Featured Inventors: Mary Margaret Kerr, Ed.D; Laurel Chiappetta, M.S.; Kristen Frese; Becky Price, M.Ed, M.L.I.S.

MOBILE APPLICATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Value Proposition

The Mobile Application for Undergraduate Research (MAUR) is designed for students, faculty, and data supervisors, this app provides an easy-to-use, secure, and instructional tool for field data collection. In doing so, it eliminates the burden of unusable data and the hassle of compiling data from different sources. Our app provides users with integrated training, mobility, and data tracking: **Train! Take! Track!** Unlike many paper-and-pencil based field data collection methods that require a supervisor to track down data from various sources, this product will centralize all types of field data collection into one portable application with built-in data management and educational components.

Market Opportunity

Undergraduate research benefits students through: student-faculty mentoring, critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving. However, data supervisors or faculty members are faced with limited time for training or instruction of students eager to participate in field data collection. Students often blindly approach this task using various data collection methods: paper-and-pencil recording and video or image collection on portable devices. This approach results in missed educational opportunities for the students, and additional work for those overseeing data collection. Here and across the globe, college students participate in research experiences. In fact, 81% of American **undergraduates** engage in research. With 21 million students in US colleges alone, many students could benefit from this tool.

Technology

Mobile Application for Undergraduate Research, a field data collection tool designed to…

Train! The instruction is embedded in the app. Students in the field don't become confused about how to collect data or what to collect. They stick to research rules. No more unusable data!

Take! What do students always have with them? Their phones! No more heavy laptops, power cords, textbooks, audio or video recorders to lug or lose. Just their mobile devices.

Track! Faculty and data supervisors can track data collection using a dashboard on the app. This prevents the all-too-common nightmare: "sleepless nights wondering if they will collect anything I can publish."

Competitive Landscape

Using the **Train! Take! Track!** approach, MAUR will allow users to manage data across devices, embedded guidelines to assure accurate recording, and adhere to institutional data requirements. Currently, those collecting field data use a variety of basic tools which demand extensive time collecting and managing the resulting data. Existing electronic tools for field data collection are designed to manage small pieces of data but do not focus on the entire data collection process. No apps have embedded guidance, education, tips, or safeguards. This app is intended to be bundled with a textbook, provided as a course website tool, integrated into a course curriculum, or licensed by the university. A basic operating app will be designed with additional customized packages available.

Stage of Development
The application is in early stages of development.

IP Landscape
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Funding
University Innovation in Education Award, National Science Foundation, and an anonymous foundation donor.

FEATURED INVENTORS:

Mary Margaret Kerr, Ed.D

Mary Margaret Kerr is Professor and Chair, Administrative and Policy Studies, professor of Psychology in Education, and Professor of Psychiatry. She directs the Flight 93 (9/11) Research Team. An experienced educator and researcher, Dr. Kerr is the recipient of the Chancellor's Distinguished Award, the Jean Winsand Award for Outstanding Women in Education, and the W. T. Grant Faculty Scholar Award.

Education
- EdD, Education, The American University, Washington, DC
- Med, Special Education, Duke University
- BA cum laude in Psychology, Duke University

Publications
1. Shaffer, A. & Kerr, M. M. (2015). "Can you tell my child what happened here?"--- Explaining the Story of United Flight 93. Ranger. [Magazine of the Association of National Park Rangers]

Additional publications upon request

Laurel Chiappetta, M.S.

Laurel Chiappetta is a statistical consultant with Data Development, Integration, Verification, and Analysis (DataDIVA) and serves the Department of Statistics as an adjunct faculty member where she teaches introductory statistics to undergraduate Arts and Science and Business students. Laurel provides data management and analytical support to the Flight 93 (9/11) Research Team.

Education
- Post-Graduate Coursework, Research Methodology, University of Pittsburgh School of Education
- M.S., Biostatistics, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health
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Publications
1. Fowler N, Morrow L, **Chiappetta L**, Snitz B, Huber K, Rodriguez E, Saxton J. Cognitive Testing in Older Primary Care Patients: A Cluster-Randomized Trial. *Accepted for Publication*, Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring, July 2015.

Additional publications upon request

Rebecca Price, M.Ed., M.L.I.S.

Rebecca Price is a Ph.D. student in Social and Comparative Analysis in Education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. She is a teaching assistant at the University of Pittsburgh, Reference Librarian at Duquesne University, and a member of the Flight 93 Research Team.

Education
- Ph.D. candidate, Social and Comparative Analysis in Education, University of Pittsburgh
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Publications
1. Kerr, MM, Price, R. (2015). Overlooked encounters: Young tourists' experiences at dark sites. Journal of Heritage Tourism.

Additional publications upon request

Kristen Frese

Kristen is a senior studying Applied Developmental Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. She is an undergraduate student researcher with the Flight 93 Research Team and a School Psychology Intern at the Watson Institute.

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