

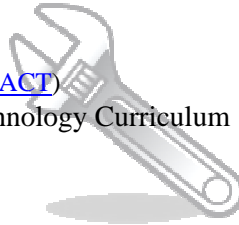
thesis review 2007

As a culminating experience for the master's degree program, the thesis attests to the highest level of the student's academic, scholarly, and creative abilities. Each student works under the guidance of a faculty thesis chair and committee. The resulting thesis is viewed with pride as a reflection of the scholarly promise of the student and a commitment to excellence for the university. This summer and fall 2007, 40 students completed theses in areas as varied and original as the students themselves. What follows is a complete list of Summer/Fall 2007 theses by college/school and some research highlights.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Industrial Technology

Michael Jim Kurnosoff, Jr. (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness in Technology Curriculum
(Chair: Matthew Yen)



Michael Kurnosoff sets out to show that auto shop classes teach high school students far more than just how to work on cars.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Communication

Leslie Collins Hester (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Rebellious Revelry: The Rhetorical Functions of Anna Howard Shaw's Humor
(Chair: Diane M. Blair)



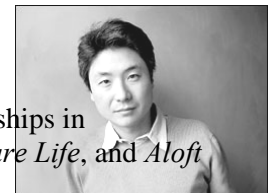
Leslie Collins Hester examines how Anna Howard Shaw and her use of humor in her oratory contributed to the success of the American Women's Suffrage Movement.

English

Craig Armstrong argues for continued interdisciplinary work between literary theorists and theologians to bridge the divide in academia between secular knowledge and faith-based understandings.

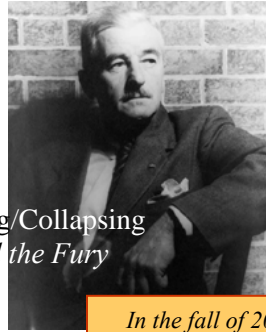
Craig Warren Armstrong (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Towards a Postmodern Divinity: The Role of Language in Contemporary Theology
(Chair: Lyn Johnson)

Darren Klassen (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Selfhood Versus Duty: Familial Relationships in Chang-rae Lee's *Native Speaker*, *A Gesture Life*, and *Aloft*
(Chair: Cheng Lok Chua)



Sharon Manning (read [ABSTRACT](#))

Character as Transcendental Signified: Creating/Collapsing Meaning in William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*
(Chair: Rick Hansen)



Sasha Pimentel (read [ABSTRACT](#)) *M.F.A.*

Insides My Mother Swallowed: Poems
(Chair: Connie Hales)



In the fall of 2007, the editors of the Dos Passos Review nominated "Planting Tomatoes for the First Time," a poem from Sasha Pimentel's thesis, for a prestigious Pushcart prize.

Toby Roberts (read [ABSTRACT](#))

Expanding Rhetoric: Examining the Impact of the Post WWII Era and the Vietnam War on Postmodern Theory
(Chair: Rick Hansen)

Lejla Tricic (read [ABSTRACT](#)) *M.F.A.*

Dispatches from the Bosnian Valley of the Kings or How Bosnians Created a Fictionalized National History
(Chair: John Hales)



Lejla Tricic's powerful narrative tells the story of war-torn Bosnia and how a recent archaeological discovery could either help restore national identity or become a sign of "collective madness."

Carol Vitali (read [ABSTRACT](#)) *M.F.A.*

Four Tales
(Chair: Steve Yarbrough)



Mass Communication and Journalism

Kirstie Elizabeth Hettinga (read [ABSTRACT](#))

Resistance or Acceptance: Convergence in the Newsroom
(Chair: Tamyra Pierce)

Kayla Marie Price (read [ABSTRACT](#))

Central San Joaquin Valley, California Business Web Sites and Their Adherence to Usability Guidelines
(Chair: Tamyra Pierce)



Kirstie Hettinga examines how traditional print journalists and newsrooms in California's Central Valley are evolving along with emerging, modern technologies.

