

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Students Reveal Research Findings Gathered at Democratic and Republican Conventions



Matthew Bradshaw, Sara Lynn Colley, and Meghan de St. Aubin

The Convention Politics Panel, held October 22, was an opportunity for Kennesaw State University communication and political science students to present the research they collected at the Republican 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."

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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.



Shane Wright and Max Harris

IMPORTANT DATES

URC Spring Semester Meetings

The Undergraduate Research Club (URC) will meet on January 15, February 12, and March 12 in University Room A at 12:30 p.m. The final meeting of the semester will be on April 16 at 12:30 p.m. in the Burruss Building Room 381.

URCA Funding Deadline

The Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA) Funding deadlines are December 7, February 8 and April 5 by 5 p.m.

KJUR Submission Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the *Kennesaw Journal of Undergraduate Research* (KJUR) is March 15. Submissions can be made at - <http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/kjur/>

CARET Funding Deadline

The Creative Activities and Research Experiences for Teams (CARET) Funding deadline is January 18 by 5 p.m.

Funding information and applications are located at www.kennesaw.edu/cetl/faculty_funds/undergraduate_research.

Lloyd Travels To South America for Data Collection



Matt 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.

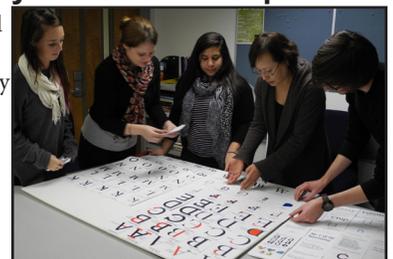
Hwang and Students to Present Typography Research in Japan

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.



Laura Zerlin, Shanna King, Daniela Dewendi, Kristine Hwang, and Greg Thye



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.

Alumni Gains Sense of Achievement Through Research

James Triplett shares his undergraduate research experience.

When did you graduate from Kennesaw State University?

I graduated in Spring 2012 with a Bachelor's of Science in Communication, a Media Studies concentration, and minor in Film Studies.

Where do you currently attend school?

I am a Master's of Arts student at Georgia State University focusing on Film and Television production.

What was the undergraduate research you conducted?

The purpose of my study was to conduct an attitudinal analysis of both straight and non-straight television viewers on the perceptions of homosexual characters on television. Dr. Erin Ryan, of the Communication Department, oversaw my research efforts. I am not sure I would have ever finished or even have appropriately started the process had she not been my advisor.

How was the research conducted?

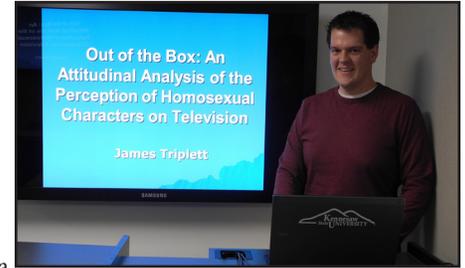
I started by seeing if there was any similar research done in the past. I found that a lot of the scholarly work available, regarding homosexual television characters, only dealt with their rise in television and not necessarily viewers' acceptance of them. I then created a survey that asked questions regarding people's knowledge and feelings regarding homosexual characters. Once I got enough responses, I conducted statistical analyses to see if the gathered results regarding the questions were significant.

What are your future goals?

My ultimate future goal is to create a highly successful and popular television show that people enjoy. I want to earn an Emmy for my work.

What was the biggest accomplishment of your research?

The biggest accomplishment of my research was actually getting it finished. Doing all the work and completing the paper associated with it gave me the biggest sense of accomplishment that I felt in all of my time in undergraduate studies, besides graduating of course. I felt really proud of my work, and I felt as if I made an advancement in the course of social and academic research.



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 an 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

