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Greetings!

The University of Arkansas - Fort Smith proudly welcomes you to the Fifth Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. Our faculty and staff are committed to fostering an environment that promotes not only learning but also enlightenment. As you will see in today’s presentations, our students have accepted the challenge, explored unique areas of research, and synthesized their results in the form of lectures, studio art, demonstrations, posters, and performances.

These presentations represent the academic diversity of UAFS’s programs and the intellectual excellence of our students. On their behalf, I would like to thank you for your participation and invite you to engage the presenters in the question-and-answer sessions throughout the afternoon. Your active involvement ensures that the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith remains a dynamic learning community.

Dr. Ray Wallace
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor
Acknowledgements

Bonnie Harmon
Coletta Furner
Linda Maness
Kandace Floyd
Peter Cullum
Carl Hulsey
Jessica Martin
Jo Donna Collins and the AV group
Room 1

Presentations in Biology/Nursing

Health Sciences Room 325

2:00  Jessie Cunningham
2:30  Maureen Didion
3:00  John E. Thames
3:30  Binh Cortes (Group Presentation)
4:00  Elizabeth Casanova
4:30  Alison Brown (Group Presentation)
Arrival and Dispersal Rate of the Exotic Eurasian Collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) in Arkansas

Presented by Jessie Cunningham

The exotic Eurasian Collared-dove, a species that has spread rapidly across Europe from its native range in Asia, is a relative new comer to the United States. It was first sighted in Arkansas at Harrison on 25 June 1989. Since this initial sighting the species has grown in numbers and is now present in 42 counties throughout the state. Using the national Christmas Bird Count (CBC) online database, I tracked the arrival and dispersal of this species from 1998 to 2010. I plotted a state map for each of these years and showed presence-absence information for all CBCs in the state which recorded the species. In this presentation, I will show these maps to present the rapid dispersal of the species across Arkansas. In just a 6-year time span, the species dispersed from the southeast corner of the state to the northwest corner, a distance of approximately 500 kms. With a dispersal rate of 83 kms/year, this exceeds the previously demonstrated dispersal rate of the species in Europe of 45 kms/year. I therefore predict that the species will soon cover most of North America at a faster pace than it colonized Europe.

*Jessie was home schooled throughout high school. She was born and raised in Mulberry, Arkansas. She is currently pursuing a degree in biology with a minor in chemistry. She aspires to get her Ph.D. in biology with a concentration in ecology and evolutionary biology. Her research interests include animal behavior, conservation biology and population genetics. She is a hobby breeder of chinchillas and spends her free time volunteering at the local animal shelter.*
Implications of Environmental Changes on a Population of Polar Bears in Manitoba, Canada
Presented by Maureen Didion

Polar bears (Ursus maritimus) evolved in an arctic environment. They are distributed throughout most ice-covered seas of the Northern Hemisphere, and are therefore dependent upon Arctic sea ice habitat for survival. They need sea ice as a platform to travel long distances, access to prey, seek mates, and breed. For the past seven years I have documented and photographed a population of Polar Bears in Manitoba, Canada. I delved into the literature to learn more about their biology and the problems they face both in the immediate vicinity of my study areas and throughout their overall range. My research demonstrates that while shrinking sea ice may be the major cause in the decline in polar bears, there is an intricate web of circumstances that has brought them to this point. Although all ursids are adaptable and show a certain level of behavioral plasticity, the rapid pace of ecological change in the Arctic, the specific feeding requirements of the polar bear, and man’s encroachment in some areas, have put it in immediate danger. My presentation will cover these critical issues and show that some populations are projected to become extinct if the present trends of sea ice melting continue.

Maureen Didion graduated from the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith in 2011 with a B. S. in Organizational Leadership and a minor in Psychology. She is pursuing her long-held passion for polar bears by doing post-graduate research work in biology with UAFS’s Dr. Kannan. Her research focuses on the effect of global warming and declining sea ice on polar bear populations in the Arctic.
Central Nests are More Successful and Preferred for Reuse than Peripheral Nests in Cliff Swallow Colonies
Presented by John E. Thames

We observed four colonies of cliff swallows (Petrochelidon pyrohonia) in western Arkansas in 2008 to quantify nesting success and nest site preferences. The inner 50% of each colony was designated “central” and the outer 50% as “peripheral.” Central nests were significantly more likely to be reused and enhanced than peripheral nests. This finding was reinforced by the fact that nest masses were significantly greater in central than in peripheral nests. Nesting success and clutch sizes were significantly greater in central than in peripheral nests.
These results suggest that cliff swallows prefer central nests to peripheral nests and that those that occupy central nests enjoy better clutch size and nesting success.

John Thames is a second semester senior at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, and he is preparing to enter graduate school in the field of ecology upon graduation with his Bachelor of Science degree. His research interests involve conservation, population dynamics, stream ecology, and ecological stoichiometry. After graduate school he plans to work in academia.
Arthropod Loads in Clustered Versus Isolated Nests of the Colonial Cliff Swallow in Western Arkansas
Presented by Binh Cortes and Anna Ahlert

Ectoparasites such as swallow bugs and other arthropods have been shown to adversely affect hatchling body mass and symmetry. This is especially the case in colonial nesting birds such as cliff swallows (Petrochelidon pyrrhonota) where nest crowding increases mobility of arthropods between nests and nestlings. We tested the hypothesis that clustered nests will have greater arthropod loads than isolated nests in a colony of cliff swallows in western Arkansas. We predicted that the clustered nests will have higher arthropod populations than isolated nests due to increased mobility between nests. Mud nests of cliff swallows were collected, crushed, and scanned for arthropods in lab and counted. Although clustered nests averaged greater quantities of arthropods than isolated nests, this difference was not statistically significant (t-test, P > 0.05). Since this study was conducted prior to the arrival of the cliff swallows (mid-February, in cold weather), arthropods were probably sluggish and not easily counted. Arthropod numbers were probably not what would be expected in the nesting season when the birds are present and when it is warmer. Therefore, we plan to improve this study by replicating it in the breeding season. We also plan to fumigate some nests and compare swallow nesting success and arthropod loads between fumigated (experimental) and nonfumigated (control) nests in the forthcoming breeding season.

Binh Cortes was born and raised in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She graduated from Southside High School with honors, and will be receiving her B.S. in Biology in spring 2012. Her academic interests include: conservation biology, environmental science, genetics, ecology, and evolutionary biology. She aspires to attain a Ph.D. in Biology and hopes to pursue a career in wildlife conservation and academics.

Anna has lived in Fort Smith, Arkansas for most of her life. She graduated from Southside High School in 2004. Anna is pursuing a B.S. in Biology. Her career goals are to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the forestry department to help conservation efforts. Her interests include environmental science, ecology, and conservation of natural habitats of local species. In her free time, Anna enjoys camping and hiking, canoeing, and something as simple as just reading a good book.
Activity Budgets of Mantled Howler Monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*) on Ometepe Island, Nicaragua
Presented by Elizabeth Casanova

In this study, I tested the hypothesis that mantled howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*) on Ometepe Island, Nicaragua, have activity budgets similar to those on Barro Colorado Island, Panama. The published data from the long term study on Barro Colorado Island shows mantled howler monkeys resting 64% of the day and foraging 26% of the day. I expected similar activity budgets on Ometepe to Barro Colorado Island because they share tropical dry-forest island geography. Using continuous focal sampling, I observed adult male howler monkeys at Ometepe Biological Field Station in a region called the Coffee Forest. A total of 30 focal samples were collected over a period of 8 days. I found the Ometepe howler monkeys rested 80% of the day and foraged 17%. Comparing this data to published data from Barro Colorado Island, I found a deviation from the expected activity budget of 64% resting and 26% foraging. This variation from the expected activity patterns could be correlated with forest quality, such as forest fragmentation, resulting in activity reduction. If true, then this would have important conservation implications for the mantled howler monkeys of Ometepe Island.

*Liz graduated from Northside High School in 2008. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Anthropology. She hopes to continue her studies in an interdisciplinary graduate program. Her research interests include primate behavior, ethics, behavioral genetics, and methods of teaching science; specifically involving the application of cognitive science and democratic ethics to education and learning.*
Transcultural Health
Presented by Alison Brown, Rachel Matthews, Kayla Pense, Cynthia Plume, and Megan Sullivan

Offering culturally sensitive care to patients is vital to nursing professionals. Cultural sensitivity and awareness is emphasized in every aspect of nursing students’ curriculum. The transcultural health class allowed students to immerse themselves in culture of Belize, Central America. Fourteen nursing students and three faculty members embarked on a week long journey to experience cultural health and diversity first hand. The two major health care concerns of Belizeans are hypertension and diabetes. While in Belize students provided care to a culturally diverse population. Four community clinics were set up in the Cayo District of Belize, Central America. Students implemented generalized healthcare with focus on hypertension and diabetes. Data was collected to report the incidence of hypertension and diabetes in these communities. Belizean men, women, and children of all ages were given vitamins, parasite medication and antibiotics. The conclusions from this informal data collection provide evidence these health issues are significant in Belize. This provides support for future nursing research. This transcultural health class allowed students to increase their cultural awareness and cultural competence, thus providing culturally sensitive preparation for their nursing career.

Alison graduated from Charleston High School. She is a senior graduating with her Bachelors of Science in Nursing. She plans on working in emergency medicine or pediatrics; however, she aspires to be a Nurse Practitioner and work in international medicine. Her interests include hiking, baking, and traveling. When she is not studying or at school, you can find her with friends or with a cup of Chi Tea and a good book.

Rachel Matthews is a senior Bachelor of Science in nursing student at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. She is a 2008 graduate of Charleston High School. She is hoping to get a job in a Neonatal Intensive Care unit after graduation in May. She holds a special place in her heart for children and missions and hopes to travel caring for underprivileged children. Rachel has been married to her husband, Kyle, for just over two years. She attends the First Baptist Church of Ratcliff, AR.

Kayla Pense graduated from Mountainburg High school in 2008. She is 21 years old and is currently in her last semester of the Bachelor of Science Nursing program at University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She aspires to continue her education after nursing school and gain her Nurse Practitioner license. She is very interested in pursuing additional research in developing countries and exploring areas in need of medical services. She is also interested in exploring cultural aspects of medical interventions and alternative forms of medicine.

Cynthia Plume is a senior BSN nursing student at the Carolyn McKelvey Moore School of Nursing at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing has been a lifelong dream for her and she inspires to work on the mission field as a nurse in the future. Her research interests include culturally diverse care, community nursing regarding vulnerable populations, and OBGYN nursing. She has been actively involved in the Arkansas Student Nurses Association by serving as an officer for her local chapter.

Megan is a graduate from Greenwood High School. She is a senior in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program and is anticipating graduation in May. She plans on enhancing her knowledge and skills by working in the critical care unit. Megan is very interested in psychiatric mental health. She plans to further her education and become a family nurse practitioner. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, gardening and shoe shopping.
Room 2
Presentations in Education
Health Sciences Room 326

2:00  Diane Humphrey
2:30  Taylor Grizzle
3:00  Tatum Burton
3:30  Amanda Maxwell
4:00  Rhonda Melton
4:30  Amber McClellan
Improving Education for Academically Gifted Students Through the Use of Multiple Instructional Strategies
Presented by Diane Humphrey

Research suggests that the classroom teacher acting as a facilitator of learning is crucial to the educational development of the students in the classroom, including the academically gifted. A critical element to improving education for gifted students is the use of multiple instructional strategies, which will provide a high quality program for all students in the classroom, resulting in high expectations for learning, increased creativeness, and improved critical thinking skills for all. Project-based learning, differentiated instruction, and an enriched curriculum all support activities that weave the multiple intelligences with authentic learning experiences and assessments to focus on higher order thinking skills. Opportunities for hands-on learning and participation in projects that integrate across the content areas are recognized as additional benefits of these types of strategies, not only for gifted students in the regular classroom, but for all students of all learning levels. This research is based on a study of scholarly journal articles and documents, educational textbook recommendations, and classroom observations. Specific teaching strategies identified through educational research as facilitating the learning process for academically gifted students in the regular classroom will be the focus of the project. The results of this research can help educators searching for ways to assist their students in developing academic abilities, allowing them to focus on methods of instruction that can be used in the integrated classrooms to offer challenges for all intellectual diversities from the ESL learner or those students with disabilities to those students who are gifted in one or more intelligences.

Returning to UAFS in 2012 as a non-traditional student, Diane Humphrey is pursuing a degree in Middle Level Education with an Emphasis in Language Arts and Social Studies.
In What Ways Will Participation in Cooperative Learning Groups Benefit Students Diagnosed with a Form of Autism?

Presented by Taylor Grizzle

Autism is an increasing medical disorder, distinguished by three main characteristics including impairments in communication and in social interaction and the demonstration of restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior. Physicians diagnose this neurodevelopment disorder as early as the first three years of life of a small infant. By acknowledging the disorder and implementing interventions to assist in the students’ schooling, the boys and girls will more likely grow and develop cognitively and socially throughout their education. In one circumstance from observation, a student diagnosed with Autism primarily interacted with the teacher or teacher’s aide. Through observation and research, this paper describes possible interventions through cooperative learning strategies that a teacher could implement for students diagnosed with Autism involved in an inclusion classroom. Based on research, this paper addresses the positive and negative outcomes of incorporating those instructional strategies in the cognitive and social development and active and passive task engagement of students diagnosed with Autism and their peers. Observations are limited to one classroom and one student; however, for future research, observations should be implemented with a larger sample of students with varied diagnoses of Autism, including Asperger’s syndrome, Rett’s disorder, and childhood disintegrative disorder. Teacher and parent concerns and issues relating to the practical implementation of cooperative learning groups in an inclusion setting are also discussed.

Taylor Grizzle graduated from Pocola High School in 2009. She is currently majoring in Middle Level Education with an Emphasis in Math/Science. Her research interests include educational psychology related to medical diagnoses and interventions for teachers to implement. She hopes to publish in an educational, peer-reviewed journal. She aspires to pursue her master’s and doctoral degrees in education in order to improve herself as an educator. She desires her career to lead to an educational leadership position, such as that of a principal or superintendent.
Best Practices in Assisting Homeschooled Students in Transitioning to Regular Classroom Environments
Presented by Tatum Burton

Homeschooled students are sometimes forced to transition their educational experience into regular schools for a variety of reasons, such as changes in parental financial situations or because their parents lack the required teaching credentials to support educating their children in the home. Religious beliefs and social pressures also influence parents’ decisions to enroll their children in public schools. A newly transitioned student will often demonstrate poor social skills due to a lack of normal peer interaction. A teacher can approach this problem with collaborative assignments which encourage student-to-student interaction. Attention in the classroom can also be a problem seen by previously homeschooled students. Seating arrangements can be made particularly to focus the student’s attention, for example, seating him or her in front of the class and in clear view of the teacher. A typical homeschooled student has trouble adapting to rules and procedures enforced at school and in the classroom. The transitioning student should be introduced to the rules and procedures and given plenty of time to learn them and abide by them. Another crucial problem with which some teachers are faced is the academic level of the student. If the student achieves above the academic standard, then he or she must continually be challenged. If the student performs below the standard, then that individual needs to be pushed to meet the standards with the help of peer tutoring. Transitioning a previously homeschooled student to a regular classroom setting can be challenging for both teacher and student but can benefit both as they learn to appreciate new perspectives and progress toward academic and social learning goals in the classroom.

Tatum Burton graduated from Mansfield High School in 2009. She is currently enrolled in the Middle Level Education with Emphasis in Math and Science program. Her passion in teaching is working with middle level students in math. She enjoys helping students relate positively to math and engaging them in actively participating in learning mathematical concepts using manipulatives. She was recently inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. Outside of school Tatum’s leisure time is spent with family and friends. After graduation Tatum’s plans are to teach at a school in Arkansas.
Research suggests that the integration of 21st Century digital literacy skills across the middle school curriculum improves the knowledge and experience backgrounds of young adolescents and motivates them to succeed in the business world after high school. The purpose of this study is to examine the teaching styles of four English Language Arts teachers at a junior high school with 542 students in the upper South and to identify specific literacy-related instructional strategies that these instructors might plan and implement as they determine how they can integrate 21st Century skills across their curriculum while adapting to the new Common Core State Standards. The variables that will be studied will be literacy-related instructional strategies that will connect 21st Century skills and the Common Core State Standards. This research includes the use of classroom observations, a survey, interviews with four English Language Arts teachers and the literacy specialist, and field notes based on observations of classroom activities. This project describes specific strategies that educational research recommends as highly effective in facilitating 21st Century skills integration using the Common Core State Standards as a framework. The results of this research can help teachers and pre-service educators transition into using the Common Core State Standards more confidently with the knowledge of effective, diverse instructional strategies.

Amanda Maxwell graduated from Van Buren High School in 2007. She is currently pursuing a degree in Middle Level Education with an emphasis in Language Arts and Social Studies. She aspires to teach English after she graduates in 2013. Her previous and current research includes ELL education, 21st Century skills, Common Core State Standards, and differentiated instruction. Amanda is married to 8th grade math teacher, Andrew Maxwell. Amanda plans to graduate, teach, start a family, and continue to pursue her education through active research.
One-On-One Instruction for a Male Student who is Learning Disabled
Presented by Rhonda Melton

Research Question: In what ways might personalized, one-on-one instruction improve the acquisition of basic math skills in a struggling middle school boy?

Many students with learning disabilities do not master basic math skills. These skills are necessary to function in everyday life. The learning-disabled student will benefit from one-on-one instruction and will develop math proficiencies incrementally. Intervening before learned helplessness is established should be a goal of every teacher. Modern research suggests various strategies, such as review, clarification, repeated instruction, drill and practice, and the use of positive reinforcements as methods of improving the performance of students with learning disabilities. It is difficult to assess the outcome in one particular student due to the various degrees of disabilities, but research suggests positive correlations between direct instruction and improvement in the acquisition of basic math facts in students with learning disabilities. Studies also suggest that students who do not suffer from learning disabilities also benefit from direct instruction when struggling with a specific content area. A teacher should accurately assess the student’s disabilities, plan, and implement various strategies that are appropriate for each. Understanding early adolescents’ abilities, personalities, and interests is imperative when the goal is to make a connection and engage the students in learning. As long as there is a positive rapport with the students, using volunteers or even a peer-to-peer approach to assist the teacher is very helpful. Further research might compare and contrast the use of technology versus one-on-one instruction with a trusted individual.

Rhonda Melton graduated from Northside High School in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She is currently pursuing a degree in the Middle Level Education with Emphasis in Math and Science program. She looks forward to a rewarding career teaching math, providing support for diverse students to become confident, productive citizens. She was recently inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. Mrs. Melton also enjoys spending time with her husband and children.
Teaching Research Methods to High School Students
Presented by Amber McClellan

Many students learn how to write research papers before they graduate high school. For some, it is an easy process to learn. For others, it is a foreign concept. The overall goal of this research is to find ways to help students learn proper research methods and help set them up for future success. The decision to pursue this project came about because of my field of study, English with Teacher Licensure. My dream is to teach tenth through twelfth grades and writing research papers is one of the units we will cover. With the research I have currently, I have learned some of the main issues that face research paper writers.

To accomplish the goal of teaching successful research methods, I have researched on the internet for how to teach research methods, common errors in research papers, and different citation methods, just to name a few. By the end of the research process, I will have a well-developed research paper that I can use for reference material when I begin teaching in the school system. My overall goal is to have solid evidence to give to my students on how to perform research, write research papers, and why they should learn the information. In addition, I believe this research will help me become a better teacher for my future students and a better employee for my future employers.

