

Plenary Lecture. 9:30-10:30am. SCCT G027.

Dr Leslie Thiele. University of Florida.

“You can never do just one thing; what ecology teaches us about social justice”.

Student Session 1. 10:30-11:30am

1A – SCCT G042

Maxwell Akuamoah-Boateng ('09) Hamilton College

DSJP Service Associate

“Dental Healthcare for Change: A study and service project on dental healthcare in Ghana”.

David Shulman ('08) Union College

Faculty sponsor: Prof. Kenji Tierney, Anthropology Dept.

“Access to Antiretroviral Medicine and the Social and Economic Well-being of Sub-Saharan Africa”

Sally Powell ('09) Hamilton College

DSJP Service Associate

“Child Welfare in the Third World: An Experiential Investigation of Child Life in Urban and Rural Kenya”.

1B – SCCT G041

Natasha Trombley ('08) Colgate University

"Fallen Ice Cream" an animated video project that explores social inequities in the U.S.

Courtney B. Richardson ('08) Colgate University

Title: "X" (Piece about Malcolm X)

Ariel Sincoff-Yedid ('09) Union College

Faculty sponsor: Prof. Thomas Lobe, Political Science Dept.

“Effective Programming for Voter Education and Mobilization”

Lauren Youngman ('08) Union College

Faculty sponsor: Prof. Thomas Lobe, Political Science Department

“Current Administration’s Policy towards Enemy Combatants Compromises National Security”

Student Session 2. 11:30-12:30. SCCT G041.

Kendra Brim ('11) Colgate University

"Ballad of Birmingham"

Yongsun Kwon ('10) Hamilton College

Faculty sponsor

"The Virginia Tech killings and the media's onslaught of minorities"

Jasmine Maldonado ('09) Union College

Faculty sponsor: Prof. Linda Patrik, Philosophy Dept.

"The Death Penalty and Its Social Ramifications"

Courtney B. Richardson ('08) Colgate University

"The Struggle. The Dream."

Lunch 12:30-2:00pm. Science Atrium.

Discussion on campus climate in SCCT G042 starting at 12:45pm

Student facilitators: Corinne Bancroft, Colleen Granahan, Yongsun Kwon and Melissa Young

Student Session 3 2:00-3:00pm

3A – SCCT G041

Hilary Handin ('08) Union College

Faculty sponsor: Prof. Thomas Lobe, Political Science Dept.

"Women's Reproductive Health Care Struggles in Afghanistan"

Sara Nash ('08) Union College

Faculty sponsor: Prof. Thomas Lobe, Political Science Dept.

"Iranian Women and Their Quest for Gender Equality"

Keya Advani ('08) Hamilton College

Faculty sponsor: Prof. Laura Brueck

"Reading between the lines: Literature as protest amongst

'Untouchable' communities in India"

3B - - SCCT G042

Panel Discussion "Beyond the Hill: Hamilton opportunities in the non-profit world"

Pat Hodgins '09

Corinne Bancroft '10

Winter Burhoe '08

Joshua Cheung '08

Lindsay Getman '10

Abstracts

Keya Advani ('08) Hamilton College.

“Reading Between the Lines: Literature as a Vehicle for Social Change Amongst ‘Untouchable’ Communities in India”.

My presentation will explore the connection between literature and social activism by focusing specifically on the literature produced by *dalits* (formally ‘untouchables’), who are the most marginalized social group in the hierarchy of the Indian caste system. Dalits, meaning ‘the downtrodden’, have suffered from discrimination and segregation for centuries and have, only recently, begun to use literature as means of articulating a demand for social change. In my presentation I will analyze two pieces of writing by contemporary Dalit authors—a poem, ‘Water’, by Namdeo Dhasal and a short story, ‘Oorakali’, by Irathina Karikalan. Through these two examples, I will expose the ways in which literature that actively defies the dominant discourse, can give voice to historically silenced communities and emerge as a call for social resistance and change.

Maxwell Akuamoah-Boateng ('09) Hamilton College

“Dental Healthcare for Change: A study and service project on dental healthcare in Ghana”.

In Ghana, a small country in West Africa with a population of 22 million, oral healthcare is not of concern to many people. Even though many people practice good oral hygiene by brushing their teeth and cleaning their mouth, most people have never been to a Dentist or medical personnel for oral check up. However, the problem is not on the side of the people. The problem arises with the lack of Oral healthcare facilities and personnel in the country.

