



32nd Annual Western Pennsylvania
undergraduate
PSYCHOLOGY
conference

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

Saturday, April 24, 2004

Welcome to the 32nd Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference



**ALLEGHENY
COLLEGE**
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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*Financial support provided by the member colleges and universities of WPUPC,
the NWPPA, and Allegheny College*

*Organized by David Anderson, Jennifer O'Donnell, Gwen Kenney-Benson,
Joshua Searle-White, Jeff Cross, JW P. Heuchert, Evelyn Buday,
Rod Clark, Alec Dale, and William DeLamarter*

*Special thanks to Pat Kantz, faculty session chairs, and our Psi Chi student volunteers,
and to Herb Klions for sponsoring the awards*

Keynote Speaker

Heather Bullock, Ph.D.

Dr. Bullock earned her B.A. in psychology from Allegheny College, garnering *cum laude* honors and the Iva Patterson Gilmore prize (awarded to the student writing the best paper in psychology during the year) along the way. She attended graduate school at the University of Rhode Island and studied experimental psychology, earning her Ph.D. in 1995. After graduation, Dr. Bullock began teaching psychology and women's studies at Nebraska Wesleyan University. After teaching there for three years, Dr. Bullock held a position as an APA Congressional Fellow in the office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Dr. Bullock joined the faculty at the University of California-Santa Cruz in 1999, where she currently is an associate professor of psychology. Dr. Bullock's research interests include intergroup relations, political psychology, welfare policy, the social psychology of poverty and social class. Her research investigates how members of different socioeconomic groups understand and justify both poverty and wealth, as well as their own relative status. She is particularly interested in identifying the attitudes and beliefs that are used to legitimize discriminatory income-related policies. This line of research focuses on how classist stereotypes and attributions for poverty influence support for various welfare policies. In addition to her policy-related research, Dr. Bullock is interested in the face-to-face interpersonal discrimination low-income women confront in their daily lives. She is working to document the conditions under which classist behaviors are most and least likely to occur as well as the conditions under which classism, racism, and sexism intersect. Of special concern is discrimination that occurs in settings in which low-income groups rely on others for assistance (e.g., social services and medical care). In her future work, she plans to test strategies for improving interclass relations. Dr. Bullock has published numerous articles in highly recognized journals as well as book chapters on these topics, and has received several grants to fund her work.

Keynote Address

*Beliefs about Wealth and Poverty:
Implications for Public Policy and Social Change*

Conference Schedule

Saturday, 24 April 2004

Start Time	End Time	Event	Location
8:00	9:00	Registration <i>(Presenters: Take posters to Schultz Hall and PowerPoint files to session rooms in Carnegie)</i>	Carnegie 100
8:00	10:00	Continental Breakfast	Schultz Dining Hall
8:45	9:50	Poster Session	Schultz Dining Hall
10:00	11:00	First Paper Sessions	
		Session 1: Children Issues	Carnegie 101
		Session 2: Personal & Professional Relationships	Carnegie 110
		Session 3: Rats on Drugs	Carnegie 105
		Session 4: Sex & Aggression	Carnegie 212
		Session 5: Helping & Conflict Resolution	Carnegie 107
11:10	12:10	Second Paper Sessions	
		Session 6: Forgiveness	Carnegie 105
		Session 7: Evaluative Beliefs	Carnegie 110
		Session 8: Clinical Issues	Carnegie 101
		Session 9: Gender Issues	Carnegie 212
12:15	12:50	Lunch & Awarding of prizes to the top papers and posters	Schultz Dining Hall
12:50	2:00	Keynote Address: Dr. Heather Bullock <i>Beliefs about Wealth and Poverty: Implications for Public Policy and Social Change</i>	Schultz Dining Hall

Please note that we will be awarding prizes to the top two papers and two posters after lunch

Poster Session (8:45-9:50)

Schultz Hall

Numbers correspond to locations on tables where poster should be placed
(Faculty supervisors listed in parentheses)

Clinical

1. The Effects of Using Color in the House Tree Person Test as an Indication of Levels of Optimism

Karen Dudziak (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

2. Grief and Depression: A Comparison of Bereavement at Five and Nine Weeks

Jennifer Hornaman and Megan Horanic (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Cognitive

3. Visual and Auditory Stroop Interference using ERPs

Holly Blasko-Drabik and Joshua Rowe (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

4. Interpersonal Space Varies: Manipulation of Classroom Seating Arrangement Effects on Test Scores

Tabitha Chase and Lisa Miller (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

5. Context Dependent Memory: The Effects of Seating on Recall and Recognition

Lisa Jacobs and Erin Troester (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

6. A Study of Behavioral Changes as a Result of Cerebrovascular Disease

Michelle DelFavero (Timothy Klitz), Washington & Jefferson College

7. Learning Styles and Cognitive Performance

Kristin Wucinski (Marilyn Livosky), Mercyhurst College

Developmental

8. Instructor Effectiveness Lies in the Eye of the Beholder: A Socio-contextual Perspective

Holly Long (Jeffrey Coldren), Youngstown State University

9. Visual Neglect in Children with ADHD

Jeannette Reid (JW P. Heuchert), Allegheny College

Emotion/Motivation

10. Exercise and Self-Esteem: The Effect of Media Images on Perception

Kelly Beck (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

11. Stress and Injury: The Effect of Stress on the Incidence of Injury in Female College Softball Players

Jessica Dillabough (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

Gender/Culture

12. The Influence of Verbal Ability and Sex Role Identity on Alexithymia Scores Among College Students

Lauren Conway (Dr. David Anderson), Allegheny College

13. Gender Partner Preferences and the Longevity of Heterosexual Dating Relationships

Erin Ferguson and Jessica Sevinsky (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

14. Commercial Content and Thin/Muscular Ideal Internalization: Appearance Schema Activation in Male and Female Undergraduate Students

April Hartman and Dotty Shaffer (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

15. The Sexual Double Standard: Gender and Sexual Experience Influences on Judgments of Personality

Nicole Orsini and Nikki Kulas (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

16. Media Influences on Attractiveness

Megan Strauman (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

General/Experimental

17. Visual and Verbal Processing

Alissia Camuso (Majorie Krebs), Gannon University

18. Evaluation of PsychOUT! A Fun Interactive Classroom Review Tool

Alma Hollis (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

19. The Effects of Social Support and Sex Differences on Stress in College Students

Kristy Striner (David Anderson), Allegheny College

20. Muscle Dismorphia: Which Men Are More Prone?

Amber Pratt (David Anderson), Allegheny College

Learning

21. Effects of Music on Memorization

Fara D'Aguiar (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

22. Various Effects of Differential Housing and Stress on Discrimination Behavior in Rats

Lindsey Katora (Rodney Clark and Jennifer O'Donnell), Allegheny College

23. Rule-Governance and Schedule-Control in the Escalation of Commitment

Alex Persoskie (Jennifer O'Donnell), Allegheny College

24. The Effects of Ethanol and Naloxone on Shock Avoidance in Rats

Matt Mier (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

25. Rat Soccer: The Result of Backward Chaining
Emily Roguski and KC Miller (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

26. Effects of Prenatal Diazepam and Ethanol Exposure on Learning Acquisition of Rat Pups
Mary Shreve (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

Perception

27. Do Smokers Have a Different Perception of Taste than Non-Smokers?
Jessica Antonini and Kellie Tinnion (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

28. The Autokinetic Effect
Lanna Horn and Donya Bernier (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

29. Gender, Restrained Eating and Nutritional Labeling are Greater Influences on the Selection of Regular and Low-Fat Italian Dressing than Genetics
Sarah Lawson and Tami Quigley (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

30. Female Dance Perceptions
Brena Price (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

31. The Effects of Priming on Figure Completion with Unfamiliar Figures
Sarah Rakowski (Terry Pettijohn and Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst College

32. The Effects of Facial Piercings on Hiring Decisions
Heather Vanderoef (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

Personality

33. Self-Esteem and Its Relationship to Body Mass Index and Adult Attachment Style
Jennifer Braithwaite and Elma Dori (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

34. Personality Traits and College Adjustment
Lindsey Giuliana and Eldridge McNair (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

35. Personality, Spirituality, and Religiosity as Predictors of Aggressive Beliefs
Nathan Sacco, Amy Gregg, and Kristen D. Latch (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Psychological/Neuroscience

36. Some Behavioral Teratogenic Effects of All-trans-retinoic acid on Schedule Control Responding in Rattus Narvegious
Kelly Andrzejczyk (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

37. Altered Rates of Liquid Consumption with N-Methyl-Aspartate Stereoisomers: Effects of the Noncompetitive Antagonists MK-801 and Ketamine
Sarah Packosky (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

38. The Effects of Chocolate on Cortical Activity
Rachel Bergman (Jeff Cross), Allegheny College

39. Electroencephalogram of Music and Visual Art as a Function of Musical Training

Michelle Ferry (Alec Dale), Allegheny College

40. The Effects of Neonatal Oxygen Deprivation on Dopamine Mediated Behavior within Sprague Dawley Rats

Tara Greene (Jeffrey Hollerman), Allegheny College

Social/Cognitive

41. The Influence of Music and Driver Aggression on Males and Females

Bonnie Quiggle (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

42. Relationship Between Music Downloading and Academic Dishonesty Among College Students

Dylan Rogers (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

43. The Availability Heuristic and Frequency Estimates of the Rate of Homosexuality

Laura Terwilliger (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

44. The Effects of Reading About Lung Cancer Death on Smoking Attitudes

Erinann Lindner (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

45. Media Exposure and Female Body Image Ideals

Kat Bhagwandien (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

46. Career-Marriage-Conflict and Gender Differences

Kimberly Bidwell and Danielle Dupres (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

