



## **WestConn Research Day**

May 12, 2011

<b>Luncheon with Seminar Presentations</b> <i>Student Center Room 201 – Midtown Campus</i>	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
<b>Registration and Poster Setup</b> <i>Science Building Atrium – Midtown Campus</i>	1:30 - 2 p.m.
<b>Keynote Address: Dr. Jeremy Wolfe</b> <i>Science Building Room 125 – Midtown Campus</i>	2 - 2:45 p.m.
<b>Poster Session</b> <i>Science Building Atrium – Midtown Campus</i>	2:45 - 4:30 p.m.
<b>Concluding Remarks and Awarding of Provost's Prize</b> <i>Science Building Room 125 – Midtown Campus</i>	4:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Refreshments will be served during the poster session in the Atrium of the Science Building.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### Dr. Jeremy Wolfe



*Professor of Ophthalmology and Radiology  
at Harvard Medical School*

*Director - Visual Attention Lab  
Director - Center for Advanced Medical  
Imaging  
Brigham & Women's Hospital*

### **Dancing chickens and iPods stored in honey: Why visual attention research matters**

#### **Abstract**

You have a big brain and a powerful visual system but these are not big enough or powerful enough to fully process all of the stimuli that fall into your view. To deal with this limitation, you have attentional mechanisms that select some stimuli while largely ignoring others. I will show some of the dramatic consequences of this process of selection and I will discuss how these phenomena play a role in important tasks from the airport to the doctor's office.

#### **Biography**

Dr. Wolfe earned an AB degree from Princeton University (1977) and a Ph.D. in Psychology from MIT (1981). He is currently a professor of Ophthalmology and Radiology (Harvard Medical School); Director of both the Visual Attention Lab and the Center for Advanced Medical Imaging (Brigham & Women's Hospital); Senior Lecturer in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (MIT); and Adjunct Associate Professor of Cognitive and Neural Systems (Boston University). He, his wife and three sons live in Newton, Massachusetts.

## Student Participants

Abstract #	Author(s)	Title	Session
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2	Bill Becker and James Byron	Risk of Metadata from Photos	Poster
3	Mark Fitzgerald	Analysis of Environmental Factors Contributing to the Post-Drawdown Survivability of the Freshwater Invasive <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Poster
4	Mark Fitzgerald and Harry Neveski	Evaluation of Stream Water Quality at the Westside Nature Preserve of Western Connecticut State University	Poster
5	Mark Fitzgerald and Brittany Fignar	Primary Culture of Brain Stem Cells	Seminar
6	Rebecca Greene-Cramer	Investigating the Major Groove of DNA	Poster
7	Peter Haecker	Economics of Food	Seminar
8	Melissa Hagman and Kristin Boyle Carrier	Purification and Kinetic Characterization of NeuB from <i>Helicobacter Pylori</i>	Poster
9	Julia Isaacson and Eric Porter	Effects of Perception on Sympathy	Poster
10	Mercedes Koehler	Maya Cú: Unmasked Poetry	Poster
11	Zachary Kunicki and Bridgette Pasquarella	That Looks Good, But Would I Eat It? A Study on Cognitive Dissonance	Poster
12	Brandon Litwin	Second Harmonic Generation Efficiency of Metal-Organic Frameworks	Seminar
13	Meghan Mammone and Edwin Pena	The Effect of Female Stereotyping on Recognition of Female Athletes	Poster