Despite the lack of healthcare facilities and personnel, Ghanaians have developed other ways of practicing good oral hygiene by chewing sticks and sponges and using it to clean their teeth. They choose these sticks based on the medical benefits produced by them and other factors. The most common sticks used are twapea (*Garcinia khola*) and Nsokodua.

One conflict that arises with the traditional practice of chewing sticks is the ineffectiveness of the sticks and the low level of education about issues concerning oral healthcare that may arise from these sticks. According to the World health report 2003, control of oral diseases is dependent on the availability and accessibility of health systems, but reduction of risks is only possible if services are oriented towards primary care and prevention¹.

Therefore, the best way to help improve the oral healthcare system is by educating the public about oral diseases and also teaching them how to prevent these diseases by cleaning. Thus, a service project was conducted in some of the Southern communities in Ghana, with focus on educating the public (especially teenagers and women) about the proper ways of practicing good oral hygiene.

¹ Puska, P. Petersen, P.E. World Health report, 2003.

Yongsun Kwon ('10) Hamilton College

“The Virginia Tech Killings and the media’s onslaught of minorities”

In this student conference, I will be discussing about how the Virginia Tech killings reflected the heightened sense of racism still present in the country. The discussion will begin with how the media played a huge role in depicting this event as perpetrated by a foreign individual. Although Korean by ethnicity, Cho was still an American college student raised in American soil. His behavior did not have any links to Korean culture, yet the media gave the impression that his terrorist actions were closer to his being Asian. I will moreover talk about the public apologies made by the South Korean government, and discuss with students on whether this apology was necessarily needed. I will also be making comparisons with the Columbine shootings, how the media acted differently against this case, and how the public reaction against the two differed greatly. I will also be taking note of other events such as the O.J. Simpson trial, and how the black community responded quite similarly to this event. Through discussions with students about the media’s role in the shootings, and comparing it with different events, I will attempt to illustrate how racism continues to show itself through these tragedies.

Jasmine Maldonado '09, Union College

“The Death Penalty and its Social Ramifications”

During my internship this summer at New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty in Albany, NY, I will contribute to lobbying efforts. In lobbying against capital punishment laws, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty provides several main arguments. The most compelling of these to politicians and legislators tend not to be those in favor of social justice, rather, those that argue that this form of punishment is more expensive than other forms. It is a shame that arguments in favor of social justice hold less weight. It would seem as though the United States is not concerned with such factors. In my presentation, I will provide evidence that the United States’ continuous use of Capital Punishment as a means of penal deterrence is flawed in many ways and promotes social injustice because the punishment is not fairly dispensed. People of color, those less educated and those with lower incomes are far more likely to receive the death penalty than those who do not fall under the same categories. This is a blatant social injustice that should, in supplement to the other strong arguments, be more strongly considered as reason to put an end to an arguable socially unjustified form of punishment.

Sara Nash ('08) Union College.

“Iranian Women and Their Quest for Gender Equality”

I plan to contribute to the Social Justice Conference to be held at Hamilton College by presenting the information I gathered from having written a research paper on Iranian women and their current struggle against the Iranian government.. I believe the issue of Iranian women is pertinent to this conference, considering Iranian women are currently united in their quest to petition the Iranian government for reform through The Change For Equality Campaign. Unfortunately, their political activism has been deemed a threat to the stability of Iran. As a result, Iranian officials have attempted to suppress the Iranian Women's Movement by sentencing the women to jail. In my talk, I will

explore the way Iranian women are currently being treated compared to the way they hope to be treated in the future. Furthermore, I will also examine the tactics used by the Iranian women to get their message across and the reasons why the Iranian government fears women gaining greater equality.

Sarah (Sally) Powell ('09) Hamilton College.

“Child Welfare in the Third World: An Experiential Investigation of Child Life in Urban and Rural Kenya”.

My presentation is an overview of 5 1/2 weeks spent working and living alone in a children's home outside of Nairobi . It covers both my social and cultural observations regarding child welfare within both the community I was working in and surrounding slums and urban localities. These observations cover issues of child abuse, neglect, HIV/AIDS, poverty, undernourishment, rape, domestic violence, sex trafficking, and child street life.

Much of my information is sourced directly from one- one interaction and interviews with children and community members. In conclusion, I will describe how such observations allowed me to design my own initiative involving UNICEF and several NGO's to develop a steady administrative program within my children's home to obtain funding for both sanitation, educational, and counseling needs. Additionally I will describe how I was able to begin development of training and self-sustainability programs in the home which directly allow the involvement of future volunteers to continue the success of the initiative.

