For Immediate Release
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Patterson Receives URSA Travel Support Grant

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) has awarded a Travel Support Grant in the amount of $300 to Stephanie Patterson. Travel Support Grants are intended to support undergraduate students accepted to present research at a professional conference or gathering. A portion of this grant is intended to fund poster printing/lamination expenses.

Patterson is a senior psychology major in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Her presentation is entitled, “Becoming the Little Engine that Could: Anxiety, Self-Esteem, and Exam Performance.” Her project focuses on how anxiety (created by either mortality salience or dental fear), even when it is unrelated to an exam, can affect exam performance. Additionally, she also examined the effects of self-esteem on exam performance when either type of anxiety was administered. Findings from her research indicated that when participants were allowed to bolster their self-esteem, those with greater anxiety performed the best on the exam relative to those with lower anxiety. Patterson is a native of St. Louis, Missouri.

Patterson plans to present her findings in Long Beach, CA at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. The conference will be held from February 26-28, 2015.

Jana Hackathorn, assistant professor of psychology, is serving as the faculty mentor for this project.

More information about the URSA program can be found online at http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/ or by calling (270) 809-3192.