

West Chester University: Full and part-time faculty members who conducted research related to one or more of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals between the summer sessions of 2023 and the end of the spring 2024 semester. These 71 faculty members represent 32 of the 52 academic departments and collectively are addressing research questions related to most of the 17 SDGs. Information for this inventory was collected by an electronic survey distributed to all 948 full- and part-time faculty in January 2024 by WCU's Office of Sustainability. Inventory compiled on March 20th, 2024 by Calli Lombard, Administrative Assistant, Office of Sustainability

Name	Academic Department	Please provide the following information for each research project you worked on from the 2020 Fall semester through the end of the 2021 summer sessions that explicitly addressed the concepts of social, environmental, or economic sustainability or had a primary and explicit focus on a major sustainability issue (e.g., one or more of the UN SDGs): 1) project title 2) names of collaborators with their institutional affiliations (if any) 3) a brief description of the project 4) type of project (e.g. published papers, books, textbooks, presentations, reports, research grants and works in progress)
Michael Di Giovine	Anthropology and Sociology	1. Sustainable Food and Cultural Heritage in Perugia, Italy 2. I work with students; this is IRB-approved research 3. Amid a changing world, the central Italian province of Umbria has long utilized small-scale, sustainable food production as a means of asserting its unique cultural heritage and revitalizing its economy. Recent focus has been on COVID-19 recovery. This is student-faculty research conducted during the annual ethnographic field school in Perugia. 4. Papers, presentations, works in progress.
Michael Di Giovine	Anthropology and Sociology	1. Earthquake and Disaster Recovery in Umbria 2. Elisa Ascione, Loyola University Chicago - Rome 3. Since 2017, we have looked at the effects of devastating earthquakes in and around Norcia and Castelluccio, focusing particularly on its small-scale, sustainable food producers. Norcia is known for its artisanal salumi (meat) production, while Castelluccio is renowned for its high-altitude lentils and saffron. Both were heavily affected by the earthquake and created new challenges, and opportunities, to agricultural practices in the region. 4. Several book chapters and online content has been published; I've given a number of presentations at international conferences.
Michael Di Giovine	Anthropology and Sociology	1. Sustainable Study Abroad 2. Paul Sylvester (Education); Bradley Flamm (Office of Sustainability); under the approval of Angela Howard (GEO) 3. We examine the ways in which study abroad programs at WCU can be more sustainable. Paradoxically, WCU's mission has been to increase opportunities for all students to study abroad (which necessarily increases our carbon footprint) while reducing our carbon footprint. We have been examining a number of means for incorporating sustainability and sustainable practices in study abroad - from purchasing carbon offsets to creating better, more sustainable structures for these programs, to enhancing explicit sustainability education. 4. This is ongoing research, but we've spoken about this in a Sustainability Seminar in 2023; I've addressed a few international conferences (Forum for Education Abroad, American Anthropological Association). We are writing up a paper for publication in a study abroad journal.
Michael Di Giovine	Anthropology and Sociology	1. Earth Day at 50: Lessons for a Sustainable Future 2. Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology www.wcupa.edu/museum 3. This exhibition, which was supposed to open in April 2020 but was moved to 2021, examined the history and development of Earth Day, as well as the ways in which humans have both contributed to the current environmental crisis, as well as how to mitigate it. A special annex highlighted sustainability initiatives at WCU. The exhibition ran from April 2021-April 2023 and was utilized by nearly a thousand students (WCU and outside students from the community). 4. Although the in-person exhibition is no longer present, we have created an online, virtual exhibition (complete with 3D interactive photography) at www.wcupa.edu/EarthDayVirtualExhibition. I also published an edited volume with Innovative Ink (Kendall Hunt imprint), Earth Day: Lessons for a Sustainable Future, that includes chapters written by the student co-curators, and a range of experts and collaborators.
Aliza Richman	Anthropology and Sociology	1. Key Insights from West Chester University's First Sustainability Census: The State of Sustainable Actions, Engagement, and Perceptions 2. Solo-authored (Aliza Richman) 3. Highlighting results from WCU's 1st Sustainability Census among students. 4. Book chapter
Aliza Richman	Anthropology and Sociology	1. Race, Ethnicity, and Sex Disparities in Phthalate Concentrations Among U.S. Adults: The Mediating Role of Socioeconomic Factors 2. Solo-authored (Aliza Richman) 3. Examining population heterogeneity in phthalate concentrations among adults in the U.S. 4. Manuscript seeking publication
Eric's Loustau	Art + Design	In addition to teaching in the Department of Art + Design, I am an adjunct curator at the Delaware Contemporary. I recently curated Lush Morphology, a large exhibition of artwork by Rachel Blythe Udell. Rachel is a mixed-media artist working with vintage and upcycled textiles. The exhibition of her work fits into the larger themes throughout all of the museum's exhibitions, which focus on artwork made with non-traditional, upcycled, and sustainable materials.
Andrew Snyder	Art + Design	"The Lowdown on Low-fire Porcelain." Studio Potter article October 2023 This article outlines my research for creating recipes for porcelain which mature at a temperature significantly lower than traditional porcelain. <a href="https://studiopotter.org/lowdown-low-fire-porcelain">https://studiopotter.org/lowdown-low-fire-porcelain</a>
Megan Fork	Biology	1) The Effects of Road Salts on the Vegetative Vegetation Communities in a Large Freshwater Wetland in Southeastern Pennsylvania 2) Ben Langey (graduate student at WCU) 3) Ben's thesis research is investigating how road salt from the PA Turnpike affects the vegetation and habitat in a large freshwater wetland in northern Chester County which is an important wildlife and plant area. 4) research grant and work in progress
Megan Fork	Biology	1) Detection and quantification of microplastics in fecal samples of Eastern Pennsylvania passerines 2) Victoria Moriera (graduate student at WCU); Jenny Uehling (WCU faculty member) 3) This research will quantify the amounts and types of microplastics present in the feces of songbirds captured at a bird banding station in Chester County. 4) research grant and work in progress
Megan Fork	Biology	1) Effects of Single-Use Plastic Ban on the Abundance, Types, and Ecology of Anthropogenic Litter 2) 3) This research investigates the types and amounts of human-derived trash in urban streams in southeastern PA and how municipal bans on single-use plastics affect the types and amounts of trash in these streams. 4) research grant and work in progress
Megan Fork	Biology	1) Establishing monitoring program on Goose Creek 2) Michael Dunn (Goose Creek Alliance) 3) This work is establishing long-term monitoring sites along Goose Creek in the West Chester area to determine baseline water quality and biological integrity and allow us to quantify the effects of future restoration and stormwater management projects. 4) work in progress
Jessica Schedlbauer	Biology	1. Determining long-term carbon storage and changes in tree species composition: A ten-year re-census of permanent plots in the Gordon Natural Area 2. PI: Jessica L. Schedlbauer, Department of Biology Co-PIs: WCU undergraduate students Kyleigh Levinsky & Jacklyn McCue; WCU graduate student Meredith Fitzgerald 3. In collaboration with students, I have been quantifying changes in above and belowground carbon storage, as well as tree species composition in WCU's Gordon Natural Area (GNA) at five-year intervals beginning in 2013. This research project aligns most closely with the University's Climate Action Plan goals related to Curriculum, Co-Curricular Education, Research, and Public Engagement (Objective 1.4). Summer of 2023 represents the ten-year inventory of six large (2000 m <sup>2</sup> ) plots distributed across the 100- and 200-year-old portions of the GNA's forest. In each plot we measure and identify all living trees, as well as standing and down dead wood to determine aboveground carbon storage. Belowground, we determine litter biomass and soil carbon content. To date, this research has yielded a peer-reviewed publication with a WCU student, an invited seminar, and valuable background that has allowed me to develop new field lab activities for my courses. Students involved in this project will gain hands on experience with field and laboratory measurement techniques common in ecology, while also learning about the critical role of forests as long-term carbon sinks. The ten-year inventory comes at a time when two species of non-native insects have killed a number of trees in the GNA, allowing us to explore the impacts of these introductions on both carbon storage and species composition. Funds are requested for two student interns, as well as for the analysis of soil carbon content at an external laboratory. 4. This is a research project, with fieldwork and data analysis. It is the subject of a M.S. thesis project and will eventually result in a publication.
Jennifer Maresh	Biology	1) Mesopredators in the GNA 2) Pilot project, just me, an undergraduate Biology - Ecology & Conservation student, and occasionally Nur Ritter. 3) We are interested in learning more about the animal life in the GNA: Who is there, how many, what are they doing? Is the GNA home, or do individuals pass through? The GNA exists in a fragmented, urban landscape, and is itself small and fragmented with a lot of human (and their dogs) foot traffic. 4) Right now my student is putting together a "field guide" of mammal inhabitants, but he hopes to develop this into a larger research project across the course of the next 1-1.5 years.
