

Student Virtual Poster Contest Returns for Fall Conference

This year's Fall Education Conference will feature the return of the Student Virtual Poster Contest, sponsored by the Professional Development and Graduate Education Committees. The contest is intended to give graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to publish and share their research findings at the Fall Education Conference and via the UAA Web site, www.uaa.aero. All accepted entries will be posted in a public area of the Web site for viewing by the judges, UAA members and the general public.

Cash awards will be presented in both the undergraduate and graduate categories for first, second, and third place winners. All participants will receive certificates. Winners will be announced at the Awards Banquet on Thursday, October 7.

Each student must be sponsored by a faculty advisor, whose name and e-mail address must be included with the

student's abstract. Abstracts (250 words or less) for potential posters are due by June 15, 2010, and should be submitted to the Professional Development Committee via e-mail to Wendy Beckman (wbeckman@mtsu.edu). Students will be notified by July 15 regarding whether their submission was accepted. If accepted, posters should be designed in PowerPoint using the guidelines below. The final product should be submitted in PDF format to the University Aviation Association via david.mcalister@uaa.aero by September 1. No submissions will be accepted after this date.

An online search for "virtual poster sessions" will reveal numerous examples of excellent posters. Faculty are asked to encourage and support their students in submitting entries to the session.

Judging Criteria and Guidelines for the UAA Virtual Poster Contest

Content

The poster should have the same major sections as a paper including Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion.

Abstract

Abstracts must be at least 80 words, but preferably between 150-250 words and must effectively summarize the research project including specific results.

Introduction

The introduction must provide sufficient background material for the audience to understand the goal of the research project and its value and importance in the context of the field. At the end of this section the audience should be able to understand why the researcher studied this problem and what questions the researcher aimed to answer.

Methods

The methods section should provide an overview of the techniques used in the project and the approach taken by the researcher. The detail of the techniques used should be limited, with the focus more on the approach taken and why that approach is the most appropriate for the questions being asked by the research project.

Results

Data with statistics should be presented in easily understood tables, graphs and/or images. Text should explain what data appear in which tables/graphs/images and which experiments generated which data.

Discussion

Interpretation of the data and conclusions made from the data should be presented in the discussion. A few short statements stating what the researcher concluded, why they arrived at those conclusions, and the importance of the conclusions should be included.

Format

Posters should be created in PowerPoint as a single 36-inch by 48-inch slide, and submitted as a PDF file of the same dimensions. (For best results, choose "PDF" in PowerPoint's "Save As" menu.) **Tip:** File size of the original PowerPoint slide can be greatly reduced by selecting any image in the poster and choosing "Compress Pictures."

Awards

First, second, and third place winners in both the Graduate and Undergraduate categories will receive cash prizes. All participants will receive certificates.

Judging

Representatives of the Professional Development and Graduate Education Committees will judge the posters for content and presentation to determine award winners. Judging criteria will be as follows:

- The objectives of the project were clearly stated.
- The key ideas were clearly explained.
- The student demonstrated an understanding of the current state of the research regarding this problem.
- The correct research methodology was chosen to investigate the research questions.
- The conclusions were warranted by the data.
- The technical and conceptual difficulty of the project were appropriate.
- The student used technical terminology appropriately.
- The poster was neat, organized, and attractive.
- The student demonstrated a mastery of relevant concepts.