

# PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

**Christine M. Brockway, Ph. D., RN, CNE**

**Assistant Professor of Nursing**

*Evaluating Effective Communication in Clinical and Simulation*

Communication is an integral part of safe patient care and there is an education gap between how well nursing graduates perform and what is expected in the workplace. There is a need for objective evaluation of communication skills in nursing programs, especially in practical settings. This study examined the use of a tool to evaluate communication in the practical settings of clinical and simulation with nursing students.

**Anna C. Rask Emison, Th.M.**

**Assistant Professor of Old Testament Studies**

**Matthew Chew, Seth Meyer, Cheyanne Tachick, Malayna Vick**

**Students**

*A Summary of the Biblical & Theological Studies Department's Exploration of Biblical Sites in Turkey & Greece*

This presentation will highlight a recent academic study tour of biblical sites in Turkey and Greece undertaken by a group of UNW students. The trip focused on key locations significant to early Christianity, including Athens, Corinth, Istanbul, and six churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation. Before the trip, Professor Rask Emison taught a preparatory course titled "Christianity in Greece and Asia Minor." Students in this course conducted in-depth research on specific cities to be visited on the trip, exploring their historical, geographical, cultural, biblical, and theological significance. Professor Rask Emison will facilitate the symposium presentation and share insights from the trip, emphasizing the value of on-site learning in biblical scholarship. While not every student from the preparatory course could participate in the trip, several students will present their projects on specific cities in Greece and Turkey. Those who were able to go will reflect on how their research was enriched through direct engagement with each location's physical and historical context. Their experiences will provide a unique perspective on the interplay between text, archaeology, and lived experience. This presentation will benefit students and faculty interested in biblical studies, archaeology, and experiential learning by demonstrating how site-based research deepens academic and spiritual understanding. Additionally, visitors from outside the university community will gain insight into these historic locations' significance and enduring impact.

**Rebecca M. Hope, M.A.**

**Adjunct Professor of English**

*Women of Paradise: Legacy of the Female Boatloaders*

William Maclure's Boatload of Knowledge, which traveled from Pittsburgh to New Harmony in 1825-1826, was the single greatest intellectual migration in the history of the United States. Robert Owen's promise of a secular community of cooperation that would far outshine the "private system" drew some of Philadelphia's most innovative scholars. Besides renowned scientists, naturalists, and educators, the migration included fifteen women and girls. Two—Marie Fretageot and Lucy Sistare—are well-known for their contributions to education and biology. Although all fifteen made the daring relocation, most are shrouded in obscurity. "Women of Paradise: Legacy of the Female Boatloaders" explores the efforts and accomplishments of the women and girls who bunked in the women's cabin—dubbed Paradise—on the Boatload of Knowledge. What motivated them? Did the utopian dream materialize? What contributions and legacy did these adventurous female migrants leave in their wake? Some of the women stayed in New Harmony after the short-lived utopia ended, while others moved to Cincinnati and New York City. Tracing what those women, their children, and their grandchildren did in New Harmony, the Midwest, the nation, and the world provides fascinating insights for modern Americans. Discovering the legacies of our female forebears yields meaningful benefits. It fosters gratitude, inspires us to make a difference in our sphere of influence, and honors those who formed the culture we now enjoy. (This research was funded in part by the Working Men's Institute's Arlene Feiner Memorial Grant and was presented at the Institute on March 12, 2025.)

**Jennifer K. Hunter, MFA**

**Professor of Theatre**

**Sophia Danielson**

**Student**

*The Director and Dramaturg in Community: How to Enhance the Quality of your Theatre Production*

Directors and Dramaturgs: What does a successful union look like to you?

Directors: How can you utilize your Dramaturgs more effectively?

Dramaturgs: How can you introduce your research as an aid for the Director?

This workshop will be an inside look into a successful Director/Dramaturg collaboration: How the Dramaturg's work can feed into the Director's vision, preparation and process, and how the Director can highlight the Dramaturg's work throughout the production and performance process.