Jennifer Maresh	Biology	1) Quantification of the energy value of fishes and squids to their marine predators (marine mammals, sharks, tunas, sea turtles, seabirds, etc.). 2) Many collaborators at other institutions. I'm sorry but I'm typing this quickly and I don't have time to write this all here as this is a long-running project with many collaborators across many institutions. 3) We want to know which species (predators listed above) are vulnerable and which may be more resilient to human impacts, to inform management decisions related to their conservation. This requires the building of predictive models that rely on good data, but there is a huge data gap for these animals regarding how much food they need to eat, mostly to do with little knowledge regarding the energy value of their prey to their survival and reproductive fitness. This project works to quantify the energy value of the prey that seem to be important to these animals. 4) All of this list.
John Pisciotta	Biology	Antimicrobial effect of metal containing nanoparticles. Project involves renewable energy storage. Patented process and work in progress involving students.

Kurt Kolasinski	Chemistry	Surface Chemistry of Silica and Porous Silicon Juliana T. Hetzel, WCU. Yangle Li, Ramya Narasimhan, Denise M. Monack, Richard N. Zare, Stanford University Publication/Presentation Y. Li, K. W. Kolasinski, R. N. Zare, Silica particles convert thiol-containing molecules to disulfides, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. 2023, 120, e2304735120. Yangle Li, Ramya Narasimhan, Denise M. Monack, Richard N. Zare, Juliana T. Hetzel, and Kurt W. Kolasinski, H2O2 Generation and Antibacterial Action of an Aqueous Solution Produced with Porous Silicon, Porous Semiconductors Science and Technology 2024, Brno, Czechia, April 2024 (conference presentation).
Kurt Kolasinski	Chemistry	Improving Performance of Rechargeable Lithium Ion Batteries T. KAZDA1, A. SIMEK1, R. ZAPPE2,3, J.T. HETZEL4 K.W. KOLASINSKI4 AND J. M. MACAK2,3 1. Department of Electrical and Electronic Technology, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication, Brno University of Technology, Technická 4, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic 2. Central European Institute of Technology, Brno University of Technology, Brno, Czech Republic 3. Center of Materials and Nanotechnologies, University of Pardubice, Pardubice, Czech Republic 4. WCU STABILIZATION OF Si/C COMPOSITE ANODES BY ULTRATHIN ALD COATINGS, Porous Semiconductors Science and Technology 2024, Brno, Czechia, April 2024 (conference presentation).
Kurt Kolasinski	Chemistry	1. Controlled Release of Drugs from Porous Silicon for Improved Wound Healing Formulations 2. Juliana T. Hetzel, Neil Slichter and Kurt W Kolasinski, WCU 4. Work in progress
Kurt Kolasinski	Chemistry	1. On demand H2 formation from reactions involving silicon 2. Michael Moran and Kurt W Kolasinski, WCU 4. Work in progress
Megan Schraedley	Communication and Media	1) COVID-19 Impacts on College Students Basic Needs Insecurity 2) Megan Schraedley (WCUPA), Ashlie Delshad (WCUPA) 3) including food and shelter, more so than the overall population (Goldrick-Rab et al., 2018, 2019). Many factors contribute to this problem including intergenerational poverty, rising costs of higher education, the negative stigma associated with requesting assistance, and the complex processes of navigating applying for aid. The COVID-19 pandemic shut down many businesses and nearly all college campuses for significant lengths of time between 2020-2021. For college students already experiencing basic needs insecurity, this meant unemployment, an emergent need for new housing, and a lack of access to basic needs resources previously available on now shuttered college campuses. We examined the effects of COVID-19 as the pandemic unfolded through a qualitative photovoice study with students at a public East Coast university. The research study consisted of two qualitative semi-structured interviews completed with 12 participants.  Using navigational capital (Yosso, 2005) as our sensitizing lens of the interview and photograph data, we found several emergent themes. Students changed their behavior to adapt to organizational closures (groceries, workplaces, daycare, etc.). Students developed new communicative patterns and strategies, and they leveraged creative methods to access needed food and resources. Additionally, we found students discussing and taking pictures of their material challenges like time poverty and constrained capital, while expressing shared emotions like stress, loneliness, and the impossibility of balancing their basic needs. We offer policy suggestions for higher educational institutions based upon these findings.  4) Work in Progress (has been presented at two conferences and is in manuscript draft to be submitted Spring 2024 for peer-review to journal publication).
John McGraw	Communication and Media	1. Phenomenological Study of Theatre Teacher Self-Censorship 3. The purpose of this research study is to examine the phenomenon of teacher self-censorship in the context of theatre education. Dissertation work in progress as doctoral student at American College of Education
Sojung Kim	Communication Sciences and Disorders	1) Adults with Developmental Disabilities and Complex Communication Needs: An Interview Study of Parents' Perspectives and Experiences 2) Yu-kyong Chae (U Mass Amherst) and Hee Tae Jung (Indiana University) 3) Fourteen parents whose adult children (age 21 or older) had developmental disabilities (DD) and complex communication needs (CCN) participated in an interview study. The three focus areas of the interviews were communication, socialization, and literacy. Transcripts of the interviews were analyzed following an inductive, thematic process. Preliminary analyses indicate that the adult children have received varying degrees of communication support (e.g., private speech-language therapies) and social support (e.g., adapted Physical Education classes, cooking classes) since high school graduation. However, none of the adults with DD and CCN has received literacy support. Many parents reported that their adult children's writing and reading skills have noticeably regressed after high school graduation, indicating a crucial need for literacy intervention in this population. 4) Presentations and works in progress
David Barry	Early and Middle Grades Education	1) Prisms in Pedagogy: Addressing Racism, Sexism, and Other -isms In Children's Books With Preservice Teachers 2) Katie Manwiller (library) & Daris McInnis (Literacy) 3) This study is guided by the research question: How do underrepresented early childhood preservice teachers experience involvement in reading, evaluating, and reflecting on representation in children's literature and how do such experiences influence them as future teachers? 4) presentations, grants (PRG & FPDC), and submitted articles (under review)
Heather Leaman	Early and Middle Grades Education	1. Teacher research and impact on student learning, teacher autonomy, teacher leadership. 2. Connie DiLucchio, WCU Emerita 3. Survey/Interview re: teachers' completion of EDE 611, Teacher Research, during their M.Ed. to understand the impact of their inquiry on their teaching, children's learning/access to education, professional learning, autonomy, leadership. 4. 3 published papers (one pending publication), 1 conference presentation, other publications, additional research in progress.
Paul Sylvester	Early and Middle Grades Education	Connecting Clinical Experiences for a Diverse Teacher Workforce Grant funded project to improve West Chester's Urban Teacher Preparation programs
Marc Gagne	Earth and Space Sciences	1. Dark Skies Committee 2. West Chester Green Team 3. In the last year our committee has co-written statewide legislation to reduce light pollution: PA State HB 1803: An Act providing for management of responsible outdoor night lighting; and imposing duties on the Department of General Services. The committee has also used remote sensing data to assess light pollution in Chester County. This work has been featured in public outreach events including seminars, WC Porchfest, planetarium shows, and presentations to local governments.
