Retention and Student Success: A Study of FTFT First-Generation Students at UNC Pembroke
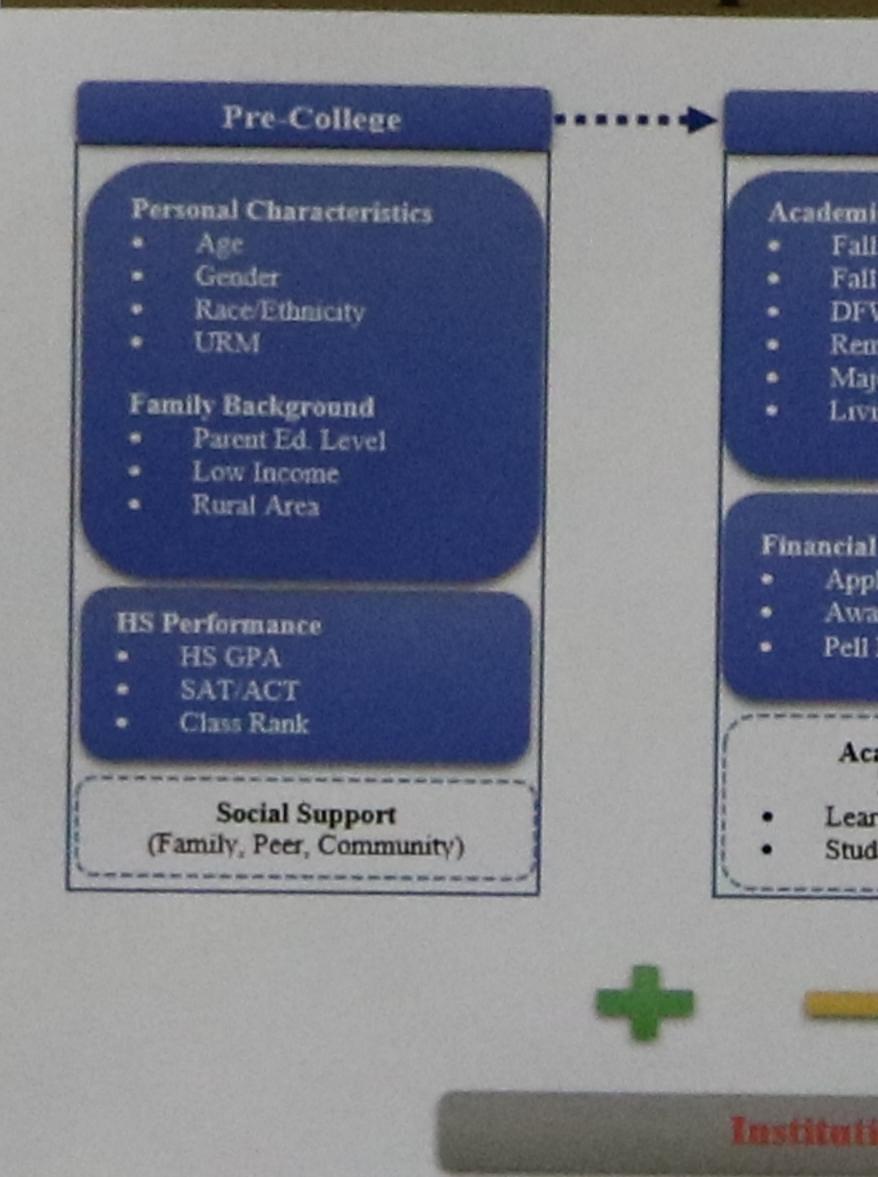
Dr. Mei Yao, Office of Institutional Research

Dr. Richard Kang, School of Business

Introduction

Purpose of the Study

- The purpose of this study is to explore what are the significant predicting factors of first-year retention and six-year graduation in the first-generation FTFT student group at UNC Pembroke.

Population

- Using the Fall 2008 – Fall 2010 student cohort data at UNC Pembroke, we study the first-time, full-time (FTFT), and first-generation students first-year retention and six-year graduation.

Research Questions

- Using the Fall 2008 – Fall 2010 student cohort data at UNC Pembroke, we study the first-time, full-time (FTFT), and first-generation students first-year retention and six-year graduation.

Conceptual Framework

Research Variables

Table 2: Tests for Individual Variables Associated with First-YR Retention and 6-YR Graduation (N = 3151).

