



**COLLEGIVM WABASHENSIS
IDES AVGVSTI XXXIV**

**WABASH COLLEGE
34th IDES OF AUGUST**

August 23, 2013

**Program Schedule
Presentation Abstracts**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Continental Breakfast, 0830-0900

Hays First Floor Hallway

Session I: 0900-1020

Hays Hall 104. Moderator: Colin McKinney

- 0900-0915 **Sara A. Mehlretter Drury**, Rhetoric. *Assessing Deliberation in Public Speaking.*
0920-0935 **Scott Feller**, Chemistry. *Molecular Modeling of Early Events in the Vision Process: An Adventure in Undergraduate Research.*
0940-0955 **Stefani Rossi**, Art. *Images of the Floating World: 浮世絵 (Ukiyo-e) prints of the Edo period.*
1000-1015 **V. Daniel Rogers**, Modern Languages and Political Science. *Modern Filipino Identity.*

Midmorning Refreshments, 1020-1040

Hays First Floor Hallway

Session II: 1040-1200

Hays Hall 104. Moderator: Colin McKinney

- 1040-1055 **Jeffrey P. Mehlretter Drury**, Rhetoric. *How the Comeback Kid Came Back: Obama and Romney's Use of Bill Clinton in the 2012 Presidential Campaign.*
1100-1115 **Shamira Gelbman**, Political Science. *Is Bigger Really Better? Lessons from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.*
1120-1135 **Eric Wetzel**, Biology. *Infections and Interactions: The Global Health Initiative at Wabash.*
1140-1155 **Dwight Watson**, Theatre. *Nanjing Bikes and Acrobats at the Intersection of Time.*

Ides of August Luncheon, 1215-1315

Detchon International Hall

Session III: 1330-1430

Hays Hall 104. Moderator: Peter Mikek

- 1330-1345 **James Makubuya**, Music. *The Hocketing Aerophones: The Analytical Examination of their Multi-directional Significance.*
1350-1405 **Adriel M. Trott**, Philosophy. *Alain Badiou contra G.W.F. Hegel: The Radical Politics of Materialist Dialectics Against Hegelian Dialectics.*
1410-1425 **Teresa Aubele**, Psychology. *Speed versus endurance: the effects of nitric oxide administration on copulatory behavior in adult male rats.*

Afternoon Refreshments, 1430-1455

Hays First Floor Hallway

Session IV: 1455-1555

Hays Hall 104. Moderator: Colin McKinney

- 1455-1510 **Eric Freeze**, English. *"Vulcans I Know": a reading from Hemingway on a Bike.*
1515-1530 **Lon Porter**, Chemistry. *Putting YouTube to work for the liberal arts: online problem solving walkthroughs as student learning tools.*

1535-1550 **Christie Byun**, Economics; **Ethan Hollander**, Political Science. *Explaining the Intensity of Arab Spring*.

Closing Reception, 1600-

Caleb Mills House. Cocktails and *hors d'œuvre*.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are presented in program order.

Session I: 0900-1020

Hays Hall 104. Moderator: Colin McKinney

Sara A. Mehlretter Drury, Rhetoric. *Assessing Deliberation in Public Speaking*. This research examines the Rhetoric Department's RHE101 Public Speaking course and assesses the unit on deliberative theory and public deliberation. Using a series of focus groups, this research addressed two questions: First, when faced with a new deliberation topic, what is the quality of student deliberations based on their previous curricular experience? Second, when asked to reflect on deliberation, will students with curricular experience express greater understanding and appreciation of the qualities of productive democratic discourse? To answer these questions, the research team (composed of Sara Drury and Wabash students Derek Andre, Seton Goddard, and Jeremy Wentzel) used critical-interpretative methods of discourse analysis to assess deliberative learning outcomes. In this presentation, I will summarize the findings and future directions for the assessment of deliberative pedagogy at Wabash College and beyond.

Scott Feller, Chemistry. *Molecular Modeling of Early Events in the Vision Process: An Adventure in Undergraduate Research*. We have applied a combination of quantum and classical mechanical approaches to study the activation of the protein Rhodopsin by the absorption of light in the retina. We found that two steps believed to be key to initiating the visual cascade, namely conformational change in the retinal ligand and the loss of a hydrogen ion from the protein, are strongly coupled. The relationship between ligand conformation and acidity sheds new light on the mechanism by which the incredible signal to noise ratio of the visual system is achieved.

