5-22-2002

8th Annual Governors State University Student Research Conference Proceedings

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Proceedings of the 8th Annual GSU Student Research Conference
Governors State University
Wednesday, May 22, 2002
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Editor:
Dr. Shelly Kumar
Division of Science
College of Arts and Sciences

Governors State University
Proceedings of the 8th Annual GSU Student Research Conference

Governors State University
University Park, IL 60466

May 22, 2002

Editor
Dr. Shelly Kumar
Division of Science
College of Arts and Sciences
Governors State University

College of Arts and Sciences

College of Business and Public Administration

College of Education

College of Health Profession
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May 2002

Dear Student Researcher:

Welcome to the Eighth Annual Governors State University Research Conference. And congratulations to you and your teachers.

No matter the subject of your research, I think each participant has already experienced some of the same joys of research. There is the sense of satisfaction in making connections between two sets of facts that once seemed so dissimilar. There is the pleasure that comes from solving an intellectual puzzle. And there is the sense of completion from sharing a discovery with others.

I’m sure you will again experience those positive feelings at your conference today.

Enjoy the day. And thank you for contributing to the scholarship and intellectual life of Governors State University.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Stuart I. Fagan
President
A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

The steering committee is pleased to announce the 8th Annual GSU Student Research Conference to be held on May 22, 2002. In the past seven conferences, the quality of the presentations was at par with presentations at any professional conferences. This conference has become a tradition in excellence, and we are confident that today again we will witness another session of quality presentations by our students. This conference will be presented in its original format and with its original objectives:

1. To provide students an opportunity to present their research work before an audience of their peers, and to use the comments they receive to improve presentations made at professional conferences.

2. To provide a forum to highlight research accomplishments at GSU, and honor students presenting their research work.

3. To generate enthusiasm among the student body in general, and encourage them to pursue research and other scholarly activities.

4. To enhance communications in the area of research among the four colleges at GSU. The interactions may also lead to collaborative work among students and faculty of different colleges.

5. To enhance the image of GSU in the area of teaching, as research is considered an integral part of teaching at the university level. In the long run a larger number of students attracted to research would enroll at GSU to pursue higher education.

The committee hopes that you will enjoy the conference, that you share in the excitement of doing research, and that you will look forward to participating in future student and professional conferences.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Student Research Conference Steering Committee is proud to announce that the key note speaker for the lunch will be:

John E. Woods

Professor of History and Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies
University of Chicago

Educated at the University of Texas (BA) and at Cairo University, Tehran University (ABD), and Princeton University (MA, PhD), John Woods has taught Middle Eastern, Islamic, and Central Asian history at the University of Chicago since 1970.

He has published a number of monographs, articles, and translations relating to the medieval history and civilization of Turkey, Iran, and Muslim Central Asia.

He has lived in Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Iran, and Uzbekistan for extended periods and has conducted tours in Turkey, Israel, Palestine, Iran, and Central Asia.

In addition he is the Director of the University of Chicago’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies, a US Department of Education National Resource Center. In this capacity he developed and implemented a nationally recognized program of public education that linked the resources of the University of Chicago in Middle Eastern Studies with collegiate and pre-collegiate educators, business groups and the media in more than thirty states.

He is currently also the American Academic Director of the Chinggis Khan Expedition, a collaborative American-Mongolian geo-historical research project in Mongolia.

Keynote Address

The Whys of Terrorism

After the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, the question “Why do they hate us?” was asked everywhere. This presentation will consider the responses to this question and then discuss the historical processes that help explain the current world situation.
PROGRAM SUMMARY

Engbretson Hall:

8:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.  Conference Registration
9:00 A.M. – 9:20 A.M.  Welcome and Introduction
9:20 A.M. – 10:20 A.M. Podium Presentations
10:20 A.M. – 10:40 A.M. Refreshment Break
10:40 A.M. – 12:00 Noon Podium Presentations

Hall of Honors:

12:00 Noon – 1:00 P.M.  Lunch
1:00 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.  Greetings and Introduction of Speaker
1:15 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.  Keynote Address, Dr. John E. Woods

Engbretson Hall:

2:00 P.M. – 2:20 P.M.  Certificates Presentation to Student Participants
2:20 P.M. – 3:20 P.M.  Podium Presentations
3:20 P.M. – 3:40 P.M.  Refreshment Break
3:40 P.M. – 4:40 P.M.  Podium Presentations
4:40 P.M. – 4:45 P.M.  Concluding Remarks
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Conference Registration
8:30 A.M. Hall of Governors

Program Commencement
9:00 A.M.
Welcome and Introduction:
Dr. Shelly Kumar
Division of Science
College of Arts and Sciences

Greetings:
Dr. Paul Keys, Provost

Podium Presentations
Engbretson Hall

Session I Moderator:
Dr. Akkanad Isaac
Division of Management, Marketing, and Public Administration
College of Business and Public Administration

9:20 A.M.
“REVIEW OF AMISH WEBSITES: SYMBOLISM IN A CHANGING CULTURE”, Jean Schorie and Frances Kostarelos*, Social Science, Division of Liberal Arts, CAS. p 12.

9:40 A.M.

10:00 A.M.

10:20 A.M.
Refreshment Break

Session II Moderator:
Dr. Linda Buyer
Division of Psychology and Counseling
College of Education
10:40 A.M.  “SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ACHIEVE IT?”, Dianne M. Kronika and Larry Levinson*, Political and Justice Studies, Division of Liberal Arts, CAS. p 15.

11:00 A.M.  “DEVELOPING A WEBSITE PROTOTYPE TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY: A GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY”, Mary Anne Bialas, Halina Gal, Katrina Lewis, Jill Reidelbach, Kelli Sykes, Vanessa Swida, Catherine Brady,* Beth Cada,* Cynthia Carr,* Patti Kalvelage,* and Jessica Pedersen*, Occupational Therapy, Division of Nursing, Communication Disorders, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy, CHP. p 16.


Conference Lunch

12:00 P.M.

Lunch

1:00 P.M.

Greetings:
Dr. Stuart I. Fagan, President

Keynote Speaker
Dr. John E. Woods
Department of History
University of Chicago

Speaking on

“The Whys of Terrorism”

Certificates Presentation
Engbretson Hall

2:00 P.M.

Podium Presentations
Engbretson Hall

Session III Moderator:
Dr. Frances Kostarelos
2:20 P.M.  "DEVELOPMENT OF A METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF MINOR METAL COMPONENTS IN THE UNITED STATES CENT THAT IS SUITABLE FOR USE BY HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY STUDENTS", Lina Zayed, Karen D'Arcy* and Gary Lyon* Analytical Chemistry, Division of Science, CAS. p 18.

2:40 P.M.  "EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT", Jean M. Koehler and Ana Kong*, Communications & Training, Division of Liberal Arts, CAS. p 19.

3:00 P.M.  "AN EVALUATION OF THE DISTANCES OF PERCEPTION AND REACTIONS TO EMERGENCY LIGHTING, AND THE IMPACT ON EMERGENCY RESPONDERS", Mark Karczewski and John W. Swain*, Public Administration, Division of Public Administration, CBPA. p 20.

3:20 P.M.  Refreshment Break

Session IV Moderator:
Professor Cynthia Carr
Division of Nursing and Health Sciences
College of Health Professions


4:00 P.M.  "FLEA MARKET ETHNOGRAPHY", Todd R. Harting and Frances Kostarelos*, Social Science, Division of Liberal Arts, CAS. p 22.

4:20 P.M.  "APPROACHING MISSILE DEFENSE IN A NEW AGE OF TERRORISM", Jerry Moore and Larry Levinson*, Political and Justice Studies, Division of Liberal Arts, CAS. p 23.

4:40 P.M.  Concluding Remarks
Dr. Shelly Kumar
ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS

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Governors State University
University Park, Illinois
A REVIEW OF AMISH WEBSITES: SYMBOLISM IN A CHANGING CULTURE

Jean Schorie and Frances Kostarelos*

Social Science
Division of Liberal Arts, CAS

ABSTRACT

Most people know that the Amish reject the use of most modern technologies, including the Internet. Yet, there are over one thousand websites devoted to all things Amish. Further scrutiny reveals that these websites are not operated by the Amish, but by those who have close ties with Amish communities and Amish craftspeople. Seeking to capitalize on the ever-growing popularity of Amish goods and services, these websites often resort to stereotypical words and images to attract customers. In a review of twenty “Amish” websites, seven distinct contradictions appear between how the Amish are presented and the reality of Amish life. The result is misleading and sometimes even damaging to the Amish culture.
ABSTRACT