Model	Reference	First-year Retention			6-YR Graduation		
		B	Sig.	Exp(B)	B	Sig.	Exp(B)
Age Group	>=19	0.272**	0.005	1.312	0.252***	0.009	1.287
Gender	Female						
Male		-0.163*	0.037	0.82	-0.388***	0.000	0.68
Race/Ethnicity	White						
American Indian or Alaska Native		0.239	0.034	1.27			
Black or African American		0.305**	0.001	1.349			
Underrepresented Minority (URM)	No						
Yes		0.271**	0.001	1.311			
Residency	Out-of-state						
In-state		0.832***	0.000	2.298	0.581**	0.003	1.788
County Ties	Out-of-state						
Tier 1		-0.705***	0.000	0.494	-0.433*	0.031	0.649
Tier 2		0.190*	0.026	1.22	0.250**	0.007	1.239
Tier 3		0.234*	0.041	1.289	0.230*	0.045	1.258
Fall_Term_GPA_Group	<2.0						
Fall_Term_GPA_Coded: A (>=3.5)		1.711***	0.000	5.533	2.744***	0.000	15.543
Fall_Term_GPA_Coded: B (>=3.0 & <3.5)		1.827***	0.000	6.214	2.446***	0.000	11.542
Fall_Term_GPA_Coded: C (>=2.5 & <3.0)		1.682***	0.000	5.378	2.053***	0.000	7.792
Fall_Term_GPA_Coded: D (>=2.0 & <2.5)		1.347***	0.000	3.847	1.588***	0.000	4.793
Fall_Term_DFW (Y/N)	No						
Yes		-0.902***	0.000	0.406	-1.192***	0.000	0.517
Fall_Remedial_Flag (Y/N)	No						
Yes		-0.212*	0.021	0.809	-0.370***	0.000	0.691
Low Income Family	No						
Yes					-0.177*	0.016	0.838
First Generation*Low Income Family	No						
Yes					-0.189*	0.028	0.828
Scholarship & Grant	No						
Yes		0.223*	0.012	1.25			
SIS GPA	Numeric	0.834***	0.000	2.303	1.106***	0.000	3.021
Fall_Term_GPA	Numeric	0.961***	0.000	2.614	1.21***	0.000	1.353
Diff_Credit Hours (#)	Numeric	-0.137***	0.000	0.872	-0.178***	0.000	0.837
Fall_Term_DFW (#)	Numeric	-0.489***	0.000	0.613	-0.66***	0.000	0.517

Note. 1. Significant levels: *** P < 0.001, ** P < 0.01, * P < .05.

Logistic Regress Models For Retention & Graduation

Table 3-2. Estimation of Results for FTFT Freshmen Cohorts from Fall 2008 to Fall 2010 (N = 1393).

	Reference	First-year Retention			Six-Year Graduation		
		B	Sig.	Exp(B)	B	Sig.	Exp(B)
Age Group (Age<19)	Age >= 19	0.415*	0.014	1.515	0.268	0.12	1.307
Gender	Female						
Male ★		0.083	0.544	1.087	-0.235	0.068	0.79
Race/Ethnicity	White						
American Indian or Alaska Native		0.343	0.125	1.409	0.355	0.093	1.426
Black or African American ★		0.905***	0.0000	2.471	0.975***	0.0000	2.651
Hispanic		0.18	0.573	1.198	0.267	0.41	1.306
Two or more races		1.07	0.115	2.917	0.412	0.457	1.509
County Tier	Out-of-state						
Tier 1		1.301***	0.0000	3.673	0.886**	0.007	2.425
Tier 2 ★		1.148**	0.001	3.152	0.817**	0.019	2.264
Tier 3 ★		0.931**	0.002	2.536	0.449	0.178	1.567
Fall Term GPA (Group)	< 2.0						
Fall_Term_GPA_Coded(>=3.5)		1.565***	0.0000	4.783	2.457***	0.0000	11.669
Fall_Term_GPA_Coded(>=3.0 & <3.5)		1.566***	0.0000	4.786	2.220***	0.0000	9.209
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Fall_Term_GPA_Coded(>=2.0 & <2.5)		1.034***	0.0000	2.811	1.269***	0.0000	3.557
Fall Term DFW (Group)	No						
Yes		0.384	0.079	1.468	0.032	0.859	1.033
Fall Remedial Flag	No						
Yes		0.236	0.176	1.266	-0.026	0.886	0.974
Fall Major	Undecided						
Decided		-0.132	0.464	0.876	0.05	0.765	1.051
Low Income Family ★	No						
Yes		-0.497**	0.004	0.609	-0.330*	0.035	0.719
Scholarship & Grant	No						
Yes		0.462*	0.016	1.587	0.2	0.272	1.222
High School GPA		0.534**	0.001	1.706	0.517**	0.001	1.678
Diff Credit Hours (#) ★		-0.069**	0.003	0.934	-0.05	0.067	0.951