47. Gateway Drug Use: Survey of Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Marijuana in College Students

Blaze Bosco (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

48. Estimating Percentage of Marriages that End in Divorce for Both Self and Others

Erika Currier (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

49. Why Male and Female College Students End Relationships

Renee DiCorpo (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

50. Potential Protective Factors for Relational Aggression: Future Time Perspective, Activity Involvement, and Normative Beliefs

Kristin Hesch and Shannon Bach (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

51. The Effect of Levels of Expressiveness, Gender, and Subject on Student Ratings of Instructors

Julie Kell (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington & Jefferson College

52. Attitudes and Attributional Patterns in Relation to Health Outcomes

Susan Kosinski (Jack Croxton), SUNY Fredonia

53. An Integrated Approach to Improving Recycling

Christopher Nafe (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington & Jefferson College

54. Paranormal Beliefs: Levels of Skepticism Among Psychology Students

Andrew Russell (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

55. Musically-Induced Affect and the Environmental Security Hypothesis

Donald Sacco (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

56. Support for Terror Management Theory: Gender Differences Among Prejudice and Affiliation

Laurel Sinko (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

57. Gender Differences and the Presence of a Potential Dating Partner in Embarrassibility

Emily Tresky (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

58. The Effects of Mental Imagery on Athletic Performance Enhancement

Cheryl Wright (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

59. Social and Economic Relationships with Facial and Body Features of Miss America Pageant Winners

Melissa Yerkes (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

60. Different Attributes Associated with Male and Female Professionals in Uniform

Cole Barker (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

61. The Effects of Stress on Physical Attraction and Hair Color Preferences

Melissa Bartholomew (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

62. Religiosity and Spirituality in the Development of Disordered Eating

Sarah Caligiuri (David Anderson), Allegheny College

First Paper Sessions (10:00-11:00)

Carnegie Hall

Paper Session 1: Children Issues

Room 101

Chair: Dr. Marilyn Livosky

- 10:00 **63. Relations Between Preschool Behavior Problems and Community Educational Experiences**
Jaime Breth (Andrea Zevenbergen), SUNY Fredonia
- 10:15 **64. Relating Working Memory, Imagery, and Reading Comprehension in Children**
Diana Barnes (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College
- 10:30 **65. Relationship Between Owning a Companion Animal and Children's Empathy and Prosocial Behavior**
Courtney Fulton (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College
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Paper Session 2: Personal & Professional Relationships

Room 110

Chair: Dr. Victoria Kazmerski

- 10:00 **66. The perceived Sexual Interest Regarding Women's Behavior: A Cross-Cultural Study Comparing French and American Men**
Shealyn Stenglein (Joshua Searle-White), Allegheny College
- 10:15 **67. Influence of Matching Individual and Organizational Values on Employee Satisfaction and Organizational Commitment**
Kyla Vandree (David Anderson), Allegheny College
- 10:30 **68. Stress Levels of College-Aged Students Across Relationship Status**
David Daquelente and Danielle A. Lombardo (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
- 10:45 **69. Personality Similarity and Relationship Satisfaction Using the Big-Five Personality Inventory**
Leanne Kammerdiener (Gary Levine), Edinboro University
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Paper Session 3: Rats on Drugs
Room 105 **Chair: Dr. Rodney Clark**

- 10:00 **70. Effects of Polydipsia-Induced Ethanol Intoxication on the Open-Field**
Jonathan Raybuck (Charles A. Edwards), Edinboro University
- 10:15 **71. Discriminative Stimulus Effects of Naloxone in an Oxycodone-Dependent Sprague-Dawley Rat: An Animal Model of Drug Withdrawal Symptoms**
Lauren Abbott (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College
- 10:30 **72. A Disease Model of Dementia of the Alzheimer's Type: The Effects of Nicotine Administration and Acetyethylcholine Mustard HCl-Induced Lesions of the Hippocampus on Spatial Memory of Rats**
Kristi Keith (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College
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Paper Session 4: Sex & Aggression
Room 212 **Chair: Deborah Dickey**

- 10:00 **73. The Effects of Aggressive Music on Self-Reported Aggression**
Marvin Sanderson and Jason Wheeler (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
- 10:15 **74. An Implicit and Explicit Measure of Attitudes Towards Women**
Tammy Sudul and Vanessa Marte (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
- 10:30 **75. Exposure and Reactions to Sexually Explicit Materials**
Sabrina Hyde (Greg Morrow), Edinboro University
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Paper Session 5: Helping & Conflict Resolution
Room 107 **Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Bennett**

- 10:00 **76. The Enemy of My Enemy is My Friend: An Examination of Decision Making in Helping Behavior**
Matthew Iwaniec and Jennifer Warrick (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington & Jefferson College
- 10:15 **77. The Influence of Adolescent Attachment on Conflict Resolution**
Julia Malone (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College
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Second Paper Sessions (11:10-12:10)

Carnegie Hall

Paper Session 6: Forgiveness

Room 105

Chair: Dr. Brent Robbins

- 10:00 **78. A Study on Rumination and Forgiveness**
Heather Horst and Susannah Cafardi (Gary Welton), Grove City College
- 10:15 **79. A Look into Forgiveness**
Kelly Early and Amy Holloway (Gary Welton), Grove City College
- 10:30 **80. Make No Record of Wrongs: A Study of Attribution and Forgiveness**
Mary Miheli and Jeanine E. Reid (Gary Welton), Grove City College
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Paper Session 7: Evaluative Beliefs

Room 110

Chair: Dr. Terry Pettijohn

- 10:00 **81. Perceptions of a Political Candidate**
Laura Monin and Jennifer Hildom (Thomas Rywick), SUNY Fredonia
- 10:15 **82. Role of Religion in a Secular Society**
Martin Spieler (Jennifer O'Donnell), Allegheny College
- 10:30 **83. The Utilization of Social Comparison in Combating Threatened Self-esteem**
Sarah Bliley (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College
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Paper Session 8: Clinical Issues

Room 101

Chair: Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen

- 11:10 **84. Mediating Factors Between ADHD and Depression in Women**
Tracy Tripiciano (Andrea Zevenbergen), SUNY Fredonia
- 11:25 **85. An Investigation of the Fatty Acid Composition of the Schizophrenic Anterior Cingulate Cortex and Its Clinical Implications**
Caroline Runyan (Jeff Cross), Allegheny College
- 11:40 **86. Do Residence Status and Psychological Closeness Influence College Student Adjustment?**
Joanna Obert and Mary Flowers (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
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Paper Session 9: Gender Issues
Room 212 **Chair: Dr. Marjorie Krebs**

- 11:10 **87. Self-Discrepancy Theory as a Predictor of Emotions Caused by Idealized Media Images**
Erica Schweiger (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College
- 11:25 **88. Gender Differences in Advertisement Persuasion**
Terese Rogers (Marjorie Krebs), Gannon University
- 11:40 **89. The Influences of Experimenter Gender and Appearance on Evaluation of Self-Esteem**
Jill Fullerton and Michael Hammer (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
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Conference Abstracts

(Faculty supervisors listed in parentheses)

1. The Effects of Using Color in the House Tree Person Test as an Indication of Levels of Optimism

Karen Dudziak (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

One hundred participants completed the House Tree Person (HTP) test, using either colored pencils or a standard #2 pencil, as well as a measure of optimism and extroversion. The distance that objects on the HTP test were drawn in relation to each other and other characteristics of the drawings were investigated. The relationships between the level of optimism, extroversion, and other components of the drawings were also considered. The results are expected to show that those scoring high in optimism and given colored pencils will draw objects closer together than any other group. The results of this study may be important in validating the HTP test as a measure of optimism to be used in the field of Art Therapy.

2. Grief and Depression: A Comparison of Bereavement at Five and Nine Weeks

Jennifer Hornaman and Megan Horanic (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Research has shown that there are differences in bereavement symptomatology as time passes, and these differences are usually measured at three months intervals for the first 18 months. The purpose of this study was to look more specifically at the bereavement process during the first three months, and to examine demographic variables, such as, age, race/ethnicity, gender, and education level that have not been examined before. The design of this study is a mixed design, we compared the participants' scores on the Texas Revised Inventory of Grief and the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale at two different time periods, and we compared these scores with regards to demographic variables. This study is also unique because it only included spouses and first degree relatives. These participants were recruited through the Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, and they were tested twice at a four week interval. The anticipated results are that people's grief and depression levels will decline as time passes since the death of their loved one, and that there will be differences in the bereavement progression according to demographic variables. For example, women will exhibit higher levels of depression and grief than men at both times they are tested.

3. Visual and Auditory Stroop Interference using ERPs

Holly Blasko-Drabik and Joshua Rowe (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

The Stroop effect is often studied as a measure of attentional interference. To determine whether the attention system is modality specific, we compared the Classic Visual Stroop task with an Auditory Stroop version—this version used an instrument to vocalize either the word “brass” or “string.” Participants were asked to inhibit the word and respond only to the instrument within three different conditions: congruent, incongruent, and neutral. Behavioral data for both tasks showed a similar Stroop-like effect and the event-related potentials showed a relationship between attentional brain mechanisms.

