



Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

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Adams Receives Undergraduate Research Grant

David Adams was recently awarded a \$275 grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) for his submission entitled "Temporal Discounting of Luxuries and Necessities."

Adams, a junior psychology major from Murray, Ky., will be exploring the phenomenon known as "temporal discounting," which is the tendency for people to pass up a reward in the future for the gratification of a smaller but more immediate benefit. Adams will investigate not only when people choose immediate gratification at a cost of greater long term benefit, but also the effects of choosing luxuries versus necessities. To perform his research, he will be conducting a study with a number of participants to see how their choices match up to this idea of temporal discounting. They will respond to a variety of scenarios that test if the effect depends on the amount of time they have to wait for the benefit or the type of benefit they are getting or both.

Dr. Paula Waddill, Professor of Psychology, will serve as faculty mentor on the project. "I have full confidence in David's ability to carry out this project. He is a very good student and his work is of high quality. He has excellent promise as a student researcher," stated Waddill.

Adams plans to present his conclusions at the Southeastern Psychological Association professional conference and during MSU's *Scholars Week*, which will take place on Murray State's campus April 19-23, 2010. He might also seek publication in a research journal.

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