The School of Arts and Sciences produced a tremendous “Storm” on our campus during the 2010-11 academic year. It was a scholarly and artistic storm that turned into a Brain Storm event that continued four days and evenings including concurrent programs, involving students and faculty from our entire School.

Brain Storm was conceived as an opportunity to showcase excellence in scholarship and creativity in the Arts and Sciences, to both the university community and the broader southern Oklahoma/ north Texas communities. Much too often, audiences from other universities and cities are more familiar with what we are doing than are our own peers and colleagues at SOSU.

Brain Storm was a venue to share the wealth of papers, presentations, publications and creative activities that our students and faculty were engaged in at regional, state, national and international festivals, conferences and competitions. Hence, the idea was to show and tell, locally on our campus, the triumphs we were experiencing elsewhere.

Making its debut April 18-21, 2011, the inaugural Brain Storm successfully revealed that faculty and students in the School of Arts and Sciences are engaged in a broad spectrum of high quality research and artistic activities. Many have commented that they had no idea of the quality and variety of scholarly and artistic work taking place every day in the School of Arts and Sciences. Additionally, Brain Storm created an atmosphere to learn about and appreciate the accomplishments of others. It generated novel ideas and results based on discovering commonalities across the disciplines. Brain Storm has shown it is a means to enrich our students’ education, broaden our faculty’s awareness and heighten our scholarly and creative endeavors. Brain Storm has demonstrated its academic merit to be produced annually by the School of Arts and Sciences.

To all the students, faculty, and staff who participated in the initial Brain Storm, you are highly appreciated by those of us who were your audience and colleagues. Therefore, this special edition of our Arts and Sciences Newsletter is to highlight some of the performers and programs presented, in order to pay tribute to everyone who took part in the success of Brain Storm 2010-11 and especially Professor Dell McLain who was the major facilitator.

Thank you.
The delegation during a visit to the Apartheid Museum

Dr. Tim Patton gave an evening lecture about his recent research trip to the Grand Canyon during Brain Storm 2011. In August 2010, Patton participated in a raft trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon along with eight other scientists. These scientists were from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, The Wilderness Society and other entities, and all specialized in various areas of aquatic ecology.

The group oared four small rafts and two kayaks for 19 days, covering 285 miles. Patton’s presentation at Brain Storm included this trip, his research in western rivers, classes he teaches that are relevant to western rivers, an “introduction to whitewater” and some of the issues of importance to the ecology of the Grand Canyon.

Students compete in Speech Jam

Speech Jam Spring 2011 was hosted by Southeastern Speech and Debate for Brain Storm 2011. This twice yearly speech competition affords excellent Business and Professional Speaking students an opportunity to further hone their speaking skills while competing for prizes. Students participating in the event were: Camerie Widmer, Jessica Ortega, Steve McPherson, Khristen Anderson, Shelia Weber, Tyler Pyles and Zack Childers. The top three finishers were Khristen Anderson, Shelia Weber and Camerie Widmer. Several faculty members had students participating in Speech Jam 2011, including Dr. Lacinda Brese, director of forensics, and adjunct instructors Dr. Norma David and Dr. Whitney Kerr. Judges for the event were Dr. Shannon McCraw, associate professor of communication; Dr. Faye Mangrum, professor of communication; and Rett Norman, SE Speech and Debate team member.

Percussion Ensemble performs during Brain Storm

The Southeastern Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Marc White, was featured in concert on Tuesday, April 19 as a part of Brain Storm 2011. Once again they demonstrated great proficiency in varied styles of percussion literature ranging from standard repertoire to world music. The concert featured White’s Middle-Eastern arrangement of “Jedell” which included the ensemble performing on crystal glasses.

