

Hannah Baum



Hannah Baum is a junior at the University of New Hampshire, where she is pursuing a degree in Communication and a minor in Writing. Her academic area of interest is in the observation of argumentative, rhetorical mechanics within media artifacts. She is currently a member of Comm-entary and the honors society Lambda Pi Eta. After graduation, Hannah hopes to obtain a career within the advertising or publishing industries. In her spare time, Hannah enjoys thrifting, collecting adorable succulents, and researching the medicinal properties of herbal teas.

We Are the Crystal Gems: Themes of Identity in Steven Universe

This rhetorical analysis examines various themes of identity that are represented in the three-time award winning cartoon *Steven Universe*. The predominant aspects of identity that shall be observed include gender, race, class, and sexuality. While there are notable progressions in these depictions of identity, which may have not been displayed on television previously, *Steven Universe* also has shortcomings, particularly through racial codings, stereotyping, and othering of minority groups.

Kristiana Osborne

Kristiana Osborne is a senior student at the University of New Hampshire. She is a communication major with a dual practice in Business and Media. Over the course of Kristiana's undergraduate studies she has been the secretary of Lambda Phi Eta, the Communication Honor Society, and the Editor-in-Chief of Comm-entary. After graduation, Kristiana is interested in pursuing a career in Public Relations or Marketing and potentially attending graduate school.

How a Generation is Changing a Century-Long Stigma

Pornography is one of the most searched topics on the Internet, but it is also among the most taboo. While the concept of porn has been around for decades, it remains to be commonly avoided in society. This analysis will examine society's relationship with porn starting from the sexualized stone and wood carvings to the modern day porn awards. Through a variety of factors and personal observation, communication technology has caused Millennials' relationship with pornography to differ from generations before. The digital age has given pornography a more attractive impression through anonymity and relatability through memes and social networking. Pulling from social research studies, communication technology knowledge, and pop culture influence, this study uncovers how Millennials opinions are causing pornography to shift from taboo to mainstream discourse.

Emily Bourne



Emily Bourne '20 is an undergraduate student from Cornish, New Hampshire. At the University of New Hampshire, Emily is a communication major who is focusing her studies in business. She is currently an active member of the Lambda Pi Eta Communication Studies Honor Society as well as a practicing facilitator within the UNH Civil Discourse Lab. Emily has also enjoyed volunteering as a student DJ at the radio station on campus. At home, Emily works as a waitress, but she will be furthering her educational and professional experience as an intern at 3S Artspace in Portsmouth, New Hampshire this fall.

Upon graduating, Emily hopes to work in booking, event planning, and marketing for music, media, and arts. In her free time, Emily likes to travel and go to concerts.

A Media Analysis of 'Nikes' by Frank Ocean

Upon its release in 2016, Frank Ocean's song "Nikes", the opening track off of his sophomore album *Blonde*, became a modern cultural phenomenon. The song garnered wide public acclaim while simultaneously working to outline several prominent societal issues facing American culture today. Within the song and its accompanying music video, Ocean uses lyricism and visual arrangements to counter hegemonic masculinity and heteronormativity, draw attention to ingrained systemic issues of race and complicated race relations, as well as counter social constructionism and popular media framing of wealth in the United States. Surrounding these prominent issues, Ocean proceeds to apply an intersectional approach to the nature of gender, sexuality, race, and class issues as described to define the overlapping facets of his identity contributing to his individualized lived experience. Whereas Ocean's portrayal of current cultural concerns and the deeper emotional purpose within his work strays from the current popular industry norm, the public exposure to these issues is important and beneficial in influencing greater awareness and dialogue relating to the matters described.

Grace Smith



Grace Smith is a Senior Communication student at UNH with a minor in Nutrition. She is a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the communication honors society, and a longtime supporter of Comm-Entary. When she graduates in May she plans to move to Dallas, Texas and pursue her dietitian's license.

#Aerie Man

Body positivity and empowerment is increasingly a focus in society, and as a result it is something that brands focus on in their marketing as well. However the way in which these issues pertain to men is seemingly more of a grey area, and something that people often ignore in the face of female empowerment. Aerie, a swimsuit and underwear brand, appeared to be one of the first to use a marketing campaign to shed some light on the need for male body positivity. However, when the brand revealed their campaign to be an “April Fool’s Day prank”, they were met with mixed reactions. What they considered to be a joke turned out to be something that filled a need and society, and when true intentions were revealed reactions were not positive.