Amber graduated from Arkoma High School in 2003 and anticipates graduating in December 2012 from UAFS with a degree in English with Teacher Licensure. She has been married for almost nine years and enjoys spending time with her husband. Some of her research interests include finding ways to make learning more engaging for the students and finding ways to make herself a better teacher when she steps into her own classroom.
Room 3

Presentations in English/Rhetoric

Health Sciences Room 222

2:00  Sherry Hagee
2:30  Kimberly Allen
3:00  Amber Michael
3:30  Shawna Mason
4:00  Bobby Cooper
4:30  Jordan A. Savage
“Oh no, Sir, I must say you’re wrong.”
Presented by Sherry Hagee

In American horror films of recent years, we find an ongoing fascination by movie audiences with the macabre, the hair-raising, the terrifying tales which keep us suspended in a delicious state of excitement, rising tension, adrenaline rush, and the release of fear realized and overcome all from the safety of our theatre seats. An overview of the musical composers responsible for the canonical sounds we associate with these films traces the development and triumph of the modern film score. This paper examines the use of the musical score in such films as *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Jaws*, *Carrie*, and *Psycho* to effectively dramatize these thrilling tales and extend the life of the film by using timeless themes and techniques in the musical compositions and orchestral execution of the film scores. We have a film genre of the ‘other’ whether creator or the created; without the ‘other’ we have no story, it is a genre of the dispossessed and they clamor to press their message on any and all who might listen. Listening is key to the effectiveness of these films through their use of: sound effects, soundscapes for flashback, or melodic themes underscored for dramatic tension by orchestral textures.

*Sherry completed a bachelor’s degree from University of Texas in Austin previously, but has returned to college to pursue a lifelong passion for Creative Writing. She spent more than 15 years traveling and living in the West and Southwestern states of America. She aspires to complete her first novel, set in 1880 Santa Fe, NM, within the next year. She credits her professors and courses in Psychology, Horror in Literature, Modern Poetry and Fiction Writing with valuable content and motivation for major developments in her writing style.*
Frankenstein’s Monster was a Woman
Presented by Kimberly Allen

In 1818, Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, widely considered one of the first science fiction novels was published. Frankenstein, however, is not just a horrific, science filled story; it is also a feminist text. Most feminist readings focus on Victor’s appropriation of the maternal role; he effectively gives birth to his monster. Yet, this only scratches the surfaces of Shelley’s feminist implications. Despite Shelley’s feminist legacy, the novel is devoid of women, except for a few minor characters of little import. Victor’s love, the only female with significant mention in the novel, is removed at the hands of Victor’s creation. It is in this suppression of the female voice that Shelley is able to subvert the masculine characters of the story. By rendering the female voice mute, the masculine reveals itself as monstrous and poisonous.

Shelley draws heavily from Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, positioning Victor in the roles of Adam/God, Satan/Sin and in the end Eve. It is in Victor’s quest for knowledge that he is able to transform from Adam to God then ultimately to Eve. More significantly, Shelley places the monster in the role of Eve, thereby making the monster a woman in disguise. The monster, like woman, has no history and no parents. Both are alone and fallen, deemed soulless and monstrous, deformed and degraded, a caste below the male species. It is through the monster that Shelley is gives a voice to the otherwise suppressed female.

*Kimberly graduated from Ozark High School. She is currently pursuing a degree in English with a minor in History. Upon completion she hopes to attend graduate school to further her studies. She enjoys 18th and 19th Century British Literature. Her research interests include: periodical studies, gender studies, disability studies and history of the novel.*
Punch and the Delicate Satire of George du Maurier’s “Pretty Women”  
Presented by Amber Michael

Punch, a satirical Victorian periodical, became the home to many prodigal illustrators, including John Leech, John Tenniel, Charles Keene, and George du Maurier (Spielmann). After the death of John Leech, du Maurier was appointed to Leech’s spot at the Punch table and began producing regular illustrations for the magazine (Spielmann). While most famous today for his parodies of the aesthete, Du Maurier’s most recognizable illustrations are his illustrations of pretty women. His illustrations of women were always up to date on fashion, though he often made a point to criticize the fashion of middle class women and social climbers. In fact, most of his illustrations within the year of 1865, all woodcut engravings, were of middle class women in various situations, giving his own commentary as a social critic to their mannerisms and the expectations set for them by society. While du Maurier often depicted them in unflattering ways throughout this year run of the periodical, it was not so much a commentary on women as much as it was a satirical reflection on middle class society. It is far easier to disguise and layer the meanings of a satirical piece, however, if the characters in the narrative are beautiful and graceful and created with a delicate hand. That is why he chose to use women in many of his narrative illustrations involving the middle class; he could flatter them with his physical depiction of them while commenting on their less-than-flattering social habits and still appeal to a middle class reader.

Amber graduated from Charleston High School. She is currently a senior and plans to graduate in May with a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art. Her major is Studio Art with a minor in English. Her plans after graduation include furthering her education by attending Graduate School and eventually teaching a studio class of her own and becoming successful in the Art field. She enjoys doing research and analysis in both her major and her minor, with textual and visual analysis of texts and imagery being a large part of what she does in her spare time as well.
Gender stereotyping, female character strength, equal rights, and privilege are just a few of the critical themes that that have been used to analyze the *Harry Potter* series. While the earlier books do reflect a male centric point of view, the character is still very much a boy in search of a father. However, as the series progresses the ever growing strength of J.K. Rowling’s female characters, as well as their influence on Harry, is revealed. Rowling’s characters are not morally flat, nor relegated to gender specified moral codes, as evidenced by the relationships between parents and their children. The importance of love, influence, and choice indicates the weight of responsibility Rowling places on characters in relation to one another, particularly in the formative bonds between mothers and their children. Ultimately the most influential person to a character’s identity in the series is not based on gender, but on personal perceptions and values identification. This identification is intrinsic to the growth of the characters and serves to prove that love is strength and women are strong. Close reading of the Potter series reveals women who are wise and experienced and even though some may be feminine, it does not negate their power, nor the power of their love and influence.

*Shawna is a non-traditional student pursuing a degree in English. She is an aspiring poet and writer. She lives in Van Buren with her husband and three daughters. Her interests include hiking, camping, literature, history, and photography. She is also active in Sigma Tau Delta. The area of research she finds most interesting is the study of literature in conjunction with historical events and how they influence one another, as well as the impact of literature within popular culture.*
Undergraduate Research Symposium

The Sunflower
Presented by Bobby Cooper

Simon Wiesenthal’s book, The Sunflower, takes us through the life and times of a concentration camp prisoner who has been faced with a moral dilemma of whether or not to grant forgiveness to a dying SS soldier. Throughout the story Simon questions whether his actions of remaining silent by not giving forgiveness were the right choice. This is a decision that seems to weigh on Simon’s conscience. He allows the reader to vicariously relive part of his life and ends the book by asking, “What would you have done?” The SS soldier wanted Simon to speak on behalf of the Jewish race which would have not been something Simon could ever have been qualified to do. I agree that Simon had acted in a very respectful way by remaining silent. Forgiveness of an entire people is not an act that can come from an individual. Eva Kor is known for forgiving the Nazis on behalf of all of the Jews by which she, too, is not permitted to do. Eva says that to forgive is to live free again; however, true freedom can never be restored in the minds of the people who live with such a horrible memory. Even the Dalia Lama wrote about keeping one’s compassion in order to retain a higher sense of humanity. I don’t believe compassion can be given toward a savage people who have a beast-like agenda. These savages have turned their backs on humanity and given up any compassion within themselves. Without compassion, forgiveness cannot exist.

Bobby Cooper graduated from Greenwood High School. He aspires to enter the medical field as a pharmacist and is currently pursuing a degree in Bio-Chemistry. His interests include government, the NRA, and current events. After obtaining his pharmacy degree he plans to run for state office.
Pleasing Aesthetics in Horror Films: Making the Viewer Monstrous
Presented by Jordan A. Savage

Noel Carroll asks “if horror necessarily has something repulsive about it, how can audiences be attracted to it?” Though he is speaking to the horror genre as a whole, in the case of horror films that are aesthetically pleasing it can be answered. The viewer doesn’t notice. These films, through their pleasing aesthetics draw the viewer in, inducing a kind of numbness to the horror held within, allowing enjoyment through the aesthetics. Though these films are not perceived as being as viscerally disturbing either during the viewing or after the films close; it is because of the viewer’s reaction rather than an actuality of lack of violence or horror. These films do not bring about the same reactions because the viewer is numbed by the colors, lighting, and parallels within the films, leading them to notice less the horror hidden amidst these scenes. This brings the viewer to accept and at times embrace and enjoy the moments of horror and violence because they are surrounded by pleasant aesthetics. This forces the viewer into a position of participating in the monstrosities contained within these films rather than abhorring them; looking closer, deeper into the scene, desiring to see all the intimate details of the violence, horror, and depravity; rather than watching through half-closed eyes or from behind the gaps in their fingers as many other horror films inspire.

Jordan graduated from Charleston High School in 2008. She is pursuing a degree in English with a minor in creative writing. She plans to graduate from the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith in May 2012 and continue on to graduate school to pursue her studies in English further. Her interests include: gender studies, southern literature, feminism, and both American and Victorian literature. She loves spending time outside on sunny days and with a book and coffee on gloomy ones. Her free time is mostly spent reading, writing, or spending time with friends and family.
Room 4
Presentations in English/Rhetoric
Health Sciences Room 227

2:00 Courtney Luman
2:30 Brittany Gary
3:00 Morgan Smith
3:30 Courtney Gramlich
4:00 Amber Sneddon
4:30 Jessie Richardson
A Creative Look Inside *The Help*
Presented by Courtney Luman

When introduced to a current topic like *The Help*, readers might be eager as to what they will actually be reading, compared to the interpretations of others. What they find, however, is something completely different. They are thrown into the era of the 1960’s where women were not seen as equals to men, as most are today. The research that I have completed really can make one think about the era and the trials that women went through during the time period. I researched articles in the online database provided by the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith system, and I also looked deeply into the novel by Kathryn Stockett. I found it interesting that Stockett actually grew up in the era and in the area where the book is set in. Stockett’s family actually had maids that raised their family, just like the ones in the novel. This research certainly opened up my eyes to this particular era. I found out a lot of information pertaining to the unique lifestyles of that time and place that not only focus on racism, but gender issues as well.

*Courtney is a senior at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith this year and an English with Teacher Licensure major, with hopes of graduating Fall of 2012. She aspires of being a high school English teacher that her students can look up to. She would also like to teach at the college level or be an administrator after a life full of teaching. She enjoys going to church and teaching her 4th-6th grade girls in TeamKids on Wednesday nights. She also enjoys going to church camp as a sponsor, and hanging out with friends.*
Monsters of Society
Presented by Brittany Gary

This paper focuses on the concept of Critical Consciousness in the novel Monster written by Walter Dean Meyers. Critical Consciousness is a term coined by educational theorist Paulo Friere, and is defined as an in-depth understanding of the world and recognizing the social and political inequalities of society. This paper compares this term to what the main character of the novel is labeled as – a monster. Monsters of all kinds have become sensational entertainment in pop-culture. This paper takes a closer look as to what characteristics a monster must have in order to be deemed an outcast in society. This paper argues that all people have a choice – to retaliate or to submit to acceptable social norms. If a person chooses to retaliate against these norms, then they are deemed a “monster” of society. The main character is then compared to the monster in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Both of the main characters in these novels are products of their creators – or communities, and go through a life journey that teaches them more about their surrounding societies. They then chose whether they will abide by the rules of the dominant ideology, or rebel against them. The paper also addresses the meaning and importance of teaching this concept in a secondary classroom. The novel Monster is proposed as an exemplary novel to teach critical consciousness, with supplemental views from Mary Shelly’s Frankenstein.

Brittany is currently a senior in college and plans to graduate in December of 2012. She aspires to be a secondary teacher, and is currently working towards her Bachelor of Science in English with Teacher Licensure. Brittany’s areas of interest are teaching to low socio-economical students, and creating an atmosphere of equality for all learners to reach academic achievement. She strongly believes that writing skills and language awareness are the keys to success in all culturally diverse areas.
The narrator wins
Presented by Morgan Smith

The novel *The Great Gatsby* is a literary classic by F. Scott Fitzgerald written during the romanticized period of the 1920’s. The research presented delves into a deeper examination of the novel’s “hero”, and presents a varied analysis of the true victor. The protagonist of the story is identified as Jay Gatsby in most cases, but after the process of research the valid opposition if Nick Carraway, the narrator of the novel. The text uses the ideals of Joseph Campbell, a literary theorist, who constructed a monomyth stating the essential steps a modern day hero encounters during a literary quest. Within the essay the exploration of Nick Carraway's validity as the “protagonist” becomes an essential question in the novel, but furthermore a greater “hero” in the eyes of Joseph Campbell’s identifiable monomyth. The research sequences the steps identified in Campbell’s hero’s journey to the literary circumstances revolving around Carraway’s own transformation. The comparison established creates a distinct case valuing the significance of Carraway's hero persona in relationship to Campbell's hero's journey. However there are instances within the text that neither Carraway nor Gatsby complete the entire sequence of steps; Nick Carraway's transformation is greatly examined within the novel. In closing, the implications surrounding the research produce a completely different conversation for the audience. The text’s targeted audience is eleventh grade high school students, and the results generate a new perspective for all individuals looking for a “hero” outside of the obvious title.

Morgan Smith graduated from County Line High School. She aspires to enter a lifelong career in education and is currently pursuing a degree in English with Teacher Licensure (7-12). She plans to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in the fall of 2012. Her interests of work include providing a comfortable learning environment for high school students, while creating literary perspectives that contribute to lifelong experiences. Secondary education is a pivotal time in every teenager’s life, and Morgan hopes to make an impact. She hopes to teach 11th and 12th grade students in diverse high schools across the state of Arkansas.
The Women
Presented by Courtney Gramlich

*The Women* is a play written in 1936 by Clare Boothe Luce that displays women’s roles in society during the 30s in New York. Clare Boothe Luce expresses the invisibility of men by not physically placing a single male within the production. It includes satire of redundancy amongst wealthy wives and the idea of divorce that correlates to life of women in the 1930s on through to the 40s. The 1936 play, *The Women*, represents how women no longer view men as the center of the world. However, the 2008 film causes controversial views on how the women are looked at as catty, conniving human beings that are used to getting what they want. Women could not function individually without needing a man to give them identity. Women have always had a lower status than men. The level of the breach between the sexes varies according to their cultures and the time period. Some have argued that it is closely related to social advancement. Advancement for women differed from men during the 30s. Fresh Lipstick, by Linda Scott, argues that wearing high heels and using hair curlers does not deny you the right to seek advancement, empowerment, and equality (us.macmillan.com). In *The Women*, both the 1936 play and the 2008 film, men are clearly not significant in determining a woman’s identity. Juggling life, family, and careers shape each one of the female identities.

Courtney graduated from Alma High School. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the field of English. Her minor is Rhetoric and Writing. Upon graduation in December of 2012, she aspires to attain a position at a well established corporation. Her areas of interests are in Public Relations, Human Resources, Advertisement, Sales, and Marketing. She has hopes to begin in Advertisement and Sales to gain the experience needed to later achieve a Supervisor/Manager position in either Human Resources or Public Relations. She is also interested in writing technical documents for a company to illustrate their assets.
Autism Speaks: A Look into Mark Haddon’s Book  
Presented by Amber Sneddon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time motivated me to take a deeper look into the world of those with autism; moreover, we are constantly seeing more and more of these cases so it is important to provide a helpful awareness source. Autism now, in comparison to what many believe, is a growing population, and has several different levels. The problem here is not autism itself, but how those with autism can overcome the obstacles that they face in effects of the disability. I took the main character, Christopher Boone from The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time and the real life story of Temple Grandin as my exemplars on how these two were able to surpass the hurdles that were placed in their lives once autism was present.

While reading through the research, the central question evolved to be, “Is the world limiting those with autism or are those with autism being limited by the world.” It is important to understand that one is only as good as their resources, therefore if we are not providing them with the specific learning tools and methods then how can we ever expect them to excel. I took both Joseph Campbell and Louise Rosenblatt’s theories to help guide me through my research. One should notice by taking Campbell’s self-journey theory and Rosenblatt’s past knowledge theory that the close reading of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time reveals a unique perspective in the world of autism.

Amber Sneddon graduated from Greenwood High School in May 2008. She aspires to graduate from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith with a Minor in Rhetoric and Writing, a BA in English, and an Endorsement in Special Education. After graduation she plans on attending graduate school in the studies of Specific Disabilities, and one day accomplishing her ultimate goal when receiving her doctorate and becoming an Autism Specialist. Amber has shown her passion for those with disabilities through her unlimited amount of service in Special Olympics, the ARC, and countless hours in teaching young adults in this area.
Dark Fiction’s Place in the Secondary School Classroom: An Analysis of The Hunger Games
Presented by Jessie Richardson

This research looks at the work of Suzanne Collins, the author of The Hunger Games. The main focus is on the suitability of dark fiction in the secondary classroom. For years, violence and death in young adult literature have been condemned by various parental and religious groups. Some of the titles featured during national Banned Books week, normally held in late September/early October, make clear that students are being “shielded” from literature that deserves its place on the secondary school libraries’ bookshelves. Moreover, research proves that the classroom is an impeccable place for this type of literature. This is a compelling argument because for years, important literature has been tossed to the side, and students are missing the opportunity to learn and grow from the exposure in many capacities. The research also brings in the theoretical works of Paulo Freire, Joseph Campbell, and Louise Rosenblatt, to help prove that there is a suitable place for dark fiction in the secondary school classroom.

Jessie Richardson graduated from Alma High School in 2005. She is married to Scott Richardson and together they have two children, Gabe and Adyson. Richardson currently lives in Booneville, Arkansas. Her major is Middle Level Education with emphasis in language arts and social studies. She will graduate in December of this year. She has plans to begin graduate studies in curriculum and instruction and hopes to one day be a curriculum coordinator in a local school district.
Room 5

Presentations in English/Rhetoric

Health Sciences Room 223

2:00 Stephanie Freeman
2:30 Mary Adair
3:00 Kathryn Neal
3:30 Leslie Hassel
4:00 Jennifer Peterson
4:30 Zoe M. Smith
The Giver: Memory Making and Freedom Appreciation
Presented by Stephanie Freeman

This research focuses on a variety of theories and approaches to Lois Lowery’s The Giver. Within this research paper, topics are discussed including the importance of memory, symbolism and gender issues. A reader response approach, to issues connected with freedom and independence, is also discussed within the analysis.

The main idea and focus is upon the importance of memory within the story and how it affects the community. The protagonist, Jonas, becomes the community’s new Receiver of Memory (or memory keeper). This action catapults him to an extremely new situation.

Much of the analysis is based on the work of two literary (and educational) theorists. Within the discussion of symbolism, Barthes theory of semiotics is reviewed and adapted into the paper. Symbolism is also a large part of the story because of what the memories mean to the story. Rosenblatt’s research on Reader-Response theory is also effective in gaining an understanding of one’s cultural reactions to the text.

Students connect with the novel through their discussions of freedom and independence. Jonas lives in a utopian society, with no choices, no colors, and no independence; this sparks an interest for many students and teachers and makes students appreciate everything that they have just a bit more.

Overall, the paper’s main focus is to create an appreciation for what one has and what one could live like if our world turned to into that seemingly utopian society.

Stephanie Freeman is a senior at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Her chosen major is English with Teacher Licensure for grades 7-12. Aside from her school life she works at Elite Vision. She is also to be married June 9, 2012 to Kyle Luttrell in their hometown, Paris, Arkansas. Freeman first discovered that she wanted to be an English teacher while completing volunteer work for the National Honor Society. She worked with diverse students and realized they understood the material, but language was a barrier. She made it her life goal to show all students that there can be a connection between texts and one’s life, in order to create an interest in literature.
Meaning and Motives in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Mary Barton*

Presented by Mary Adair

In this critical analysis, I examine authorial intention as the compelling force behind Elizabeth Gaskell’s approach to organization, characterization, narration, and dialogue of her novel, *Mary Barton, A Tale of Manchester Life.* Motivated by the desires to expose the plight of the working class, an existence wrought with poverty, hunger, addiction, and deprivation, and to appeal to the upper class for empathy and understanding, Gaskell attempts to remove the barriers of communication existing as a consequence of class division, by giving voice and validation to the working class while simultaneously presenting the perspectives of the upper and middles classes through factual depiction and melodramatics. Through the lenses of Bakhtinian heteroglossia as a means of identity construction and Barthes semiotics as a manner in which to understand “self” and empathize with the “other,” I expose the text as a proposal to connect the classes across the cultural divide mainly through the concept of hunger. In addition, I justify the criticized melodramatics, disjointed organization, and seemingly haphazard characterization as collateral sacrifices in achieving the higher motives of Gaskell’s desire to better the living conditions through awareness of the working class poor.