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14	Phanuel Mariano, Pierce O'Donnell and Stephen Diskson	The Modeling of Repeater Coordination by an Area Optimization Approach	Poster
15	Michelle Marr	Effect of Social Persuasion on Self-Efficacy and Performance	Poster
16	Shannon McDonald	Social and Gender Roles Misplaced; The Duchess of Devonshire and the Election of 1784	Poster
17	Catrina Morgan	Potential Use of Weevils as a Successful Biological Control Agent for Watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake	Poster
18	Catrina Morgan and Samantha Marolda	The Effect of Interruptions on Task Completion Time	Poster
19	Harry Neveski, Brian Anderson and David Cellini	Resistance Characteristics of Soil Isolates of Mycobacteria and Streptomycetes	Poster
20	James Norberto	Zhongguo Nihon: On Sino-Japanese Economic Integration, and its Competitive and Complementary Effects	Poster
21	Am&a O'Boy and Danielle Kral	Two New Worlds: Lost Identity of Pocahontas	Poster
22	Gabriella Parra Tribino	Authoritarianism and Attitudes Towards Homosexuals	Poster
23	Edwin Pena and Meghan Mammone	Effects of Attractiveness of the Applicants and their Success Rate	Poster
24	Gina Petriccione	The 2008 Democratic Primary Elections and the Communication Strategies of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton	Poster
25	Eric Porter and Julia Isaacson	The Effects of Subliminal Tasks on Immediate Choice	Poster
26	Kinjal Raval	Exploring Protein-Ligand binding using Fluorine NMR	Poster

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27	Nelva Sari	Rejecting my Own Heritage	Poster
28	Jean-Felix Sathoud	Improving Blue Organic Light Emitting Diodes through up-conversion	Poster
29	Leonard Sauro, Jordan Orfitelli, Brian Strantini, and Maria Ana Bartodelo	Mapping Weir Farm Using Geographical Information Systems and Global Positioning System	Poster
30	Sarah Sullivan	Effect of Coping Styles and Self-esteem on Eating Habits	Poster
31	Meredithe Talibon and Meghan Zadrowski	The Effect of Question Wording on the Resolution of Visual Ambiguity	Poster
32	Skyler Van	Cloning and Expression of a Haloacid Dehalogenase Enzyme	Poster
33	Meghan Viola, Maxwell McLenna, Jessica Catena, and Devin Hutton	Students' Protection of Privacy	Seminar
34	Jonathan Weand	Social Media Use and Political Participation	Poster

# Faculty Participants

## Research Sponsors

<b>Faculty</b>	<b>Department</b>
Dr. Katherine Allocco	History and non-Western Culture
Dr. Carina Bandhauer	Social Sciences
Dr. Frank Dye	Biological & Environmental Sciences
Dr. Jessica Eckstein	Communication
Dr. Robin Flanagan	Psychology
Dr. Nicholas Greco	Chemistry
Dr. Ruth Gyure	Biological & Environmental Sciences
Dr. Josephine Hamer	Mathematics
Dr. Rondall Khoo	Psychology
Dr. Leslie Lindenauer	History and non-Western Culture
Dr. Thomas Lonergan	Biological & Environmental Sciences
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Dr. Massy Rajabzadeh	Chemistry
Dr. Anne Roberts	Chemistry
Dr. Russell Selzer	Chemistry
Dr. Alba Skar	World Languages & Literature
Dr. Alex Standish	Social Sciences
Dr. Mitch Wagener	Biological & Environmental Sciences
Dr. Marie Wright	Management Information Systems
Dr. Yu-fong Yen	Chemistry



# Abstracts

## Poster Presentations

*listed in alphabetical order by first author*

### 1 **A Voice for the Unheard**

*Carolina Bara*

*(Dr. Jessica Eckstein, Dept. of Communications)*

"Zombie Walk" is an event created to raise awareness of an issue that is valued within the community. Using theories such as the Spiral of Silence Theory and Groupthink Theory, I will examine the impact of a "Zombie Walk" to create a social movement.

### 2 **Risk of Metadata from Photos**

*Bill Becker and James Byron*

*(Dr. Marie Wright, Dept. of Management Information Systems)*

The purpose of this research is to demonstrate the information security issues related to metadata found in pictures that people upload to social networking or photo sharing sites. The research will discuss what metadata is, its everyday uses in photography and digital forensics, as well as its more nefarious applications such as social engineering. Ways to curb the disclosure of metadata will be discussed.

