Student Research Day

Indiana University East
Celebration of Student Accomplishments
April 1-5, 2013
Welcome to the Celebration of Student Accomplishments and Student Research Day!

Student Research Day is a special event for students to showcase their work and for the campus to celebrate their achievements. By recognizing the hard work of our student scholars, we hope to validate their extraordinary efforts and to inspire others to follow in their path of excellence in research, academic, and creative work. Likewise, we hope Student Research Day will provide an excellent opportunity for parents and family members to come to campus and participate in the celebration of their student’s success and scholarly growth.

This year we have included significant enhancements in the program by encouraging participation from a wider range of campus programs. Previously, this event centered around the research projects done by the Summer Scholar students, and their excellent work is again showcased in this year’s program. We have also joined with others to expand the breadth of student presentations, and this year, we are proud to be including art, music, professional development and the applied sciences. In total, the event will be the culmination of a celebration of student scholarly works throughout the campus, and we are glad you are here to experience the day with us!

Thank you for attending this year’s excellent event, and thank you again for supporting the research and work of our student scholars.

Sincerely,

Ange Cooksey, Senior Lecturer in Humanities
Student Research Day Committee, Chair
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Celebration of Student Accomplishments

Event Schedule

This year, the Student Research Council sought to expand Student Research Day into a week-long celebration of student accomplishments in all areas.

**Friday, March 29**

Social Work Career Fair  
10 am-1:00 pm  
Whitewater Hall Lobby

**Monday, April 1**

Health Care Career Fair  
12:30-3:00 pm  
Whitewater Hall Lobby

**Tuesday, April 2**

Career and Graduate Fair  
11 am-6:00 pm  
Whitewater Hall Lobby

**Wednesday, April 3**

Enactus Showcase  
5:00-7:00 pm  
(Formerly known as SIFE)

Art Showcase Begins  
Whitewater Art Gallery and Meijer Artway

**Friday, April 5**

Student Research Day  
10 am-3:30 pm  
Whitewater Hall
Art Student Showcase
The annual Student Showcase includes works of art from Summer and Fall semesters of 2012 and Spring semester of 2013. Art pieces are produced by students in courses, including Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, 2-d and 3-d Design, Ceramics, “Art & Design”, and Metalsmithing. In addition to the individual entries, Senior Capstone exhibits are included. Merit monetary awards are given annually through the sponsorship of Stagg Safety of Richmond, Robert Warfel, President. These awards will be given at the opening reception on April 17, 7pm, in the Meijer Artway. The exhibit runs from April 3 – May 10, 2013.

Honors Program and MEHA Conference
Students in the IUE Honors Program complete at least 15 hours of Honors Option courses, as well as a Honors Senior Thesis. This capstone experience requires a scholarly, creative, or service learning project completed under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students also have the option to present at the Mid-East Honors Association (MEHA) Conference.

Student Research Day
Student Research Day is an opportunity for all undergraduate students to present their research to the campus and larger community. In developing this year’s ambitious program, we have included Summer Scholar students, the Honors Program scholars, and presentations from course projects from all campus disciplines. For the first time in our event’s history, we have also invited our growing online population to participate.

Summer Scholars
The Summer Research Scholars Program provides support for students to make a substantial commitment to research and scholarly activity. Students work closely with a faculty mentor to develop a project which they will complete independently. This program is open to students in all disciplines, and the potential projects may take on many forms.
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Poster Presentations
How Film and TV Choices Reveal Personalities
Chelsea Amiot

Why do we watch what we watch? Do we watch certain genres to fill the empty feelings that are missing? Does our mood pick our preferences in films and/or television or does our personalities pick them for us. Films and television have become a popular entertainment source that has appealed to people’s lives. People experience certain emotions when watching films or television and have been more engaging to certain genres than others. Do gender, age, and culture influence film and television preference also? How does personalities select genres of film and television?