4. Interpersonal Space Varies: Manipulation of Classroom Seating Arrangement Effects on Test Scores

Tabitha Chase and Lisa Miller (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Lack of personal space has been problematic across many schools nationwide, thus yielding a negative effect on a student's cognitive ability to recall information. In this study, 72 undergraduate students, 32 females and 40 males, were recruited through a campus research pool, in which personal space was manipulated by varying seating arrangements (crowded or uncrowded). After each seating manipulation, two National Geographic movies, Rocky Mountain Beaver Pond (1987) and Zebra: Patterns in the Grass (1991), were shown and after each video an exam with 18 open-ended test questions was administered to assess the dependent variable, recall abilities. It was hypothesized that recall performance was better with uncrowded-personal space. Since previous studies have revealed that females have a tendency to freeze in smaller spatial situations but reveal better conformity than males, it was then inferred that male students would demonstrate a greater recall difference in crowded conditions. Nevertheless, by crowding personal space, or providing a seating arrangement that does not complement the personal space preferences of a participant, reactions could be altered, which may affect the mental capacities in an academic setting.

5. Context Dependent Memory: The Effects of Seating on Recall and Recognition

Lisa Jacobs and Erin Troester (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

This experiment examined the effects of environmental context-dependent memory on a test of memory recall and recognition. Studies, including those conducted by Grant et al. (1998) and Smith and Vela (2001), have found that memory for material is better when it is recalled in a context similar to the one in which it was learned. The type of chair the participant sat in to learn the material was hypothesized to have an effect on the test results for that participant. If the test was taken in the same chair in which the participant studied, it was thought that performance would be better than if the type of chair the participant used was changed between the learning and testing phases (i.e. participants in matching conditions should have performed better than those in mismatching conditions). The two types of chairs that were used in this experiment were a bean bag chair and a desk chair. Each participant was given an original short story to read and study during the learning phase, the interim phase consisted of a demographic survey and a game of Boggle, followed by a test of twenty questions, ten of which tested recall and ten of which tested recognition, during the testing phase. At this point we have not found any significant differences between the conditions.

6. A Study of Behavioral Changes as a Result of Cerebrovascular Disease

Michelle DelFavero (Timothy Klitz), Washington & Jefferson College

This study examined cerebrovascular disease, or stroke, the third leading cause of death in the United States. The focus of the study was on the causes of stroke, the types of stroke (ischemic or hemorrhagic), the damage done to the brain, the physical effects, and the effects on a patient's behavior. Information was obtained through an extensive literature search on stroke as well as through case study interviews of patients who have experienced the disease and practitioners who have dealt with the disease. Patient information was compared to find possible similarities in the damage done to the brain and the patient's resulting behavior. Similarities in behavior were detected among the patients.

7. Learning Styles and Cognitive Performance

Kristin Wucinski (Marilyn Livosky), Mercyhurst College

The relationship between learning styles and cognitive performance was investigated in a sample of high school and college students. Respondents were given 4 cognitive tests plus a learning styles questionnaire. A sample of elementary students was also tested but only on cognitive measures. Analyses reveal a relationship between learning style and performance, most notably on vocabulary measures. High school and college students outperformed elementary students on all measures. Findings are discussed in terms of applicability to education and to theories of intelligence.

8. Instructor Effectiveness Lies in the Eye of the Beholder: A Socio-contextual Perspective

Holly Long (Jeffrey Coldren), Youngstown State University

Effective instruction to promote student learning involves a triad of processes: knowledge of the material, knowledge of how to present the material, and the ability to create an interpersonal context in which the material is to be learned. Recent research has focused on the styles of the instructor in the classroom. To examine these issues, we examine the usage and influence of styles of instructors in two large lectur instructors in two large lecturpsychology classes by administering a questionnaire. Results indicate that students perceive the personal relationship between student and instructor, as well as the participation that the student puts forth, to be most important in student outcome.

9. Visual Neglect in Children with ADHD

Jeannette Reid (JW P. Heuchert), Allegheny College

Three measures of visual neglect were used to ascertain the extent to which ADHD children exhibit perceptual biases. As predicted, the ADHD participants showed an attention deficit for the left visual field on the line bisection test. Significant differences were not found with either the letter cancellation task or the Bells Test. The results provide some support for the hypothesis that ADHD children exhibit similar perceptual biases as subjects following parietal lobe damage.

10. Exercise and Self-Esteem: The Effect of Media Images on Perception

Kelly Beck (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

This study researched the effects of media images on self-esteem and body satisfaction of college age females, who either exercise or do not exercise. The participants viewed five media images of either American culture or neutral pictures of landscape and completed the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, the Franzoi and Shields Body-Esteem Scale, and an exercise questionnaire. The results are expected to show that participants who exercise will have a more stable and consistent level of esteem and body satisfaction after being exposed to the images. In addition, exercise is expected to have a positive effect on self-esteem and body image satisfaction.

11. Stress and Injury: The Effect of Stress on the Incidence of Injury in Female College Softball Players

Jessica Dillabough (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

This experiment studied the effects of stress on the incidence of injury among college female softball players. Negative life events and daily hassles affect how many injuries the player will receive during the season. The study looked at twenty female college softball players in a Division II league. The participants were evaluated for life stress over the past year. They were also given a weekly survey to fill out regarding how many injuries they received during the past week, how severe the injuries were, and if they had received playing time during the previous week. The participants evaluated the stressors for the life events survey as positive or negative, given a numerical value, and totals were found (by the experimenter) for the level of stress for the past year. The weekly surveys were used to measure the level of stress each week and this number was analyzed to test for a correlation between incidence of injury and stress levels. The results showed that stress levels were a good predictor of injury. The results suggest that learning effective strategies for coping with stress could help reduce the frequency of injury among female college softball players.

12. The Influence of Verbal Ability and Sex Role Identity on Alexithymia Scores Among College Students

Lauren Conway (Dr. David Anderson), Allegheny College

In this study, the effect of sex and sex role identity on verbal ability and alexithymia scores was explored. It was hypothesized that females would have higher verbal scores and lower alexithymia, while males would have lower verbal and higher alexithymia scores. Ninety-eight undergraduates (57 females and 41 males, ages 18-22) completed the 20-item Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS), the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI), and the Shipley Institute of Living IQ Scale vocabulary subtest. No relationship between sex and alexithymia scores was found. Trends were seen involving sex and verbal ability, but no significant relationship was found. Sex role identity was not significantly related to verbal ability but tended to produce better predictive rates for alexithymia. Significant differences in alexithymia scores were found between three pairs of sex role types. Undifferentiated individuals had significantly higher alexithymia scores than masculine and androgynous individuals. Feminine participants also scored significantly higher in alexithymia as compared with androgynous individuals.

13. Gender Partner Preferences and the Longevity of Heterosexual Dating Relationships

Erin Ferguson and Jessica Sevinsky (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Gender partner preferences and the longevity of heterosexual dating relationships were investigated among college students. Research suggests that when selecting a short- and long-term partner, males will prefer physically attractive images over unattractive images. Females will place equal emphasis on physical characteristics for both short- and long-term relationships. Females will place more emphasis on non-physical characteristics than males for both short- and long-term relationships. It was hypothesized that there would be a significant difference between male and female dating preferences. This hypothesis was supported. The results are consistent with previous research. Future implications include assessing different cultures and various ages.

14. Commercial Content and Thin/Muscular Ideal Internalization: Appearance Schema Activation in Male and Female Undergraduate Students

April Hartman and Dotty Shaffer (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

The current study proposed to link the cognitive development of eating disorders with risk factors found to contribute to their development. Participants were tested on their level of societal ideal internalization. High and low internalization groups were formed by calling back those scoring in the extreme 25th percentages. Groups were then randomly assigned to view either appearance-related or neutral commercials. Participants were then tested on the activation of their appearance schemas. Females scored significantly higher than the males on the measure of internalization. There was no significant effect or interaction of sex, internalization, or video type on appearance schema activation.

15. The Sexual Double Standard: Gender and Sexual Experience Influences on Judgments of Personality

Nicole Orsini and Nikki Kulas (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Gender stereotypes suggest that men with a large number of sexual partners are viewed more positively than women with the same number of partners. One question is whether this extends to sexual inexperience. This study investigated whether males and females sexual experience affected the way they were judged by peers on their personality characteristics. Based on social learning theory we examined the sexual double standard and the frigid virgin stereotype. Participants read an introduction featuring a medical patient with zero, low, or high sexual experience and rated them on the 5-factor personality traits. We hypothesized that there would be differences based on participant gender, patient gender, and sexual experience. The results showed that male participants judged female patients with a large number of sexual partners as more agreeable than males with the same number of partners. Male participants rated female virgins more intellectual than male virgins. Female participants rated female virgins as less extroverted than male virgins. Overall, the results provide insights on the way virgins and people with high sexual experience are viewed.

16. Media Influences on Attractiveness

Megan Strauman (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

The media presents an ever-thinning ideal in its images daily. These images have led to anti-fat bias against those who are overweight. This study used a group of undergraduate psychology students from Mercyhurst College, both male and female. The participants were split into two experimental groups and one control group. One experimental group looked at images of overweight ideals, while the other experimental group was exposed to images from thin ideal catalogs. The control group saw no catalogs. The exposure to the overweight media images is expected to increase the body size that the participants find attractive, increase their self-esteem, and cause them to underestimate the weights of the body silhouettes. The exposure to thin body ideals is expected to have the opposite effect.

17. Visual and Verbal Processing

Alissia Camuso (Majorie Krebs), Gannon University

An experiment was conducted to compare adults' ability to recall information that was presented to them through either audiovisual or a print versions. A sample of 58 college students taken mainly from Gannon University Psychology classes participated by either watching 10 stories that in the past were in the news (e.g., Huey Long's "Share the Wealth Program") or read the same 10 stories in print form. A test was administered after students were finished to see how much they remembered from the material that was presented. It was predicted that the audiovisual group would perform better than the print version group. The results showed there is no significant difference between the two groups.

