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
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.