Note. Significant levels: *** P < 0.001, ** P < 0.01, * P < 0.5.

Findings

- As expected, students' **academic performance in high school and in first fall term** in college were key predicting factors for student success, both for first-year retention and six-year graduation.

- The difference between students' **attempted and earned credit hours in first fall term** had a negative impact on first-year retention, but it did not have significant impact on students' long-term goal of six-year graduation.

- First-generation students who were from **rural areas** in NC were positively associated with first-year retention and six-year graduation, particularly the students from Tier 1 counties.

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- First-generation students from **low-income** family were negatively associated with both first-year retention and six-year graduation.

Recommendations for Further Study

- Focus on transfer-out in first year and senior year, particularly students who were from Tier 3 counties.
- Add other potential influential factors:
  - Information from Card Readers - EAB;
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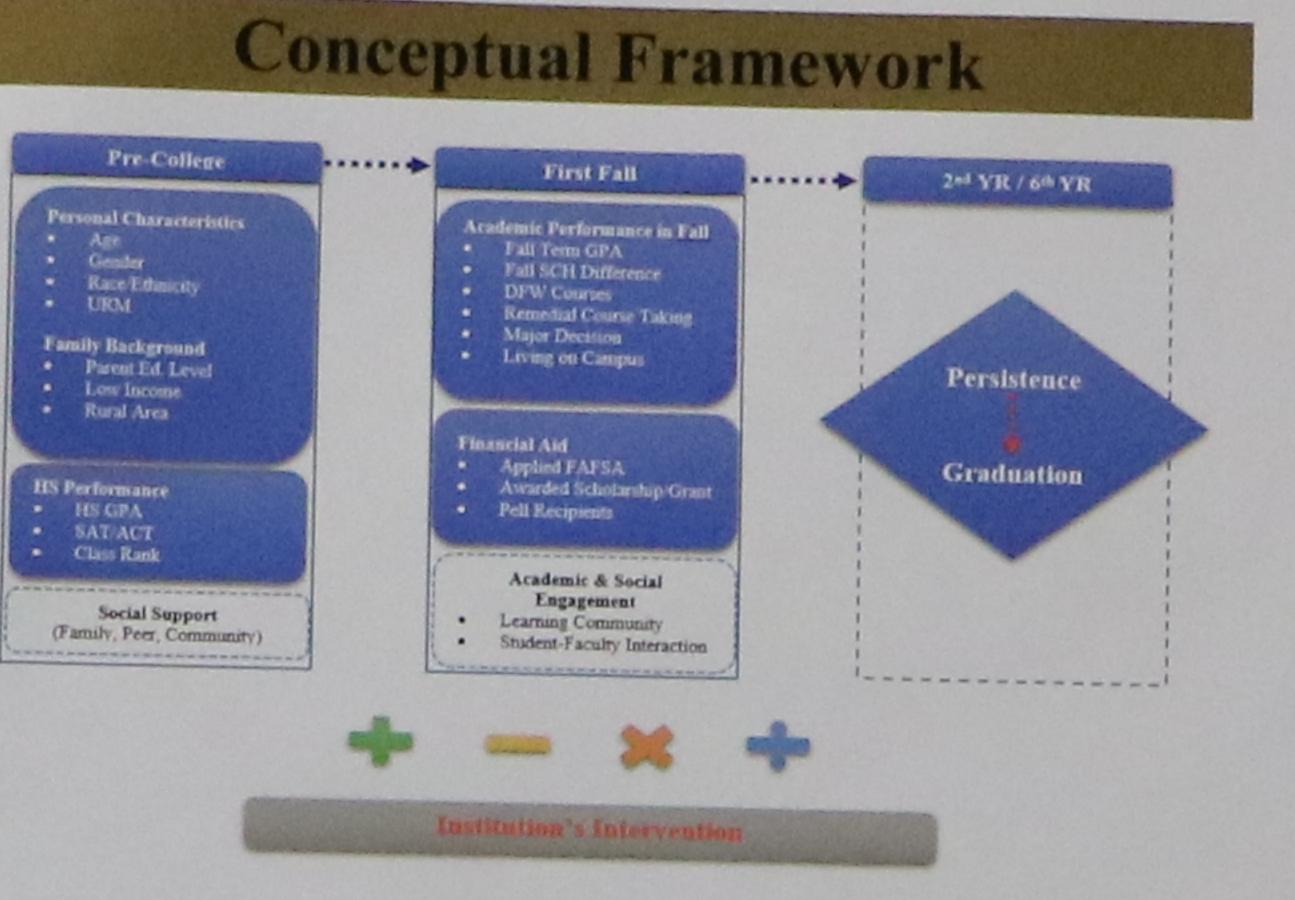Dr. Richard Kang, School of Business