Living on the Fringe

Abstract for Living on the Fringe: One look through Netflix or another similar streaming service will reveal a plethora of titles relating to crime; documentaries, mockumentaries, and retellings of famous crimes are among some of the most popular videos available, particularly those that pertain to serial killers. These films seem to have a decent amount of mass appeal, but for some fans, murderers and serial killers are not just a causal interest. Across the internet, mainly on websites like Tumblr, there are groups of people who are obsessed with murderers and serial killers and spend their time reveling in details of their crimes, even drawing fan art of their favorite killers.

Taylor Chieffalo



Taylor Chieffalo is a senior at the University of New Hampshire where she is majoring in Communication with a dual practice in Business Marketing. Throughout her undergraduate career, she has partaken in multiple intramural sports, she is the Publicity Chair of Comm-Entary, and she is currently an intern for the Ethridge McGann L.L.C PR firm for interior design. Upon graduation in May, Taylor is actively seeking a career in the fields of Public Relations and or Marketing and hoping to reside in the Greater Boston Area.

Street Art: A Crime or a Movement

Graffiti culture is one of the most continuously growing and popular forms of contemporary art, however, it is one of the most stigmatized. The presence of graffiti and street art has been around for years and has socially implemented the belief of what is considered traditional art culture. The stigmatization of street art stems from the lack of understanding and the preconceived notion that all graffiti is vandalism and illegal. This research essay is going to address the dynamic of street culture on a global scale, viewing its origin, its breach to social movements, and its position in society to ultimately define what it means to be authentic in street culture. Through the analyzation of multiple empirical and secondary sources, this essay will provide an answer to how stigmatization of graffiti and street art culture negatively impacts its authenticity and freedom of expression.

Jordyn Kafka



Jordyn is a senior Communication Business Applications major with a minor in Nutrition. Incoming Graduate student at Carsey School of Public Policy, University of New Hampshire. Passionate about strategic communication techniques regarding public health policies.

Directed Versus Reflective Gestures

The aim of this study is to evaluate the differences between directed and reflective gestures within conversation. This study also explores how participants can align with, respond to, or mimic said gestures. The present study is a contribution to Cash and Maier's research that analyzes the use of reflective and directed structuring in deictic, iconic, and beat gestures. It is also a contribution to Bavelas et al's findings on the different types of gestures. The data for this study was acquired via video recordings of an uninterrupted, natural interaction.

Matthew Santangelo



Matt is a senior Communication major with a minor in Business Administration. He started at UNH as a Business Administration major and made the switch to Communication in the first semester of his junior year. Matt's involvement on campus goes beyond Comm-Entary, as he was on the executive board of Campus Living Association, captained intramural soccer teams, and served as an 'Igniter' on the student advisory board for the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics' First-year Innovation and Research Experience program. In his free time,

Matt enjoys photography, traveling, writing, playing sports, and good conversations over coffee. After graduation, Matt wants to work with students in Higher Education, to help them find their passions and set them on the right career path.

It's Like, A Highlighter

You know how sometimes you like, use a word like, too much, and it is like, kind of annoying but you can't think of another way to like, say it? There is a reason for that. The words we use create structure and performs actions in our conversations. *Like* is used in a variety of ways during conversations and though there are many ways to use it, we are able to understand which action it is performing due to the structure it creates in our conversations. This paper discusses how previous conversation analysis scholars and scholars from other fields have studied the use of *like* in conversation and talk. I then propose that there is a previously non-discussed, new formation of the term *like* that appears in everyday conversations, accompanied by new findings regarding the type of responses it cues. This use of like, acts a highlighter in conversation and is termed the 'Focalizer Like'. This occurrence in conversation will be looked at and analyzed from a conversation analysis perspective, using data gathered and refined by undergraduate, communication students.

