



The OFFICE of UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH *presents*



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

MARCH 22 2019
Fant Memorial Library



MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY
for WOMEN



WELCOME

I am excited and proud to usher in MUW's 1st annual campus-wide Undergraduate Research Conference in 2019! I offer excitement because this event represents over a year of collaborative planning and preparation by individuals dedicated to thought-provoking scholarship, and I am filled with pride to showcase the hard work that has been going on in different places throughout campus. The submissions that we received for this first conference are both promising and impressive!

Planning this first conference—from encouraging students to submit proposals to finding donations for supplies—would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication from several people. Thank you to Fant Memorial Library faculty and staff, and to Dean Amanda Clay Powers, without whom this event would not exist. Thank you to the concrete and intellectual support of the Office of Academic Affairs, the Ina E. Gordy Honors College, and *especially* the faculty of the Undergraduate Research Committee. Thank you to Lauren Harmon, our first OUR Intern, for her energy and her entrepreneurship. And most importantly, thank you to all of the students who are participating, whose research makes it possible to not only have an afternoon of scholarly discussion, but to also broaden our horizons and make our worlds better in doing so.

Hillary A. H. Richardson

Coordinator of Undergraduate Research and
Information Literacy



The mission of The W's Office of Undergraduate Research is to promote and celebrate undergraduate research, empower students to engage in original intellectual or creative work across the curriculum, and collaborate with faculty, staff, and community partners to create and sustain research opportunities.

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Undergraduate Research Conference

March 22, 2019

12:00 - 1:00 pm **POSTER SESSIONS**

Library Lobby

Diptika Raut, Sagarina Thapa, Shreya Ghimire, Lisa Shrestha - Optimization of Western Blotting for Detection of Protein of Different Molecular Mass

Kristen Wright- Sexual and Reproductive Health Literacy in College Students Attending a University in Mississippi

Demyia Graham - How Cellular Metabolic State and the Chaperone Protein Hsp104 Interact to Affect the Spontaneous Formation of the Yeast Prion [URE3]

Mary Carr, Rachel Fowler, Katelyn Jackson, Yoonsung Hu, Keun Seok Seo, Justin Thornton - Expressing Pneumococcal Proteins for Possible Inclusion in a Vaccine Targeting Colonization

Ashley Barksdale, Elora Barnes, Tyberious Buckner, Rebekah Crain, Ciarria Westmoreland - AIDS Risk Reduction Program Evaluation

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

12:00 - 1:15 pm **SESSION 1: STORIES THAT SHAPE US**

Active Learning
Classroom

Katherine Morgan - Genre Matrimony: Marrying the Weird to the Speculative

Maddy Norgard - Clay County Civil Rights Movement: Black Power and Practicality

Umisha KC - Harry Potter and the Characteristics of a Superhero

Morrigan Hollis - 'We are of More Value than the Sparrows': Annie Coleman Peyton's letters to her children

12:45 - 1:45 pm **SESSION 2: HISTORICAL TOURISTS: UNDERSTANDING CULTURE THROUGH TRAVELERS' EYES**

Tiered
Classroom

Logan Suggs - Early Exploration of Christopher Columbus

Michael Kinnick - Longships and Vikings

Gwynnedra Vance - The Travels of Sir John Mandeville



Undergraduate Research Conference

March 22, 2019

1:00 - 2:00 pm	SESSION 3: EXPLORING INTERVENTIONS IN MUSIC THERAPY Micaela Guyton, Leah Bentley - The Effects of Music on Adolescent's Emotional State Krystal Hill-Keys, Sarah Lloyd - Can Music Harm? An Examination of the Music Therapist Perspectives of Music and Harm Lexi Fowler - Instrument Selection in Geriatric Residential Facilities	Conference Room B
2:00 - 3:15 pm	SESSION 4: LITERARY TOURISTS: UNDERSTANDING HISTORY THROUGH LITERARY TRAVELERS Maggie Smith - Cultures and How We Define Them of Being Worthy Linda McBride - The Canterbury Tales Joshua Cobb - Voltaire's Views on European Expansion Jenna Vining - Pilgrimage in The Canterbury Tales	Tiered Classroom
2:15 - 3:00 pm	SESSION 5: INVESTIGATIONS OF HEALTH AND DISEASE Sagarina Thapa, Diptika Raut, Shreya Ghimire, Lisa Shrestha - Stability of CFTR on Plasma Membrane of a Lung Epithelial Cell Line John Jacob Miller - Healthcare of Peru: How Does Casa Ronald Fit In?	Conference Room B
3:30 - 5:00 pm	RECEPTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY	Gail P. Gunter Multipurpose Room



