

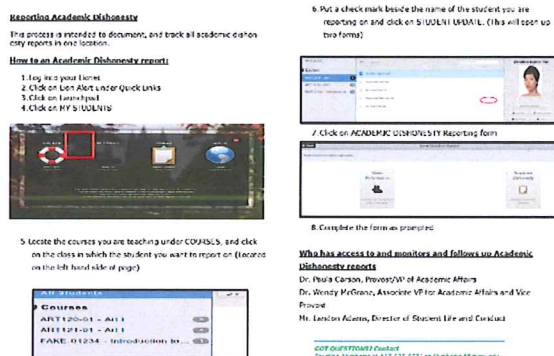
AMERICAN MOCK TRIAL ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS AT MSSU



The American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) was founded in 1985 and serves as the governing body for intercollegiate mock trial competition. Through engaging in trial simulations in competition with teams from other institutions, students develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, as well as a knowledge of legal practices and procedures. AMTA sponsors regional and national-level competitions, as well as providing interesting and complex case materials for academic use.

Presently, AMTA hosts 25 regional tournaments, eight opening round championship tournaments and a national championship tournament each season. Approximately 600 teams from over 350 universities and colleges will compete in these tournaments. In total, AMTA provides a forum for over 5,300 undergraduate students each academic year to engage in intercollegiate mock trial competitions across the country.

ACADEMIC HONESTY TRACKING SYSTEM (A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT AMONG IT, ACTS AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)



2017 STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED (\$5,100 TO 8 STUDENTS: 2 EXAMPLES)

CHEMISTRY Abstract:

This project will help to solve a housing crisis by reusing trash, namely two-liter plastic bottles. This will also help reduce some of the waste that is plaguing the planet by putting it to a constructive use. The variables that are being tested with this project are the strength of the bottles as bricks as well as the durability of the wall against the force of a bullet fired from a firearm. The expected result is that the wall will hold against a .40 caliber, .22 caliber and 9 mm bullet and thus be a safe shelter in war torn areas.

Problem:

In a ten-year period, more than 286 million people lost their homes through natural disaster or armed conflict. (Brown, 2003) In Nigeria and elsewhere in the world today, they are building houses and other buildings out of two-liter soda bottles. The bottles are filled with compacted sand and used like bricks. These 'bricks' are 20 times stronger than conventional bricks, per Yahaya Ahmed from Nigeria's Development Association for Renewable Energies. (Olukoya, 2011) The same is also claiming that these buildings are bullet proof because of the compacted sand. His claim should stand up because these plastic bottles are basically the same concept as sand bags that are used as bunker materials for today's armies. As the demand for these houses goes up so too does the price of sand as well as the harsh environmental cost for mining the sand.

BIOLOGY Abstract:

Tortuosity is defined as the bending and twisting of blood vessels, hindering the efficiency of blood flow to their respective organs and tissues. Researchers frequently report the condition in elderly populations and label it as a risk factor for transit ischemic attacks. Aging, atherosclerosis, and hypertension, among other conditions, have been linked to the development of tortuous arteries. Multiple studies have focused on surgical interventions aimed to eliminate or alleviate the symptoms. However, its etiology is still not widely understood, especially from a genetic perspective. The current study aims to determine the genetic predisposition of developing tortuous arteries based on alterations in SNPs in the SLC2A10, ELN, FBLN5, TGFBR1 and TGFBR2 genes. The study will examine eight human cadavers for the presence of tortuosity in the subclavian, external and internal carotid, splenic, external and internal iliac arteries. DNA samples will be extracted using the phenol-chloroform procedure, and sequences of SLC2A10, ELN, FBLN5, TGFBR1 and TGFBR2 will be screened by next-generation sequencing, and compared to normal reference genomes. Data of the association of genotypic frequency and the phenotype of tortuous arteries will be analyzed by performing logistic regression at a significance level of $p < 0.05$. The results will provide insight into possible genes that may increase the probability of developing tortuosity.

2018 STUDY ABROAD GRANT AWARDEES (9 INTERNATIONAL TRIPS SLATED FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2018)

Group Leaders	Department	Title of Proposed Trip	Destination	Dates of Travel	Length of Study	Number of Faculty Approved	Number of Students Approved	Faculty Grant Award	Grant Awarded (total)
Ruben Galve-Rivera	Modern Languages	Summer Abroad in Sevilla, Spain 2018	Sevilla, Spain	May 18 - June 16 2018	30 Days	1	10	\$3,500.00	\$13,500.00
Frank Pshkur	Art	Summer in Sweden	Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Ireland	May 23 - June 27 2018	36 Days	1	N/A	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Michael Howarth and Rachel Stanley	Honors	Literary Dublin	Dublin and Kilarney, Ireland	May 18 - June 1, 2018	15 Days	2	15	\$7,000.00 (\$3,500.00 each)	\$22,000.00
Kisa Clark	Communications	International Media Seminar	Paris, France	March 15 - 25, 2018	10 Days	1	11	\$3,000.00	\$14,000.00
Cheryl Cotter	Music	Tour of Composers	Paris, Leipzig, Prague, Austria, Salzburg, Vienna, Venice, Rome, Florence, Paris	June 2 - June 23, 2018	21 Days	1	8	\$3,300.00	\$11,300.00
Tom Schmidt and Jeff Zimmerman	Marketing/Management/International Business	China: Global Economic Leader	Beijing, Chengdu, and Shanghai, China	May 13 - 26, 2018	14 Days	2	15	\$7,000.00 (\$3,500.00 each)	\$22,000.00
Vickie Roettger and Alla Barry	Biology and Environmental Health	Anatomical Italy	Italy	May 15-29, 2018	15 Days	2	13	\$7,000.00 (\$3,500.00 each)	\$20,000.00
Edward Lee and Chad Williams	EMS	EMS Abroad - Belize	Belize	March 14-25, 2018	8 Days	1	6	\$2,600.00	\$8,600.00
David Sharlow and Susan Smith	Music	Nordic-Scandinavian Trip	Sweden, Estonia, Finland	June 14-23 2018	10 Days	2	15	\$6,000.00 (\$3,000.00 each)	\$21,000.00
Nicholas Nicoletti	Political Science	Model EU	Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana	April 5-7, 2018	3 Days				\$4,000.00

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION (HLC) UPDATE

Eight preliminary teams and a steering committee have been formed, and the entire group will gather before the end of the calendar year.

FOCUS ON ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE: CULTURE OF ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESULTS

- We think that there is more evident culture of assessment than there was two years ago. Compared to two years ago, a campus-wide culture that promotes continuous quality improvement efforts ... (1 is less evident to 7 is more evident)

100% of members rated this statement as either a 5, 6, or 7.

- We think that assessment is more meaningful and sustainable than it was two years ago. Compared to two years ago, assessment processes are _____ (less, similarly, or more) meaningful.

88% of members stated that assessment processes are more meaningful.

- Assessment processes are _____ (less, similarly, or more) sustainable.

88% of members stated that assessment processes are more sustainable.