Exploring Quantitative Measures of Film Critic Refinement
Aly Baker and Alivia Crowe

Previous research has shown that critics tend to be moderately consensual about film quality. However, there is no known research that has systematically measured individual differences in critic competence among film critics as measured by their rating distribution. We used a random number table and 6 books of movie critiques along with their rating by 6 different critics to obtain a total of 1,000 movies and their ratings. However, individual critics’ distributions varied widely, and those highest on normality statistics tended to show higher inter rater reliability.
Do Images in the Media Affect One's Perception of Beauty?
Leslie Bell

When one thinks of body image, the thought comes to mind of how an individual sees and imagines oneself. A person’s overall body image can be either positive or negative. An individual can feel vulnerable to influences and fall victim to outside sources such as the media telling them what is ideal, what constitutes beauty, and how one should look. There are seemingly endless sources of media existing in the world today such as movies, TV, social networking sites, music, magazines, and billboards, to name a few. There are also the origins of how beauty came to be represented by body shape and size in both females and males. Beauty is not only emphasized within the United States, it is defined differently among various cultures throughout the world. The media worldwide has not only pushed how the ideal body should look in the past, but what is currently considered beautiful in today’s world. Women, men, and children can be affected by the media, causing body dissatisfaction, gender inequality, eating disorders, and low self-esteem.

Religious and Aesthetic Experiences
Katherine Crose

A look into religious and aesthetic experiences. Exploring the shared characteristics and differences of the two. A discussion on whether or not they are the same and if we view them as religious or aesthetic depending on one's beliefs and background. Considering if there are more experiences than just religious and aesthetic ones.
Personality and Musical Preferences
Alivia Crowe

I will be looking at what aspects of a person's personality can be told by just looking at their music preferences, if any, and vice versa. I am looking at previous research and literature on this subject to come to my conclusion.

Personality Correlation with Visual Preferences
Jami Breann Dingess

The purpose of this presentation is to show the possible correlations between personality factors and people’s personal preferences of visual art. Which painting best describes you as a person? Does your extroversion or introversion play a role in which painting you are more attracted to?

The Cause of Aesthetics: Nature vs. Nurture
Kris Haines

For this presentation, I plan to make a poster describing the argument of whether our judgment of aesthetics is mainly caused by our biological make-up or if it mostly caused by the way that we were raised and/or a product of our society.
Attraction to Political Candidates through the Sociological Lens
Deidra Hopkins

My paper is going to look at the attraction to political candidates based on various theories of sociology and findings in studies.

Aesthetics and the Creativity Connection with Mental Illness
Rodney K. Hoppes

Some researchers have suggested that there is a link closely relating creativity with mental illness. Throughout the years, new technologies from different fields of study have been used to help clarify issues revolving around this topic. In this study, I take a look into some of the top mental illnesses and their possible connection with creativity and personality. Since creativity is multifaceted, it is hard to truly define so I will show some of the controversies surrounding it. I will compare and contrast different viewpoints, and consider future directions of study as well as investigate aesthetic forms of creativity.

Creativity in Mental Illness
David Howard

Throughout history there have been many artists, musicians, and generally creative individuals that have suffered from various mental illness. For some the illness was present prior to their notoriety as a creative individual, for others, it is supposed creativity that fed their illness. Much research has been conducted in attempts to both prove and disprove a correlation between mental illness and creativity. After reviewing other empirical research it is my conclusion that in many instances the research methods were skewed or possess bias.
Organic Chemistry Labs
Alexis Victoria Hurd

Organic Chemistry is a difficult course due to its higher level topics. Students are visual learners and need to see what is expected before beginning an assignment. Knowing exactly what’s expected and how things should and shouldn’t be done is important. Visual aids are tools that can only increase one’s knowledge and help students to succeed. Living in the world we do today, most know that people don’t even read the daily newspaper like they used to. Instead, they watch the news for information on what’s going on in today’s society. Television, YouTube, and all media are a student’s preference.

Affirming Identity through Body Modification
Allison Jack

Humans have been adorning and modifying their bodies for thousands of years, and most likely, since humans became human. People modify and adorn their bodies as part of the complex process of creating and recreating their personal and social identities (Demello, 2007). Research has suggested that some personality types are more apt to modify themselves compared to others (Silke, 2007). In this paper I argue that modification is a form of expression, and a way for individuals to redefine themselves, and fit into groups.
An Examination: Educational Injustice Leads to Inner City Distress
Mariah Mason, Shelby Stokes, Ivette Zuniga

A collective analysis of Jonathan Kozol's book 'Amazing Grace' brought us to the decision that sociological inequities within the United States are a leading contributor to poverty in suburbs surrounding New York City. This combined with additional research leads us to believe that inserting better educational properties, as well as a few select reform agencies could dramatically alter the lifestyles in which people of these communities live. In implementing these structures of society, we would also shape the value young people in these societies place upon themselves, and thus give them hope for higher expectations, and motivations for the future.