### 3 **Analysis of Environmental Factors Contributing to the Post-Drawdown Survivability of the Freshwater Invasive *Myriophyllum spicatum***

*Mark Fitzgerald*

*(Dr. Thomas Lonergan, Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences)*

Several environmental factors may contribute to the survivability of the freshwater invasive *Myriophyllum spicatum*. We hypothesized that a topographically heterogeneous littoral zone results in the formation of microenvironments that may confer a survival advantage to *M. spicatum*. Using %REL as an indicator of survivability, we tested microenvironments that commonly occur in the drawn down Candlewood Lake littoral zone. Results indicate that insulation via snow cover or freezing in standing water for a period of twenty-four hours offers perfect protection to *M. spicatum* root systems. Furthermore, data indicate that sediment moisture level at time of freezing has no impact on plant survivability.

#### **4 Evaluation of Stream Water Quality at the Westside Nature Preserve of Western Connecticut State University**

*Mark Fitzgerald and Harry Neveski*

*(Dr. Frank Dye, Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences)*

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the water quality of the stream on the Westside Nature Preserve (WNP) of Western Connecticut State University. Stream water quality at WNP, since the construction of the new magnet school and associated access road, has been previously studied using mouse cell cultures. This study is a continuation of those investigations using water from two separate locations within WNP to determine any possible effects the water may have on mouse cell morphology. Results indicate that morphological abnormalities occurred in higher proportions in the experimental samples as compared with controls.

#### **5 Primary Culture of Brain Stem Cells**

*Mark Fitzgerald and Brittany Fignar*

*(Dr. Frank Dye, Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences)*

Neurospheres are spherical clusters of cells derived from brain tissue placed in cell culture. According to the literature, neurospheres are heterogeneous populations of, primarily, neural stem and neural progenitor cells. We successfully established primary cultures of neurospheres from fetal mouse brain tissue. Disaggregation and passage of these neurospheres into expansion media lacking growth factors revealed the formation of strut-like cellular structures with associated smaller cells. We hypothesize that these struts are conglomerates of neurons, and the smaller motile cells associated with them are glial cells involved in their maintenance. The motility of the small cells was revealed by time-lapse videomicrography.

#### **6 Investigating the Major Groove of DNA**

*Rebecca Greene-Cramer*

*(Dr. Nicholas Greco, Dept. of Chemistry)*

The double helix structure of DNA is reliant on the stacking interactions between adjacent molecules. Modification of either nucleotide sequence or backbone structure can affect the stability of the overall structure. Oligonucleotides containing two modified thymine nucleosides were investigated. The effect of modified nucleosides within a DNA duplex was probed through the variations on a standard strand where targeted thymines were replaced with modified bases. Stability was tested through experiments to determine the thermodynamic properties of the modified oligonucleotides. Modified oligonucleotides demonstrated decreased stability, determined by depressed melting temperature. Multiple modifications resulted in similar properties to the singly modified.

## 7 **Economics of Food**

*Peter Haecker*

*(Dr. Carina Bandhauer, Dept. of Social Sciences)*

A framework related to the modern food supply to show how it has grown and changed over the years will be presented. Future trends will also be discussed.

## 8 **Purification and Kinetic Characterization of NeuB from *Helicobacter Pylori***

*Melissa Hagman and Kristin Boyle Currier*

*(Dr. Anne Roberts, Dept. of Chemistry)*

*H.pylori*, a gram-negative bacterium, is estimated to infect over half the world's population. Chronic infection can lead to peptic ulcers and gastric adenocarcinoma. *H.pylori* may evade host immune response by expressing sialic acid derivatives on its surface, mirroring mammalian cells. Sialic acid synthase, neuB, catalyzes condensation of phosphoenolpyruvate and N-acetylmannosamine to form N-acetylneuraminic acid (sialic acid). The *H.pylori* neuB gene was cloned into a pET 21b vector with and without a His-tag, was expressed, and purified. Kinetics of neuB were monitored through the disappearance of PEP or production of sialic acid.

