

For the Spring 2009 semester, Harris-Stowe State University highlighted some of the exceptional research conducted by University faculty with the Spring 2009 Faculty Noon Seminar Series. The series consisted of six sessions, obviously all held at noon, each conducted by a different faculty member who presented their research and findings.

HSSU Professor of History Dr. Mark Abbott and Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education Dr. Shereen Kader spearheaded the project. Dr. Abbott said, "We wanted to enhance the research culture here at the University. Plus, we wanted to expose our students to the kinds of things that the faculty does outside of the classroom and to encourage them to become interested in research." Please read on to learn more about those faculty members and the research they presented.



Mark Abbott

Professor of History

Ph.D., Purdue University

M.A., Purdue University

B.A. (History), Indiana University at Indianapolis

B.A. (Psychology), Indiana University

Topic: "A Plan for the Region: Harland Bartholomew and the 1948 Regional Plan"

Topic description: Dr. Abbott presented his current research on regional planning in St. Louis. While St. Louis is seldom mentioned as a metropolitan area that has a strong tradition of regional planning, the famous St. Louis planner Harland Bartholomew prepared an interesting outline of what a regional plan might look like for the short-lived St. Louis Regional Plan Association in 1948. Dr. Abbott discussed Bartholomew's plan and the significance that it has for the contemporary St. Louis region.

Brian Elsesser

Assistant Professor of Urban Specializations

Ph.D., Saint Louis University

M.A., University of Missouri

B.A., Boston University

Topic: "Shattered Spirit: Civic Fragmentation and St. Louis Public Schools, 1942-2005"

Topic description: Dr. Elsesser presented his doctoral research that he recently defended. He outlined the demise of St. Louis Public Schools in the generation after World War II and his thesis that the failure of the public schools brought about the failure of desegregation and metropolitan fragmentation. Currently, Dr. Elsesser is exploring his options to publish his thesis.



Rick Hocks

Assistant Professor of English

Ph.D., University of Missouri

M.A., University of Missouri

B.A., University of Missouri

Topic: "Reclaiming Romanticism: Rick's Reconciliation of Opposites"

Topic description: The title of the discussion is also the working title of Dr. Hocks' new book, still in its drafting stages, which seeks to re-examine many of the premises of the Romantic Era in terms of current literary and cultural trends. Dr. Hocks explained Coleridge's literary theories and placed them in the context of modern and contemporary culture. Some of the discussion referred back to Dr. Hocks' 1995 dissertation, "Phantoms Dim of Past and Future Wrought: Coleridge and Contemporary Critical Theory." Additionally, he explained his mission to incorporate his area of expertise into his various professional roles.

Shereen Kader

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education

Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

M.Ed., Indiana University of Pennsylvania

B.S., Kindergarten Teachers' College of Cairo University, Egypt

Topic: "A Significant Need for Educational Reform: Creating a Center for Creativity"

Topic description: All humans are born with an innate ability to be creative and realize self-expression. Dr. Kader discussed her dissertation research where she developed a new theory and pedagogical techniques to enable classroom teachers to effectively enhance their students' creativity. She also described her plans to establish a Harris-Stowe Center for Creativity that will train area educators in these new techniques.



Robin Shaw

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

J.D., University of Chicago

M.S.W., University of Georgia

B.A., University of Missouri

Topic: "Unorthodox Criminologists"

Topic description: Dr. Shaw will discuss her short article "Angela Y. Davis and the Prison Abolition Movement," which appeared as part II in a special series recognizing unorthodox criminologists. This series of articles, published in *Contemporary Justice Review*, highlighted individuals and organizations who were not traditional criminologists but influenced and challenged the discipline in bold and daring ways.

Lorenzo Thompson

Adjunct Professor of History

Ph.D., Washington University (in progress)

M.A., Washington University

B.A., University of Dayton

Topic: "Black Laws in St. Louis"

Topic description: While Missouri was a slave state before the Civil War, there was a relatively large population of "free blacks" in St. Louis that even included a so-called "colored aristocracy." Thompson discussed his doctoral research through which he is exploring the ambiguous status of St. Louis free blacks before the Civil War and how the law treated them as half-free and half-slave.