Daria Nikitina	Earth and Space Sciences	Impact of sea level rise on cultural resources in the Delaware Bay Dr. Wholey, WCU We use predictive models of future climate change to identify cultural landscapes and heritage sites that will be impacted by rising sea level by 2030, 2050, 2080, 2100 (1 published paper, 2 presentations) Impact of future hurricanes on coastal environments, Dr. Kim, WCU We model future storm surges and identify communities and landscapes that would be impacted by severe storms (3 presentations)
Matthew McMahon	Economics and Finance	1. Green Markets: An Experimental Analysis of Technology and Policy 2. Nick Busko (Salisbury University) 3. Abstract: This paper compares the effects of technology innovation and pricing policy in green markets on the provision of the public good. We extend the standard model of impure public goods to draw a distinction between green goods and green services, which are both subsets of impure goods. The motivating example of a green good with a price policy is a consumer installing a subsidized solar panel on her roof, while that of a green service is a consumer paying a surcharge for green electricity generated by her utility company. Experimentally, subjects face several sequential allocation decisions designed to mirror the underlying impure goods model. We find that increases in the technology of the impure good increase the public characteristic, as do increases in its subsidy and decreases in its surcharge. Equivalent technology and subsidy increases have identical effects, as do equivalent green good and green service markets (when the underlying technology is the same). In line with the previous literature, theoretically irrelevant impure goods actually decrease overall public provision. The added opacity of green markets also leads to greater efficiency loss in public provision than in private consumption. Market efficiency decreases as technology improves or as equivalent policy changes are made. Efficiency is significantly higher for individuals who indicate higher cognitive effort. These results taken together suggest a large toolbox is available to policymakers and that these tools can be complementary. 4. Work in progress (full working draft available) will become a published paper
Matthew McMahon	Economics and Finance	1. Optimal Taxation and Impure Public Goods 2. None 3. Abstract: It has been shown that the introduction of a good that has portions of both private and public characteristics (an impure public good) can actually decrease the total level of the public characteristic provided. Using the standard impure public good model, I first isolate the conditions under which this occurs in a general equilibrium. I then introduce a central planner whose goal is to counteract this decrease. She chooses a tax rate for the purely private good, and spends the tax revenue generated to increase the provision of the public characteristic. In choosing the optimal tax rate, she minimizes the tax's deadweight loss subject to the total public characteristic given the tax and the impure good being at least as large as it was in the absence of both. I then identify the properties both of markets and of impure public goods that tend to necessitate such a situation, thus also identifying those which necessarily increase the resulting deadweight loss. It is suggested that such properties are harmful to society, either through the decrease in the public characteristic absent a planner or through the resulting increase in deadweight loss if a planner is present. 4. Work in progress (full working draft available) will become a published paper
Matthew McMahon	Economics and Finance	1. How the Equality & Information Availability of Bonuses Impact Productivity: An Experimental Analysis 2. Z. Tingting Jia (University of Oklahoma), Jing Li (Dongbei University of Finance & Economics), and Sarah Marx Quintanar (University of North Texas) 3. Abstract: In Chinese culture, physical red packets carrying cash are traditionally traded by family, friends, and colleagues during holidays. This widespread cash-transfer mechanism is an economic game: the "Red Packet Game" (RPG). Recently, the ubiquitous Chinese phone app WeChat's modified RPG has replaced most traditional red packets. We test how WeChat's RPG setup impacts worker productivity via two channels: bonus congruency and social context. Subjects who are unaware that they are in an experiment are paid for a data entry task (Gneezy & List, 2006). Surprise bonuses are announced halfway through. We compare a no-bonus baseline to treatments with equal bonuses (as in the classic RPG) and bonuses of randomly and "from the workers' and manager's views" ambiguously determined sizes (as in WeChat). We also vary whether each worker's bonus size is known privately (classic) or to all coworkers (WeChat). We run sessions in China and the US to vary whether the RPG is widely known to subjects. 4. Work in progress will become a published paper

Matthew McMahon	Economics and Finance	<p>1. Paid the Cost to Be the Boss: How a Leader Impacts Earnings, Coordination, &amp; Free-Riding in a Multiple Public Goods Game</p> <p>2. Lin Jing (Dongbei University of Finance &amp; Economics) &amp; Jing Li (Dongbei University of Finance &amp; Economics)</p> <p>3. Abstract: This paper explores the effect of leader contribution on behavior in a variant of the Corazzini, Cotton, &amp; Valbonesi (2015) multiple threshold public goods experiment. Leader contribution in single public good games has been studied and found..... In multiple public goods setting, a leader's choice of public good serves as a focal point that helps the followers to coordinate.</p> <p>4. Work in progress will become a published paper</p>
Matthew McMahon	Economics and Finance	<p>1. Shifting Incentives: One unintended consequence of Texas bar COVID-19 shut-down</p> <p>2. Sarah Man Quintana (University of North Texas)</p> <p>3. Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic caused a tidal wave of changes to modern life, and business was no exception. This project explores one unintended cost of the shut-down of Texas "bars" in 2020: the cost to breweries and wineries as they were forced to shift business models to accommodate regulations. With respect to licensing, Texas defines a bar as "any business where alcohol is served for on-premise consumption for whom alcohol sales make up at least 51% of gross receipts." Accordingly, in Texas, wineries and breweries are within the same category as bars when it comes to policy and licenses. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas policy dealt differential restrictions to bars versus restaurants: bars faced much stricter shut-down rules and more limited capacity. Governor Abbott ordered all restaurants and bars to close at midnight on March 19, 2020 and subsequently required various changes in capacity limits between May and June. However, by June 26 the policies drastically differed between restaurants and bars: bars were closed while restaurants were allowed to operate at 50% capacity (this pattern repeated over the following months until Texas fully reopened in March 2021). This policy was explicitly identified as a hindrance to brewery success during the pandemic. The Texas Craft Brewers Guild conducted a survey of members which ultimately represented 40% of the operating brewers in Texas. One in three expected to close by the end of the year without a change to the "51% establishments" shutdown order. On Friday, July 24, 2020 there was a big change to these mitigation policies as the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC) determined that the 51 percent calculation of gross receipts should only include the sale of alcohol for on-premise consumption. Therefore, the calculation excluded to-go, retail, and wholesale sales of alcoholic beverages, which made it easier for breweries to meet the 51% revenue rule. Establishments needed to show they had been making less than 51% in alcohol sales since April (only including on-premise alcohol sales) to be rezoned as restaurants. Bars could also apply for Food and Beverage certificates if they ramped up their on-site kitchen space or added a permanent food truck to their grounds: allowing them to add new food sales to gross receipts to change the ratio of alcohol to food. As such, there was a "loophole" for bars and breweries who were able to redefine themselves as restaurants where they could bypass the stricter policy set for "bar" type breweries. This differential policy was argued to be a result of the belief that bars were riskier in terms of Covid-19 exposure and infection, though this is not necessarily factual for many of the wineries and breweries in the state. Detailed anecdotal support is provided for this argument. I find that many of these specific small businesses responded to incentives by changing their business model to increase food sales and paying to alter their business licenses. In doing so, these establishments were able to remain open in the short-run. Using a probit model for whether the brewery (or winery) remained open in 2022, this success in navigating the pandemic is causally impacted by licensing changes. In other words, those who were unable to adjust or afford the license change were more likely to go out of business. Interestingly, establishments who changed their license did not necessarily alter their business operations in respect to health safety beyond what they would have without the license change. For example, by partnering with a food truck, breweries could adjust their sales to accommodate the restaurant definition. This did not alter risk in terms of COVID exposure, but did allow them to operate during the bar shutdown time period. Supportive data is provided. This study argues that the forced closure of breweries and wineries imposed an unnecessary cost and disproportionate harm to these small-business owners, with little to no health benefit (on the margin) in regard to the pandemic. Back of the envelope calculations are provided and alternative policy specifications are explored in terms of minimizing these unintended costs in the future. The implications of this policy and other potential options are vital to understand for optimizing future policy-making decisions, especially with respect to the growing brewery/winery industry within Texas.</p> <p>4. Conference Presentation * American Association of Wine Economists, 15th Annual Conference, Gordon's Bay, Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa</p>
Matthew McMahon	Economics and Finance	<p>1. How the Equality &amp; Information Availability of Bonuses Impact Productivity: An Experimental Analysis</p> <p>2. See Project 3 above</p> <p>3. See Project 3 above</p> <p>4. Conference Presentation 93rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, New Orleans, LA, USA (November 2023)</p>
Megan Teague	Economics and Finance	<p>(1) Parity Without Socialism: Economic Freedom and Opportunity for Women</p> <p>(2) Nikoloz Chkhaidze, International Black Sea University; Nikolai G. Wenzel Universidad de las Hesp�rides and American Institute for Economic Research</p> <p>(3) In dealing with past illiberal practices, liberal societies can face a dilemma. On the one hand, members of groups that have faced past discrimination are at a disadvantage. On the other hand, active state intervention (in the form of quotas, for example) is illiberal, as it treats individuals as members of groups. How, then, does a liberal society rectify past injustices without losing itself? We examine one aspect of this question, by studying public and private female leadership across countries, as a proxy for female opportunity, regressed against economic freedom. The literature on economic freedom shows that greater economic freedom means more opportunity "�c" for all, but especially for previously disfavored groups; it thus predicts that higher levels of economic freedom will be correlated with greater female leadership, without the unintended consequences of state interventionism.</p> <p>(4) working paper</p>
Paul Morgan	Educational Foundations & Policy Studies	Beyond Sustainability Curriculum Integration: Educating Otherwise. Presentation made for WCU's weekly Sustainability Research & Practice Seminar Series. November 15, 2023.
Paul Morgan	Educational Foundations & Policy Studies	Beyond Curriculum Integration Initiatives: Educating Otherwise. Presentation made at the annual meeting of AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education). The session engaged participants in a radical reconsideration of sustainability integration initiatives. October 2023, Boston, MA.
Paul Morgan	Educational Foundations & Policy Studies	Sustainability Literacy Curriculum Integration Workshop. Invited presentation for Villanova University. May 2023.
Paul Morgan	Educational Foundations & Policy Studies	Sustainability in Urban Education: How do we move beyond schooling as usual? Proposal submitted for the 2024 Annual Meeting of AERA (American Educational Research Association). There is an increasingly urgent need to educate for sustainability in real and meaningful ways, especially in urban districts, yet the vast majority of teachers and students are constrained by a standards and compliance regime focused on preparation for an extractive global economy. How best can we support urban teachers and students in their efforts to pursue relevant, empowering, high impact education for sustainability? Work within the system (e.g. implementing sustainability-related standards)? Focus on place-based problem solving (e.g. youth participatory action research)? Emphasize student-driven sustainability initiatives outside formal education? In this symposium you will hear from a range of panelists on this question and have an opportunity to add your perspective to this important and urgent work.
