

## Spring 2012 Thesis Presentation Schedule

### **Anna Baran**

Title: An evaluation of the Adequacy of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Instruction in the Polish Public School System

Description: Learning a new language takes time as well as dedication, but in today's world, knowledge of at least one foreign language is without a doubt a requirement for success. English language has been portrayed as the global language for quite some time now, and it's one of the most commonly used languages all around the world. This paper will investigate how English as a foreign language is presented to students in the Polish public school system. By discussing English as a foreign language (EFL) instructions given in public schools, I as an investigator want to determine if those instructions are sufficient enough to prepare Polish students for successful interactions with other English speakers in regard to all aspects of communication.

### **Jeff English**

Title: Measuring Resilience in Residential Hall's on the Arkansas Tech Campus

Description: For my thesis research I will be researching preparedness in a residence hall on the Arkansas Tech University Campus located in Russellville, AR. While living in a residence hall on a college campus there are not many places to go during a natural disaster and a residence room is not a normal living space. As students are on their own, some may or may not know about disaster kits and the importance of those disaster kits. This goes towards my reasoning for picking this topic. Students need to be aware of the dangers of living on a college campus and that they need to be prepared for any kind of disaster that comes their way while living on a college campus.

### **Clint Faubion**

Title: A Social History of Johnson County, Arkansas in the Great Depression 1929-1942

Description: The Great Depression, more than any other era, helped perpetuate Johnson County into its modern state. The Depression marked one of the busiest and most eventful periods in Johnson County history. Although the effects of the economic crisis were strongly felt by its residents, the county fared better than other counties in Arkansas. County officials took full advantage of federal aid and work programs, putting citizens back to work and improving the local infrastructure.

### **Jonathan Hutto**

Title: It's All in the Family: The Life and Times of the Family in Early Arkansas Politics 1820-1861

Description: There has been a story in Arkansas history that has been touched upon but never fully explored. Many books and references tout the domination of Arkansas politics by a group known as "the Family", however they do little to explain the questions such a snippet of information brings about. Just how did a small group of related young men establish themselves in the new territory? How did

they maintain power even as the state began to grow and diversify? And what ultimately led to their downfall? These are the questions and answers my thesis seeks to explore.

### **Mary Judd**

Title: Trends in Resilience in Rural Arkansas Communities: A 40 Year Retrospective and Implications for the Future

Description: Susan Cutter, (Cutter, Burton, & Emrich, 2010) developed a series of benchmarks to measure the levels of resiliency within a community. There are many factors within the community that contribute to both vulnerability and resilience. The vulnerability factors include social vulnerability, and geographical vulnerability, for example. Resiliency factors are a bit more complex, and include factors such as employment rates, poverty rates, and the numbers of people who participate in political or volunteer organizations. Other factors include elements like the predominance of elderly, or youth; the percentages of people who have various levels of education and the diversity of economic base for the area. She has developed a composite index that allows her to compare the resiliency between and among communities in her study area. By measuring the benchmark factors, a community can determine where they could/should focus their energies and investments to leverage their resources most effectively.

### **Shelley Marti**

Title: Barriers to Research Utilization for Nurses in Arkansas Hospitals

Description: The utilization of research is essential to continued improvement in patient care and the growth of the nursing profession. During the literature review it has been determined that many healthcare organizations have been challenged to foster an environment for the implementation of evidence-based practice, but are meeting many barriers during their process of implementation. With evidence-based practice being recognized as a gold standard for the future of safe and compassionate nursing care, it is imperative that barriers to research utilization be identified and minimized.

### **Donald Minster**

Title: Small Business Continuity Planning: Using Insurance as a Resource, Not a Solitary Means for Recovery

Description: Following the 2011 tornado outbreaks that devastated Joplin, MO and Birmingham, AL (NOAA, 2011) many small businesses were faced with the major task of recovery. Previous business recovery research focuses on large industry or program assisting small businesses. This research focuses on small business's dependence on insurance as a sole means for recovery. Instead of absolutely relying on insurance, small businesses can benefit from conducting a Business Impact Analysis or Business Continuity Plan. The plan is intended to identify critical business functions which will work in conjunction with the insurance claim process to expedite the recovery process.