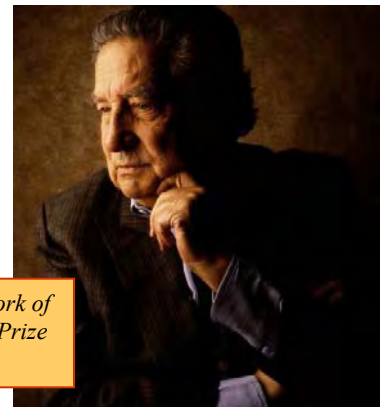
Marisa Christine Waddell (read [ABSTRACT](#))

The Diffusion, Uses, and Gratifications of Satellite and HD Radio
(Chair: Tamyra Pierce)

Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

María Jiménez (read [ABSTRACT](#))

Vuelve otra vez la trece: El amor y la ruptura de la máscara en Piedra de sol
(Chair: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval)



Maria Jiménez examines the work of Mexican poet and 1990 Nobel Prize winner Octavio Paz.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Communicative Sciences and Deaf Studies

Danielle Resciniti (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Generalization Across Settings and Phonemes Using
Concurrent Treatment for Phonological Disorders
(Chair: Steven Skelton)

Danielle Resciniti contributes to the body of research on concurrent therapy in an effort to further its development as a reliable treatment method worthy of application among professionals in the field of speech-language pathology.

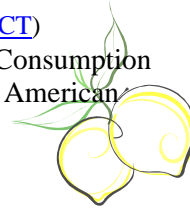
Health Science

Diana Michele Cormier (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Impact of HIPAA on Local Research for Survival Rates of Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Victims Who Receive Defibrillation from Lay Public Responders in Fresno County, California
(Chair: Gerald W. Davoli)

Karina Lomeli (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Utilizing Community Health Outreach Workers to Improve Diabetes Outcomes in Fresno, California
(Chair: Gerald W. Davoli)

Karina Lomeli's research was part of a collaborative, interagency effort to improve hemoglobin A1c levels in patients with Type 2 diabetes in Fresno, California by utilizing Community Health Outreach Workers. The result was the Fresno County Diabetes Collaborative project titled, Raising the Bar: Improving Diabetes Outcomes in California's Central Valley.

Yolanda Suzette Randles (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Evaluation of a Health Tool to Increase the Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables Within the African American Community of West Fresno, California
(Chair: Helda Pinzon-Perez)



Eiji Yamashita (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Primary Sources of Health Information Among Low-Income Pregnant Women
(Chair: Miguel A. Perez)

Kinesiology

Chad Arthur Cabrera (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Three Different Intense Concentric Exercise Bouts Fail to Evoke Postactivation Potentiation
(Chair: Robert Pettitt)

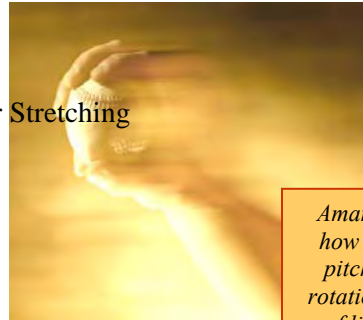
Stephen Garrett Dinkel (read [ABSTRACT](#))
The Influence of Creatine and Combined Creatine Plus Caffeine Supplementation on Skeletal Muscle Recruitment And Torque Generation During High Intensity Isokinetic Exercise
(Chair: Felicia Greer)



Colleen Marie Horn (read [ABSTRACT](#))
The UNIFORM Approach for a Psychological Skills Training Intervention: A Case Study
(Chair: Jenelle N. Gilbert)

Colleen Horn investigates whether a series of sport psychology skills offered in one intervention is an effective way for athletes to learn the skills, apply them on their own during practice and competition, and increase their self-efficacy.

Amanda Leigh Thoens (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Dose-Response of Posterior Shoulder Capsular Stretching
in College-Aged Baseball Pitchers
(Chair: Robert Pettitt)



Amanda Thoens examines how capsule stretching in pitchers affects shoulder rotation, adding to the body of literature on shoulder injuries and their treatment.

Social Work Education

Madhu Sameer (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Vipassana Meditation: A Qualitative Study
(Chair: Anne Petrovich)

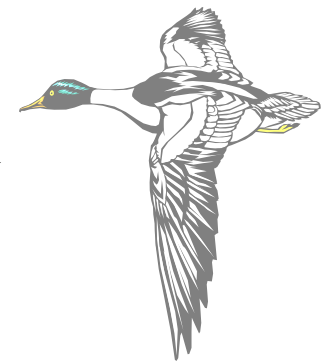
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Biology

Wendy Jean Holmes (read [ABSTRACT](#))
EPG Waveforms of Sharpshooters Correlated
with First Penetration of Xylem
(Chair: Fred Schreiber)

Wendy Holmes sheds light on the feeding behavior of sharpshooter species in her effort to better understand and mitigate the spread of diseases lethal to important crops.

