

14th Annual Graduate Research Forum
Sponsored by the Academic Research Committee & Office of Graduate Studies
Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 6:30 p.m.
Germany Lecture Hall, MCC

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Dr. David H. Magers, Chair, Academic Research Committee

Presentations
[Time Limit, 15 Minutes]

Cheli Brunson, English

David G. Miller, Ph.D., Introduction

Convert, Hypocrite, Coward: Mark Twain's Religion of Performance in
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Research Director: David G. Miller, Ph.D.

Mark Twain's incredible talent to perform created an American celebrity, but his desire to be taken seriously failed to reconcile with his need to perform before an audience. When Hank Morgan finds himself catapulted to celebrity status in sixth century England in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, he also faces the tensions between the roles of reformer and performer. Neither Hank nor Twain overcomes the fear of being rejected by the audience as both performers ultimately find damnation, not redemption, as they progress from convert, hypocrite, to coward in Twain's self-professed religion of performance.

Tina Brown, Law

Mark C. Modak-Truran, Ph.D., J.D., Introduction

Religion of the Land- A View of Ownership: Can Religion and Secularism Truly Coexist?

Research Director: Mark C. Modak-Truran, Ph.D., J.D.

Native American Indians maintain a complex set of religious beliefs; those beliefs are often at odds with existing federal laws and governmental policies. It is a difficult task to find the exact view of Christianity yet it is common to assume that the law should stay as far away from it as possible. Most legal scholars believe law and religion belong in different spheres and the demarcation of church and state renders some sacred certainties, such as land to the American Indian, invisible to the protection of U.S. law. This is openly revealed by the 1988 Supreme Court's decision in the landmark case, *Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association*. This decision represented the convergence of religion, law, and land and demonstrated that the legislation had no firm grasp understanding the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) or the protections it futilely promised.

Malinda Brown, Communication THIRD PRIZE AWARDED

Tim Nicholas, Ph.D., Introduction

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire:

Analysis of Preschool Programming with the Use of Interpersonal Deception Theory

Research Director: Cliff Fortenberry, Ph.D.

Preschool age children who watch television receive a number of educational and cognitive development cues from the characters in the programs. But do children see their favorite characters involved in acts of deception? If so, do they understand deception and how it is being used to teach moral lessons? This study examines one popular animated program. Using the Interpersonal Deception Theory propositions, a survey of parents of preschoolers is conducted to analyze whether children are exposed to deception, are parents and children aware of such deception, and are children learning from these deceptive acts in a positive way.

Mariel Mohns, Biological Sciences FIRST PRIZE AWARDED

George Howell III, Ph.D., Introduction

DDE to Diabetes: The Metabolic Implications of Organochlorine Pesticide Exposure

Research Director: George Howell III, Ph.D.

Recent epidemiological data indicate that this is a significant, positive correlation between elevated serum concentrations and increased incidence of obesity and diabetes. However, a cause and effect relationship between the two has not been demonstrated. Our current studies employ a murine model of DDE exposure, the bioaccumulative metabolite of the organochlorine pesticide DDT, to determine the relationship between elevated serum concentrations of DDE and the occurrence of obesity and diabetes. Following exposure, DDE treated animals displayed a significantly increased amount of weight gain from baseline as well as fasting hyperglycemia when compared with control animals. Thus, our current data support the hypothesis that exposure to organochlorine pesticides, namely DDE, promotes the occurrence of obesity and diabetes.

Jason Snider, Health Services Administration

Rosie Lee Calvin, R.N., D.N.S., Introduction

Charcot-Marie Tooth in Men and Women: The Long-Term Effects and Management in Adults

Research Director: Melanie Fortenberry, RN, BSN, MHS.

Charcot-Marie Tooth (CMT) disease is a form of muscular dystrophy and is caused by abnormal nerve conduction and may result in poor or no reflexes, sensory loss, foot deformity and muscle weakness and atrophy. Charcot-Marie-Tooth is genetically inherited and exhibits itself in five different groups of genetic deficiencies. There is not a cure for CMT. The purpose of this study is to determine the long-term effects and management of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease in adults.

Intermission – 15 minutes



Mississippi College

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Kathleen R. Grigsby, Ed.D., Educational Leadership SECOND PRIZE AWARDED

Ruthie Stevenson, Ph.D., Introduction

Does Teacher Certification Affect Reading Achievement of Elementary Students in an Urban School District?