Dr. Tim Patton’s raft trip through the Grand Canyon in August 2010

Members of the SE Percussion Ensemble performing on crystal glasses for Dr. Marc White’s Middle-Eastern arrangement of “Jedell”

Dr. Glenn Beach at the Cape of Good Hope

Dr. Glenn Beach, professor of art, presented a slideshow and lecture about her recent trip to South Africa as part of Brain Storm 2011. Beach traveled to South Africa in October 2010 as part of a People to People Art Education Ambassador team. The delegation’s purpose was to make professional contacts and to share expertise while gaining knowledge and insights about South African history, culture, art and art education. During her lecture, she gave an overview of the schools and art centers visited by the delegation, as well as the group’s participation in university-level discussions with art program faculty in both Johannesburg and Capetown. Sharing beautiful photographs, Beach related anecdotes about the delegation team and about her own experiences and impressions of South Africa, including her safari trip to Kruger Wildlife Preserve.

The delegation during a visit to the Apartheid Museum

Beach presents lecture about recent trip to Africa

Edited by: Jeni Maple
Journalism instructor and student publications adviser
Layout by: Jack Ousey, Associate professor
Nichols displays multiple presentations at Brain Storm

Dr. Nick Nichols’ Construction Safety Project class samples. This project required students to complete and present to the class a physical depiction (i.e. tabletop mock-up/model) of a construction site to illustrate violations of or compliance with specific OSHA standards. Nichols also presented various personal protective equipment utilized in construction safety.

Finally, Nichols also presented photos and a description of the formal mock trial exercise that students in his Legal Liability in Occupational Safety and Health course completed. In this exercise, students are assigned roles such as attorneys, witnesses, officers of the court and members of the media. The case “John Does 1-3 vs. EPA, DOD and USAF” is based on an actual case in which multiple civilian employees of the United States Air Force were grossly exposed to multiple toxins due to the incineration of various hazardous chemicals.

Music student presents research on Rossini

Jocelyn Batts gave a poster presentation titled “Rossini’s Remarkable Revitalizations” during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011.

Batts’ research, which was conducted for Dr. Robert McFadden’s Directed Readings in Music History, explored the work of Rossini.

By the early 19th century, Italian opera had become stereotypical. The virtuosity of the singer was paramount. Rossini created characters that were more realistic than those from an earlier time. He composed some 40 operas between 1808 and 1829. The first third of the 19th century should be renamed “The Age of Beethoven and Rossini.”

Theatre presents one-act plays

written by S.W. Senek and directed by Rowdy Peacock, a playwright learns that you can’t force love or life on anyone as the characters he creates are forced to rebel. Aaron Rains starred as the Playwright, with Dustin Curry and Ashleigh Self playing his characters. Elena Lewis adapted and directed Charlotte Bronte’s “Jane Eyre,” which starred Noel McDaniel as the title character, Boomer Lowrie as Mr. Rochester, Brianne Cohran as Mrs. Fairfax, Domanick Hubbard as Mr. Mason, Megan Mackey as Helen, and Ashleigh Self playing his characters.

“Opposites Attract,” written by Bruce Kane and directed by Skyler Leader, offered a sneak peak at what we put ourselves through because of dating and the opposite sex. The cast included Ben Sawatsky, Jordan Hammack, Sheri Sonenreich, Grace Poole and Brent Odell as Reverend Wood.

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The final haiku, written by Grady Harrison, was directed by Skyler Leader, and the cast consisted of Aaron Rains, Ben Sawatsky, Boomer Lowrie and Dominick Hubbard.

Theatre at Southeastern presented a One-Act Play Festival on Wednesday, April 20 as part of Brain Storm 2011. In “An Ongoing Examination of the True Meaning of Life,” written by Bert V. Royal and directed by Skyler Leader, the cast included Boomer Lowrie, Ben Sawatsky, Clint Poling, Aaron Rains and Noel McDaniel.

The next performance was based on a haiku written by Tyler Slauson. The performance was directed by Elena Lewis, and the cast included Julia Castro, Dustin Curry, Boomer Lowrie, Ben Sawatsky, Clint Poling, Aaron Rains and Noel McDaniel.