18. Evaluation of PsychOUT! A Fun Interactive Classroom Review Tool

Alma Hollis (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

Enhanced lectures and active learning sessions link students to class material through interactions with classmates, multimedia and the teacher. These approaches have been shown to variously increase student participation, motivation, or learning. Therefore, a device or technique that encourages all three should also be an effective learning tool. A game that was designed to do this is called PsychOUT! Ninety undergraduate college students were surveyed to see how valuable the game was perceived to be. Overall, PsychOUT! was highly successful in helping students review what they learned in the lecture and increased participation and motivation.

19. The Effects of Social Support and Sex Differences on Stress in College Students

Kristy Striner (David Anderson), Allegheny College

The present study looked at stress in college students and the beneficial effects of social support. Likelihood to seek support, sex differences, emotional support and instrumental support were examined as well. Fifty-eight undergraduate students constituted the participants of this study. No significant results were found indicating a relationship between perceived level of social support and stress in students. Similarly, the study found that high levels of emotional support or instrumental support did not affect stress. Also, there were no sex differences found in regard to levels of perceived support, likelihood to seek support, or type of support received. A significant positive correlation indicated a relationship between likelihood to seek support and perceived social support. This suggests that those likely to seek out support will receive it in return.

20. Muscle Dismorphia: Which Men Are More Prone?

Amber Pratt (David Anderson), Allegheny College

This study investigated muscle dysmorphia among male non-exercisers, weightlifters, and football players. It was theorized that the non-exercisers would express low self-esteem and body dysmorphic disorder. The weightlifters were anticipated to have low self-esteem and high body dysmorphic disorder. Finally, the football players were projected to have high self-esteem and moderate body dysmorphic disorder. Twenty-four Allegheny men were asked to complete the Body Dysmorphic Disorder Examination- Self-Report and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. Analysis showed there was no significant relationship between group category and body dysmorphic disorder or self-esteem.

21. Effects of Music on Memorization

Fara D'Aguiar (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

This experiment is expected to find that music assists in the retention and speed of recollection. The experimental group was given a short 32-word poem, "The Coming of Wisdom with Time" by William Butler Yeats, to memorize by hearing it sung to them to the tune of "Mary had a Little Lamb." The control group learned the same poem by having it read to them. After each trial, the participants' retention of the poem was tested and recorded, and the entire process repeated one week later. Scores from the memorization trials, recollection trials, and the timed responses are expected to demonstrate a significant difference between the two sample groups of participants.

22. Various Effects of Differential Housing and Stress on Discrimination Behavior in Rats

Lindsey Katora (Rodney Clark and Jennifer O'Donnell), Allegheny College

In the current experiment, twenty-one naïve albino rats were housed in either an enriched environment or an impoverished environment. After a thirty-day habituation period the animals were exposed to inescapable foot shock until they displayed passive avoidance for five minutes. After the stress condition the animals were placed back in the operant conditioning chambers to shape lever pressing. Once all animals were stable in their lever pressing, they were tested for discrimination behavior. Thus far, the results indicate that the animals from the enriched environments have learned to lever press at a much faster rate than the animals from the impoverished environments.

23. Rule-Governance and Schedule-Control in the Escalation of Commitment

Alex Persoskie (Jennifer O'Donnell), Allegheny College

Escalation of commitment is the tendency of decision makers to increase their level of investing when their investments fail to produce returns. Researchers have recently found that escalation can result from a history of variable reinforcement (Goltz, 1992). The present research was an attempt to replicate this finding and to examine the role that rule following might play in mediating the effects of variable reinforcement on the behavior of escalation. The results supported past research on variable-ratio reinforcement and offered new insights into the relationship between rule following behavior, schedule control, and the escalation of commitment.

24. The Effects of Ethanol and Naloxone on Shock Avoidance in Rats

Matt Mier (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

This study assessed the effects of ethanol and naloxone on shock avoidance in rats. Five subjects were trained to avoid shock administered on a fixed-time 15-s schedule. Next, a dose response curve was obtained for three doses of ethanol (0.3, 1.0, and 1.7 g/kg) administered through intraperitoneal injection. Each dose produced a decrease in responding, with the 1.7 g/kg dose producing the greatest decline. A dose response curve was then obtained for naloxone. Three doses (0.1, 0.3, and 1.0 mg/kg) were administered, of which there was no difference from the baseline condition. Finally, a 1.7 g/kg dose of ethanol and a 1.0 mg/kg dose of naloxone were administered together. Rates of responding decreased for two of the subjects by 40% from the 1.7 g/kg ethanol condition. This did not support the hypothesis that naloxone would antagonize the effects of ethanol.

25. Rat Soccer: The Result of Backward Chaining

Emily Roguski and KC Miller (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

This study used backward chaining to condition two experimentally experienced rats to "play soccer." This was done using a four-component stimulus response chain with FR1 FR1 FR1 schedules. The rats' previous experience included dipper training in the soccer apparatus, which served as the initial step in training. The second step in the conditioning process was the scoring response. The completion of this step required a series of successive approximations, or shaping procedure. This was completed by reinforcing orientation toward the ball, followed by reinforcement for making contact with the ball, and finally pushing the ball through the goal from a very short distance from the goal. The next step required the training of the rat to manipulate the ball into the goal from all areas within the apparatus. The final step included the placement of both rats within the apparatus, in competition for the same ball. The apparatus included a specifically designed chamber with two distinctively colored "goals," one at each end. Each goal was paired with a food pellet dispenser of the same distinctive color. The method of reinforcement included the presentation of bird food pellets following the completion of the chain. During training, the rats were restricted to approximately 80% of their free-feeding weight.

26. Effects of Prenatal Diazepam and Ethanol Exposure on Learning Acquisition of Rat Pups

Mary Shreve (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

In the present study the effects of early postnatal exposure to ethanol (10%v/v; p.o.), diazepam (5mg/kg; i.p.), or ethanol and diazepam combined on various modes of learning, including motor learning, spatial/working memory, and operant learning, was investigated. Rat dams were assigned to one of the previously mentioned drug conditions or a control group and administered the appropriate drug regimen from postnatal day 7 to postnatal day 21. Rat pups' learning was then assessed using an elevated stick maze, radial arm maze, and commercial operant chamber. No significant differences ($p > .05$) were found in elevated stick maze performance. Time required to complete the radial arm maze task and percentage of correct arm entries were assessed; no significant difference ($p > .05$) was found with respect to percentage of correct arm entries, but significant differences ($p < .05$) were found between control group results and ethanol and combined drug regimen results, as well as between ethanol and diazepam data collected. Operant testing, across a series of fixed interval schedules, values of 3, 6, 9, and 12"; yielded a significant difference ($p < .05$) between animals exposed to both diazepam and ethanol and control subjects.

27. Do Smokers Have a Different Perception of Taste than Non-Smokers?

Jessica Antonini and Kellie Tinnion (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

Sense of smell is important to our perceptions of taste. Reformed smokers often remark that food tastes better to them after they quit smoking. It has been argued that this is due to improved sense of smell, rather than improvement in sense of taste. The present study directly compares taste perception (without smell or sight) of smokers and non-smokers. Participants made taste judgments for different foods having similar textures. If smell is a critical factor in taste perception, we expect little difference between groups. However, if smoking does affect taste, then differences should be observed.

28. The Autokinetic Effect

Lanna Horn and Donya Bernier (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

The autokinetic effect occurs when a stationary point of light in an otherwise darkened room is perceived as moving. This effect can be enhanced or guided through the power of suggestion (e.g., people can be primed to see the light move and trace out certain words). One goal of this study was to determine if the strength of the autokinetic effect was affected by the color of the stationary light. Another goal was to determine whether visual acuity (based on whether participants required corrected or uncorrected vision) was related to the likelihood that participants would report movement.

29. Gender, Restrained Eating, and Nutritional Labeling are Greater Influences on the Selection of Regular and Low-Fat Italian Dressing than Genetics

Sarah Lawson and Tami Quigley (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

This study explores taste sensitivity to 6-n-propylthiouracil (PROP), gender, eating habits, and nutritional labeling and how these variables influence preferences for and selection of regular and low fat Italian dressing. Individuals were tested for PROP taster status and divided into supertasters, tasters, and non-tasters. Participants rated the pleasantness and fat content of the high and low fat dressings. They were randomly assigned to a labeled or non-labeled dressing group and chose one of the dressings to eat on a salad. We predicted that because nontasters have less taste sensitivity, they would be more influenced by food labels. We expected supertasters to be more sensitive to fat content in salad dressing and, therefore, to prefer the low fat dressing. The results showed that gender, nutritional labeling, and restrained eating influenced what participants chose to eat. Females and restrained eaters were more likely to choose the low fat dressing. The ability to taste PROP interacted with gender to influence restrained eating habits, but had no influence on actual dressing selection or preference.

30. Female Dance Perceptions

Brena Price (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

This study looked at the relationship between women's dance attire and their body perceptions. Young female dancers, ages 18-22, were studied through 2 different scenerios. The participants were divided between 2 groups, and each group completed the same tasks in a different order. The first group wore typical dance attire first (black leotard and pink tights) and the second wore looser clothing first ("junk"). After completing a ballet class in this attire, surveys were taken regarding body-image and performance level. The results of the study are expected to show significant negative body-image after wearing leotard tights, which implies that female dancers rate their dancing and their body-image better when wearing clothes that are less fitting and looser.