Lindsey Hall



Lindsey is a graduating senior within the Communication department with a business application. She is also a double minor in Spanish and International Affairs due to her interests in Latin America and international development. During her past four years, Lindsey has been a part of the department's honor society, Lambda Pi Eta, the volunteer organization, Alpha Phi Omega and Comm-entary. She has been in the University Honors Program since her freshman year and was inducted into the national honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, her junior year. Lindsey has spent her time at

UNH always trying to further her education and enjoying giving back to her department and community. After graduation, she will return to her home state of Maine to begin her career.

Media in Crisis: Journalistic Norms in Natural Disaster Coverage

Nearing the end of 2017, the United States and the Caribbean were struck with back-to-back natural disasters that left the country in shock and turmoil. Among the three hurricanes that struck sequentially, Hurricane Harvey landed in Texas approximately on August 25th, 2017 and Hurricane Maria hit the Caribbean and Puerto Rico around September 20th, 2017. These disasters were a test for the new presidential cabinet of how they would handle their first natural disaster. Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Harvey caused similar levels of destruction, with Maria being a category five storm and Harvey a category four. However, the media reacted differently to the crisis that unfolded in Puerto Rico in comparison to Texas. This study focuses on how journalists and the news industry covered both disasters and compares and contrasts the manner in which they were done. Pulling in media industry knowledge, rhetoric and cultural theory, the study uncovers how disaster communication was influenced by societal values involving culture and examines how the narrative journalists participated in affected the coverage, in turn shaping public knowledge.

Eva Ford



Eva is from Dover, New Hampshire. She is a senior at the University of New Hampshire earning a Communication major and minors in Philosophy and Spanish. Her interests within the field of Communication primarily include digital culture and social inequality and power differentials. Throughout her experiences in life and particularly at the university, Eva developed an interest in bettering her own country and community rather than simply accepting stagnation of, or resistance to, social progress. Given her academic interests, coupled with a renewed interest to be a keen observer of social justice in her own society, her aim

was to make a compelling argument about an issue for which she feels her positionality as a white female from an overwhelmingly white hometown may have given her insufficient appreciation.

Sorry (Not Sorry): Who Carries the Weight of Digital Public Shaming?

Public shaming has been used as a means of social control for centuries though it has not always levied the same impact on individuals' lives. This project takes a journey from 17th century public shaming sentences all the way through the digital public shaming experienced today. It compares examples of Nathaniel Hawthorne's character, Hester Prynne, in *The Scarlet Letter*, with present-day YouTube celebrities like Logan Paul. It examines differences between Ferdinand Tönnies' concepts of Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft with the effect of the digital surveillance society in which we presently live on the revitalization of public shaming. Exploring differences between the social statuses of victims of digital public shaming, this project concludes that those with greater social capital and financial standing are better-equipped to recover from the damaging effects digital public shaming can have.

Kelsey Flannery



My name is Kelsey Flannery and I am a senior here at UNH. I transferred here my junior year and chose then to declare that my major is Communication. I have always loved writing, and chose to transfer into the Communication major because I could still improve my writing skills while simultaneously learning more about the way people interact. I am from Windham, New Hampshire. At home, I have two cats, Wyze and Holmes, and a puppy named Shianne. When I'm not focusing on school or work, I love to go hiking, skiing, and find lots of different concerts throughout the year. Finding a new

adventure is something I've always loved doing, and I'm hoping to continue exploring through life after my educational career at UNH has ended.

The Effectiveness of the Anti-Internet Crusade: A Rhetorical and Content Analysis

The purpose of this analysis is to understand the successful uses of rhetorical strategies in Tristan Harris's TEDTalk "How a Handful of Tech Companies Control Billions of Minds Every Day" and the website *Center for Humane Technology*. Harris is one of the few speaking out on the necessity for a "tech backlash." Introducing scholarly articles on the creation of the digital society over the last 20 years, and the inherent addictive strategies in commonly used social media applications sets the stage for Harris's TEDTalk. Using these statistics and articles support the claims Harris makes enforce his use of successful rhetorical strategies. From a thorough analysis of Harris's TEDTalk and the *Center for Humane Technology*, I was able to identify Harris's use of deliberative rhetoric, which he uses to ask the audience for their support in a societal change on how we use technology. Identifying and analyzing his rhetorical strategies within deliberative rhetoric allow me to come to the conclusion of how successful he was. He correctly used the persuasive rhetorical devices and effective tools to deliver the existence of this societal problem, while still offering applicable solutions.

