Presentations & Panels

Theresa M. Adams, RN, MSN
Assistant Professor of Nursing


Current nursing literature supports the use of book clubs as a valid method of continuing professional education. Through reading and discussion, school nurses learned how they can increase their knowledge of nursing history and practice and become better prepared to address current challenging healthcare issues.

Scott Ballantyne, Ed.D., PRSBA
Associate Professor of Business


This study measures the intensity of short-term study abroad programs on cultural, racial, and ethnic attitudes of students.

Presented “Tenure Track Faculty Perceptions of Leadership Capacity in Adjunct Faculty: The Need to Maintain Franciscan Identity” Presented at the American Society of Business and Behavioral Sciences (ASBBA) Conference in Las Vegas, February 2010.

The purpose of this study was to determine the perception of full-time faculty regarding the leadership capability of adjunct faculty in institutional governance and Franciscan brand identity. Co-authored with Beth Berret and William Harst.

Presented and created “Utilizing Community Engagement to Demonstrate Excellence in Business School Programs” at the Eastern Council of Business Schools and Programs 18th Annual Conference, Arlington, VA.

This project presented ideas and examples of how to utilize community service projects to enhance the education of students as they tackle community problems through the use of graduate capstone courses.
Beth A. Berret, Ed.D., SPHR  
Associate Professor of Business


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Tim H. Blessing, Ph.D.  
Professor of History and Political Science


Evaluated the impact of personal visits by candidates on voters. The impact of personal appearances by candidates appeared to be minimal when nationwide county returns were examined using cluster analysis.

Peggy C. Bowen-Hartung, Ph.D., CTS  
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

Presented “The Challenges of Integrating Service Learning into a Research Methods Course,” at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators, Slippery Rock University, PA, April 4, 2009.

An overview of Service Learning as it relates to undergraduate Criminal Justice courses. Examples of the difficulties of integrating Service Learning components into a Criminal Justice Research Methods course were provided and included assessment techniques such as an experiential research paper, reflective journal, ethical case studies and a service-learning portfolio.

Chaired panel of the “Human Trafficking, the Right to Die and Appreciation of Non-Verbal Behaviors,” at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators, April 4, 2009.


The third session of a Youth Sport Seminar presented to the coaches of the Hamburg Youth Soccer Association. The emphasis of the seminar was to explain how player motivation, motivational climate, and coaching style are important for player retention, player development, and sportsmanship.


The second session of a Youth Sport Seminar presented to the coaches of the Hamburg Youth Soccer Association. The emphasis of the seminar was to explain how player motivation, motivational climate, and coaching style are important for player retention, player development, and sportsmanship.

The first session of a three night Youth Sport Seminar presented to the coaches of the Hamburg Youth Soccer Association. The emphasis of the seminar was to explain how the three related areas of player motivation, motivational climate, and coaching style were important for player retention, player development, and overall sportsmanship.


A sport psychology lecture presented to students and parents during Accepted Students Day at Alvernia University.

Karen Ann V. Cameron, Ph.D., OTD, OTR/L
Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy
Occupational Therapy Program Director


This research paper presentation discussed the findings of this case based research study examining the effects of reflex neurovascular dystrophy on the adolescent female relative to occupational performance. Specifically, it presented best evaluation and intervention strategies for the occupational therapist.

Reviewed conference proposal for 2010 American Occupational Therapy Association’s Annual Conference.

Completed reviews of 50 research and general practice proposals submitted for consideration for presentation.

Evaluated accreditation for the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

Serve as an ongoing member of the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators and completed multiple accreditation reviews of occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant programs throughout the country.

Rosemarie Chinni, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Chemistry


Swipes are widely used to collect loose particulate matter from a surface to determine the type and extent of surface contamination. LIBS can determine material collected on swipes providing rapid, sensitive, and simultaneous detection of a large number of elements. Experiments included possible swipe material, detection limits, collection efficiency, and accuracy determination.

Bryan Dreibelbis, CMA, CFM
Associate Professor of Business

Presented “Was Reading the First Detroit?” to the Alvernia Seniors College, April 30, 2009.

This presentation focused on the early motor vehicle industry in Reading and Berks County. The spirit of entrepreneurship was alive and well in Berks in the early 20th century. The presentation included information on the inventions, business climate, growth and eventual decline of this once-thriving local industry.

