NCHC Profiles

Junior art education major Letitia Cawley and junior secondary biology education major Savannah Anderton have applied to the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference under the “Diversity” category. They are working on creating a series of adaptive tools, as outlined below:

“We are in the process of designing and creating functional yet beautiful furniture and adaptive tools for people experiencing disabilities and hardships related to chronic autoimmune disorders and their effects on manual dexterity. Our project began with the observation that functional furniture and adaptive tools for those with disabilities are often clinical and industrial objects—aesthetically jarring in the home environment. This observation begged the question: Why should people experiencing disabilities live in a clinical setting with tools that do not fit their chosen aesthetic? To approach this project, we have been collecting data from members of the chronic illness/dexterity impaired community to see which tools that aid daily activities that would benefit from redesign. Then, we are using our combined knowledge of ergonomics, physics, and aesthetics to create beautiful, functional, and ergonomic pieces crafted out of a variety of woods to suit the needs which have been expressed by people with manual dexterity impairments. The pieces we plan to create include: a key attachment, a refrigerator handle attachment, a cutting board and knife combination, a cane, tongs designed to turn knobs, and a side table.”
Sophomore Kim Mosher has applied under the Behavioral Science category. Her description of her research is as follows:

“The rise of digital communication has changed the way humans interact with one another, particularly within the millennial generation. Digital communication, such as texting, social media, and emailing, has made communication easier in various ways; however, this modern form of communication has replaced human interaction for some millennials. Many researchers have found that face-to-face interaction has become more challenging in young adults due to the increase of virtual interaction in recent years. This study will explore the relationship between digital communication and social phobia (social anxiety). Social phobia is the fear of interacting with other individuals, leading to feelings of inferiority, embarrassment, humiliation, and depression. Common fears of social phobia include meeting new people, interacting with those of authority, speaking in front of crowds, and even talking on the phone. With an estimated 10% of university students experiencing moderate to severe social anxiety, the excessive use of virtual communication may be a significant factor (Topham, 2016). To collect the data needed, a two-part survey will be created. The first part of the survey will include questions regarding time spent communicating via technology, whereas the second part of the survey will be different social scenarios to test one’s social stability. The two-part questionnaire will be given to a large, diverse group of college students and will be used to compare and explore the correlation among digital communication and social anxiety. I expect to find that those who predominantly partake in digital communication as their main source of human interaction tend to experience more frequent and intense symptoms of social phobia than those who spend less time communicating through digital devices. The data findings could show whether or not this relatively new way of communicating has an impact on one’s ability to handle social situations.”
Honors students Ashley Stone and David Kiefer were featured in the 8th annual Michael V. Gmitter Scholarship Exhibition in Doucette Hall. Created in honor of Michael Gmitter, a beloved Edinboro student who passed away on July 25, 2006, the exhibition features the student art of Edinboro and ends in the presentation of a $2500 scholarship award. The scholarships are awarded to students with a major or minor in Fine Arts/Crafts who have submitted pieces directly to a selection committee and are judged on artistic ability, creativity, originality, and several other criterion.

Ashley Stone, a senior Photography major with minors in graphic and interactive design and art history, submitted several pieces of photography for exhibition.

"My photographic work explores the kitchy undertones between the relationship of food and the sexualization placed upon the human body. The playful attitude is interjected with the corrupt normalcies of humankind. These connotations have become fetishes about these real-life issues, thus making the viewer think about the developments made within this society. Being in this show was a whirlwind of emotions to say the least. To be selected as one of the finalists and then as one of the scholarship recipients was truly a blessing. I've attended previous Gmitter Exhibitions, and I never would have thought that I would, one day, be part of that legacy. The work this year was amazing through and through. This show truly represented the talent that Edinboro University has to offer." Stone says of her work and experience in the show.

David Kiefer, a senior Illustration major with minors in printmaking and painting, said of his experience in the show "It was an honor to be a part of the 8th Annual Celebrate the Artist Michael V. Gmitter Scholarship Exhibition. To be a part of this show was actually an aspiration of mine since I first saw the Gmitter show my Freshman year, and so to see that become a reality was very exciting. So many talented artists came together to create that amazing show and so I was very honored to be a part of it. My body of work that was in the show, and the work I do in general, is about imagination. Imagination is one of the most fascinating and powerfully significant capabilities of the human mind. I think that it is important to make sure that people do not lose touch with their imagination as they get older. I strive to motivate people to get it back by creating work that inspires, excites, and encourages people to revisit their imaginations."
Spring Contract and Independent Studies

Each semester, Honors Scholars have the option to contract a non-Honors course. This allows students to work closely with the professor to create an Honors-level syllabus for the course. An Honors contract encourages participating students to research a topic of interest, delve deeper into the course material, and work under the guidance of a faculty member. Honors students are contracting the following courses:

**Morgan Calahan** (BIO 240)
Morgan is working with Dr. Peter Lindeman to sculpt four models of Rotifer with the help of visualizations from lab manuals, microscopes, and online resources.

**Paul Defazio** (ARHI 490)
Paul is working with Dr. Charlotte Wellman on an independent study entitled “Case Studies in Contemporary Painting and Architecture” in which they will focus on Julie Mehretu’s work done in collaborations with David Adjaye and Mark Bradford, resulting in a series of essays on the elements of painting and architecture.

**Madison Gilbert** (ECED 150)
Madison is working with Dr. Heather Kenny to discern what it means as educational practitioners to practice professionalism in the classroom.

**Rachel Guzak** (ARHI 332)
Rachel is collaborating with Dr. Mark Deka to write a 5-8 page essay on the use of mathematics in Renaissance architecture. She then plans to create a 3D model of a Renaissance building in animation software and write a single page artist’s note about said model.

**Paul Keppel, Elena Tran, Thomas McCoy**
(CHEM 331)
Paul, Elena, and Thomas have met with Dr. Naod Kebede to perform a series of reductive amination experiments.

**Megan Krachkowski** (BIO 313)
Megan is working on an 18 page paper with Dr. Martin Mitchell discussing the surgical procedure for renal transplant, evaluation methods used for surgery candidacy, the role of immunosuppressants, types of organ grafts, and the bioethical concerns behind transplant waiting lists in addition to a 15 minute presentation on the above topics.

**Kaylynn Lamp** (SEDU 271)
Kaylynn is collaborating with Dr. Marc Smith to explore the implications behind the continuum of education and diversity in America and delivering a Teddy Talk at Roosevelt Middle School.

**Rachel Maly** (ENGL 102)
Rachel is working with Dr. Stephen Sullivan to brainstorm three different solutions for reducing the quantity and reach of fake news.

**Cierra McCarthy** (SOC 250)
Cierra is writing a 20 page paper on the history of Child Welfare Policy with Professor Natalie Montero.

**Jesus Munoz** (HIST 105)
Jesus is collaborating with Dr. Janusz Czejdo to explore different films about the Holocaust and writing about the meaning behind each of the films.

**Megan Pound** (SPED 451)
Megan is exploring effective teaching strategies used in mathematics with Dr. Katherine Robbins-Hunt to see if she can improve the understanding of mathematics at Edinboro University.

**Emily Porter** (BIO 490)
Emily is working with Dr. Nina Thumser to measure the time it takes earthworms to move through various trails and examining if the use of Roundup has an impact on the outcome.