Research Directors: Tommye Henderson, Ph.D. and Ruthie Stevenson, Ph.D.

This study examined the effect of teacher certification on reading achievement of elementary students in an urban school district as measured by mean scores on the reading/language arts Mississippi Curriculum Test, Second Edition (MCT2). The purposes of the study were: a) to determine if there was a significant difference between teacher certification and students' reading achievement in urban schools, b) to determine patterns or trends which may exist when the final results are compared across third through fifth grade levels in student achievement in reading, and c) to determine the difference between the type of licensure and the performance of students in reading.

Kent Mummert, Graphic Design

Stephen D. Cook, M.F.A., Introduction

Four Graphic Design Pioneers and Their Timeless Lessons for Future Graphic Designers

Research Director: Stephanie Busbea, Ph.D.

This research explores the historical foundations of Graphic Design with particular regard to four individuals who made significant contributions to the field. It details the primary concepts forwarded by each person and the lessons they imply that future graphic designers can incorporate in solving contemporary design problems.

Patrice S. Guilfoyle, Communication

Tim Nicholas, Ph.D., Introduction

Communicating Change in an Ever-Changing Health-Care Environment

Research Director: Tim Nicholas, Ph.D.

Communicating change in an organization has generated a wide array of interest from researchers over the last 20 years. As organizations have grown increasingly large and complex, how to communicate changes to employees and through what channels may be vital to building support for those changes. Health-care organizations are facing vast change at a time of insurance reforms, budget pressures, and employee growth. This qualitative study examines the communication channels in one medical center and whether one-way or two-way communication methods are preferable to relaying change information to employees. It also looks at which method best facilitates acceptance of changes.

Abel M. Tsegga, Law

Richard Meyer, J.D., LL.M., Introduction

Horror Song: How the U.S. War on Terror Has Led to Acts of Genocide in the Horn of Africa

Research Director: Richard Meyer, J.D., LL.M.

After receiving billions of dollars and acting at the behest of the U.S. government, the Ethiopian government, led by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, has committed numerous acts of genocide while working towards eliminating regional terrorist cells and securing U.S. interests; and since the Ethiopian forces are acting on behalf of the U.S., the United States is complicit in all international wrongs committed by the Ethiopian government, especially for acts of genocide

Foman & Nita Musselwhite Prizes awarded at the Mississippi College Graduate Research Forum

(Established in 2011-2012 by Jeannie M. Lane, Ph.D.)

The Foman & Nita Musselwhite Prizes were established to enhance the long-running Mississippi College Graduate Research Forum. The cash prizes are as follow: *First Prize*: \$100.00; *Second Prize*: \$75.00; and *Third Prize*: \$50.00. Everyone present will be given a rubric for scoring presentations. The prizes will be awarded to the three presenters with the highest total points. In case of a tie, the chair of the academic research committee will decide the winner(s). Prize checks will be available a few days after the forum.

Foman and Nita Musselwhite graduated from Mississippi College in January of 1937. The Musselwhites enjoyed long and successful teaching careers in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. The couple spent most of their careers teaching Science, English and Spanish at East Tallahatchie High School (now known as Charleston High School) and Charleston Middle School (Formerly Alan Carver High School).

Foman was a celebrated football coach who led the East Tallahatchie Warriors to an undefeated season in 1950. He also was known for the unique football plays created that baffled their opponents. Nita was best known for the "Preposition Song" she shared with her 8th grade English students set to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." She also drilled her Spanish students in conjugating verbs in all tenses. The Musselwhites enjoyed a quite life on a farm near Oakland, MS while Foman was living. After Foman's death, Nita stayed in Oakland, proper, until she died. The Musselwhites had no children of their own so the students they taught became their children "in spirit." Long-term relationships developed over their years as educators and the residents of the county established a scholarship in their honor for students attending Northwest Community College in Senatobia, MS. This award honors their long term commitment to educating children in the sciences and the humanities in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi.

Both Foman and Nita Musselwhite taught Jeannie Lane's mother, Mary Pollan Lane, in the 1950's . In the 1970's they taught three of Mary Lane's four children: Mari Jo Lane Williamson, Jeannie M. Lane, and Raymond D. Lane.