STUDENT ABSTRACTS

Ashley Barksdale, Elora Barnes, Tyberious Buckner, Rebekah Crain, Ciarria Westmoreland


"AIDS Risk Reduction Program Evaluation"

For this project, we examined AIDS Risk Reduction for College Students, a program developed by Fisher, Fisher, Misovich, Kimble, and Malloy, (1996). As individuals, we evaluated this program as individuals using the Sexuality Education Program Resource Review Form, which the entire class adapted from the Family Life Education Program Resource Review Form by Duncan and Goddard (2014) for use on sexuality education programs. Following our individual evaluations, we worked together to establish inter-rater reliability on our individual ratings of AIDS Risk Reduction for College Students. Our results indicated that AIDS Risk Reduction for College Students covered the information via multiple teaching methods, allowing college-aged students to not only understand but completely grasp the knowledge that was being shared. The program is designed to be led by six peer mentors to a group of 30 students. They discussed the appropriate use of condoms and how to apply condoms. In addition, they also discussed the importance of ensuring both partners were informed of safer sex practices. In the case of this program being utilized for the Mississippi University of Women's purpose, our group deemed this material appropriate and relevant for the use of educating young men and women about the risks of having unprotected sex.

Mary Carr, Rachel Fowler, Katelyn Jackson, Yoonsung Hu, Keun Seok Seo, Justin Thornton

"Expressing Pneumococcal Proteins for Possible Inclusion in a Vaccine Targeting Colonization"

Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcus) is the leading cause of community-acquired pneumonia and the most common cause of otitis media in children. Illnesses due to *S. pneumoniae* are not only responsible for a large economic burden, but also account for more than 800,000 deaths of children per year, primarily in developing countries. Current conjugate vaccines are composed of capsular polysaccharides. While these vaccines have been successful preventing invasive disease caused by vaccine capsule types, serotype replacement is becoming more common, rendering these vaccines less effective. We hypothesize that vaccination with pneumococcal adhesions which are poorly immunogenic during natural infections will provide supplemental immunity for preventing pneumococcal adherence and colonization, the prerequisite for all pneumococcal disease. This hypothesis is based on the fact that humans are repetitively colonized over their lives with pneumococcus despite mounting strong antibody and memory responses to certain protein antigens. Therefore our novel plan is to target surface proteins that do not illicit strong immune responses and yet are possibly involved in colonization. Using previously published Tn-seq data, we selected genes known to be important for colonization and are currently attempting to express these genes in *Staphylococcus aureus* expression system.



Once expressed, they will be used to probe membrane fractions from epithelial cells via far-western to identify specific interactions with host cell receptors. They will also be probed with pooled human serum to determine those that fail to elicit strong antibody responses. Proteins with low immunogenicity and specific interactions with host receptors will be candidates for an anti-colonization vaccine.

Joshua Cobb

Voltaire's Views on European Expansion

The paper that I am presenting is about colonialism for a reason for European travel. I based my research on Voltaire's *Candide*. It is a satire about European society and European expansion. Europeans colonized in South America because they wanted to make profit off of slavery and convert the natives. The legend of El Dorado also motivated Europeans to travel and colonized South America, so they could find the golden city. Voltaire was a French writer and philosopher. He questioned European society especially French society. Voltaire's views of European society did not agree with the rest of Europe. He criticizes the Christian missionaries. He also criticizes slavery and how cruel slavery could be. Voltaire also emphasizes how Europeans search for gold. He gives examples of how native Americans view gold versus how Europeans view gold. Voltaire wrote *Candide* to mock the European society because he viewed that Europeans as hypocrites.