31. The Effects of Priming on Figure Completion with Unfamiliar Figures

Sarah Rakowski (Terry Pettijohn and Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst College

This experiment was designed to assess second grade students' ability to complete figures. Participants were presented with one of three tests. The task was for participants to draw in the line that had been left out of the perimeter of the test figure. The results indicate that participants were able to complete more familiar figures than unfamiliar figures. The results also show that when participants were primed with the familiar figures test, their completion scores on the unfamiliar figures task increased. The results indicated that previous exposure and priming play a greater role in figure completion tasks than Gestalt concepts.

32. The Effects of Facial Piercings on Hiring Decisions

Heather Vanderoef (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

The effect of facial piercings on participants' decision to hire was examined. University students were given a job description page followed by a resume with the applicant's picture, with either six, one, or no piercings. Participants were then asked whether or not they would hire the applicant. Surprisingly, participants who had facial piercings themselves rated the applicant with six piercings the lowest.

33. Self-Esteem and Its Relationship to Body Mass Index and Adult Attachment Style

Jennifer Braithwaite and Elma Dori (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Previous research has compared self-esteem to body mass index (BMI), and self-esteem to adult attachment styles. This study focused on the relationships between body mass index, attachment, and self-esteem. We surveyed 34 Psychology students. They were given 3 surveys, Multidimensional Self-Esteem Inventory (MSEI), Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised (ECR-R), and a demographic survey, in which we obtained the Body Mass information. We hypothesized that higher body mass index and higher dimensions of avoidance and anxiety, in attachment, would predict lower self-esteem. Furthermore, we also hypothesized that body mass index would predict attachment more directly than it predicts self-esteem.

34. Personality Traits and College Adjustment

Lindsey Giuliana and Eldridge McNair (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
This study examines relational aggression, social adjustment, and coping strategies in college students. The frame work for our study is the Social Information Processing theory. The social information processing theory is based on the idea of a database that contains stored memories, acquired rules, social schemas and social knowledge (Crick & Dodge, 1994). The Revised Self Report of Aggression and Social Behavior, the Student Adaptation to College Questionnaire (SACQ), and the Brief COPE were administered to participants. There is a significant relationship between relational victimization and social adjustment in females.

35. Personality, Spirituality, and Religiosity as Predictors of Aggressive Beliefs

Nathan Sacco, Amy Gregg, and Kristen D. Latch (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

We studied whether spirituality, religiosity, and personality predicted normative beliefs about aggression in a college population. Five surveys were completed by participants (N=190) concerning these variables. A multiple regression showed that the less Agreeable, Conscientious, Religious, Cognitively Oriented Towards Spirituality, and Intrinsically Religious one is, the more likely one would accept aggressive beliefs. Spirituality and religiosity affect normative beliefs about aggression beyond what is predicted by personality, and should be studied further.

36. Some Behavioral Teratogenic Effects of All-trans-retinoic Acid on Schedule Control Responding in Rattus Narvegious

Kelly Andrzejczyk (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

A study of the behavioral teratogenic effects of all-trans-retinoic acid in Rattus Narvegious was conducted. One dam was injected intraperitoneally with an all-trans-retinoic acid solution while the another dam served as a saline control. In order to assess potential drug alterations on the acquisition of timing behavior, experimental and control rat pups were water deprived for 23 hours, subsequently shaped, placed in an operant conditioning chamber, and tested under an IRT>t schedule (where t equals 3, 5, and 7 seconds). Compared to the saline rats, the rats that were prenatally exposed to all-trans-retinoic acid required more testing days in order to meet the criteria on an IRT>3 seconds schedule, yet never made the criteria on an IRT>5 seconds schedule. Three of the four saline rats met the criteria in order to proceed to the IRT>7 seconds schedule, yet only one reached acquisition. These findings support the notion that prenatal exposure to all-trans-retinoic acid ultimately affects schedule control responding by delaying acquisition.

37. Altered Rates of Liquid Consumption with N-Methyl-Aspartate Sterioisomers: Effects of the Noncompetitive Antagonists MK-801 and Ketamine

Sarah Packosky (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

Rats were trained under a VI 10 second schedule in the Skinner box. Dose response determinations for NMDA (1.0, 10.0, 17.0, and 32.0 mg/ml), NMLA (1.0, 10.0, 17.0 and 32.0 mg/ml), MK-801 (.01, .03, .1 mg/ml), and ketamine (3.0, 10.0, 17.0 mg/ml) were obtained. The most effective doses of NMDA and NMLA were then administered with the most effective doses of MK-801 and ketamine. The results of the NMLA antagonisms were not significant. The NMDA and ketamine antagonism decreased the rate of response below baseline, and the NMDA and MK-801 antagonism brought the rate of response back to baseline. This showed that the MK-801 antagonism was the only successful antagonism in this study.

38. The Effects of Chocolate on Cortical Activity

Rachel Bergman (Jeff Cross), Allegheny College

Gustation is under-researched as compared with audition and vision. The primary gustatory cortex is located under the cerebral cortex, and for this reason, research on taste is most often conducted with the PET scan. This study used electroencephalograph (EEG) technique to examine cortical activity while tasting, as EEG is less invasive and less expensive than the PET scan. Chocolate was used as the experimental taste stimulus, as this food has both physiological and psychological effects. Ten males and eleven females were randomly assigned to the experimental or control conditions. Cortical EEG was measured while tasting with the 40 electrode Neuroscan electrode cap in standard 10 - 20 arrangement. A covariant analysis with baseline as the covariant was used to analyze the alpha wave power at FP1, FP2, F3, F4, FZ, F7, F8, T3, T4, P3, PZ, and P4 electrode sites. Results showed at the T3 electrode site, female participants tasting the unsweetened stimulus displayed significantly higher power of alpha waves than did male participants while tasting unsweetened stimuli. The data displayed trends in many additional areas. Further research needs to be conducted, however, in utilizing the EEG to monitor taste.

39. Electroencephalogram of Music and Visual Art as a Function of Musical Training

Michelle Ferry (Alec Dale), Allegheny College

Musicians and non-musicians were tested in response to musical and artistic stimuli of differing emotional valence. EEG was recorded using a multi-electrode array cap while alternating positive and negative affective paintings and musical excerpts were presented. Subjective emotion ratings were also obtained. Musicians showed higher alpha power in the left frontal lobe (FP1) than nonmusicians for all stimuli and this trend neared significance in the right frontal lobe (FP2) as well ($0.05 < p < 0.10$). The occipital lobe (O1 and O2) showed higher alpha levels for music than for art. Musicians showed a trend of higher alpha levels at all 12 electrode locations analyzed as compared to nonmusicians ($0.05 < p < 0.10$).

40. The Effects of Neonatal Oxygen Deprivation on Dopamine Mediated Behavior within Sprague Dawley Rats

Tara Greene (Jeffrey Hollerman), Allegheny College

Literature has connected schizophrenia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder with increased birth complications, suggesting they may alter dopaminergic activity and the neuroanatomy within these individuals. Caesarian birth with added global anoxia has shown to alter dopamine mediated behavior and neuroanatomy. The current study examined the effects of neonatal anoxia on amphetamine-induced dopamine-mediated behavior and neuroanatomy within Sprague Dawley rats. In ambulatory locomotor activity, males born by C-section with 15 minutes of added anoxia were more active during baseline than vaginally born controls. With repeated doses of amphetamine, ambulatory movement was significantly reduced in both types. In stationary locomotor activity, oxygen-deprived animals were less active than controls after repeated doses of amphetamine. In addition, females were more active than males in baseline ambulatory and stationary movement. For acoustic startle response (ASR), controls had a greater ASR than oxygen deprived animals, and males had a greater ASR than females. Prepulse inhibition (PPI) was reduced with amphetamine in both types; however, oxygen-deprived animals showed a larger trend of affection by amphetamine in PPI. Oxygen-deprived animals displayed a larger trend in lateral ventricle size and a smaller trend in hippocampal sizes compared to controls. These results indicate that neonatal oxygen deprivation produces long term changes in some DA mediated behaviors, and perhaps in the neuroanatomy. Future studies should examine both age and sex as factors that may affect oxygen deprivation. Neuroanatomy should also be examined with sophisticated methods of measurement and a larger sample size.

41. The Influence of Music and Driver Aggression on Males and Females

Bonnie Quiggle (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

The present study examined the relationship between self-reported in-car music habits and aggressive driving among males and females. Students filled out a brief survey measuring their aggressive driving behaviors and also reported their listening habits. It is predicted that listening to loud and fast paced music is positively related with aggressive driving.

42. Relationship Between Music Downloading and Academic Dishonesty Among College Students

Dylan Rogers (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

In this study college students were asked questions about downloading copyrighted music off the internet and about cheating on exams and papers. A substantial majority of the sample had downloaded music. Additionally, students who downloaded music within the prior month were significantly more likely to report having cheated on exams.

43. The Availability Heuristic and Frequency Estimates of the Rate of Homosexuality

Laura Terwilliger (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

The current study examines estimates of the rate of homosexuality through an order effect of questions. People either estimated the rate of homosexuality at the beginning or received a version of the survey which first asked questions designed to increase the availability of homosexuality by mention of television shows with gay characters (e.g., "Will & Grace") and asking questions about gay marriage. Consistent with the availability heuristic, it is predicted that these questions should lead to higher estimates of the rate of homosexuality.

44. The Effects of Reading About Lung Cancer Death on Smoking Attitudes

Erinann Lindner (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

This study examines the effects of one's perceptions of smoking related death on their own smoking behavior. After reading through one of two versions of an obituary (one citing lung cancer as the cause of death, and one citing breast cancer), participants were asked various questions pertaining to smoking- and cancer-related deaths. It was predicted that participants, immediately after reading the lung cancer obituary, would have a greater desire to quit smoking than those who read the breast cancer obituary.