Mary graduated from Shamrock High School in Georgia and attended Kennesaw State University before resuming her studies after 20+ years at University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. Upon graduation she would like to work for a non-profit community service organization and teach English as a Second Language to adults. She is currently pursuing a degree in English. Her research interests include world hunger, human rights, poverty, and human migration. Other interests include medical and psychological research, American Arts and Crafts architecture, Native American Indian art, and baseball. She and her husband have a blended family of nine children and six grandchildren.
Role of Religion in *Life of Pi*
Presented by Kathryn Neal

*Life of Pi* receives critical analysis and interpretation in the research paper, "The Role of Religion in the *Life of Pi*." The main character’s tri-religious beliefs play a crucial role to the success of his voyage across the sea and within his retelling of the story. Readers encounter another form of religion in the story of the tiger. Yann Martel, the author, claims that the novel will make the reader believe in God. The essay evaluates the degree to which Martel delivered on his controversial claim. Though religion features prominently in the story, the religious experiences the reader encounters may not do as he says, inspire a belief in God. However, Martel does force a choice on his audience so that no reader can leave the novel without an opinion and agnostic. Martel’s story of the tiger requires a leap of faith and a belief out of his audience as they must choose the story they prefer to believe; a story of the struggle to survive a powerful beast within a lifeboat or a too realistic tale of how far a man will go to survive. This research will explore how Martel creates his belief ultimatum and illuminates the choices through a textual analysis with a reliance on literary and educational theory to back the research’s assertions.

Kathryn Neal graduated from Garland High School in Garland, Texas in 2008. She attended Texas Women’s University before transferring to the University of Arkansas- Fort Smith. She is working toward her Bachelor of Science in English with Teaching Licensure and plans to graduate in December 2012. Kathryn hopes to return to Texas to teach English literature to high school students. Eventually she wants to return to higher education and work toward a Master’s in Information and Library Science. Her ultimate life goal is to become a school librarian and enjoy her work surrounded by her two passions, students, and novels.
As the 1960s came to an end, the Vietnam War escalated and college campuses erupted in protest of the situations in Southeast Asia. On May 4, 1970, the nation gasped as it watched US forces gun down four students at Kent State University, but many Americans remain unaware of a similar event that occurred just ten days later in Jackson, Mississippi. The Clarion-Ledger’s coverage of the 1970 shootings at Jackson State College told stories of riotous students and a turbulent barrage of activity against government forces. While headlines were designed to suggest that white editors were sympathetic to those fighting for integration, a closer look at coverage concerning the black community reflects an overall negative opinion toward African-Americans, and the Clarion-Ledger’s editorial section was a sounding board for this type of commentary. The newspaper used editorials written by Mississippi residents and newspaper columnists to propagate a common, racist view and consequently influence public opinion of the shootings and the surrounding events. The Clarion-Ledger is widely known for its racially prejudiced tone during and prior to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, but analysis of the newspaper’s editorial section reveals racist reports as late as the 1970. Pressure from national media outlets forced regional newspapers to reduce the amounts of racist news coverage published in their pages, but editorials, by design, provide a natural line of protection for the opinions of newspaper’s editors, thus the editorial section becomes a personal outlet for those in control of the publication.

Leslie Hassel is a senior English major from Dover, Arkansas, and will be graduating from UAFS in spring 2012. She will attend graduate school beginning in the fall and will pursue degrees in Southern Studies or American Studies. Her research interests include media coverage of race relations in the American South, particularly during the 1960s. Leslie’s hobbies include playing music and documentary film studies.
Ability Grouping at Hogwarts: The Sorting Hat as Cultural Gatekeeper
Presented by Jennifer Peterson

Ability grouping, or tracking, in public schools is a wide-spread phenomenon that generates controversy whenever it is implemented or removed. Educators are divided on the issue, but parents are more predictable; parents of students in upper level ability groupings are avid proponents while parents of students on lower tracks generally are opponents of such tracking. Grouping is so ubiquitous that it has made its way into pop culture through J.K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter* series. Rowling’s sorting hat acts as the gatekeeper to culture at Hogwarts as well as final arbiter of ability grouping. Rowling demonstrates grouping in a subtle yet effective way; while the students are aware they are grouped, they are oblivious to the fact that they are also ranked. This system influences student outcomes and limits student growth potential. An alternative grouping system with a focus on personality traits and development is more advantageous to students than the current system of academic ability grouping.

Jennifer Peterson graduated from Quest Alternative Education in Fremont, Michigan. When she completes her English with teacher licensure degree, she plans to teach alternative education; however, she loves college so much that she would like to obtain a master’s degree before entering the work force. Her research interests lead her far astray from the assignment she means to complete, which often results in last minute, late night writing sessions. She is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, an avid roller derby enthusiast, and plays board games in her spare time.
Feeling Good About *The Help*
Presented by Zoe M. Smith

The award-winning film adaptation of Kathryn Stockett’s novel *The Help* depicts the divergent voices between the hired “help” and white society of 1960s Jackson, Mississippi. We learn about white Jacksonians’ prejudiced views towards blacks through both races, revealed by the three narrators of the book. Whether or not the two races are fully or even truthfully represented seems to matter little to reading enthusiasts and movie-goers alike. Distorting history’s not-so-great moments, like the treatment of blacks in 1960s Jackson, is hardly a new concept in literature depicting the South; however, it is a dangerous illusion of a past that did not exist. Critics say that Stockett is guilty of misrepresenting history. While this may be true, it is even more interesting to study her story as one based on nostalgia. Relying on a perceived history, Stockett presents her story of a historic past in a postmodern culture that is too far-removed from 1960s Jackson to know the difference. The danger of this lies in the fact that we cannot predict how others will interpret literature, let alone future generations.

*Zoe Smith, originally from Princeton, New Jersey, has a BA in English from Western State College of Gunnison, Colorado. She is a non-traditional student currently pursuing a teaching degree in secondary English. She aspires to become an English teacher in a secondary school in the Fort Smith area. Her professional experience includes seven years working for advertising agencies in Arkansas and Louisiana as well as working as a freelance copywriter for various clients. Smith resides in Fort Smith with her husband and two young sons. Her research interests include current trends in young adult literature and integrating technology into the English curriculum.*
Room 6

Presentations in History/Psychology/Humanities

Health Sciences Room 321

2:00  Johannah Hendrex
2:30  Heather McBride
3:00  Colby Garr
3:30  Lauren Patton
4:00  Danielle Stine (Group Presentation)
4:30  Trevor Stewart (Group Presentation)
The Generational Impact of Racism
Presented by Johannah Hendrex

Black history is an important part of Americans today; however, what do Americans really know about it? Although the topic may be included in a high school curriculum, facts do not reveal the emotional impact it had years ago or the unconscious impact it still has today. Toni Morrison called this “national amnesia” because America does not want to remember—or relive—such a terrible travesty of justice. The best way to learn is through experience which is what literature brings forth to readers. This project brings African American history back to life by analyzing the reoccurring patterns and symbols through text and demonstrating the generational impact of racial discrimination through these three works: Beloved by Toni Morrison, Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston, and Rachel by Angelina Weld Grimke. These three major works are set in different time periods, yet the characters still struggle with the same ideas; the symbols also remain the same; and—legal or not—whites still possessed an “ownership” mentality which kept African Americans in a state of fear, causing a sense of hopelessness within black communities.

Johannah Hendrex is a 2007 graduate from Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. Johannah has attended the University of Arkansas—Fort Smith the last four years and will graduate December 2012 with a BA in English and minor in history. Johannah played four years of collegiate golf for the Lady Lions and plans to get her master’s degree in sports administration. Johannah has a passion for athletics and aspires to work with student athletes of all ages.
Prelude to War: Bleeding Kansas
Presented by Heather McBride

The period in American history known as Bleeding Kansas had a profound impact on our growing nation. It encompassed the years of 1854 through the beginning of 1861, when Kansas was admitted into the Union. The events that occurred in Kansas Territory during this time offered a frightening glimpse as to what was in store for the United States. Political and social unrest created a great amount of tension across the country between abolitionist and pro-slavery factions. Americans were witness to election fraud, murder, and military style attacks on Kansas towns. Bleeding Kansas is historically significant because it was a prelude to the Civil War. It is no coincidence that the Civil War began shortly after these events took place. Research for this topic relies primarily upon primary sources including newspaper articles, speeches by prominent figures of the time, Kansas state constitutions, Supreme Court decisions and correspondence between ordinary people. Newspaper articles and personal correspondence are particularly important to this topic because they offer insight as to what people were thinking and how they were reacting to events as they were happening.

Heather graduated from Greenwood High School in 2005. She graduates with a bachelor’s degree in history this May. She plans on attending graduate school to pursue a master’s degree in history. Her research interests include military and United States political history. She aspires to work with historical sites and museums. Her ultimate goal is to work for the Smithsonian Institute.
The 1985 Van Buren Main Street Calamity
Presented by Colby Garr

Efficient and safe transportation of goods plays a crucial role in the well being of the U.S. economy. Presently, carrier truckers haul over fifty-nine percent of the tonnage of goods shipped within the U.S. Events and transformations that involve trucking greatly affect U.S. communities. When road geography changes and when the laws governing travel and transportation of goods change, these changes have significant impacts on individuals and on society. On June 21, 1985 an event occurred in downtown Van Buren, Arkansas, which changed the life of the town and served as a catalyst for the formation and implementation of new local, state, and federal safety regulations concerning the trucking industry. While navigating down the steep decline on State Route 59 in Van Buren, the driver of a tractor semi-trailer lost control and demolished a station wagon before coming to a complete stop inside a storefront. This accident took the lives of nine people and destroyed three historical buildings. This was one of many similar transportation violations that occurred in Van Buren between 1982 and 1985 but was the only one that ended catastrophically. Many factors led to this tragic event including federal and state transportation policies, physics, geography and economics. The purpose of this paper is to examine the events and factors that led to the accident, the affects it had on the community of Van Buren, the geographic and political changes that were influenced by it, and how it affected change in local, state, and federal policies governing trucking.

Colby was born in Fort Smith and graduated from Van Buren High School. He has lived in various cities across the U.S. but currently resides in Van Buren with his wife Rhea. His work has ranged from manual labor to management and from the medical field to substitute teaching. He is an ordained minister and certified spiritual counselor. He performs ministry duties such as counseling, officiating weddings, leading workshops and study groups, and other services pro bono on a regular basis. He is pursuing a degree in secondary education with social studies licensure. His research interests include: local history, landscape morphology, and historical geography.
Young Children’s Working Memory Across Different Age Groups
Presented by Lauren Patton

The nature of this study is to understand how children develop cognitively from ages 3-5 by measuring and comparing children’s working memory during the age groups of threes and younger fours and older fours and fives using a memory span test. Working memory holds information in an easily accessible form that acts as a temporary storage. For this experiment, working memory is defined as the ability of participants to successfully recall a list of items in the correct sequence immediately (within three seconds) after the list is read aloud to them. Twenty-six children were recruited from a preschool located in Fort Smith, AR to participate in the memory span test. Results showed that during the age group of threes and younger fours, working memory was an average of 3.69 and for the age group of older fours and fives, working memory was an average of 3.77. For all twenty-six children, the average working memory was 3.73. Because there was not a significant difference between the working memories of the different age groups, this suggests that working memory develops gradually. Moreover, because the average adult has a working memory of 7 (plus or minus 2) these results indicate that the mental capacities needed for working memory have not yet fully developed between the ages of three and five.

Lauren Patton graduated from Southside High School in Fort Smith, Arkansas and is currently majoring in psychology. Because of her love of working with children, Lauren aspires to become a school counselor or a child psychologist. Her work with children has led her research interests to include child development. Wanting to pursue a master’s degree in psychology and then a doctorate degree in research, Lauren hopes that one day her research with children will continue.
Dynamics of Personal Relationships, Attitudes, and Substance Use for Posttraumatic Stress
Presented by Kellie Franklin

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) affects many Americans and is a growing concern for military personnel returning from the Middle East, as well as with civilians who have experienced traumatic events. The purpose of the present study is to better understand how individuals cope with stress and PTSD symptoms. The research is survey based, and we considered such variables as demographics, substance and alcohol use, personal relationships, attitudes, and a PTSD checklist to evaluate symptom severity. The sample included in the present study is more diverse than has been found in previous research, and includes multiple ethnicities, both genders, and both civilians and those with military experience. The findings examining the relationship between these various background variables and responses on the PTSD checklist will be summarized and discussed. Understanding the matrix of variables and their relationships to PTSD symptoms can assist in developing more effective forms of treatment, as well as assist in combating against certain stigmas for seeking professional help for symptoms.

Kellie graduated from Southside in 2004 and immediately went into the Marine Corps. After the service, Kellie began college and found an interest in psychology. She is graduating with her bachelor’s degree in psychology at the end of the present semester. Her research interests are trauma studies, such as posttraumatic stress disorder, as well as depression and anxiety. She aspires to earn a doctorate in clinical psychology with the intent to counsel military personnel, veterans, and their families.
New Technologies for Viewing Beethoven’s Residences in Vienna
Presented by Trevor Stewart and Kirsten Binns

More than forty years ago Kurt Smolle documented all of the known Beethoven residences in Vienna [Wohnstätten Ludwig van Beethovens von 1792 bis zu seinem Tod]. Since then, other Beethoven residences have been re-discovered and his landmark study is now out of date. Smolle’s book appeared at a time when photographic plates were very costly to publish (1970), so he included only a small number of photos of Beethoven’s residences.

With the rise in technology and improvements in photography, it is now possible to present all of the surviving Beethoven residences in full color using PowerPoint, and to create new overviews of these places using Google Maps and “slider image” technology.

We have plotted locations of Beethoven’s residences on Google maps of today’s Vienna and developed travel directions (by U-Bahn, S-Bahn and Tram) for student photographers to use in a Maymester travel course next year to help photograph these locations. We are also identifying Beethoven’s residences on antique maps of Vienna provided by the Austrian State Map Library and using “Image slider” technology to reveal differences between Vienna now and then.

Our eventual goal is to have a complete PowerPoint of Beethoven’s known residences in and around Vienna—with commentary and supplementary technologies. Hopefully, this will enhance our understanding of how the changes in Vienna over the past two hundred years have affected our perceptions of Beethoven today. We plan to present this completed PowerPoint to a group of learned music scholars in the future.

Trevor is a graduate of Alma High School. He has been studying and performing music, primarily the clarinet, for eleven years. After completing his degree at UAFS, he plans to pursue a master and doctorate in clarinet performance and pedagogy. He plans to become a professor of clarinet, as well as perform and teach worldwide. Trevor’s research revolves around clarinet, music history, music theory, instrumental and vocal pedagogy, and behavioral sciences relating to music. He has performed in the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, Conway Symphony Orchestra, World Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Honor Band of America. In addition, he has represented UAFS as Principal Clarinetist in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Band for two consecutive years.

Kirsten is currently seeking a Bachelor’s in Music Education and plans to graduate spring, 2014. She is a soprano in both the UAFS Chorale and Women’s Chorus under the direction of Dr. Rager Moore II; her private voice instructor is Dr. Elizabeth Momand. She was part of Arkansas’s first inaugural intercollegiate chorale under the direction of clinician Dr. Matthew Ferrell from St. Cloud State University. She will be traveling with the Cavanal Chorale of Poteau, OK to NYC to perform at Lincoln Center later this year. Kirsten plans to attend graduate school and pursue a master’s in vocal performance and a degree in conducting. She is excited about her involvement in the Beethoven project and wants to instill in her future students a life-long appreciation of great music.
Room 7
Presentations in IT/Animation Technology
Health Sciences Room 318

2:00  Arthur Didion
2:30  Kefah Daas
3:00  Tom Townsend (Group Presentation)
3:30  Terry Holman
4:00  Ryan Samo (Group Presentation)
4:30  Aaron St. Amant (Group Presentation)
Fluid Management
Presented by Arthur Didion

There are many layers of consideration, in the production and machining of parts. One of the most neglected costs in manufacturing, as it pertains to machining operations, are those of fluid products. Fluid products are used as coolants, lubricants, dust suppressors, temperature stabilizers, chips and sludge removers, and in a post manufacturing process, protector-ants. The diversity of their applications is as varied as the material products they are used on. Wasted fluids products can’t simply be flushed down the drain after they’re spent, there is a one to one corresponding waste treatment cost associated with every gallon of fluid product used, doubling the over-head cost. I believe fluid product activities are a significant cost factor that can be systematized and managed, not as over-head, but as a production process. This can be accomplished by defining significant objects that characterized the fluid environment and organizing these objects as data stored in a database to be used in the collection of process fluid data that will be used to quantify the fluid state and control the fluid environment to decrease fluid product cost and increase production

Arthur graduated from Hendrix college, (B.A. Theoretical Mathematics), Rolla (B.S. Metallurgical Engineering), Air Staff Command College (Masters in Military Science), Retired from the Air National Guard as LTC, Commander of the Civil Engineer Squadron, acquiring 160 credit hours in Electronic Warfare. Currently, Mr. Didion aspires to becoming a Computer Programmer and is studying at the University of Arkansas. Arthur has work at North American Foundry (Machinist/Pattern Maker), Dana Corp (Plant Metallurgist/Technology Specialist/Quality Manager), and Boeing Aircraft as an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle pilot.
Introduction to Data Mining
Presented by Kefah Daas

Data mining, the extraction of hidden predictive information from large databases, is a powerful new technology with great potential to help institutions focus on the most important information in their data warehouses. Data mining tools predict future trends and behaviors, allowing institutions to make proactive, knowledge-driven decisions. Tools used in data mining can answer business questions that traditionally needed long time to be answered. They scour databases for hidden patterns, finding predictive information that experts may miss because it lies outside their expectations.

In recent years, there has been increasing interest in the use of data mining to investigate scientific questions within educational research, an area of inquiry termed educational data mining. Data mining and predictive analytics are rapidly gaining acceptance and use in the applied public safety, security, and intelligence setting given their ability to process large data sets and identify actionable patterns and trends. This paper provides an introduction to the basic technologies of data mining. Examples of profitable applications illustrate its relevance to today's business environment.

Kefah Daas is a student in the Information Technology Department of the STEM college. Growing up in Syria, she graduated from Damascus High School. Kefah attended the Human Sciences College in Damascus and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in English language and Literature at the University of Damascus. She moved to Jordan with her family, and joined an educational institution as an administrator. She traveled to the USA in 2002, and entered the IT program in 2006. She enjoys working as a part of a research organization. She believes that research can make a positive difference in the lives of people all over the world.
Demonstration of a Private Cloud Computing Infrastructure
Presented by Tom Townsend, Kenneth Efurd, Jamie Jackson, John Stewart Jr., Keith Frasher, Craig Geren, and Eddie Teague

There are many definitions for Cloud Computing, but all agree on one basic idea — Cloud Computing is access to a convenient, reliable, shared pool of computational resources (Processing, Memory, Disk Space, and Networking). For an end-user, a Cloud Infrastructure provides reliable access to the data they need, and users don’t necessarily know or care where it comes from, how it is stored, or how it is delivered to their desktop. For many IT professionals, Cloud Computing is an Internet resource — a cloud infrastructure is built and leased to them by a third party to host their applications, databases, etc. However, with current virtualization tools a company can host virtual desktops in a company operated private cloud that can either be integrated with Internet resources, or in the case of our demonstration, completely isolated from the outside world, yet still provide a Windows 7 desktop for end users. Our team will showcase a VMWare View Virtual Desktop Infrastructure that utilizes cutting-edge virtualization and Windows Server technology. Our team collaborated with AOG (Arkansas Oil and Gas), who supported us with technology, work space and technologists. Our work has ensured that AOG will realize the best performance with the lowest possible cost of ownership for their infrastructure and end-user computing needs.

Tom graduated from Alma High School in 1984 and returned to college at UAFS in 2006. He has worked at Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corp for the past 10 years and is their Systems Administrator. Tom is a Microsoft Certified Network Administrator, and is studying for his VMWare Certified Professional certification. His research interests include Virtualization Technology and Network Administration. Tom will graduate UAFS in May 2012.