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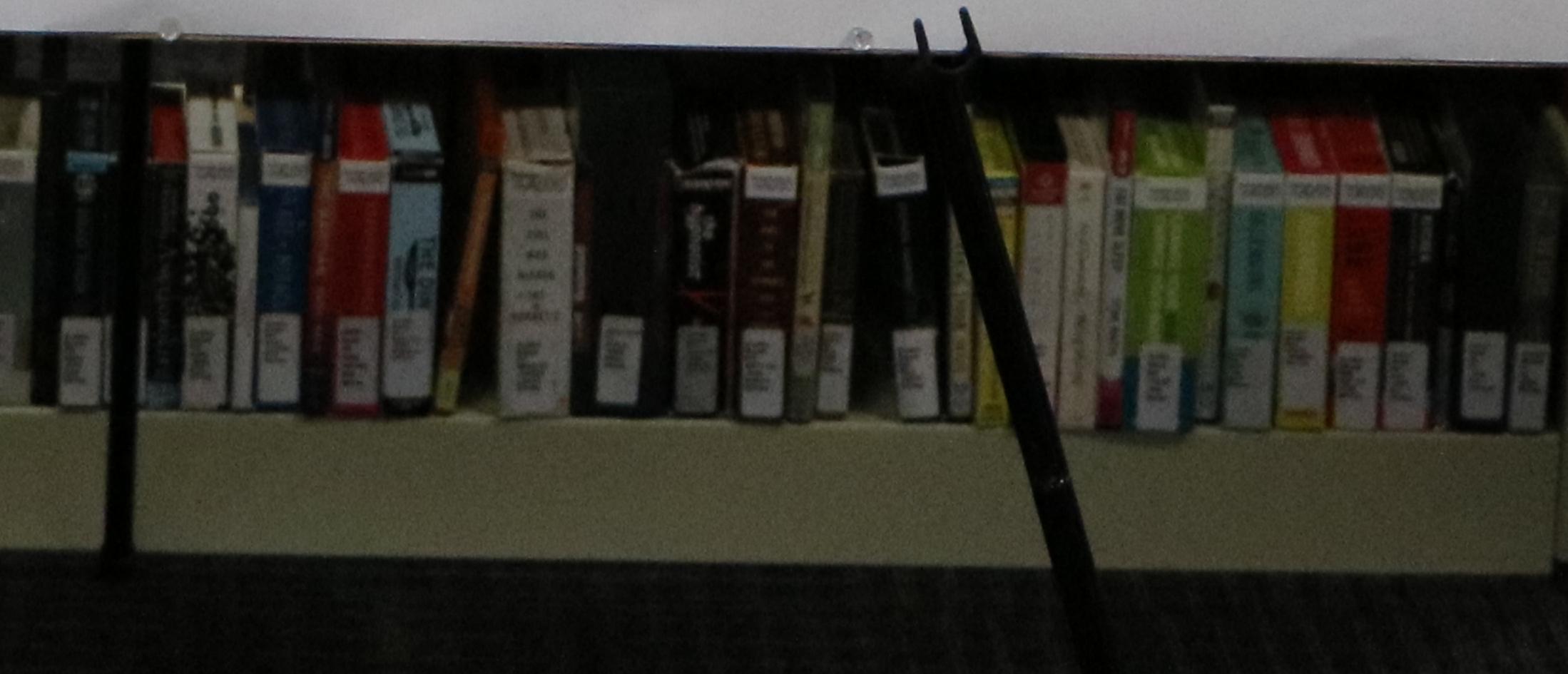Note: Significant levels: *** P < 0.001, ** P < 0.01, * P < 0.5.