Stefani Rossi, Art. *Images of the Floating World: 浮世絵 (Ukiyo-e) prints of the Edo period*. Early seventeenth century Japan witnessed a dramatic rise in imagery crafted en masse for a new socio-economic class of consumer. At once a celebration and critique of shifting national identity, *Ukiyo-e* woodblock prints became an essential means by which Japanese culture was transmitted within the country and abroad, and laid a foundation for later visual traditions such as Manga and Anime. This presentation will explore the context, development, and scope of *Ukiyo-e* prints, and discuss their relevance for contemporary visual literacy and artistic practice.

V. Daniel Rogers, Modern Languages and Political Science. *Modern Filipino Identity*. Modern Filipino identity is the product of a centuries long encounter with Spanish colonialism, Chinese mercantilism, and autochthonous culture. A comparative study of architectural elements in large urban and small rural Roman Catholic churches shows distinct traces of the collision and fusion of culture and identity. The two weeks I spent in the Philippines this summer, thanks to a GLCA grant, allowed me to document many of these sites. My short presentation describes contemporary Filipino identity as the product of a kind architectural code switching visible in 16th-19th century churches and cathedrals on its major islands.

Session II: 1040-1200

Hays Hall 104. Moderator: Colin McKinney

Jeffrey P. Mehlretter Drury, Rhetoric. *How the Comeback Kid Came Back: Obama and Romney's Use of Bill Clinton in the 2012 Presidential Campaign*. In 1999, an ABC News/Washington Post poll found that most Americans were “just plain tired” of Bill Clinton. Time, it seems, has mended such weariness: The Comeback Kid made a comeback during the 2012 election, emerging as a political sage for both the right and the left. In particular, the two major presidential candidates—Barack Obama and Mitt Romney—used Clinton to champion bipartisanship, fiscal responsibility, and individual work ethic. Exploring the official blogs and television advertisements for the Romney and Obama campaigns, I uncover two competing versions of Clinton. Romney relied on a *historical* Clinton who anachronistically challenged Obama's policies while Obama relied on a *contemporary* Clinton who concretely championed those same policies. I argue that Clinton is a “phantom endorsement” for Romney because the version in Romney's campaign was a mere ghost of the “real” Clinton; although Clinton did speak the quoted content at some point in time, it was not directly related to the 2012 campaign. What is more, Clinton engaged in a self-debate on topics such as economic policy and welfare reform. Ultimately, Clinton's comeback is a rich site for understanding campaign appeals in today's mediated age, particularly when a politician may come face-to-face with his or her phantom.

Shamira Gelbman, Political Science. *Is Bigger Really Better? Lessons from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights*. Scholars and activists often take for granted that advocacy coalitions – that is, alliances of otherwise autonomous social movement and/or interest group organizations – are an effective means for achieving policy goals, and that their effectiveness is at its highest when coalitions are at their largest. Though intuitive, the “bigger is better” assumption loses sight of countervailing factors that can undermine a large coalition's effectiveness. For example, a coalition's large size might impress policymakers with the extent of support for its demands, but it might also complicate even seemingly simple tasks – like obtaining coalition member's consensus on a legislative testimony statement – necessary for making those demands apparent in the first place.

Making sense of such tradeoffs and their policy consequences is central to my ongoing research on the postwar development of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the nearly 65-year-old umbrella organization that was established during the early 1950s to coordinate the legislative efforts of a diverse coalition of advocacy groups interested (to varying degrees) in civil rights reform. In the presentation, I will discuss new archival research findings as they relate to three questions about the postwar development of the civil rights lobbying coalition: First, how did the LCCR coordinate decision making and legislative action by its often unwieldy coalition of organizations? Second, what impact did the LCCR's coordinating procedures have on civil rights policy outcomes? And finally, how did the LCCR adapt to the changing policymaking environment – including the new lack of consensus regarding the agenda for civil rights advocates in the wake of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts' passage, the burgeoning sector of new groups asserting civil rights claims, and the LCCR's own expansion and mounting internal dissension – of the late 1960s?

Eric Wetzel, Biology. *Infections and Interactions: The Global Health Initiative at Wabash*. Multidisciplinary global public health issues *are* liberal arts issues. The mission of the Wabash Global Health Initiative (GHI) is to transform the lives of our students through global public health education, investigation and service and in so doing to effect positive change in underserved communities globally. Over the last few years, students in the Global Health course have worked on health campaigns in the three main ecological zones of Peru (coast, mountains, rainforest), helping to collect basic health information and parasitological data in poor communities in these regions. As indicated, one important goal of the GHI is to examine levels of infection of important, neglected tropical diseases. Our collaborative work thus far has demonstrated that there are significant differences among these zones in terms of soil-transmitted helminths (worms) as well as waterborne infections, problems that are typical of communities in poverty. For this Ides presentation I will outline the work of the GHI thus far including some representative studies; also, opportunities for collaboration and participation with the Wabash community will be discussed.