Lexi Fowler

"Instrument Selection in Geriatric Residential Facilities"

My purpose for this study is to gain insight into instrument selection in geriatric residential facilities. I intend to use this as a pilot study that will inform my honors research project next year. I want to research why music therapists select the instruments they do with certain interventions and clients. I also want to learn, based on the music therapists' observations, if different instruments produce different reactions in clients, and if client choice versus therapist choice affects this. This research could potentially show that there are meaningful connections between instrument selection and client reactions. It could also show the benefits of music therapists being more intentional with their instrument selection in clinical settings. This will be a qualitative study, as I will interview music therapists over Skype to obtain my data. In my presentation, I plan to describe my research topic and the methods I will be using to carry out my study. I will share information on existing literature about my topic that is included in my literature review. I will describe how my research study will differ from the existing literature. I will discuss my progress up to this point and what I plan to do next. Typed notes will be used as an aid during my presentation.



Demyia Graham

"How Cellular Metabolic State and the Chaperone Protein Hsp104 Interact to Affect the Spontaneous Formation of the Yeast Prion [URE3]"

Prions are transmissible misfolded, pathogenic proteins that can induce abnormal folding of the properly folded versions of themselves. My overall aim is to determine how cellular metabolic state can influence spontaneous prion formation rates in baker's yeast with or without the Hsp104 chaperone protein present. I predict that chaperone proteins, which assist in protein folding and in refolding misfolded proteins in the cell, will influence the rates at which prions spontaneously form. I predict that yeast cells at different phases in their growth cycle will show spontaneous prion formation rates that are significantly different from one another. Using a prion-selective medium, I measure rates at which prions have spontaneously formed at different phases of cell growth and then compare them to one another and to the spontaneous formation rates in a strain of yeast, that is lacking the gene for one specific chaperone protein, the Hsp104 protein. If the Hsp104 protein is playing a role in spontaneous prion formation, the strain, which lacks this protein, will have different rates of spontaneous prion formation at all phases of cell growth when compared to the strain in which Hsp104 protein is present.

Micaela Guyton, Leah Bentley

"The Effects of Music on Adolescent's Emotional State"

We are investigating how music-listening affects adolescents' emotional state, how different genres of music affect adolescents, and how song selection can affect music therapy treatment with adolescents. This study is currently waiting for IRB approval. Criteria for participants include the following: 18-25-years-old, ability to read and write the English language, enrolled in a public university, access to Spotify, and involved in organizations with on campus. Participants will be collected through email and recruitment from a public university in Mississippi. Participants will be randomly assigned to five different experimental groups. Each experimental group will be assigned a different genre (Rap/R&B, Worship/Sacred, Rock/Heavy Metal, Blues/Jazz, and Instrumental) of music. Participants will read and sign the consent form before the study. The procedure will include three steps: participants will complete a pretest, listen to 10 minutes of music, and complete a posttest. Pretest and posttest will be based on iMood Journal-Mood Diary app made by Inexika Inc. in order for participants to accurately self-report their emotional state. Data will be collected and calculated to determine the effects of music-listening on adolescents' emotional state.



Krystal Hill-Keys and Sara Lloyd

"Can Music Harm? An Examination of the Music Therapist Perspectives of Music and Harm."

What is music therapy? Music Therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program. Although music interventions are beneficial for various populations, there is also the potential to harm. The purpose of the study is to examine potential harm in music and the connection to music therapy. For this study, professionals in the field of music therapy will be interviewed to get professional opinions and real life stories of the harm of music. New information about this topic can potentially benefit state task force who work for music therapy recognition. The findings also can support claims that music therapist require licensure, and should not be allowed to practice without the proper education. The exposure of potential harm in music therapy can assist in the argument that music can be harmful and should not be used in the therapeutic setting without a credentialed professional.

