavior and Use-of-Force Outcomes

Student Author: Shaun Swant
Project Title: Sex Offender Registration Laws and Recidivism: An Examination of Effectiveness and Constitutionality

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Activity Center West (ACW) 134
3:00 – 5:00
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Student Author: Dakota Kuhn
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Eric Martin, Dr. Amy Canfield
Project Title: Drag Balls, World War II, and the Closet: Building Queer New York Before Stonewall
Abstract: Stonewall was not the origin of LGBTQ+ liberation but its culmination. This paper traces nearly a century of queer community formation in New York City, from industrialization's new social spaces to the Pansy Craze, Prohibition's repeal, and the Lavender Scare. World War II accelerated organizing nationally, while Cold War persecution forged subcultural institutions like the Mattachine Society, pulp presses, and queer bookshops. When police raided the Stonewall Inn in 1969, they met a community armed with a century of history and political consciousness.

ART RECEPTION

Thursday, May 7, 2026, LC State Library, 4:00pm-6:00pm
Humanities Division, Student Art Exhibit

The Spring Student Art Exhibition includes work by students from the following courses:

Ceramics I & II (Instructor: Kelsey Grafton)

Creative Writing: Non-Fiction (Instructor: Jennifer Anderson)

Drawing I, II, & III (Instructor: Kelsey Grafton)

Graphic Communications I, III (Instructor: Sam Coulter)

Internship/Co-op (Instructor: Sam Coulter)

Intro to Art (Instructor: Kelsey Grafton)

Painting I, II, & III (Instructor: Kelsey Grafton)

Principles of Design II (Instructor: Sam Coulter)

Welcome & Introduction:

Dr. Grace Anderson and Director Rocky Owens

DARM Room 107 • 12:00-12:10

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

DARM ROOM #107 • 12:00 - 4:00
SOCIAL SCIENCES - SOCIAL WORK

Faculty Mentor: Tiffany Renner, LMSW

Student Authors: Greg Fritsch, Charles Thompson, Ashley Yochum, Ashleigh Wraith
Project Title: Digital Danger Zones: Adolescent Vulnerability in the Age of Social Media
Abstract: Adolescents face increasing risks through social media, including cyberbullying, mental health concerns, and exposure to unsafe interactions, while parental awareness has not kept pace with the rapidly evolving platforms. Through the creation of kNOwSocialMedia, a research-based website that evaluates 15 major platforms across eight child safety criteria, this project aims to equip parents with research, resources, and tools needed to make informed decisions about their adolescents' social media use.

Student Authors: Lexie Barbour, Lexus Thomas, Rona Godsby
Project Title: Different Is Beautiful, Different Is Us
Abstract: The purpose of this project is to spread awareness of neurodiversity in rural schools. The project provided schools with a short digital clip outlining what neurotypical children can expect and how to understand their neurodivergent peers. The information reinforces for children as well as educators the key themes of inclusion, identity, and respect for cognitive diversity, positioning the program as a comprehensive educational tool for fostering early awareness and acceptance of neurodiversity.

Student Authors: Katie Barcklay, Danielle Lundquist, Ciara Platt, Kayla Remsen
Project Title: Flexibility, Autonomy, and Career-Life Balance Through Women Entrepreneurship
Abstract: This research presentation explores how entrepreneurship can provide working mothers with greater autonomy, flexibility, and work-life balance between professional and family responsibilities. Traditional work structures often limit mothers' ability to manage both roles effectively. By examining existing research, real-world examples, and the experiences of women entrepreneurs, this proposal highlights how entrepreneurial pathways can empower mothers to design work that aligns with their personal and family needs. The intervention will include a network for mothers to expand their knowledge in these areas.

Student Authors: Samantha Kalanick, Rayanne Towles, Brooke Walker, Teri White
Project Title: Supporting Children Affected by High-Conflict Divorce
Abstract: High-conflict divorce (HCD) is associated with increased anxiety, depression, behavioral problems, and academic struggles among children. Most interventions focus on parents rather than the needs of the child. This project examines gaps in child-centered support for families experiencing HCD and explores the role schools can play in addressing these needs. By identifying evidence-based school curricula, the project proposes accessible, school-based supports to help children build resilience and coping skills.

Student Authors: Cynthia Muller, Jessica Tomson, Glorie Ward
Project Title: Implementing Trauma-Informed Care Training for Agencies That Work with the Homeless
Abstract: This project examines the importance of trauma-informed care training for agencies serving individuals experiencing homelessness. The intervention consists of a structured training presentation designed to help staff and volunteers understand trauma, recognize its effects, and implement trauma-informed practices. The presentation provides practical strategies for creating supportive service environments that reduce re-traumatization and improve engagement with individuals experiencing homelessness.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

DARM ROOM #110 • 12:00 - 4:00
BUSINESS

Join Virtually

BUS 498 - Senior Capstone in Business: A capstone course. Students will integrate knowledge of quantitative decision techniques with material drawn from all functional areas of business to formulate, select, implement, and evaluate organizational strategies.

Faculty Mentor: Rachel Kaitz

Group 1:Kaitlin Nungesser, Colton Mendenhall, Alexander Follett, Bryce Johnson, Taylor Menti

Group 2: Bailey Janowski, Elissa Codding, Mason Erwin, Tyler Knigge, Ryan Busto

Group 3: Heidi Larson, Jacob Hubbard, Jace Summers, Jaxon Moon, Sam Mathes

Group 4: Heather Marshall, Kylie Kime, Reese McMurtrie, Kannon Roberts

Group 5: Troy Sandvick, Sara Hearsey, Kirsten Ikerd, Ethan Rhoads, Noah Preston

Group 6: Sunshine Siebert, Kellie Carter, Hallie Alexander, Courtney Ramirez

COEUR D' ALENE GRADUATE RECEPTION
DeArmond Building Commons, North Idaho College (NIC) • 4:00-5:30

SOCIAL WORK PINNING CEREMONY
North Idaho College (NIC) Student Union Building, Lake CDA Room • 5:30

STUDENT INDEX

NOTES