Sexual Selection and the Evolution of Creativity
Amber Moore

This presentation will be over the evolution of creativity utilizing evolutionary psychology, paleontological and archeological evidence and research. Arguments in this area differ in time period of the occurrence of creativity, one side believes early human species were capable of creativity, the other side believes later development is factual. Although findings are not definitive, one thing is certain, creativity, although an ordinary mental process in human beings (Stout, 2004, pg. 1011.) has an ambiguous and poorly understood definition. The results in evolutionary psychology studies on creativity hinge on the definition being used.
Conformity and Perceived Physical Attractiveness
Billie R. Moreland

Overtime, in our society, we have seen a change in what is portrayed as physically attractive in males and females. Media portrays what is currently “in style”, they promote thinness, and unhealthy, unattainable figures for women. For men they portray men that are perfectly groomed, almost to a feminine point, as well as, thinness and excessive muscles that are unattainable for most men. This paper will be discussing different possible theories to why we conform or change our idea of what is physically attractive to someone that is not physically attractive. I will be discussing Environmental Security hypothesis and Media/Social conformity while also briefly covering some other possible options.

Plastic Bodies: Beauty in the Breakdown
Geralyn Morgan

Plastic surgery is today’s time machine. In the world we live in, physical attractiveness is everything. We see beautiful people every day in magazines, billboards, ads and other media forms. People turn to plastic surgery for simple corrections of imperfections or repair of an injury, but some do it to become “beautiful”. There are many pressures on woman and men today to be rail-thin, muscular and flawless and some will to turn to surgery to reach this ideal of beauty. This presentation will discuss what factors drive people to get plastic surgery, from injuries, societal pressures and mental illness, in order to obtain what we consider “normal and beautiful”.

A Coming of Art: Evolutionary Origins and Neurological Sources of Visual Art production and Appreciation

Joshua Smith

Art in its various forms is a universal phenomena. This review of contemporary literature regarding the evolutionary origins and purposes of art discusses the role that natural selection and sexual selection may have played in visual art today, specifically painting and drawing, as well of some of the key neurological correlates involved in the appreciation and production of those types of artistic works. Three general theories seem to be prevalent in the literature regarding Art's origins: it could have begun because of its ability to attract mates, its ability to strengthen social interaction within a group, or it could have begun simply as epiphenomena of some other trait. Additionally, this review also contains novel criticisms, as well as seemingly novel evidence to support each theory.

Societal Consequences of the Underdevelopment of the Individual

Lloyd Darnell Tate

This project will highlight and explore explicit and implicit societal factors contributing to the underdevelopment of the individual with the modern correctional industry and lifetime poverty being the ultimate long-term reality for many individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The relationship between material investment in educational, social, and health related services/goods, as provided by local, state, federal and private entities, and the correlating return in the form of the developed adult will be explored.
Seeing the World through a Different Lens
Jesse Whitton

This is a research project that combines my career goal and personal commitment to help adolescents gain varied perspectives on the challenges they face. High school can be an insular experience. By introducing students to world-views of young adults in other cultures, through the medium of film, they can enhance their understanding of problems and issues facing youth. I also have curiosity about cultures around the world and am interested in learning more about how film can convey meaning in multiple ways and the impact that may have on how adolescents in the U.S. view their lives.

The Effect of Pheromones on Attraction Throughout the Lifespan
Courtney Wigner

Pheromones, termed from the Greek pherein, “to carry” and horman, “to excite” are important for identification, displays of emotion, immune system viability, and, most importantly, human attraction. These chemical messengers when emitted from the body stimulate physiological or behavioral responses in others of the same species. The effect of pheromones on attraction throughout the lifespan varies. This process begins when infants recognize the scent of their mother as young as 6 days old. The pheromones that we produce are, in part, genetically determined, signaling fitness to potential mates.
DISTANCE EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS
The Common Misconceptions of Modern Evolutionary Theory
Anthony Breitenbach

Modern Evolutionary Theory (MET) is one of the most, if not the most misinterpreted areas of science in America. In addition to misunderstanding, MET is sadly denied in numerous instances boasting an argument that MET is merely a theory. It is true MET is a theory. However, the word “merely” demeans it. Theory is the strongest paradigm in Biology. In other words, a theory is all that MET can ever be; being referred to as a theory is as good as it gets. Equally as aggravating, it is common for individuals to deny MET based on the reasoning that “humans did not come from monkeys.” Again, true; that is not what MET states. Monkeys and modern day humans both share a common primate ancestor; however, they did not evolve from one or the other. Here I will introduce and correct several common misconceptions about Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution.

