

# 2021 Moravian College InFocus Town Hall

President's Research Award

Best Research Gallery Overall: *For Excellence in Gallery Discussion, Insight and Vision*



## Wilson, Kaylie and Groves, Jamielynn

The Mental Illness Anxiety

We are both freshman at Moravian College who have both struggled with mental illness. We had spoken about an abundance of topics and eventually we landed on the mental illness that is anxiety. We researched different therapies, medicines, and other projects that have similar goals.

Jamielynn Groves



Special Education Major  
Education 160  
Professor Song

Kaylie Wilson



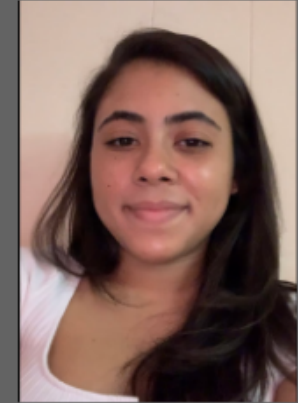
Art Education Major  
Education 160  
Professor Song

# **Title: Implementing Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in the Hispanic Community**

## **InFocus Challenge Area: Mental Health**

My name is Chamairy Minaya García and I am a junior Public Health student. This presentation was derived from my Health Policy Brief which describes the prevalence of mental health conditions in the Hispanic community. This community has shown an exponential growth in the United States during the past decades. However, there is a strong stigma surrounding the topic of mental health due to cultural and religious beliefs. Mentioned barriers will be discussed along with possible solutions and to conclude, a summary of past interventions that have worked in previous studies.

**Chamairy Minaya  
García**



**Major: Public Health,  
B.A**

**Town Hall Course: Health  
Policy**

**Instructor: Cathy A. Coyne,  
PhD, MPH**

# Student Exchanges From SCI Muncy

InFocus Challenge Area: **Mental Health**

- According to Mental Health America, 1.2 million individuals living with mental illness sit in jail and prison each year. Under the law, inmates have the right to engage in outdoor exercise. This right applies even when the prisoner is in solitary confinement. But prison systems today have the final say in each person's outdoor time and in doing this, they may deny a person's 8th amendment right by holding them in solitary confinement for however long. With already very limited access to the outdoors, one must remember that prisoners are human beings as well, and should be treated as such.

Renard Nicholson



**Major: Sociology & Anthropology**

**Town Hall Course: AFST 195:  
Who Owns the Outdoors?**

**Instructor: Dr. Hinnefeld**

Web link: <https://www.mhanational.org/issues/access-mental-health-care-and-incarceration>

## PTSD and Stress Related Mental Disorders (SRMDs) in Pediatric Cancer Survivors

InFocus Challenge Area: Mental Health

### Abstract:

Survivors of pediatric cancers have follow-up medical appointments for most of their lives. Many of these patients will not receive any appointments involving mental health care despite the fact that individuals who have undergone traumatic medical events are at risk for SRMDs and PTSD. Many childhood cancer survivors will not get the help that they need due to delayed symptom onset or not fitting the exact criteria for mental health disorders, even if they experience functional impairment. I suggest that the number of patients with SRMDs and PTSD can be reduced through regular preventative mental health care by both parents and doctors.

Naomi Rieth



**Major: Biochemistry**

**Town Hall Course:  
BIOL372, Cancer Biology**

**Instructor: Dr. Thevenin**



## **Title: How do religious beliefs and political beliefs affect one's mental health?**

InFocus Challenge Area: Mental Health

How do certain Religious beliefs and Political beliefs relate to one's mental health? Some people believe that religion gives people something to believe in, it can perhaps provide a needed sense of structure and typically people connect with each other if they share the same religious belief. These factors can have an impact on one's mental health by making one feel more at peace with their mind. Political beliefs may stem from rooted anxieties and may contribute to fundamental unhappiness. Both religion and politics play critical roles in people's mental health.

Student Name  
Steven Salivonchik



**Major: Psychology**

**Town Hall Course:**  
**Religion and Politics (Rel 245)**

**Instructor: Dr. Denton-Borhaug**

## InFocus Challenge Area: Mental Health for Youth

Hi, I'm Caitlin. I am a graduate student majoring in The Masters of Arts and Teaching with a concentration in Social Studies. My goal in my classroom is to make social studies fun for children and to make sure my classroom is a positive safe haven for all students.

Hi! I'm Zoe. I am an undergraduate student studying early childhood education and sociology on a criminal justice track. I am hoping to provide children with education while making it fun and interesting!