Rodney Mader	English	SURI Grant with Dariana Garcia-Bernabe; Thomas Sisters and C19 Botany
Rodney Mader	English	Dariana and I were awarded a grant to study two sisters whose plant specimens from the early 19th century are uncatalogued items in the Darlington Herbarium. This research supports: History of Women in Botanical Science; analysis of phenology with regard to specimens, indicating effects of climate change; "Citizen Science" in the 19th century.
William Lalicker	English	As president of the Global Awareness Society International, I have been involved in every aspect of a conference last year, and another this year, that explicitly cite the UN SDGs as the conference themes. We also publish conference proceedings on this sustainability theme. For more complete info, go to <a href="https://www.globalawarenesssociety.org/">https://www.globalawarenesssociety.org/</a>
Justin Rademaekers	English	<p>1. Equity Gaps in the College Writing Curriculum</p> <p>2. Justin Rademaekers and Margaret Ervin</p> <p>3. This project examines how first-generation students and under-represented students experience writing-related courses in the higher education curriculum. Institutional data suggests that students from these groups experience higher rates of Drop, Fail, and Withdraw from courses that are writing intensive. This study is a qualitative analysis on faculty and student perspectives on language and writing develop in the WCU curriculum.</p> <p>4. Work in progress.</p>
Timothy Ray	English	<p>1.) AI Ain't Going Away: Strategies for Utilizing Artificial Intelligence in the Writing Classroom</p> <p>2.) none.</p> <p>3.) Artificial intelligence programs such as ChatGPT have caused widespread concern in the academy, including in the writing classroom, where it is feared that AI may lead to a new form of plagiarism. Despite fears, AI can be used constructively in the writing classroom by both students and faculty, as this presentation will demonstrate.</p> <p>4.) conference presentation (RECAP).</p>
Megan Schoettler	English	<p>Title: A Rhetoric of Belief: Feminist Tenets of Rhetorical Advocacy at a Rape Crisis Center</p> <p>Abstract: A Rhetoric of Belief names and investigates feminist tenets of rhetorical advocacy that emerged from an ethnographic case study of the Midwest Rape Crisis Organization (MRCO). The rhetorical tenets of MRCO advocates include: All survivors should be believed, Survivors deserve empathy, Abuse is never the survivor's fault, There is not one right way to feel or receive support after trauma, and Survivors are the experts and should control their own recovery. MRCO advocates train in and use these tenets to enact feminist affective resistance by challenging dominant pedagogies of emotion and helping survivors "unlearn" rape culture. The article concludes with methodological and pedagogical applications for feminist teachers and researchers.</p> <p>Article work in progress. Revise and resubmit for journal Peitho.</p>
Megan Schoettler	English	<p>Title: Connecting Survivors and Resisting Shame: The Transnational Feminist Coalition Building and Storytelling of First Response Action</p> <p>Abstract: "Transnational feminist rhetorical scholarship has illuminated the challenges of coalition building, including power imbalances and negotiation, as well as the affective burdens of networked feminist advocacy online (Ch�vez; Dingo; Prasad). This chapter builds upon transnational feminist rhetorical scholarship with novel findings about coalition building and storytelling through a case study of First Response Action (FRA). This grassroots feminist organization built transnational solidarity and utilized affective storytelling to achieve significant justice goals. When Casey Frazee Katz was assaulted in service in the Peace Corps, she was sent home without much-needed care and support. Utilizing the affordances of social media, Casey reached out to survivors across the globe who had also been assaulted in service and ignored. Together, they created the transnational feminist coalition FRA. While alone, Casey's voice had been ignored, together, these survivors amplified each other's affectively powerful stories over social media and in testimony to the U.S. Congress, which led to the Kate Puzey Volunteer Protection Act of 2011. FRA feminists successfully pushed back against discourses which sought to shame and minimize their experiences. Using textual analysis of FRA's website and social media, accessed through the Wayback Machine, and interviews with FRA-founder Casey Frazee Katz, the author contributes findings about the affective challenges of maintaining digital feminist coalitions, the affective power of storytelling, and the meaningful recovery work of feminist rhetorical advocacy online. To analyze the rhetorical work of FRA, the author brings together theories of feminist coalition building within and across difference (Ch�vez; Mikonen; Prasad; Reagon), networked digital advocacy (Dingo; Oulette; Papacharissi), and affective resistance (Canter; Hemmings; Mendes et al; Schoettler). This case study of transnational feminist coalition building online can serve as a model for future recovery work of feminist organizations who have advocated for and achieved justice through storytelling."</p> <p>Book chapter in progress for edited collection.</p>

Megan Schoetteler	English	<p>Title: "Engaging the Table: Autoethnographic Accounts of Gender Performance in TableTop RPGs"</p> <p>Collaborators: Luke Shackelford, Jax Kinniburgh, David Halliwell</p> <p>Abstract: "Co-written by four friends, scholars, this article seeks to explore how small communities employ the TTRPG genre to develop literacy in gender and sexuality, through the close examination of our own performances in shared home games. Conducted via autoethnography (Pitard, 2016), this article explicates the personal, interpersonal, and cultural possibilities of TTRPG spaces as fruitful pedagogic environments by (1) establishing autoethnography by grounding it in engaged learning at la bell hooks (1994), (2) establishing the precedent of narrative experiences as rich material for restoring and refashioning our sense of self via sexual/gender literacy studies, (3) articulating the limitations of D&amp;D's ruleset for exploring cultural performances by reviewing a history of D&amp;D's rules/conventions, before (4) finally presenting four distinct autoethnographies themselves. In doing so, we contextualize vignettes of our gaming experiences alongside rhetorical, queer, gender, trauma-informed, and other theories/research to draw conclusions about the pedagogical value of TTRPGs for engaged pedagogy. "</p> <p>Article in progress</p>
Jason Vanfossen	English	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Queer Appalachian Youth Literature</li> <li>3. This project explores LGBTQIA+ representation in Appalachian children's and young adult literatures and cultures with a focus on how these representations correct the erasure and stigmatization of Appalachia as a homogenized land.</li> <li>4. Post-Doctoral Fellowship</li> </ol>
Jason Vanfossen	English	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Appalachian Queer Kids Are Here: Crafting Visibility and Queer Anti-Urbanism in Appalachian Youth Literature"</li> <li>3. This book chapter looks at the the distinctions between urban and rural spaces in queer Appalachian middle grade and young adult literature through a critical analysis of three case study texts that make an argument for rethinking the way land and sexual-political geographies create stigmatized spaces for young readers.</li> <li>4. Book Chapter in Edited Collection</li> </ol>
Jason Vanfossen	English	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Cattywampus and Queer: Representing Intersex Identity and Queer Magic in Appalachian Youth Literature"</li> <li>3. This conference paper analyzes a middle grade novel representing an Appalachian Intersex identity as it connects to a magical nature/granny witch history and dialect that relies on challenging stereotypes of Appalachia as exploitative of land through mining and non-inclusive of Intersex identities.</li> <li>4. Conference Presentation</li> </ol>
Victoria Tischio	English	<p>Supporting English Language Learning in South Africa: Student-produced Read Aloud Book Videos as a Pedagogical Tool. I've done this project in two separate Honors seminars. I am now gathering data from the teachers in South Africa about the usefulness of these videos and will publish that data.</p>
Kristen Kondrik	English	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When we all stopped: Visual rhetorics of hope in public health communication for children during the coronavirus anthropause</li> <li>2. Cara Byrne, Case Western Reserve University</li> <li>3. Since March 2020, the United States has suffered over 1.1 million deaths and 6.4 million hospitalizations from the coronavirus (CDC, 2023). Despite this devastation, public discourse during the pandemic often reflected a paradoxically optimistic message: that the environment and non-human animals could benefit from the pandemic. Rutz, et al (2020) have termed the coronavirus pandemic an "anthropause": a global slowdown of modern human mobility and activity (p. 1156). In examples such as viral social media posts showing a flock of swans in Venice (Felton, 2020) and news reports showing clear skies that had once been choked with air pollution (Kinver, 2021), public discourse often drew on striking visuals to praise the benefits of this anthropause.</li> </ol> <p>These incongruous messages of hope intersect with recent discussions about scientific rhetoric during disaster. As Eric C. Miller (2023) has noted, science communicators have disagreed about what posture to adopt when speaking about the future: to motivate the public to take action in the face of disaster, should communicators advocate hope, despair, or some mixture of these two stances? The answer to this question became even more complicated during the coronavirus pandemic. Though the visuals mentioned above offered optimism, as Julia Fine &amp; Jessica Love-Nichols (2023) note, many images of nature "healing" were fake or shared out of context, distorting public perceptions of the anthropause's environmental echoes.</p> <p>Like texts for adults, texts aimed at children adopted optimistic framings of the anthropause. In rhetorical studies, as Risa Applegarth (2017) notes, children are often neglected as distinct agents and audiences, holding distinct values, subject positions, and attunements. And indeed, during the coronavirus pandemic, messages for children differed significantly from those addressed to adults. As our larger project attends to how public health communication positioned children during the coronavirus, this presentation considers how texts addressing children drew on rhetorics of hope as they discussed the dual crises of the pandemic and climate change.</p> <p>This presentation will perform a visual-rhetorical analysis of three texts: Tomos Roberts' The Great Realization (a YouTube bedtime story), Lenora Todaro and Annika Siems's Sea Lions in the Parking Lot (a picture book), and Tom Rivett-Carnac's What Happened When We All Stopped (an animated poem). These texts position the coronavirus anthropause as an opportunity for rapprochement between humans and nature: by staying at home and re-evaluating their relationship with nature, these texts urge, children can protect themselves and heal the Earth. These texts both provide comfort and assert that children's actions matter in a time of hardship. As they offer hope, however, these texts also circulate an insidious form of misinformation: they romanticize the pandemic lockdown as a time of safety, reflection, and harmony, when, for many children, especially children in vulnerable communities, the reality was anything but peaceful. The hopeful narratives and images in these texts hinge on erasing many children's lived experiences, creating nostalgia for a "safe," "restorative" pandemic that never truly existed. These texts, therefore, show the limitations of drawing on rhetorics of hope when communicating with vulnerable audiences about disaster.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Work-in-progress (chapter of a WIP book and future conference presentation)</li> </ol>
