

The
2015 – 2016
Villa Maria College
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

March 10th
Campus Hour: 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

PANEL 1

Rm 106, Main Bldg.

Patti Myers, “Villa Maria Main Building: Intimidating or Welcoming?”

Myers offers a re-examination of Villa’s main building, pairing an analysis of architectural features and their effect on an audience with a discussion of the building’s history and design.

Stacey Skurzewski, “Empowering Care Community”

An in-depth proposal to create a care community for people with post-traumatic stress disorder, particularly veterans with PTSD and survivors of abuse, through the creation of a supportive “tiny house” community.

Kayla Alba, “Health and Wellness Vacation Center: A Place to Heal Your Mind, Body and Spirit”

Recognizing that the general health and wellness of America is declining, this project proposes a health and wellness vacation center that pairs an intimate atmosphere with education on a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

PANEL 2

M&T Conference Rm, Main Bldg.

Sue Gesicki, “The Relationship of Artistic Intention and the Audience”

An examination of nature of subjective and objective taste, and its influence on the relationship between viewers’ perceptions and artists’ intentions.

Molly Sheehan, “The Phantom of Devil’s Den”

Sheehan investigates the Phantom of Devil’s Den, explaining how the use of a dead Confederate soldier in battlefield photos created one of Gettysburg’s urban legends.

Kameron Kotecki, “Urban Legends: The Loch Ness Monster”

An analysis of the existence of one of the most famous cryptids, the Loch Ness Monster, as well as the motives behind its iconic photograph.

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PANEL 3

Rm 102, Main Bldg.

Victoria Cobel, “*More than Buddhas in the Attic*”

A critique of Julie Otsuka’s novel, More than Buddhas in the Attic, Cobel discusses how the focus of the novel on Japanese picture brides in California allows for a larger discussion of the intersectionality between the state of being that is both female and foreign.

Phillip Lee, “Hit the Road HUAC, and Don’t Cha Come Back, No More, No More, No More”

Lee presents an in-depth discussion of how the House Un-American Activities Committee’s (HUAC) rise to power and subsequent fall indicates the extent to which mass culture and mass media can be used to manipulate public opinion.

Joseph Principato, “Narrative Video Games as Art”

In his essay, Principato argues that narrative videogames should be considered a valid form of art based on many aesthetic qualities, particularly Aristotle’s statement that “the plot is the first principle and, as it were, the soul, of a tragedy.”

