**TOPICS LISTING**

**Big Box Retailers: Job Creators or Destroyers?**

**Abstract:** Big-box retailers are often touted as engines of local economic growth, particular in job creation. Do stores such as Wal-Mart actually create jobs? Do they bring employment opportunities to communities? I will draw on my own empirical research (on rural economies in New York State) and that of other economists to examine this issue. I will explain why and how the answer to the main question, do they create jobs, depends on many factors – factors which are particular to each community.

**Presenter:** Lester Hadsell, Ph.D.


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**Careers in America's Museums: More Than Stones and Bones**

**Abstract:** In this 30-45 minute presentation, I will dispel the myth that museum careers involve endless study of fossils and skeletons and reveal that almost any job that is done in other professions in our society can also be found in the fascinating world of museums. From children’s education and theater, to science and high technology, those looking for interesting, fun, and well-paying jobs can find them within our nation’s 21st century museums. Ample handouts, slides, web sites, and more will be provided.

**Presenter:** Michael E. Flinton, Ph.D.

**Biography:** Graduate school professor specializing in grant writing, leadership training, board and governance issues, museum administration and project management for museum and not-for-profit professionals.

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**Daily Life in the Delaware County New York area before the Civil War**

**Abstract:** My presentation is designed to heighten student interest in New York State history by introducing them to primary sources about this region, the Delaware County area during the pre-Civil War period (1815 to 1860). My historical website, “Voice of the People: Daily Life in the Antebellum Rural Delaware County New York Area”, integrates introductory essays that provide historical perspective with units concerning Family and Daily Life, Business/Labor, Transportation/Travel, Education, Health/Sickness/Mortality, Religion, Reform/Conflict, and the Outside World. Compelling, diverse, and accessible materials (including a diary describing the events that unfolded during the 1845 Anti-Rent Crisis, an 1851 account of a trip by sail from New York to California via Cape Horn, and an 1823 travel journal of a family trip on horseback from Delhi to Canada) have attracted over 1,500,000 page views since the web page inception in 2005. The presentation, includes student participation in readings and is easily customizable to fit the needs of the audience.

**Presenter:** Nancy Cannon

**Biography:** Nancy Cannon is a SUNY College at Oneonta alumnus and also the current Milne Library Research Librarian. She has been awarded the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship and is a member of SUNY Librarians Association, the American Library Association, the Delaware County Historical Association, the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, and the Meredith Historical Association.
**Experiencing Race, Class, and Gender: One Latina's Journey**

**Abstract:** This presentation addresses what it feels like to experience race, class and gender oppression and difference as simultaneously limiting and freeing in the experience of a woman of Puerto Rican and Cape Verdiian heritage who was born and raised in New York City in the latter half of the twentieth century. This presentation is a life narrative that weaves in social and political analysis with storytelling. I share experiences through anecdotes, photos, video, music and text in a power point presentation.

**Presenter:** Caridad Souza, Ph.D.

**Biography:** Caridad Souza received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. While she teaches several ethnic studies and gender studies/women's studies courses, US Latina ethnography is her primary research area. Faculty advisor to several student clubs including Sista to Sista and Students for Global Education, Dr. Souza co-leads a troupe of SUNY-Oneonta students to Ghana during the winter intersession. She is a scholar of Comparative Ethnic Studies who addresses the intersections of race, class and gender through intellectual inquiry and empirical analysis. Both my teaching and research address race, class, gender, culture, and sexual inequality and difference.

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**How Does Your Mind Decide What to Think?**

**Abstract:** I will delineate five “prime directives” governing what the mind tries to achieve as it thinks us through the challenges of everyday life. My presentation deals with these issues using ordinary language and concepts, and illustrations from familiar sources (e.g., Star Trek) and activities (e.g., shopping). Then I will talk about if, when, and how we decide whether to accede to these directives, or to override them. These decisions affect who we are both by defining and expressing the person we’ve decided to be.

**Presenter:** Steven J. Gilbert, Ph.D.

**Biography:** Dr. Steven Gilbert teaches courses in introductory psychology, research methods, social psychology, and advertising psychology, specializing in social influence and persuasion. His research interests include individual differences in perception and suggestibility.

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**Impacts of Volunteerism on Hurricane Katrina Recovery in New Orleans**

**Abstract:** This presentation will show the positive impacts of volunteer efforts in rebuilding and repairing emotional wounds following the disaster. A variety of organizations, from local non-profits to religious groups, to Brad Pitt's famous "Make It Right" foundation, have contributed to the ongoing efforts. Volunteerism has dominated the recovery efforts - the government has played a minor role. Student and community members from the Oneonta area have contributed in these efforts and the presentation will share stories from these adventures. New Orleans still has decades of hard work ahead. The presentation will also include some basic information regarding the overall impacts of the disaster on the population and the environment. Information will also be available if people are interested in volunteering in the future.