Morrigan Hollis

‘We are of more value than the sparrows’: Annie Coleman Peyton’s letters to her children

Annie Coleman Peyton, one of the founding mothers of Mississippi University for Women, left behind a treasure trove of information in her collection of correspondence. Both her own letters and many of her children’s letters are collected in the Peyton Family Papers collection at the Beulah-Culbertson archives at MUW, and they reveal much about the character of the family matriarch. The bulk of these letters consists of her correspondence with her eldest son, Ephraim Geoffrey Peyton III, most of which are during his years (1894-1898) at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Peyton’s letters reveal a woman who rose to the occasion in the absence of her husband and, rather than remarry, went to work in order to provide for her children. In the grand scheme of her correspondence, these familial letters make up but a small part, and may seem unimportant when compared to the speeches she gave in support of the establishment of the II&C, but they have much to say about the woman and mother behind The Mississippi Woman. There were four major themes in these letters, being as follows: the concerns of a single woman being sole financial support for such a large family, her interest and intervention in the education of her children, her role as religious leader and moral compass for her children and family, and her determination to see all of her children employed – not just her sons. Though she is long gone, her letters remain to preserve her identity long after her passing, and reveal hidden depths in the woman known as “A Mississippi Woman.”



Umisha KC

"Harry Potter and the Characteristics of a Superhero"

An analysis of the Harry Potter series and how it pertains to the world of superheroes. It includes a comparison of the development of the series and the main character to the overall development of the world of comic books. The paper discusses the list of characteristics of superheroes compiled by Richard Reynolds and how it applies to the Harry Potter universe and the character himself. Harry Potter isn't the first name that pops up in conversation when talking about superheroes. A chronicle of the life of a boy who has just discovered he is a wizard may not likely jump out as a common plot theme of popular comic book superheroes. The word 'superheroes' produces a formulated image on our minds. Superheroes are buff, and they wear capes and masks while they fight crimes. A skinny kid wizard with messy hair and round framed glasses doesn't necessarily fit into this image. However, in this analysis I will take Richard Reynolds' definition of a superhero and argue that the universe of Harry Potter bears a heavy resemblance to the world of superheroes that we are used to. By comparing Harry Potter with other superheroes and the universe of Harry Potter with the comic book world, we can see that the superheroes that we think of and the series' skinny kid wizard aren't that different after all.

Michael Kinnick

"Longships and Vikings"

This paper uses the saga of King Harald, a famous and infamous viking mercenary turned king, as the primary source for examining the importance and use of long ships by the vikings of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Examining the iconic long ships themselves from their construction and importance in viking society to their functionalities that they excelled in. Followed by the purpose of their creation, raiding. The use of long ships is central to the viking way of life, or at the very least the way of life of King Harald during his time as both a mercenary of the Byzantine Empire and as King of the Vikings. Every aspect of military life of a viking revolved around long ships. Whether it was raiding or large scale invasions made little difference to the importance of this method of travel used most efficiently by the Vikings and by their infamous and most feared king.

Linda McBride

"The Canterbury Tales"

In the Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer captures the status in travel when describing a diverse company of pilgrims on their way to the shrine of Thomas Becket at Canterbury. Also, Chaucer, gives one insight into the characters motivations for traveling. He tells us with these line in the introduction, " So Nature incites them in their hearts, Then folk long to go on pilgrimages,"(11-12). Through the tales we can see the different social stratification. These stories gives a broad and vivid picture of social mobility and explore the question as to how the effect of travel in social stratification influence how they travel, why the travel, and the people they meet while traveling. It is important to note the differences in how the nobility travel compare to the clergies and the peasants. Therefore, the Knight, the parson, and the plowman are prefect examples demonstrating the medieval three estates - aristocracy, clergy, and workers ant the motivations behind their travels.



John Jacob Miller

"Healthcare of Peru: How Does Casa Ronald Fit In?"

This research was conducted in an effort to investigate the healthcare system of Peru and to emphasize the need for independent nonprofit organizations like The Ronald McDonald House Charities. This is a powerpoint based oral presentation intended to educate a disconnected audience and persuade them to support The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Peru. The research is an analysis of several factors that can serve as barriers to access of healthcare and associated resources for Peruvians, with special consideration for rural and impoverished peoples. It uses the identified factors to present thought projects that aid an audience in establishing an empathetic connection with the situation experienced by rural Peruvians whose children are diagnosed and treated with serious illnesses. The information was accumulated from various sources, including, but not limited to, The Peruvian Ministry of Health, The World Health Organization, personal accounts from Peruvians, and the website of The Ronald McDonald House Charities - Peru.

