

Honors Program

Senior Capstone Projects

Friday, October 31st 7pm

Steadman Theatre

- **Presenter:** Jennifer Sobas
- **Presentation Title:** Hispanic Dance Music and the use of Saxophone
- **Abstract:** The use of the saxophone in Hispanic dance music is a new and unique addition to the genre. Prior to the 1900s, Hispanic dance music was mainly orchestrated for a string instrument, normally guitar, a woodwind instrument, and percussion. The use of the voice was also prominent in a lot of Hispanic dance music. More recently, the addition of saxophone in old classics, such as Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 by Villa-Lobos and new compositions like Dr. Sy Brandon's composition titled Four Spanish Dances has opened up the realm for new sonorities in Hispanic dance music. This project explores the unfamiliar timbre of the saxophone how it differs and is also similar to older instrumentation.
- **Presenter Information:** Jennifer Sobas is a Music Education Major with a QPA of 3.5 from East Branch, NY. She plans on becoming a music educator in the public schools when she graduates this spring.

Tuesday, November 25th, 5:30 pm

Steadman Theatre

- **Presenter:** Rachelle Brisson
- **Presentation Title:** Russian Art Songs
- **Abstract:** The 19th century was an age of nationalism and musical growth for Russia. Russian opera developed, Russian composers became legends outside of their mother country, and the Russian Art song was born. Combining Western European technique with Russian text and inspiration, the composers Mikhail Glinka, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, and Sergei Rachmaninov founded and expanded the boundaries of Russian music. This project explores the evolution of the Russian art song through the 10th century from Glinka's bel canto style to Rachmaninov's romantic conception.
- **Presenter Information:** Rachelle Brisson is double majoring in Music Education and Vocal Performance and has a QPA of 3.63. She's from Owego, NY and plans on pursuing a graduate degree after she graduates next fall.

Tuesday, December 2nd 2-4pm

Alumni Hall 307

2:00

- **Presenter:** Justine Taylor
- **Presentation Title:** Compensation for Wrongly Convicted Inmates in Pennsylvania
- **Abstract:** Currently in Pennsylvania, there are 37 men who have been convicted and sentenced to prison for crimes that they were actually innocent of. Upon their exonerations and subsequent release from incarceration, these men have been afforded no restitution or compensation from the Commonwealth for their losses. This project examines the hardships that these men encounter as a result of their wrongful convictions in order to illustrate the need for Pennsylvania to pass mandatory compensation laws that would provide restitution for them.
- **Presenter Information:** Justine Taylor is a Criminal Justice major with a minor in Pre-Law. She is from Johnsonburg, PA and has a 3.96 QPA. She plans on attending Penn State to study criminal justice and is interested in working in higher education.

2:30

- **Presenter:** Rachael Ballard
- **Presentation Title:** China: A Nation in Transition
- **Abstract:** “China: A Nation in Transition” analyzes the likeliness of democracy emerging in China. After explaining the key factors of a democratic transition I argue that it is not likely that China will ever embrace the western concept of democracy. The project goes on to detail the reasons that democracy in the western sense would not work in China.
- **Presenter Information:** Rachael Ballard is a Psychology, Political Science and Philosophy major with a minor in Business from Susquehanna, PA. She has a 3.8 QPA, will be graduating next spring, and plans to attend law school.

3:00

- **Presenter:** Allison Senchur
 - **Presentation Title:** Bringing the World to your Classroom: Using Artifacts to Teach
 - **Abstract:** *Bringing the World to Your Classroom: Using Artifacts from the Past and from Overseas to Teach* takes the design of object teaching and explains different means of using artifacts in the elementary classroom through this theory. In addition to using these pieces, both historic and modern, the paper examines how these objects can be paired with technology through the use of podcasts and websites. By doing so, educators can examine “thinking outside of the textbook” in order to engage students in an in-depth learning environment that they may not experience elsewhere.
- Presenter Information:** Allison Senchur is an Elementary and Special Education Major from Pittsburgh, PA. She has a 3.53 QPA and plans on teaching in the public schools and pursuing graduate studies after she graduates this spring.

3:30

- **Presenter:** Heather Brelo
- **Presentation Title:** The Effects of Birth Order on Educational Attainment

- **Abstract:** The purpose of this research project is to examine ordinal birth order and the impact it can have on individuals. My research focuses on the correlation between a person's order of birth and their educational level. I will also examine birth order within the education profession.
- **Presenter Information:** Heather Brelo is an Elementary Education Major with a secondary certification early childhood education from Galeton, PA. She has a 3.865 QPA and plans on teaching in the public schools and later returning to Mansfield for graduate work as a reading specialist. She will graduate this December.