## 9 **Effects of Perception on Sympathy**

*Julia Isaacson and Eric Porter*

*(Dr. Robin Flanagan, Dept. of Psychology)*

The goal of this study was to test how point-of-view influences sympathy. Our focus was on the perception of the subject on bullies, victims, and bystanders. Students read a passage and then answered questions relating to the passage; one question related to sympathy. Results of a one-way ANOVA showed that the perception of the situation did not have a significant effect on sympathy. However, it showed a possible trend that could show significance in future studies.

## 10 **Maya Cú: Unmasked Poetry**

*Mercedes Koehler*

*(Dr. Alba Skar, Dept. of World Languages and Literature)*

This project explores the “indigenous poetry” of the Guatemalan poet Maya Cú Choc. Through her poetry, she writes of her roots and ongoing struggle with urban Guatemalan society.

**11 That Looks Good, But Would I Eat It? A Study on Cognitive Dissonance**

*Zachary Kunicki and Bridgette Pasquarella  
(Dr. Robin Flanagan, Dept. of Psychology)*

Cognitive dissonance was investigated to see if subjects would prefer fast food meals either as advertised or based on photos of actual products of fast food restaurants. The results supported the hypothesis that participants would be more willing to eat food pictured in advertisements than photos of the actual products.

**12 Second Harmonic Generation Efficiency of Metal-Organic Frameworks**

*Brandon Litwin  
(Dr. Yu-Fong Yen, Dept. of Chemistry)*

Materials changing the frequency of light have had a drastic impact on today's technology from fiber optics to optical data storage and medical laser treatment. By combining the favorable properties of metals and carbon containing organic compounds, efficient second harmonic generating (frequency converting) materials can be synthesized. This presentation explains the logic, synthesis and engineering of novel frequency modulating materials and technology.

**13 The Effect of Female Stereotyping on Recognition of Female Athletes**

*Meghan Mammone and Edwin Pena  
(Dr. Robin Flanagan, Dept. of Psychology)*

This experiment examined the recognition of female athletes using picture priming. Subjects were either shown a group of pictures of empowered women or models and then given a short quiz. The type of pictures shown had no effect on the quiz results. Whether or not picture priming can be used as a tool for investigating pictorial information will be discussed.

## **14 The modeling of repeater coordination by an area optimization approach**

*Phanuel Mariano, Pierce O'Donnell and Stephen Dickson  
(Dr. Josephine Hamer, Dept. of Mathematics)*

Radio repeaters receive and transmit signals by enhancing their coverage. Given a circular area with a 40 mile radius, we determined the minimum number of radio repeaters necessary to accommodate 1,000 simultaneous users. Our model placed each repeater in a hexagonal format which insured that the population inside had at least one repeater in its coverage. We found the optimal number of people we wished to accommodate per repeater which determined the height of the repeaters. From here, we maximized the radius of the outer repeaters to insure no missed coverage.

## **15 Effect of Social Persuasion on Self-Efficacy and Performance**

*Michelle Marr  
(Dr. Rondall Boo-Hock Khoo, Dept. of Psychology)*

This study focuses on academic self-efficacy and performance. We hypothesized that high levels of confidence will correlate with a high score on an academic task, that reading an encouraging paragraph will positively affect performance, and a discouraging paragraph will negatively affect performance. Results may give insight into how students can be effectively motivated and how performance can be positively affected.

## **16 Social and Gender Roles Misplaced; The Duchess of Devonshire and the Election of 1784**

*Shannon McDonald  
(Dr. Leslie Lindenauer, Dept. of History)*

The Duchess of Devonshire was a passionate participant in the Westminster Election of 1784. Her experience is an illustrious example of a woman in history who faced ridicule due to failure to comply to her gender and social roles. The rich primary sources that document the event, including satire, memoirs and personal letters tell the story of a prestigious woman who battled against expectations for “proper” behavior of women in society. Her actions throughout the election were mocked. Reactions to the Duchess’ political involvement can be compared to contemporary attitudes.