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nqYL3Cwx6Oyi3I7GKOeRsXihZgpvAMhxCaMREBIBRmY/edit?usp=sharing>

Caitlin Hank and Zoe Stevens



**Major: Secondary Ed  
Social Studies- Caitlin  
Early Childhood and  
Sociology-Zoe**

**Town Hall Course: ED 560  
Culture, Community, and  
Diversity: Introduction to  
Critical Teaching**

**Instructor: Dr. Song  
Course - EDUC 506**

# Improving Quality of Life Post Onset of Aphasia

InFocus Challenge Area: Mental Health

Aphasia is a language disorder that results from damage to the parts of the brain responsible for language processing, typically the left hemisphere. Language is an important tool for making sense of experiences, and social participation with others. This can lead individuals with aphasia to be prone to psychosocial problems, including mental illness. This may include anxiety, depression, threatened identity, and social isolation. Further altering quality of life, regardless of the degree of language impairment. The goal of my product is to create opportunities for persons with aphasia to communicate with others, allowing them to feel involved in their environment and engage in meaningful interactions with others, therefore minimizing threats to the individual's overall well-being.

Jillian Walsh



**Major:**  
**Speech-Language**  
**Pathology**

**Instructor: Louise Keegan**





# Military Mental Health

## InFocus Challenge Area: Mental Health

### Abstract

The rate of mental health diagnoses among active-duty service members and military veterans has increased in recent years. PTSD and suicide rates are becoming more of an issue every day. The problems that need to be address are the lack of mental health specialists that know how to work with those who are or where in the military, the lack of permanent funding for mental health programs and the biggest issue is that there just isn't enough evidence as to what causes mental health issues and how these issues can affect someone.

Kyle Zimpfer



**Major: Public Health**

**Town Hall Course: HLTP 315**

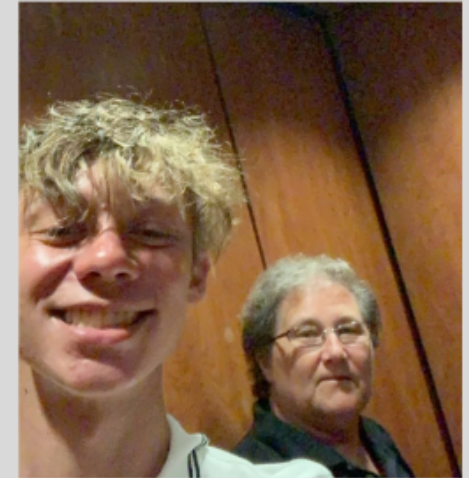
**Instructor: Dr. Coyne**

## Calling to Action: Black Lives Matter and the Civil Rights Movement

### InFocus Challenge Area: Systemic Racism & Access

It is well-established that in the fight against oppression, calling to action and uniting people is imperative. The Black Lives Matter movement is not the first to fight against racism, racially motivated violence, and police brutality, but hopefully it can be the last. This study's aim is to examine Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail* and Malcolm X's *Ballot or the Bullet* and ascertain what made them so powerful and successful. Understanding how the greats accomplished so much will enable us to implement their tactics and methods in today's fight against tyranny. During the Civil Rights Movement, the breaking of the unjust, segregation laws was the people's theo-moral responsibility. In the twenty-first century however, it isn't as simple. Fighting against unjust laws and practices are not as straightforward. Racist laws and practices such as "Stand Your Ground" laws cannot simply be broken, a different approach must be taken. Utilizing social media seems to be the most promising solution for opening the public's eyes, creating effective change, and saving black lives.

Harry Faber



**Economics: Theory & Policy**

**Contemporary Political Theory**

**Dr. Haddad**

## InFocus Challenge Area: Systemic Racism and Access

What is the Issue?

Why I chose this issue?

Why it's important?

Research

What can we do?

Ashley Halady



**Major: Psychology**

Town Hall Course: Edu 160;  
Culture, Community &  
Diversity

Instructor: Dr. Yosung Song

# The Issue of Systemic Racism & Access

InFocus Challenge Area: Systemic Racism & Access

Systemic Racism and Access is a major focal point for minorities and minority communities. It is a tool used to control many different aspects of life all over the world and leave the power to those who control it. There are many forms of Systemic Racism, some of the ways these forms limit access will be identified and discussed. By identifying these forms they can not only be brought to the forefront, but can become the focus of many communities in order to work to eliminate them and create a safe and welcoming environment for all different demographics.