Catherine Emery, MS, OTR/L
Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy


Poster presentation of research comparing FIM gain scores (FIM discharge minus FIM admission score) to length of stay (LOS) in acute rehabilitation facility. Group means comparison indicated no significant differences in FIM gain scores based on LOS.
Deborah A. Greenawald, RN, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Nursing


Current nursing literature supports the use of book clubs as a valid method of continuing professional education. Through reading and discussion, school nurses learned how to increase knowledge and skills in order to become better prepared to manage a variety of current challenging healthcare issues, such as working with students from diverse cultures.

William A. Harst, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of Education


The purpose of this study was to determine the perception of full-time faculty regarding the leadership capability of adjunct faculty in institutional governance and Franciscan brand identity. Published in ASBBS 2010 Conference Proceedings Vol. 17, No. 1 p. 518-526.
Edgar J. Hartung, M.A., JD  
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

Presented “Distance Education: Not Viable for Criminal Justice Students.” Research paper presented at the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators Annual Meeting, Slippery Rock University, PA, April 4, 2009.

Presentation listed the challenges of distance education for undergraduate criminal justice students. Professor Hartung emphasized the critical skills and abilities, such as oral communication and hands-on scenarios that in his opinion are critical for criminal justice practitioners, but cannot effectively be taught via distance education.

Judged the graduate and undergraduate student paper competition for the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators Annual Meeting, April 4, 2009, Slippery Rock University.

Fifty-One graduate and undergraduate students from institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania submitted papers for the competition. The purpose of the competition was to provide students an avenue to showcase their research projects.

Keynote Speaker for the Reading Police Academy Graduating Class of 2009-02, December 13, 2009.

Professor Hartung was honored to be the keynote speaker for the Reading Police Academy Graduating Class of 2009-02. The graduation ceremony was held at the Inn at Reading.


Professor Hartung was interviewed by a reporter on the topic of “Stress for Police Officers and their Families.” He spoke with authority based on his more than 32 years experience as a law enforcement practitioner, including 27 years as an FBI Special Agent, and five years as a police officer.

Daria T. LaTorre, J.D.  
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice


The undergraduate CJ curriculum should prepare students to become a successful criminal justice professional. What knowledge base and/or skills does a successful student possess upon graduation? Are employers looking for students to possess the requisite substantive knowledge or a specific skill set? Different models of criminal justice educational models may yield various results.

Panelist for Junior Achievement 2009 Young Women’s Symposium, November 20, 2009.

Served on panel to discuss Criminal Justice Education and future careers in the profession.

Kathleen Muzevich, Ed.D.  
Assistant Professor of Education

Presented “Mapping Sounds to Print: Engaging the Four-Part Processor,” at the Keystone State Reading Association 42nd Annual Conference, Hershey, PA, October 27, 2009.

This interactive session began with a brief explanation of the four-part processing system. A variety of engaging activities that support phonics development and keep students actively engaged and on task were presented. Teachers revisited a familiar topic and left with new ideas to enliven their teaching, including at-risk and ELL populations.


Our dialogue addressed the dispositions required of those entering the teaching profession. Conversations centered on society’s expectations of teacher professionalism: acting, looking, and becoming the part. Participants discussed initiatives at their institutions that brought about significant change that hold promise for the improvement of teacher preparation in this area.

Neil H. Penny, OTR/L, Ed.D.  
Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy


Presentation of the findings from a mixed methodology research design that investigated the usefulness of DIT-2 as a student outcome measure in the area of ethical reasoning. The data gathered from students and faculty.

Co-presented (with Nicole Keller and Julia Ryan) “Barriers to a Level II Occupational Therapy Mental Health Fieldwork.” American Occupational Therapy Association 90th Annual Conference and EXPO, April 29-May 2, 2010, Orlando Florida.

Occupational therapy incorporates a holistic view when
Level II fieldwork allows the student to combine academic knowledge and clinical reasoning when treating a client. This qualitative study explored the barriers that occupational therapy academic fieldwork coordinators face when placing a level II occupational therapy student in a mental health setting.

