Research Conference Preview

VFTH

3/31/16

Nearly 400 of WKU’s brightest students presented at last weekend’s 46th annual Student Research Conference.

Amy Bingham profiles some of their unique presentations in this week’s View from the Hill

From fruitflies to elephants, the presentations at the student research conference will run the gamut of topics. And give students an opportunity not only to share their findings but soak up what their peers are doing as well.

Joy Fan \ Senior, Gatton Acadamy

Chase LaDue \ Graduate Student

Corey Travis \ Senior

Darlene Applegate \ Chair, Student Research Council

Gatton Academy senior Joy Fan is looking forward to both sharing and learning at WKU’S Student Research Conference.

“I think the reach conference is a really great experience because you can see different people from all different disciplines across campus come together to share in their work.”

Fan’s presentation involves the genetics of fruitflies.

“We take the tissue from the fruitflies and we mix them with different types of antibodies and the antibodies will bind where two areas of the gene are being expressed.”

Graduate student Chase LaDue’s research involves a much larger specimen.

“Always been interested in elephants since I was three years old and my parents really fostered that.”

LaDue has parlayed his lifelong passion for elephants into researching elephant behavior around the country.

“I’ve been using zoo elephants because they’re really accessible. You can manipulate them a lot, you know their life history. I’ve been to almost 15 different zoos.”

It’s human behavior that’s captured the interest of senior Corey Travis.

“Instead of how to get new customers, it helps you focus on which customers you should be retaining.”

The business informatics and management major will explain how a software program uses number and texting data to boost business.

“The program we entered it into which is called SAS is able to identify those words as being either positive or negative and compares those along side numbers for some customers.”

380 students are slated to highlight the research they are engaged in.

“It’s a nice way for them to present what they’ve spent so much time doing but as well to gain professional experience presenting in a conference setting.”

The Student Research Conference student presentations will be Saturday from 8 to 5 at Downing Student Union.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

####