

The Honors Program  
Faculty Research Interests

Col.	Department	Name	Email	Ext	Research Interests	Current Research	Future Research
CAS	Applied Psychology	Joe Trunzo	jtrunzo	6570	I am a licensed clinical psychologist with research interests focused in health psychology. Specifically I'm interested in how relationships among various psychological factors (personality, depression, anxiety, stress, and problem solving ability) and health behaviors (smoking, drug and alcohol use, nutrition, and physical activity) relate to the prevention of medical illness, coping with illness, and survivorship. I have looked at these relationships in various populations, including cancer patients and college students. Clinically, I specialize in the cognitive behavioral treatment of anxiety and mood disorders, stress management, health behavior change, and coping with chronic illness.	An investigation of the relationships among stress, problem solving ability, and study aid drug use (stimulants). Psychological Treatment of Lyme Disease and other Tick-borne Illnesses: A Proposal for a Cognitive Behavioral Intervention Study	I am very flexible about areas of research, but I have a strong preference for working with students who have a taken a research methods class.
CAS	Applied Psychology	Nanci Weinberger	nweinber	6411	Early childhood environments	Just completed: -competitive game playing in mixed and same-gender groupings of kindergarteners, -access and use of technology in family child care and center based care settings, Current: -child care settings and the healthy support of physical activity in young children.	I'm open to projects that focus on young children or early childhood caregivers. I would like to work with students that have had a solid background in (psychological) research methodology.
CAS	Communication	Stanley Baran	sbaran	6398	Media effects, Media and socialization, Mass communication theory	Representation of "dignity" in popular culture, Critical analysis of direct-to-consumer prescription drug advertising	I will bend their interests to my own! Bwahaaaaaaa!
CAS	Communication	Kristen Berkos	kberkos	6164	Imagined interactions, instructional communication	Imagined interactions on behalf of significant others, instructional communication and assessment	
CAS	Communication	Mary Lyons	mlyons	6262	Writing for new media (using blogs, wikis, etc.). Technology applications (video mediated, especially). Creative nonfiction, Journalism.	With students: Supervised a directed study of the communication implications of selected software being considered for implementation in the classroom. Currently working with an honors student exploring possible enhancements of college teaching and learning using Smartphone's for podcasts, virtual handouts, etc.	I also teach creative nonfiction and would really enjoy working with a student on an extensive writing project. Also, I regularly teach one LCS course each semester, so I would be happy to work with an LCS honors student, again in the creative nonfiction area.
CAS	Communication	Chris Morse	cmorse2	6582	Emotion, Mood, Forgiveness, Information seeking, Decision making	Impact of mood on negotiation between strangers, the interactive nature of positive and negative moods between individuals during cooperative decision making, Impact of emotion and mood on message politeness, Relational history and its impact on forgiveness	
CAS	Communication	Kevin Pearce	kpearce	6439	Mass media, communication theory, global media, political communication	A critique of the research in the field of communication on DTCA of prescription drugs.	Anything that has to do with media
CAS	Communication	Wendy Samter	wsamter	6944	Communication in intimate relationships such as same- and cross-sex friendships, dating relationships, and marriage, Communication skills predictive of peer rejection and loneliness in "normative" v. "non-normative" groups, Emotional support, Conflict management, Impression formation and management	The role of prayer and religiosity in perceptions of emotional support among Euro-American and African-American young adults. The role of emotional support, information-seeking, and problem-solving in the use of stimulant drugs among young adults.	I'm open to anything remotely related to areas of expertise!

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CAS	Communication	Tom Zammarelli	tzammare	20691	N/A	N/A	Currently, I am working with Jessica Clark who is doing her project with Gaytha Langlois. Jessica is undertaking a video documentary for her project. My role is to help her develop the timeline for the video and create a script from her research. In this respect, I have an advisory role and would be willing to serve in this capacity in the future.
CAS	Economics	Laurie Bates	lbates	6459	My research interests include but are not limited to; Public Finance, Environmental Economics, and Health Economics	Right now I am working on a meta analysis that looks at the price and income elasticity of demand for health insurance.	I think it is essential that the ideas for the capstone projects originate with the student. I am happy to act as a sounding board and provide guidance.