Kenneth graduated from Van Buren High School in 1998 and returned to college at UAFS in 2008. He has worked at QualServ Corporation for the past two years. He has experience as a system administrator with responsibilities including but definitely not limited to e-commerce, backups using EMC Networker, website design, domain administration, user support, virtualization using VMWare VCenter with ESXi hosts, and many other functions. Kenneth will graduate UAFS in May 2012.

Jamie graduated from Cedarville High School in 2003. He has been continuing his education at UAFS. He has worked for Wal-Mart for the past seven years while attending college. His research interests include Network Administration and Mobile Technology. Jamie is seeking employment in the IT field by the end of the semester. He will graduate UAFS in May 2012.

John graduated from Greenwood High School in 2003 and started college at UAFS in 2003. He started working at Beall, Barclay & Co, PLC in 2011 and is working towards becoming a Systems Administrator there. He is currently working towards his Microsoft Certification to further his education. John currently will graduate UAFS in May 2012 with a bachelor’s in IT – Networking.

Keith graduated from Hartford High School in 1997 and has been attending UAFS off and on ever since. In 2007 he changed the emphasis of his education to IT and has been going straight through ever since. Keith has been employed by Baldor Electric Company in Ft. Smith as an Operations Analyst for over a year and will receive his bachelor’s in BS-IT: Database Management in May 2012.
The Young Actors Guild is the only non-profit youth theatre in Fort Smith, and with a sixty year history of providing this community enhancement, they are the oldest youth theatre in Arkansas. Producing at least three musicals each year is a demanding and rewarding endeavor for the one part time employee and Board of Directors. The existing web site for the Young Actors Guild was not functioning as designed, and did not meet the needs of this community asset. Our new website design allows for Facebook and Twitter integration, to enhance the social networking possibilities for the Young Actors Guild members, as well as providing for online ticket purchases and donations using PayPal. The ability to leverage social networking will drastically improve the available communications processes. Being able to sell tickets online, and receive donations as well will help to meet the financial requirements for the group, allowing greater concentration on providing this priceless experience for the theatrically inclined youth of the area. By designing the site with the intention of minimizing maintenance requirements, and maximizing ease of updating we have leveraged modern web design to reduce the amount of time and effort required to keep the web site functioning and up to date.

Terry Holman graduated from Wilburton High School. He served twelve years in the United States Navy attaining the rank of Nuclear Machinist Mate First Class (Submarine Service) before being honorably discharged for medical reasons. Terry owes his success to the support of his wife Vicki and his daughter Kyann, the sacrifices they have made have allowed him to fulfill his dream of returning to college. Terry plans to graduate in April with a B.S. in Information Technology (Programming) and transition from UAFS to the University of Tulsa for his master’s degree in computer science.
Student/faculty interaction at UAFS is not just restricted to the classroom, but also has critical importance outside the classroom through faculty mentoring and advising of students. Currently, the manual methods of scheduling for a faculty advising appointment are inefficient and often confusing to both the student and the advisor. The student must physically go to their advisor’s office and sign up for an advising time. This manual method is also difficult to maintain. Students may want to change their appointments or an adviser may need to change their schedule for advising. Therefore, creating an automated method for scheduling meetings between students and advisors will provide a number of positive effects as well as bringing an outdated process into the information age. After modeling the faculty advising process, we designed a method that is designed to produce an on-line, automated scheduling application capable of facilitating an improved advising experience for UAFS students and their faculty advisors.

The proposed advising signup application could directly take the place of the paper system by being integrated into the existing UAFS LionsLink website. Since the entire student body uses LionsLink, the application will be readily accessible to any authorized student, allowing for meetings to be scheduled between students and advisers as well as support future automation possibilities.

Ryan graduated from Greenwood High School in 2001. Upon graduation, he decided to study the field of Automotive Collision Repair and Refinish Technology at Universal Technical Institute before becoming a student at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. After working in the automotive field for a number of years, he decided to pursue a career in the computer sciences. Ryan is currently obtaining a bachelor’s degree in Information Technology with an emphasis on Database Management and is planning on joining the workforce as a Systems Analyst for Data-Tronics, a local Fort Smith company in June.

Kefah is a student of IT in the STEM College. Growing up in Syria, she graduated from Damascus High School. Kefah attended the Human Sciences College in Damascus and awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in English language and Literature at the University of Damascus. She moved to Jordan with her family, and joined an educational institute to serve as an administrator. She traveled to the USA in 2002, and entered the STEM College in 2006. She enjoys working as a part of a research organization. She believes that research can make a positive difference in the lives of people all over the world.

Zach graduated from Greenwood High School in 2000. He enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served overseas until 2004. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Operation Enduring Freedom. Zach entered college in 2005 as a freshman at University of Texas at San Antonio and transferred to the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith in 2006. As a nontraditional student Zach took courses part time and graduated with an Associates of Applied Science Information Technology in May 2010. Zach returned to university after a year off to finish his Bachelors and will graduate in May 2012. He aspires to enter the software development field specifically in the video gaming industry.

Brinda graduated from Charleston High School in 2008 and will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology in Database Management and a minor in Business Administration in 2012. She will continue her education by attending graduate school. She aspires to enter into the management information systems or the computer science program. Her research interests include databases, disaster recovery planning, human computer interaction, data mining, and information technology in businesses. She plans to work in an information technology or business environment. She hopes to become a database designer/developer, database consultant, or a database administrator in her future career.

Justin graduated from Mena High School in Mena, Arkansas in 2002. He began college pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was then deployed to Iraq with the Arkansas National Guard and when he returned he continued studies pursuing Mechanical Engineering. After working for a few years during a break in college, he reentered college but changed majors to Information Technology – Programming. His research interests include researching and becoming proficient in new programming languages. He is also interested in learning new techniques for designing and developing programs. Another interest is learning networking procedures and protocols, as well as the implementation, design, maintenance and troubleshooting of computer networks.
Fort Smith 1817: Reconstruction Feasibility Study
Presented by Aaron St. Amant, Justin Fuchs, and Johnny Leroy Kimmons

This project is a case study that examined historical data and archaeological findings to determine whether there is sufficient architectural data to perform an accurate reconstruction of the first Fort Smith, built at Belle Point in 1817 by William Bradford and his troops. Very little information about the first fort is known for sure, and the data and historical documents that are available are subject to various interpretations. In an effort to gain an understanding of the construction methods and materials that were used during the early 1800’s, the research team visited a 1930’s reconstruction of Fort Gibson in Oklahoma. The various types of log construction methods used during that era were also studied so that a decision could be reached as to what type of log construction might have been used to construct the fort. Also, the archaeological remains of the Belle Pointe site were carefully measured and recorded for comparison to historical plans for construction of the fort. It was discovered that reconstruction of historical structures on historical locations requires approval from the National Park Service. The Park Service has established a set of criteria that must be met be a historic reconstruction can be permitted. Historical data was evaluated and it was determined that a historically accurate reconstruction of the original fort would not be possible with the data available at the time of the report. However, the research team used 3D modeling software to reconstruct the fort using the best available data gathered during the research project. A corner section was also built using actual materials and joining methods like similar to those used in the 1800’s. It was also determined that if new data or information were to surface that would permit an accurate reconstruction, it would likely boost tourism and increase awareness of the cities long history and humble beginnings.

Aaron graduated from Muldrow High School in 1992 then shortly after he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where he was trained as a combat soldier and as an electronics technician. Aaron now lives in Fort Smith with his wife, son and two daughters where he works for MAHG Architecture and attends Harvest Time church. He has worked as a Civil Engineering Design and Architectural Design technician for nearly fifteen years, and is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Animation Technology and a minor in Studio Art. Aaron is an avid outdoorsman who canoes, kayaks, and hikes much of the Arkansas highlands. His other interests include Art, Music, Photography and Humanitarian service.

Justin Fuchs was born in Fort Smith, but raised in Greenwood, Arkansas. He attended the Greenwood school system. Growing up, Justin could be found playing outside because of his love for the outdoors and sports. In high school, he played baseball, basketball, and football. During his senior year, Justin earned a baseball scholarship where he played one year at Carl Albert State College. He then transferred to the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith to finish his collegiate eligibility. During college, Justin has studied many different subjects, but finally found something that he enjoys, CADD – architecture. He graduates this spring. Justin is currently doing an internship at Carryington Creek Homes.

Johnny Leroy Kimmons goes by his middle name – Leroy. Both names come from his grandfathers (His mother’s dad – Johnny Beam and His father’s dad – Leroy Kimmons). Leroy was raised at Sebastian Lake near Hackett, Arkansas. Hackett Elementary through high school is where he was educated. Leroy then entered college at UAFS, working to obtain a degree in CADD-architecture. Leroy played football, baseball, bowling, and raced Motocross throughout his childhood. He started working at the age of 12 as a rock laborer for his Dad (Elmo Kimmons). To this day, Leroy still works with his Dad as a rack mason and foreman.
Room 8

Presentations in Business/English

Health Sciences Room 124

2:00  Ryan Napier (Group Presentation)
2:30  Shayna Gatzke (Group Presentation)
3:00  Leslie Morris (Group Presentation)
3:30  Travis Schluterman (Group Presentation)
4:00  Brock Peters (Group Presentation)
4:30  Jerry Wing
We’re All in This Together: The Coordination Game
Presented by Ryan Napier and Candice Jones

Coordination games are games that show a group that working as a team or in coordination will benefit the group, whereas working alone will cost the entire group. In our game, participants simultaneously chose an amount between $1.10 and $1.70, which represents the amount of effort the individual provides as well as the potential payoff. As the individuals chose a higher level of effort, then they incurred higher costs. If both members of the group chose the same amount, their payoffs would be the same. If members of the group chose differing amounts, they received the lesser amount chosen. Therefore, the player who chose a higher effort would receive the lower payout minus their higher effort cost. Throughout the game, we observe to see if the participants will “race to the bottom” with decreasing effort, or “rise to the top” with increasing effort. We examine patterns and correlations as to the way the participants choose their effort level and their responses to the decisions of others, such as “will participants who have engaged in traditional team sports or a similar competitive group have different expectations of their community members than those who have not?” Do individuals that seek a higher level of education willing to exert more effort than those who just wish to “skate by”?

Ryan graduated from Greenwood High School, and is currently pursuing a degree in business administration. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America and participated in the Razorback Marching Band at UA Fayetteville, performing at the Liberty Bowl in 2010 and the Allstate Sugar Bowl in 2011.

Candice graduated from Southside High School. She aspires to one day be the first in her family with a college degree. She is currently pursuing a marketing degree with ambitions to one day attend graduate school in Dallas, Texas where she wants to study Sports and Entertainment Management. Candice will stop at nothing less than achieving her goals and hopes to one day make a difference in the world.
Are We as Rational As We Think? Rationality versus Equity Preferences as Motivation for Player Behavior in the Ultimatum Game
Presented by Shayna Gatzke and Ethan Coker

The Ultimatum Game, in which two players, one proposer and one responder, divide an amount of “free” money between them and should end in a Nash equilibrium in which the proposer demands \((m-1)\) and the responder accepts 1, where \(m\) equals the amount to be divided. This outcome is a result of the fact that the responder’s only response is “accept” or “reject”, so to accept anything above zero is in the responder’s best interest because he cannot do any better than the offer. We played the game with three economics principles classes to determine how quickly, if at all, the players reached Nash. Then, we changed the game so that the responder had the option to reject and counter offer, which should simply reverse the Nash payoffs for the two players. Within both variations, we also varied pie sizes and random versus fixed opponents to determine whether those variations impacted the rate at which players reached Nash. We then compared the results to results about players’ perceptions of fairness. While the results of the game seem to disprove the economic theory that people behave rationally, that is, that people behave in their own self-interest, when compared to the results about players’ perceptions of fairness there was a strong correlation between the game results and players’ perceptions that the game was played fairly.

Shayna is a student in the College of Business and a sole proprietor in ChiChiBabies Chihuahuas, in business for over a decade raising Chihuahuas and placing them in homes worldwide. She lives in Greenwood with her husband and two sons, ages 13 and 16. Shayna will graduate with a degree in Business Administration in the spring of 2013. Her research interests include topics related to savings rates, GDP growth, currency stability, and international trade. Among her hobbies are reading, karaoke, and travel. After graduation, she plans to pursue a graduate degree in Economics and teach Economics at a post-secondary level.

Ethan is a graduate of Northside High School and a Business Administration major. He plans to pursue a career in management in a large metropolitan area and seek a graduate degree in game design. Ethan has worked in retail, food-service, manufacturing, and machining. His skills include CNC programming and brazing, as well as computer skills such as Microsoft Office. He is currently employing his skills in IT to create a website for the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith chapter of Phi-Beta Lambda. He has entered into the state PBL competition in Little Rock.
Investment Game: Are Women More Likely Than Men to Go “All In”
Presented by Leslie Morris and William Curran

Women are more inclined than men to wear seatbelts, avoid smoking cigarettes, brush and floss their teeth and get their blood pressure checked. Are women also more likely than men to play it safe with their investments? This paper explores the differences of how young men and women in an entry level economics class view risk. Participants are given a variety of choices involving risk similar to the risk involved in investments. By varying the expected rate of return on the outcomes, participants indicate their level of risk aversion. Their levels vary based on whether they were hoping to receive a safe return or willing to take a more risky return. Various articles have found that women are more risk averse than their male counterpart. We are interested to see if this phenomenon holds true for college students. We examined the participant’s decisions to see what each gender is likely to do in an investment situation while having the skills, experiences and motives of college students. Also we examined if a working experience of these people changed the dynamics of their decisions. If holding a job and having some sort of real life experience managing money made a difference in the decisions they made concerning the level of risk they were willing to take.

Leslie graduated from Southside High School. She is currently pursuing a degree in Marketing and plans to graduate this spring. After graduation, Leslie plans to attend the University of Arkansas and pursue her master’s degree. Leslie’s research interests are non-profit organizations’ effects on business, international marketing, and ethical responsibility of business owners. Her long term goals include opening a marketing firm and assist local small business owners.

William Curran graduated from Van Buren High School and is currently seeking a degree in Business Administration and plans to graduate spring 2012. Over his college career he has had two internships one with Sam’s Club and the other with the Van Buren Chamber of Commerce and is a member of PBL. He plans to continue his education by obtaining a MBA and a Master’s of Science - Finance. His research interests are in the field of global finance, risk mitigation and investment theories.
Reigning Rational Self-Interest in Public Goods Game: The Rejection of Voluntary Altruism
Presented by Travis Schluterman and Naomi Showl

According to World Giving Index 2011 by the Charities Aid Foundation, America ranks as the most giving nation in the world. Why is America the most generous in the world? We examine this question specifically focusing on social conditioning. The fact a capitalistic society such as America tends to be the most generous in the world is puzzling because providing public goods is a well-known market failure due to free-riding, or the inability to exclude people from benefiting who did not contribute. This poses the question; can we produce public goods with individuals voluntarily contributing to the good? In utilizing multiple setups, we attempt to analyze whether participants will voluntarily contribute to the public goods. In the first setup, participants of the game are given the option to contribute at a personal cost, knowing it will ultimately benefit the community as a whole if they choose to do so. Members are also aware there is no consequence from other participants for not contributing. Results can be dependent on what the participants value; the welfare of the individual or that of the whole. The second setup introduced punishment by other participants to encourage participation. We examine whether our participants continue to display this charitable giving or reject this idea of voluntary altruism.

Travis graduated from Paris High School in May of 2002. He then worked and managed a Radio Shack store for almost nine years until unfortunately the business closed. He has been enrolled and taking class at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith since the fall of 2002 and is working on a Bachelor of Business Administration. He has recently started a new career at Arvest Bank as a Financial Sales Representative. He plans to graduate in the fall of 2012 and continue on in the Business world.

The events in the life of Naomi Showl mark that of determined and optimistic individual. She is the daughter of Helen Holes and Peter Showl, a German-Jewish refugee who lived underground in Berlin during Hitler’s reign in WWII. Born the eleventh child of twelve, on March 26, 1987 in Fort Smith, Arkansas, she was raised from birth in Mountainburg, Arkansas. At sixteen she gave birth to a baby boy, Santiago Julian Showl, who remains to this day a monumental source of inspiration for his mother. After obtaining her GED she went on to acquire her degree at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith.
Two Guys Walk into an Airport...The Traveler’s Dilemma at a Glance
Presented by Brock Peters and Bradley Morris

Sounds like the beginning of a bad joke, but actually is a famous economic game theory. The Traveler’s Dilemma, introduced by Kaushik Basu (1994), examines two persons placing individual claims on identical luggage lost in an airport. They are given an opportunity to place a claim on their perceived value of the luggage. The lowest claim will be the compensation amount and that claimer is awarded a set bonus amount. The other person will also receive compensation of the same price, except he will be penalized a set amount. Both claimers will have to be mindful of the other’s choices as it may affect their outcome. Our study examines the effects the Nash Equilibrium has on the subjects and what they believe to be rational thinking. The possibility of collusion may be present here as subjects enjoyed the idea of a larger financial amount despite being paid equivalently. Despite the initial hypotheses from the experimenters, subjects’ results with increased competition lead to lower bids. We also studied the effects of changing the perceived prices by a multiple of 100 and the deviations from Nash Equilibrium. Another finding focuses on the award/penalty ratios and the subject’s behavior in relation to the Nash Equilibrium.

Brock Peters graduated from Alma High School in 2006. He is currently finishing up his senior year at the University of Arkansas- Fort Smith. He is pursuing his degree in Business Administration and hoping to follow up in the Business field after graduation. His interests include any outdoor activities ranging from mountain biking to recreational boating. He also enjoys basketball, golf, tennis and football. He is currently employed at Perspectives Behavioral Health and is a certified Mental Health Paraprofessional.

Bradley Morris is a current student here at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith campus, who will be graduating with a degree in Business Administration this spring. Bradley keeps a close relationship with his friends whom he spends most of his free time with. He enjoys having a highly active lifestyle, ranging from playing sports to just simply being outdoors. Bradley hopes this lifestyle will help him pursue a future as an entrepreneur.
Forgiveness of Unimaginable Wrong
Presented by Jerry Wing

The concept of forgiveness is important because forgiveness is a part of each person’s moral code. Whether they acknowledge it or not, every person on this planet has some sense of what is right and what is wrong. This sense, or moral code, is a fundamental part of what it is to be human. All of the decisions that we make are a response to this moral code. Many people go through life without defining for themselves their moral code; they leave it up to whatever political or religious institutions with which they align themselves. While the ideas expressed in my paper may conform to those of a particular religion, they are not born of a blind acceptance of doctrine, but are rather the results of critical examination.

In “Forgiveness of Unimaginable Wrong,” I have tried to clearly define my views of forgiveness, as a response to the book, The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness by Simon Wiesenthal. For the assignment, originally given my Freshman English II class, I had to attempt to answer Wiesenthal’s question at the end of the book: “What would you have done?” I was also required to include two responses from other writers, one that I agreed with, and one that I disagreed with. This paper has done far more for me than simply earn a decent grade on a class assignment. In the end, “Forgiveness of Unimaginable Wrong” has clarified my own views on forgiveness for myself, and has given me a deeper insight on how I should live in the world around me.

Jerry Wing is a freshman at University of Arkansas- Fort Smith. He was homeschooled for most of his school experience. His academic passion is history. The areas of history that Jerry is most fascinated with currently are ancient Greek and Roman history, as well as the history of the first half of the twentieth century. Jerry has not yet decided what he wants to do after college, but he is currently employed at Lifeway Christian Stores as a sales associate. Jerry is the son of Tom and Renee Wing. He has three brothers, and two dogs that think they are his brothers.
Room 9
Presentations in Media/Music/CAB
Political Science
Health Sciences Room 116

2:00  DeAnne Lee
2:30  Brian Bailey
3:00  Katherine Garcia (Group Presentation)
3:30  Paula Johnson
4:00  Christopher Arnold
4:30  Kevin Tran
Don’t Learn It, Look It Up?
Presented by DeAnne Lee

The Internet has changed everything. Technological advances continue to change and grow at a rapid pace. With this change also comes the idea of changing how we learn. In decades past controversial topics have included how the printing press will change how we learn and how the invention of clocks changed the way we view time. Now the discussion has changed to the internet. Is the internet changing how we think and/or process information? Today millions of people walk around with the world in their hands, literally. Anything you want to know, from the first walk on the moon to how to help a baby take his first steps, can be found in the touch of a finger from your phone or touch pad. We no longer have to wait weeks or months for a letter from across the country to see how a relative has settled into a new home or job. Also, gone are the days of being tied to a television or radio waiting to hear the latest news about troubles in another country. With all of this technology available every moment of every day, how does this change our learning process? Is all of this information making us smarter or is it simply making us less patient? The Internet is changing things; it is up to us to decide if it is for the better.