John A Rochowicz, Jr., Ed.D.
Professor of Mathematics


This paper describes how higher level mathematical disciplines are interrelated. Generalization of algebraic polynomials to Fibonacci-like polynomials and cyclic phenomena is demonstrated. Readers begin to understand how new ideas are developed and abstracted. A new class of polynomials was discovered as an extended inquiry into a two-parametric difference equation using a spreadsheet.

Developed and scored the Annual Berks County Mathematics Championship, Alvernia University, November 16, 2009.

Five local colleges and universities share hosting of the annual Berks County Mathematics Championship. Rochowicz and Professor John Gieringer wrote, implemented, solved, and scored the contest problems. The top ten winners were placed. Coaches, teachers, and students commented that the test was difficult but fair.

Judged physics and physical science projects at the Reading Berks Science and Engineering Fair (RBSEF) March 15, 2009.

Through thorough analyses and student interviews, a top 10 list was compiled from about 200 exhibits. One of the winners developed a device that stored electrical energy using a circuit. The final task of the judging committee was to select the top candidate from all the fields of science displayed at the fair.
Mary B. Schreiner, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education

Presented “IEP Road Hazards with Defensive Driving Techniques Beginning Teachers Need to Know” Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children, November 2009.

The potential perils of the Individual Education Plan, the legal document and process for students receiving special education, with demonstration of how these perils can be managed effectively, was presented in an interactive workshop to students about to enter the field, joined by teacher educators, parents, and attorney-advocates.

Bongrae Seok
Associate Professor of Philosophy


The paper analyzes and interprets Confucian moral philosophy from the perspective of affective moral psychology and develops a view that Confucian moral philosophy is based on an emotional but idealistic model of human being.


A Confucian response to the challenge regarding the consistency and integrity of virtue and character in the human moral behavior, arguing that the seemingly odd combination of the consistency of character traits and the openness of the mind to the morally relevant situational conditions represents a unique position of Confucian moral philosophy.


The paper compares emotion in Confucian philosophy with embodied cognition, i.e., non-representational and non-subjective but interactive and unbiased revelation of self and the world, and discusses how embodied cognition combines the cognitive and moral self in Confucian philosophy.

Presented “Confucian Virtue, Arete or not?” The Fifth International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, Fordham University, New York, October 16, 2009.

In their discussions of ideal human person and moral values, Confucian philosophers identify, analyze, and compare ideal character traits and moral dispositions that underlie human actions and decisions. The paper discusses the diversity of Confucian virtues and evaluates the validity of the aretaic interpretation of Confucian moral philosophy.

By critically analyzing Aristotle’s discussion of shame, the author develops an interpretation where shame is regarded as anterograde regret. People feel remorseful of the choices they made in the past but can also feel the same for the choices they are currently making with regard to goals they want to achieve.


The paper discusses and analyzes the notion of shu (do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire) in Confucian moral philosophy. The author focuses on how current studies of altruism and social cognition in cognitive science can be used to interpret Confucian reciprocity.

Presented “The Value and Beauty of Open Space: Is Space Empty Nothingness?” International Association for the Study of Environment, Space, and Place; Geo-Aesthetics Conference, Towson University, Baltimore, March 6, 2009.

Space is usually regarded as empty nothingness, homogeneous background, or the gap between two objects without positive value of its own. The paper discusses the value and the beauty of open space not as the boundary of the existing objects but as an entity with its encompassing and integrating quality.

Spencer S. Stober, Ed.D.
Professor of Biology
Director of the Ph.D. Program in Leadership


This paper considered political and cultural factors that played a formative role in a recent move by Ecuador to include key environmental provisions designed to protect ecosystems by recognizing Pachamama (“Mother Earth”) in its 2008 Constitution. The indigenous people of Ecuador have an intimate relationship with nature.


This paper explored the impact of Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution by providing background himself as well as the general outline of his evolutionary theory; and then examined three different approaches within Christianity to evolutionary theory—creationism, intelligent design, and theistic evolution.


In this presentation, we present a pedagogical model for how we incorporated the well-known Boyer model for scholarship. We demonstrated how our interdisciplinary work in the area of the human genome demonstrated his components of discovery, integration, application, and teaching.

Judge the National Student Ethics Bowl, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, March 11, 2010.

This competition brings together the best ethics bowl teams of colleges across the country to compete with regard to their expertise in analyzing case studies from an ethical perspective. The role of the judge involves being present at three of these competitions assessing their moral reasoning, asking them questions, and assigning scores.