Every year in October through early November, Mexico is transformed into a colorful, festive celebration of the Days of the Dead. Families build altars with skulls and skeletons, make offerings, prepare special foods, dance, drink, and commune with the dead. Part of the ritual takes place in the homes, but eventually everyone fills the cemeteries. The Days of the Dead provides a synthesis of the ritual of death, indigenous customs, and the rituals of the Catholic Church. The image of the skeleton is the embodiment of this ceremony.

The belief in the afterlife has been a part of Mesoamerica since the Pre-Classical period. Images of skulls and skeletons can be found in the archeological discoveries throughout Mexico. Recorded writings of the missionaries describe the practices of the Aztecs to venerate the dead and summon the spirits back to the home. The pottery, stone sculpture, and even gods have images of skulls or skeletons to remind people of death.

When the Spanish conquered the indigenous people of Mexico they worked to convert the people. Catholic rituals and beliefs were fused with indigenous customs. This natural blending is evident in the way the Mexicans celebrate the Days of the Dead.

This blending is apparent in Mexico’s contemporary art, where the image of skulls is used frequently. This investigation connects past images to current artisan’s use of death images in art. This research of images of skulls and skeletons showed how significant these images are to the Mexican’s Days of the Dead.
READING DISORDERS

Colleen Unrath, Phil Boudreau, and Maribeth Kasik*

Multicategorical Special Education
Division of Education, COE

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to investigate an effective strategy to provide students identified with reading disabilities improve in their reading skills. The research indicated that phoneme awareness activities were effective in helping students overcome reading weaknesses. The participants were eight students identified with reading disorders. An experimental study was designed to help children overcome deficits in reading. Their reading abilities varied within the preprimer level. A phoneme awareness pre-test and post-test was administered to assess their reading abilities both prior to, and after an intervention. The mean scores were compared and a t-test was performed to determine the level of significance of the results. The results of the t-test demonstrated that the intervention did help the children significantly improve their reading skills. Furthermore, it was noticed that the students' attitudes toward reading improved. It is recommended, based upon the findings, that students with special needs be given needs assessments and, if found to have deficits, be taught using methods to address them. The significance of the work is to inform teachers the importance of addressing reading deficits in children identified with reading disorders.
SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ACHIEVE IT?

Dianne M. Kronika and Larry Levinson*

Political and Justice Studies
Division of Liberal Arts, CAS

ABSTRACT

Just what is sustainability and how can it be achieved? For purposes of this study, sustainability is defined as the level of resource use by all species within the ecosphere at which natural capital and diversity are maintained. Evidence suggests that a change in consumption patterns is necessary to achieve sustainability. Research on Natural Capitalism coupled with that done on Voluntary Simplicity suggests combination of the two movements is most likely to produce sustainability.

This study compares environmental public policy in the United States with that in The Netherlands, which is identified as meeting stricter standards for environmental controls and consumption. It compares Ecological Footprint data for the two countries, and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) data. Traditional and Natural Capitalism are compared to determine their relative impacts on natural capital and diversity. Additionally, the study compares the effects of the consumption pattern of materialism with those of voluntary simplicity through resource savings identified through the Global Action Plan, changes in consumption patterns over the last fifty years, and standard of living information.

The expected finding of this study was that the Natural Capitalism and Voluntary Simplicity models, in the long-term, foster sustainability and are more cost efficient than Traditional Capitalism and materialism. While the study was not conclusive, it did show that Natural Capitalism coupled with Voluntary Simplicity is likely to produce sustainability. The study verified that a change in consumption patterns is necessary to achieve sustainability.
DEVELOPING A WEBSITE PROTOTYPE TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY: A GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Mary Anne Bialas, Halina Gal, Katrina Lewis, Jill Reidelbach, Kelli Sykes, Vanessa Swida, Catherine Brady,* Beth Cada,* Cynthia Carr,* Patti Kalvelage,* and Jessica Pedersen*

Occupational Therapy
Division of Nursing, Communication Disorders, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy, CHP