Dwight Watson, Theatre. *Nanjing Bikes and Acrobats at the Intersection of Time*. A study of the broad intersection between Zhongshan and Guangzhou Lu, Nanjing, China, is both perilous and riveting. Navigating the crowded streets, motorized bikes and non-motorized vehicles like terracotta warriors on wheels, dart with precision and weave in and out of narrow gaps to fill a vacant space. In the astonishing and traditional Chinese performing art of acrobatics, the bicycle is a relative newcomer to the objects the acrobat handles with elegance and grace. As a pedestrian, preparing for my daily walk to Nanjing University to teach summer school classes, I think about the connection between the two: the congestion of vehicles on the city streets and the “flight” of acrobatic bikes at the “intersection of time.”

Session III: 1330-1450

Hays Hall 104. Moderator: Peter Mikek

James Makubuya, Music. *The Hocketing Aerophones: The Analytical Examination of their Multi-directional Significance*. This “Hocketing Aerophones” presentation represents five intense months of research that were climaxed in July 2013 with an ethnographic field research in Uganda. As has been the case in the previous three ethnographic research projects on chordophones, membranophones, and idiophones, even this most recent one I just completed on aerophones has just proved that folk musical instruments, regardless of the cultures they originate from and in which they are used, all deliver and constantly prove as well as illustrate that they are “more than just sound production objects”.

Starting with a brief definition of aerophones as musical instruments the sound of which is a result of the vibration of sound waves within a pipe, this presentation will briefly illustrate the various playing techniques of playing them. The presentation will then focus on one of the aerophone playing techniques referred to as hocketing. The two aerophones to be used in this presentation, as case studies, will include the *agwara* of the Alur people and the *amakondeere* of the Banyoro people.

After briefly describing their design, the presentation will examine the different multi-directional roles the *agwara* and *makondeere* play in their respective cultures. The multi-directional roles will include the environmental, enhancement of cultural events, unification of families, and the communication of dangerous events. All those roles will be discussed to illustrate and lead to the appreciation of the significance that those two aerophones, as case studies, play in the cultures of the Alur and Banyoro people.

Adriel M. Trott, Philosophy. *Alain Badiou contra G.W.F. Hegel: The Radical Politics of Materialist Dialectics Against Hegelian Dialectics*. This paper argues that Alain Badiou achieves what has often been thought an impossible task, a true critique of G.W.F. Hegel. Badiou argues through post-Cantorian set theory that the whole that Hegel posits is not just politically and morally unjust, but logically impossible. A logically sound whole would need to be both complete and consistent. Hegel’s dialectic affirms completeness and tries to develop ways of reconciling inconsistencies. Badiou’s dialectic acknowledges the disjunct between completeness and consistency and aims to disrupt the project of speaking consistently of all that is and in doing so posits a position beyond what is taken to be the whole. For Badiou, the dialectical relation between this multiplicity and differentiation on the one hand and unity and identity on the other is not one that is to be finally resolved into one non-contradictory whole, as it is for Hegel for whom the end of the dialectic is the end of the dialectic. In this essay, I will briefly summarize Badiou’s argument that post-Cantorian set theory shows the whole to be impossible. Then I will show how the outright rejection of the whole leads Badiou to form a dialectics driven by subtraction in contrast to Hegelian negation. Finally, I will explore the political implications of Badiou’s dialectic in contrast to the Hegelian dialectic in order to consider with Badiou what post-nation-state politics might look like.

Teresa Aubele, Psychology. *Speed versus endurance: the effects of nitric oxide administration on copulatory behavior in adult male rats*. The medial preoptic area (MPOA) of the brain, a subnucleus of the hypothalamus, has been previously shown to be paramount for the expression of mating behavior of male rats. In particular, the neurotransmitter dopamine (DA) provides pivotal facilitative influence on male rat copulation. Without DA in the MPOA, male rats are unable to express copulatory behaviors. DA input also seems to follow a “dose-

response" curve in the MPOA, such that the more DA present in the MPOA both directly before and during copulation, the more efficient a male rat tends to be during copulation. Further, if a naive male rat is either given a DA agonist for several days prior to their first copulatory session or is exposed to a receptive female for several days prior to their first copulatory session, mating behavior during their first experience with a female is highly facilitated.

Previous research has also shown that the release of the gaseous neurotransmitter nitric oxide (NO) modulates DA levels in the MPOA as well as copulatory behavior in adult male rats, but it has been unclear whether the release of NO itself is sufficient for this increase in DA/copulatory efficiency, or if other inputs in concert with the release of NO are also required. The current research begins to address this question, with mixed but interesting results.