DeAnne is a native of Fort Smith. She graduated from Southside High School and is a non-traditional student at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She is a senior perusing a degree in media communications. She has also taken classes in public speaking, nonverbal and small group speaking and critical listening. DeAnne has been involved in the Fort Smith community all of her life and with her strong work ethic and desire to succeed plans after graduation to continue to live in and support the Fort Smith area. DeAnne’s areas of interest include attending local high school sporting and cultural events and enjoying all of the national parks Arkansas has to offer.
Black and White: How Color and Creed Became More Important In Jazz than the Notes from the Horn
Presented by Brian Bailey

This paper centers around the race relations in jazz from its inception and growth throughout the decades that followed. It looks at how the jazz musician is portrayed in a fictitious manner in the movies and pits those ideas against real live situations and actual jazz musicians. It also brings to light the social double standards of race in music and shows that there were a few who tried to show everyone that music was a collective art that needed to remain color blind, whatever the cost. It also touches on religion being a factor in some of the prejudices that great musicians experienced only based on their beliefs and not how well they could play. The most pivotal subject, however, is Louis Armstrong. Throughout, I show that no matter what he endured, he was one of the best at remembering that music was music and no matter who you were or where you came from, it was truly an art for everyone. I end on the point that, even near the end of his life, all he was concerned about was showing people love, whatever the cost. Someone once asked him, “Pops, what do you do with all that love?” He simply answered, “It gets heavy, but I give it right back.”

Brian graduated from John Marshall High School in San Antonio, Texas and was brought to UAFS by Charles L. Booker, Jr. on a music scholarship to study music education. When not in classes, Brian is in various ensembles including symphonic band, jazz band, jazz catz, percussion ensemble, and athletic band. He hopes to continue on to a graduate program to study jazz more ardently in hopes of spreading the word of one of this country’s greatest art forms. His favorite percussive instrument is the vibraphone and plans on acquiring one before graduate school. He would like to return to Texas, but will go wherever he is needed.
The Life of CAB
Presented by Katherine Garcia, Joy Calef, Brad Andrews, Brittni Cash, Curtis Adams III, Lisa Magallanes, Kelly Harrelson, and Nicholas Halsey

Have you ever wondered the logistics of how an event is planned on our campus? Can you not just decide to have an event on any random day and do whatever you want at it? You might be surprised by how extensive the event process really is. Learn from the leadership team in Campus Activities Board the planning process used by the programming board. It is not only interesting but also interactive through the game of “Life”.

Katherine Garcia is currently a senior chemistry major at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She decided to declare her major as Chemistry after having a challenging teacher (Mrs. Suit) who sparked her interest for the wonders of elements. Katherine aspires to attend the College of Pharmacy at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science. Her interests include volunteering at Girls Incorporated, crafting projects from Pinterest, and coordinating events. She is very active on campus as the Director of Events for Campus Activities Board, VP Seniors of Student Alumni Association, SGA STEM Representative and member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority.

Joy Calef is from Joplin, Missouri. She will enter the medical field in summer of 2012 with an associate's degree in Dental Hygiene. She plans to move back to Joplin to join a dental team in order to practice dental hygiene. She enjoys being involved on campus as a second-year Resident Assistant and the Director of Membership of the Campus Activities Board. Her interests include painting, quilting and crocheting.

Brad Andrews graduated from Roland High School and is a sophomore Business Marketing Major at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Aside from receiving the Chancellor's Leadership Council Scholarship 2010; he is also very active on campus. Brad is the Director of Marketing for the Campus Activities Board, President of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, Member of Student Alumni Association, on the Board of Presidents for Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity, and a Resident Assistant at the Lion’s Den. Brad’s interests include Business, Politics, Movies, actively reading, and Sports. In the future he hopes to move on to graduate school and receive a MBA and JD. Brad also actively entertains the idea of running for public office one day.

Brittni Cash graduated from Bokoshe High School. She is currently sophomore biology major at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She decided to come to college and declare her major as biology because she either wants to later practice veterinary medicine at OSU or study out in the field. She is active on campus as the Coordinator for Athletics of Campus Activities Board, Treasurer of Student Government Association, and a Resident Assistant at the Lion’s Den.

(continued next page)
Curtis Adams is currently a business administration major at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. He decided to come to college and declare his major as business administration after determining his career goals. Curtis aspires to join the Peace Corps and obtain a masters degree by the age of 25. His interests include current events, finance, and public policy. He is very active on campus as the Diversity & Cultural Events Coordinator for the Campus Activities Board, College of Business Representative in Student Government Association, Treasurer of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, and is a student worker at the Admissions Office.

Lisa Magallanes is currently a junior criminal justice major at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She graduated from Greenwood High School in 2008 and has a big fan of politics. Lisa aspires to attend Graduate School after she graduates from the UAFS. She has been very active on campus as the Student Body President, Campus Activities Board Director, Lions ROAR Vice President/Public Relations, Cub Camp Chair, Resident Assistant, referee for intramurals, student worker, American Democracy Project member, and she was the 2011 Student Leader of the year at UAFS.

Kelly Harrelson graduated from Bokoshe High School. She is a sophomore majoring in biology at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Her dream is to attend University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry and go on to work as an oral surgeon. Kelly’s research interests include the study of the human body and its functions, immunology, and history. She also enjoys being involved on campus, acquiring such roles as Late Night Coordinator for Campus Activities Board, Resident Assistant at the Lion’s Den and Treasurer of Gamma Eta Sorority Inc.

Nicholas Halsey is currently a senior psychology major at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. He decided to attend college after finding interest in the fields of Psychology and Biology, and how he saw how they overlapped in various topics. Nicholas aspires to attend the Graduate School for Physical Therapy at the University of Oklahoma. His research interests include various psychology topics, various biology topics, and current event topics. He is very active on campus as the Coordinator for Campus Activities Board, Executive Director of Cub Camp, Chairman of the Interfraternity Council, and Chaplain of Sigma Nu Fraternity.
A Look into the Character and Values of Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev
Presented by Paula Johnson

President Reagan ushers in a gigantic arms race with the Soviets, and then brainstorms an innovative idea to protect against a nuclear attack: The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) commonly known as Star Wars. The Reykjavik Summit reveals how these two leaders misperceived each other. Neither leader verified his beliefs. Ronald Reagan, a former pacifist, and Mikhail Gorbachev, a secret believer in God, came close to an agreement to completely eliminate nuclear weapons. “Trust but Verify” became Reagan’s motto when dealing with Gorbachev in future meetings. Star Wars often receives the most credibility in ending the Cold War; however, this paper argues that the character and values of these two leaders had the most impact in ending the Cold War. If Star Wars existed in a previous era, it may not have had the same influence in ending the Cold War. Reagan’s and Gorbachev’s major achievement in ending the Cold War led to an intriguing research of the archives, Reagan’s speeches, books from authors who knew Reagan and Gorbachev, and the viewing of original footage of Cold War events. Evidence accumulated over the years has revealed that the character and values of both President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev had a major impact in ending the Cold War. The comparison of their character and values reveals that both leaders were men of truth, neither desired a nuclear war, and both men believed in freedom. More credit needs to go to the men rather than the events in ending the Cold War.

Travis graduated from Paris High School in May of 2002. He then worked and managed a Radio Shack store for almost nine years until unfortunately the business closed. He has been enrolled and taking class at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith since the fall of 2002 and is working on a Bachelor of Business Administration. He has recently started a new career at Arvest Bank as a Financial Sales Representative. He plans to graduate in the fall of 2012 and continue on in the business world.

Paula graduated from the LPN program at Westark Community College in 1995. She has been a nurse in long-term care for sixteen years. Paula is a returning student majoring in rhetoric/writing with a minor in political science. She aspires to pursue a second profession in journalism. Her research interests include political history, early American government, and presidential achievements. She loves researching the archives learning about the greatness in people. She is researching the Cold War and plans to research former presidents and also the leaders in Great Britain including Churchill, and Thatcher and their roles in the Cold War.
Battery Electric Vehicle Charger Control
Presented by Christopher Arnold

A project to address the lengthy recharging time was initiated summer 2010 with the design, testing, and construction of a “smart” charger. This smart charger was completed and implemented in spring 2011 reducing the recharge time from three (3) days to four (4) hours with an average energy efficiency of 85%. The major drawback to the charging system was the use of manual switches to turn on each individual battery charger. This drawback motivated the summer 2011 initiation of a second project to replace manual switching with microcontrollers. This presentation will discuss the progress made on implementing a microcontrolled charging system.

Christopher Arnold graduated from Greenland High School and matriculated to UAFS in fall 2009. His plans include completing his electrical engineering degree and then continuing his education with a Masters degree. After graduation he has plans of becoming a pilot.
A Novel Electric Vehicle Drive System
Presented by Kevin Tran

Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) suffer from limited driving range and lengthy recharging times. A novel powertrain to increase utility of BEVs is being developed at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. The key component of this powertrain is the use of a 5-speed transmission matched with a specialized electric motor. This powertrain can be adjusted to match needed road performance and optimize for energy efficiency in applications ranging from passenger vehicles to large planetary rovers. This project continues to build a bridge between local business, industry and the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith in motor development and specialized parts needed in this powertrain. This presentation will highlight new Lithium Ion (LI) battery technologies used in this BEV and show predicted outcomes of the novel powertrain.

Kevin Tran graduated from Southside High School and matriculated to UAFS in fall 2009. His plans include completing his electrical engineering degree and possible continuing his education with a Masters degree. After graduation he has plans to seek employment in the Fort Smith area.
Poster Presentations
Health Sciences
Weidman Conference Center
Dental caries remains as the leading cause of tooth loss among adults and continues to be problematic for children, especially from lower socioeconomic sectors of the population. According to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, 92% of adults ages 20 to 64, have had dental caries in their permanent teeth, and 41% of children have had dental caries in primary teeth. Dental caries is the leading factor in dentition loss, and Americans spend an average of 90 billion dollars annually to address this disease. Although there has been much debate over the most causative factor related to dental caries, research shows that the presence of Streptococcus mutans has been proposed as the major etiological agent of cavity formation. This bacterium has been shown to produce lactic acid in the oral cavity, leading to prominent carious lesions on the teeth. Lactic acid combined with fermentable carbohydrates creates areas of demineralization that eventually require restoration or extraction. Currently, the most effective measure for fighting caries involves the use of fluoride-containing products or antibacterial mouth rinses that target all oral flora, both good and bad. New research is concentrating on developing a specifically targeted antimicrobial peptide (STAMP) known as C16G2 with specificity for S. mutans. It is believed that due to C16G2's ability to specifically target the S. mutans while not harming other oral bacteria, that dental caries could be a thing of the past.

Terri West is from Greenwood, Arkansas. She plans to enter the dental field in the summer of 2012 and is currently pursuing an associate of applied science degree in dental hygiene. She is the recipient of the Fort Smith Dental Association Scholarship. She is an advocate of oral cancer awareness and looks forward to being able to serve her community. She hopes to find full-time employment within Fort Smith and surrounding areas. Her interests include spending time with her husband and two children, reading books, and socializing with friends.

Rebekah graduated with the Believers Homeschool Class of 2009. Time spent under the tutelage of skilled science professors during high school contributed to her natural love of science, especially microbiology and chemistry. She will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene in May 2012. She plans to continue her education by pursuing a degree in Surgical Technology from UAFS. She hopes to use her knowledge and skill to educate the public on the importance of oral health. Rebekah is a recipient of the Ray W. Cotton Family Scholarship. She has actively participated in several community activities that include Mena Sealant Day, Free Extraction Day, and the Community Dental Clinic.

Leah Beckum graduated from the class of 2008 in Springdale High School. Graduating as the valedictorian, she knew her true passion was for science classes, particularly Anatomy and Physiology. Her studies directed her towards the science realm when she entered college. Leah will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene in May 2012. She is a recipient of the ASDHA Dental Hygiene Scholarship and the Rodney and Sally Naucke Scholarship. She hopes to use her education and abilities to serve those that lack access to care. She has participated in several community service activities that include the Diabetes Walk, Paint the Park Pink, and at the Community Dental Clinic.
Microabrasion - Treating Discolored Enamel
Presented by Katharine Byars, Taylor Mertin, Leigh Komp, and Brittney Bell

The objective of this study was to assess the procedure called microabrasion used to treat discolored, superficial enamel discolorations obtained from enamel hypoplasia, fluorosis, and decalcification or “white spot lesions.” The technique described is an alternative to more invasive and costly procedures such as bonding, porcelain laminates, and crowns. Different types of acid abrasion are first used on the enamel surfaces, followed by home treatments of bleaching agents and fluoride to both whiten and remineralize the treated surfaces. This presentation will describe the process, the indications for this type of dental treatment, and demonstrate the advantages and limitations of microabrasion technique. Research has proven this method as safe, relatively simple to perform, conservative, and capable of providing good esthetic results.

Katherine Byars graduated from Northside High School in Fort Smith with honors in 2007. She started college the following fall and has been involved on campus and within the community having participated in UAFS cheerleading, the Student American Dental Hygiene Association, and various community volunteer projects including the Community Dental Clinic, Free Extraction Day, and the Mena Sealant Project. She plans to graduate in May 2012 with an AAS in Dental Hygiene, and continue her education to be able to not only practice, but also eventually teach dental hygiene at an accredited institution.

Brittany Bell graduated from Greenwood High School in 2007 with an honors diploma. She was accepted into the dental hygiene program in August of 2010, after completing her prerequisites on the UAFS campus. She is currently in her last semester and has participated in community service projects that include the community dental clinic, free extraction day, Mena Sealant Day and Arkansas Mission of Mercy project in 2011. She will be graduating with an associate of applied science degree in dental hygiene in May 2012.

Leigh Komp graduated from Scranton High School with honors in 2007. She attended the University of Central Arkansas in Conway the following fall and later transferred to the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. She is the secretary of the Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association and is has participated in community volunteer programs which include Mena Sealant day, the Community Dental Clinic and Free Extraction Day. Leigh is currently pursuing a degree in dental hygiene and will graduate with an AAS in dental hygiene in May 2012.

Taylor Mertin is a 2009 Highest Honor graduate from Paris High School. She started college at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville the following fall, transferring to the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith to pursue her dream to become a dental hygienist in the spring of 2010. Taylor was accepted into the dental hygiene program and began in the fall of 2010. She has recently volunteered at the Fort Smith Community Dental Clinic, Free Extraction day and at the Healthy connections clinic in Mena placing sealants on 2nd and 6th grade children. Taylor plans to graduate in the spring of 2012 with an AAS in dental hygiene.
Controversy over products containing Bisphenol-A, also known as BPA, continues to be of concern with regard to a possible link to cancer, as well as the potential of BPA to mimic the proliferative effects of estrogen on specific estrogen-sensitive cells. BPA is associated with a potential to disrupt normal hormonal function and has been linked to health problems including heart disease, diabetes and obesity, as well as an increased risk of breast and prostate cancer. BPA can be found in common everyday products such as water bottles, baby bottles, liners of canned foods and beverages, sports safety equipment, and many other products including CDs, DVDs, and even eyeglasses. Controversy over BPA has existed since around 1975. With the increased use of water bottles, concerns continue to increase over the proposed relationship of BPA to possible health problems BPA is also found in commonly used dental materials. These include the materials used to do sealants and composite restorations. BPA functions to make both materials more flowable, increasing ease of placement. Within the dental community, there has been discussion that BPA found in sealant and composite materials, as well as materials commonly used for mouth guards, night guards, and possibly even bleach trays could actually leach enough BPA to be considered problematic for patients. This presentation looks at the suggested effects of BPA for dental patients and the possible health concerns for patients receiving sealants or composite restorations.

Shasta Jordan is a graduate from Tahlequah High School in 2007. While in high school, she was active in the National Honor Society. She plans to enter the health profession as a dental hygienist after completion of an Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene. While in the dental hygiene program, she has volunteered for numerous activities such as ARMOM, Mena Sealant Day, as well as the Community Dental Clinic. Shasta was a recipient of the Lauri Pendergraft Mason Scholarship and will graduate with an AAS in dental hygiene in May 2012.

Kara Crone graduated from Prairie Grove High School. Following high school she began taking courses at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, and completed her pre-requisite courses at Northwest Arkansas Community College. She worked in the medical field prior to entrance into the UAFS dental hygiene program. Kara will graduate with an AAS in dental hygiene in May 2012. She will pursue a career as a dental hygienist in the Northwest Arkansas region.

Mandy Bobo graduated from Rogers High School in 2000. Mandy was active in basketball and the dance team. Mandy worked as a medical assistant prior to entering the dental hygiene program. Mandy completed her pre-requisite courses at Northwest Arkansas Community College. Mandy was a recipient of the Lauri Pendergraft Mason Scholarship and the Northwest Dental Society Scholarship. Mandy will graduate with an AAS in dental hygiene in May 2012. She plans on practicing dental hygiene in the Northwest Arkansas area.

Misty Holmes graduated from Oktaha High School in 2006. While in high school, she was active in basketball and golf. Misty began college at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, where she completed her pre-requisite courses for dental hygiene. She entered the dental hygiene program in August 2010 and received the Lauri Pendergraft Mason Scholarship. Misty has participated in many community events including Paint the Park Pink, Mena sealant day, community dental clinic, and elementary dental health presentations. Misty will graduate with an AAS in dental hygiene in May 2012.
Obesity and Bariatric Surgery: Effects On the Oral Cavity
Presented by Kristen Ferguson, Joy Calef, Jessica Ray, and Stefanie Bounds

According to the Center for Disease Control, obesity is one of the leading health problems for individuals throughout the United States. It is estimated that 12.5 million people are considered obese. It is related to many other health complications that individuals may have. It has been shown that obesity is a leading cause of diabetes and heart disease. Even with media and medical information being available at the push of a button, it appears the prevalence of obesity continues to increase at an alarming rate. Weight-loss surgery has become a popular medical procedure over the last 20 years. With weight-loss surgery, we are seeing both positive and negative effects on both systemic and oral health. Literature suggests that there is a systemic connection between obesity and periodontal disease, with the increase of inflammatory mediators being the key component. Following weight loss surgery, we see decreased periodontal disease likely related to the decreased inflammatory mediators previously linked to obesity. However, patients that have undergone weight-loss surgeries are experiencing an overall increase in caries and erosion associated with increased gastric reflux and increased frequency of small meals, often consisting of fermentable carbohydrates. This presentation looks at the decreased risk for periodontal disease and the increased risk for caries and erosion associated with the common weight-loss surgery, and the role dental hygienists have when treating patients that have had weight-loss surgeries.

Kristen Ferguson is from Jonesboro, Arkansas. She will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science in dental hygiene in May of 2012 and plans to work in the field of dentistry. After graduation she plans to move back to northeast Arkansas and become involved in her church and community. She enjoys playing tennis, traveling, shopping and being a mother to her ten month old baby, Graham.

Stefanie Bounds is from Monticello, Arkansas. She will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science in dental hygiene in May of 2012. After graduation she will move back to Monticello where she will practice as a dental hygienist in a family practice. She is excited to begin her career in the dental field this summer. She plans to continue with her volunteer work in the Southeast Arkansas area. Her interests include being involved in her church, running, crafting, and planning her upcoming wedding.

Jessica Ray is from Wynne, Arkansas. She plans to enter the dental field in the summer of 2012. She is currently pursuing an associate degree in Dental Hygiene and was a recipient of the Lauri Pendergraft Mason Scholarship. She hopes to work full time in a dental office and to continue volunteering in community service projects within the Northwest Arkansas area. Helping others is something Jessica is compassionate about and is extremely excited to work in a profession that focuses on the health of others. Her interests include church activities, running, and planning her upcoming wedding.