Marlo Ellis



My name is Marlo Ellis and I am a senior from Watervliet, New York. This upcoming May I will be graduating from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in English/Journalism plus a minor in Communication. My 4 years of college have allowed me to focus on my passion for writing, video production and storytelling. As I immersed myself into my courses, I developed my interests in how media impacts our society, specifically with social change, entertainment and pop culture. This past year I have interned at UNH Wildcat Productions, which handles all the broadcasting and media for the school's athletics. With

this experience, I have been able to gain hands-on knowledge on all aspects of production, work for well-known companies like ESPN, and even start an athlete spotlight series where we create short docu-style videos that give insight to our athletes' life journeys. After graduating, I plan on starting my career in documentary and entertainment video/post- production.

Be a Man

“Be a Man: Internet’s Influence on Social Change” is a multimedia project based on an essay I wrote for a course called, “Digital Culture & Society.” This video focuses on the Internet’s impact on our society’s social change, like our modernistic conception of gender roles, specifically masculinity and what it means “to be a man.” I go into a brief history of how the birth of digital media, such as television, catapulted the positive changes that many social justice movements started, and how it helped start movements like the Women’s Liberation. I then explain how Internet provides a new realm of information and communication, which has brought more light to the Men’s Liberation Movement and our perception on masculinity—while mentioning that it is important to highlight that it has also become a tool to undermine this movement (and many others) by giving misogynistic groups, such as, the Men’s Rights Activists (MRA), a platform. Ultimately,

the Internet has continued to open our society's eyes to the fact that many men are angry, upset and hurting. The advancements in digital media, especially the Internet, have and continue to break down modernistic barriers and create conversations that previously could never exist. By turning my essay into a multimedia piece, I was able to emphasize on important points and provide visual representations that written word does not always allow. With a multimedia project, it does take more time and patience, but is completely worth it when you create a concise and engaging piece of information.

Sarah Hinzman

Sarah is a senior from Keene, NH working towards a BA in Business Communications with a minor in Arts. Within the field of communication, she was interested in exploring how mass media, moral panics, and power disparities influence drug policy. She hopes to continue exploring these questions with Remission Kitchen by diving deeper into the conversation about federal cannabis legalization and the ethics surrounding its medical advancement while continuing to develop her production skills.

Remission Kitchen

Remission Kitchen explores the story of a New Hampshire woman who researched cannabis medicine online and developed her own formulations in order to replace a cocktail of pharmaceuticals and painkillers that were killing her, outliving her own life expectancy. Her work with cannabis now helps hundreds of people manage pain and chronic illness in ways that dispensaries have failed to, yet her products remain illegal. This short documentary was developed to be part of a future project that will address the shortcomings of current medical cannabis programs in the US. B's story will add a personal element and a tangible outcome into the larger discussion about federal legalization of cannabis and the advancement of the medical industry. I don't believe I could have as effectively communicated the story of Remission Kitchen without the aid of visual imagery. I find images usually have more of a lasting emotional impact on viewers than words in certain contexts, which was important to consider for a profile like this one which was intended to develop human interest and deliver a poignant message. Another benefit to a visual medium for this particular story was to contribute normalized depictions of sick people using cannabis into the greater conversation. Exposure is a powerful tool for both stigmatizing and destigmatizing drug use!

Braincandy

I recently discovered that I have Aphantasia, which just means that I am unable to voluntarily visualize mental images or recall visual memories. With this discovery, I have been able to approach my academics with a much more informed understanding of my learning style and what will work for me. I also became interested in different ways to

deliver information through sound and image, and the different effects that combinations of sound, image, and text have on my memory retention, focus, and ability to form and connect concepts. I found that I am able to maintain prolonged focus and make more thoughtful connections significantly better when I am listening to information while looking at simultaneously keeping my eyes busy, like driving while listening to podcasts or listening to the news while doing my nails. Basically, if my eyes are occupied my train of thought is able to focus on auditory input. Based on the little I know about meditation and inducing flow states, I suspect that by keeping my eyes occupied on something repetitive, like food coloring swirling in some water or cars driving by, I am able to clear my head of clutter and have a clear train of thought undisturbed by visual messaging.