**Jennifer K. Hunter, MFA**

**Keith A. Jones, Ph.D.**

**Sophia Danielson, Ava Hunter, Kaylee Selin**

*Shakespeare Master Class at Liverpool Hope University*

**Professor of Theatre**

**Professor of English**

**Students**

Professors Jennifer Hunter and Keith Jones, together with double-majors in English and Theatre Sophia Danielson, Ava Hunter, and Kaylee Selin, engaged in a Master Class in Shakespearean Acting with the students and faculty at Liverpool Hope University in Liverpool, United Kingdom. The group also connected with Shakespeare North Playhouse, a recently-constructed replica theatre based on the performance spaces of Shakespeare's day. This is their report on the project.

**Don F. Johnson, Ph.D.**

**Olivia Dembouski, Griffin Jarchow, Malayna Vick**

*Perceptions of a Relationship with God: A Phenomenological Analysis*

**Professor of Psychology**

**Students**

Among Evangelical Christians, a personal relationship with God is considered to be possible and normative. Limited attention has been given to the phenomenological dynamics of a relationship with God. Fifteen volunteers from UNW were interviewed to explore their relationship with God and this was compared to their descriptions of relationships with friends. Whether or not their relationship with God changes was also addressed. Responses were categorized as being concrete or abstract and intrapersonal or interpersonal. Overall, the results found that friendships were described mostly using concrete and interpersonal terms; whereas, their relationship with God was described mainly using abstract and intrapersonal terms. Descriptions of changes in their relationship with God were exclusively intrapersonal and mostly concrete. Specific examples of descriptions for these categories will be presented.

**Keith A. Jones, Ph.D.**

**Professor of English**

*"The worst is not / So long as we can say 'This is the worst'": Adaptations of King Lear*

For some, *King Lear* is Shakespeare's worst play—meaning his darkest, most Nihilistic, most tragic drama. But often the tragedy is travestied, often delightfully. This is an exploration of adaptations and derivatives of *Lear* that find humorous means of grappling with the play. That humor is often straightforward, as when *The Simpsons* shows us Crusty the Clown in the title role or when a production of the show becomes a plot element in the "King Lear Jet" episode of *Just Shoot Me*. More often, though, the approach to using *King Lear* mixes tragedy and comedy, as in the third season of *Slings & Arrows* or the films *If I Were You* and *A Bunch of Amateurs*. In an essay that examines these and other revisitations of *King Lear* and employs the Shakespeare adaptation criticism of Margaret Jane Kidnie and Sujata Iyengar, I hope to explore both what we learn from the adaptations and derivatives themselves and what a return to *King Lear* with them in mind reveals about Shakespeare's greatest worst play.

**Dale L. Lemke, Ph.D.**

**Professor of Christian Ministries**

**Juan Carlos Téllez, Ph.D.**

**Assistant Professor of Intercultural Studies**

*Teaching and Assessing Intercultural Competence at UNWSP*

This longitudinal and mixed methods study examined growth and decline in intercultural competence among university students at UNWSP using pre- and post-test scores on the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Descriptive analysis shows moderate growth in mean developmental orientation. The study also explored student perceptions of factors contributing to growth in intercultural competence through reflective journaling. Deductive analysis revealed the impact of formal learning, experiential learning, and relationships on their growth in intercultural competence.

**Matthew L. Miller, Ph.D.**

**Professor of History**

*Paul B. Anderson in Petrograd and Moscow: From the Winter Palace to the Lubianka Prison, 1917-1918*

