13th Annual Graduate Research Forum Sponsored by the Academic Research Committee & Office of Graduate Studies Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 6:00 p.m. Germany Lecture Hall, MCC

Welcome & Opening Remarks

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

Presentations
[Time Limit, 15 Minutes]

Shannon Sistrunk, Communication

Cliff Fortenberry, Ph.D., Introduction

Pain, Listening, and Healthcare

Research Director: Cliff Fortenberry, Ph.D.

This study uses a quantitative survey technique, and summarized data collected is used to correlate results with listening skills as its fundamental principle. A survey was sent out on the Internet and yielded results from various gender, socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Communication issues have been maintained by employing a number of methods. Each step undertaken to gather and analyze data, validate findings and present research outcomes in which comprehensive and accessible findings can be used to facilitate growth and continued development. The purpose of this research is to help develop a better understanding of listening skills and how better listening skills as well as the ability to recognize nonverbal expressions will assist the healthcare industry and its consumers.

Jessica Bates, Law

Angela Mae Kupenda, J.D., Introduction

I Beg Your Pardon: The Power of the Presidential Pardon

Research Director: Angela Mae Kupenda, J.D

Article II Section II Clause I of the United States Constitution vests the President of the United States with the power to pardon individuals who have committed offenses against the United States. Rather than granting pardons to deserving recipients, time and time again, former presidents have taken advantage of their ability to pardon individuals. Instead of using the pardon to promote justice or correct past wrongs, presidents have chosen to pardon campaign contributors, family members, friends, and political allies. The president should choose to depart from pardons laced with scandal and iniquity and grant pardons that promote justice and correct past wrongs. This paper proposes a model that would lead to more justice.

Kellye Lewis, Art

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

A Sign of the Times: Posters from Three Periods of Art

Research Directors: Stephen D. Cook, M.F.A.

As an art form, the poster's history does not begin until the second half of the nineteenth century. But it's hard to imagine the world without posters, because their images are powerful weapons of communication. The transformation of poster art is evident within the Golden Age of Illustration, Art Deco and Bauhaus movements. Artists during each of these three periods produced posters with unique styles in order to visually impact their audience.

Jerrica Frierson, Higher Education Administration

Steve Stanford, Ph.D., Introduction

Social Networking...Is It the New Black?

Research Directors: Steve Stanford, Ph.D.

How does one maintain high enrollment numbers? How does one reach the masses? How do colleges, universities and institutions of higher learning recruit, retain and sustain their enrollment numbers? What did recruiters and admissions officers use before the dawn of social networking? What happens if the social network crashes forever? These are just a few questions that this research paper will explore.

Opal Charis Brown, Health Services Administration Melanie Fortenberry, RN, BSN, MHS, Introduction Improving the Quality of Health Care in Rural Areas

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

The purpose of this research was to discover and subsequently implement methods for improving the quality of healthcare in rural areas. This review includes a focus on ethical issues in rural areas, patient safety, and the use of technology to improve the quality and access of healthcare. The barriers which may challenge the quality of healthcare in rural areas include financial obstacles, lack of adequate workforce and a lack of infrastructure in the newly developing area of telehealth. However, it was discovered that policy implementation advances have begun to reduce these barriers and eliminate health disparities in rural areas.

Intermission – 15 minutes



Sravya R. Chinthalapuri, Chemistry & Biochemistry David H. Magers, Ph.D., Introduction Calculating Enthalpies of Formation for Derivatives of Furan, Oxazole, Isoxazole, and Furazan via Isodesmic and Homodesmotic Reactions

Research Director: David H. Magers, Ph.D.

Furan, oxazole, isoxazole, and furazan are all examples of heterocyclic aromatic compounds. They and their derivatives have a variety of uses. For example, ibotenic acid, a derivative of isoxazole, is a powerful neurotoxin; 2,5-dimethylfuran is a possible biofuel; and derivatives of furazan have been proposed as high energy density materials. Isodesmic reactions conserve bonds and bond types; homodesmotic reactions further preserve bonding environments. They can be used to compute enthalpies of formation to within 1 to 2 kcal/mol of experimental results without having to compute atomization energies. Despite the different zeros of energy, one may set the computed enthalpy of the homodesmotic reaction equal to the experimental enthalpy for the same reaction. Then the enthalpy of formation of the system of interest can be computed by using experimental reference values for the other molecules in the reaction.

Meredith Wilkaitis, M.F.A., Art

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

Texture, Form, and Symbol: A Creative Process from Texture to Expression

Research Directors: Stephanie Busbea, Ph.D. and Stephen D. Cook, M.F.A.

This study is an examination of texture and how it relates to form. During the course of the study, the researcher found that the media of collagraphy and hand-papermaking can be used in order to incorporate texture prominently and to enhance overall form. This study also includes histories of both media, as well as an examination of the techniques and content in works by some of their pioneering artists.

Chenyizhi (Nancy) Liu, Communication

Tim Nicholas, Ph.D., Introduction

Self-disclosure of Shy People in Computer-Mediated Communication

Research Director: Tim Nicholas, Ph.D.

The article is about the Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC) as a new form of interaction benefiting the self-disclosure of shy people. The research took Facebook as an example, which offers many convenient services and platforms for people to communicate online. The survey in this paper has two sections: one is a shyness test, and another survey is about CMC vs. face-to-face communication. The result of the survey does not support the hypothesis of the study.

Courtney Wolfe, Law

Mark C. Modak-Truran, Ph.D., J.D., Introduction Will RLUIPA Save the Day for Park51?

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

Park51, otherwise known as the Ground Zero Mosque, has faced severe opposition from the public, including demonstrations, rallies, and lawsuits. These lawsuits and public opinion in general question the legality of a project such as Park51 and whether the government may legitimately prevent this structure through zoning ordinances or nuisance complaints. Although the issue has not yet been raised or addressed by Park51 or any government office, if the battle ensues the courts will have to decide if Park51 is a religious exercise protected by the First Amendment and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act ("RLUIPA") and if so, whether the government would be imposing a substantial burden on religious exercise without demonstrating a compelling governmental interest achieved through the least restrictive means possible. In this paper, I argue that if the legality of the Center is challenged, Park51 will be a successful RLUIPA plaintiff in that Park51 will show that the government is imposing a substantial burden on its religious exercise and the government will fail to demonstrate a compelling governmental interest achieved in the least restrictive means.