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Braley presents poster on grantsmanship course

At Brain Storm 2011, Dr. Richard Braley, assistant professor of Occupational Safety and Health, displayed a poster titled “Creating the Online Self-Paced SE Grantsmanship Course.” The poster reflected the creation of a self-paced, online grant identification, analysis and acquisitions professional development course Braley created for his colleagues at Southeastern. The poster indicated what the learner would experience when they proceeded through the course, entering the web pages for the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance and learning how domestic funding for “benefit populations” were processed by exploring the Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations. Overall, once the course is completed, the learner should have a fundamental understanding of external grant and contract acquisition processes from initial funding announcement, benefit populations, eligibility, analysis and authoring a winning proposal.

Math student presents Mathematica computer program

Mathematics major Ryan Favors presented research that he had performed as a student in Dr. Chris Moretti’s Mathematics Programming course during the fall 2010 semester. Favors’ research included a Mathematica computer program that he wrote to analyze curves input in the form ax² + bxy + cy² + dx + ey + f = 0. The computer program classifies the curve as an ellipse, hyperbola, parabola or degenerate conic, and computes the eccentricity and focus. His presentation at Brain Storm 2011 was titled “The Identification of Conics.” His program was tested on a laptop by students and faculty at the Brain Storm event. Favors got the idea for his project from his Analytic Geometry course with Layne Heitz.

Social Sciences display faculty scholarship

The Department of Social Sciences sponsored a display for the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011. The display presented publications by departmental faculty members, including books by Dr. Brooks Flippen, Dr. Glenn Melancon and Dr. Richard Pearlstein. The display also included a video of Flippen moderating a panel discussion on environmental policy by former officials in the Nixon Administration at the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, Calif. One of Flippen’s books is titled, Nixon and the Environment.

Music Department introduces ‘Cookies and Compositions’

On Wednesday, April 20, the Department of Music presented its first ever “Cookies and Compositions” as part of Brain Storm 2011. Students who had completed the final level of music theory instruction submitted works composed to meet specific guidelines. Works for this event demonstrated counterpoint technique in composition. Composers included Ryan Emrick, Bill Blakenship, Joel Goodman, Randall Self, D.J. Stevens and William Walker. Performers for the event included Dr. Mary Ann Craige, piano; Randall Self, trumpet; William Walker, trombone; and Charlie Gonzalez, tuba. Students composers were also responsible for submitting cookies for the audience to enjoy. Audience members were invited to select their favorite composition and their favorite cookie.

Theatre class creates PechaKucha research presentations

The Theatre History II class, under the direction of Assistant Professor Kathleen Hardgrove, displayed PechaKucha research projects over a variety of topics during Brain Storm 2011. Hardgrove introduced the students to the PechaKucha format for PowerPoint presentations in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each and are narrated by the author of the research project. The following research was on exhibit during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display during Brain Storm 2011: “Stephen Sondheim’s Major Themes of Major Works” by Rebecca Sparks, “Dance Influences Theatre” by Julia Castro, “Play to Movies to Plays” by Rowdy Peacock, “Dame Judi Dench Retrospective” by Elena Lewis, “Examining Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Phantom of the Opera” by Noel Daniels and “300 Years of Women on the Stage” by Boomer Lowrie.

The above image is a slide from Rebecca Sparks’ PechaKucha research presentation on Stephen Sondheim.
Culture of the Small University

Dr. Jeri Walker, Donna Massey
Walker presents poster about international symposium

Dr. Jeri Walker, Donna Massey, professor in Music Education, gave a poster presentation titled “The Culture of the Small University” during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm. Golden, Rebekah Ritchie and Shelena M. Thomas presented a poster titled “Over-Expression of Catalytically Reduced Protein Phosphatase 5 (PP5) Decreases Tissue Culture Cell Growth Rate.” The poster described recent work conducted on breast cancer in Golden’s lab. Ritchie, who graduated in May as a double biology and chemistry major, previously presented this poster at Oklahoma Research Day. The work was originally started by Thomas, who is a graduate of the biotechnology undergraduate program and of the Master’s in Technology Biology program.

Golden, Michael Cloydé and Andrew Taber also displayed a poster titled “Effects of Lycopene on Tissue Culture Cells,” which described the antioxidant lycopene that is responsible for the red color of tomatoes and watermelons and which has the ability to inhibit some cancer cells from growing. Cloydé, a graduate of the Biotechnology program who completed the Master’s in Technology program in May and Taber, who graduated as a biology major in May, previously presented this poster at Oklahoma Research Day.

