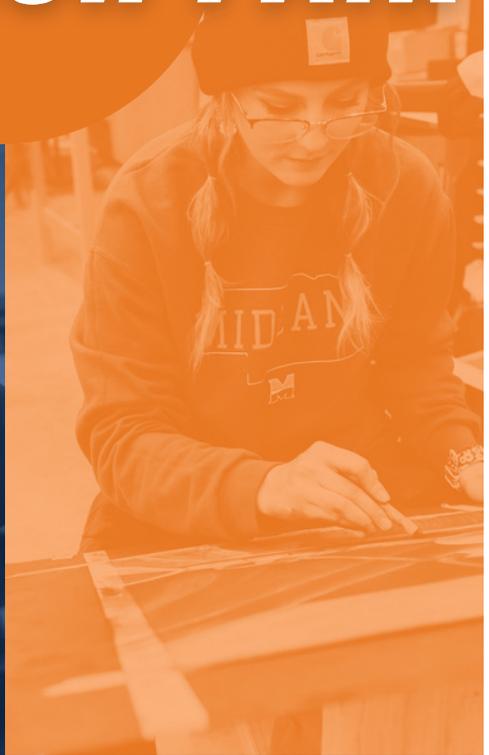


THURSDAY, DEC 9 • WIKERT EVENT CENTER

LUTHER COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

FALL 2021

# RESEARCH FAIR



**11:00 AM**  
PRESENTATIONS

**12:45 PM**  
AWARDS



# Thank You

**FOR JOINING US FOR  
THE LUTHER COLLEGE  
OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
RESEARCH FAIR.**

Through this event, we have the opportunity to showcase the outstanding academic work and experiential learning opportunities of our students. For many students presenting today, their research project serves as the capstone experience for their academic major requiring them to apply skills they have developed throughout their time at Midland. For others, their projects involve putting academic knowledge into practice by going out into the community for enhanced experiences and reflection. We are incredibly proud of the work they have done and hope you enjoy learning from our students as you explore the Research Fair today!

*Dr. Megan Nielsen*

Dean, Luther College of Arts & Sciences

# COMMUNICATION *STUDIES*

## KENNETH CARR

### *Decreasing Racism Through Improving Black History Month Activities*

The purpose of this study is to explore Black History Month activities at Midland. Given the social climate of these past few years, I seek to better understand through interviews and surveys how Midland students understand activities.

## EMILY CUNNINGHAM

### *The Effects of Socialization and COVID on Attendance in Class*

Research indicates that attendance in class has declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but there is a distinct lack of research on why this occurred. This study utilizes an interview process to get insights on why students skip class in order to understand how COVID-19 affected attendance for college students. The central hypothesis is that COVID and online classes reduced attendance through a combination of lack of proper socialization and negative health impacts.

## JORDAN JACKSON

### *Black Adidas and Diversity*

This study explores the black Adidas company and how racism and quietness have affected the whole company. Through a case study analysis, this study seeks to show how diversity issues within the company were kept quiet from everyone. Demonstrating the effect diversity can have on a company's financial system and hiring process.

## EMMA JOHNSON

### *How Organizational Culture and Socialization Processes Influence Memorable Messages in College Recruitment at Midland University*

The general purpose of this research is to gather information to see what messages were memorable in the college decision process of students who now attend Midland University. This is important because it gives more insight and feedback into what Midland does well that brings students into Warrior Nation. Five current Midland students, who visited more than two colleges, will be asked to participate in an in-person interview where several questions will be asked, answered, and recorded. Findings from this study will be used in a qualitative analysis of memorable messages in the college decision process. The central hypothesis for this study is that the personal connection and efforts from coaches, directors, and other Midland staff would be one of the biggest factors that students remembered from their college recruitment experience and ultimately helped them decide on Midland.