Katherine Morgan

Genre Matrimony: Marrying the Weird to the Speculative

This genre study investigates the potential union of the speculative and weird fiction genres. Speculative fiction encompasses many other subgenres and is a versatile tool of literary interpretation. However, the strength of such an incisive genre, with its examination of social and philosophical concepts, relies on the scope of its vision. It must uphold its ambitious literary aims by adopting subversive and nontraditional elements, like those surrealistic or bizarre ones found in weird fiction, into its body of works so that it may continue to reflect current cultural sensibilities. The weird complements the speculative by reconfiguring one's view of the world, using convention-defying literary devices like the horrific and uncanny to encourage readers to pursue new avenues of creative insight. Using grotesque depictions of human physicality and fostering unease in a reader may be the best means of suggesting the possible truths of our nature, precisely because they provoke a discomfort and curiosity necessary for self-examination. This study analyzes several works of fiction that contain weird/speculative themes to identify how their narrative elements may function as companions. These works exemplify the weird and the speculative's common aim: to reflect cultural sensibilities and to give agency to new literary perspectives by transforming current genre discourses. Thus, the union of the speculative and the weird serves to enhance the literary potential of both, creating an enhanced means of portraying human issues through literature and a stranger and gutsier voice with which to examine the world we live in.



Maddy Norgard

"Clay County Civil Rights Movement: Black Power and Practicality"

Clay County, Mississippi, has a rich history of involvement in the civil rights movement but has been analyzed by very few scholars. A study of the rural structure and racial demographics of the county sheds light on important aspects of the civil rights movement outside of heavily studied areas in the state. Civil rights activity in the county peaked in the late 1960s and early 1970s and was focused on making practical changes to economic structures and on armed resistance in order to protect local citizens from racial terror. This project examines how these activities differed from other areas in the state and the difficulties faced by movements after outside support dwindled for the civil rights movement. People in Clay County had a distinctly practical approach to activism that focused on Black Power, armed resistance through the development of an armed organization developed to protect the safety of residents; the Black United Front, economic initiatives to develop Head Start programs an active Welfare Rights Organization; and the Clay County Economic Development Cooperative. This led to increases in welfare funding, the development of economic cooperatives that gave people both job skills and income, and an influx of federal funding and support for these initiatives in the county. These programs and organizations were led by local black citizens who maintained roots in the county long after freedom summer, which allowed for sustained change and the development of ideas supported by the Black Power movement.

Diptika Raut, Sagarina Thapa, Shreya Ghimire, Lisa Shrestha

"Optimization of western blotting for detection of protein of different molecular mass"

Western blotting is a common procedure for the detection of specific proteins in a complex biological mixture. Some of the key factors in obtaining optimum protein-specific signal include, type of membrane, blocking agent, and concentration of methanol used in Towbin's Transfer Buffer (TTB). the Aim of this study is to obtain optimal signal for proteins of different molecular mass using combination of these variables. Cell lysates were prepared from a lung epithelial cell line (CFBE) and subjected to SDS-PAGE and transferred to either nitrocellulose (NC) or PVDF membrane. Membranes were then blocked with a variety of blocking agents (BSA, gelatin, non-fat dry milk, FBS or their equimolar mixture), and immunoblotted with antibodies against randomly chosen protein markers representing high (CFTR; MW 170 kDa), medium (LAMP1; MW 110 kDa), and low (Rab11; MW 25 kDa) molecular mass proteins. Optimal conditions were identified, and then subjected to another set of experiments to determine the effects of methanol concentration (0-20%) in TTB in maintaining or further enhancing the optimized protein-specific signals. Our data suggests that optimum protein-specific signals can be obtained when NC membrane was used and blocked with a mixture of blocking agents. Presence of methanol in TTB appears to have little to no effects on improving signals of high molecular mass protein. However, in case of medium and small size proteins a lower concentration of methanol (10%) was sufficient to produce optimal signal. Methanol, a toxic solvent, therefore can be removed or reduced from TTB without compromising with the optimized protein-specific signals.