ABSTRACT (Part A)

The objective of this research project was to first determine the level of awareness among the Governors State University (GSU) community about the profession of occupational therapy as well as the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program at Governors State University. An extensive literature review was conducted and found a lack of awareness about the profession of occupational therapy among the general public. A basic knowledge and understanding of OT is essential for the future growth and development of the profession. For this research project, the researchers hypothesize that the lack of awareness present in the general public can be generalized to the GSU community. Due to the growing popularity of the Internet, many state associations and universities utilize this method to promote occupational therapy and educational programs. The researchers incorporated the use of the Internet by creating a website prototype for the Occupational Therapy Program at Governors State University. The website prototype was designed to allow accessibility to all individuals including those with disabilities.

(Part B)

A survey was conducted at Governors State University to determine the level of awareness of the profession of occupational therapy and the GSU Master of Occupational Therapy Program. Results indicated that while a majority of the GSU community stated they were aware of the profession of occupational therapy, half of the participants were not aware of the Master of Occupational Therapy program at GSU. In response to the literature and survey results, a website prototype for the Master of Occupational Therapy program was developed to include components to promote both the profession of occupational therapy and the educational program to the general public and the faculty, staff, and students at Governors State University. The website prototype includes the following: additional and updated information about occupational therapy and the GSU Master of Occupational Therapy Program, a definition of occupational therapy published by the American Occupational Therapy Association, and photographs and graphic designs that meet website accessibility requirements.
Note: This is a double presentation of 40 minutes.
COMPILER DESIGN USING OBJECT-ORIENTED METHODS WITH APPLICATIONS IN SCIENTIFIC COMPUTATIONS

Jack Douglas Martin and Reino Hakala*

Computer Science
Division of Science, CAS

ABSTRACT

Object-oriented analysis and design will be used to construct a compiler, with basic syntax and structure similar to modern compilers, which will possess the ability to compute intervals that contain accurate results between guaranteed lower and upper bounds. (The result is known accurately to the extent of the agreement between the upper and lower bounds.) Interval analysis is useful in determining whether particular algorithms will provide accurate results using floating-point arithmetic.
DEVELOPMENT OF A METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF MINOR METAL COMPONENTS IN THE UNITED STATES CENT THAT IS SUITABLE FOR USE BY HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY STUDENTS

Lina Zayed, Karen D'Arcy* and Gary Lyon*

Analytical Chemistry
Division of Science, CAS

ABSTRACT

As determined by statute, the composition of United States cents of the years 1864-1962 was 95% copper, 5% tin and zinc, with the relative amounts of the latter metals left to the discretion of the Director of the Mint. The Penny Project at Governors State University has developed a method to determine the zinc concentration by flame atomic absorption spectroscopy. Method development consisted of digestion of cents in aqua regia (hydrochloric and nitric acid mixture), and nitric acid. Trace metal and analytical reagent grades of both hydrochloric and nitric acid were employed. Because this project envisions the use of hundreds of students at many schools to analyze thousands of coins, the pilot project performed by students from Reavis High School used commonly available glassware and equipment for solution preparation. Solutions were analyzed using the Perkin-Elmer Analyst 800 atomic absorption spectrometer. Solutions of dissolved cents were diluted gravimetrically (approximately 0.02 grams of US cent solution to 50 grams of distilled water). Dates of US cents analyzed ranged from 1910 to 1960. Pilot project data suggest that as the dates increased the relative amount of zinc also increased.
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT

Jean M. Koehler and Ana Kong*

Communications & Training
Division of Liberal Arts, CAS

ABSTRACT

Studies have shown the importance of communications in healthcare ranging from the very highly technical to the very high touch. Some of the various communication forms have been the areas of spirituality, clear documentation for the enhancement of quality care, technological advancements for emergency responders, religious perspectives, age differences, cultural differences and a myriad of other ways to consider how communication can affect healthcare. One thing seems certain, however, and that is patient outcomes and communication in the healthcare environment have a strong correlation. The ability of healthcare workers to effectively relate to patients on their level and to their understanding can make the difference in a successful patient outcome.
AN EVALUATION OF THE DISTANCES OF PERCEPTION AND REACTIONS TO EMERGENCY LIGHTING, AND THE IMPACT ON EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Mark Karczewski and John W. Swain*