CAS	Economics	Joe Shaanan	jshaanan	6340	Industrial Competition, American political economy, The US free market, Entry in oligopolistic industries, limit pricing and barriers to entry, public policy on competition	Government help to the private sector, The reasons for America's 20th Century economic success, Too big to fail companies	It would depend on the student's statistical/econometric background.
CAS	Economics	Edinaldo Tebaldi	etebaldi	6901	International Economics, Technological Innovation and Economic Growth, Poverty, and Discrimination	Poverty Traps: Poverty Persistence and Local Fiscal Structure in the United States, Two Tales on Returns to Education: The Impact of International Trade on Wages	Issues related to either international economics or poverty dynamics
CAS	English & Cultural Studies	Maura Coughlin	mcoughli	6733	My recent research is concerned with images of rural places in late nineteenth-century French art and the ways in which social concerns of ecology, memory, mourning and the desires of tourists intersect with representations and experiences of landscape. My methods are interdisciplinary and my recent work has been presented at conferences that bring together the disciplines of Art History, Literary Criticism, Anthropology and Sociology.	Waste and Modern Landscapes, Tourism and Landscape painting, Commemoration and War Memorials, Representations of mourning and widows in Brittany and Ireland, and Religious art in France.	Art and Visual Culture topics.
CAS	English & Cultural Studies	Cileine de Lourenco	cdeleure	6309	Latin America, race and ethnicity, literature, Film, and Cultural studies	Presently, I am working on questions of race, gender and nationality in the Brazilian community in the US. I am also working on Latino/a and Latin American cinema	I would be interested in issues related to Latin America or Latina/os in the US that have to do with race/ethnicity, "cultural" aspects. In addition, any topic involving Latin American and globalization or the IMF and the World Bank.
CAS	English & Cultural Studies	Janet Dean	jdean	2468	American Studies, Native American Studies, American Literature, and Gender Studies	I am currently researching the writings of marriage reformers and sex radicals of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.	
CAS	English & Cultural Studies	Martha Kuhlman	mkuhlman	6441	The graphic novel, post-communist culture, artists and gentrification in Providence, and cities in literature	I am working on an edited volume about the graphic novelist, Chris Ware. Students interested in academic publishing or research on this artist are welcome to contact me. I am also presenting papers on artists whose work relates to the development and gentrification of Providence in recent years.	If students have ideas that are related to my research areas, I'd be happy to consider working with them.
CAS	English & Cultural Studies	Alex Perullo	aperullo	6258	Globalization, African studies, Popular Culture, Urban Societies, Migration/ immigration, and Intellectual Property Rights (copyright law)	Migration of Congolese peoples into South Africa since 1995. Radio and neo-liberalization in East Africa.	Issues of music, music downloading, and copyright law among student and youth more broadly in the United States.
CAS	History & Social Sciences	John Dietrich	jdietric	6432	International Politics, U.S. Foreign Policy, Human Rights	Examining the International Criminal Court	

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CAS	History & Social Sciences	Sandra Enos	senos	6576	I am writing a book on the history of child welfare in Rhode Island and have access to archives that date back to the 1830s. I have done extensive research on children of incarcerated parents and have access to the local prison. I have built a database about the nonprofit sector in Rhode Island	I am currently documenting the history of children's agencies in Rhode Island. I am currently creating new media-based projects on social and child welfare. I am also working on a script titled "A rich blessing to the state: the history of child welfare through the lens of children's friend."	I would like to work with a student on a podcast of the landscape of child welfare and social welfare organizations in Rhode Island that would serve as a model for other projects. In the state, we have an array of structures that remain that were poor houses, pest houses, orphanages, asylums, sanatoria, and the like. I would like to map these out, creating a driving tour that would serve as a pod cast. This could be accompanied by maps and related materials that would be downloaded from a website. There are many local nonprofits with histories that date back to the 1800s that would like to have organizational histories written. These would serve as stand alone documents or be translated into scripts for videos. There are several unknown "heroes" in RI social welfare. I would like to work with students to find the top ten social reformers, create Wikipedia profiles and create a web page virtual museum that features these leaders.