## MITCHELL JOHNSON

### *The Inequality Between Male and Female Athletes in College Sports*

This research details how male and female athletes in college sports are not given equal opportunities, especially when playing the same sport. This is especially important for female high school athletes who are wanting to compete at the collegiate level. I plan to use critical analysis of previous research to find why females do not go into further participation. I intend to provide research on why female athletes don't get as much attention as male athletes and why the number of female athletes is declining.

## GABRIELLE REAVIS

### *Examining Gender Discrimination in Higher Education*

Educational institutions can foster and expand gender discriminations and biases early on that continue to historically negatively affect women as they continue into higher education. Students of different genders, races, socio-economic standings, and in varying years and cultures, were surveyed to examine their experiences on campus with gender biases. I am hypothesizing that gender discrimination is prevalent on many campuses in the classroom and in everyday occurrences, and data will be analyzed fully and situationally compared to create my findings.

## HANNAH TRISKE

### *How Social Identity Theory Impacts Political Organizations*

The purpose of this study is to apply social identity theory within political organizations. By performing a rhetorical criticism of the 2016 and 2020 democratic and republican party platforms, this study demonstrates the crucial connections between political organizations and social identity with the goal of figuring out how they are intertwined.

## LAUREN TUNNICLIFF

### *Women in Technical Theatre and Gender Disparity: A Rhetorical Analysis on Why Women are Missing*

Throughout history, there has been a great lack of women in the field of technical theatre. Women have been consistently forced out of the field through lack of support or left due to sexual assault and gender discrimination. Through a rhetorical analysis of interviews of female professionals in the field, statistics, and personal accounts, this study will address why women are leaving the professional theatre field.



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## JOSHUA BRANDING

### *College Sports Injuries: Is it Worth the Risk?*

This research project works to better understand the experiences that student-athletes have with injuries and subsequent surgeries. One hundred current or former student-athletes were surveyed. They were asked about their experiences, as well as their perception of the potential long-term health risks and whether it's worth it to play.

## CONNER DALTON

### *College Students' Perception of Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentencing*

In this study, college students' perception of mandatory minimum sentences was evaluated. This is broken down into a couple of different subcategories, such as familiarity with the sentences/criminal justice system, the distribution between different factors (genders, social status, etc.), use of rehabilitation, and whether or not mandatory minimums are justifiable as a whole. Results indicated that the majority of people agreed that mandatory minimum sentences are not distributed equally. In addition, the majority of people also agreed that there are not enough resources currently dedicated towards rehabilitation.

## AMANDA FLEMING

### *The Pros and Cons of Social Media Use on Social Skills*

Previous research has been conducted about the positive and negative impact of social media on a variety of things, including its role on social skills over time. This study focused on the potential impact on college students by surveying Midland University students. The importance of the research presents itself as the use of social media is actively hindering the ability for individuals to effectively communicate in person as the digital world continues to advance.

## SADIE HARRIS

### *ADHD Diagnosis, Tendencies and the Relationship with Criminal Behavior*

This research project looks at college-aged students who have been diagnosed with ADHD or have ADHD tendencies and if they commit more crimes than other college-aged students. It also looks at the demographics of who is more likely to be diagnosed and medicated for ADHD. This study is important in order to better understand the stigma that people with ADHD are more inclined to commit crimes and that they cause issues within society. This research also looks at the personality traits of those who commit crimes and those who are diagnosed with ADHD.

## **JONAH HOUSH**

### *The Effect of Athletic Involvement on Academic Performance*

Finding a balance between athletics and academics for student-athletes has long been a struggle. For many athletes, succeeding in sports and succeeding in school are mutually exclusive. To examine this sentiment, 106 consenting participants were surveyed and the results were analyzed to answer the question of the effect athletic involvement has on academic performance.

## **TYLER HUNTER**

### *The Experience and Impacts of Cyberbullying*

Given the prevalence of social media, cyberbullying is something many people have either direct or indirect experience with. Thus, it is important to realize the potential negative impacts that it has on a person's life. One hundred Midland University students took a survey to help better understand how prevalent this is and what impacts it has had. This research is important not only because it provides an opportunity to understand those negative effects, but also to understand what resources might be needed or even preventative efforts that could exist to prevent cyberbullying in the first place.

