

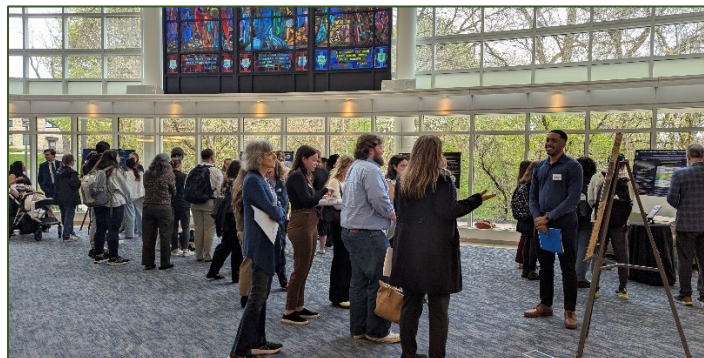


Assumption University

SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE STUDIES

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GRADUATE SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

Presentation Highlights



Symposium Presentation Highlights

with Links to Posters and Lecture PowerPoints

POSTERS

Control and Structure in Parent/Child Conflict Conversations: How Parental Style Relates to Child Engagement

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:89e20e5e-8df7-475e-8c79-9899d6f948be>

Presenter: Jalen Leonce

Program: Clinical Counseling Psychology

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Johanna Sagarin

Parenting literature has historically combined parental control and structure when reviewing child outcomes; however, Self-Determination Theory distinguishes between these through autonomy support. The purpose of this research was to determine the correlation between parent's control or structure and child affect/engagement. Fifty-three child-parent pairs were asked to problem-solve around a conflict for 5 minutes. Children were rated on a 5-point Likert scale for both engagement and affect, and parents were similarly assessed for use of control and structure. Bivariate correlation analysis found higher parental control associated with more negative child affect and disengagement while the opposite was true for parental structure.

Analyzing Peloton's Recent Revenue Decline and Recommended Future Growth Strategies

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:4cee2ae7-dc39-4848-b3e2-e4a16dbdbffa>

Presenter: Teagan Kamm, Alexandra Padula & Eric Giarnese

Program: Master of Business Administration

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Lewis

When the world shut down in 2020 and public gyms or in-person fitness classes were no longer an option, Peloton's at-home workout equipment became the solution for many. However, many returned to their normal routines following the pandemic, initiating a stark decline in Peloton's revenue that had not been accounted for. This research project uses several Business Strategy models to assess the source of Peloton's competitive advantage in an individual context, as well as its relation to competitors and the health and fitness industry. In light of this analysis, possible strategic solutions are provided to bolster Peloton's underperforming revenue amounts.

Using Adaptive Leadership to Promote Responsible AI Use in Higher Education While Fostering Critical Thinking

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:a233c858-a2a2-497d-bf45-104c425b3953>

Presenter: Laurie Palumbo

Program: Organizational Leadership

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Laura Miller

Adaptive leaders are tasked with recognizing and analyzing challenges, managing conflicts and resistance, and reducing stress while fostering a productive environment that supports stakeholders. With the rise of mainstream AI, higher education faces a challenge comparable in scope to the

emergence of the World Wide Web. Supporters claim that AI can enhance learning by helping with cognitive offloading, enabling students to concentrate on higher-level thinking skills. Opponents argue AI leads to cheating. Assumption University has a moral obligation to its students and society to cultivate ethical individuals capable of critical thinking. As AI use increases, how can leadership ensure this?

Lecture PowerPoint Slides

Using Video-Based Training to Teach Error Correction

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:28734dd1-b2d0-4dc4-99fb-de5ca884bc5d>

Presenter: Jaime Brodeur

Program: Applied Behavior Analysis

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nicole Pantano (Moderator of Concurrent Session A)

Staff training is a crucial component of effective behavior analytic programming. Service agencies often do not implement evidence-based training methods due to a lack of available resources despite empirical evidence that supports its use. Behavioral skills training (BST) is an evidence-based training protocol involving instructions, modeling, rehearsal, and feedback. The current study used video-based BST to teach staff in a clinic to implement error correction procedures. The results of this study indicated that error correction accuracy improved compared to baseline levels following the implementation of video BST.

Improving Procedural Fidelity in a School Setting using PDC-HS

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:9b6ebeb5-987f-4d7e-b743-65418c3d8ff5>

Presenter: Ryan Singley

Program: Applied Behavior Analysis

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nicole Pantano

Procedural fidelity (PF) describes the extent to which the components of an intervention are implemented correctly and according to established procedures (Cooper et al., 2020). One method for improving procedural integrity includes the Performance Diagnostic Checklist - Human Services (PDC-HS; Carr et al., 2013). Two recommendations from this checklist include using behavior skills training (BST) and acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) to increase trainee PF scores. We assessed whether changing the environment and implementing BST and ACT based on PDC-HS results is a sufficient intervention to improve the procedural fidelity of discrete-trial programs implemented by direct care staff.

Behavior Specific Praise as a Function-Based Intervention for Students with Autism

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:94b83f6f-9b6b-4b30-aa28-e685acb4c200>

Presenter: Amanda Eichholz

Program: Autism Spectrum Disorders

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Samantha Goldman (Moderator of Concurrent Session B)

Behavior-specific praise is highlighted in this presentation as an evidence- and function-based intervention to increase appropriate help-seeking behavior in students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Across academic settings, event-recorded data demonstrated that visual supports, pre-correction, and immediate, specific reinforcement increased appropriate requests for help while decreasing calling out and physical prompting behaviors. Applied Behavior Analysis and Positive Behavior Supports are grounded in these frameworks, which show that consistent adult responses structured by reinforcement

systems can promote communication, independence, and generalization across settings for students with ASD.

Clinician Burnout and the Role of Graduate Schools in Prevention

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:a664ff2e-50c8-49ab-8951-68be15dc1850>

Presenter: Jessica Nowakowski

Program: Clinical Counseling Psychology

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Dealy

Clinician burnout is an increasingly prevalent problem despite years of experience a clinician has. Data was collected on clinicians' current levels of burnout, the contributing factors, and graduate school preparation. Open-ended questions asked clinicians to reflect on the preparation they wish they received in graduate school. Factors contributing to burnout included maintaining a work-life balance, managing expectations, struggling to engage in self-care, and reflecting on work to feel engaged. Three themes emerged as areas for better graduate school preparation: navigating the healthcare system, workload balance, and self-care. Graduate schools can use these results to inform their curriculum practices.

How Do Organizational Incentive Systems Create Conditions under Which Managers Engage in Unethical Practices?

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:4c3407ba-93ce-483e-9b07-5781a1e703c6>

Presenter: Danielle Aiken

Program: Master of Business Administration

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tyler Wasson

This presentation explores the relationship between organizational incentive systems and unethical managerial behavior, arguing that misconduct often emerges as a structural outcome rather than an individual failing. Drawing on behavioral ethics research, it examines how performance pressures contribute to phenomena such as ethical fading, moral licensing, and the social normalization of misconduct. Particular attention is given to the role of middle managers who operate at the intersection of organizational expectations and practical implementation. Through examples and recommendations regarding aggressive goal-setting and data-driven pricing strategies, the analysis demonstrates how reward structures shape decision-making processes and organizational culture.