**17 Potential Use of Weevils as a Successful Biological Control Agent for Watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake**

*Catrina Morgan*

*(Dr. Mitch Wagener, Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences)*

For three years, native weevils have been studied as possible biological controls for invasive watermilfoil in Candlewood Lake. Ten thousand weevil eggs were stocked in three experimental sites in 2008. Samples of milfoil from the experimental and control sites were examined for weevils and weevil damage. These sites were re-examined in 2009 without further stocking, and in 2010 with intense stocking at an additional site. In each year weevil numbers at stocked sites were higher than in the control sites, but without significant damage to milfoil. Higher densities of weevils are likely needed to have a significant effect on biomass.

**18 The Effect of Interruptions on Task Completion Time**

*Catrina Morgan and Samantha Marolda*

*(Dr. Robin Flanagan, Dept. of Psychology)*

The effect of interruptions on task completion time was investigated. Students from WCSU were asked to complete a task of 40 common knowledge questions. One group of students was not interrupted during the task, another group was interrupted after every 10 questions, and the third group was interrupted every five questions. An ANOVA revealed that the time it took the students interrupted every five questions was significantly shorter than the group that was interrupted every 10 questions. There was no statistical difference between the task completion times of the uninterrupted group compared to either of the interrupted groups.

**19 Resistance Characteristics of Soil Isolates of Mycobacteria and Streptomyces**

*Harry Neveski, Brian Anderson, and David Cellini*

*(Dr. Ruth Gyure, Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences)*

Most people are familiar with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (which causes TB), but few are aware of the fact that this genus and its close relatives are also common inhabitants of soil and water. Mycobacteria are known to inhabit contaminated areas and to harbor a variety of resistance genes often transmitted through bacteriophage. In this study a collection of bacterial species and strains were harvested from a mercury-contaminated site, then tested for antibiotic and mercury resistance. In addition, the ability of each phage isolate to infect bacterial isolates from the same site was also tested.

**20 Zhongguo Nihon: On Sino-Japanese Economic Integration, and its Competitive and Complementary Effects**

*James Norberto*

*(Dr. Carina Bandhauer, Dept. of Social Sciences)*

This research explored recent economic interactions and trends of China and Japan in order to better understand how Chinese economic growth and Sino-Japanese economic integration stand to impact the Japanese economy in the future. National data on trade and foreign direct investment were examined to identify whether the Chinese and Japanese economies are highly complementary or competitive. In addition to these statistics, survey data on the current makeup of both economies were reviewed.

**21 Two New Worlds: Lost Identity of Pocahontas**

*Amanda O'Boy and Danielle Kral*

*(Dr. Katherine Allocco, Dept. of History)*

The English colonists introduced to a new world and a new people, the Powhatan people, when they came to Virginia. One of the Powhatans was Pocahontas (otherwise known as Matoaka). This "barefoot child of nature" was thrown into a world of materialism and religion. As the culture of the Powhatan people vanished, so did Pocahontas's identity.

**22 Authoritarianism and Attitudes Towards Homosexuals**

*Gabriella Parra Tribino*

*(Dr. Rondall Khoo, Dept. of Psychology)*

To test the hypothesis that individuals with an authoritarian personality are set in their beliefs and do not easily welcome people they consider outsiders, a group of random students from WCSU were presented with a Right-wing Authoritarian (RWA) test and with four different scenarios. It was expected that those students who scored high on the RWA test would also show prejudice toward outsiders.