Court Richardson, Colgate University.

“The Struggle. The Dream”.

A struggle can be an experience consisting of blood, sweat, and tears resting upon hardship. but through a struggle a dream can emerge. The Struggle. The Dream chronicles the struggles of the Civil Rights movement and the dreams that she birthed and mothered. The Struggle. The Dream overall is a powerful media display of the dream Martin Luther King Jr. and many carried proudly upon their shoulders and struggled to bring true and bestow upon the world.

“X”

Contrary to popular belief, the letter x is not only the 24th letter in the English alphabet. X is a legend who "by any means necessary" fought for freedom . X is of course the legendary Malcolm X - a master of might and determination and a voice for a people. X is a provocative interactive exhibit of a man who dared to be different and encourages its audience to do the same.

David Shulman ('08) Union College

“Access to Antiretroviral Medicine and the Social and Economic Well-being of Sub-Saharan Africa”

The AIDS pandemic continues to affect sub-Saharan African nations causing social and economic destruction. Of the 44 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide 56% live in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2006, 72% of AIDS related deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. These inequalities in AIDS suffering, in part, reflect inequalities in access to antiretroviral therapy. Increasingly, clinical evidence suggests that providing access to AIDS therapy in resource limited settings is not only economically feasible, but cost effective for nations with high infection rates. Evidence from Brazil has shown the economic benefit to providing treatment to marginalized populations. In Africa, most antiretroviral therapy is provided through a piecemeal network of research and donor related programs as well as in health clinics. Large populations of people are marginalized from HIV/AIDS therapy, a paradigm that is a catastrophic human rights violation. Sub-Saharan nations must organize their treatment programs from a national level with increased international support. Only through a social justice oriented approach to the pandemic, in which care is aimed at those in the greatest need, can widespread, AIDS-related human rights violations be rectified.

Ariel Sincoff-Yedid ('09) Union College

“Effective Programming for Voter Education and Mobilization”

The pursuit of a morally responsible country and a just and giving world depends on having elected officials for whom the support and funding of programs to help those in need is a priority. This summer I have been working with American Jewish World Service on a new political organizing effort, a seven-week program composed of small teams each of which worked in one of the four primary election states. We gave presentations and held meetings to educate voters about HIV/AIDS, Darfur, and access to education, and to motivate them to go talk to presidential candidates to get commitments on these issues. My presentation will focus on my work with AJWS, specifically the techniques and programs I found most effective in reaching potential voters and helping them find the issue or cause that motivates them to go talk to presidential candidates. I will also discuss the importance of creating accountability with political leaders around issues of social justice, and how talking directly with political candidates works to do this. Linking voter education, mobilization, and candidate engagement with the encouragement of passionate social action will lead to a morally conscious government, and will thus strengthen the chain of social justice.

Natasha Trombley, Colgate University.

“Fallen Ice Cream”

I will be presenting a short animation relating to marginalization, status quo and equal opportunity. The piece is called Fallen Ice Cream. It is an abstract take on the fact that certain individuals are denied pleasures or opportunities based upon circumstances they cannot control, such as race, parents, gender, et cetera. For my presentation I am going to say a short introduction pertaining to the piece, then I will show it and then afterwards I will disclose an explanation of the meanings that I tried to convey.

Lauren Youngman ('08) Union College.

“The Current Administration’s Detainee Treatment Policy Compromises National Security”.

Immediately following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, President Bush declared a “global war on terrorism.” The president has called the “war on terror” a different kind of war, a war to save freedom and civilization, pitting the strength of American values against an enemy that abhors them. According to the president, in order to protect America’s freedom and values it is necessary to defeat the enemy by seeking them out and confronting them before they strike again. While President Bush has continued to discuss the “war on terror” in terms of morals and values, his administration has pursued a policy that seeks to establish a legal framework to legitimize and institutionalize the suspension of due process and to revoke the absolute protection against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment for those detainees labeled “unlawful enemy combatants.” Somewhere in the disconnect between the president’s careful rhetoric and the administration’s policy in practice lies the claim that the current detainee treatment policy is justified because it is necessary to protect national security and successfully defeat terrorism. Contrary to the claims of the Bush administration, the detainee treatment policy compromises the core American values of upholding the rule of law and maintaining the utmost standard for human rights. The effect of this policy amounts to a severe undermining of the country’s ability to effectively counter terrorism and maintain national security by undermining American prestige and jeopardizing the integrity of United States intelligence.