

# *Graduate Research Symposium*



**December 4, 2023**

*Showcasing graduate students' research, capstone projects  
and scholarship.*

**Sponsored by the William T. Daly School of General Studies &  
Graduate Education and the Graduate Student Council**

## *Thank You*

Academic Affairs

Chartwells Catering

Event Services

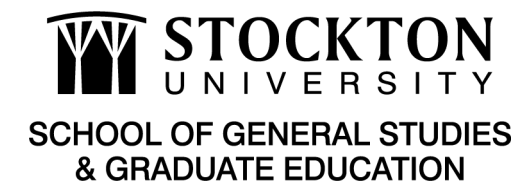
Graphics

Information Technology Services

Plant Management

Print Shop

Production Services



## Dean's Welcome

Welcome to the Graduate Research Symposium at Stockton University. Tonight, we celebrate the journey and accomplishments of our graduate students who have engaged in research within the past year. Designing and conducting research can be a challenging and rewarding part of this academic journey and tonight signifies the culmination of each person's thesis or other capstone experience. This quest that our graduate students have undertaken could not have been possible without the dedicated assistance of faculty mentors who have shared their own passion, curiosity, and knowledge with these distinguished scholars.

Fall 2023 Symposium presenters include students from five distinct programs: American Studies, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Business Administration, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, as well as a presentation from one of our International Exchange students, visiting this year from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Their projects signify their commitments to academic excellence, either through practitioner-based research or archival research, and are achieved through the oral and poster presentations listed within this booklet. We celebrate the diversity and innovativeness of the research presented this evening and promote interdisciplinary research conversations among the campus community. We honor Stockton University's commitment to the research projects presented here tonight.

We are proud of the presenters. We are grateful to all who contributed to the success of this event: our graduate student presenters, dedicated alumni, faculty advisors, program directors, program faculty, deans, staff, friends, family, and all of our special guests. We encourage you to attend the sessions, view the posters, and ask these remarkable scholars about their personal journeys.

**Dr. Robert Gregg**

Dean, William T. Daly School of General Studies & Graduate Education

# *Graduate Research Symposium*

**Campus Center Event Room, December 4, 2023**

## **-AGENDA-**

- 4:15 p.m. Welcoming Remarks  
*Refreshments Served*
- 4:30 p.m. Poster & Presentation Session Begins  
*Doctor of Nursing Practice*  
*Master of Arts in American Studies*  
*Master of Arts in Historical Research (International Exchange Student)*  
*Master of Arts in Holocaust & Genocide Studies*  
*Master of Business Administration*  
*Master of Science in Occupational Therapy*
- 6:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

*The names in this program are those of graduate student presenters as of December 1, 2023.*

## **-Presentations-**

### **Doctor of Nursing Practice**

#### **Jeannie Bocchino**

**Advisor:** Dr. Mary Padden | **Digital Poster Presentation**

**Title:** Depression Screening in Post CABG Patients

**Problem:** Depression is a common problem amongst post Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) patients. Depression in patients after CABG is associated with greater health care utilization, poor quality of life, and greater risk of social isolation, economic burden, and caregiver fatigue. The presence of depression in cardiac patients is associated with greater than 2-4-fold higher risk of subsequent cardiovascular events. Despite this, depression is often under-recognized and inadequately managed in patients due to lack of screening congruency. According to the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines, all post CABG patients are at an increased risk for depression and should be screened using validated tools.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to publish a position statement that supports a state-wide policy to include routine depression screening using a PHQ-9 Scale for patients post CABG.

**PICOT:** How does routine screening for depression in patients at six-weeks post CABG benefit, patients, providers, and the healthcare system?

**Design:** This is an evidence-based initiative to improve outcomes for patients post CABG consistent with the national guidelines and the Institute of Medicine's Six Quality Aims of safe, effective, timely, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered care.