## **KAYTLON RICHARDSON**

### *Personal Opinions on Adoption*

In our society, people have many different opinions on how they feel about the adoption process and fostering children. My research focuses on people's thoughts and ideas about adoption, including whether they personally would be willing to adopt and if there are specific criteria they would prefer if adopting. How this connects with different demographics is also examined.

## **MACKENZIE SEMPECK**

### *COVID-19 and its Effect On Student-Life*

This project focuses on Midland University students and their opinions on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected their lives as college students. This research strives to understand how students coped with the transition from in-person classes to online classes, as well as their perceptions on whether Midland University did a good job of helping students be successful doing online learning. It also strives to understand how athletes handled the new safety protocols and if they felt they still had the satisfaction of a great athletic season. This research also included how students adapted to conversing with peers in person after having to communicate electronically for an extended period of time.

## AUSTIN SHOOK

### *The Effect Religion Has on Voting*

Historically, religious teachings have played a huge role in how people think and vote politically. This study takes factors like demographics into consideration and attempts to link voting practices with religious affiliation and level of religiosity. One hundred participants took part in the study conducted at Midland University and gave their opinions and experience with the relationship between religion and politics.

## BRYAN SLEDGE

### *Mandatory Vaccination and College Students*

Mandatory vaccination is a very hot topic in the world today. Schools and workplaces already require a multitude of vaccinations and understanding how college students feel about them is important. One hundred Midland University students took part in an anonymous survey. The questions on this survey focused on the role of different demographics in relation to experiences with vaccination, as well as general feelings toward mandatory vaccination. This research is significant within the current tumultuous climate around vaccination, understanding the perception of mandatory vaccination is crucial moving forward.

## LUISA SOTO

### *The Perception of Abortion within the United States*

Abortion regulations are becoming more prominent and controversial in our country. Due to the growing amount of abortion policies in the United States currently, this research project was done to get a more in-depth look into the perception of abortion. Based on an electronic survey of the general population, this study looks closely at the demographics of a person, specifically gender, race, and social class, to better understand how these impact a person's perception of abortion.

## SHAHIN TAVAROV

### *Child Punishment*

This research paper aims to examine the effects of different punishment methods on a child's development and perceptions about the punishment in their later lives. I will be focusing on the physical aspect of child punishment, specifically spanking. Coming from another country, I have realized that ideas about physical punishment are different across cultures. The goal of the study is to better understand how prevalent spanking is in the U.S., especially within different racial/ethnic groups. Apart from the prevalence, I also want to examine how it affected their life while growing up and now that they are adults.



# HISTORY

## TARIQ ABED

### *From Buxton to Norfolk: A Conversation Across Time*

My project will be focusing on the similarities and differences between the Buxton community in Iowa and African American communities in Hampton, Virginia, and Newark, New Jersey. These three distinct locations will form a melting pot of conversation based on their reactions to certain figures and events throughout the history of civil rights in America. All three communities will also be from different time periods that all end up living in the same America at one point. This is where the conversation will occur as each community reveals its feelings towards the chosen topics of interest.

## JASMIN BALLESTEROS

### *The Bloodiest Season of the Year*

We are going to travel back in time to one of the most murderous moments in American history. The Red Summer began in early 1919, during which white supremacist terrorism and racial riots took place in more than three dozen cities across the United States. By using the power of analyzing newspapers, we are allowed to understand how readers from different regions of the country might react to these specific events, how newspapers can shape their opinions, and why this is significant.

## HAMISH CAMPBELL ANTONENKO

### *The Red Summer in Black & White*

The events in the summer of 1919 sparked a pattern of hate and prejudice in the United States. From these events, a new awakening arose in the civil rights movement that helped pave the way for racial equality in America. In this project, I will use both primary and secondary newspaper sources to showcase how the events of the Red Summer changed America forever.