Michele Shuman, MSN, RN, CCRN
Assistant Professor of Nursing


This presentation described an innovative learning strategy for graduate students preparing for a nursing faculty role. Students researched best practices for clinical topics and conducted interviews with multidisciplinary clinical experts. Input from experts was synthesized with published research findings to develop recommendations for practice guidelines.

Mary Ellen Symanski, Ph.D., RN
Associate Professor of Nursing


This presentation described an innovative learning strategy for graduate students preparing for a nursing faculty role. Students researched best practices for clinical topics and conducted interviews with multidisciplinary clinical experts. The input from the experts was synthesized with published research findings to develop recommendations for practice guidelines.
Karen S. Thacker, Ph.D., RN, CNE
Dean, College of Professional Programs
Associate Professor of Nursing


This session presented a tested road map for developing a collaborative and consistent approach to students who present unprofessional behaviors in the clinical, classroom, laboratory, and out-of-class settings. In a case study format, participants were guided through a three-step approach that included: pre-planning, acute intervention, and post-acute phase.


The Pre-Nursing Program gives a second-chance opportunity for students whose academic high school records fell below entrance requirements. In the program’s sixth year, many lessons have been learned and numerous students have overcome the “not good enough” academic stigma to successfully progress through nursing education.

Judith R. Warchal, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology and Counseling


Addresses barriers and develops culturally appropriate interventions to engage Latinas in preventative breast health activities. Opening dialogue among key community partners translates into substantive changes in healthcare delivery, development of culturally-sensitive and language appropriate intake, screening, and research instruments, bringing health services to a community center, and breast health education.

Co-presented “Crossing disciplinary boundaries to infuse ethical decision making throughout the service-learning curriculum, How administrators, faculty, and students benefit,” Association of American Colleges and Universities Conference, Minneapolis, October 2009.

This presentation involved a case based discussion of the ethical and moral dilemmas that administrators, faculty, and students encounter when engaging in service-learning. It also presented dilemmas from both local and international service-learning perspectives.


What are the potential ethical issues raised by participation in International service learning? Best practices for the creation of partnerships that deliberately aspire to benefit all members involved in ISL are proposed. The roles and responsibilities of the faculty, students, administrators, and community partners are discussed.

Presented “Assisting families in coping with trauma.” The Reading Hospital and Medical Center Health Science Nursing Program, June 2009.

The psychological impact of trauma on patients, families, and medical professionals was presented, along with effective interventions for coping with trauma. Emphasis was placed on the appropriate responses of health care providers to patients and families who experienced a traumatic event.


This presentation explained the psychological responses that occur when an individual/family experiences a physically or psychologically traumatic event. Appropriate interventions for coping with trauma were presented.

Mary Ellen Wells, JD, LLM
Associate Professor of Business


This paper analyzes issues regarding the commercial speech doctrine and free speech protection and their inter-relationship with the Federal Trade Commission’s attempt to revise its regulations to incorporate the use of new technologies by marketers, potentially holding them liable for deceptive practices resulting from the buzz they create on the Internet.
Kathleen Z. Wisser, MS, RN, CPHQ  
Assistant Professor of Nursing


This poster offered an overview of an innovative simulation scenario for RN-BSN nursing students to practice group problem-solving techniques. While trying to “stay alive” and “survive”, students practiced skills of facilitation. Skills encompassed team building, decision-making, getting the team to consensus, and how to deal with difficult team member.

Presented “The Use of Logic Modeling in Outcomes Measurement” at the National Association of Healthcare Quality Annual Conference, Grapevine, TX, September 2009.

Programs must cast a critical eye when designing and implementing evaluative processes. This presentation examined how a mental health program used the logic model as a tool for illustrating critical program elements and identified outcomes and ways to measure outcomes for providing quality services and effective financial management.
Donna Yarri, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Theology


This paper addressed some of the ethical concerns that inform a large part of Allen’s work, including the relationship between comedy and tragedy, the problem of evil, the meaning of life, the dread of death, and religion. God provides a strong backdrop for the discussion, even when God may not be explicitly referenced.


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This talk examined the importance of the increasing respected field of religion and popular culture. It explored different views with regard to religion and culture, and addressed the large part that popular culture (including television, the movies, and video games) plays in the lives of individuals as well as the church.