CAS	History & Social Sciences	Rich Holtzman	rholtzma	6097	American Government - specific research interests in the modern presidency and presidential rhetoric, but my background covers all of American government and American political thought	The rhetoric of George W. Bush and its effects on the relationship between the White House and Congress, and the rhetoric of off-shore oil drilling	Open to discussing possibilities
CAS	History & Social Sciences	Judy McDonnell	jmcdonne	6389	Race, ethnicity, immigration, diversity, sport, gender, and health and illness	Racial identity of Brazilian immigrant women	I am quite flexible but it can certainly be interdisciplinary
CAS	Mathematics	James Bishop	jabishop	6356	Simulation (voting elections and sports), Actuarial Mathematics – pensions, Probability and Statistics - various topics.	Presidential election voting simulation, New Statistical teaching methods, Statistical analysis of fur seal feeding, Statistical power of a test, General retirement planning	Anything related to my two answers directly above. Or, I am open to other ideas.
CAS	Science & Technology	Brian Blais	bblais	6153	Probability and Statistics, Brain Science, Environmental Modeling, Robotics, Machine Learning	I am currently working on a research project on the neuroscience of consciousness and morality with an honors student. I am also working on a couple different models of the visual system. Further, I am working on a project to model environmental resource issues.	Yes, I always have ongoing projects that can be worked on. There are some that are starting, like the environmental resource one, and there are some that (like all projects in science) are ongoing, like the models of the visual system that I've been working on for 10+ years.
CAS	Science & Technology	Dan McNally	dml1	6233	Water pollution; bioremediation; growth studies in power plant derived fly ash.	Oil contamination in groundwater (Prudence Island); metals uptake in bean plants from fly ash.	I would like to open it up to anything environmental... their interest.
COB	Accounting	Charlie Cullinan	cullinan	6421	Corporate governance; Materiality; Internal control weaknesses.	An examination of whether companies were more likely to hire a CEO with an accounting/finance background post Sarbanes-Oxley. Whether companies compensating their directors are more likely to have internal control weaknesses.	I have a variety of ideas that students may be interested in.
COB	Accounting	Tim Krumwiede	krumwied	6394	Financial accounting policy. Fair value accounting.		
COB	Accounting	Kathy Simons	ksimons	6443	Financial reporting topics and education topics	Manipulation of the Cash Flow Statement and Acts Discreditable to the (Accounting) Profession.	I have several ideas: Comprehensive Income, Cash Flow inconsistencies, CPA Exam issues, etc.
COB	CIS	Richard Glass	rglass	6393	Data mining and predictive analysis, Decision Making, Social networking (Web 2.0), New technology adoption, Ethics, Change management, Business Intelligence, balanced score card, and performance metrics	Social Networking (patterns of use and implications for business), Pattern recognition for predicting job performance, hiring success rates and employee retention, and new technology adoption	I have supervised a student and am currently serving as an editor for another student. I am flexible to meet the student's interests and needs.