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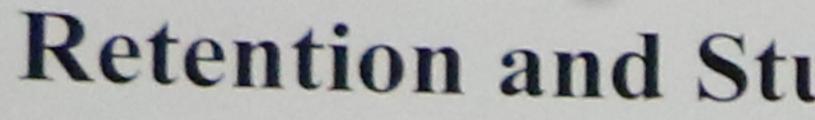
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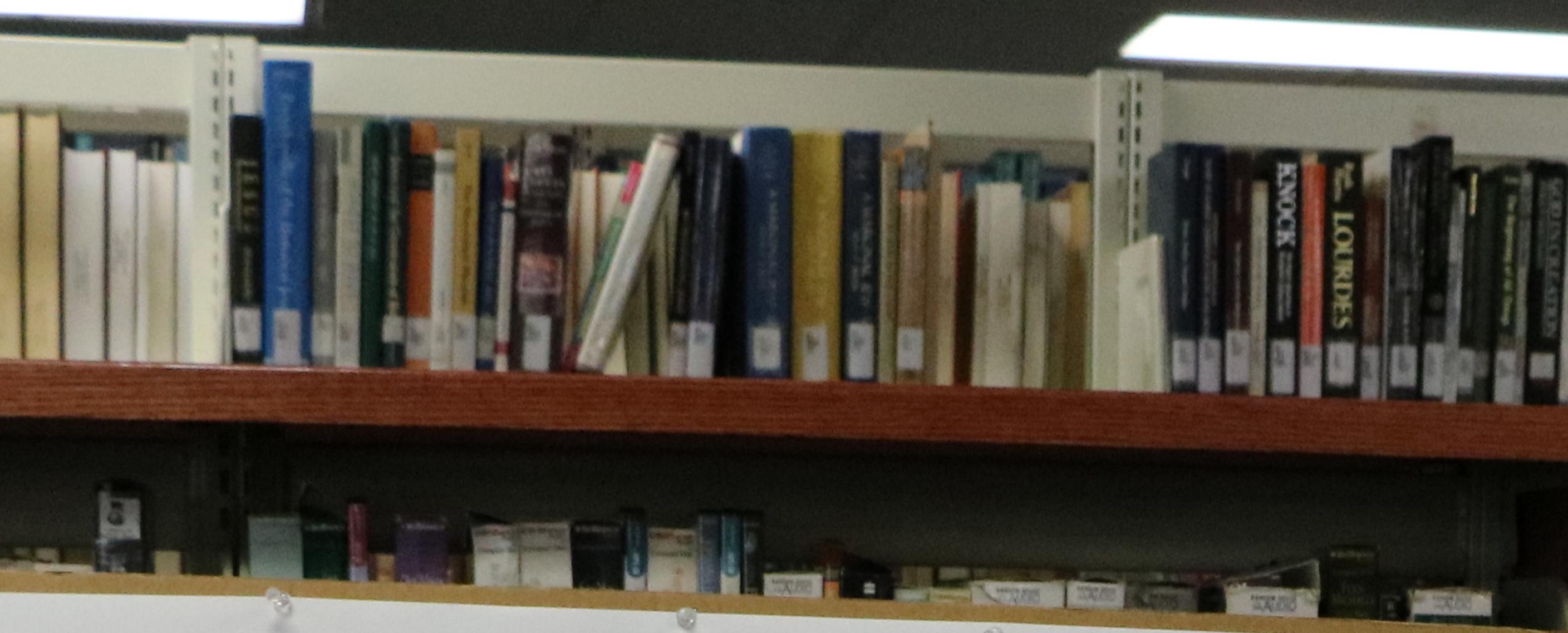
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"They, like inhumane creatures, laughed": Calvinist Humor in A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson

by Dr. Autumn Lauzon, English

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Conceptual Framework

Models For Retention & Graduation

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