Bay Honors Consortium Honors Research Symposium 2014

Student Presenter: Leigh Ann Davis

Mentor: **Bridgitte Schaffer**

**Los Medanos College**

The Men who Kept the Cold War Cold: The USS Hornet CVS-12 and Military Strategy

A investigation into naval technologies developed during the Cold War through archival research and oral histories.

Abstract

The Cold War was a time of deep anxiety. This fear sparked a technological contest where innovations drove military strategy and left the world holding its collective breath. The WWII aircraft carrier and her fleet became the United States’ most strategic weapon. As a volunteer docent and intern in the collections department of the USS Hornet, docked in Alameda, I wanted to investigate this ship’s Cold War involvement and what its scientific evolution tells us about military strategy. I was able tie the Hornet to almost every major event and scientific innovation that took place during the Cold War era. However, on interviewing men who served aboard I was repeatedly struck by the historical richness of the information they provided. These men’s stories and my archival research put together reveal a multi-layered portrayal of the US Naval’s involvement in the Cold War and how it developed the needed strategic advantage.

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Student Presenter: Aric Deardorff

Mentor: **Christopher Sleeper**

**MiraCosta College**

Shameful Lies, Parallels between the Pro-Slavery and Anti-Gay movements

A comparison of the arguments used to justify slavery in Antebellum America, with the arguments being levied against the LGBT movement today.

Abstract

One hundred and fifty years ago the thirteenth Amendment was ratified, officially ending the institution of slavery in the United States. The American Civil War was declared finished one year later. Prior to the war debate raged between the northern abolitionists and the southern pro-slavers on the political, social, theological, and moral veracity of slavery as an institution. A similar debate now rages in all levels of state and federal government as to the validity of gay rights, primarily the ability to be legally married with all the same benefits and protections of the current system. Through comparison my topic reveals similarities in the modern anti-gay movement's argumentation, and the rhetoric of the pro-slavery party. By displaying the similarities between these viewpoints, views that were debunked during the reformation and subsequently the civil rights movement, my presentation strives to prove the most popular arguments against gay marriage invalid.

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Student Presenter: Alexandra Golikov

Mentor: **Chad Redwing**

**Modesto Junior College**

The Lost Generation: Social Reconstruction Through Literature

A comparison of the lost generations of World War I and the current war in Chechnya, focusing on how the word rebuilds the world.

Abstract

While the world is enthralled with the 2014 Winter Olympics, Russian officials frantically combat Chechen terrorist attacks. Few know there’s more to Chechnya beyond the reputation created by a militant minority and perpetuated by the Russian government. In the midst of genocide, Chechnya has a lost generation confronted with the challenge of rebuilding a society decimated by violence. And yet, lost generations recover. After World War I, the sparse language of Hemingway and the elegiac portrait of youth by Vera Brittain documented their generation’s horrors and created a new paradigm in literature. In the genesis of a new Chechnya, writers provide the antidote for amnesia, forcing readers see and feel the brutality of the Chechen past. My presentation is a comparative analysis of literature between two generations of youth who live, love and lose their innocence to war, yet ultimately find redemption in a mature and virtuous pursuit of peace.

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Student Presenter: Bernie Leung

Mentor: **Tim Maxwell**

**College of San Mateo**

The Man and Story Behind the Revolution in South Africa

I will be using the term, "story," and the ways it works (myth, memory, and mimesis), as a platform to analyze the existence of apartheid in South Africa and explain why revolution was not possible until the arrival of Nelson Mandela, and also explore the reasons behind Mandela’s stunning success as a storyteller, icon, and revolutionary leader.

Abstract

Why do revolutions happen, where do they happen, and when do they happen? According to Eric Selbin, revolutions are made possible through stories of "revolution, resistance, and rebellion," and “central to this is the recognition of the myth and memory of revolution and of the power of mimesis for the mobilization and sustenance of revolutionary activity.” How, then, did activists change the oppressive “story of the moment” during the apartheid regime in South Africa? I will examine how the Apartheid story enabled the Afrikaner minority population to keep some thirty million majority black inhabitants down. How did Nelson Mandela manage to change the narrative, become an icon, and rewrite the story, thus ending apartheid and becoming the first black president of South Africa? I will be analyzing how "story" explains why revolution was not possible in South Africa without Nelson Mandela, the storyteller, the icon, and the revolutionary leader.

References

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Bay Honors Consortium Honors Research Symposium 2014

Student Presenter: Samantha Zevanove

Mentor: **Letitia Scott-Curtis**

**Cabrillo College**

Reclaiming Celia's Dignity

Repositioning Celia as the moral center of Jonson’s Volpone, a critique of corruption in 17th-century Venice.

Abstract

Ben Jonson, in his didactic play Volpone, portrays a world dominated by the impulses of men. In the midst of this paradigm is Celia, who disrupts the male agenda and serves as the play’s moral center. Nevertheless, critics such as C.G. Thayer have long dismissed Celia as an unimpressive character who merely exists as a vehicle for Volpone’s punishment. Ranging from criticisms of her intelligence to scornful disapproval of her obedient nature, critics have tended to either castigate Celia or leave her as an obscure side note in literary scholarship. My analysis of Celia is rooted in feminist literary criticism and supported by a historical understanding of her position as a woman in 17th-century Venice. Drawing upon textual evidence and cultural context, I will argue that Celia is a substantial character whose ethical conviction and female perspective illuminates the shortcomings of her male counterparts and the society they represent.

References

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