**Method:** Working closely with stakeholders such as the Advanced Practice Nurses of New Jersey (APN-NJ) and the New Jersey State Nurses Association's (NJSNA) Congress on Policy and Practice, a position statement documenting the evidence-based benefits and recommendations for routine depression screening using the PHQ-9 in patients post CABG will be published and made available to providers throughout the state. Routine PHQ-9 Scale administration for depression in patients post CABG is free, requires minimal time, minimal resources, and when coded for reimbursement, generates revenue for the provider. This low cost, low maintenance, routine screening has the potential to reduce readmissions, reduce healthcare costs, and improve healthcare outcomes for the post CABG patient population.

#### **Amanda Dupras**

**Advisor:** Dr. Barbara Amendolia | **Digital Poster Presentation**

**Title:** The Impact of Self-care Education on the Perceived Stress of Nursing Students

Nursing students experience high levels of stress and anxiety, especially when considering the rigors of balancing didactic work and clinical hour requirements. Prolonged stress negatively affects both physical and psychological well-being, deleteriously affecting sleep, negatively impacting mental health, and increasing rates of burnout, dropout, and poor academic performance. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing recently expanded to include self-care education in both undergraduate and graduate nursing curricula. Due to this recent change, the curriculum at Stockton University does not yet reflect these changes. In compliance with AACN educational requirements, self-care education will be implemented. This project seeks to answer the question: in nursing students, how does self-care education affect perceived stress levels?

Project implementation and data collection will begin after IRB approval and student consent are obtained. A pre-intervention survey, consisting of a baseline Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-10), demographic data, and self-care knowledge will be obtained. Then, a 20-minute self-care presentation will be given. The presentation includes a broad overview of the concepts of self-care and perceived stress and provides education on exercise, yoga, and meditation as self-care behaviors shown to decrease perceived stress. After 30 days, students will be asked to complete a second survey, consisting of the post-intervention PSS-10, demographic data, and self-reported implementation of self-care behaviors. Data will then be analyzed using descriptive statistics.

#### **Katharine Flournoy**

**Advisor:** Dr. Lia Ludan and Dr. Mary Padden | **Digital Poster Presentation**

**Title:** Best Strategies to Combat Left Without Being Seen in the Emergency Department

**Problem:** Patients leaving the emergency department (ED) prior to being seen (LWBS) by a provider is a continual problem. Predictors of LWBS include overcrowded EDs, increased wait times, and patient dissatisfaction with care provided. Patients who leave prior to being seen by a provider are at risk for poor clinical outcomes.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to utilize nurse driven protocols to improve patient throughput in the emergency department.

**PICOT:** In emergency departments, what best practices or strategies versus current practices effect left without being seen rates?

**Framework:** Lean Six Sigma aims to streamline processes and eliminate waste time. There is not currently a streamlined process for protocol utilization while patients are in the waiting room.

**Method:** To address this issue, this project will include placing preestablished nurse driven protocol orders entered by nursing staff for patients that cannot be seen immediately by a provider. These protocol orders will be entered and completed by the protocol nurse to expedite care delivery. The existing protocol orders will be utilized as needed by the nursing staff when a provider is not yet assigned to the patient.

This is an evidence-based practice quality improvement project utilizing secondary data collection post nurse driven protocol implementation. To assess the impact of this process change, LWBS frequencies and length of stay will be monitored over a 30-day period at a regional medical center's ED. This data will then be compared to the corresponding time period last year. Project implementation and data collection will begin pending institutional review board (IRB) approval.

#### **Krystal Goula**

**Advisor:** Dr. Regina Green | **Digital Poster Presentation**

**Title:** An APN Led Integrated Care Model for Opiate Use Disorder and Chronic Hepatitis C Implementation of the Five A's of Care

**Problem:** Coronary artery disease (CAD) poses a significant risk for individuals undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting surgery (CABG). The primary objective of CABG surgery is to enhance the patient's quality of life. Nevertheless, a common and unfavorable consequence, even after successful surgical procedures, is the onset of depression. This depression has been recognized as a condition that can manifest both before and after the operation, and it has been linked to suboptimal healthcare outcomes within this patient group. Presently, the literature strongly endorses the screening for depression following CABG, yet it has not become a standardized practice among healthcare providers caring for this patient population.

