

Morningside College faculty members recently took students to the Great Plains Students' Psychology Convention at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., and three of their student presentations won first-place awards.

The three poster presentations that won first-place awards were based upon research done in Morningside's Video Game Institute for Education and Research.

The winning presentations included "Not Just for Boys: The Effect of Stereotype Threat on Women's Gaming Performance" by Garth Hamilton of Lincoln, and Kelsey Kallhoff of Neligh, and "I'm Watching You: The Effect of Observer Presence on Violent Behaviors in Video Games" by Hamilton; Kallhoff; Danielle Dahlkoetter of Grant; Daren Koehler of Sioux City; and Andrew Gerodias of Laurens, Iowa.

The other winning presentation was "Why Did You Do That? Personality and Morality in Video Games" by Dahlkoetter, Hamilton, Kallhoff, Koehler and Gerodias.

As part of the "entertainment" at the conference, Morningside students competed in a psychological knowledge contest. They competed against five other universities and made it to the final round, where they lost the team championship on the last question.

There also was an individual competition where students scored individual points for their psychological knowledge.

Of the top five individual awards, Morningside students took the top three places. The students were Russell Stout of South Sioux City, first place; Amanda Martens of Shelby, Iowa, second place; and Megan Peters of Fonda, Iowa, third place.

Over 25 schools participated in this undergraduate and graduate student conference for colleges and universities from the Midwest.

Those who took Morningside students to the conference were psychology faculty members Kim Christopherson, Jack Hill and Larry Sensenig, and Susan Burns, associate dean for academic affairs.