



Senior Honors Thesis Presentations Fall 2023

Wednesday, November 8th

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: TNSC 108

Riley Kline

A History and Modern Context of the Amish in Holmes and Wayne County

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Rachel Constance, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History

Reader: Marcus Yoder, M.A., Executive Director Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center,
Adjunct Professor of History Zollikon Institute

This thesis explores the diverse landscape of Amish affiliations in the United States, dispelling the misconception of a singular "Amish" identity. Focusing on Holmes and Wayne County, the largest Amish community globally, the study delves into the practices, beliefs, and traditions of four major affiliations: Old Order Amish, New Order Amish, Dan Amish, and Swartzentruber Amish. Interviews with various Bishops reveal distinctions between the affiliations in clothing, transportation, excommunication, phones, farming, church services, youth, and homes. This study contributes to an understanding of Amish history and culture within Holmes and Wayne County while contributing to the broader historical narrative of Amish migration and settlement.

Hannah Petersen

Analysis of Marketing in the Indoor Plant Industry

Thesis Advisor: Philip Kim, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business

Reader: Chase Senk, J.D., Associate Professor of Business

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the current market and essential knowledge for successful entrepreneurship, specifically in the indoor plant industry. A survey was designed to collect empirical data from college students at Walsh University. This population was chosen since they are the next generation of indoor plant consumers. The research questions were as follows: 1). What are student's preferences for social media marketing platforms? 2). Is there a relationship between student social media preferences and indoor plant purchasing habits? 3). Do added features such as customization or an all-inclusive kit, influence decisions to purchase indoor plant gardens? My survey had a total of 81 eligible students that responded to the survey. Survey results found that Instagram was the most used social media platform, however, Snapchat was a close second. Additionally, there was a weak relationship between student social media preferences and indoor plant purchasing habits. Furthermore, there appears to be higher than expected impact on all-inclusive plant kits and how they influence the purchasing decision. The thesis further explores the results of those data. Finally, the thesis draws heavily on the extent literature to create an effective marketing plan for an entrepreneur in the indoor plant industry. Specifically, trying to reach the university target market with indoor plant products. However, the main marketing strategies created in the following marketing plan can be applied broadly to any business close to the indoor plant industry.

Allison Dewees

Parental Involvement in the Development and Implementation of Individualized Education Plans: A Research Study

Thesis Advisor: Gary Jacobs, Ph.D. Chair, Division of Education

Reader: Erica Hershberger, M.A. Ed, Adjunct Professor, Intervention Specialist at GlenOak High School

During the 2011-2012 school year, six million American students received special education services under I.D.E.A. During the 2021-2022 school year, that number increased to just over seven million. In Ohio alone, 16% of students ages three to 21 received special education services as of 2022 (National Center for Education Statistics, 2023). As the population of individuals with disabilities grows, it begs the question, how is I.D.E.A supporting those students and their families? The purpose of this research study was to answer that question regarding I.E.P development and implementation under I.D.E.A. Parents/guardians of exceptional children as well as parent mentors were surveyed regarding three capitals: navigational, resistant, and aspirational. Alignment with David Lansing Cameron's Empowerment Theory was also explored. Key findings included that over 50% of all participants reported experiencing each of the three capitals. In addition, 40% reported experiences that aligned with the Empowerment Theory. According to the findings, families of exceptional children are generally not satisfied with the current development and implementation of I.E.Ps under I.D.E.A.