**Purpose:** The goal is to execute a standardized protocol for depression screening in patients post CABG in collaboration with an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) prompt to initiate compliance amongst the cardiothoracic providers.

**PICOT:** In cardiac surgery providers, how does the use of an EMR versus current practice influence patient depression screening rates?

**Design & Framework:** This is an evidence-based quality improvement project using the Iowa Model of Evidence-Based Practice. The model serves as a guiding framework for healthcare providers to evaluate and incorporate research findings into patient care. There is currently no protocol for depression screening for this population.

**Method:** A protocol using the PHQ-9 for depression screening in patients six weeks post CABG is being developed and will be approved prior to seeking IRB approval and data collection. The protocol will include recommendations for referrals for positive PHQ-9 screenings. The PHQ-9 will be included in the EMR and will prompt at the patient's 6-week post CABG follow-up outpatient visit. Secondary data collection will be used to track provider screening and referral rates. Data collection is scheduled to take place over a 30-day period.

Intended Outcome: This project is grounded in evidence-based practices and aims to boost depression screening rates within the cardiothoracic care field, and ultimately improve outcomes for this patient population.

### **Maria Pagan-Felice**

**Advisor:** Dr. Lia Ludan and Dr. Mary Padden | **Poster Presentation 10**

**Title:** Improving Compliance of Depression Screening in Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting Patients with Utilization of the PHQ-9 Screening Tool

Background: Opiate use disorder (OUD) and hepatitis C epidemics are public health concerns. The OUD population is at high risk for acquiring and transmitting hepatitis C. Hepatitis C if left untreated, can result in liver cancer, liver failure, and death. There are many barriers to access to healthcare for the OUD population, including access to Hepatitis C treatment. Addressing the 5 A's of healthcare (Accessibility, Affordability, Accommodation, Availability, and Acceptance) through an integrative care delivery model that provides treatment for OUD and HCV can improve the quality of life for this population.

PICOT Question: In adults with HCV and OUD, how does an advanced practice Nurse (APN)-led integrative care delivery program versus the traditional treatment model affect the quality of life?

Method: This evidence-based quality improvement project used the Chronic Liver Disease Questionnaire (CLDQ) as a pre and post-treatment survey to assess quality of life for 11 participants diagnosed with Hepatitis C and enrolled in an outpatient OUD treatment program. Data collection took place over a six-month period.

Results: Of 18 clients qualified to participate in the project, 11 enrolled, and 7 completed treatment and post-survey questionnaires. Post-treatment mean scores increased for 6 of the 7 participants by 28%. There was a decrease in 1 participant of 13%. Despite the one outlier, improvement across all six domains of worry, emotion, fatigue, abdominal pain, systematic symptoms, and activity on the CLDQ was found, with the largest improvement in fatigue (148%) and the least improvement in systematic symptoms (50%). The total mean improvement for overall post-treatment CLDQ scores was 40% (132 vs. 169).

Conclusion: Although this project was limited by a small sample, the results support the use of an integrative care delivery model led by an APN in improving the quality of life for this population.

Keywords: hepatitis C, opiate use disorder, quality of life, integrated care, advanced practice nurse

### **Jamie Sosa MSN, CNM, RNFA, CBC**

**Advisor:** Dr. Rose Scaffidi and Dr. Mary Padden | **Digital Poster Presentation**

**Title:** Combined Vaginal Misoprostol with Transcervical Foley Bulb for Cervical Ripening

Background: Induction of labor (IOL) is the process of stimulating labor before its natural onset. When the cervix is not ready for labor, cervical ripening improves the chances of a successful IOL. Cervical ripening can be accomplished with mechanical methods such as single or double balloon catheters or with pharmacological methods known as prostaglandins. No single agent is superior to another; however, combining a pharmacologic agent with a mechanical method has a synergistic effect.