Brain Storm 2011: students display research posters

Dr. Teresa Golden and several of her students presented research during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm. Golden, Rebekah Ritchie and Shelena M. Thomas presented a poster titled “Over-Expression of Catalytically Reduced Protein Phosphatase 5 (PP5)” during Brain Storm 2011. The poster was based on a panel discussion moderated at the Third International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education, held March 8-11 in Bremen, Germany. The purpose of the panel discussion was to focus on the unique position small universities and colleges have in the area of student assessment in music education.

The poster included student conductors featured in concert

Student conductors featured in concert

Institutional music students at Southeastern were featured during Brain Storm 2011 through the Concert Band program held on Tuesday, April 21. The entire concert was led by student conductors as a part of their final training in conducting. Each of these students was taught by Dr. Jacob Wallace, director of bands. “These types of concerts are a huge milestone for our music students,” said Dr. Stacy Weger, chair of the Department of Music. “Conducting requires that our students assimilate and apply all of their music instruction to make critical and musical choices in creating music through an ensemble performance. They must also demonstrate excellent conducting techniques. It is their first step into their professional lives.”

Student conductors included: Christopher Dickson, Ryan Emmick, Dylan Wright, William Blakenship, Christopher Dickson, Ryan Emrick, Dylan Wright, William Blakenship, Rebecca Little, Cindy Lin and Allen Clark.

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Theatre presents ‘The Time is Out of Joint: A Study of Hamlet’

A production of “The Time is Out of Joint: A Study of Hamlet” was performed by Rebecca Sparks, Dustin Curry, Boomer Lowrie, Dell McClain, Elena Lewis and Aaron Rains. The performance involved the staging of a Shakespearean Hamlet by the late Director of Theatre at Southeastern Dr. Molly Risso.

The final poster, titled “Protein Expression and Purification of ToC75 towards Structural and Functional Studies,” described research conducted by Joel Guimatai Teko with Haijun Pan and Xiaojia Liang of the plant biology division at Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore and Shih-Chi Hsu and Kentaro Inoue University of California Department of Plant Sciences in Davis, Calif.

Theatre presents ‘The Time is Out of Joint: A Study of Hamlet’

Dr. Nancy L. Paiva had four posters on display during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011 representing the activities of the SOSU ACS Student chapter (for which she is the chapter advisor) or for research carried out at SE or nearby labs. All of the posters were presented at either the Spring 2011 National American Chemical Society meeting in Anaheim, Calif., or at the Oklahoma Research Day at the Capitol in Oklahoma City in March 2011. The poster was created by Rebekah Ritchie, chapter president; Nicholas Wade, vice president; Courtney Tolar, treasurer; Chiko Nishina-Martin, secretary; Crystal Shupert, historian; Stefan Jones; Joel Teko; Dr. Gordon Eggleton, mentor; and Paiva, mentor.

Paiva also worked with Stefan Jones, Allen Baughman and Steve McKim on a poster presentation titled “Familantos Freshwater Algae as a Bioenergy Source.” A poster presentation titled “Analysis of Phytochemicals in a Traditional Herbal Remedy for BPH” described research conducted by Baughman and Jones, along with Fynn R. Foul of Pasarow Mass Spectrometry Laboratory at UCLA in Los Angeles, Calif., and Aris Vamili of Tampa Pathology Laboratory in Tampa, Fla.

Painters presents analysis of Reagan speech

Dr. Taylor Painter gave a poster presentation analyzing a speech given by Ronald Reagan in 1964 during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011. The title of Painter’s poster was “Analysis of Ronald Reagan’s Speech ‘A Time for Choosing’.” In this content analysis of the 1964 speech, Painter used Kenneth Burke’s Dramatic Pentad as a methodology for deconstructing the speech by looking at Reagan’s application of agency, agent, purpose and scene from the dramatic pentad (Griffin, 2009). The goal of this research project was to use theory to uncover the motivations or intent of the speaker.