45. Media Exposure and Female Body Image Ideals

Kat Bhagwandien (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

The current study examines the relationship between media exposure and perceptions of the ideal female body image. Students reported how much television they watched and the magazines they read, and then chose the ideal female body image from a series of drawings. In addition, they were asked whether they think media affects how they see themselves and whether they think the media affects other people. Results indicate that people think media affects other people more than it affects them. Reasons that no significant relationship between media exposure and body image was found are discussed.

46. Career-Marriage-Conflict and Gender Differences

Kimberly Bidwell and Danielle Dupres (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

Research has shown that male and female college-aged students are equally interested in starting families and careers after graduation. The differences are in the expected age of marriage and how worried they are about juggling both a family and a career. We designed a survey to examine career-marriage conflict in general psychology students. Overall, there were little differences between males and females. However, males reported being more worried about how their career would affect their relationship.

47. Gateway Drug Use: Survey of Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Marijuana in College Students

Blaze Bosco (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

The current survey assesses drug use and the possible gateway effect among 109 Edinboro University students in two general psychology classes. The participants filled out an anonymous survey in class. The survey asked about first use and first regular use of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana. The survey also asked about other illicit drug use. Results show that most students used alcohol before cigarettes and marijuana. There also were significant gender differences with males using drugs more frequently and starting earlier than females.

48. Estimating Percentage of Marriages that End in Divorce for Both Self and Others

Erika Currier (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

The current study examines male and female estimates about divorce rates. Surveys were given to general psychology students and participants were asked how many marriages in general end in divorce and their chances of someday getting divorced. Female participants showed a greater self-serving bias when it came to estimating their chances of getting a divorce.

49. Why Male and Female College Students End Relationships

Renee DiCorpo (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

The current experiment examines the reasons college students terminate their relationships. Students were given a survey that presented them with a list of possible reasons for a breakup, and rated how much each reason impacted their last serious relationship. Results indicated that females felt poor communication and drinking/drug issues impacted the breakup more than the males. In contrast, males rated the issue of their partner finding someone new as contributing more severely to the breakup.

50. Potential Protective Factors for Relational Aggression: Future Time Perspective, Activity Involvement, and Normative Beliefs

Kristin Hesch and Shannon Bach (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

In the current study, eighth grade and college students were given a survey that evaluated the relationship among their time perspective, activity involvement, normative beliefs, and relational aggression. Results showed students' normative beliefs about aggression were related to self-reported relational aggression. Those with high future time perspective were less likely to score high on relational aggression, and those with a higher present time perspective felt that aggression was more justified.

51. The Effect of Levels of Expressiveness, Gender, and Subject on Student Ratings of Instructors

Julie Kell (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington & Jefferson College

Past research has shown that gender and expressiveness can influence students' ratings of instructors (e.g. Basow, 1990; Basow, 1995). In this study participants listened to 2 audio taped segments of an instructor introducing a course. Participants listened to one tape introducing an English class and one introducing a Math class. Participants heard instructors who were either male or female. Some participants listened to instructors who were expressive and some listened to instructors who were monotone. Participants made a variety of ratings of each instructor.

52. Attitudes and Attributional Patterns in Relation to Health Outcomes

Susan Kosinski (Jack Croxton), SUNY Fredonia

This study investigated people's health beliefs and attributions. Undergraduate subjects felt that they were basically in control of their own health outcomes. They were more likely to blame an ill patient for their condition when the condition was particularly serious. However, the patient was given more credit when they recovered. A negative outcome was more likely to be attributed to the health care system and the lack of preventative care. The physician was seen as particularly concerned and caring when the patient recovered from a severe as opposed to a mild illness. Suggestions for further research are discussed.

53. An Integrated Approach to Improving Recycling

Christopher Nafe (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington & Jefferson College

Two types of interventions were attempted to improve campus recycling, one in public spaces and one in dorms. In public spaces, bins were moved to appropriate places and signs were placed at eye level indicating what belonged in each container. An informative article was placed in the student paper about correct use of recycling bins. In dorms the intervention involved a contest to encourage recycling. Results examining the effect of the interventions in the two locations will be presented.

54. Paranormal Beliefs: Levels of Skepticism Among Psychology Students

Andrew Russell (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

The term paranormal can be interpreted as referring to anything currently unexplained by science. Historically, humans have believed in strange things (e.g., the earth is flat, the sun orbits the earth). However, with today's scientific progress it would stand to reason that belief in the paranormal would be on the decline. Three psychology classes were given the Survey of Beliefs (general psychology, cognitive psychology, and psychology of paranormal beliefs). Surveys were scored to indicate general level of skepticism. Class survey means and the five top and bottom scoring questions were compared.

55. Musically-Induced Affect and the Environmental Security Hypothesis

Donald Sacco (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

The effects of musically-induced positive and negative affect on ratings of facial attractiveness, based on eye size, were investigated. Male and female college students, in a randomized two-group design, listened to either positive or negative affect-producing music, completed a personality inventory, chose and rated faces based on attraction, and rated their affective response to the music. It is anticipated that the results will show that those in the positive affect group will choose target photographs with larger eyes while those in the negative affect group will prefer target photographs with smaller eyes. The level of affective response will affect attractiveness ratings.

56. Support for Terror Management Theory: Gender Differences Among Prejudice and Affiliation

Laurel Sinko (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

Terror management theory suggests that when individuals are faced with their ultimate mortality they are more likely to identify with others who share a similar worldview. To test this theory, Mercyhurst College students were exposed to either a death salience or a control condition and then were evaluated on levels of prejudice and affiliation. The control group is expected to score higher on levels of prejudice and affiliation and the experimental group males are expected to score higher than females on levels of prejudice and females will score higher than males on levels of affiliation. Results may validate terror management theory and show differences between genders.

57. Gender Differences and the Presence of a Potential Dating Partner in Embarrassibility

Emily Tresky (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

Embarrassment, a common uncomfortable feeling, occurs when an individual becomes overly anxious and concerned about how he/she looks in front of others. This study continued the investigation of the gender differences in, and considered the effect of the presence or absence of, a potential dating partner in embarrassment experiences. Sixty-eight males and 168 females responded. The questionnaires measured embarrassibility, self-esteem, body image esteem, blushing propensity, interaction anxiousness, and hypothetical situations in which a potential dating partner was either present or absent. The findings included that females reported more embarrassment.

58. The Effects of Mental Imagery on Athletic Performance Enhancement

Cheryl Wright (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

Mental imagery is a useful technique for enhancing athletic performance, believed to improve performance by heightening self-efficacy levels. The current study attempts to provide evidence that thoughts influence behavior. The experimental group heard a brief recorded mental simulation task of successfully converting a basketball free throw, while the control group did not. Both groups completed a Physical Self-Efficacy scale (Ryckman et. al, 1982) and Flow State scale (Jackson & Marsh, 1996). The experimental group is expected to show more improvement in performance due to increased self-efficacy and/or experience of flow, concluding that positive mental imagery contributes to athletic performance enhancement. This will provide further evidence that mental imagery affects athletic performance.

59. Social and Economic Relationships with Facial and Body Features of Miss America Pageant Winners

Melissa Yerkes (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

Facial and body characteristics of Miss America pageant winners over the past 70 years were identified and investigated to explore their relationships with U.S. social and economic factors. A hard-times measure was created using annual economic and social statistics (1932-2002) that were compiled to form one general measure. Facial feature and body measurement values of Miss America were correlated with the general hard-times measure. A negative relationship between social and economic hard times and Miss America body mass index was found. Other relationships are discussed. Results of this research contribute new insight into perceptions and trends of beauty and human facial and body feature preferences.

60. Different Attributes Associated with Male and Female Professionals in Uniform

Cole Barker (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

This study was interested in attributes associated with male and female professionals in uniform. Male and female college participants rated photos of a male and female model wearing the same fireman's gear, nursing scrubs, and civilian's clothing in relation to masculine and feminine attributions. In civilian's clothing the male model is expected to be associated with masculine attributions (assertive, aggressive, athletic, leadership, willing to take a stand) and the female will be associated with feminine attributions (compassionate, understanding, use of harsh language, loves children, loyal). However, when wearing the fireman's uniform both models will be associated with masculine attributes, and while wearing the nursing scrubs both models will be perceived more feminine. The results should support that attributes associated with males and females depends on the uniform.

61. The Effects of Stress on Physical Attraction and Hair Color Preferences

Melissa Bartholomew (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

The present study examined the effects of stress on individual perception of attractiveness based on hair color. College students were randomly assigned to an experimental group, where they were exposed to a stressful situation in which they were told that they would be given a lie detector test, or to a control group. All participants made judgments about facial photographs regarding their preference of hair color after they had indicated their stress level. It is expected that the participants who are exposed to the stressful situation will show a greater preference for brown hair compared to participants who are not exposed to the stressful situation.

62. Religiosity and Spirituality in the Development of Disordered Eating

Sarah Caligiuri (David Anderson), Allegheny College

The way religiosity and spirituality are a part of the development of disordered eating was investigated. Disordered eating was examined historically, religiously, and psychologically. Disordered eating was viewed as a continuum of maladaptive attitudes about food instead of simply diagnosable eating disorders. The EAT 26, Rohrbaugh-Jessor Religiosity Scale, and The Spiritual Involvement and Beliefs Scales were used to determine the interactions between the three variables. Though none of the results were statistically significant, higher EAT 26 scores were congruent with higher religiosity and spirituality scores. Those having a Christian affiliation had higher EAT 26 scores than did atheist, agnostic, or non-affiliated participants. Catholics and other affiliations of Christianity had similar scores of disordered eating. A considerable amount of the sample fell into the diagnosable range for having an eating disorder. These results are consistent with previous cases studies and experimental research.

