When college students use their cell phones to text during class, how much information do they lose? Sterling College Psychology Chair Dr. Arnold Froese has asked many students that question—but he’s not being sarcastic—he’s doing research. Last semester Dr. Froese and a team of students decided to find some real answers to the question. They conducted a survey and an experiment and then sent their findings to the Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA). Recently they received the news that they will be presenting the results of both the survey and the experiment at the SWPA’s annual conference in early April.

So what are the answers? “We found that more than 30% of the college students we surveyed—and these were students from four different schools in the Southwest—are ‘super-texters,’ meaning they send more than 100 texts per day,” said Dr. Froese. “More than 50% total send out 50 or more texts per day. And our project documents that texting during a class leads to, on average, a 27% loss of information.”

The team created a 21-item survey that was sent to several colleges in the Southwest and one in New York. More than 400 surveys came back. “One of the survey results that interested me,” said sophomore Jessica Schooley of Liberal, Kan., “was that even people...
Sterling College Students Experience NYC Theatre

Toured Radio City Music Hall and got a close look at its stage machinery. “This trip was quite educational and informative. As a group the students also went to the shows ‘West Side Story,’ ‘Wicked,’ and ‘Finian’s Rainbow.’ They were able to watch as the enormous turntable sets for ‘Carmen’ were installed. Later that evening they attended the James Levine and toured the scene and costume shops, rehearsal and dressing rooms, and the great hall. They were toured backstage at the Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln Center, where they saw Placido Domingo in rehearsal with The Theatre Department Chair Gordon Kling.

‘If you are going to be a professional in the theatre and for the great ‘machine’ for musical theatre that is New York City, “ said when they spent a week in New York City. “The students returned with an increased appreciation for the skills the students now need to be a professional in the theatre and for the great ‘machine’ for musical theatre that is New York City.”

Record Enrollment for e.Sterling

Not only does e.Sterling help its students grow, it is growing itself. The online division of Sterling College reported a new record enrollment of 72 students this term, with 17 being new to the program. Though e.Sterling has continually grown since it began in 2007, this is its greatest-ever growth in new students.

More and more non-traditional college students who juggle full-time jobs and/or families are finding online education attractive. e.Sterling offers the convenience of online classes while still promising the high level of student service for which Sterling College is known. Approximately fifty percent of e.Sterling’s instructors are Sterling College professors; most of the others are local educators. These instructors correspond with their online students regularly and use technology to help students connect with each other.

e.Sterling offers degree completion in Theology and Ministry and in Christian Ministries. Through the Sterling Teacher Education Program Online (STEP Online), it currently offers degree completion in the areas of elementary education, professional studies, math with an emphasis in education, and history with an emphasis in education, with plans to expand its offerings in the future. e.Sterling has articulation agreements with community colleges in Colby, Coffeyville, Hutchinson, and Cloud County, and is forming agreements with two others. e.Sterling’s programs work well for the student who has completed general education hours as well as for the student who holds a bachelor’s degree but needs education coursework to obtain a teaching license. An education degree from e.Sterling fully prepares graduates for licensure through the Kansas State Department of Education. Information on e.Sterling can be found at www.e.sterling.edu.

Sterling College Students Experience NYC Theatre

There is a big difference between hearing Placido Domingo sing live rather than through a recording. The Sterling College students who took musical theatre for their January interterm class had that opportunity—and many others—when they spent a week in New York City. “The students returned with an increased appreciation for the skills needed to be a professional in the theatre and for the great ‘machine’ for musical theatre that is New York City,” said Theatre Department Chair Gordon Kling.

Theatre Professor Diane DeFranco-Kling taught the class and planned the group itinerary for the trip. The students toured backstage at the Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln Center, where they saw Placido Domingo in rehearsal with James Levine and toured the scene and costume shops, rehearsal and dressing rooms, and the great hall. They were also able to watch as the enormous turntable sets for “Carmen” were installed. Later that evening they attended the show. As a group the students also went to the shows “West Side Story,” “Wicked,” and “Finian’s Rainbow.” They toured Radio City Music Hall and got a close look at its stage machinery. “This trip was quite educational and infor-
Students also had to attend other shows of their choice. Those shows included “Lion King,” “Phantom of the Opera,” “Chicago,” and “Avenue Q.”

“It was a full week,” said Gordon Kling, “but we were energized by the pace of the city.” The group visited Ellis Island, circled the Statue of Liberty, and went to the top of the Empire State Building. They toured several museums, including the Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art. When the students returned from the trip, they researched and reported on major contributors to the American musical, wrote critiques of the shows they had seen, and turned in the diaries of daily observations and reflections they had written while in NYC.

“It was great to see theatre at its most professional,” said Jennie Czuba, a senior theatre major who went on the trip. “It’s magical when all the pieces are there and at their finest.”