Jordan Schugar	English	<p>Gishwati Primate Project with Drs. Chancellor and Rundus. We've done a sustainability focused seminar with the Sustainability Research Council and applied to present our research at various professional organizations and conferences. We have also applied unsuccessfully for grant monies.</p>
Lisa Konigsberg	English	<p>Presentation panel</p> <p>Teaching Authentic Writing in the age of AI</p>
Hannah Ashley	English	<p>I am on sabbatical and am writing a book tentatively titled: Doing Humanities While Dying--Pedagogical Experiments Toward the Communitarian Revolutionary Subject. It is a book engendered by the polycrisis most centrally the climate crisis, but also the economic and epistemic and political emergencies we are in. It urges humanities scholars and teachers to adopt principles that emerge from community organizing.</p>
Megan Heckert	Geography and Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PRACT (Planning for Resilience and Equity through Accessible Community Technology)</li> <li>2) Christina Rosan, Temple University</li> <li>3) Working on development of an app to center equity in climate planning</li> <li>4) NSF planning grant received, participated in NSF i-Corps program, now working on full implementation grant proposal.</li> </ol>
Megan Heckert	Geography and Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Creating Biophilic Classrooms</li> <li>2) Collaborating with WCU students in Geography and Planning Society (student organization)</li> <li>3) Developing a pilot project to introduce plants in WCU classrooms and track impacts on students - will implement in spring 24</li> <li>4) Received a Sustainability Research &amp; Creative Activity grant - hope to get a paper and several presentations out of the project</li> </ol>
Megan Heckert	Geography and Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Temperature impacts of green stormwater infrastructure</li> <li>2) Radika Bhaskar, Jefferson University</li> <li>3) Ongoing project to measure and map temperatures at microscale surrounding green infrastructure projects</li> <li>4) will be presenting at a national conference in spring 24</li> </ol>
Yingying Lyu	Geography and Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Aging in place in China: Qualitative investigation of the home and neighborhood environment</li> <li>2) Ann Forsyth, Harvard University Graduate School of Design</li> <li>3) A brief description:</li> </ol> <p>Most people want to age at home. Homes and neighborhoods physically support an aging person. They are filled with meaning and are important settings for social interaction. However, some older people may have chosen aging in place as a result of financial limitations. Their dwellings may NOT be adaptable for aging or other circumstances such as the warming climate. Their communities may NOT have the necessary resources to support older people. A key issue is how to futureproof aging in place for places like China where there is an increasing population of older people. To address this issue, we examine the following questions: 1) What are older people's preferred home and neighborhood environment features for aging? 2) What are the challenges in their current and past aging in place experiences?</p> <p>By answering those two questions, the authors aim to provide policy recommendations to promote equity in health and well-being among older people. This research project also contributes to sustainable cities and communities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4) type of project: research grants and works in progress</li> </ol>
Amy Lynch	Geography and Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Beyond a Critical Mass: The Spatial Configuration of Preserved Farmland in Lancaster County, PA</li> <li>2) Dr. Thomas Daniels, University of Pennsylvania</li> <li>3) A primary goal of working landscape conservation is to protect large contiguous blocks of farmland. This pattern supports the long term interests of farmers and farm support industries. This study uses GIS to examine the configuration of preserved farmland in Lancaster County over time with a focus on farmland cluster size, shape, and connectivity. It highlights and explains key gaps in the county's network of preserved farmland and provides recommendations for communities interested in enhancing the connectivity of their preserved land.</li> <li>4) I have presented this work at conferences, but it is currently in manuscript form. So, work in progress, I suppose.</li> </ol>
Jongwoon Kim	Geography and Planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Preserving Home and Independence: The Economic Sustainability of Pennsylvania's Real Estate Tax System for Aging in Place</li> <li>2) Zakary Reilly (WCU student), Research Assistant</li> <li>3) This paper focuses on the real estate tax burden and its influence on aging in place, specifically in the context of Pennsylvania's geography. The study employs geospatial perspectives to explore locations within the state which may pose challenges for aging in place due to real estate tax burdens. The project utilizes a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) database, mapping, and visualization techniques to offer insights into the real estate tax burden's impact on potential aging in place in different locations within the state. By analyzing various real estate tax-related indicators and constructing an index with these and other relevant economic and demographic variables, the study assesses the financial challenges of aging in place, identifying counties and census tracts that are more or less favorable in terms of real estate tax burdens in the state of Pennsylvania. The project outcome includes the development of an Online GIS Dashboard and a Web Map intended for public access, aiming to provide valuable public policy implications and aid individuals in making informed decisions regarding aging in place within the state. (Keywords: real estate tax, aging in place, housing affordability, GIS, spatial analysis)</li> <li>4) Research grant, Report, and Presentation</li> </ol>

Casey Bohrman	Graduate Social Work	1. Criminal Records in Social Work Licensure 2. Margo Campbell Widener 3. Examination of the ways criminal records impact people's ability to get a social work license 4. 2 presentations and one paper in draft form
Wan-Yi Chen	Graduate Social Work	1) Maternal exposure to violence and harsh parenting: The mediational role of drug abuse 2) Yooyong Lee, U. of Alabama at Birmingham 3) We aimed to identify the pathways connecting maternal victimization, drug use, and harsh parenting practice. Specifically, we examined how (1) witnessing or victimization by community violence and (2) victimization by psychological or physical domestic abuse affect maternal drug use and harsh parenting. 4) Work in progress.
Mia Ocean	Graduate Social Work	Navigating the Labyrinth of Higher Education: A Qualitative Inquiry and Pipeline Creation Student researchers and community based researchers Conducting semi-structured interviews with people who have attended community colleges and high ranking and non-high ranking graduate social work programs. We aim to challenge the hierarchy of higher education and to enact structural, student-informed and equitable change. Research grants and currently in progress
Lisa Kirschenbaum	History	Soviet Adventures in the Land of the Capitalists: Ilf and Petrov's American Road Trip  In 1935, two Soviet satirists, Ilya Ilf and Evgeny Petrov, undertook a 10,000-mile American road trip from New York to Hollywood and back accompanied only by their guide and chauffeur, a gregarious Russian Jewish immigrant and his American-born, Russian-speaking wife. They immortalized their journey in a popular travelogue that condemned American inequality and racism even as it marveled at American modernity and efficiency. I reconstruct the epic journey of the two Soviet funnymen and their encounters with a vast cast of characters, ranging from famous authors, artists, poets and filmmakers to unemployed hitchhikers and revolutionaries. Using the authors' notes, US and Russian archives, and even FBI files, I reveal the role of ordinary individuals in shaping foreign relations. I examine specific encounters between the Soviet tourists and the "natives" as a means of assessing the process and possibility of questioning or even reshaping presuppositions about the Other.  Book published by Cambridge University Press, 2024 <a href="https://www.cambridge.org/9781316518465">https://www.cambridge.org/9781316518465</a>
Janneken Smucker	History	1) A New Deal for Quilts 2) International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln 3) *A New Deal for Quilts* is both a book and exhibition. During the New Deal "the Roosevelt administration's legislative response to the Depression" not only did quiltmakers create quilts on both an individual and collective level in response to the unemployment, displacement, and recovery efforts in the U.S., the government drew on the symbolic heft of quilts and quiltmaking in its relief and rebuilding projects. The federal government used quilts to communicate about its programs assisting the impoverished and values and behaviors individuals and families should employ to lift their families out of dire straits. I assert that federal programs including the Farm Security Administration, the Works Progress Administration, the National Youth Administration, the Federal Arts Program, and the Tennessee Valley Authority "embraced quilts to demonstrate the efficacy of these programs, show women how they could contribute to their families' betterment, and generate empathy for the plight of displaced and impoverished Americans. 4) Published book, gallery exhibition
Gerardina Martin	Honors College	1. HON 311 - Non-Profit Grant Proposals 2. Chester County Community Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of Chester County, Safe Harbor of Chester County, Westside Community Center, A Child's Light, Ebenezer Food Bank, North Star of Chester County, Community Warehouse Project, and four additional local non-profit partners 3. I work with students to research needs in the community to form sustainable solutions. We then incorporate what we've learned into grant proposals we submit for funding. 4. Grant Proposals submitted for funding to local foundations. Literature reviews are also sent to the non-profit partners to use for future grant proposal opportunities.