Significance: Utilizing only single agents contributes to increased rates of prolonged IOLs. Prolonged IOLs are associated with increased costs, length of stay (LOS), postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), Cesarean section rates, venous thromboembolisms, and decreased patient satisfaction. As the IOL rate continues to increase it is imperative to utilize the safest, most cost-effective, efficient methods available.

PICOT: In pregnant women, how does transcervical bulb and vaginal misoprostol compared with current practice affect intervention to delivery interval?

Purpose: This evidence-based, quality improvement initiative seeks to determine if amending the cervical ripening policy and encouraging providers to combine vaginal misoprostol with a Foley bulb for cervical ripening decreases the intervention-delivery interval at a local hospital.

Method: Using secondary data collection, the baseline interval of time from intervention to delivery will be compared to the interval after the EBP change has been instituted. Data collection will commence after IRB approval.

Keywords: cervical ripening, misoprostol, Foley bulb

## **Master of Arts in American Studies**

### **Chelsea Dubois**

**Advisor:** Dr. Bob Blaskewicz | **Table Presentation 2**

**Title:** Cults in America: Early Foundations on Religion Fueling the Cult Fire

Cults have been defined by multiple different scholars over time and continue to be re-defined and re-sculpted. There is the ability to define a dangerous cult, however, and narrow that scope down by revealing its elements, then taking those elements and seeing why it is possible that the American nation holds, at its lowest, 3,500 cults and in its highest numbers 10,000. Some of these are not dangerous, but are the laws protecting the religious rights of the people in this nation also protecting the religious sects to conduct illegal conduct, manipulate, siphon its followers, or even murder under the banner of religious and ideological beliefs? The research I have been conducting would suggest that is the case. The founding fathers' separation of church and state is not as simple as it sounds and the settlers before that already laid a zealous groundwork of moral-based rules to follow. These beginnings may be the foundation for the birth of a dangerous cult, but the laws that still remain and the fear of going against the 1st Amendment stop officials from investigating terrible crimes and persecuting the leaders of these groups as they protect themselves under that banner of religion. This paper will explore those early settlers and their motivations for the founding fathers and the creation of the 1st Amendment, as well as discuss some groups that use this to protect themselves against the government's shutdown. It will also discuss how easy it is to become a non-profit in this country and where the government may be able to step in. There will be examples of the government pressing too far as well as where they did too little to prevent the loss of many. These things will ultimately ask where we can change and if our European nations can possibly help in the dilemma.

### **Shannon Griffin**

**Advisor:** Dr. John O'Hara and Dr. Tom Kinsella | **Table Presentation 3**

**Title:** NJ Surf Museum at the Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum

The Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum is home to the New Jersey Surf Museum and the New Jersey Surfing Hall of Fame. The New Jersey Surf Museum houses a collection of surfboards, memorabilia and printed materials that survey the history of surfing as a sport, lifestyle, cultural phenomenon, and a local South Jersey industry & tourism attraction from the early 1900's through today. This project has involved investigating the needs of the museum for organization and inventory, studying best practices in the museum studies field to organize and inventory similar collections, creating the inventory system and completing an inventory. Additional components of the project include creating an online database of pictures for the inventory, including useable social media content, and accessible and interactive signage for the museum. Some of the most interesting pieces include a board that is used to take paralyzed individuals into the ocean to experience surfing, memorabilia from professional female surfers, and many boards that were shaped, sold, and surfed locally on the Jersey shore. This work will facilitate other research by organizing, valuing, and presenting this impressive collection in an accessible way. The Mystic Harbor, Connecticut Seaport requested to borrow several items for an East Coast Surfing exhibition in 2024; this work facilitates cooperation and sharing of information between smaller regional museums to preserve local surfing history. The possible aspects of American Studies represented in this project, in addition to the regional historical and museum studies components, include the historical impacts of Hawaiian statehood and culture on fashion, tourism, music, cars, hobbies and competitive sports; diverse representation within surfing sport and surf culture; evolution of surfboard manufacture and marketing, and many other interesting subjects. It is the hope that this inventory and the information in this project at the New Jersey Surf Museum contribute to further scholarship in the future, and raise public awareness of the depth and breadth of surf history and culture.