Maggie Smith

"Cultures and How We Define Them of Being Worthy"

This research proposal focuses on the way that travelers viewed other cultures different from their own. We have always viewed cultures different from the ones we've been immersed in since we were young as somewhat less than. They were almost regarded as heathen and primitive. So what garners our respect in different cultures? What makes us want to build a relationship with these people? What makes us want to trade with people who we view as less than? In this essay I have examined the respect among different cultures and how we understand what we think is deserving of our respect. For my research I have read Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift. I have been looking at the way the main character Gulliver interacts with these culture who are not only different in their aspect of day to day life but in size and appearance as well. What makes him interact the way he does with these people?

Logan Suggs

"Early Exploration of Christopher Columbus"

This research proposal discusses travel that is discussed in the Diary of Christopher Columbus First Voyage. I will focus on the methods of travel that Columbus and his men used such as boats as well as the technology that used used to aid his travel. The use of the text as well as secondary sources provide much information as to how travel was conducted during this time period. The reader is able to understand how the technology helped Columbus, and it explains how the technology was different from what is used now. This gives a deeper look into the travels of Columbus and his people. Also, the methods of travel, the reasons for travel, and the technology used allow the reader to have a more elaborate understanding of the travels of Christopher Columbus during his first voyage. This diary serves as a great first hand account of the difficulties these men could face as well as how they overcame situations.

Sagarina Thapa, Diptika Raut, Shreya Ghimire, Lisa Shrestha

"Stability of CFTR on Plasma Membrane of a Lung Epithelial Cell"

CFTR (Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane-conductance Regulator) functions as a chloride ion channel on the epithelial cells of many organs. Mutations impair the function of CFTR and are responsible for causing a pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis. Our laboratory has shown that the plasma membrane half-life of the most common CFTR mutation ($\Delta F508$) is much shorter (~ 4 h) than that of wild-type CFTR (>48 h). [Heda et al, 2001].
HYPOTHESIS: We hypothesize that this reduced $\Delta F508$ -CFTR half-life may be due to the distinct roles of proteasomes, lysosomes and/or CFTR-protein(s) interactions. In this study, we present the effects of proteasomal and lysosomal inhibitors on the stability of plasma membrane $\Delta F508$ -CFTR. METHODS: Epithelial cell lines from human lung (CFBE) stably transfected with $\Delta F508$ or wild type CFTR were pre-treated with 5 mM sodium butyrate at 27°C for about 60 hrs to up-regulate the plasma membrane CFTR expression. Cells were then "chased" at 37°C in the presence of protein synthesis inhibitor (cycloheximide) and/or inhibitors of proteasomes (MG132, lactacystin, ALLN, leupeptin), or lysosomal enzymes (E64, EST, chloroquine). Cell lysates were prepared and immunoblotted with anti-CFTR antibody. CFTR-specific signal was detected by chemiluminescence using c300 image analyzer (Azure Biosystems). RESULTS: All inhibitors except for chloroquine partially rescued the degradation of plasma membrane $\Delta F508$ -CFTR in CFBE cell line. Little or no synergistic effects were observed when these inhibitors were used in combination. CONCLUSION: These data suggest that the CFTR degradation is partially controlled by proteasomes and lysosomal enzymes.



Gwynnedra Vance

"The Travels of Sir John Mandeville"

My proposal is about The Travels of Sir John Mandeville, and focusing on why the people during this time assumed this travel work was true. I will also be comparing this to sources that focus on religious travel and a travel book written by a real person. The idea is to see why the people never questioned the information that was written in the book based on their mindset and what the people thought of travel during the Middle Ages. Since the author says that he was born in England, and based on England's main religion during this time, everything that has to do with Christianity is uplifted and goes into detail about how great these places are. The countries and cities whose religion isn't Christian are described as savages and not having land that's worth living on. Even though some of these lands are places he didn't travel to.