Public Administration
Division of Public Administration, CBPA

ABSTRACT

The paper looks at the color of emergency lighting relative to the safety of emergency responders at stationary highway emergency scenes. Specifically considered are the distances at which different color emergency lights can be seen and comments on the various colors used. One hundred people were exposed to four different colors of emergency lighting from a vehicle traveling at a measured speed over a measured course. The distance at which they saw the different lights was measured using a stop watch. Their comments on the different colors were recorded. The four colors were seen in the same ordinal order by all respondents: white, amber, red and blue. The color white drew negative comments from a majority of the respondents, while the color amber drew positive comments from a majority of respondents. The conclusion in the paper is that amber is probably the single preferable emergency light color for stationary highway emergency scenes at night.
The purpose of this presentation is to discuss United States' policy concerning the War on Drugs. As a struggle that has killed many thousands, and affects the lives and pocket books of both users and non-users in our society, it is imperative that an effective policy be developed in this arena. Specifically, this paper seeks to answer several fundamental questions: How do the political-economic dynamics of this issue operate? What are the results of the War on Drugs? Is our policy effective? If not, what route should the United States take in addressing this issue.

The information gathered is reflected on in terms of political economy, as this issue is related to the rubrics of such discourse, with the ultimate goal of understanding the interconnections and cause-effect relationships generated by our nation's struggle to rid itself of certain controlled substances.
FLEA MARKET ETHNOGRAPHY

Todd R. Harting and Frances Kostarelos*

Social Science
Division of Liberal Arts, CAS

ABSTRACT

Searching for treasures, especially antiquities, has been a hobby of mine since childhood. My innate curiosity about the inner-workings of the Flea Market grew as I learned about social science research. I had frequented a flea market near my home, and began my research project by taking a closer look at the typical day at the flea market. The site was much more complex than I had thought prior. What I found when I carefully examined the flea market was not only the simple view of buyer and seller, but also the subtle complexities between subgroups of buyers and sellers. Many variables affected the strength of the flea market on any given weekend. These variables include the weather, holidays, national sporting events and the time of day buyers and sellers arrive. The flea market was important to many people, but for various reasons. Some people relied on the flea market to purchase items they could not afford otherwise, while some sellers needed the flea market to supplement their income. The particular flea market I examined has been open for more than thirty years and as I discovered, technology has begun to change the nature of the business.
The U.S. government’s consideration of an anti-ballistic missile defense system has been controversial since the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was first developed in the mid-1980s. Proponents claim it would protect the country against rogue nations that seek to threaten us by obtaining ballistic missiles for use with weapons of mass destruction. Critics believe implementing such a system would spark a new arms race and throw vast sums of money into technology that ultimately won’t work. My presentation will examine the need for a missile defense system in light of our fight against international terrorism. I will assess the dangers posed by hostile nations and fanatical terrorist groups. My presentation will analyze the arguments offered by critics of missile defense and demonstrate their flaws. I will also propose ways to pursue a missile defense system in a manner that could prove less threatening to our adversaries.

The primary trade areas were determined for the four stores to be the same communities. The most local communities seem to be the main consumers for all stores.

Multiple regression was used to relate the market penetration rate to a few different factors. These variables were distance of community from the intersection, the number of competitive stores in each community (either Jewel or Dominick’s), the percentage of the population that is employed in each community, and the median household value (used to show affluence and ability to pay). The regression showed that the results all contained the same negative sign which indicates that the relationships are actually following the logic that the further away a community is from a store, the less likely its inhabitants are to go out of their way to shop there.
# STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

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8th Annual GSU Student Research Conference
Wednesday, May 22, 2002

CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Conference Organizer
Dr. Shelly Kumar

College Representatives
Dr. Linda Buyer, College of Education
Prof. Cynthia Carr, College of Health Professions
Dr. Akkanad Issac, College of Business and Public Administration
Dr. Frances Kostarelos, College of Arts and Sciences
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Conference Steering Committee would like to thank the provost's office for financial assistance; division chairs, deans, provost, and president for the continual support and encouragement; PPO in setting rooms and audio-visual equipment; CELCS and Print Shop for help in graphics and printing; and Public Affairs for publicity.