**23 Effects of Attractiveness of the Applicants and their Success Rate**

*Edwin Pena and Meghan Mammone*

*(Dr. Robin Flanagan, Dept. of Psychology)*

Ten college students were tested to see if attractiveness has an effect on a person's success. Two groups rated applicants on how likely they were to succeed based on their physical appearance. Participants read a job description and rated each applicant on likelihood of success in that job. The results showed that attractive people were perceived to be more likely to succeed.

**24 The 2008 Democratic Primary Elections and the Communication Strategies of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton**

*Gina Petriccione*

*(Dr. Jessica Eckstein, Dept. of Communications)*

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton fought rigorously to win the nomination for President in the 2008 Democratic primary elections. This research examines the different communication strategies used by the candidates and the effects in the outcome of the election. Speeches, advertisements, and videos made by each candidate were used to show the way image, rhetoric, and technology played a role in voter response. Results will be discussed.

**25 The Effects of Subliminal Tasks on Immediate Choice**

*Eric Porter and Julia Isaacson*

*(Dr. Robin Flanagan, Dept. of Psychology)*

The goal of this study was to examine the effect of a subliminal message. Results using a Chi-square test showed no significance, but the overall frequency showed a trend that should be considered for further testing.

**26 Exploring Protein-Ligand binding using Fluorine NMR**

*Kinjal Raval*

*(Dr. Massy Rajabzadeh, Dept. of Chemistry)*

In the pharmaceutical industry the role of the drug or ligand binding to proteins in the body is very important and researched widely. Fluorine NMR can be used to study the structure of the protein's binding site. The strength of interactions between bovine serum albumin and fluorinated ligands were studied using <sup>19</sup>F NMR. Variable temperature simulations were carried out to study the thermodynamics of the process. The results of the study and future suggestions will be discussed.

**27 Rejecting my Own Heritage**

*Nelva Sari*

*(Dr. Alba Skar, Dept. of World Languages and Literature)*

The average tourist visiting Puerto Rico never learns about the African history of the island. The play "Vejiigantes" written by Francisco Arriví in 1970 is an attempt to recognize the contribution of African heritage to the Puerto Rican culture.

**28 Improving Blue Organic Light Emitting Diodes through up-conversion**

*Jean-Felix Sathoud*

*(Dr. Russel Selzer, Dept. of Chemistry)*

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) are a semiconductor based light source. There are different kinds of LEDs. LEDs made with organic molecules are called Organic LEDs. OLEDs are lighter, more flexible and less harmful. In this research, a green emitting OLED molecule was tested as an alternative to generate blue light.

**29 Mapping Weir Farm Using Geographical Information Systems and Global Positioning System**

*Leonard Sauro, Jordan Orfitelli, Brian Strantini, Maria Ana Bartodelo*

*(Dr. Alex Standish, Dept. of Social Sciences)*

Hand-held Global Positioning System units at Weir Farm in Ridgefield, CT were used to create a detailed map of the area's stone walls. We used pre-constructed shapefiles of data as a base map for this project. The data we collected at the farm was uploaded into ArcMap GIS software for digitizing, followed by editing the base map to meet the project requirements. We used the digitized data to draw the stone walls surrounding Weir Farm onto the base map.

**30 Effect of Coping Styles and Self-esteem on Eating Habits**

*Sarah Sullivan*

*(Dr. Rondall Khoo, Dept. of Psychology)*

This study uses a survey to examine the effects of coping styles and self-esteem on eating habits. Thirty-nine participants completed three surveys identifying their own personal feelings and habits. We hypothesized that those with lower self-esteem and/or poor coping styles will have unhealthy eating habits. Results will be discussed.

**31 The Effect of Question Wording on the Resolution of Visual Ambiguity**

*Meredithe Talibon and Meghan Zadrowski*

*(Dr. Robin Flanagan, Dept. of Psychology)*

Ambiguity is valuable because it can lead to new insights which arise from a shift in perspective. In order to evaluate how visual ambiguity is resolved, college students were shown an ambiguous picture and asked to respond to one of three questions. These three questions varied in sentence structure, and they assessed the students' ability to identify whether the ambiguous picture had one of two components, two of two components, or two independent components which form one cohesive unit. Contrary to the researchers' hypothesis, the way in which the questions were worded did not influence how quickly ambiguity was resolved.