Karin Volkwein-Caplan	Kinesiology	1. Healthy Aging 2. International Organization (IAPESGW - Int Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women) colleagues in Germany, India and Brazil, and AARP organization 3. Healthy Aging in different parts of the world with special focus on gender, race and social background. Special focus on the blue zones and what are the reasons for people living the longest, the healthiest environments and good quality communities. 4. - Published paper in international Journal "International Sport Science Journal" in 2023. - invited keynote lecture at International congress in India (IAPESGW) in 2022. - invited guest lecture at University of Ludwigsburg, Germany, July 2024.
Jason Bartles	Languages and Cultures	1) Gaia Trembles: Novel 2) None 3) Climate fiction fantasy novel set in the Poconos. The story involves resistance of cryptocurrency data centers and to eco-fascism. 4) Novel in progress, scheduled for publication later this year
Heather Waymouth	Literacy	"In English we focus on the stories: ELA teaching for sociocritical civic literacy in a predominantly White context, is a research paper being written with Dr. Sarah Fleming at SUNY Oswego and Dr. Keith Newwine at SUNY Cortland. It is the culmination of a study in one high school English teacher's 12th grade classroom as she used historical and contemporary literature in addition to a non-fiction multimodal text set to support her students' sociocritical civic literacy development. Students developed a richer understanding of the complexity of a local issue - what to do with a raised highway in their town which, when built, deliberately decimated a middle class Black neighborhood - and decide which of the options currently being discussed in the community they would support - repairing the raised portion or moving to a "community grid" option. Thus students were building understanding and awareness around industry, innovation and infrastructure in relation to peace, justice, and strong institutions.
Heather Waymouth	Literacy	Teachers' perceptions of disciplinary literacy: A critical discourse analysis is a research paper currently in revisions/resubmission with Dr. Madison Weary, temporary faculty here at WCU. It explores issues of unconscious racism and ableism in middle school teachers' discussions of literacy instruction and for whom it is intended in their classrooms. This piece implicates considerations of access to a good education as well as peace, justice, and strong institutions.
Heather Waymouth	Literacy	Rethinking Disciplinary Literacy: Equity, Expertise, and Inclusive Education was a blog post written for the Literacy in the Disciplines Blog ( <a href="https://literacy6-12.org/blog/">https://literacy6-12.org/blog/</a> ) alongside Hery Castro, an undergraduate student here at WCU. It discusses how I came to an equitable consideration of disciplinary literacy instruction, how I teach for it in EDR 420, and how a student from a non-dominant background experienced and took up that learning.
Heather Waymouth	Literacy	Sliding the glass door: Making time and space for difficult conversations with youth through multivoiced literature is a book chapter written with Dr. Keith Newwine from SUNY Cortland, Dr. Sarah Fleming from SUNY Oswego, Pam Margolis - a doc student at WCU, Sarah Mellon - a masters student at SUNY Cortland, and Tina Middaugh - a high school teacher at West Genesee HS in Camillus, NY. It argues that when teaching ELA in predominantly White contexts, using texts as "windows" into lived experiences of marginalized and/or non-dominant communities is not sufficient. If we are to work towards justice, we must make time and space, deliberately constructing opportunities, for students to step into experiences of others. Multivoiced YA LIT is a vehicle for that work.
Heather Waymouth	Literacy	#DiscLitSoWhite: Who counts as a disciplinary "expert" was a refereed conference session held at the American Reading Forum alongside Dr. Sarah Lighter @ WCU, and Drs. Carla Meyer and Valerie Gresser at Duquesne University unpacking the biases present in research on expert reader studies and problematizing whether this means we've provided an equitable and just disciplinary literacy education, or if we as a field are continuing to maintain discourses of exclusion. Therefore, it takes up the goal of reduced inequalities.
Heather Waymouth	Literacy	Hybridizing UDL, science, and literacy teaching frameworks was a refereed workshop session at the CAST UDL Symposium this summer alongside Dr. Michelle Damiani at Rowan University. This session worked toward promoting access to and participation in quality science education through considerations of universal design and literacy.
Susan Fiorentino	Management	1) Sexual harassment training program for teens. 2) Vipanchi Mishra, WCU; Susan Stewart, WIU 3) PASSHE Grant to develop sexual harassment training program for teens 4) Research grant
Susan Fiorentino	Management	1) The DOJ's New Sexual Harassment Workplace Initiative and its Urgent Message for State and Local Government 2) Michelle Wade, WCU 3) Paper that examines the legal imperative of providing training on sexual harassment in state and local municipalities 4) publication forthcoming Jan 2024 in The Urban Lawyer Journal.
Phuoc Pham	Management	1. Title: Determinants and Performance Outcomes of Artificial Intelligence Adoption: Evidence from U.S. Hospitals 2. Collaborators: Xiaowei Zhu, Phuoc Pham, Management Department, West Chester University Huilian Zhang, Department of Accounting, Pennsylvania State University at Altoona Wenlian Gao, Department of Finance, Northern Illinois University 3. Description: Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in hospitals offers a unique opportunity to improve hospitals' operating and financial performance. This study is among the first to investigate the determinants and subsequent performance outcomes associated with AI adoption. Using an extensive dataset encompassing 941 AI hospital-year observations and 941 non-AI hospital-year observations, we find that hospitals with a larger market share are great candidates to adopt AI. Furthermore, these hospitals can leverage AI technology to enhance various aspects of performance, including total outpatient revenue, total inpatient revenue, productivity, and occupancy. Importantly, we demonstrate that controlling for endogeneity is essential in assessing the performance outcomes of AI adoption. Our findings shed light on the determinants of AI adoption decisions in healthcare and underscore the manifold benefits AI technology brings to hospital operations and financial outcomes. 4. Type: It is a published paper in Journal of Business Research

Gerard Callanan	Management	<p>Presented the paper: "Career Sustainability: A Critical Review and Agenda for Future Theory and Research" at the 2023 Academy of Management Conference held in August 2023 in Boston.</p> <p>Co-authors were Jeff Greenhaus, Emeritus Professor of Management from Drexel University and Gary Powell, Emeritus Professor of Management from the University of Connecticut.</p> <p>Paper is published under the Conference proceedings and a version of the paper is now under review at the Journal of Career Development.</p> <p>Abstract: Career sustainability has been broadly viewed as providing individuals with positive career experiences over the long term. Although scholars have identified a wide variety of experiences that represent a sustainable career, we focus on health, happiness, and productivity (HHP) as the core components that capture those positive career experiences. In viewing career sustainability as the extent to which individuals experience HHP at work over the course of the career, we distinguish these three core experiences from other positive career attributes and experiences that can contribute to HHP but are not central to the meaning of career sustainability.</p> <p>We recommend that the measurement of the sustainability of a career be based on repeated assessments of HHP over a period of time in which individuals experience a potentially disruptive career shock or personal change. We also suggest that scholars develop and test a model of career sustainability that incorporates the types of change that are potentially disruptive to ongoing HHP, the process by which individuals appraise the nature and implications of a change, the actions individuals take to prevent the change from substantially disrupting their continued HHP, the resources individuals need to make accurate appraisals and take effective actions, and the role of the work-home interface in the maintenance of HHP over time.</p>
Liz Wang	Marketing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project Title: Cross-Cultural Study of Individualism and Collectivism Impact on COVID-19 Prevention Behaviors: A Theory of Planned Behavior Perspective</li> <li>2. Coauthor: Dr. Ying-Chyi Chou, Tunghai University, Taiwan</li> <li>3. Description: This research explores the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the preventive measures recommended by the World Health Organization, such as mask-wearing and social distancing. Drawing on the concept of social marketing, the study aims to understand how individuals across different countries adopt COVID-19 prevention behaviors to achieve a common social goal. Leveraging the Theory of Planned Behavior (Ajzen, 1991), the research investigates the factors influencing people's intention to engage in these preventive behaviors. Additionally, it incorporates individual-level cultural orientations of individualism and collectivism to enhance cross-cultural insights into the adoption of COVID-19 prevention measures. The findings aim to inform governments and health institutions for effective social marketing strategies in managing global pandemics.</li> <li>4. Accepted to present at the 2024 American Marketing Association Global Marketing SIG Conference</li> </ol>