Joy Calef is from Joplin, Missouri. She will enter the dental field in summer of 2012 with an associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene. She plans to move back to Joplin to join a dental team in order to practice dental hygiene. She enjoys being involved on campus as a second-year Resident Assistant and the Director of Membership of the Campus Activities Board. Her interests include painting, quilting and crocheting.
Improving Nurse Job Satisfaction
Presented by Christy Richard, Cylinda Merrill, Amber Cobb, and Elisa Shoate

Turnover in the nursing community is an obstacle that majority of healthcare facilities face. Nurse turnover is the number of nursing staff that are leaving an organization or a particular department/unit of that organization. It is an element that many hospitals are trying to prevent. High nursing turnover negatively effects the institution and patient care. It also leads to increase nurse-patient ratio, which decreases nurse job satisfaction even further. Additionally, nationwide nursing shortages have added to the already weakened nursing employment satisfaction. Because the majority of staff within a healthcare facility is largely composed of nurses, nursing support and satisfaction is highly important. If nothing is done, it can provide negative effects for patient care and the organization. It is vital that nurse job satisfaction is a highly important and critical element of the success of a hospital or any healthcare facility. Nurses need to be recognized and given the opportunity for change. For this reason it is proposed that nurses be given the opportunity to provide thoughts and feeling on the decisions that will affect them. This presentation will evaluate job satisfaction among nurses and common causes of decreased job satisfaction. It will provide suggestions of change that will increase nursing job satisfaction and consequently increase productivity and improve nursing care.

Christy Richard grew up in Short, Oklahoma. She has lived in Fort Smith for the last 11 years. Christy is married to John Richard II, and she has two daughters, Sarah, 14, and Sophia, 6. She will finish her Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing in May 2012. She will be working for Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith.

Cylinda Merrill graduated from Van Buren High School. She is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing and wants to work in the neonatal intensive care unit. Her research interest is clued finding ways to improve the nursing work environment and is eager to help find more ways to improve the work environment, patient satisfaction, and decrease nursing burnout.

Amber Cobb is from Mena, Arkansas, and graduated from Mena High School in 2000. At that time, she joined the Air Force Active Duty until October 2007, when she joined the Arkansas Air National Guard. She had ambitions of obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is currently in the final semester of the BSN program. She has two daughters, Alexus and Markayla. Amber enjoys spending time with her daughters, other family, and friends. Upon graduation she has plans to work in the Labor and Delivery department at Mena Regional Medical Center, and hopes to one day travel the world!

Elisa Shoate graduated from Spiro High School in 2006. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and will graduate in May 2012. After graduation she plans to work in a healthcare facility in Fort Smith. She aspires to be a nurse practitioner specializing in family health. Her research interests include community work with an emphasis on teenage pregnancy prevention. Elisa plans to establish a non-profit organization that will provide resources to teenagers in the community, while educating and promoting preventative health practices.
Reduced Working Hours for Nurses
Presented by Austin Berry-Morris

Healthcare, in its current state, is an environment demanding increasingly positive patient outcomes in the face of a shortage in nursing personnel. The added effects of shifts lasting over 12 hours with increasingly acute patients set the stage for burnout and errors. In addition, these factors may have the capacity to affect recruitment of new nurses into the field, and therefore contribute to the nursing shortage. Specific evidence-based recommendations are needed regarding nursing schedules and their effect on quality of care in the clinical setting. The aim of this paper is to conduct a meta-analysis of current evidence regarding work schedules for nurses and the effects thereof on quality of care. The question used to guide research is as follows: Do shorter work schedules for nurses improve quality of care? This author hypothesizes that decreased work hours for nurses improves quality of care by decreasing the incidence of burnout and fatigue. Database queries were made using the CINAHL and PubMed databases using the keywords: nursing, work schedule, fatigue. This produced over 100 results which were narrowed to 5 articles which specifically addressed the research question. Data points for recommendation were given a rank based on the Strength of Recommendation Taxonomy (SORT) and compiled into a list of recommendations. The author found that quality of care was most improved when nurses were well rested between shifts lasting over 8 hours, or when successive shifts lasted less than 8 hours.

Austin graduated from Gravette High School. He is pursuing a baccalaureate degree in Nursing with plans to graduate May 2012. Austin also aspires to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) after gaining requisite work experience. His research interests include improvements in patient care strategies and the health status of Sebastian County.
MRSA in the Community
Presented by Amanda S. Rogers, Nata Thongsiri, Ha Le, Cassaundra L. Ellison, and Shelly Fulton

 Anyone whom has recently had a loved one in the hospital, or works in a medical setting has become accustomed to the term MRSA and the accompanying contact. Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a strain of staphylococcus aureus that became resistant to methicillin in the 1950s. Methacillin was created to eradicate a strain of penicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, which had only been on the market for two short years. Since the development of MRSA it has been increasing at an alarming rate. In an effort to prevent MRSA incidence, contact isolation was instituted for hospitalized patients who have MRSA. Contact precautions include the use of personal protective equipment. Care givers’ feelings associated with caring for a patient with MRSA include exasperation and avoidance. Therefore, it may be asked, “Why is MRSA such a big deal?” “If almost everyone has it, why are there so many precautions in the hospital?” The big questions should be, “Why are there no safety mechanisms available in the community for those with MRSA?” “Who does MRSA effect?” and “How can the spread of MRSA be controlled while no precautions are available for the general public?” These are the questions that need to be answered and will be addressed.

Amanda Rogers is a Senior 2 nursing student in the BSN program at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. She plans to graduate in May of 2012 and work as a registered nurse in either the ICU or Emergency Department to further gain clinical knowledge and work experience. She intends to advance her career as a registered nurse and attend graduate school to obtain her Doctorate of Nursing Practice specializing in Family Nursing. She is a sincere, reliable, and enthusiastic individual who believes that respect and honesty are among the greatest foundations in shaping ones’ character. She is goal oriented and strives to make a difference with any given opportunity.

Nata Thongsiri received her high school diploma from Union Christian Academy at Fort Smith in 2008. She is currently pursuing her degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing and plans to graduate in May of 2012. Her goal after graduation is to gain clinical experience as an ICU Registered Nurse, and eventually further her nursing education by pursuing a Master’s degree. Nata has a desire to care for those in times of need and tends to set new goals to after gaining nursing experience. She also enjoys sports, traveling, shopping, and spending time with her friends and family.

Ha Le graduated from South Side High School in 2008. She was inspired to join the medical field after taking a WATC nursing class at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith during one of her high school semesters. She is currently in her last semester of the BSN Nursing program and will graduate in May, 2012. Her interests include community services, drawing, reading, computer programming and traveling. Her research interests include understanding the etiology of health illnesses in the medical field, as well as the health interventions and promotion that the community needs to obtain health.

Cassie graduated from home school in 2008. She decided at a very young age that she wanted to go into nursing. She is now a senior nursing student with hopes of working in the critical care unit once she graduates. She plans to continue her education further by obtaining a Masters degree in Nursing Education in the hopes of one day teaching nursing at an established university. She has noted through her clinical rotations that many illnesses can be prevented through educating the public on preventive measures, she has also noticed that most of the teaching available to the public is how to care for the illness that they currently have. Cassie would like to see more preventive teaching available to the general public and this is where her main research interest lays.

Shelley N. Fulton is a senior 2 nursing student in the B.S.N. program at the University of Arkansas- Fort Smith. She plans to graduate in May 2012. She aspires to pursue her Master’s Degree in Nursing after working in intensive care for a couple of years. She has 3 children; twin boys age 8 and a daughter age 12. She has been married to her loving and supportive husband for 10 years. She loves spending time with her family and helping out in the community as well as volunteering regularly at her church, Central Christian. She accomplishes every goal she sets out for herself through hard work and perseverance.
Should the Family Stay?
Presented by Danielle Stine and Jillian Franklin

In the past thirty years, family witnessed resuscitation has become a common controversial issue in hospitals worldwide. Concerned families wishing to be at their loved one’s side through resuscitation has made family witnessed resuscitation more common, even if some healthcare providers are hesitant. Patients, family members, and healthcare providers all have their own beliefs about family witnessed resuscitation, which is why all hospitals should have a standard, enforced policy to allow this decision to be made easier. A policy of allowing family to witness resuscitation is supported by the ideas that families may have more closure if they see that the best care and effort was given to their loved one and that they were able to say goodbye. Research suggests that having a family member nearby increases the patient’s will to survive. Opposing arguments are that if allowed to witness resuscitations, family members may become emotional and interfere with the resuscitation process or they may be traumatized by the situation.

Danielle Stine is a 2007 graduate of J.D. Leftwich High School. She is currently a senior in the B.S.N. program at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. After graduating nursing school, she wants to work on a labor and delivery unit at the hospital. After working for a couple of years, Danielle aspires to pursue her Master’s Degree in Nursing. Danielle is excited about all of the opportunities that a career in nursing will provide.

Jillian Franklin graduated from Waldron High School in 2008. She is a senior in the B.S.N. program at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. After graduation she would like to work on a medical-surgical unit. Jillian plans to continue her education with a Master’s Degree after gaining hospital experience.
Magnet Status
Presented by LeAnn Haller, Danielle Dollar, and Catherine Mattingly

Magnet hospitals are hospitals that are recognized for better patient care and outcomes. A hospital receives its Magnet Recognition Status from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Emerging in the 1990’s, hospitals striving for excellence began to pursue magnet recognition. According to the ANCC (2008), roughly 6.74% of hospitals in the United States have obtained magnet status. The purpose of this presentation is to explore the concept of a magnet hospital and how to acquire magnet status. The Magnet Model consists of 4 components: transformational leadership, structural empowerment, exemplary practice, and new knowledge, innovation, and improvements (ANCC, 2008). Magnet hospitals are differentiated from other hospitals by 14 characteristics known as the 14 forces of magnetism: quality of nursing leadership, organizational structure, management style, personnel policies and programs, professional models of care, quality of care, quality of improvement, consultation and resources, autonomy, community and health care organization, nurses as teachers, image of nursing, interdisciplinary relationship, and professional development. This presentation will also discuss how magnet status affects the staff, nurses, and organization. The significance of this presentation is to promote more awareness of magnet status hospitals and its benefits.

LeAnn Haller is a 30-year-old student at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She graduated from Cedarville High School in 2001. LeAnn is the daughter of Brenda and Stephen Cooper and Rory Haller. LeAnn is currently in her last semester of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. While enrolled in the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, she has been on the dean’s list. She will graduate in May 2012. LeAnn plans on working in the intensive care unit after she graduates. She enjoys camping, fishing, and spending time with her daughter. LeAnn plans to pursue her Nurse Practitioner.

Danielle Dollar is a 24-year-old student at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She is currently in her final semester of the Bachelor of Science Nursing program. Danielle graduated in May 2005 from Southside High School. She was a member of Western Arkansas Technical Center (WATC) during her senior year and obtained a CNA certificate. While enrolled in WATC, she participated in the SkillsUSA Knowledge Bowl. She plans on gaining experience in the ICU before obtaining her Nurse Practitioner Degree. She is the daughter of Perlita and Vince Dollar. Danielle is married to David Brodie and has a 5 month old daughter, Abigail Lua Brodie.

Catherine Mattingly is a 38-year-old student at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. She is currently enrolled in her last semester, acquiring her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. While enrolled, she has made the dean’s list. She has been married for 18 years and has two teenage daughters. She is the daughter of Roberta and Jerome Mattingly and grew up as a military dependent that was stationed throughout the United States and Europe. She plans to work for several years on either the critical care unit or the emergency department and then intends to pursue her Nurse Practitioner degree.
Nursing Change of Shift Report: A Critical Element to Holistic Care
Presented by Alexis Farmer, Kelly Gilbert, and Maegan Holland

One of the most critical elements facing nursing care today is the process of change of shift report. This is a crucial time where information is passed between primary nurses providing care. It is vital for changes to be made to the way change of shift is conducted to provide better, holistic care for patients. The nurses affected the most by change of shift report are those who deliver total patient care on an individual unit in a hospital. By improving the patient handover process, patients can have better psychosocial care, safer care, and better continuity of care throughout hospital stay. Research shows that the patient handover process is enhanced with consistent use of clear, concise tools such as: handover guidelines specific to each unit and 30 minute shift-to-shift report guidelines.

Alexis Farmer, 21, graduated from Harrison High School in 2008. She is a senior at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, pursuing a bachelors degree in nursing and will graduate in May 2012. After graduation, Alexis plans to work in the Emergency Department and obtain her master’s degree in specialized nursing. After numerous clinical experiences and reviewing various research articles, Alexis is interested in enhancing the process of patient handoff between nurses. Alexis is also passionate about encouraging people across the state to pursue nursing as a career choice to help alleviate the nursing shortage.

Kelly Gilbert, 22, is a 2008 Greenwood High School graduate. May 5, 2012, she will graduate from University of Arkansas-Fort Smith with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She plans to pursue her career as an Emergency Department nurse and to obtain a graduate level degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Also, by using her nursing knowledge, Kelly hopes to go on medical missions to bring health care education to underdeveloped countries. Holistic nursing is a practice that Kelly has researched, as she is very interested in the implementation of multiple holistic approaches to care.

Maegan Holland, 22, is a 2008 Greenwood High School graduate. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. She plans on staying in this area working at a local hospital with the geriatric population. After spending some time working with the elderly in the hospital setting, she plans on going to graduate school to obtain her Doctorate of Nursing Practice. Maegan’s research interest include providing better options for hospitals to adopt for the nurses to be able to give/take better change of shift report to provide better continuity of care.
Industrial x-ray inspections on natural gas pipelines are continuously evolving with an increase in usage daily, and new innovative technologies are arising in equipment to gain the most reliable images and accurate facts. The purpose of this research project is to state the actions and steps of how to x-ray natural gas pipelines along with the different types of imaging methods and machinery used today. The presentation will present some of the acceptable and unacceptable defects, as well as the deficiency terms in determining and confirming a fault or abnormality in the pipeline being inspected. Much like medical diagnostic radiography, industrial radiography has many safety regulations and guidelines that must be implemented before, during, and after inspections while on the job site.

Myles Newman graduated from Cedarville High School in 2008. Myles is currently enrolled in the Radiography program and will graduate in May with an Associate of Applied Science in Radiography. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in sonography beginning in the fall of 2012. He is a member and currently the vice president of the Radiography Student Association. He is a four year employee of Quick-Lay Pipe LLC. His current hobbies include racing, basketball, football, and fishing.
The Cancer that Whispers
Presented by Alicia Knox

When people hear the word cancer they automatically think of breast, colon, or lung; the most common types of cancer of which most are aware. When a woman is told that she has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, she does not know that she is 1 in 22,280 who will be fighting against this “Silent Killer.” Most women are not aware that some common symptoms (bloating, lower back pain, nausea, etc.) they may be experiencing on a daily basis could actually mean something far more ominous. Through their long journey, they may have to experience multiple surgeries, various medical tests, powerful medications and experimental trials, all while knowing that their survival rate is ill-fated.

Alicia Knox is a 34-year-old married mother of one daughter. She has been employed at a local avionics repair station located at the Fort Smith airport for 14 years as the finance manager. Alicia graduated Van Buren High School in 1995. She is currently enrolled in the Radiography program and will graduate in May with an Associate of Applied Science in Radiography. Her future plan is to continue her education and apply for entrance into the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program in the fall of 2012. In her off time, Alicia enjoys spending time with her family at the lake, as well as playing softball and volleyball.
Voice Activated Software
Presented by Amy Berry and Angela Thibodeaux

Since the beginning of time, we have attempted to communicate with each other in many ways, and the written word has evolved on many levels since it was first created. From scratching messages into clay to speaking into a microphone to dictate our thoughts onto a screen, we have learned how to communicate in a streamlined way. Speech recognition software has an important place in the world today, especially in the business world. There are many benefits of voice activated software to businesses including improved time management, productivity and it adds a competitive edge. Most people can speak much faster than they can type, and this software makes it possible to create documents as fast as the spoken word. The areas of industry that can benefit from this technology are many, and include healthcare, legal, law enforcement, insurance and many other professions. This technology is not limited to the professional arena. It is capable of creating emails, works with social networks, and surfing the internet as well. Not only does speech recognition work in creating Word documents, it also works in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint and Internet Explorer, or your choice of browser. The possibilities are limitless if you apply yourself to learning how to use this exceptional software. We hope to demonstrate a portion of the vast capabilities in our presentation.

Amy grew up in Cameron, Missouri and graduated in 1999. She moved to Fort Smith after marrying her husband, a Fort Smith native. She spent a period of two years with her husband teaching conversational English to students in the Bangkok, Thailand area. She has been married for nearly eleven years, and has two children ages two and four. She is in her second year of studies at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith.

Angela was born in Newport Oregon and raised as a military brat. She travelled extensively throughout her childhood, and settled in rural Oklahoma when her father retired from the Army in 1981. After graduating from high school in 1983, she married and was divorced by the age of twenty-one and had a child to support and so went straight into the workforce. After a second failed marriage, and having a teenage son to support, she decided to get a degree in order to better provide for her family. She is in her second year of her studies at UAFS.
Natural and Anthropogenic Sources of Radiation and Their Effects on Human Populations
Presented by Rachel L. Hendrickson, Margie Hoke, Kip Teegarden, David Juelfs, Trang Nguyen, and Brent Jackson

Since the discovery of radioactivity, there has been a developing understanding of the effects of radiation on the human population. Today there is a clear understanding of the effects of large doses of radiation, but there is some controversy about the long term effects of extremely low doses of ionizing radiation. Different sources of ionizing radiation have been present, due to naturally occurring radioisotopes since before the discovery of ionizing radiation. To these have been added man made sources, due to warfare, medical use, and energy generation. All of the various sources emit different types of radiation at different rates. These sources of radiation and their effects on exposed human populations have been examined to investigate the relative merits of the models commonly known as Linear No Threshold (LNT) and Linear Threshold (LT). In the LNT model, additional cancer risk is proportional to the number of Sieverts (Sv) of exposure to ionizing radiation, without any safe baseline dosage representing zero additional risk. The LT model has the same linear relationship, with a safe baseline representing zero additional risk. Historical data from exposures, such as the recent Fukushima Daiichi accident, has been reviewed, analyzed, and compared with data from populations in areas with differing levels of background radiation to examine the overall effects on cancer rates among the human population. Additional analysis of the localization of cancers in the human body and their relation to the sites of accumulation based on the chemical properties of the particular radio emitters was performed.

Rachel Hendrickson graduated from Hackett High School. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree in chemistry with a minor in mathematics and biology. She aspires to enter the medical field and is an active member of Chemistry Club and the Leadership Academy. Her research interests include nanotechnology, nanoparticles, oncology, pediatrics, organometallics, bioinorganics, radioactive materials, and differential equations. Her hobbies are spending time with her daughter, volunteering for the American Red Cross, leading Chemistry Club, organizing fundraisers, spending time with her brothers, and shadowing various physicians.

Margie Hoke graduated from Gravette High School in 2008. She is currently a senior at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith pursuing a degree in biochemistry. Her primary research interests include bioinorganic chemistry, biochemistry, neurology, medicine, and cardiology. She has been involved in student and community organizations such as Cub Camp, Gamma Eta Sorority, Inc., Relay for Life, and Race for the Cure. After completing her degree in biochemistry she aspires to pursue further education in the field of medicine.

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Kip Graduated from Northside High School in 2004. He is currently a senior at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith and is pursuing a degree in biochemistry. He plans to attend graduate school after undergraduate study. His interests include organic metallics chemistry in biological systems, environmental chemical engineering, and protein analysis. He has been highly involved in the community and is involved in the Chemistry Club and Kappa Alpha Order fraternity.

David Juelfs graduated from Van Buren High School in 2006. He is currently a junior at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. He aspires to enter the medical field and is currently pursuing a degree in chemistry. His research interests include biochemistry, virology, molecular epidemiology, pharmacy, and biology. He has been involved in student organizations such as Chemistry Club, Pre-Med Association, and Kappa Kappa Psi. His goal is to attend medical school and become a pediatrician.