Jamie Lorraine Jackson (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Treatment Regimes and Recovery Rates of Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and
Green-Winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) Suffering with Avian Botulism Poisoning,
and Confirmation of Botulinum Type C Toxin Presence
(Chair: Paul R. Crosbie)



Saben Kane (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Early Development of the Plant-Parasitic Nematode,
Meloidogyne incognita
(Chair: Alejandro Calderón-Urrea)



Karl Kraft (read [ABSTRACT](#))
If You Build It, Will They Come? Landbird Response
to Riparian Restoration at the San Joaquin River National
Wildlife Refuge, California
(Chair: Madhusudan Katti)


Karl Kraft monitored bird populations like the American Goldfinch (left) in a large-scale riparian restoration project in his effort to help determine habitat requirements and establish a viable bird community on once fallow agricultural land.

Carlos Alberto Tristán (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Gene Expression Profile of *Nicotiana tabacum* Plants
Expressing *Caenorhabditis elegans*' Programmed Cell
Death Genes
(Chair: Alejandro Calderón-Urrea)

Both Saben Kane (above) and Carlos Tristan produced important studies on controlling parasitic nematodes, which create tremendous problems for the agricultural community in California's Central Valley.

Chemistry

Enrique Jose Lopez (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Field Measurements of Toxic Particles in the
San Joaquin Valley, California
(Chair: Alam S. Hasson)



Enrique Lopez's findings will help shape policy and air quality standards for the San Joaquin Valley, which remains among the worst areas for air quality for California.

Earth and Environmental Sciences

Sana Alsaoudi (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Stable Isotopic Analysis of the Regional Hydrology
of the San Joaquin River, from Millerton Lake to
Mendota Pool, California
(Chair: Zhi Wang)

Nelson Bernal Cortes (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Using Stable Isotopes to Characterize the Groundwater
Recharge in the Sierra Nevada Foothills
(Chair: C. John Suen)


Susan Bratcher (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Oxygen and Nitrogen Isotope Ratios in Ground Water
From an Agricultural Area in the San Joaquin Valley,
California
(Chair: C. John Suen)

Ori Sartono (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Parameterization of a Fractured Hardrock Aquifer in Western
Foothills of the Sierra Nevada, California
(Chair: Zhi Wang)

Psychology

Zhanna Bagdasarov (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Cultural Framework and Anger Expression in
Russian Immigrant Women
(Chair: Christine Edmondson)

Jennifer Anne Bopp Litz (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Measuring Attachment Security in Middle Childhood:
Connections to Behavior, Adjustment, School Adaptation, and Social Skills
(Chair: Jean Ritter)



Zhanna Bagdasarov found that both anger expression and anger suppression were significant predictors of mental health status in her sample of Russian women, and that cultural framework interacts with anger expression to contribute to immigrant mental health problems.

Lori Diane Javaux (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Teaching Children with Autism to
Self-Manage On-Task Behavior in
a General Education Classroom:
Effects on Independent Functioning
and Work Performance
(Chair: Jean Ritter)

Lori Javaux's research expanded on by examining the effectiveness of a self-management intervention on on-task behavior, an area that has been lacking thus far in the behavioral literature. Ms. Javaux made use of a new technology—the Motivaider—as a signal for her study subjects to self-record behavior.

Michelle R. Johnson (read [ABSTRACT](#))
A Validation Study of the Morally Debatable Values Scale – Revised
(Chair: Ronald D. Yockey)



Susie Sandoval Verduzco (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Differences Between Jumpstart and Non-Jumpstart
Children As Rated on the School Success Checklist
(Chair: Karen Carey)

Susie Verduzco's thesis shows that children participating in an early intervention program like Jumpstart show more positive academic gains than children who do not.

CRAIG SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Judson Ray Myers (read [ABSTRACT](#))
A Strategic, Fundamental and Financial Evaluation of
Pacific Sunwear of California, Inc.
(Chair: K.C. Chen)



KREMEN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Literacy and Early Education

Amanda Terry (read [ABSTRACT](#))
Reading in the Fast Lane: An Evaluative Study on the
Effectiveness of Accelerated Reader® in a Fourth-Grade
Literacy Program
(Chair: Elaine Garan)

Amanda Terry derived 10 original conclusions from her work assessing the effectiveness of a popular reading comprehension program.

