Students Reveal Research Findings Gathered at Democratic and Republican Conventions

Matthew Bradshaw, Sara Lynn Colley, and Meghan de St. Aubin. National Convention and Democratic National Convention. The group of twenty students traveled in August and September to the conventions, held in Tampa, Florida and Charlotte, North Carolina, to conduct on-site research as a requirement for the fulfillment of the courses Reporting at the Party Convention and Party Conventions Field Study. Dr. DeWitt, assistant professor of Political Science, comments, “Political science, in particular, is about more than simply knowing facts and theories; it’s about asking and systematically answering questions. The research project in this course required undergraduate students actually do political science.”

Teams were formed by pairing students who attended opposite conventions to be able to compare data. Students first created a research question as well as a proposal and acquired ethics training. They then gathered, coded, processed, and analyzed the data. The students presented their final research at the panel. Project topics included the impact of Twitter and new media on American politics and the journalist aspect of reporting from the conventions. Gillian Griffin, junior Political Science major, conducted quantitative research. She states, “I realized doing research where you get to interact with people and make your own observation is a lot of fun and rewarding.”

Max Harris, senior at Kennesaw State University, encourages undergraduate students to become involved in research. “You don’t have to be a hard science major to do research,” expresses Harris. “Having students in a course where they’re exposed to the rigors of doing field research, I think is unmatched.” Several students are continuing to compile research in hopes of publishing their findings.

Lloyd Travels To South America for Data Collection

Matthew Lloyd, a Geographic Information System major with a minor in Latin American/Latino Studies at Kennesaw State University, traveled to Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia to collect survey data. Lloyd, the co-author of two previously published research pieces, traveled with a study abroad group that attempted to determine the relationship between people with unlike cultural backgrounds and their ideas about the environment. He later traveled to Seattle, Washington to present his findings at a conference.

Labeling himself a history buff about the outdoors with an interest in culture and geography, Lloyd states undergraduate research has strengthened his method of gathering data in the field as well as presenting his results. When he is not conducting hands on data, Lloyd can be found in the GIS lab compiling information into analytical software and mapping systems. He reveals that visual aid presentations are the simplest way to depict data in the GIS field. The research process has also allowed him to learn the best way to utilize the data received.

As the current GIS intern for Bartow County, Lloyd is part of a group recreating maps from as far back as 1830. The new maps will be available online to be used in K-12 programs. Lloyd hopes to obtain a job after graduation in which he can be outside and create maps. “I think by an employer seeing that you’ve gone well out of your way to go through the, for many parts, crazy time crunching for getting something published shows your dedication and willingness to do anything necessary,” Lloyd says.

Hwang and Students to Present Typography Research in Japan

Kristine Hwang, assistant professor of Graphic Design at Kennesaw State University, and her research group of students have been invited to present their research at a design practice conference in Japan. This past summer, Hwang compiled a group of five undergraduate research students to create an interactive electronic book about Typography. The students are learning methods of conducting research, designing an e-Book, and the steps of production. The group is in the process of producing a version of the e-Book for Kindle, iPad, Nook, iPhone, and Android Phone.

The group required funds to purchase all the devices to fulfill their research. “This project got funds from CETL, which validates how important this project is,” notes Hwang. The group is aiming to complete their project by January to prepare for their presentation overseas in March 2013. In Japan, the students will present the methodology that was used in the research.

Hwang comments that the faculty of the university have recently been encouraged to conduct more research instead of focusing solely on teaching; although, she notes teaching is significant. From her perspective, Hwang believes faculty should partake in research in which their interest lies. She is doing so by assembling a second research group of students to compare the effectiveness between e-books and hard copy books.
Undergraduate Research Club
Message from President
Courtney Collins

URC had a great Fall semester. First, we launched our website - visit https://clubs.kennesaw.edu/urc/ for more details. Second, we elected several new officers: Elizabeth Lowe (Public Relations Officer), Jennifer Pramuk (Treasurer), and Lauren Clemons (Vice President). In addition, we have our first student webmaster, Gio Vilomar. Welcome aboard, Liz, Jennifer, Lauren, and Gio! Third, we have had very productive meetings this semester. We brainstormed ideas for the club, and we heard excellent advice from both faculty and students about how to get involved and succeed in undergraduate research. We look forward to continued success in the Spring semester! All students are welcome; come check us out at the January meeting. For more information, find us on Facebook or contact us at cetl4ur@kennesaw.edu.

Editor’s Corner

Newsletter Submissions

Is there research you believe should be highlighted, do you have a story to share, or advice to offer regarding undergraduate research? Your submission could be featured in our upcoming issue of the Undergraduate Research Newsletter. This newsletter is published twice per semester. All inquiries should be made as soon as possible. Email cetl4ur@kennesaw.edu or call CETL at (770)423-6410 to submit ideas.

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Amy Buddie
Editor: Daniela Medina
Photo Credit: Daniela Medina

University Hosts Kennesaw Mountain Undergraduate Mathematics Conference

The second annual Kennesaw Mountain Mathematics Conference was held at Kennesaw State University on October 19 and 20. The conference attracted more than 160 students from throughout the nation. With funding from CETL and the Mathematical Association of America, the schedule included three key speakers, faculty seminars, panel sessions, and student presentations. One of the goals of the event was to allow students the opportunity to present their mathematical research. Yuliya Babenko, PhD, assistant professor of Mathematics at Kennesaw State University and coordinator of the conference, comments, “Having the opportunity to see other undergraduates report on their research will inspire others to become involved in research themselves and will demonstrate to faculty the capabilities of serious undergraduate students.”

Students were additionally able to meet recognized mathematicians in the mathematical community as well as learn information about graduate schools and careers in the field. “Having regional conferences provides many more students the opportunity to meaningfully participate in a conference, gain experience of such crucial skills as communicating their research findings, to network, and simply to discover new exciting mathematics,” states Dr. Babenko. Plans are currently in progress for the conference to return next year.

Photo Credit: Jordan Dietsch & David Caselli