I have always returned to James Baldwin's speech, "The Artist's Struggle for Integrity," after hearing it sampled in a rap song and really identifying with it, even though it was written in 1962. It's just a great view on the whole creative process and I find a new gem in it every time. When overlaid on the abstract moving gifs, I have a whole new experience listening to the speech where I'm able to focus on his words while sorting through internal thoughts. It wasn't until my discovery of Aphantasia that I actively started paying attention to the ways I process information, the way I form new ideas and connections, or even the way I retrieve information from memory. I knew that people had different learning styles, but this project allowed me to investigate some ideas I had about how I personally process and retain information. Understanding the differences in mental processing related to visualization ability is not only fun to play with for individual improvement, but could also help people better understand the different ways to receive and transmit information using new forms and combinations of media.

Kieran Reardon

David Koresh: Irreverently Divine

My name is Kieran Reardon and I am a senior at the University of New Hampshire, majoring in Communication Business. I have always been fascinated with psycho-thrilling topics such this essay that I have written about David Koresh and the Branch Davidians. My greatest influence behind writing this essay was the fact that at the time (2018) it happened to be the 35th anniversary of the live-broadcasted 52-day long standoff between the Branch Davidians, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and the FBI in Waco, Texas. So with that, there was so much current news coverage of the anniversary and new information that was being brought out years later. This was also intertwined with how the name of the class for which I wrote this paper was “Media, Culture, and Religion” with Professor Kevin Healey, and the entire rise and demise of David Koresh and his religious cult surrounded all three aspects of the class’s namesake, so it was really just a no-brainer of a topic to pick.

Walk the Talk

By: Adam Bovie, Eva Ford, Christine Speranza, and Apekshha Thapa

Walk the Talk is an introspective look at the issues of racism, diversity and equity, and the conversation surrounding them at the University of New Hampshire and beyond. This short documentary examines not only the different perspectives on these issues but the ways in which those perspectives contribute to discussions that need to happen, and in particular strives to identify and address what makes those conversations so difficult in the first place. It finds that addressing these difficulties is a crucial element of these conversations and an important step towards resolving these issues in a meaningful way. Film as a medium allows for this story to be told more readily by those interviewed and involved, and was an important part of encouraging the creators to examine the narrative they were constructing in the same way that the documentary sought to examine the narrative of conversations about the issues at hand.

Adam Bovie

Adam Bovie is a senior Communication and International Affairs dual major at the University of New Hampshire. He is from Vassalboro, Maine, and was drawn to Communication, *Comm-entary*, and CAMRA by an abiding interest in telling stories that matter in ways that people can connect to. Adam is grateful for the many opportunities, academic and otherwise, that he has had to tell such stories in these ways, and has no intention of stopping anytime soon.

Eva Ford

Eva Ford is from Dover, New Hampshire. She is a senior at the University of New Hampshire earning a Communication major and minors in Philosophy and Spanish. Her interests within the field of Communication primarily include digital culture and social inequality and power differentials. Throughout her experiences in life and particularly at the university, Eva developed an interest in bettering her own country and community rather than simply accepting stagnation of, or resistance to, social progress. Given her academic interests, coupled with a renewed interest to be a keen observer of social justice

in her own society, her aim was to make a compelling argument about an issue for which she feels her positionality as a white female from an overwhelmingly white hometown may have given her insufficient appreciation.

Christine Speranza

Christine Speranza is a Senior Communication student from Long Valley, New Jersey with an interest in the effects of mass media on the world around us as well as how the media can be used to generate positive change. Outside of the classroom, UNH is a Digital Media Assistant on the UNH Social Team, a team that creates, curates, and monitors content on UNH's official social media accounts in order to achieve university-wide and donor-relations initiatives.

Apekshha Thapa

Apekshha Thapa is a senior Communication student from Nashua, New Hampshire. Her own experiences as well as those of her friends and fellow students at UNH were part of her motivation for addressing the issues presented here in the form of a documentary, but Apekshha is also driven by her outspoken advocacy for student health, safety, and community on campus. To this end, she is involved in a number of organizations both at UNH and beyond, including Alliance, OMSA, and the Waysmeet Center.