Painter conducted the content analysis in Dr. Faye Mangrum’s Communication Theory class during the spring 2011 semester.

Painters presents analysis of Reagan speech

Dr. Taylor Painter with his poster presentation titled “Analysis of Ronald Reagan’s Speech ‘A Time for Choosing’”

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Debate team hosts forum about guns on campus

Southeastern Speech and Debate, under the direction of Dr. Lacinda Brese, hosted a forum discussion addressing guns on college campuses. A panel of four speakers presented various perspectives on the topic and answered questions from the audience.

Matt Mickle, attorney at Mickle Law Offices, explained the state of law concerning guns on campus. Dr. Glen Melancon, professor of history at Southeastern, presented the faculty perspective, and SE Student Government Association President Matt Heggy addressed the students’ viewpoint. Chief of Campus Police Jon Clouse spoke about the safety hazards associated with the presence of firearms on campus.

Journalism students present research on newspaper format

Three journalism seniors displayed poster presentations of research during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011. Samantha Perera and Karena Gilbreath-Hancock displayed a poster presentation titled “Tracking the Shift in Format of The Southeastern Newspaper,” which described the change in format of The Southeastern newspaper during the 2010-11 academic year from a broadsheet to a tabloid publication. In addition to exploring some of the major changes that occurred in The Southeastern specifically, the poster included research on the benefits and challenges of tabloid publications and the appropriateness of this format for a college audience.

Alisha Loyd gave a poster presentation titled “The Development of a Photo-Driven Column: ‘The College Life Untold’” describing common trends in photo-driven opinion columns and explaining the process by which Loyd developed her own photo-driven column for The Southeastern newspaper over the 2010-11 academic year.

The research for both posters was conducted for Jeni Maple’s Editing in Print Media class during the spring 2011 semester.

Russell Logan displayed a poster presentation of a film analysis of “Avatar” to understand the important of intercultural competence during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011. His poster, titled “Film Analysis of Avatar: Using the Anxiety/Uncertainty Management Theory to Make Sense of Intercultural Communication,” Logan’s analysis was influenced by the uncertainty reduction theory and focused on the cultural context of the film, cultural identities, historical setting and verbal communication.

He conducted the film analysis in Dr. Faye Mangrum’s Intercultural Communication class during the spring 2011 semester.

Comm student presents analysis of commencement speech

Seth W. Lowry gave a poster presentation titled “Analysis of Steve Jobs’ Commencement Address You’ve Got to Find What You Love” during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011. Lowry used Burke’s Dramatic Pentad to analyze the commencement speech Steve Jobs delivered to the graduates of Stanford University in June of 2005, showing how speakers persuade audiences. Lowry conducted the content analysis in Dr. Faye Mangrum’s Communication Theory class during the spring 2011 semester.

Comm student presents research on problem-solving

Curtis Lusk displayed a poster presentation describing an experiment conducted in Dr. Faye Mangrum’s Group Discussion class during the fall 2010 semester as part of the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011. The title of Lusk’s poster was “Using Two Groups to Solve a Problem with Two Different Methods: Distributing Humanitarian Aid Efficiently to Areas in Need.” For his project, two different group problem-solving methods were used to investigate ways to distribute humanitarian aid in an efficient manner into areas that are in need.

Music student presents research on score study

Hunter Sitz, a junior music education major, gave a poster presentation titled “Score Study” during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011. Through his research, Sitz explored different approaches to score study as it relates to making decisions in conducting gesture and in rehearsal planning. In doing so he developed teaching strategies and stylistic approaches, and demonstrated clarity and concise communication.

Sitz’s research was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Stacy Weger.

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Jeni Maple, journalism instructor and adviser of Student Publications, displayed a poster presentation titled “The Disabled Body in Synge’s The Well of the Saints” during the School of Arts and Sciences Research Display at Brain Storm 2011.

Maple’s research examined the use of bodily difference in J.M. Synge’s play, arguing that the author’s fascination with uncontrolled bodies, including those with physical impairments, is primarily rooted in his love of the individualistic and uncontrollable, as expressed in his idealization of the primitive.