Has the Re-Election of Barack Obama Brought Female Politicians to the Forefront?
Denise Yvette Payne

The presidency of Barack Obama has brought an increased amount of attention to the role of race in our political system. However, the question remains if this attention has also translated into more coverage of other black politicians, including a number of prominent women. Susan Rice, Sheila Jackson Lee, Condoleezza Rice, Carol Moseley Braun, and Donna Brazille had long standing careers in politics long before the election of President Obama, but has his presence made a difference in the media exposure these women have received? Are their voices and causes more likely to be heard now? Has the re-election of Barack Obama brought the black female politician to the forefront? Building upon existing interdisciplinary research in intersectionality, race and politics, I will explore the impact of our current president on the attention to our nation's prominent black female politicians.
The Design of the "Mash-up" - A Presentation and Performance  
Christopher Carr

My project takes the design of the song mash-up and attempts to break down and explain it through the composition of a new mash-up. It will explore what makes a song flow smoothly into another and demonstrate methods in making such connections. The demonstration will be followed by a performance of said piece on Marimba (approx. 5-6 minutes).

An Introduction to Lamellophone Construction  
Robert S. Funkhouser

A lamellophone, also known as a thumb piano, thumb harp, or kalimba, is a type of instrument that is played by plucking thin metal tines in a percussive manner. My research as a 2012 Summer Research Scholar covered the construction of such instruments, as well as some more wide ranging implications that might arise from compiling such work into a viable resource. This presentation will feature some of the instruments I built for the project, and briefly summarize all of the resources that were necessary to do so. Furthermore, there will be a brief discussion of how the current availability of certain technology influenced the final scope of the research versus the original proposal.

Art and Music Comparative  
Tyler Johnson

This project is to show the close correlation between music and art. When one observes a painting, what do they hear in their head? There are many great musical pieces based off works of art, so does it work the other way? In this project, artworks will be assigned a piece of music that "sounds" like the painting, drawing, or photograph to see if the music and art relate.

Explanation and Demonstration Of Musical Process  
Justin Moore and Jacob Smart

We intend to explain our creative processes in writing music. We plan to each play a short piece and compare them, outlining our differing musical tastes and writing styles. This is to show the importance of a future music program and hopefully show other students the possibilities they can choose from. We are planning on using a majority of the time for an open discussion forum.
Thanatophobia: A Study on the Fear of Death

Jenilee Braun

Dying. An act that must eventually occur at the end of all living beings’ lives. Death is an entity and force that, though at times avoidable, is never truly escapable. So why is it that we fear death? Through the analysis of art, literature, and religion, and the discussion of issues that arise from death, this presentation will explore the psyche and try to conclude exactly what makes death fearful.

Olympus

Cori F. Burnside

Michael Woodford was the first non-Japanese president, COO, and later CEO of Olympus Corporation. He was fired six months after becoming CEO. After being in office only about three months, Woodford received an e-mail directing his attention to an article in a Japanese magazine (Facta) that accused Olympus of fraud. His questions to Kikukawa about the allegations against the company were not fully answered. Later, Woodford learned that others in the company were instructed by Kikukawa not to tell him about the article in Facta. In a series of letters to the Board of Directors, Woodford asked for details regarding the accounting transactions in question; he received no clear response to his questions, and was subsequently dismissed by the Board.
Initiating Indiana
Kaylyn Flora

The 70s Gay Liberation Movement was propelled by the idea that people would become more favorable of gays if they knew one personally. This is certainly exemplified by the public approval in regards to gay rights—recently rising above 50%. Simple discussion is one such tool, but art and creative writing has proven to be one of the strongest methods. With my presentation, I will discuss the work that I have done to advocate gay rights within my sphere of relations.

Color Genetics of Rabbits
Jerome K Lamb

The genetic makeup of coat color of the domestic rabbit, this will be covering 5 genetic codes. A gene, B gene, C gene, D gene and the E gene. Each of these genes play a part in what color a rabbit will be and it there will be any special markings. There are also several other genes that help to make up the coat and coloration of a rabbit, I will just going over them in brief detail. This deals with the basic understands so that anyone can learn and understand how breeders come up with some of the colors.