Paul B. Anderson (1894-1985) began his YMCA career with four years of service in China and continued working in Russia from 1917 to 1918. He was invited to work as personal assistant to John R. Mott for a United States diplomatic mission to Russia. Mission participants were housed by the Provisional Government in the Winter Palace. Mott, the leader of the US Association's global ministry, mentored him throughout his life. Anderson arrived in Petrograd in June 1917 and remained in the city after the diplomatic mission returned to America; initially he focused on assisting YMCA service to prisoners of war and soldiers. The Bolshevik uprising in 1917 disrupted this humanitarian work, yet Anderson continued with his duties until September 1918, when he was arrested in Moscow. Suspected of "counter-revolutionary" activity, he was taken by a government official to the Lubianka prison in the city center. He was released several days later, but shortly thereafter the YMCA ended its full-scale service in Soviet Russia. This presentation explores Anderson's work with Mott, his service among prisoners, and his attempts to live in a country through times of war and revolution. During this period Anderson made serious attempts to master the Russian language, understand the culture, and develop relationships with a wide range of people. These efforts helped him encounter life in Russia with a sense of curiosity and respect rather than fear or disdain. He also made his first steps toward building bridges of communication and relationship between Eastern and Western Christians.

**Jonell L. Pacyga, Ed.D.**

**Associate Professor of Education**

*Creating "The Advocates": One School's Story of Community Engagement for Legislative Action*

This session offers actionable strategies and examples to empower your own community in effective advocacy! Discover the process used to create "The Advocates," a multifaceted coalition dedicated to legislative advocacy for equitable school funding and other policy issues facing the local school organization. The school, Lakes International Language Academy (LILA), strategically mobilized stakeholders to address legislative challenges through collaborative efforts grounded in educational advocacy literature (Johnson & Winton, 2023). The on-going "Advocates" initiative at LILA emphasizes community engagement as a catalyst for meaningful legislative impact through fostering connections. Participants will explore practical strategies demonstrating how to empower diverse stakeholders to advocate effectively to influence legislative policy decisions (Block, 2009). This underscores the transformative power of an asset-based approach, highlighting the pivotal role of diverse stakeholders in driving legislative change through collaboration.

This session is designed for people seeking to enhance community engagement and advocacy within organizational settings applicable in faith-based, non-profit, and other community-based organizational settings. By examining this school's success with "The Advocates," participants will leave equipped with strategies to initiate similar initiatives in their own communities, promoting proactive legislative action and advancing the community's goals.

**Boyd Seevers, Ph.D.**

**Professor of Old Testament Studies**

**Kayla Paulsen, Bennett Selfridge**

**Students**

*2400 Years of Arrowheads: Philistine, Roman, and Crusader Battles at Ancient Shiloh*

Current excavation at ancient Shiloh in Israel has uncovered evidence of habitation from 1800 BC to 1800 AD, including arrowheads from three different battles. The first set of arrowheads dates to abt. 1050 BC and could have been used by the Philistines when they destroyed the Israelite Tabernacle at the time of High Priest Eli and the prophet Samuel. The second set dates to AD 69 when the Romans attacked the Jewish town on their way to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple. The final set dates to the time of the Crusades and apparently indicates a Crusader raid on what was a Muslim village in the thirteenth century AD.

UNW professor Boyd Seevers and students Kayla Paulsen and Bennett Selfridge will present images and information about these arrowheads and battles, illustrating the kind of finds that come to light in an archaeological excavation, in which UNW people can take part, along with Professor Seevers.

**Laura J. Watkins, M.A.**

**Instructor of Communication**

*An International View on the Use of Mobile Phones at Restaurant Tables: Does it Affect Conversational Depth?*

The current study builds on the base of a previous study: *The Effect of Mobile Phone Presence at Restaurant Tables on Conversational and Relational Depth* by expanding the population being studied from simply individuals within the United States to include individuals living in Europe—Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, and more. This study continues to examine the perspectives of participants on their depth of conversation with tablemates in a restaurant setting when a mobile phone is or isn't being used. Examining this common practice of tech use is significant, as we were made to long for and require relationship and connection as people made in the image of our relational, triune God. The current patterns of phone use appear to be negatively impacting our success at fulfilling our deep relational and connection needs, leaving many feeling lonely and disconnected, even after spending an evening with a friend or loved one. Is this a problem unique to the United States? Are there different practices used elsewhere that may serve us in the U.S. well to implement? It appears that may be so.