## JACOB CRAGG

### *Explosion in Birmingham Cause Chaos*

I wanted to look in-depth into the event of the Birmingham explosions to get a better understanding of the occurring events before and after the explosion. The event had a lot of media coverage in the papers for both sides, whether they be for the African American community, or for the community of the KKK. I will be writing a paper using multiple newspaper sources and beliefs to answer the prompt and help show more detail over the event of the explosion in Birmingham. I will show how both sides of the event explained what happened and how individuals on either side were affected by the explosion and the coverage of the media.

# THOMAS CRAWFORD

## *The Black Wall Street*

During the height of the Jim Crow era and racial segregation, there was a thriving segregated black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma. African Americans had taken advantage of a system used to oppress them and instead built a Utopia for their oppressed peoples. Years of progress and hope were burned to dust in a single night by a mob of jealous whites. For decades, the true horror of what occurred in Tulsa was misrepresented and hidden from America.

# PEYTON GARBERS

## *The Experience of Midwestern Urban and Rural Centers During the Great Depression*

The Great Depression left America in ruins for a decade and left a lasting impact on those that experienced the hardship first-hand. Many Americans were left unemployed and often went to bed hungry, alone, or in crippling debt, all hoping that tomorrow would be the start of better times. Some areas experienced different levels of hardship than others in the U.S., but for an area like the Midwest, the 'Great Depression' experience of rural and urban population centers like Minneapolis, Chicago, Sioux Falls, S.D., and Fremont, Neb. was often worse compared to other regions in the United States. Through the analysis and review of personal memoirs, newspapers, books, national archives, and personal letters, the Midwestern experience of the Great Depression is illuminated as a climactic event that severely crippled the populations of rural and urban families throughout major cities in the heartland of America.

# ALEXANDER GORCZYCA

## *The Relationship Between Racial Violence and Media Representation during Segregation*

By studying instances of racial violence and their representation in the media, such as the Elaine Massacre of 1919, it becomes clear how different groups viewed such travesties by comparing newspapers from differing regions and sources. These can also be cross-examined with factual evidence of such events, including interviews and testimonies of parties involved with these specific kinds of instances of violence. Through the analysis of events of racial violence and the relation of the implications of these occurrences to communities similar to Buxton, Iowa, and gradually shifting attitudes towards segregation in the following decades, it becomes clear that integration slowly but steadily became a focus of the majority over many years. With the relation of different concepts of racial violence, communities such as Buxton, and slowly changing attitudes towards segregation, instances of violence increased the tension that spurred greater demand for action in the coming years.

# SPENCER GRAHAM

## *A Newspaper Analysis of Booker T. Washington*

Booker T. Washington was a prominent African American leader following the civil war which gave African Americans more rights. His strategy for uplift within the African American community was different from other leaders at the time. Because of this he was able to gain the respects of many.

## ZOE HENKE

### *Integration of a Racist Society*

The Brown vs. Board of Education policy was a significant factor not only in the desegregation of schools, but also in racial norms. The policy enacted in Topeka, Kansas was successful in proving that racial segregation in schools is a violation of the 14th Amendment. The ruling of Brown vs. the Board of Education made segregation within schools officially illegal and maintained the progress of the civil rights movement.

## MEGAN HERNANDEZ-BELEW

### *Liberty and Justice for Some*

When African Americans packed up their bags to leave the oppression of the sharecropping south and start a new life where jobs were plentiful, the United States was not ready for this progression. Events like the Red Summer of 1919 and the destruction of Black Wall Street in 1921 struck fear into black communities around the country. These events showcased that even though African Americans were legally United States citizens granted by the Fourteenth Amendment, they do not have the right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

## ISAIAH HOWARD

### *A Black Man's Utopia*

For my project, I will be exploring and discussing major events that happened in Buxton, Iowa in the early 1900s and two other communities from the West Coast that experienced discrimination and had a major impact on the civil rights movement. Along with explaining why these events were critical to the civil rights movement, I am going to try to show how different perspectives would look upon these events. Coming from different backgrounds and being an entirely different race could account for a different view on each situation, along with the conversations that go along with them.