Jenna Vining

"Pilgrimage in The Canterbury Tales"

I will be presenting the reasons for travel used within The Canterbury Tales as well as the means by which they traveled as well. This includes where and why they travel, how they mean to reach their destinations, and what comes of their travel. There will be insight to what relates to travel inside the stories themselves and the characters doing the telling and comparing it to real life medieval travel that took place. While looking at how the pilgrimages take place in The Canterbury Tales, I will also be examining the roles of both men and women during their journeys. This entails what differs between the two sexes. Men and women both have reasons to make these religious pilgrimages, but they embark upon their journey differently for their individual needs. For instance, if, why they travel, and if they do not travel at all and their hardships and restrictions they endure.

Kristen Wright

"Sexual and Reproductive Health Literacy in College Students Attending a University in Mississippi"

Sexuality education in public schools is an ongoing political controversy. While 24 states mandate sex education, less than 50% of high schools and 20% of middle schools teach the 16 topics that are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] (Planned Parenthood, 2018). Mississippi public schools are required to teach either abstinence-only or abstinence-plus sexuality education. A thirty-five-item survey was developed to assess college-aged students' understanding of biological male and female sexual and reproductive anatomy, appropriate use of contraceptives, menstruation and pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, gender identity, sexual orientation, and sexual consent. The survey will be implemented at a university in Mississippi via a school-wide email to determine if abstinence-only and abstinence-plus sexuality education programs in public schools have led to a deficiency in literacy of sexual and reproductive health. Additionally, the results will serve as evidence in support of mandated sexuality education coursework at the undergraduate level.



SPECIAL THANKS

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Lauren Harmon, OUR Student Intern

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RECEPTION & AWARDS CEREMONY

Gail P. Gunter Multipurpose Room, 3:30-5:00

INTRODUCTION

Coordinator of Undergraduate Research

RECEPTION

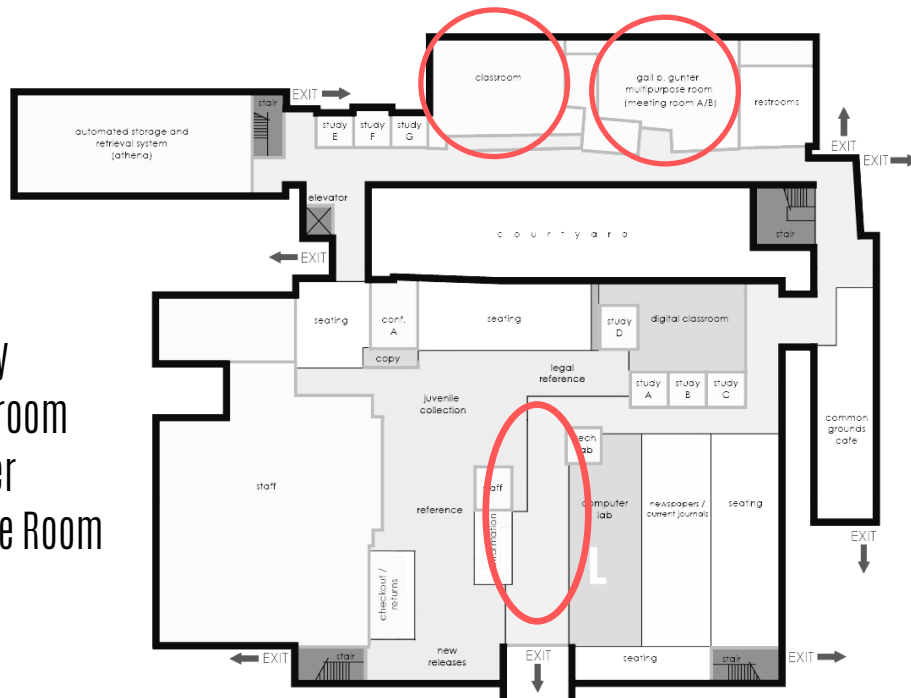
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AWARDS CEREMONY

Top Oral Presentations
Top Poster Presentations
Top Short-Term Projects
Top Long-Term Projects
Top Project Proposal
Top Overall Project

FIRST FLOOR

- Library Lobby
- Tiered Classroom
- Gail P. Gunter Multipurpose Room



SECOND FLOOR

- Conference B
- Active Learning Classroom