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COB	Finance	Peter Nigro	pnigro	6380	Credit risk, small business lending, mortgage fraud, securitization, GSE -- financial markets.	<p>"A Split Population Approach to SBA Loan Defaults," Under second review Financial Review (joint with Dennis Glennon). "Modeling SBA Small-Business Loan Defaults: A Comparison of Alternative Survival Analysis Techniques", under first review Journal of Corporate Finance and Accounting (joint with Dennis Glennon). "What's Driving Commercial Bank Lending Distance? Evidence from the SBA 7(a) Program (joint with Robert DeYoung, Scott Frame and Dennis Glennon). Paper under revision for submission to journal. "Some Evidence on the Secondary Market Trading of Syndicated Loans. Revise and re-submit Financial Review. (joint with Jonathan Jones and Murat Aydogyu). "Analyzing and Explaining LGD on Small Business Loans" data work underway. First Draft expected June 2008 (joint with Dennis Glennon). "Determinants of Bank CAMEL Ratings: Does Supervisory Effort Matter? First draft expected October 2008. "The (In)Adequacy of ALLL: Evidence from Reports of Examination." Currently underway (joint with Todd Vermilyea and Gary Whalen). First draft expected September 2008. "Is the Secondary Market Valuable for Borrowers , (joint with Joao Santos), under first review, Journal of Financial Economics (2007). "Are Rural Borrowers Different? Evidence on Rural Small Business Loan Performance and Borrower-Lender Distance," paper underway - joint with Ken Spong and Dennis Glennon. First draft expected June 2008. Mortgage Fraud - joint with Cary Collins.</p>	Open
COB	Finance	Andres Ramirez	aramirez	6599	International finance, cash management, working capital management, corporate finance, leverage, corporate governance, nonprofit organizations, international trade	Cash conversion cycles across the world, natural disasters and corporate performance around the world	Country trade partners and corporate leverage, growth determinants in nonprofit organizations
COB	Finance	Jack Trifts	jtrifts	6227	In general, I am a corporate finance guy who has worked mostly in Mergers and Acquisitions although I have worked on mutual fund performance and on the occasional piece on university administration.	I am currently working on two projects, one within my discipline and one not. The first is a comprehensive study of the performance of mutual fund managers. A colleague and I wrote a paper a few years ago that looked at the performance of funds versus Morningstar ratings. This paper tracks the managers across funds. I am also working on a paper with coauthors about our SIE as a method of internationalizing the campus.	Any area within corporate finance or mutual fund performance.
COB	Finance	Betty Yobaccio	byobacci	6460	Corporate finance, multinational finance, financial strategy and planning, innovations in business education	Mutual fund performance, business cases, innovations in business education	

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COB	Management	Lori Coakley	lcoakley	6735	Women and leadership, tokenism, gender and teamwork	Examining the ways in which women in leadership positions can excel in higher education administration, and limit the propensity to be "tokens". Examining ethics and decision making when working with personal case studies of students. Examining the role of race and culture when balancing work and family, and the limitations and assumptions posed by corporate policies that do not reflect these differences.	I would love to work with a student on one of the projects above, which could either be a case study or a journal article when the project is completed.
COB	Management	Diya Has	ddas	6939	Employee identity negotiations under conditions of globalization of work. Employee issues in off-shoring service work. International Human Resource Management. Immigrant Entrepreneurship.	Project 1: I am currently working on a project on issues of identity transition for employees in Indian international call centers who assume different names and identities for their work. My primary research question revolves around the identity implications of being 'Robert' at work to being 'Rajeev' outside work and how employees manage negotiate and manage such everyday life transitions. I have more than 100 interviews with employees in Indian call centers that are being analyzed to answer these questions. Project 2: I am also working on a broader project on immigrant entrepreneurship. I am looking into how immigrant firms deal with the foreignness of their founders at the level of promoting a firm identity.	In working with Honors students, I would be looking into developing a case study for either the Indian off-shored call centers or on immigrant entrepreneurs, or exploring jointly a new research question on any of these areas.
COB	Management	Michael Roberto	mroberto	6155	My research focuses on strategic decision-making processes and senior management teams. My work has examined how leaders can cultivate constructive conflict within their executive teams so as to enhance the quality of strategic decisions, while simultaneously building the consensus required to implement those choices effectively. As a subset of this research stream, I have examined a number of catastrophic group and organizational failures such as the Columbia Space Shuttle Accident, the 1996 Mount Everest tragedy, and the 1994 Storm King Mountain incident. This work has explored the organizational and interpersonal decision-making dynamics that cause large-scale failures to occur.	I have a book that is due to be released on February 10, 2009. The book is about how leader discover the problems in their organizations before they mushroom into large-scale failures.	I would be glad to discuss several ideas with students, but first and foremost, I would want them to work on something that they are passionate about... I wouldn't want to hand them a project that they are not excited to pursue.