### **32 Cloning and Expression of a Haloacid Dehalogenase Enzyme**

*Skyler Van*

*(Dr. Anne Roberts, Dept. of Chemistry)*

JHP1130 is a gene from *Helicobacter pylori* and a member of the Haloacid Dehalogenase (HAD) superfamily, which is characterized by a varied group including but not limited to phosphatases, epimerases, and dehalogenases. JHP1130 has been identified as a phosphatase, but not much is known about its physiological role. In order to learn more about this role, the gene was cloned into a pet21b vector, transformed into *E. coli* cells, and the protein was expressed. The next phase of testing will involve purifying the protein as well as testing various substrates capable of binding to the enzyme.

### **33 Students' Protection of Privacy**

*Meghan Viola, Maxwell McLenna, Jessica Catena, and Devin Hutton*

*(Dr. Bill Petkanas, Dept. of Communication)*

In recent news, there has been a growing concern pertaining to the issue of privacy. Concerns are associated with the use of social networking companies, security, law and government administrations, advertisements and public safety. College students' futures have been jeopardized because of disclosed information. To further test the concerns students have regarding privacy protection, college students completed a survey to investigate the importance protecting personal information. Results are discussed.

### **34 Social Media Use and Political Participation**

*Jonathan Weand*

*(Dr. Carina Bandhauer, Dept. of Social Sciences)*

Social media have become a major part of the modern political machine. Services such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter have become both a means of candidates reaching the public as well as providing a new form of political access. To determine if social media usage is encouraging political participation a survey was conducted of both online social media users and individuals polled in the Danbury/Ridgefield area. Respondents were asked several questions about frequency of using these services and political interest. The results were analyzed using SPSS statistical software.



# Abstracts

## Seminar Presentations

*listed in alphabetical order by first author*

### **5 Primary Culture of Brain Stem Cells**

*Mark Fitzgerald and Brittany Fignar*

*(Dr. Frank Dye, Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences)*

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**WestConn Research Day is co-sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Admissions Office**

**Appreciation and thanks to the people who made this event possible:**

Dr. James Schmotter, President  
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Dr. Allen Morton, Dean of the Ancell School of Business  
Dr. Abbey Zink, Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences  
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**Judges for the Provost's Prize**

Dr. Patrice Boily, Biology Department  
Mrs. Christine Berte, Nursing Department  
Dr. Michael Chappell, English Department  
Dr. MaryEllen Doherty, Nursing Department  
Dr. Robin Flanagan, Psychology Department  
Dr. Josephine Hamer, Mathematics Department  
Dr. Kathleen Hinga, Social Work Department  
Dr. William Joel, Computer Science Department  
Ms. Jeanette Bjurback-Lupinacci, Nursing Department  
Ms. Jennifer O'Brien, Library  
Dr. Burton Peretti, History Department  
Dr. William Petkanas, Communications Department  
Dr. Anne Roberts, Chemistry Department  
Dr. Alba Skar, World Languages Department  
Mr. David Skora, Art Department  
Ms. Virginia Verhoff, Health and Promotion Exercise Department

**WRD Volunteers**

Marisa Alexander  
Debbi Johnson  
Mallory Papp  
Lori Taylor  
Nicole Vesey

**WRD Planning Committee**

Dr. Emilio Collar, Co-Chairman, MIS Department  
Dr. Susan Maskel, Co-Chairman, Biology Department  
Dr. Karen Crouse, Nursing Department  
Ms. Marjorie Portnow, Art Department  
Dr. Catherine Rice, Nursing Department  
Mr. Brian Stevens, Library