## **John Rowley**

Title: Arkansas and the Cold War: Titan II Missiles in Cow Pastures

Description: During the Cold war era, the sparsely populated, agrarian state of Arkansas seemed far-removed from the realm of nuclear proliferation. Washington D.C, Moscow, New York and Havana easily to mind when considering nuclear threat or strategic defense. Damascus, Judsonia, Antioch, Blackwell, and Searcy seemed insignificant in comparison. However, the role of Arkansas in the Cold War produced a more profound effect than one might think. Arkansas played an integral role in the Cold war defense and the United States policies of communist containment. Arkansas' Cold War involvement became apparent when the state became commissioned with eighteen Titan II missiles in the early 1960's. The arrival of these weapons coupled with mismanagement by federal agencies changed both physical landscape and the political atmosphere of the state.

## **Charity Ryles**

Title: Cumulative Impact of Road Crossings on Fish Communities in a Ouachita Mountain Stream

Description: Public lands are littered with small gravel roads which intersect streams. Low-water bridges are common at these intersections to facilitate passage of automobiles and ATV's which has led to concerns about potential impacts of road crossing on aquatic life. Compared to stream flow in a natural creek bed, artificially low roughness of concrete found at many road crossings, leads to increased water velocity which may reduce or preclude fish passage. For example, reduced movement of warm water fishes has been linked to decreased biodiversity upstream of road crossings (Rajput 2003 Standage and Gagen 2007). The value of natural fish movements from home pools has also been shown in the context of increased predator avoidance, forgoing opportunities, and spawning success (Smithson and Johnston 1999). While most current research on the impacts of road crossing is limited to single crossing effects on migrating coldwater salmonid species, the proposed research will explore cumulative effects of successive road crossing on warmwater stream fishes.

## **Nichole Vogt**

Title: An Assessment of Fish Community of the White River, Arkansas

Description: The White River, Arkansas is 1,162 km long from its headwaters in the Boston Mountains to the confluence with the Mississippi River. Along its length it has five major dams and associated reservoirs; Sequoyah, Beaver, Table Rock, Tenneco, and Bull Shoals. The last dam, Bull Shoals Dam, is a power peaking hydroelectric facility that releases water from the hypolimnion of the Bull Shoals Reservoir. These cold water releases effectively eliminate warm water fish habitat from the immediate down river tailwater. The locations where the temperature and fish community fully recovers from cold to warm is unknown. The importance of knowing the influence of the temperature transition zone on

the fish community and river ecology will provide important information to assist management of the White River.

### **Kegan Walls**

Title: Strange, Far Places

Description: My chosen project for the MLA Degree is a creative one. I have chosen to do a screenplay, entitled *Strange, Far Places* (working title). My emphasis as an MLA student is Communications and often times film is one of the best methods of communicating, whether it is a message, an idea or some kind of emotional conveyance. As a member of the English department (and not having access to film equipment) the best way for me to approach this is a screenplay.

### **Jennifer Wilbanks**

Title: The Evaluation of the Validity and Reliability of the CARD using the TOMM and Simulated Malingering

Description: Malingering has increasingly become a problem in several settings over the years, which has prompted significant research in the accurate evaluation and identification of malingerers. Currently, the TOMM, test of Memory Malingering is considered the gold standard of symptom validity tests (SVTs). However, it is common practice to administer two SVTs when evaluating malingering. The CARB, Computerized Assessment of Response Bias, is relatively new and in need of further validation. The purpose of this study is to investigate the efficacy of the TOMM and CARB, both individually and mutually in order to investigate whether it is beneficial to use more than one SVT to satisfy the first criterion in assessing malingering. In addition, this study will investigate the sensitivity and specificity of the CARB through using simulated malingering and comparing the data to that of the TOMM.

### **Lynne Wright**

Title: An Evaluation of Supplemental Stocking White Crappie in Arkansas Reservoirs

Description: In Arkansas, crappie is the second most popular sport fish among resident anglers. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) have regularly stocked crappies into Arkansas lakes and the number of crappies stocked has risen from 846,498 stocked in 2000 to 1,029,438 stocked in 2005, to 1,433,085 stocked in 2009 with a planned stocking of 1,603,990 in 2010. From 2000-2009 the total number of stocked crappies was over 10 million in the state of Arkansas. With the number of stocked crappies continuing to climb, evaluation of stocking success and identifying factors that influence success is increasingly important. Studies from Florida, Arkansas and has indicated low contribution of stocked fish (0%-4.8%) while a study in Tennessee found highly contribution (0%-93%).