63. Relations Between Preschool Behavior Problems and Community Educational Experiences

Jaime Breth (Andrea Zevenbergen), SUNY Fredonia

Studies have shown a relationship between young children's behavior and their academic achievement. We hypothesized that parents who have a child with behavioral problems are less likely to take the child out in the community for educational experiences. In our study of 49 families, we found that there was a significant negative correlation between the level of child behavior problems and exposure to community educational experiences. Parents who have a child with behavior problems may feel embarrassed or find their child too difficult to handle in the community; however, this may set up the child for later difficulties in school because he/she has missed out on these early educational experiences.

64. Relating Working Memory, Imagery, and Reading Comprehension in Children

Diana Barnes (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

The current experiment examined the relationship between working memory, imagery representations, and reading comprehension in children. This experiment focused on the role of visual working memory and imagery to aid reading comprehension, thereby expanding the minimal research in the area of visual working memory. A between-participants design was used to measure working memory and reading comprehension when aided with an external imagery device. Neither working memory nor the external imagery aid was found to be related to reading ability. Reading level and grade were the best predictors of error detection ability. Possible implications of visual working memory and imagery are discussed.

65. Relationship Between Owning a Companion Animal and Children's Empathy and Prosocial Behavior

Courtney Fulton (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

This study assessed the effects of companion animals on the empathy and prosocial behavior of seventy-six 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, who all owned pets. We examined how levels of empathy and prosocial behavior changed with the quality of attachment between companion animals and humans by looking at animal attachment, responsibility, time spent, and parental facilitation. It was predicted that those children who have a better quality of attachment and care for their companion animal will score higher levels of empathy and prosocial behavior than those children who have a lower quality of attachment and care for their companion animal.

66. The perceived Sexual Interest Regarding Women's Behavior: A Cross-Cultural Study Comparing French and American Men

Shealyn Stenglein (Joshua Searle-White), Allegheny College

The present study investigates the perceived sexual interest and interest in sexual activity of 24 American and 21 French males regarding women's behavior. The participants were given a list of 40 behaviors, 20 of which were categorized as "meeting" and 20 of which as "dating" and were asked to rate the degree to which the behaviors indicated sexual interest. Though it was hypothesized that the French sample would rate behaviors to indicate higher amounts of sexual interest, it was found that the American sample rated eight behaviors higher for women they have just met and five behaviors higher for women with whom they are on a date. The behaviors rated significantly higher include "agrees to go to your apartment for a drink/coffee," "kisses your cheek," and "gives you her phone number" and there are several implications for further cross-cultural study.

67. Influence of Matching Individual and Organizational Values on Employee Satisfaction and Organizational Commitment

Kyla Vandree (David Anderson), Allegheny College

This study examined the effects of person-organization fit on employee work attitudes. Participants were recruited from various departments in a medical hospital, including some individuals hired using a person-organization fit assessment. No significant difference was found in job satisfaction and organizational commitment as a function of organizational fit. Additionally, no difference was found in organizational fit between individuals hired using a fit assessment and those hired without. However, there are several distinct features of the sample used in this study which may have significant effects on the overall relationship between organizational fit and employee attitudes.

68. Stress Levels of College-Aged Students Across Relationship Status

David Daquelente and Danielle A. Lombardo (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Stressors come from being in a monogamous relationship and from being single. The goal of this study was to determine if there is a difference between stress levels in college-age individuals in monogamous relationships compared to single individuals. It was hypothesized that college students in monogamous relationships would show higher stress levels. The study used three surveys and in a within-subjects design. Contrary to our predictions, there was no significant difference in stress levels.

69. Personality Similarity and Relationship Satisfaction Using the Big-Five Personality Inventory

Leanne Kammerdiener (Gary Levine), Edinboro University

The present experiment evaluated individuals' personalities and their relationship satisfaction. Each individual completed a Big-Five personality inventory that assessed both their traits and their significant other's traits. They also rated their satisfaction in their relationship. It is expected that people who rate their significant other as having more similar characteristics will be more satisfied with their relationship.

70. Effects of Polydipsia-Induced Ethanol Intoxication on Open-Field Behavior

Jonathan Raybuck (Charles A. Edwards), Edinboro University

Male Sprague-Dawley rats were tested for effects of ethanol on open-field behavior in either a drug or non-drug condition. The subjects were placed on a schedule of reinforcement to facilitate polydipsia. Control subjects received water in polydipsia sessions while test subjects received a 5% ethanol solution. Significant differences in open-field behavior were found. Most prominent of these differences was a systematic variation of ambulations as a factor of ethanol consumption.

71. Discriminative Stimulus Effects of Naloxone in an Oxycodone-Dependent Sprague-Dawley Rat: An Animal Model of Drug Withdrawal Symptoms

Lauren Abbott (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

Over the last five years, the abuse of the popular pain-reliever Oxycontin has disrupted many lives. This abuse and dependence is due to the addictive nature of the synthetic, opioid agonist, oxycodone HCL, which is the active ingredient in Oxycontin tablets. When the use of Oxycontin is terminated, people who are dependent experience severe withdrawal symptoms, which leads to the continued use of the drug. It may be possible to use animal models of human subjective events to explore drug withdrawal. These models may be useful for testing new treatments for withdrawal and understanding the biological basis of drug withdrawal. The intention of this study was to provide evidence that the symptoms of oxycodone withdrawal could be studied in infrahuman species. The procedure was an attempt to train subjects to report the detection of withdrawal from oxycodone using drug discrimination methodology. To test this, four Sprague-Dawley rats were maintained on a chronic oxycodone administration schedule. After they became dependent, they were trained to discriminate between an opioid antagonist (naloxone) and saline. Five hours before every training session subjects received 5.6 mg/kg of oxycodone and ten minutes before the session subjects received 0.03 mg/kg of naloxone. Then the subjects were placed in an operant chamber to perform a choice task on a fixed ratio 10 schedule of reinforcement. It was assumed that naloxone would produce the subjective effects of spontaneous withdrawal, which would function as a discriminative stimulus and differentially control responding. After 30 days of discrimination training, the subjects were abruptly withdrawn from oxycodone and tested at 6, 12, 18, 24, and 36 hours after the last oxycodone injection. At each hour, reinforcement was given only for responding on the withdraw-appropriate lever. None of the subjects met the criteria to conclude that naloxone exerted stimulus control over the behavior of an opioid-dependent rat. This suggests that the subjective effects of opioid withdrawal may not function as a discriminative stimulus. However, during tests of abrupt oxycodone withdrawal, the subjects responded on the saline-appropriate lever at 6 and 36 hours and on the withdrawal-appropriate lever at 12, 18, and 24 hours. This suggests that some learning did take place and if the experiment would have continued the subjects might have met the criteria to conclude that naloxone-precipitated withdrawal can function as a discriminative stimulus.

72. A Disease Model of Dementia of the Alzheimer's Type: The Effects of Nicotine Administration and Acetylcholine Mustard HCl-Induced Lesions of the Hippocampus on Spatial Memory of Rats

Kristi Keith (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

Acetylcholine mustard HCl (AF64A) is considered to be one of the most appropriate neurotoxins used to create animal models of Alzheimer's Disease as a result of its ability to stimulate a state of long term reduced cholinergic activity in the brain. In addition, nicotine, a receptor agonist for acetylcholine, is a potential neuroprotective agent against dementia of the Alzheimer's type. In the present study, Sprague Dawley rats (n=8) were administered nicotine injections (1mg/kg i.p.) before and after bilateral lesions of the hippocampus with AF64A (2nmol/5µl/side i.c.v.). To test the retention of old memory and the acquisition of new memory following the neurotoxic lesions, the rats were tested in a Morris Water Maze. This groundwork investigation provides supporting evidence for the use of AF64A for an animal model of Alzheimer's Disease and the possibility of nicotine to protect against damage to spatial memory and the acquisition of new memory.

73. The Effects of Aggressive Music on Self-Reported Aggression

Marvin Sanderson and Jason Wheeler (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Previous research has suggested that aggressive music leads a person to commit aggressive acts, but the aggressive music has yielded no significant differences when compared to non-aggressive music on behavior. Consequently, the purpose of the present research was to investigate the presence of any significant differences in aggression levels when aggressive heavy metal music is paired against aggressive rap music and a non-aggressive type of music. Literature suggests that the more aggressive the music, the more likely the individual will be to score higher on an aggression scale. This study presented a between-subjects design in which participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups (aggressive rap, aggressive heavy metal, non-aggressive music) in which they heard two songs of that genre, accompanied with lyrics so the participants could focus on the beat and words alike, prior to completing a self-report questionnaire on aggression. Through running an ANOVA it was shown that no significant differences existed between the aggressive rap group and the aggressive heavy metal group, however they both yielded significant differences as compared to the control group. Through this research, we hope to strengthen the relationship between music and how it can affect a person's behavior.

74. An Implicit and Explicit Measure of Attitudes Towards Women

Tammy Sudul and Vanessa Marte (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Negative attitudes towards women continue to be a prevalent problem in society. It is believed there are certain predictors to distinguish people who are more likely to engage in violence against women. In this study we used the Attitudes Towards Women Scale (Spence, 1973) to examine these negative attitudes. Also, an implicit sexism task was developed to avoid the problem of social desirability bias. In this task participants are shown male and female faces paired with positive and negative words. People who have more negative attitudes towards women on the attitudes toward women scale may also show more facilitation to negative words when preceded by a woman's face. The results show that people who are more positive towards women also have more negative attitudes towards men.