## MYLIE KETTERSON

### *Coverage of Emmett Till in the USA*

The news coverage led to many young African Americans joining in on this movement. The way that the case and trial were handled and how it was talked about in the news was not right and people wanted justice for this boy. His murder sparked an upsurge in activism that became known as the Civil Rights Movement.

## PEYTON KOCH

### *Nebraska's Impact on World War II and Nebraskans' Experiences*

This project covers the impact Nebraska had on World War II along with the experiences of Nebraskans during that time. Primary documents such as local newspaper coverage from the time regarding wartime events, as well as the home front, will illustrate Nebraskans' experiences during the war. My project will look at stories discussing soldiers, ranging from their actions and emotions, to the sacrifices those at home had to make.

## KAMRIN MAUZEY

### *On the Road*

Do you like to travel? How often do you travel across state lines or even country borders? Now, what if there were laws forbidding you to travel to a different state? Think about how you would react. Would you want the freedom to write about it or would you want the freedom to ride along and silently protest?

## ROSS MCMAHON

### *Red Summer: The Year of Terror*

Understanding the events of Red Summer is vital to understanding how civil rights have impacted America. Throughout the project, I will analyze newspaper coverage over Red Summer and dive into specific events and the impact on African Americans' fight for equality. The project will also cover a number of sources including maps, newspapers, and interviews to help the reader better understand the events, and terror of Red Summer.

## HAYDEN ROBBINS

### *Red Summer Analysis*

This project takes an in-depth look at the Red Summer of 1919. This project in particular takes a deeper look into the incidents as a whole across the country, with an emphasis on how geography influenced these events. One of the main aspects of this project was finding out more about the surrounding areas these events occurred in.

## KATHERINE ROUDEBUSH

### *Without Due Process of Law*

The 14th Amendment states "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." My project is going to talk about what our country would truly be like if our government and citizens lived up to this amendment. I will give examples of how people were deprived of their life, liberty, and property and will share some of the negative effects that not living up to the standard of this amendment has caused.

## JACKSON SCHULTZ

### *Newspapers' Images of Civil Rights Acts*

During the time when there were fights for civil rights, there were many things published that put different images and perspectives into people's heads. One of the main ways of publishing events or problems in the world were newspaper articles. Newspapers at this time were very biased because of the different beliefs of people on the subject of African American rights and equality. This caused many newspaper companies to publish articles bashing African Americans and making them always sound like the bad guy, causing them to get into trouble. Another good source made after this time was the book "Buxton: A Black Utopia". These articles and the problems they caused, along with the book, are going to be presented throughout this writing.

## HANNAH TRISKE

### *Analyzing Newspaper Coverage of the Brown vs. Board Supreme Court Case*

An analysis of the importance behind the landmark Supreme Court Case Brown vs. Board and its coverage in newspapers, as well as other sources. Then make crucial connections through different perspectives and regions throughout the United States.





# HUMAN SERVICES

## JORDAN MARTIN

*Fremont Family YMCA Childcare*

The Fremont Family YMCA, the largest in North America, is a place to connect the community and for people to find help in many different aspects of their lives, including youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. My internship focused on the childcare aspect that the YMCA offers, mainly with their school-aged children. I've gained insight into all the paperwork, responsibilities, and considerations one must keep in mind when holding leadership positions in childcare settings. I've also had the opportunity to interact with the children on an almost daily basis and to implement planned activities and programs.