**Presenter:** Wendy A. Mitteager, Ph.D.

**Biography:** Dr. Mitteager has led three trips to the Gulf Coast with student volunteers to provide relief after Hurricane Katrina. She has also worked with student volunteers on local flood relief and in several local organizations, including Saturday's Bread and Habitat for Humanity.
Learning How You Learn: Socialization and Popular Culture

Abstract: In this presentation, I take primary concepts from sociological theories of interaction and link them to situations students experience in their everyday lives. The processes of learning cultural norms always take place in a social context and are facilitated by “agents of socialization.” In this presentation, I define concepts such as culture, interaction and socialization by examining relevant examples of how they are expressed through popular media both in historical and contemporary contexts. Specifically, I address topics such as the processes of socialization to gender norms, attitudes toward success, interaction rituals and techniques of self-evaluation. Students are asked to think critically about how they learned certain elements of social life that are often taken for granted. I use video clips from television and movies, websites and music to illustrate the processes of socialization. This lecture emphasizes strong audience participation. Examples from the students themselves are what fuel the material I discuss.

Presenter: Jennifer A. Schlosser, Ph.D.

Biography: Jennifer A. Schlosser received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 2010. She specializes in criminology, social theory, qualitative methods and social psychology. Her main research area links the narratives of prison inmates to issues in the development of corrections policy.

Outdoor Education: A lot more than a degree in camping

Abstract: Outdoor education is an exciting field of study with growing professional opportunities that require more than a love for the outdoors and good camping skills. A well-rounded outdoor educator will combine a variety of outdoor activity skills, as well as knowledge and working practice of risk management, experiential education, recreation management, human development and psychology, environmental science, emergency medicine and more. This presentation will attempt to demystify common ideas about outdoor education such as the quality of a degree in outdoor education, incorporating outdoor education in traditional school settings, and an introduction to the variety of professions that exits in this field.

Presenter: Geneviève Marchand, Ph.D.

Biography: Dr. Geneviève Marchand is a member of the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education, the Association of Experiential Education, the Wilderness Education Association, and the National Recreation and Parks Association. She holds certifications as a Wilderness First Responder, a Ropes Course facilitator, as well as CPR for the Professional Rescuer through the Red Cross.

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Bullying

Abstract: Bullying among students occurs on a regular basis. Recently, there have been several high profile news reports about high school and college students who committed suicide due to bullying as it pertains to sexual orientation and gender identity. My presentation will explore the issues of sexual orientation and gender identity in the context of the K-12 environment and focuses on possible problems that students encounter at school and how these problems are related to bullying. Also, the presentation addresses tactics and strategies to recognize and prevent sexual and gender orientation bullying.

Presenter: Robin Nussbaum, PhD

Biography: Dr. Nussbaum received her PhD in Psychology from the University of Hawaii and is Coordinator of the Gender & Sexuality Resource Center at SUNY Oneonta. She is a member of American Friends Service Committee, advisor to the Gender Equality & Rights Society (GEARS) Student Association, and chapter advisor to Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.
The Rain Forest of Peru's Manu Biosphere: Conservation and Challenges

Abstract: Peru's Manu Biosphere, created over 30 years ago, is one of the world's largest chunks of protected rain forest. The biosphere includes an Intangible Zone, a Tourism Zone, and a Cultural Zone, where several villages are located. Ecotourism has served as a source of sustainable income for some locals, but logging and agriculture are also common. Manu is under pressure because of population resettlement from the highlands, but large areas remain relatively pristine. In this presentation I will narrate the journey to Manu, and highlight the geographic transition from the Andes Mountains to the lowland rain forest, as well as flora and fauna, and cultural diversity along the way. I will highlight challenges currently faced by Manu and a project my family has undertaken to preserve a small piece of land in the Cultural Zone.

Presenter: Florian Reyda, Ph.D.

Biography: Dr. Florian Reyda's field research has taken him on numerous occasions to South America. His participation in a 10-week term in Latin America fueled a wanderlust which led to his first job after graduating with a degree in biology in 1995. The Nebraska native served as a guide for adventure tourists in the Manu Biosphere - a Peruvian rainforest - before enrolling in the University of Connecticut's zoology program and earning his Ph.D. in 2006.