Timothy King



**Major: Psychology**  
**Minor: Africana Studies**

**Town Hall Course: AFST 195:  
Who Owns The Outdoors**

**Instructor: Dr. Joyce  
Hinnefeld**



## Racial Disparities Within Education

InFocus Challenge Area: Systemic Racism and Access

### ➤ Abstract

My project aims to outline the influence of cultural/social capital in education and how it contributes to academic and racial disparities, depriving children of necessary friendships and networks; highlighting how these adversities affect them into their adulthood.

Tatiana Lopez



Major:  
Political Science

Town Hall Course:  
POSC 250

Instructor:  
Dr. Haddad



# Racial Disparities in Breast Cancer and Potential Solutions

## InFocus Challenge Area: Systemic Racism and Access

Breast cancer affects thousands of women around the world, being the second leading cause of death among women in the United States. However, not every woman has the same access to diagnoses or treatment plans. Women who are of another race or ethnicity do not have the same access to healthcare for breast cancer treatments based on their social or health systems as women who are Caucasian, leading to a higher mortality rate. African American and Hispanic Women are at higher rates of death caused by breast cancer when compared to any other race or ethnicity. The mortality rate disparity ratio increased from 30.3% to 41.8% among African American women when compared to Caucasian women. Studies in the amount of care minority women receive were done and what they also concluded was women who were Hispanic and African American have received different integrated care than their Caucasian counterparts. These inequalities are the same for minority women who are poverty-stricken, have financial insecurities, are underinsured or even uninsured. As a possible solution, a Plan-Do-Study-Act implemented a breast cancer screening navigation program partnered with other hospitals that was shown to be effective in diagnosing and providing treatment to women of a race or ethnicity. Women should have access to proper preventative methods of care and treatments for breast cancer regardless of their socioeconomic status or race and ethnicity.

Alexis Matos



**Major: Biology**

**Town Hall Course: Cancer Biology**

**Instructor: Dr. Thevenin**

## Racial Disparities in School Discipline

### InFocus Challenge Area: Systemic Racism and Accessibility

This project discusses the racial disparities in school discipline that attribute to the school-to-prison pipeline in the United States. Although school policies do not explicitly exhibit racist ideologies, they are a part of a long-running history of normalized prejudice that exists in society. With examining how racial prejudice is common in our everyday lives, it is not a new idea to consider how a teacher's preconceived notions about a student based on their race can be related to how they discipline and how often they punish that particular student.

Abigail Ortega



**Major:**

Secondary Social Studies  
Education

**Town Hall Course:**

EDUC 160

**Instructor:**

Professor Yosung Song

# Institutionalized Racism and How it is Problematic In America

## InFocus Challenge Area: Systemic Racism and Access

Scores of citizens in the United States fall victim to racism by religious and political motives every day, and civil rights activists aim to thoroughly unveil and denounce this racism that continues to be demonstrated in various levels of society. For this InFocus Challenge Area, the issue of institutionalized racism was examined to identify both where and how the influences of white privilege and racist values are embedded in this country. This project has a specific emphasis on the historical context of confederate monuments, their racist linkages, where they are displayed in society, and how their presence perpetuates a racist America. The importance of this project not only draws connections between religion and politics but also brings attention to the importance of education about racism, how racism continues to manifest in this country, and how correlations of different groups in this country perceive the way a historical context of confederate monuments impacts society today.

Emily Sylvester



**Major: Biology**

**Town Hall Course:  
REL 245 PM Religion and  
Politics**

**Instructor:  
Dr. Denton-Borhaug**

**Title: Cancer Affecting Poverty Areas with Low Food Sources**

InFocus Challenge Area: Policy category; systemic racism subcategory

Addressing the problem of how residents in low income areas within the United States have less access to basic food sources such as grocery stores and fresh produce stores. Instead, it is common for low income areas to have a few miniature food stores within a community that are usually only equipped with packaged, processed and sugary foods. To an average American, hearing this statement may register in the mind to “its not as bad as it seems”, seemingly because we are a country where fast food restaurants are at our forefront. I can reassure that it indeed is “as bad as it seems” when the variant in ones diet is ONLY a fast food. The question of how does food insecurity relate to an increased cancer prone environment then arose and what are its attributions. Food apartheid in low income communities is a direct influence of systematic racism, gentrification and its unspoken varieties of structural injustice. This challenge can be addressed by placing more grocery and healthy food stores within low income communities so that nutritious foods can be more accessible.

Martha Thorpe



**Major: Biology**

**Town Hall Course: BIOL 372 A  
(Cancer Biology)**

**Instructor: Dr. Thevenin**