Trang has been a permanent resident of the United States for nearly 7 years. She started her American education in 2005 as a ninth grader and graduated Van Buren High School a few years later. Currently, Trang is a senior at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith pursuing a bachelor’s degree in chemistry with biology minor. She plans on post-undergraduate study and is in the process of discerning a strong interest in one of the various fields of science. No matter what the future career will be, she hopes to be able to give back to society and her loved ones.

Brent graduated from Booneville High School. He is currently a senior at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith and pursuing an undergraduate degree in biochemistry. Brent plans on attending graduate school or medical school following his undergraduate career. He is highly interested in protein synthesis, bacteriology, virology, and the chemistry within. His focus is in the medical field specializing in oncology.
Syntheses and Fluorescent Properties of Strained Anthracenes
Presented by Jane Van

Anthracene derivatives were synthesized to reveal chemical and electronic properties resulting from internal stresses caused by peripheral steric interactions. The substituents chosen have been known to significantly affect the reactivity of the anthracene ring through chemical induction, but little has been done to study the effects of the physical strain. Present syntheses of identified targets will be presented along with proposed substrates.

Jane graduated from Northside High School of Fort Smith in 2008. She aspires to enter the medical field and is currently pursuing a degree in biology with a minor in chemistry. Her research interests include chemistry and biology, particularly those with biomedical applications. She is eager to gain more insight into laboratory practice, and her experience has been enriched from her work as a part-time laboratory assistant with The City of Fort Smith Environmental Quality Analytical Laboratory. She hopes to further develop her skills as a scientist in keeping with her passion and commitment to the field of science.
La Suerte Biological Field Station in the Limon Province of Costa Rica is a field station owned by Madera’s Rainforest Conservancy since 1993. Since then, students and researchers have utilized the site for short-term and long-term projects, spanning from primate behavior and cloud forest ecology to ethnobotany and neotropical bat ecology. Though the total number of studies done at the site easily exceeds hundreds, results from few are readily accessible. Thus, the impact of Madera’s conservation effort is relatively unknown. The inaccessibility of La Suerte research leads to duplication of efforts and hindering of efficiency and quality. I have created The La Suerte Biological Field Station Database to increase productivity and documentation of the field station’s conservation efforts. This electronically available, on-site database is an interface designed to allow students, researchers, and professors a comprehensive look at their field site including previous research, geographic features, and more. The database includes features that allow easy upkeep by administrators, as well as features which promote student engagement. The database is searchable by geo-referenced category of topic, species, individual, and presentation format.

Liz graduated from Northside High School in 2008. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Anthropology. She hopes to continue her studies in an interdisciplinary graduate program. Her research interests include primate behavior, ethics, behavioral genetics, and methods of teaching science, specifically involving the application of cognitive science and democratic ethics to education and learning.
The Effects of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in Sewage Effluent on Zebrafish (Danios rerio)
Presented by Ebony Yang

Wastewater treatment plants are often unable to completely remove all the complex chemicals mixed with the wastewater before it is released into the environment. Therefore, sewage effluent consists of a wide range of complex chemicals including endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) that have been suspected to affect the hormonal systems and alter sexual development of aquatic organisms. A change in sexual development can lead to unbalanced sex ratios which are essential to survivability and reproductive success of any species. In this study, we are assessing the effects of EDCs in sewage effluent on zebrafish (Danios rerio). Zebrafish have been selected for this scientific study due to the fact that its sex can be altered according to environmental factors. Prior to using sewage effluent to evaluate the effects of EDCs on zebrafish, we will be using birth control pills, a synthetic suspected EDC, as our variable in the laboratory to observe the direct effects of EDCs. If the results represent a significant sex ratio difference, we will continue our experiment using sewage effluent from the water treatment plants in the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, to observe the sex ratios. This study will be conducted at the City of Fort Smith Maintenance Facility Laboratory.

Ebony Yang is a biology major who graduated as valedictorian from Lamar High School in Lamar, Arkansas. She was accepted into the University of Arkansas- Fort Smith in 2008 with the Chancellor’s Leadership Council scholarship and plans to further her education in medical school upon acceptance. Along with her interests in practicing medicine, Yang has also done research in environmental biology and dermatology.
The Effects of Media in Religion
Presented by Nicholas Kyrouac

Ever since the beginning of televangelism, in the times of Oral Roberts, Jimmy Swaggart, Robert Schuller, Jerry Falwell, and Pat Robertson, media has been found in multiple religious gatherings around the world. Church ministries are no longer restricted to having their teachings confined within the walls of their buildings, but have the opportunity to broadcast their message throughout the world. On paper, new media seems like the perfect way to share a group’s beliefs to an amount of people that is exponentially more than what even the largest church building can hold. But are the faith groups today relying more on media than they are relying on the God they claim to believe in? Are televangelists more concerned about their ratings and paychecks as opposed to the full truth of their faith? Even in modern day media televangelism hasn’t shown much of a change except for that fact their messages are available at anyone’s fingertips. Also the use of new media (media that did not exist five years ago) gives churches and ministries the ability to expand into mega-churches with 38,000 plus weekly attendees. My poster session will show the effects of media on religion with a focus on Christianity.

Nicholas Kyrouac, is a 19-year-old sophomore media communication major at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. He graduated from Southside High School in Fort Smith in 2010 and has been working with videography for about three years. He has been on staff as the head of media for Ampd Student Ministries for about two years with the dream of one day becoming a pastor at a church. His plans are to use the knowledge he gains from his degree to effectively use media to carry out his duties as a pastor for his faith. Currently he is in the process of starting his own company, NK Photo&Video to further expand his experience in media.
Future Designers of UAFS
Presented by Justin Haralson, Brittany Dawson, Cory McClaren, and Lois Ann Labuda

Every great degree plan needs marketing to bring in more students, parental support, outside business support, and the backing of its alumni. The Graphic Design department at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith is no exception. Four groups with different target audiences were put to the task of creating a marketing plan to bring in support to help it flourish. Our group’s focus was getting prospective students around the UAFS service area interested in the Graphic Design department at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. Our campaign is comprised of one-half technological and one-half print design. Our pieces include: a logo for the program, a promotional video showing life in graphic design, a website where the students can get detailed information about the degree plan and the professors who teach it, and a banner to be placed in local high schools, churches and youth organizations as a guerrilla marketing tactic to attract potential students. Our sketchbooks and t-shirts will remind the students about us and leave a lasting impression of the UAFS Graphic Design program. All of these materials will combine to bring in more students with promise who may not know they have a credible and successful graphic design program in their area.

Justin Haralson graduated from Roland High School in 2007. He aspires to open his own business doing web design and to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in graphic design from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. He has worked as the graphic/web designer for Hardscrabble Country Club for 6 years.

Brittany Dawson graduated from Clarksville High School. She has always been interested in the arts as a profession and was intrigued to learn about the opportunities that graphic design possesses. As a creatively driven individual, Brittany has interned at PRADCO Outdoor Brands and Entertainment Fort Smith Magazine, entered competitions in SkillsUSA, traveled to Santa Fe, NM for advanced drawing, and is an involved student at UAFS. She has also been awarded a bronze and silver ADDY for her student work. Brittany has been a Resident Assistant at Sebastian Commons on campus for three years. As an aspiring graphic artist, Brittany has immersed herself in to the field by means of research, networking, and volunteer work.

Cory McClaren graduated from Van Buren High School with a college prep diploma planning on attending the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith to get his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. After a year of engineering classes, Cory realized that engineering wasn’t catching his attention like he expected, and after looking through his notes to study for tests, and only seeing drawings of just about everything except what the professor was teaching, he decided to change his major to Graphic Design. Nearly four years later, Cory is only a few months away from getting his bachelor’s degree in graphic design and starting his long and enjoyable career as a designer.

Lois A. Labuda graduated from Charleston High School in 2009 and has been working toward her bachelor’s degree in graphic design. She first started attending the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith as a WATC (Western Arkansas Technical Center) student. Lois aspires to work in the graphic design field after graduation in May and hopefully in letterpress, which is an old way of graphic design. Her research interests include how marketing and branding can help boost the economy and why graphic design is an important and influential degree. She has interned at the Southwest Times Record, is the president of the SkillsUSA organization on campus, and works at the campus letterpress shop called Underground Ink.
We Design
Presented by Sarah Graham, Brent Haney, Tara McFerran, and Rebecca Woods

The graphic design program at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith is often overlooked or misunderstood. Therefore, the senior class was given the task of marketing the program to any persons interested in knowing more about what we do and how we do it. The class was broken into four groups, targeting four different prospects: future students, parents of students, industry professionals, and alumni. Our group’s objective for this project was to market the graphic design program to alumni so they can stay involved with the University after they have graduated. Not only did we want to market the program to graphic design alumni, but also make other alumni and the community aware of the talent and creativity that comes out of the UAFS Art Department.

Alumni Weekend is an annual event held at the University in the fall. We chose to take advantage of this gathering to promote the program. We created posters, direct mailers, and a feature article in the Bell Tower magazine for an art auction to be held during Alumni Weekend where graphic design alumni could display artwork and also auction them off to raise money for the University. Along with advertising for the gallery, we created an identity for the graphic design program as well as a web presence to piece together the collaboration of marketing that each of the groups completed for their targeted audience.

Sarah Graham graduated high school in 2008 after being home schooled since the first grade. She is currently pursuing a B.S. in Graphic Design and plans to graduate in May 2012. In the past four years, she has won two district bronze ADDY awards, two local gold ADDY awards, one local silver ADDY award, three local bronze ADDY awards, as well as three AIGA merit awards. Even though she did not realize that she wanted to be a graphic designer till high school, her attention to detail and need for everything to be orderly was apparent at a young age. These attributes have helped to guide her through her graphic design education. With the journey nearing an end, she looks forward to a long-lasting career in the graphic design field.

Brent Haney graduated from Hartford High School in 2000. He has always had appreciation for art but really developed the passion for graphic design later in life. He is graduating in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design. He is hoping to start his graphic design career with Academy Sports and Outdoors, based out of Katy, TX. He has worked with Academy Sports and Outdoors for five years now. Brent’s future plans are to continue his education in graphic design with a master’s degree to further his knowledge in graphic design and teach future students the art and passion of graphic design.

Tara McFerran is a senior in the Graphic Design Program at UAFS. Her creativity paired with her skills as a problem solver and people pleaser made graphic design the perfect career choice. In the past four years she has won two local ADDY awards, as well as three awards at the AIGA competition at Arkansas State University. She has been employed as a part-time designer in the Marketing Department at UAFS for the past two years. After graduation she plans to move to the Little Rock area and continue to work as a designer.

Rebecca Woods always had an interest in art and design. She studied art throughout her secondary education until her graduation from Van Buren High School. Her love for art and design promoted her decision to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She plans to work as a graphic designer after graduation in May 2012.
Bringing Graphic Design to Parents
Presented by Kristen Catlett, Katelyn Jones, Charley Parker, and Melissa Robertson

In today's world there are many choices when it comes to a college education. At times the options can seem overwhelming. Four teams at UAFS were given the challenge of creating a branding campaign to promote the Graphic Design program. Each team was given a specific demographic and began developing its own individual graphic design logo that would appeal to this demographic. Once the logos were reviewed and chosen by majority rule, the teams collected information by individual surveys. The surveys targeted each team’s audience to find the most viable option to present and promote information.

The focus of this specific team is to promote the program to parents of current and future students. The main concern was getting information to busy parents who do not have ample time to research for themselves. A survey was given to working parents to find what most concerned them in helping to choose the right institution for their child’s education. Surveys by this team found that academics, job placement rates, financial information, and campus safety are among chief concerns. This information prompted the team to create an e-blast, website, and presentation folder which includes this information along with a friendly gift to help parents of potential students feel confident in choosing the UAFS Graphic Design program.

Kristen Catlett is a senior at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, working toward her Graphic Design major and Studio Art minor. She currently resides in Booneville, Arkansas and commutes to the university campus. Even as a child, she has always been involved in art of some form and drew inspiration from nature, world history and the classic artists of the past. To her good design grabs a person’s attention whether that is complex or clean; good design is felt.

Katelyn Jones is a senior in the Graphic Design program at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith and she expects to graduate May 2012. She graduated from Poteau High School in 2007 and is now living in Fort Smith. Currently she is working at the UAFS Marketing Department as an intern.

Charley Parker is a senior working toward his bachelor’s degree in graphic design while working as a Weapons Crew Chief in the Air National Guard. Music and photography are just two of many hobbies that he enjoys outside of class. If everything goes according to plan, Charley will graduate in May of 2012 and start the journey of hunting for a job.

Melissa Robertson is in her senior year pursuing a bachelor’s degree in graphic design. She is originally from Searcy, Arkansas but has lived in Fort Smith for thirteen years. Melissa is a former employee of Whirlpool and earned an associate degree from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith in graphic design in 2010 through the Governor’s Dislocated Workers Program. She plans to pursue a career in graphic design upon graduation.
The Future of Our Students
Presented by Marsha Martin, Amanda Holland, DeAnna Smith, and Brandon Cox

After students graduate from the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith Graphic Design program, they are released into the local economy to find jobs in their field of study. Our group was challenged to find a way to help graduating students have an upper hand by forming a relationship between potential employers and the University. Part of our research was to survey local employers. Some sample questions included what they think of the students of UAFS and how they would like to stay connected to the Graphic Design program. After our research was gathered, we created promotional pieces based on the results. A brand identity, website, newsletter, and other printed material were produced to help UAFS maintain a positive relationship with area businesses in need of creative services. The identity “Creative Origins” was implemented to give the design program a name as unique as we are. The University of Arkansas – Fort Smith is where we developed and refined our skills as graphic designers. UAFS is the origin of our creativity. We have learned to think creatively and develop fresh ideas. Creative Origins incorporates up-to-date progress reports on student projects and achievements and helps area businesses communicate with students for employment opportunities. Having an active and positive relationship with local employers helps the UAFS design graduates compete with other well-known schools, and showcases the local talent found at UAFS.

Marsha graduated from Sallisaw High School. She is currently pursuing a degree in graphic design and aspires to enter the graphic design field. Her research interests include logo design, illustration, and fine art.

Amanda attended Southside High School. She aspires to become a production designer for entertainment media and is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in graphic design. Her research interests include logo design, page layout design, and web design.

DeAnna is a 28-year-old non-traditional student who has worked full time since high school, attending college part time. She is a 2002 graduate of Van Buren High School and is currently studying in the Graphic Design program here at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She will be completing her education this coming April 2012. DeAnna will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design. After graduation she intends on obtaining a successful position at a local design company.

Brandon graduated from Fort Smith Northside High School. Before coming to the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith he experienced life on the road as he toured with his music group Souf Land for four years. Eventually, the group grew apart as each individual pursued what they were interested in the most. As a result, he made a decision to continue his education. He aspires to be an entrepreneur in a creative industry and is pursuing his bachelor’s degree in graphic design. His research interests include photography, cinematography, and music in addition to traditional graphic design elements.
B.E.S.T. Robotics Volunteer Support System
Presented by Terry Holman, Prathana John Inthavong, Samson Phanmaha, Adam Shaver, and Bradley Stites

UAFS (University of Arkansas - Fort Smith) sponsors two B.E.S.T. (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) Robotics competitions each fall. These competitions require the scheduling, coordinating and managing of many dozens of volunteers each. To date this has all been done using paper forms and notebooks. To volunteer, interested parties had to fill out a paper form and provide it to UAFS’s coordinator. The coordinator had to keep these volunteers organized and scheduled for all of the different positions for the competitions. The overhead required by this dated system drastically increased the workload for the UAFS personnel managing these events. Our team modeled the volunteer process, then designed, implemented, and deployed a web-based system for support of these competitions. Volunteers will be able to provide and receive information via a web browser to match them with a need. The system prevents volunteers from picking two activities which occur simultaneously, and allows for the coordinator to balance volunteer assignments. When all assignments are finalized the coordinator can print out reports detailing the volunteer assignments. When the coordinator is satisfied, emails can be sent to the volunteer specifying the position they have been given, as well as the dates and times they are needed. This approach allows more time to be devoted to delivering and improving the competitions and less on chasing paper.

Terry Holman graduated from Wilburton High School. He served twelve years in the United States Navy attaining the rank of Nuclear Machinist Mate First Class (Submarine Service) before being honorably discharged for medical reasons. Terry owes his success to the support of his wife Vicki and his daughter Kyann, the sacrifices they have made have allowed him to fulfill his dream of returning to college. Terry plans to graduate in April with a B.S. in Information Technology (Programming) and transition from UAFS to the University of Tulsa for his master’s in computer science.

John graduated from Northside High School in 2000. From 2000 - 2008, he gained work experience at West Telecommunications, Southern Steel & Wire, Moll Plastics, and RGIS Inventory. He attended Askins Vo-Tech while working at RGIS Inventory. He received a refrigeration certification and an EPA certification, but was never able to find work in the refrigeration industry. So, he decided to enroll at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith for the fall semester of 2008. While attending UAFS, he obtained a co-op position at Rheem Manufacturing and has been working there ever since. He graduates in spring 2012 and is looking forward to it.

Samson Phanmaha graduated from Northside High School. He is currently pursuing a bachelor of science in Information Technology degree to secure a career in the information technology field. He enjoys reading daily news feeds about technology updates and company news updates. He hopes to be successful in his career not only to please his family but to make a better future for himself. He has two sisters that both have their bachelor’s degree and he hopes to join them. Samson’s hobbies are attending the gym and spending time with his dog “Beans.” He is currently employed; however, he has been searching for a new job in information technology and plans to have one before graduating.

Adam Shaver was raised in Van Buren, Arkansas. At around the age of 12 Adam developed an interest in web design and began self-guided studies of HTML. By the age of 15 this had continued on to an interest in computer programming. By age 16, Adam had the opportunity to participate in the EAST Initiative at Van Buren High School where he was placed in the role of network administrator and began studying in a real environment server administration and maintaining a small network. This led Adam to pursue studying information technology in college after graduating high school. He has accepted a job at Data-tronics following his May graduation.

Brad graduated from Sallisaw High School. He aspires to enter the information technology field and is currently pursuing a degree in Computer Programming. His research interests include video game programming, artificial intelligence, and most all things related to computer science development. He has attended college at two universities, the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith and Northeastern State University. He attended Northeastern State during his sophomore-junior transition and left after two semesters to return to UAFS. Throughout both colleges his field of study has been adamant. His hopes are to graduate by the year 2014.
Web-based Learning System Gradebook Module
Presented by Nathan Schroyer, Adam Silzell, and Matthew Norried

This is a web-based gradebook that can be used from any browser. It is a fully featured application that allows instructors to add, edit, and delete any class, assignment, grade, or student. Some of the many features include the ability to add weighted categories for grades, calculate averages for an entire class or just individual students. It is fully designed in Java and JavaScript with AJAX functionality meaning that adding this application to any web page is simple. With its ease of use and intuitive user interface, instructors can be grading assignments almost immediately.

Nathan graduated from Booneville High School in 1998. Since then he has studied Information Technology at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Nathan has worked in several IT fields and was the team leader on many major projects. His ability to adapt and work in any environment has enabled him to excel in any field he chooses.

Adam graduated from Charleston High School in 2004. Since then he has studied Information Technology at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Adam has worked in the IT field since 2008 and continues even still today. His broad knowledge and understanding of infrastructure make him a valuable asset to any team.

Matthew was home schooled from the 6th grade until he received his G.E.D. at the age of 17. He promptly enrolled as a Computer Programming major at UAFS when the university offered him a scholarship for his exam scores. His primary goal after graduation is to find a well-paying job in the field of Information Technology to provide for his loving wife Ciera and their future family.
Web-based Learning System Assignment Module
Presented by Peter Carpenter, Minh Duong, Terry Holman, and Zach Holzhauer

Our project provides for the management of homework assignments and submissions for a web-based learning site by using a drop-in widget, or integration with an existing themed site. This modular design maximizes the utility of the product while maintaining ease of use for the technologically challenged. If the end user wants to merely drop the self-contained widget we created into an existing website they will achieve all the required functionality using a bare minimum of effort. Alternatively, by using the documentation provided, an end user with more technical knowledge can seamlessly incorporate our functionality into a webpage of their own design. This option will provide the end user with full control over the look and feel of the assignment management system, while not requiring them to be able to write the multilevel back end controller and database. Our design allows for security implementations to ensure access is restricted to authorized users only, securing the data integrity of submissions and grades. The ability to receive text notifications for new assignments, posting of grades, or submissions the students or instructors can enhance their time management options and minimize the time spent checking the system.

