**Student’s Name**: Casey Galloway

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**GPA in Major**: 3.88

**Expected Date of graduation**: May 2017

**Faculty Mentor**: Mehruz Kamal

**Mentor’s Email**: [mkamal@brockport.edu](mailto:mkamal@brockport.edu)

**Mentor’s Phone**: (585)-395-2179

**Sponsoring Department**: Computer Science

**Start date: May 27th 2014**

**End date: July 21st 2014**

**Describe how this internship fits into your educational objectives**:

This internship fits into my educational objectives because it is a topic that is very timely, relevant, and strongly tied to my field of study, which is Computer Information Systems. Doing this internship will tie in my desire to do creative and innovative exploratory research, with my interest in the Information Systems field. This research internship will give me a step up over other applicants when applying for future career positions and/or graduate program admission depending on which path I chose to take, by providing me with the ability to show evidence of something tangible that I have done beyond just College coursework. It will set me apart from students who are going to graduate with just doing the coursework, showing that I can apply my learned skills outside the classroom setting. In this research internship, Dr. Mehruz Kamal and I will be assessing the impact of multitasking with technology. Some initial research has already been done on the topic through the creation of a conceptual model of factors contributing to multitasking. We hope to refine the model, which in turn will help us develop hypotheses and experiments to test it. We plan to see how technology multitasking affects student learning and how teachers or professors could change their teaching methods as a result of multitasking to foster improved student engagement and learning outcomes. The topic of this research is one that I am really passionate about because I find myself multitasking throughout the day and see it being done by most students every day in the classrooms and it would be very meaningful and beneficial to find out how we can assess whether we are truly being efficient by using various technologies to multitask or are we being less productive and hampering our learning capacity?

**Detailed Project Plan**

**Research project goal, hypothesis, research question, or purpose**:

The goal of this research is to assess the impact of multitasking with technology. This goal is two-phased, with the first phase dealing with refining a previously developed conceptual model leading to the generation of concrete propositions and hypotheses. And the second phase dealing with designing experiments to test the hypotheses from the conceptual model in an academic setting.

**Background information supporting the research project goal, hypothesis, research question or purpose, and its relevance to your discipline**

In today’s digital world ‘multitasking’, i.e., doing more than one thing at a time has become a norm with all of us and especially college-level students across the world. The College at Brockport is not an exception. Students in classes are seen to be checking their email, logging onto social network sites, playing online games, etc. At the same time, they are also seen to be sending text messages on their hand-held devices, and “listening” to the in-class lectures. How effective are they at simultaneously managing all these activities? Is this really multitasking? Are we really increasing efficiency? Or is this hindering our ability to do our job well? Is it changing our thinking, shortening our attention span? Many such questions arise and there are no simple answers. Psychologists are of the opinion that it is not possible for the brain to focus on more than one activity at a time to be most effective and to perform at the person’s full capability. There has been some preliminary research on the topic that shows that a person’s effectiveness and productivity falls as they multitask – yet people in various contexts such as in work and study environments continue to do so. In this study, we will extend this research to refine a previously developed conceptual model with recent findings on the topic. We then plan to develop hypotheses from the model that we will test in an academic setting i.e. within a classroom environment to assess student performance. On analyzing the findings from the experiments, we hope that our research will help to farther the knowledge of multitasking with information technology by being able to provide recommendations for appropriate compatible technology multitasking tools, environmental settings, and student multitasking behavior to facilitate positive learning in the classroom. Contributions from our research will also include strategies for Instructors that can be utilized to incorporate this new trend in multitasking with technology by students in their lesson planning and offering of content in the classroom to foster positive learning environments and improved student engagement in learning.

The notion of multitasking has been around for a while but the prevalence of it in academic settings has sky-rocketed with the advent and progress of numerous information technology tools and applications and their use by the student population. The discipline of Information Systems deals with understanding the usage and impact of technology in various contexts and includes units of analysis such as at the organizational, academic, as well as the individualistic/personal level. Understanding whether the social context drives the need for and subsequent use of specific technologies OR whether the mere existence and availability of various technologies causes people to use them without real basis or true need, is also a motivation for this research project and a very core aspect of our discipline of Information Systems. This study is a very relevant and timely topic as technology is being developed and marketed and brought into the hands of consumers – in our case, our students – without really assessing the true impact it might have in their environments i.e. on their College learning experience.

**Detailed work plan with a timeline**

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| **Task** | **Duration** |
| Understanding the previously developed Conceptual Model | 1 week |
| Search for recent literature on Technology Multitasking in academic settings | 1.5 weeks |
| Perform Literature Review on new scholarly articles found | 1.5 weeks |
| Integrate new findings into conceptual model | 1 week |
| Develop hypotheses and propositions based on the revised conceptual model | 1.5 week |
| Design experiments to test hypotheses | 1 weeks |
| Wrap-up summer work and plan next steps on conducting the experiments in the Fall 2014 semester | 0.5 week |