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National Conference on Undergraduate Research. University of Central Oklahoma.

Edmond, OK. April 4-7th, 2018

Thanks to the generosity of the Shackouls Honors College, I was able to travel to the 2018 National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Central Oklahoma. Not only did this experience provide me the opportunity to share my research with other individuals passionate about finding solutions to problems in their communities and world, but it also exposed me to new ideas and showed me how many different areas are being explored through research all across the U.S. in higher education institutions. From oral presentations on British Literature and Language and Gender Identity to poster displays about e-cigarettes, binge drinking on college campuses, and new archeological discoveries, new ideas were constantly being shared.

The conference was not only valuable for the opportunity it provided to exchange knowledge with peers, but it also provided wonderful networking opportunities. My research focused on studying public opinion of people in the U.S. regarding international versus domestic adoption as expressed through publicly available comments on major news sources' news stories posted on their Facebook pages. While presenting my poster, I had the opportunity to talk to a young lady who was an international adoptee, and I met a professor interested in similar research with whom I can potentially collaborate with in the future. Additionally, I had the opportunity to go to lunch with graduate school advisors and learn about different masters degree programs. I also really enjoyed hanging out with the other MSU students who attended the conference. We had a wonderful time doing everything from sharing late night discussions about current pressing social issues to taking pictures with ducks near our hotel. The entire trip was overall a fantastic experience, and I am very grateful to the Shackouls Honors College for making it possible.