## TAYLOR SHAW

*Care Corps LifeHouse*

Care Corps LifeHouse is a homeless shelter that takes people in and helps them get back on the path that they are wanting to be on. It works to get them out of the shelter by helping them find jobs, housing, insurance and other resources. They also offer skills classes for clients while they stay at LifeHouse. Through my internship with LifeHouse, I worked alongside case managers to complete intake and housing assessments and then make recommendations as to what programs the clients qualify for. I also connected with housing agencies in the area to find out what they have available and create a list for the clients to call and talk to them about the housing that they are interested in. I have also taught a life skills class on meditative coloring.



# MATHEMATICS

## GABRIEL MARTINEZ + DALTON TREMAYNE

### *Cantor Set and Its Applications*

Born on March 3, 1845, German mathematician Georg Cantor was known for his work with countable and uncountable sets, along with trigonometric series. One of Cantor's best-known works is the set he discovered and named the Cantor set. Although a version of this set was discovered earlier in 1874 by Henry John Stephen Smith, Cantor defined the version we know today as the Cantor set in a paper in 1883. It consists of removing the middle-third from each segment of a set of numbers infinitely, often  $[0,1]$ , leaving a set of numbers called the Cantor set.

The Cantor set can be constructed geometrically, by following a similar process as described above. It is an iterative process that is considered to be uncountable while approaching zero; this is an essential and distinctive property of the set. The parts removed can be described as a summation. Cantor's set has many unique and interesting applications and uses.

Some of the applications of Cantor's set can be seen within fractal geometry, detection of coding errors, and topology. The Cantor set can also be viewed as the infinite set of binary numbers which help to detect repetition of codes and thus prevent errors. Within our presentation, we will be giving an overview of this set, along with a deeper description of its impact on topology and detecting coding errors.



# SOCIOLOGY

## ERIN BAUM, ALLIE LAZARUS, + MALORIE POESSNECKER

### *Keep Fremont Beautiful*

It is very important that we take care of our local community and our environment. Keep Fremont Beautiful is an organization that prides itself on educating our citizens on how to take care of our environment, why it is so important, and what steps we can take to do so. Throughout our project, we have been focusing on reaching the college-age citizens of the community as they had been noted as a difficult population to reach. Through social media posts and a recycling drive, we are hoping to educate others our age on why we should take care of our community.

## NATALI DOMINGUEZ + TAYLOR KVITTEM

### *Friendship Center*

The Friendship Center is a place where the older generation can still be active, learn their rights, and enjoy a warm meal together. As human beings, we need social interaction to survive. Our main goal this semester is to grow the community as well as make it more aware of what the friendship center can offer. We are working with the seniors, as well as the director for the craft show, on a bake sale to bring this awareness.

## MORGAN GILLIAM + SKY SEARS

### *Thriftology Clothing Drive*

Thriftology is a local nonprofit that works towards assisting people to meet basic needs. Barb Flores, store manager of Thriftology, has been very thankful and appreciative of the things we do to help out. We enjoy our time with Barb and look forward to helping her set up the new location of Thriftology every Thursday morning. One thing we plan to do to help Barb even more is hosting a clothing drive so we can get some more winter clothes donated to Thriftology, which will help her make more sales and more money.

## SIDNEY HOWARD

### *The Effect of Divorce on Children*

In this study, the relationship between parental divorce and the immediate and long-term effects on children will be examined according to survey data collected from 103 Midland students. The main points of research within this topic include a focus on the participants' demographics, educational success, ability to maintain friendships, and the stability of intimate relationships into adulthood. It is important to understand that parental divorce can have a lasting effect on how a person develops and views life. Without understanding this issue from the child's perspective, there would likely be a lack of knowledge surrounding divorce as a whole.

## MANDY MONTANTE GONZALEZ, CHRISTINA PATTON, & ALI SMITH

### *The Dodge County Humane Society*

The Dodge County Humane Society is a place to adopt kittens, adult cats, small dogs, and large dogs. The goal is to spread awareness of the humane society and the needs it has for animals that are waiting for their forever home. We are using campus and different athletic teams to get help with donations for things like food and toys for cats and dogs, and a huge need for gently used towels or new ones.

