17th Annual Graduate Research Forum
Sponsored by the Academic Research Council & the Office of Graduate Studies
Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Germany Lecture Hall, MCC

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Dr. David H. Magers, Chair, Academic Research Council

Presentations
[Time Limit, 15 Minutes]

Alan Wes Kinsey, Communication (2nd Prize)
Phyllis Seawright, Ph.D., Introduction
An Analysis of Improvisational Theatre: Methodology and Evaluation
Research Director: Phyllis Seawright, Ph.D.

This paper examines improvisational theatre methodology and its effectiveness in the development of an improvisation-based dinner theatre. The effectiveness of improvisation is discussed with an emphasis on how to teach these improvisational skills. Theatre, in this context, teaches by experience. The use of process methodology rather than just theory is highlighted as a necessary component of improvisation.

Nathaniel Stickman, English
“Don’t You Remember?”: Reading the Real (Reader) in a Lacanian Analysis of Grant Morrison’s The Invisibles
Research Director: Kristi Melancon, Ph.D.

This study embarks on a psychoanalytic reading of Grant Morrison’s comics series The Invisibles. It addresses the comics form as a particular psychological expression relevant to Lacan’s psychoanalytic methods and bearing the indications of a specific psychological movement. Morrison’s series confronts the reader with structural gaps in ways which, further, subtly call the reader to identify with the gaps. In doing so, the comics enact the state Lacan termed “traversing the fantasy.” This presentation will examine a particular portion of the narrative that exemplifies this, considering how the combination of images and text orchestrate gaps to present this movement of subjectivity outlined by Lacan.

Sarah Thurmon, Biological Sciences (1st Prize)
Stephanie Carmicle, Ph.D., Introduction
Discovering Genetic Defects in Class II Temperature Sensitive Mutants of Frog Virus 3, Defective in Late Gene Transcription
Research Director: Stephanie Carmicle, Ph.D.

Temperature sensitive mutants of Frog Virus 3 were created by Chinchar et al. in the early 80’s as a possible way to further understand the Ranavirus, which is now becoming a greater threat worldwide. However, in order to effectively utilize these mutants for a defense against Ranaviruses, the mutants’ genetic defects must be identified. This project is an attempt at further discovering which defects could be lending to the phenotypic trait causing these mutants to no longer undergo late gene transcription, and ultimately no longer being infectious.

Gary W. Ben, Health Services Administration
Melanie Fortenberry, RN, BSN, MHS, Introduction
ERG Theory, the Triune Brain and a Healthcare Organization’s Mission Statement
Research Directors: Melanie Fortenberry, RN, BSN, MHS and Stephen Puryear, MBA.

This paper explores Paul MacLean’s concept of the Triune Brain along with Clayton P. Alderfer’s ERG theory with applications to the Healthcare Organization’s Mission statement. I have done a literature review and collected information that may help Healthcare Administrators understand the importance and use of the Mission Statement in guiding the actions of the organization.
Intermission – 15 minutes

Pastel: Medium to Expression
Research Director: Stephen D. Cook, M.F.A.

Artists frequently demonstrate that transcendental visual connections can be made through ordinary objects, sounds or scenes, thereby transporting audiences to different dimensions, places or times, capturing imaginations, and creating a fertile ground in which to plant perceptions. This ability to illuminate and create such connections correlates with the development and growth of the pastel medium during the past century. Chosen by past masters and modern artists, works in pastel often parallel the history of human struggle, reflecting the flexibility and cultural diversity needed to progress in the world. With its rich background, including use in creative and technical experimentations, the pastel medium has evolved and is capable of producing pieces which mirror our world, and capture the human spirit of everyday existence.

Jon Phillips, Kinesiology Suzanne L. McDonough, Ph.D., Introduction
Employing a Model of Cancer Rehabilitation in a Non-Traditional Setting Using an Academic Internship Model
Research Director: Suzanne L. McDonough, Ph.D.

Advancements in early detection and treatment have improved survival rates for a wide variety of cancers, but surviving the disease and the treatment thereof is often accompanied by significant decrements in quality of life (QOL). Current literature agrees that the evidence for positive health outcomes associated with cancer survivors who perform physical activity (PA) is both abundant and impressive. Nevertheless, exercise rehabilitation has not been adopted as the standard of care for cancer survivors and the need for cancer exercise rehabilitation programs outweighs its availability in much of the United States. This project describes the implementation of a cancer rehabilitation model in a non-traditional setting to encourage clinical exercise rehabilitation program implementation.

Larissa Womack, Law Christoph Henkel, J.D., LL.M., S.J.D., Introduction
The Corporate Tax Break Competition: Understanding Corporate Interests at Stake and the Related Effects on the States
Research Director: Cecile Edwards, J.D., LL.M.

This paper explores corporate interests at stake in the state competition for economic growth through the use of tax break incentives to companies. It describes the interests of corporations and states at the national level and briefly at the international level.