**Jonathan A. Zderad, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor of Mathematics**

*AI, Ethics, and the World*

In this talk a quick overview of some of the current trends involving Artificial Intelligence will be presented. This will provide a starting place to understand the goals, roles, and uses of AI in everyday life and society. Then various pathways will be suggested for students and educators to develop ethical principles for the purpose of critiquing and influencing the use of current AI-driven technologies. Finally, some suggestions for enhancing current university curriculum will be discussed.

POSTER SESSION  
Graham Commons Lobby  
11:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

BUSINESS.....Jessa A. Nelson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Business

COMMUNICATION.....Laura J. Watkins, M.A., Instructor of Communication

Sophia Wahl: "Examination of Former PSEO Students' Perspectives on their Experience"

Noelle Rogers: "Social Media Engagement and Its Impact on User Satisfaction with Life"

Naomi Woo: "Digital Media's Influence on Consumer Buying Behavior"

Carly Smith: "Coaching Style: Impact on Player Performance and Mental Health"

Kira Vilhauer: "Word-of-Mouth Marketing's Relationships with Social Ties, Brand Love, and Gender"

Luci Fischer: "Political Participation Among Young Adults: What Influences Them Towards and Away from Participation?"

Sara Rodriguez-Gaines: "Hidden Messages: The Implications of Nonverbals in Text Conversations"

ENGINEERING.....Siu-Yue Tam, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Engineering

Trevor Conger, Rosemary Lofstrom, Chloe Schwagerl, Caleb Andrews, Stephan Burtsev: "Student Ride-Sharing App for Reliable Transportation"

ENGINEERING.....Siu-Yue Tam, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Engineering

Jadon Page, Caleb Harmes, Gage Trice: "Floating Platform for Offshore Wind Turbines"

ENGINEERING.....Matthew R. Hyre, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Jadon Page, Caleb Harmes, Gage Trice: "Floating Platform for Offshore Wind Turbines"

Madeline Welsch, Molly Reynolds, Daniel Mosely, Samuel Schlabach, Derek Merrifield, Isabella Farrera: "Vernon Civil Engineering Project"

Victor Martinez, Brandon Hinderks, Preston Loewenstein: "Bluetooth Temperature Sensor"

Payton Christensen, Seth Scarfpin, Isabelle Waller: "Charging Station Design for EKG Device"

Nate Yang, Lexi Hagen: "APB Slave to SPI Master IP development"

Evan Olstad, Luke Bartle, James Finelli: "Save the Seals"

Andrew Dwyer, Timothy Moyer: "Internal Carotid Artery Aneurysm Analysis"

Charlie Van Wyk, Ian Ahrendt: "Aerodynamic Analysis of Football Flight in Variable Air Specification"

Elliot Hoilien, Perry Johnson: "Golf Ball Flight Simulation"

Jadon Page, Isaac Yuhanna: "Hydrofoil Simulation"

Luke Bartle, Payton Christenson, Evan Olstad: "Arrow Vane Simulation"

Isabelle Waller: "Modelling Air Flow Through a Roman Hypocaust"

NURSING..... Lori R. Anderson, RN, MSN, FCN, PHN, Assistant Professor of Nursing  
Lori Anderson, Dawn Rogers, Annette Beseman, Madeline Deckert: “Book Release Celebration:  
Unleash Your Pen: Read, Write, and Reflect to Connect with God”

PSYCHOLOGY.....Don F. Johnson, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology  
Alisa Aish, Katelyn Nykanen, and Andrew Ohdiambo: “Influences on Athletes’ Sports Specialization”  
Alisa Aish: “Trauma and Treatment: A Case Study of a Southeast Asian Culture”

THEATRE.....Iris D. Dodge, MFA, Assistant Professor of Theatre  
Iris D. Dodge: “Safety in the Theatre: The Importance of the Prep Week”  
Alaina Posavad: “Props Design for The Night Witches”  
Simon Luckow: “Production Stage Management for Holiday Inn”