Gail Gallitano	Mathematics	<p>The Effects of Teaching Brief Calculus using a Blended Curriculum versus a Traditional Curriculum on Student Achievement and Attitudes</p> <p>A study to help improve curriculum by using a blended curriculum. Three Brief Calculus classes were taught by the same professor. Two classes used a blended curriculum and one did not. An attitudinal survey was administered at both the beginning of the semester and then at the end of the semester. A statistical analysis was done. A research paper will be published containing the results.</p>
Chuan Li	Mathematics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Modeling the Magnetic Fluid Hyperthermia (MFH) therapy procedure for treating human cancers and tumors</li> <li>2) Dr. Shan Zhao from the University of Alabama</li> <li>3) This work focuses on implementing the numerical method we recently developed to solve the Pennes Bioheat equation for modeling the procedure of MFH.</li> <li>4) Research work in progress</li> </ol>
Barbara Swartz	Mathematics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designing the Supports for Successful Groupwork: How to Make your Task Group-WORTHY.</li> <li>2. Katherine DeRosa (student at WCU at the time)</li> <li>3. This paper describes a task we modified to be group-worthy. It highlights the important structures that provide supports for all students to participate in their group and engage with the academic content to meet the learning goals of the lesson along with how to support students when participating in such tasks and how to implement such structures in other lessons to ensure students have positive experiences supporting each other while working in groups. The Middle School Journal, a refereed journal, is the official publication of the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) with an acceptance rate of 27%. AMLE is the leading international organization advancing the education of all students ages 10 to 15.</li> <li>4. Published in The Middle School Journal, 54(5), pages 4-15.</li> </ol>
Devin Arne	Music Theory, History, and Composition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Soundscape Conservation: Field Recording as a Tool for Sustainability</li> <li>2. N/A - Any student contributions will be credited upon any future publication</li> <li>3. This project proposes a collaborative endeavor between faculty and students to engage in field recording utilizing ambisonic microphones within the Gordon Natural Area and other locations across Southeastern Pennsylvania. The primary objective is to compile a comprehensive sonic archive accessible to the public, showcasing the acoustic ecology of the region's natural areas. Inspired by the student and faculty collaborations at the Acoustic Ecology Lab at Arizona State University and esteemed practitioners like Bernie Krause, Natasha Barrett, and David Dunn, this project aims to explore and document the diverse and intricate sounds present in these natural environments. Through the utilization of ambisonic microphones, the project seeks to create an immersive and authentic portrayal of the acoustic ecology of the local preserves.</li> <li>4. Work In Progress. Funded by AY 2024 WCU Sustainability Research and Practice Grant</li> </ol>
Jeanie Subach	Nutrition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.The Impact of Peer Education on Food Sustainability Habits and Purchasing Practices of West Chester University Students</li> <li>2. Professor Jeanie Subach and Undergraduate Ella Messner - Department of Nutrition</li> <li>3. Student for Sustainable Action (SSA) and the Food Systems Management (FSM) clubs are concerned that WCU student are not sufficiently aware of the negative impact that their current food habits and purchasing practices have on their health and the environment. The purpose of this research, using peer education, is to increase student awareness on sustainable food habits and purchasing. Dr. Jeanie Subach will act as the PI and will be assisted by 5 student researchers from the SSA and FSM clubs. Funds will be used to purchase gift cards to GrubHub, Giant, the West Chester Grower's Market, and a kitchen compost bin for participants. GrubHub gift cards will be used for the initial information session. Gift cards will be given for participation in Giant and Growers Market tours. Compost bins will be given for participation in the final focus group. The research and activities address the Purchasing goal of Educate all West Chester University employees on sustainable purchasing, their role in the process, and opportunities to purchase socially and environmentally preferred goods and services as described in the Climate Action Plan. Although this creative activity does not directly address educating WCU employees on sustainable food purchasing, it will educate WCU students in this area. Qualitative data collection through focus groups, will provide valuable information that can be shared with the student body and administration, demonstrating the need for changes in food offerings, packaging, and purchasing practices on campus. Student impact will be increased awareness of sustainable food practices and composting.</li> <li>4. Sustainability Research Grant</li> </ol>
Christina Riccardo	Nutrition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) NJ Dietitian Queer Competency Survey</li> <li>2) Anthony Dissen- Stockton University and Liam Lair- WCU</li> <li>3) This was a survey to determine LGBTQ competencies of dietitians in New Jersey to better understand education needs. I assisted in writing the manuscript.</li> <li>4) We are in the process of submitting it to the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.</li> </ol>
Christina Riccardo	Nutrition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Nutrition-related concerns, accessibility of relevant healthcare services, and perceptions towards healthcare providers in the transgender and non-conforming populations.</li> <li>2) Liam Lair- WCU, Anthony Dissen- Stockton University</li> <li>3) A survey will be disseminated to identify nutrition-related issues and concerns with TGNC populations, the accessibility of healthcare services, and the perceptions towards healthcare providers. that result in trust or mistrust of healthcare providers overall.</li> <li>4) in progress</li> </ol>
Kimberly Johnson	Nutrition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) "Never cry for food": food security, poverty, and recurring themes in news media regarding rabbit farming in East Africa</li> <li>2) Chiwo Tinao (WCU), Julia Hayes (former WCU student, with Holt International), Patricia Davidson (WCU), Geoffrey Anguyo (KIFEFO, Uganda)</li> <li>3) Text analysis of rabbit farming perceptions in East Africa as it relates to community food security, poverty and community empowerment.</li> <li>4) Published paper: <a href="https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/renewable-agriculture-and-food-systems/article/never-cry-for-food-food-security-poverty-and-recurring-themes-in-news-media-regarding-rabbit-farming-in-east-africa/C899F3FE9DD5B23F347062ECBFE3239F">https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/renewable-agriculture-and-food-systems/article/never-cry-for-food-food-security-poverty-and-recurring-themes-in-news-media-regarding-rabbit-farming-in-east-africa/C899F3FE9DD5B23F347062ECBFE3239F</a></li> </ol>
Simon Ruchti	Philosophy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Report on the findings of the Committee to Review the Samuel Christian Schmucker Science Center Namesake."</li> <li>2. Dr. David Thomas, WCU, Demetrius Isaac, WCU Dr. Martha Donkor, WCU, Carolyn Evans, WCU, Matthew Holliday, WCU Alum, Karen Mercy, WCU Alum</li> <li>3. We were the committee assigned to make recommendations as to whether WCU should change the name of a building on campus after it was learned the namesake had promoted eugenics. I was charged, along with Dr. Thomas, with conducting research and leading the writing effort. Dr. Thomas and I are preparing three separate publications based on this work.</li> </ol>
Jea Sophia Oh	Philosophy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Fifth Spirituality and Sustainability Colloquium (March 2024)</li> <li>2) Office of Sustainability, Philosophy and W &amp; G Studies Departments</li> <li>3) Dr. Donovan Schaefer (at UPenn) will be presenting "Religious Animal Body?" at our fifth S &amp; S Colloquium. This colloquium is a biannual project for promoting awareness of environmental issues including climate crisis, the pandemic, and human fragility and helping our WCU faculty and students to build a more sustainable and compassionate community by learning from diverse spiritual practices and academic disciplines.</li> <li>4) colloquium</li> </ol>
Joey Miller	Philosophy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Savage Education: Epistemic Injustices of Native American Boarding Schools</li> <li>2. Shelbi Nawhilet Meissner, University of Maryland</li> <li>3. Workshop focusing on the epistemic injustices of Native American boarding schools</li> <li>4. Grant (American Philosophical Association)</li> </ol>
Linda Stevenson	Political Science	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Women on the Move Decolonizing the Contested Terrain of Migration to Create Peace</li> <li>2. WCU alumna Kathleen Weber</li> <li>3. This project uses mixed methods of qualitative interviews and survey responses on ways in which migrant women's experiences can be empowering, and/or paths to greater security and peace.</li> <li>4. It is currently in a revising manuscript format.</li> </ol>

