



**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Jody Cofer  
February 7, 2009

**Edwards to Present Undergraduate Research at  
Southeastern Psychological Association Convention**

Wesley Edwards was recently accepted to present his research titled "Evaluations of Emotions Based on Background Music in Media" at the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) Convention.

Edwards, a senior biological sciences and psychology double major from Gilbertsville, Ky., conducted this research on the influence of background music and film types on emotions. The background music included upbeat and downbeat music. The videos were categorized as violent and non-violent. The study collected data from 120 subjects on the video and 79 on the music. He used a questionnaire based on 5 of the 8 emotional states said to be "fundamental and consistent across cultures" according to Carlson, Collins, Stewart, Porzelius, Nitz & Lind in 1989. The emotions used in the study were anger, disgust, guilt, happiness, and sadness. The study found that music produces significant amounts of emotions and should be considered for further research.

Dr. Alysia Ritter, Professor of Psychology, served as Edwards' faculty mentor on the research.

Edwards has also conducted undergraduate research with Dr. Chris Trzepacz, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, that resulted in the presentation of "Food, Sex, and Pam-1: A Novel Role for a Fertility-Regulating Aminopeptidase in Food Sensation of *C. Elegans*" at the 2009 *Posters-at-the-Capitol*.

Edwards is the only student from Murray State University accepted to present at the SEPA Convention being held in New Orleans February 18-21, 2009. More information about SEPA can be found at [www.sepaonline.com](http://www.sepaonline.com). Edwards' research is being considered for publication in *Chrysalis: the Murray State University Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

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