### **Alexa Novo**

**Advisor:** Dr. Deb Gussman | **Table Presentation 4**

**Title:** From Vulnerability to Thrivance: The Indigenous Fictional Testimony of MMIW in *The Marrow Thieves* and *The Night Watchman*

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) is an epidemic of violence against Indigenous women happening on the stolen land of the United States, Canada, and Latin America. Contemporary violence against Indigenous women is rooted in historical and cyclical settler-colonial violence. Within this context, some authors of contemporary Indigenous literature write stories that not only remember and redefine this historical violence and its cause but also speak to its modern manifestation of human trafficking. *The Marrow Thieves* by Métis author Cherie Dimaline and *The Night Watchman* by Chippewa author Louise Erdrich offer stories highlighting the perseverance and resilience of two victimized characters, Wab and Vera, who essentially typify MMIW. I argue that not only can these novels be interpreted as Indigenous fictional testimony, conceptualized by Michelle Coupal (Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation), but by also providing these characters with endings of thrivance, a term from Andrew Jolivé (Atakapa-Ishak Nation of Louisiana), they suggest a type of literary activism. We must learn the cyclical history of settler-colonial violence that contextualizes these novels such that they motivate our engagement in the MMIW activist movement, urge us to witness this violence and seek out real testimonies.

Keywords: MMIW, missing and murdered Indigenous women, gendered violence, Native American literature, Indigenous literature, Indigenous fictional testimony, thrivance, settler colonialism

### **Jennifer Esther Rios**

**Advisor:** Dr. John O’Hara | **Table Presentation 5**

**Title:** A Look Into the Past: Stockton's Lost Architecture and Cultural Impact in Photos

Stockton University obviously did not always appear as it is today. In all honesty, it was quite different, with many locations, architectural pieces, and aesthetics that no longer exist. My book will not only be exploring the locations on campus that no longer exist, but also contrast them with their modern counterparts, as well as detail some of the cultural impact in the surrounding area, namely Pomona. The architecture and layout of these areas will be shown, as well as their modern counterparts.

### **Summer Hill Seven**

**Advisor:** Dr. Deb Gussman | **Table Presentation 11 (Pre-Recorded Video)**

**Title:** Narrative and Fictional Depictions of Black Male Presidential Candidates Prior to the Election of President Barack Obama. Exhibit Z: *Jack for President*

“Narrative and Fictional Depictions of Black Male Presidential Candidates Prior to the election of President Barack Obama. Exhibit Z: *Jack for President*” is an absurdist look at the title character of a children’s story and asking the question, “what if this timeless storybook character lived in our present reality and chose to pursue the office of President of the United States?” Summer Hill Seven portrays Jack from the classic tale of Jack and the Beanstalk. Jack is now an adult who is running for POTUS as the Bean Party candidate.

## **Master of Arts in Historical Research** *Aristotle University of Thessaloniki*

### **Ermioni Vlachidou**

**Advisor:** Dr. Fokion Kotzageorgis | **Table Presentation 6**

**Title:** The Diplomatic Action of Mara Branković in the First Venetian-Ottoman War (1463-1479): How She Overcame Her Gender

This study delves into the life and significance of Mara Branković, a prominent figure in 15th-century Serbia. As the daughter of Georgi Branković, the Despot of Serbia, and the wife of the Ottoman Sultan Murat II, her unique position as the stepmother to his son, Mehmet II, is explored. The primary focus of this work is to analyze Mara