Society's Fascination with Immortality
Heather McDavid

Our culture is fascinated with ideas centralizing around death and dying, both in modern popular culture and throughout history. This fascination, particularly with immortality, can be seen in many current cultural settings, such as the Twilight phenomenon. This presentation will be a philosophical investigation of the metaphysical nature of immortality and its relevance to current cultural norms. It will introduce and explain the new concept of deliberate immortality and its relationship with love, death and dying. Lastly, this inquiry will grow to include the assessment and answers for the questions: Where do we go from here? Is this society’s attempt to die better or is this society’s attempt to avoid death?
Art: A Vicarious Experience
Betty J. Osthoff

Art was one of the earliest aspects of expression that we have record of and we still participate in multiple ways in today's society. Art has an intrinsic meaning to individuals as we have a relationship with the objects around us. Presented in the philosophy of existentialists, we are assailed by the world around us in an unreflective existence with the world. We exist in a state of our senses being thrown against items and objects in the world and these items unfold to us in a particular state that then affects the state of mind of the observer. Those experiences color who we are, if we did not have them we would not be a specific individual. We can share experiences through art, they are not the original experience and may not have a profound impact on the person as would the original experience. The experience of the artwork brings us an aspect of that original experience indirectly or vicariously that adds into our collection of experiences that makes up our whole.

Panel: Theorizing Harry Potter

Ambiguous Identities and Binaries: The Making of a Postmodern Hero
Tabitha Golliher

I examine Harry Potter as child hero and his journey as a protagonist throughout the series. I argue that Harry faces ambiguities throughout his journey, most often ambiguous adults—Snape, Dumbledore, even Voldemort—whose characters are neither villain nor hero. Through managing these uncertainties and making difficult decisions, Harry is the epitome of the post-modern hero.

Hermione Grange: Misunderstood Feminist
Kayla Holt

I will take on a rash of feminist critics who have found the Harry Potter series to be sexist in terms of passive female characters. I focus on Hermione and looks closely at the ways she is portrayed in Books 1-3, as a thinker, researcher, and brave companion. Paralleling her with Ron and Harry, I find Hermione to have great strength that will only increase as the series progresses.
Support, Sacrifice, and Suffering: The Role of Sirius Black in the Harry Potter Series
Chelsy Nichols

I argue that despite being often forgotten, one of the most significant characters to aid in Harry Potter’s journey is his godfather, Sirius Black. Black gives Harry his first real feeling of true family, support during his biggest challenges, and heroic, but sometimes dangerous sacrifices.

Feminism in the Harry Potter Series
Tracy Smith

Using the general debate in Harry-Potter scholarship of whether the series is sexist or feminist as a starting point, I weigh in on the side of feminism, looking at Hermione, Mrs. Weasley, Prof. McGonegill, and lesser women in the series to defend Rowling’s assertive and clever women.

Harry in Relation to the Christian Faith
Joe Stuart

Despite many articles either dismissing the books or praising them, Harry and the Christian Church have some closely related ties that many don’t like to look at. I will explore how Harry and Jesus are alike, Voldemort and Satan take on similar roles, and the clash of good and evil.
Student Research Council Members

Ange Cooksey, Chair, Philosophy, HSS
Mattie Gabston, Psychology, HSS
Gretchen DeHart, Center for Teaching and Learning
Chera LaForge, Political Science, HSS
Wazir Mohamed, Sociology, HSS
Chris Rogan, Music, HSS
Roberta Roswell, Mathematics, NSM
Julien Simon, World Languages & Cultures, HSS
Diana Stanforth, Nursing
Ed Thornburg, Fine Arts, HSS

The Student Research Council would like to thank the following individuals and offices for making this event possible.

Whitewater Art Gallery
Chancellor’s Office
Ross Alexander and Academic Affairs
Alumni Relations
Stephanie Hays-Mussoni and Gift Development
University Library
Physical Facilities

The Student Research Council would also like to provide a special thank you to our guest judges for providing their time and service.

Mary Jo Clark
Norene Groth
Rachel Hughes
Ruth Mills
Maureen Scane

Cathy Foos
Amy Holthouse
Olivia Miller
Kim Poinsett
Jason Whitney