Ashlie Delshad	Political Science	<p>1) College Student Food Insecurity: Navigating Basic Needs During COVID-19</p> <p>2) Megan Schraedley - West Chester University, Department of Communication Studies</p> <p>3) Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic data clearly documented that college students experience a higher rate of basic needs insecurity, including food and housing insecurity, than the general US population. COVID-19 both expanded the rate of basic needs insecurity and decreased the range of resources many students had access to. In this study, we examined the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on college student basic needs insecurity more closely through a qualitative photovoice study. Our research draws upon Yosso's community cultural wealth model, the concepts of navigational and social capital specifically. The data indicate that students experienced heightened levels of basic needs insecurity during the pandemic. Our analysis also suggests students managed their basic needs during COVID-19 by changing their behavior to adapt to school, business, and other organizational closures and leveraging creative methods to access new and existing resources.</p> <p>4) Article Manuscript in Progress</p>
Rebecca Chancellor	Psychology	<p>1) Long term research study of the behavioral ecology of chimpanzees in Gishwati forest, Rwanda</p> <p>2) Aaron Rundus, Forest of Hope Association, Wilderness Safaris, Rwanda Development Board, Sylvain Nyandwi, George Washington University</p> <p>3) Our long term project examines the behavioral flexibility of a population of chimpanzees living in a small forest fragment that has been anthropogenically disturbed. Our research includes issues of primate conservation, behavior, feeding ecology, habitat use, human primate interactions.</p> <p>4) Ongoing long term research study</p>
Lauri Hyers	Psychology	<p>Conference presentations with students on UN SDG's</p> <p>* is undergrad student ** is grad student</p> <p>Belmiro** , J., Hyers, L., &amp; Blignaut** , R. (2024). Gender and politics of consumption, Association for Women in Psychology, Online Conference.</p> <p>Nagle** , T., Hyers, L., Hoffer-Collins, M., &amp; Graham, B** . (2024). Gendered outdoors, Association for Women in Psychology, Online Conference.</p> <p>Hyers, L., Nagle** , T., Blignaut** , R., Hoffer-Collins, M., &amp; Rehm* , A. (2024). Outdoor pathways to inner peace: A qualitative investigation of contemplative outdoor labyrinth walking. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL</p> <p>Hyers, L., Nagle** , T., &amp; Saunders* , A. (2023). Environmental Volunteerism. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL</p> <p>Hoffer-Collins, M., Hipple, E., Belmiro** , J., Bryanna** , G., Bender* , B., Poptielarz** , C., &amp; Hyers, L. (2023). Transgressions: Gender-affirming strategies for interpersonal repair. Association for Women in Psychology, Atlanta, GA.</p> <p>Belmiro** , J., Graham** , B., Asbury* , K., Bender* , B., Hipple, E., &amp; Hyers, L. (2023). Doubly Disempowering: Variations in Objectifying Messaging in Women's Commercially Marketed Couples Costumes Association for Women in Psychology, Atlanta, GA.</p>
Jasmin Tahmaseb	Psychology	<p>The healing power of nature</p> <p>This project focused on the ways that natural environments promote health and well-being in later life. The project also focuses on inequality in access to green and blue spaces, particularly among marginalized older adults.</p> <p>Published paper and presentation</p>
Aaron Rundus	Psychology	<p>1) The behavioral ecology and conservation of a population of chimpanzees in the Gishwati Forest, Rwanda</p> <p>2) Dr. Rebecca Chancellor, WCU</p> <p>3) In 2008 my collaborator, Dr. Rebecca Chancellor, and I established a long-term primate research site in the Gishwati National Park, Rwanda with a focus on the behavioral ecology and social dynamics of a small population of chimpanzees living in the forest. Gishwati is a montane rainforest fragment located in western Rwanda and it contains a healthy population of approximately 26 semi-habituated chimpanzees. In the mid-1970s, Gishwati consisted of approximately 280 km<sup>2</sup>, but over the last several decades human disturbance has reduced its current size to 14 km<sup>2</sup>. Currently the forest is under National Park protected status and provides an ideal opportunity to examine an number of questions including 1) how forest fragmentation human disturbance affect the behavioral ecology and social dynamics of primates, 2) how access to limited food resources affects primate foraging behavior, 3) how anthropogenic activities affect the health and welfare of primates, and 4) issues of human-primate conflict such as primate crop raiding behavior.</p> <p>4) Ongoing long-term research site</p>
Erin Knight	Public Health Sciences	<p>1) Doula Stakeholder Engagement</p> <p>2) Leah Woodall, Delaware Department of Health &amp; Social Services, Division of Public Health; Dr. Rebecca Rich, Department of Public Health Sciences, WCU</p> <p>3) The state of Delaware is exploring policy changes related to Medicaid reimbursement for doula care. Doulas are lay health workers that support birthing people before, during and after delivery; and evidence shows they contribute to improved health outcomes particularly among women from low income communities and women of color. Our research, which include focus groups and key informant interviews, aimed to inform the policy and practice changes at the state level.</p> <p>4) I received a \$13,000 grant from the State of Delaware to work on the project which concluded in June 2023. We produced two reports and presented our work at a national conference: Knight, E. (2023). Doula Stakeholder Engagement: Focus Group Study Report. Prepared for the Division of Public Health, Delaware Health and Social Services.</p> <p>Knight, E. &amp; Rich, R. (2023). Doula Stakeholder Engagement: Report on Interviews with Licensed Providers of Maternal Health Care. Prepared for the Division of Public Health, Delaware Health and Social Services.</p> <p>Knight, E., Rich, R., Schroeder, A. &amp; Woodall, L.J. (Nov 2023). Informing state policy and system change: Licensed providers' perceptions of doula care. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting &amp; Exposition.</p>
Lorenzo Cena	Public Health Sciences	<p>1) Air Quality Assessment Near Mushroom Farm Operations</p> <p>2) Graduate Assistants in the college of health sciences.</p> <p>3) Measurement of environmental concentrations of H2S, CH4 and NH3 for a period of 2 years in neighborhoods situated near mushroom farms and soil manufacturers.</p> <p>4) Research Grant. Work in process that will result in published papers, presentations, and reports.</p>
Michelle Wade	Public Policy & Administration	<p>1) Uncle Sam Wants YOU . . . to Stop Sexual Harassment: The Justice Department's Sexual Harassment Workplace Initiative and Its Urgent Message to State and Local Governments</p> <p>2) Michelle Wade and Susan Fiorentino, West Chester University</p> <p>3) Although sexual harassment can occur in the private or public sector, it is of particular concern at the municipal level. It is common for some local departments, such as fire and police, to be male-dominated. In 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice, in concert with the EEOC, initiated a new program to assist public sector employers in preventing sexual harassment. The federal Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Initiative (SHWI) is designed to reduce sexual harassment in state and local government workplaces by providing litigation support and outreach to public sector employers seeking to reduce incidents of sexual harassment. This article argues that it is crucial that municipalities and states embrace proactive policies and practices now to eliminate sexual harassment from the public-sector workplace. After reviewing sexual harassment law and the unique risk factors associated with sexual harassment in municipal governments, we provide plan of action for municipalities that lack proper policies and processes to help them address sexual harassment in the workplace.</p> <p>4) Article accepted for publication in The Urban Lawyer. Forthcoming in Volume 53, Winter 2024.</p>
Dawn Patterson	Special Education	<p>Young Children with Autism in Child Care Settings: Where are we Now Literature Review</p> <p>This literature is examining the current situation for young children (birth to 5 years old) with autism in child care settings. The goal of the literature review is to learn how the children with autism are receiving early intervention and if the professionals spending time with those children are adequately prepared to ensure a quality education.</p> <p>This is a work in progress</p>
Gretchen Studien-Webb	Theatre and Dance	<p>1) Equipose a state of equilibrium.</p> <p>"The Measure of any society is how it treats its women and girls" Michelle Obama</p> <p>3&amp;4) choreography - the dance was performed in the University Dance Company's fall dance concert Nov 23 to more than 1,000 people in attendance. It addressed goal #5.</p>
Casey Schmitt	Interdisciplinary Studies	<p>1) Attended UN COP28 Conference of Climate Change</p> <p>2) International Environmental Communication Association and Mediators Beyond Borders</p> <p>3) Attended UN COP28 Conference as Official Observer for the International Environmental Communication Association</p> <p>4) Conference participation, analytical research in progress intended</p>
Liam Lair	Women's and Gender Studies	<p>1) Nutrition-related concerns, accessibility of relevant healthcare services, and perceptions towards healthcare providers in the transgender and non-conforming populations.</p> <p>2) Chrissy Riccardio (WCUPA) and Anthony Disson (Stockton U)</p> <p>3) It is well documented that transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) populations experience barriers to health care and have lower rates of access to healthcare services compared to cisgender populations. TGNC populations also have higher than average rates of disordered eating. Additionally, few resources exist that provide information for TGNC people on how to find liberation and bodily affirmation through food. Thus, it is critical that healthcare institutions increase accessibility to nutrition education for TGNC populations. [IRB# FV2023-228]</p> <p>4) Survey research, conference presentation, then writing articles</p>