Branković's role as a diplomat and mediator during peace negotiations between the Ottoman Empire and various Balkan countries. In particular, we aim to shed light on her involvement in the first Venetian-Ottoman war (1463-1479) and examine the intriguing question of why she was selected as a mediator in a situation where familial connections were absent, a role traditionally reserved for men. To address this question comprehensively, we begin by presenting essential biographical information about Mara Branković and her familial background. Subsequently, we explore her broader diplomatic endeavors, gradually transitioning to the pivotal case of the first Venetian-Ottoman war. Within this context, we scrutinize her diplomatic strategies and mediation efforts. In the final chapter, we delve into the factors that may have distinguished her as a mediator in the context of this war. Concurrently, we consider the broader historical backdrop of the era and how prevailing circumstances could have influenced Mara Branković and her diplomatic role. This study is primarily based on an extensive review of relevant literature, encompassing books and articles specifically dedicated to Mara Branković's life, as well as general historical sources from the same period. Until now, scholarly discussions surrounding Mara Branković have predominantly centered on her role in relation to the Christianity of her time, with a particular focus on her patronage of the monasteries of Athos. While her diplomatic status has been acknowledged, this paper endeavors to provide a more comprehensive examination of this aspect of her life.

## **Master of Business Administration**

### **Students in BSNS 5215 Management: Theory, Practice & Vision**

Benjamin Bibeault, Piradara Chitrbhandh, Peter DeStefano, Liam DiFonzo, Kaitlyn Duncsak, Ibukun Fagbolade, Megan Flanagan, Ryan Lomangino, Mason Mack, Eshane Mansuri, Marianna Marino, Hailie McManus, Alexander Mercado, Chisano Mutts, Logan Papp, Caleb Poag, Brittany Rifenburg, Michael Schiattarella, Clarens Sterlin, and Mohammad Tabish

**Advisor:** Dr. Christy Goodnight, Assistant Professor of Management and Mr. Philip Young, Graduate Assistant | **Table Presentation 1 (Pre-Recorded Video)**

**Title:** Documenting Management Theory, Practice & Vision Along Atlantic Avenue in Atlantic City

BSNS students worked in teams to prepare this presentation explaining their project. One team will give an overview of the entire project and the management theories used by the class. The remainder of the teams will introduce the company they worked with and their line of questioning based on management theory to understand how these companies use management theory in their daily business practice and visions for the future. The results of this project will be presented on Monday, December 11th at 6 pm in the Fannie Lou Hamer Event Room in Atlantic City.

## **Master of Arts in Holocaust & Genocide Studies**

### **Olivia Harris**

**Advisor:** Dr. Michael Hayse | **Table Presentation 7**

**Title:** Historical Memory of the Herero-Nama Genocide in Germany: A Reflection of Larger Shifts in Colonial Memory

Trends of colonial memory or lack thereof include long periods of intentional amnesia by ex-colonial powers which only shifted toward recognition of past atrocities in the twenty-first century. Germany’s recent recognition of the 1904-1908 Herero-Nama genocide is indicative of this larger shift in memory and is not a direct result of Germany’s perpetration of the Holocaust and subsequent strong memory culture. Although settler colonialism and colonialism are distinct processes, this paper will be discussing and comparing the memory of both colonial and settler colonial states. Settler colonialism which was practiced by Germany, and the United States is defined by Lorenzo Veracini as, “a specific mode of domination where a community of exogenous settlers permanently displace to a new locale, eliminate or displace indigenous populations and sovereignties, and constitute an

Lorenzo Veracini as, “a specific mode of domination where a community of exogenous settlers permanently displace to a new locale, eliminate or displace indigenous populations and sovereignties, and constitute an autonomous political body.” For the purpose of this paper, colonialism will be defined as “the domination of a weaker nation by a stronger nation in all facets of national life, and by extension, a continued process of capitalism...Non-settler colonies...were not completely inhabited by Europeans.” Non-settler colonialism was practiced by Belgium, France and Great Britain. Colonies were created for the purpose of resource extraction and involved the exploitation of Indigenous Peoples as labor forces. Though they were made up of different structures and governing types, both settler colonialism and colonialism involved widespread atrocities committed against Indigenous Peoples that were not widely reckoned with until the twenty-first century, and even then only in limited capacity.

## Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

**Amy Oliva, Steysi Lara, Melissa Zou, and De-Anna Davis**

**Advisor:** Jennifer Calabrese, OTD, MOT, OTR/L | **Poster Presentation 8**

**Title:** Benefits of Adult's 3D-Printed Prosthetics on Mobility, Comfort, and Psychosocial Status

3D Printing (3DP) is an attractive manufacturing technique that has the potential to revolutionize the production of medical devices for functional use. Advances in process capabilities and materials provide an exciting opportunity to create custom-low-cost prosthetic limbs that require less intensive labor than traditional prosthesis. Despite the growing popularity of 3DP prosthetics, no review of the effectiveness of quality of life (QOL) has been carried out. This review aims to assess the evidence of the benefits of 3DP prosthetics on mobility, comfort, and psychosocial status by carrying out a literature synthesis of case studies, cohort studies, case reports and single case series. Study results showed positive effects for adults with amputations using 3DP prosthetics, specifically in mobility and comfortability. Results of increased mobility, functionality, ROM, reduced pain, customization, sizing, and dramatically reduced costs based on the client’s needs. Our findings indicate that despite the positive outcomes, further research is needed to provide information on longitudinal functionality amongst larger population groups.

Keywords: Prosthetic, 3D Printing, Limb Amputation, Adults

**Jessica Pisano, Samantha Vanhorn, Jan Bayanin, and Jobelle Alconis**

**Advisor:** Jennifer Calabrese, OTD, MOT, OTR/L | **Poster Presentation 9**

**Title:** The Effects of Artificial Robots on the Occupation of Sex in Older Adults

Advancements made in artificial intelligence (AI) contribute to the promotion of overall health and well-being by offering companionship and social support for adults aged 65 and older. AI-powered sex robots are humanoid machines that can be utilized for sexual purposes. There is an evolving interest in the development of relationships between humans and robots with sexual capabilities. Forming relationships with sex robots differs from other technologies such as sex toys, dolls, and virtual partners due to their human-like design. Research suggests that people often personify AI technologies which may contribute to therapeutic implications. Sexual activity is within the occupational therapy scope of practice and can potentially affect an individual’s quality of life and improve their sense of attachment. Most older adults deal with issues of loneliness and isolation in their relationships. AI sex robots can potentially fulfill a lack of sexual engagement. However, additional analysis is needed to gain a comprehensive understanding of the benefits of AI sex robots within the older adult population. Research shows that a great deal of occupational therapy practitioners often avoid discussing sexual health with their clients due to feelings of discomfort and embarrassment that may arise from a lack of knowledge, training, and experience. Therefore, it is important to address the need for practitioners to have further education on the occupation of sex and its impact on physical, mental, and emotional health. As future occupational therapy practitioners, we decided to explore this topic as there is limited research on sexual activity in the older adult population.

## Join Graduate Student Council

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is an organization of "graduate students who are diverse individuals with unique skills, experiences, and talents. We value this diversity as it enriches our lives and educational experiences. We are committed to our education, our professions, and the advancement of graduate students at the University. We also value the opportunity to meet with fellow graduate students, faculty, administration, and alumni. We desire an organization that is committed, responsive, efficient, and engaging to carry out these desires and to act on our behalf

### Executive Board Membership 2023-2024

President - Gabrielle Petrucelli, SOTA

Vice President - Casey Berchtold, CRIM

Secretary - Matthew Romen, OLA

Treasurer - Erin O'Hanlon-Keys, OLA

Maria Hoover Spade, Co-Advisor

Sarah Albertson, Co-Advisor

Email GSC at [GSC@stockton.edu](mailto:GSC@stockton.edu)