COB	Management	Chris Roethlein	croethle	6721	Working w/ industry-comparing academics against "real world", Supply chain management, Workforce communications, Quality, Manufacturing strategy, Human capital stock of productive skills and technical knowledge	How Defense Firms Measure Human Capital-Reporting an on analysis of survey data that measures team health (how good or bad a team is) against program results. By knowing what factors contribute to the success of a program, industry can guide a project to customer defined measures of success. Defining the Current Best Practices of 3PL/4PL Providers in Defense Industry Supply Chains-Collecting benchmark data to determine the best practices of current third party logistics (and fourth party logistics) suppliers. Supply chain management is growing per year at a 10-20% rate. Current best practices are important to know so that an understanding of the industry can be obtained.	See above 3PL/4PL research project. I am open to discussing other projects with students.

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COB	Management	Lynda St. Clair	lstclair	6739	Management skills, using the competing values framework in the health care industry, community service through the workplace, service learning, and metaphors used to describe education, ethical decision making, career issues facing women academics	Updating and revising a management skills textbook. Trying to find time to finish some conceptual papers (career issues for women academics, metaphors of management education)	A scenario-based experimental study of responses to ethical dilemmas (with Lori Coakley & Jim Segovis).
COB	Management	John Visich	jvisich	6437	Radio Frequency Identification, Assembly Line Balancing and Sequencing, Supply Chain Performance Metrics, Six Sigma and A3 Method (process improvement methodologies).	I have recently begun preliminary research on an area of supply chain performance measurement that has been ignored by practitioners and researchers. If you are interested in supply chain metrics as a project you will need to speak with me in person to discuss this project. It will involve meeting with industry and creating a survey. Often a supply chain is presented as a linear network where competition does not exist. The reality of a supply chain is that it is a network and competition exists between all entities at the same echelon. Decision making in this context is much more complicated and game theory is a tool that can be used to aid in decision making.	Ethical issues in item level tagging using radio frequency identification. This research would investigate consumer reactions to different applications of item-level tagging including the level of benefits to the customer and the amount of information provided by the tagging company about the use of the tags.
COB	Management	Angela Wicks	awicks	6147	Hospital performance, performance excellence, patient satisfaction, customer satisfaction, healthcare operations, technology in healthcare, service operations, project management	The application of Toyota Production System principles to healthcare. Developing a framework within which to structure process improvement.	I will have several A3 and Kaizen Event projects (both based on the Toyota Production System) and Baldrige performance excellence projects that will need research and analysis. Some of the projects may start as early as this summer so there would be data to analyze and papers to write that students could present at conferences. Other projects will start later; research is needed at this level.
COB	Marketing	Carol DeMoranville	cdemoran	6554	Services marketing, consumer decision making, marketing strategy.	Examining whether charging tax on internet sales would influence choice of where to buy (online vs. retail store). Developing model for firms to determine future value of salesperson to assist with retention decisions. Examining student perceptions of Fatal Flaw policies.	I like to work with students to find questions that interest them that would have marketing or business implications.
COB	Marketing	Michael Gravier	mgravier	6950	Supply chain management, Logistics, Transportation, and Business to business marketing	Developing new supply chain network theory that explains the connections between firms evolve over time, Building new theory for how business and customers co-create value and how that process affects the relationship between them.	Would like to explore international trade/transportation impact on a business. Integration or cross-functional endeavors within or between organizations.
COB	Marketing	Jane McKay-Nesbitt	jmckayne	6940	Persuasion, advertising, consumer behavior	Gender differences in regulatory focus in different contexts. Ability and effort attributions triggered by ad content.	Ability and effort attributions triggered by ad content or Development of a scale to measure regulatory focus.
COB	Marketing	Elaine Notarantonio	enotaran	6063	Social Networks, Facebook, MySpace, Product Placement, and Consumer Ethnography	Brand Mention in Magazine Articles and Credibility of Social Networks as an advertising medium	
COB	Marketing	Sukki Yoon	syoon	6997	Consumer Behavior, Advertising Effect, Attitude and Persuasion	Active vs. Passive Consumer.	Shopping: Fun or Chore; what leads consumers to extreme (vs. comprised) behavior?