

Conference Catch-Up

Celebration of Student Scholarship (April 27 / Morehead State University)

A great many Honors students presented last week at the Celebration of Student Scholarship here at Morehead State University.

Jessica Farrell received the Camden-Carroll Library Award for Research, and Arlo Barnette, Haley Clay, Jonathan Dean, Jessica Farrell, Max Prowant, Ben Rasp, and Spencer Sullivan all received Merit awards in their respective colleges for their presentations.

John Alcorn ("Remodeling of the Actin Cytoskeleton and Contraction in the A7r5 Smooth Muscle Cell") presented on the roles of alpha-actin and beta-actin in the unique contractile properties in smooth muscle.

Arlo Barnette ("Structure and Composition of Epiphyte Communities on Eastern Hemlock in Spaws Creek Gorge, KY") presented on the type and distribution of epiphytes on the trunk and branches of the eastern hemlock in an effort to expand knowledge on the species before it begins disappearing due to the presence of non-native insects.

Zoe Becerra ("Rating the Visual Complexity in Roadway Scenes") presented on a study in which participants judged the visual complexity of roadways presented to them in videos based on variables of location, barrier type, traffic level, barrier location, and first or second scene appearance.

Andrew Blevins and Nathan Blevins ("Meta-Analysis on Enterprise Resource Planning [ERP] Systems") presented on organization-wide databases enabled by enterprise resource planning software and the literature that exists for it.

Rachel Brown ("Investigating Rowan County Lepidoptera Biodiversity, Part Five: Nymphalidae and Riodinidae") presented on an updated version of the records of species of Lepidoptera in Kentucky and Rowan County based on research conducted on the superfamily Papilionoidea.

Gregory Bryan ("Baseball by the Numbers: A Mathematical Look at Offensive Production") presented on how the statistics of true number of runs and strength of pitching faced by a hitter in baseball can determine the real effectiveness of top hitters from Major League teams.

Gregory Bryan ("Wingardium Leviosa': Elevating the Minds of a Younger Generation Through Pop Culture") also presented on a service-learning project that engaged middle schoolers in legal matters through a Harry Potter-themed trial in an effort to emphasize the importance of pop culture as a learning tool.

Gregory Bryan ("Legal Aid of the Bluegrass: Service Through Partnership") also presented on a student-organized divorce clinic that bypasses the need for an expensive divorce attorney and data analysis of nursing home violation reports, both of which illustrate the benefits of service-oriented organizations.

Jonathon Byrd ("A Computer Program That Learns to Play Video Games Through Experience") presented on a program he designed that used raw visual input to learn and perform simple visuomotor tasks, such as playing an Atari game.

William Carson ("Using Cardio-Respiratory Signals to Detect SIDS in Newborn Babies") presented on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and its current detection methods, as well as a new, more sensitive tool that could ease the process.

Haley Clay ("Witness: The Progression of the Negro Spiritual Throughout Music History With Regard to the Music of Hall Johnson") presented on the music of twentieth-century composer Hall Johnson and what Johnson's arrangements convey about the influence of the Negro spiritual.

JaLynn Copeland ("Genome Annotation of Mycobacteriophage Phranny") presented on the annotation of a genome from a mycobacteriophage found in a Morehead State soil sample, detailing the results of the sequencing process.

Jonathan Dean ("Perspectives of Alfred: Evaluating Historical Interpretations of England's First Monarch") presented on King Alfred the Great and the many writings on him that have been done over the years, comparing and contrasting their contents in an attempt to reveal the significance of historical bias and uncover the truth on Alfred.

Justin Elswick ("Technology Use in Secondary Chemistry and Physics Classrooms in Kentucky") presented on how technology is being used in secondary chemistry and physics classrooms across Kentucky and its perceived classroom effects.

Jessica Farrell ("Analysis of Nighttime Sky Brightness Data from January 2011 to February 2015 in Morehead, KY") presented on research data collected from analyzing night-sky brightness in an attempt to judge light pollution in Morehead, Kentucky.

Jessica Farrell ("Studying Solar Limb Darkening in H-Alpha With a Coronado PST") presented on the optical effect of solar limb darkening and how it is studied using a Coronado Personal Telescope.

Autumn Goble ("Morphological Comparison of Madtom Catfish [Noturus] Brains") presented on dissections performed on two different species of madtom catfishes meant to measure twelve brain landmarks in each.