Peter C. Carpenter was born in Hot Springs. Peter attended Hot Springs High School before moving on to pursue a double major in Programming and Psychology.

Terry Holman graduated from Wilburton High School. He served twelve years in the United States Navy attaining the rank of Nuclear Machinist Mate First Class (Submarine Service) before being honorably discharged for medical reasons. Terry owes his success to the support of his wife Vicki and his daughter Kyann, the sacrifices they have made have allowed him to fulfill his dream of returning to college. Terry plans to graduate in April with a B.S. in Information Technology (Programming) and transition from UAFS to the University of Tulsa for his Masters in Computer Science.

Zach graduated from Greenwood High School in 2000. He enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served overseas until 2004. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Operation Enduring Freedom. Zach entered college in 2005 as a freshman at University of Texas at San Antonio and transferred to the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith in 2006. As a nontraditional student Zach took courses part time and graduated with an Associates of Applied Science Information Technology in May 2010. Zach returned to university after a year off to finish his bachelor’s and will graduate in May 2012. He aspires to enter the software development field specifically in the video gaming industry.
Web-based Learning System Examination Module
Presented by Grant Hogan, Jeffrey Bowers, Sebastian Bossarte, and Justin McKenzie

Today the world is wired. Not just in a physical sense, but in the abstract. Web 2.0 is, at its core, the interconnection of various web-based technologies into a cohesive, focused application. The goal of this project is to bring this organic modularity to an education platform. Using AJAX, our examination system can be embedded into any website and still provide all the basic functionality of an examination platform: exam creation, question editing, and user assignment.

Grant Hogan is a graduate of Gravette High School. He enjoys working with computers and is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in programming at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith. He is an experienced problem solver who excels at working on “short notice.”

Jeff is a graduate of Greenwood High School. He has been working in IT since he was 16, and specializes in network testing and deployment. He is currently in his final year of his bachelor’s degree at UAFS.

Sebastian moved to Van Buren in 2008 from Florida, and graduated from Van Buren High School in 2010. He wants to become an independent video game developer, and spends much of his free time programming and collaborating with others over the internet on the development of games. He is one of the students who regularly attends programming competitions that the university is involved in.

Justin graduated from Mena High School in Mena, Arkansas, in 2002. He began college pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was then deployed to Iraq with the Arkansas National Guard and when he got back continued on pursuing Mechanical Engineering. After working for a few years during a break in college, he re-entered college but changed majors to Information Technology – Programming. His research interests include researching and becoming proficient in new programming languages. He is also interested in learning new techniques for designing and developing programs. Another interest of his is learning networking procedures and protocols; and also the implementation, design, maintenance and troubleshooting of computer networks.
Benefits of a Parking Structure
Presented by Michael Bradley

The following project is a case study on the need of a parking garage on the campus of the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, and whether or not it would be beneficial. The University of Arkansas – Fort Smith is a beautiful campus and continues to update the structures around the campus and adding new buildings to better accommodate the students and faculty. While adding new and improved buildings, UAFS is also adding new parking lots. However, the parking lots are just getting farther away from the core of the campus. The following report will show why a parking garage will ease the pain of parking and show the average cost and time frame for such a structure.

Michael graduated from Mountainburg High School in 2002, his dreams are to become and architect and design contemporary residential homes. He is currently pursuing his degree in Computer Aided Drafting and Design with emphasis on Architecture. His research interests include 3D programs, Revit, AutoCad, 3DS Max and Solid Works. He currently is employed at Baldor Electric Company here in Fort Smith and is working on the Columbus/Ozark design team as a Drafter/Designer. In his spare time you can find Michael doing any outdoor activity including, basketball, baseball, fishing, hiking, or spending time with his wife, Megan, and their two dogs, Sampson and Harley.
How Are Metal Castings Produced?
Presented by Ted Dobbs

This research answers the question of how metal castings are produced. Metal castings are made from sand molds that are formed with a pattern. The mold cavities are then filled with molten metal, and the metal remains there until it has cooled. This research will follow the process of how a cast part is made. From the initial stage as a conceptual drawing until the production of a finished product, several steps are taken to obtain a finished part. These steps include: 1) drawings (conceptual and final drawings), 2) construction of a master pattern, 3) match plate assembly and preparation, 4) molding and pouring, and 5) grinding and finishing. In conclusion, the reader will acquire the knowledge on the production of metal castings.

Ted Dobbs is from Fort Smith, Arkansas, and graduated from Greenwood High School. He is employed at Gerdau (formerly Macsteel) in Fort Smith as a Senior Draftsman. Ted is pursuing a degree in mechanical computer-aided drafting. He and his wife, Heather, have a five-year-old son, Carson. Ted is the son of Otis and Marsha Dobbs of Fort Smith.
Creative Way to Develop a Character
Presented by Daniel Hentschel

Animation is a great way to explore as far as your imagination can go. In this project I’m going to discuss a brief history of animation and how animation has been an inspiration. Names such as: Tex Avery, Matt Groening, John Kricfalusi, and Jhonen Vasques have all been a big influence, and as a result, I have developed a character of my own. Included in this project will be examples of different stages of my character. Animation has come a long way since the early 1900’s. The realism of today’s animation of Pixar and DreamWorks are great examples. Looking over decades of animation, computer graphics will only get better and more creative.

Daniel Hentschel was born on October 1, 1986, in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. In junior high he started drawing his own comic books. His influence is creator Matt Groening’s “The Simpsons.” In high school, an original-looking character was developed. He continues to draw his comics, basing them on life experiences and always looking for comical situations. He is currently attending the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, majoring in CADD (Computer Aided Digital Design). Discovering the possibility of a job doing animation, his ambition is to someday work for Pixar, create his own animated TV show, or anything that uses creative animation.
Design Advantages Inspire Learning
Presented by Hanh Nguyen

This project is based on a case study and survey about the effects of interior design on educational learning. The information from the project will help to redesign a classroom (Room 210) in the Baldor Technology building. This will be used as an example to decorate other classrooms on the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith campus. There are many findings on interior design that show evidence of promoting health, better mood, productivity, and a positive atmosphere. The link between students and the physical placement of the environment impact the behavior to learn. Given by the collected data, a change in the class setting advocates future motivation and success.

Hanh Nguyen is currently a CADD major at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She graduated from Van Buren High School in 2009 and will be graduating from the University on May 2012. She plans to continue education for a degree in computer animation. Her research interests consist of using different animation programs and animation techniques to future companies.
Qualities of a Successful Animator
Presented by Tonny Pham

The purpose of this research was to observe and discover the essential abilities required for a great animator. The unique skills can benefit the animator directly or indirectly. Skills can range from traditional art, graphic design, cinematography, theatre, and even personal interest and hobbies. It is very important to understand the core fundamental principles of multiple subjects to become a successful animator.

Tonny Pham was raised in Fort Smith and aspires to become an animator. His dream to become an animator grew from his love of cartoons in his youth. Tonny graduated from Southside where he learned about the foundations of art and design from his art teacher, Mr. Thomas. Tonny had plans to go out of state to seek a degree in animation but the tuition was too high. Luckily, UAFS announced it would be adding an animation degree, so Tonny’s dream continues forward. With the backing of his parents, brothers, and peers, he hopes to succeed in a cut-throat career of high skills and creativity.
Are Hybrid Vehicles a Good Value?
Presented by Damon Rowan

My presentation is going to be about new hybrid vehicles that use the combination of a traditional gas engine that is combined with an electric motor and battery pack. Doing this can increase the efficiency of the vehicle by quite a bit but it also can add to the cost and complexity of the vehicle. These vehicles are becoming much more common than they were just a few years ago. Since the purchase price of a hybrid can be considerably more expensive than a comparable traditional model that uses gas only, I will be weighing the advantages and disadvantages of hybrid vehicles to that of traditional gas vehicles. I will be using hybrid models that are based off of an existing model in order to be able to get a more accurate comparison of a hybrid vehicle versus a non-hybrid. I will be looking at the increase in miles per gallon as well as looking into how much the various emissions are being reduced. I will also compare any other operating expenses such as increases or decreases in maintenance.

Damon graduated from Greenwood High school thinking about getting an engineering degree. He went to college but took a break after a few semesters. That break ended up lasting 10 years. Now married with 3 boys, he was laid off and took it as an opportunity to go back to school. Damon is currently a full time student towards a degree in general CADD and is anticipating graduating in December 2012.
Effect of Rising Gasoline Prices
Presented by Justin Schoenbaum

This project is a case study addressing the rising gasoline prices and the effect it has on our daily lives. It seems that the price of gasoline rises every time we go to the pump. There are various cons such as, spending less to save for gas, that causes an increases in the cost of living related to everything else in life. Although higher gas prices can also lead to less traffic and less accidents on the road and a decrease in pollution, there is an increase in research for alternative fuels. Multiple websites were used to obtain information on the ups and downs of rising gas prices.

Justin Schoenbaum was originally born in Sunnyvale California and moved to Arkansas when he was five. He grew up with two sisters, one older and one younger. Justin’s parents both graduated college with 4-year degrees. Justin has always been interested in new technology. His first job was at Braums and is currently working a part time job at Malco Cinema Theater. Justin turns twenty one in July of 2012. He graduated from Bentonville High School and is ready to complete his degree in CADD GIS/GPS Mapping from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Justin also enjoys riding long boards and playing basketball.
History and Importance of Computer Animation
Presented by Brandon Abshere

This project is a collection of research that was used to become aware of the history of animation and how it has grown into the enterprise it is today. This research will also answer the question: Is there a true benefit of using computer animation? With sources from encyclopedias, trustworthy web sources, and interviews with those involved in the CGI community, I have developed a “solid foundation,” if you will, to both a detailed background into animation history and a collection of helpful benefits.

Brandon graduated from Ozark High School in 2010. After being fascinated by animation in films, especially 3D animated films, he decided to pursue a degree from UAFS in animation technology. His interest in researching the field has only grown since he began the BSAT program.
Alcohol and Its Dangers
Presented by Hoan Tran

This project is a research of how alcohol effects on the drinkers and their families, as well as the community. A lot of researches have shown that over one-third of world population consume alcoholic drinks, and there should be more than that in developed countries where there is no age limit for alcohol or the law is too easy. According to most of those researches, alcohol is the third most common cause of death in developed countries and mostly unintentional injuries account for about a third of the deaths from alcohol. Although most of people know about alcohol danger but they are still willing to take it, therefore, I suppose it is not unnecessary to do this project in order to remind people of getting away from alcohol, especially the young adults.

Hoan Tran is currently a student at UAFS, and his major is CADD – General. He is planning to seek a bachelor’s degree in Animation Technology. He has picked a topic for his project that describes the danger of alcohol consumption. Hoan is going to design and make a poster in order to persuade people of the danger of alcohol consumption, especially young adults. In order to make a nice, simple, but meaningful poster, he is going to use some designing software such as Photoshop, 3D Max that he learned how to use in some CADD classes.
Solar-powered Future
Presented by Derek Parks

This project is a study based on the significance of solar power in an economy where all savings are beneficial in maintaining financial stability. The main focus of this study is on that of solar powered shingles. While these systems are expensive to buy and install this paper takes a further look into the time in which these systems take to pay for themselves and all the factors involved in doing so. The main factor that this research takes into consideration is the location in the United States. The project compares and analyzes data based on research on the total amount of sunlight given off to all parts of the United States.

Derek Parks graduated from Charleston High School in 2010. He then began the 2011 fall semester undecided about his major. In the following spring semester he changed his undecided major to CADD architectural, and is currently working to obtain his Associate of Applied Science degree in the CADD field. Through his CADD coursework, Derek developed an interest in architecture, thus deciding which part of the CADD field he wanted to focus on working towards. Also throughout his research he became interested in solar power, but more specifically that of solar-powered shingles. Which is exactly what his research for the Symposium is about, focusing on location as a key factor to success for these solar systems.
Mainstreaming Polarized Stereographic 3D
Presented by Brendon Glidden

This project is the proposal of a more efficient method of viewing 3D media on television and computer screens and mainstreaming it for consumers. The paper explains how several methods of 3D media works, proves that the current method for a consumer is not efficient, and proposes a far better method. Information was obtained from many websites and scholarly research papers.

Brendon graduated from Greenwood High School. He is currently in his last semester of the CADD - Digital Design associate degree. His research interests include 3D animation, film, and new technologies.
Shoot-A-Way
Presented by D’Kheyvian Hillian

My research paper introduces a more recent and advanced technological savvy basketball shooting machine. The “Shooting Droid” is a shooting machine that uses laser technology to read your position on the court. The Shooting Droid also determines how far to project the basketball, within a range of 1 to 10 seconds of delay. I’ve personally shot both manual and electronic shooting machines and they both have their flaws, but I prefer the electronic. With this new design, it will cut down on the number of balls that get stuck in the ball shoot and give you a better pass at game speed as well as fixing the angle at which you are shooting the ball.

D’Kheyvian Hillian is a graduate of Southside High School. He currently is enrolled in CADD seeking an AAS in General CADD Technology. He hopes to graduate in December of 2012 and pursue the BSAT degree (animation technology). His main interests include sports, especially basketball. He also has a strong interest in music.
Shoes Ruin Your Feet
Presented by Denny Khounthikoummane

The purpose of this research project is to inform the reader about the human feet and why shoes are not necessary. According to VibramFiveFingers®, the powerful architecture of the human feet has become hidden, weakened, and sensitive due to the invention of shoes (Vibram, 2012). Feet are designed to help us stand upright and perform activities such as walking, running, and jumping. However, shoes tend to hold back the full strength of the feet’s capabilities. Shoes were created to help protect the feet from hazards when walking outside. The wearing of shoes may cause improper alignment and movement within the ankle and foot. Wearing the proper footwear and practicing healthy habits can help release the full potential of the human feet.

Denny graduated from Northside High School in 2007 and is currently pursuing a career in Animation at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Switching his major from Graphic Design to Animation has given him the opportunity to gain experience in several software packages such as Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Dreamweaver, AutoCAD, 3DS Max, and After Effects. Denny plans to use his experiences in the different software packages along with his Graphic Design knowledge to create his future works of Animation. His future expectations include creating animated advertisements, designing logos and t-shirts, and creating his very own animated cartoon series.
Pre-Incan Civilization: Huaca Pucllana
Presented by Anngelica Parent, Chris Venable, Kristine Dickson, and Hector Casillas-Rodriguez

In May of 2011, the CADD department sent a group of students and faculty on a Maymester study abroad to Peru. They were sent to Lima to assist a group of archaeologists working on the site Huaca Pucllana. The group of students and faculty were divided up into teams that worked with industry professionals. One team worked with GIS/GPS mapping. There was also a team of animators and photographers who worked in doing the historical research to recreate the original structure of the ruins.

The animation team explored the site, taking measurements of the structures as well as close-up detailed images. The archaeologists escorted them around the site to observe the excavations the archaeologists were doing at the time. While examining the site, the archaeologists explained that there were different cultures living in this area during different time periods. As a result, the ruins exhibit layers of different architectural and cultural designs. The animators sketched an updated map of the site using the map that they had currently, and the information that was gathered through measurements and observations.

The GIS/GPS group assisted the archaeologists in finding new points to start digging. Using a ground-penetrating radar (GPR), industry professionals alongside students were able to uncover portions of the site that had “anomalies.” These anomalies could be burial tombs, bodies, pottery, or other objects of importance. The team using the GPS mapping equipment was able to scan the entire site and provide a map with topography to assist the archaeologists in their work.

Anngelica Parent is currently a 23-year-old senior at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith in the Bachelor of Science Animation Technology program. She aspires to secure a position as a 3D environment artist in the video game industry. On top of being a full-time student, Anngelica is involved on campus and participates in many organizations, internships, and student activities. She intends to advance her education at the University of Texas at Dallas by obtaining her master's degree in the Arts and Technology program.

Chris Venable is a fourth year student at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith in pursuit of a degree in Animation Technology. Chris graduated from high school with honors and continues to work hard in college. He is constantly pushing himself to improve his skills and ability with each new assignment. This work ethic is present in everything that Chris does, fueled by the gratefulness he holds for the opportunities he has received. Every day is a chance to work harder than the day before to demonstrate his capabilities and to show his thanks.

Kristine graduated with honors from Fayetteville High School in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She spent a year at the State University of New York at Stony Brook studying Engineering before she transferred to the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. She is currently studying animation technology where she aspires to excel at a career in game design and development. Her forte has always been in envisioning people, characters, locations, and events either from stories or scratch. She hopes to be able to spend the rest of her life designing and developing in an industry where technology and art combine.

Hector Casillas-Rodriguez is completing a degree he began thirty years ago. His field of study is computer aided drafting and design – GIS/GPS option. Hector is a native of Guadalajara, Mexico, moved to the United States in 1975. He joined the U.S. Army and recently retired after twenty years of service.
A Study in Virtual Environment Design: The Venezia Project
Presented by Anngelica Parent

3-Dimensional Digital Art is a new and somewhat controversial form of art expression, but the impact digital technology has had on modern society is undeniable. Digital tools are ushering in a new era of self-expression, and breaking boundaries in ways that traditional canvases cannot. I have been studying 3D computer animation for the last three years and aspire to be a 3D environment artist. Environment artists are responsible for aesthetically appealing recreations of landscapes through use of digital modeling, texturing, and lighting techniques. Venetian architecture has always been of particular fascination to me. I spent weeks sketching, researching, and planning the Venezia project. I intended to create an environment that represented many different aspects of the Italian style, including the Ancient Rome, Renaissance, Baroque, and modern periods. It took approximately 10 weeks from concept to final product. I used 3D Studio Max to create, light, and render the scene, and used Photoshop to paint the textures that were later applied. While the Italian architectural style is broad and diverse, it is one of the most recognizable and influential architectural styles in the world. It was my intention that the Venezia project would reflect that sentiment.

Anngelica Parent is currently a 23-year-old Senior at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith in the Bachelor of Science Animation Technology program. She aspires to secure a position as a 3D environment artist in the video game industry. On top of being a full time student, Anngelica is involved on campus and participates in many organizations, internships, and student activities. She intends to advance her education at the University of Texas at Dallas by obtaining her master’s degree in the arts and technology program.
Progression
Presented by Courtney Kitterman

After 2011’s UAFS Research Symposium and the work I started on my daughter Abby, I am dedicated to continuing the project of recording her progression. The progression of both myself as an artist and of my daughter’s age and personality go hand in hand. I have proceeded to find inspiration in Abby and become influenced by more experienced artists. Catherine Kehoe, a visiting artist to UAFS in March, has inspired me. Learning from the workshop she taught I have developed better skills and techniques in painting with oils. In my research I have also come across Ray Turner. He is an American artist who has focused on thick painted portraits on glass. I have started to explore this technique. My past concentrations have been in painting on canvas, wood, and paper. I have also done a lot of work in charcoal on paper. Working on honing my skills in charcoal drawing and painting is an important aspect for me to progress as an artist but, as I continue my studies researching to expand my expertise is essential. I am constantly finding ways to uniquely defining the stages of Abby’s growth in the ways that accentuate who she is. Either through experimenting with a different surface, medium, or playing with composition I develop new ways of doing this. As she continues to grow I also progress, as an artist, with my skills and my creativity.

Courtney Kitterman graduated from NWACC with an Associate of Arts degree. She is currently a senior at UAFS completing her B.A. in Studio Art. Courtney will continue her education at UA-Fayetteville to get a nM.A. in Studio Art. She is working on a project that she presented at the 2011 Research Symposium. It centers around the progression of her 18-month-old daughter, Abby. Courtney’s goal is to document, through portraits, the physical changes Abby goes through, as well as, the personality changes. Her work is influenced by Ray Turner, an American artist who paints portraits on glass. Courtney is using oil paints to develop this technique. Catherine Kehoe, a visiting artist to UAFS in March, has influenced her with new techniques in painting portraits. High contrast charcoal drawings are also a favored way for Courtney to convey Abby’s progression.
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