Session IV: 1510-1610

Hays Hall 104. Moderator: Colin McKinney

Eric Freeze, English. *Vulcans I Know*. "Vulcans I Know" is a personal essay in my forthcoming collection *Hemingway on a Bike*. The essay explores both real and imagined Vulcans, the limits of fandom, and restraint.

Lon Porter, Chemistry. *Putting YouTube to work for the liberal arts: online problem solving walkthroughs as student learning tools*. Online learning resources come in a variety of forms and attempt to address several roles in student learning. Recently, I have found success in employing an online video tutorial model that aims to assist students in developing problem solving skills. This model adapts the Khan Academy style to the production of online answer key tutorials. Traditional paper or online homework answer keys often fail to guide students through the problem solving process and cannot fully elucidate the critical thinking strategies involved. As an alternative to these static documents, I produce YouTube answer key videos for assignments that present a problem solving walkthrough for each item. These online video tutorials combine instructor narration with real-time, step-by-step problem solving illustrations. Many of our students study and work problems outside of normal business hours, so this model attempts to provide access to an instructor-led problem solving key at all hours of the day or night. This presentation will share examples of these videos, as well as the technology required to produce them. All of the YouTube videos employed in this effort require minimal training, utilize inexpensive equipment, and can be produced in little more than the time required to write out a traditional, paper answer key. In addition, access to specialized video editing or production suites is not required. Student feedback and initial assessment efforts will be discussed as well.

Christie Byun, Economics; **Ethan Hollander**, Political Science. *Explaining the Intensity of Arab Spring*. The Arab Spring began over two years ago with the death of a Tunisian man protesting his treatment by government authorities. Anti-government unrest soon spread to Egypt and around the Middle East. Now, the region is much transformed and change is still underway. Regimes in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen have all been overthrown -- some of them, twice! And the leadership's hold on power in Syria remains precarious, as thousands have been killed and countless others arrested in a brutal government crack-down. Though no country has remained untouched by the events of the last year, the impact of the Arab Spring has been different in different countries. In Morocco, Kuwait, Jordan and Oman, protests have been somewhat more muted -- and some governments have implemented reform, however incremental, in response to protester demands. In oil-rich Saudi Arabia, the monarchy has seen only minor protests and remains firmly entrenched. Meanwhile, in Algeria and Iraq, unrest is considerably more widespread and sustained, although it doesn't threaten the regime's existence ... at least for now. What accounts for variation in the intensity of the 'Arab Spring' uprising across the countries of the Middle East? Why have some regimes experienced massive and destabilizing unrest, while others have experienced only sporadic protest? And can the nature of the unrest, the timing of its onset or the demographic character of the protesters, explain a government's reaction -- which has varied from brutal repression in some cases to modest concessions and reform in others? Though newspapers and pundits have offered an array of answers to these fascinating questions, none are supported by rigorous demographic data. Thus, explanations offered in the new media are typically 'ad hoc', and don't address the underlying conditions of each country or of the region as a whole. In this paper, we present a game theoretic

model for the onset of protests and a government's reaction. We then use newly released demographic data to estimate a multivariate logistic regression model that explains the intensity of the uprising in each country. In our view, the intensity of the uprising is dependent on a unique combination of factors in each country, such as the age of the population, poverty rates, national levels of education and literacy, and internet connectivity and use of social media.

A Brief History of the Ides of August

Over three decades ago, Biology Professor Thomas Cole orchestrated the first Ides of August. The first Ides was a one and half day event that included an evening dinner and speaker. Over the intervening years the Ides has evolved into a day of brief presentations and breaks where one could renew old acquaintances and establish new ones.

The first Ides of August was on the true Roman Ides, the fifteenth day of August. This year's Ides of August is perhaps as far as possible from the Ides, due to axial precession and its effect on the calendar. We hope that the Romans (and Professor Cole) don't mind: after all, we've used plenty of Latin!

This year's Ides of August features several cross sections of the Wabash faculty. Thirteen departments and all three divisions are represented. The faculty speaking range from new additions to the College family to seasoned veterans.

Acknowledgements

In recent years, the Ides of August has been organized by a triumvirate of (three) faculty; we think the Romans would be proud. This year's triumvirate consists of Colin McKinney, Dan Rogers, and Peter Mikek.

The triumvirate graciously thanks the hard work of our support triumvirate: Rachel Barclay, Kristi Mangold, and Pam Sacco. We also thank John Zimmerman for his technology assistance.

Refreshments and the Ides of August Luncheon were handled by the fine staff of Bon Appétit. Merci!

Financial consideration graciously provided by Wabash College.

We thank you for coming to the 34th Ides of August. We hope that at the end of the program, you too will say □□□□□□ (Qapla', "success").