75. Exposure and Reactions to Sexually Explicit Materials

Sabrina Hyde (Greg Morrow), Edinboro University

The purpose of this study is to gather information regarding exposure and reactions to sexually explicit materials (SEM). In particular, we were interested in participants' exposure to SEMs while in the presence of others (romantic partners, same-sex friends, opposite-sex friends). There were 48 randomly selected students, faculty, staff, and administration of Edinboro University who participated in this study. The analyses showed that, in the past year, 43.1% of the participants have viewed SEM with their partner, 24.4% viewed SEM with a same-sex friend, and 19.9% have viewed SEM with a friend of the opposite sex. Reactions to exposure to SEMs in the presence of others were also explored.

76. The Enemy of My Enemy is My Friend: An Examination of Decision Making in Helping Behavior

Matthew Iwaniec and Jennifer Warrick (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington & Jefferson College

This study examined helping behavior. Participants read one of four different scenarios in which a tutor interacted with the participant and a professor interacted with the tutor. In a 2 x 2 design the professor and tutor were either mean or friendly during their interactions. Participants rated the personality traits of the tutor and professor and indicated their willingness to help both parties. We hypothesized that participants would help the professor when the professor was mean to a mean tutor and nice to a nice tutor. The results supported the hypothesis.

77. The Influence of Adolescent Attachment on Conflict Resolution

Julia Malone (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

No significant relationships were found between style of conflict resolution and friendship. Quality of attachment and time spent with parents were positively correlated, indicating support for the validity of the scale. Methodological issues are discussed.

78. A Study on Rumination and Forgiveness

Heather Horst and Susannah Cafardi (Gary Welton), Grove City College

Psychology researchers, especially those who focus on positive psychology, have begun to pay greater attention to the concept of forgiveness; however, up to this point, not a significant amount of research has been performed on the concept of rumination. One of the studies that has been done on this topic was a correlational study done by McCullough et al. that analyzed the relationships between forgiveness, rumination and several other factors. They hypothesized that vengeance was positively correlated with rumination about the wrong and therefore negatively correlated with forgiveness. A cross-sectional analysis of their data showed this hypothesis to be empirically verified. The authors suggest that the next step in assessing the relationship between rumination and forgiveness would be to conduct research with an experimental design (McCullough, Bellah, Kilpatrick, & Johnson, 2001). The study attempted to investigate the relationship between rumination and forgiveness using a lab altercation in a classroom setting. The researchers hypothesized that subjects who did not ruminate on a wrong done to them would demonstrate a greater degree of forgiveness than subjects who did ruminate on the wrong. The study involved 94 General Psychology students who were surprised with an unfair pop quiz. Half the subjects completed a questionnaire that focused their thoughts toward the professor and the altercation while the other half was asked to write on an inconsequential topic. A shortened version of the WADE Forgiveness Scale was used to assess differences between groups. The manipulation check indicated that rumination was not successfully manipulated, and, as a result, there was no impact on forgiveness. It may be that the unfair quiz was not a sufficiently severe altercation, or that it is difficult to manipulate rumination through a questionnaire prime. In the attempt to produce an altercation that was both believable and significant within the structure provided by the college, many challenges were faced. A first attempt to manipulate the rumination of the students failed because many of the students felt that the scenario that was created appeared contrived. This led them to not take the quiz or questionnaire seriously. In the second attempt, changes were made to attempt to eliminate the apparent connection between the quiz and the survey. Although this was successful, students still did not respond as expected due, in part, to uncritical respect for the faculty.

79. A Look into Forgiveness

Kelly Early and Amy Holloway (Gary Welton), Grove City College

Psychologists are finding that forgiveness is a complex phenomenon. Forgiveness is seen as a complicated phenomenon because of the many variables that influence the decision to forgive. Researchers have looked at such variables as the offender's perceived responsibility, intentionality, motives, rumination and the severity of the offense (McCullough, Rachal, Sandage, Worthington, Brown, Hight 1998). Other researchers have investigated variables such as attribution, empathy (McCullough et al., 1997), anger (Whitesell & Harter, 1996), humility (Tangney, 2000), and compensation (Ohbuchi, Kameda & Agarie, 1989). Three potentially important variables that might impact forgiveness include the intentionality of the offense, the severity of the offense, and the relationship of the person committing the offense. Although each of these variables has already been considered in some forgiveness research, there is no study that has examined all three, enabling a comparison of the relative importance of these three variables. This study looked at how manipulations of the severity of an altercation, the relationship of the person offending, and the intentionality of the situation affected the subject's forgiveness rating. Subjects were asked to respond to scenarios, which manipulated these three variables. Results suggested that it was harder to forgive friends and acquaintances who committed offenses that were severe and intentional. Of the three variables, intentionality influenced subjects' willingness to forgive more than severity and relationship. Furthermore, subjects' perception of reality also influenced their decision to forgive over and above the objective manipulations.

80. Make No Record of Wrongs: A Study of Attribution and Forgiveness

Mary Miheli and Jeanine E. Reid (Gary Welton), Grove City College

According to the Fundamental Attribution Error, when making judgments about an action, observers tend to over-emphasize dispositional factors and under-emphasize situational factors. This error in attribution is often found in interpersonal conflicts and may lead to complications in communication and conflict resolution. Attributions, particularly negative attributions, can affect a victim's tendency to offer forgiveness. McCullough et al. (1997) studied the effects of empathy on interpersonal forgiveness. The researchers specifically addressed the problem of the fundamental attribution error and how it relates to empathy. Drawing on the work of Weiner (1993), McCullough et al. (1997) suggest, "When observers change their causal attributions regarding the hurtful or damaging behavior of another person...the observers become both more empathic and more forgiving toward the offending person" (334). Based on this suggestion, the present study was concerned with examining the effect of different attributions on ease of forgiveness. It was hypothesized that when hurtful behavior was attributed to an offender's negative disposition, subjects would find it more difficult to forgive. Likewise, when the offense could be attributed to an external situational constraint, the subject would find it easier to forgive for the offense. Finally, it was hypothesized that when subjects were made to reflect on the positive characteristics of the offender, forgiveness would come more easily because the negativity of the offense would be superceded by thoughts of the offender's usually positive nature. This study was conducted using self-report measures in which participants were asked to respond to scenarios describing minor interpersonal offenses between friends. The participants were asked to read four short scenarios, imagine him or herself in that situation, and then indicate the ease with which they could forgive the offending party on a 0-6 single-item forgiveness scale. Participants also responded to the 6-item attribution-style measure. The results of the study supported the hypothesis that ease of forgiveness would vary according to attribution conditions. Results suggested that subjects indicated the greatest ability to forgive when the offense could be attributed to the situation. The tendency to forgive decreased when the offense was attributed to flaws in the offender's character (i.e. generally selfish, unsupportive, etc.)

81. Perceptions of a Political Candidate

Laura Monin and Jennifer Hildom (Thomas Rywick), SUNY Fredonia

This study examined individuals' perceptions of an unknown politician by having subjects rate him after viewing an excerpt from a call-in show. One hundred and thirty-two psychology students participated in this study. All subjects viewed the same tape, the only difference was which party they were told the unknown politician was from. Results showed that those subjects who affiliated themselves with the same political party as the politician rated him as having significantly more task seriousness than the same politician when told he was from the opposing party as predicted.

82. Role of Religion in a Secular Society

Martin Spieler (Jennifer O'Donnell), Allegheny College

For the past two centuries, the United States has been developing a separation of church and state. As a result, Americans may believe that their religious beliefs have no place in political decision-making. Religion, however, plays a major role in Americans' lives and has explicit views on the controversial political issues. Using a questionnaire consisting of Likert-Scale statements, the present study examined the level of religiosity as well as adherence with religious authority in 286 college students on the issues of abortion, capital punishment, and homosexuality. Investigating the religions of Catholicism, Judaism, and Protestantism, it was found that only Catholics are more likely than non-Catholics to adhere to Catholic views, particularly on abortion. This can be attributed to the visibility of Catholicism and the flexibility of Protestantism and Judaism.

83. The Utilization of Social Comparison in Combating Threatened Self-esteem

Sarah Bliley (Terry Pettijohn), Mercyhurst College

The purpose of this research is to provide more conclusive evidence regarding self-esteem and social comparisons. The problem under investigation involves whether participants use social comparison strategies in combating threatened self-esteem. Participants were randomly divided into two groups, consisting of either threat or no threat, and then given the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale to assess self-esteem and the Iowa-Netherlands Comparison Orientation Measure to assess social comparison tendencies. It is hypothesized that those participants low in self-esteem will engage in upward social comparisons to further deflate their threatened self-esteem. In regards to those participants with high self-esteem, it is predicted downward social comparisons will more often be utilized in an attempt to bolster their self-esteem.

84. Mediating Factors Between ADHD and Depression in Women

Tracy Tripiciano (Andrea Zevenbergen), SUNY Fredonia

Women with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) may experience comorbid depression. This study of 18 women with ADHD used a semi-structured interview which was transcribed and coded for references to depressive tendencies related to ADHD impairments. The goal of the study was to identify links between the two disorders. Four themes emerged from the data: perceiving years of failure, feelings of inadequacy, continual struggles, and social isolation due to ADHD difficulties. Implications for prevention of depression in individuals with ADHD are discussed.

85. An Investigation of the Fatty Acid Composition of the Schizophrenic Anterior Cingulate Cortex and Its Clinical Implications

Caroline Runyan (Jeff Cross), Allegheny College

An abnormality in the fatty acid composition of membranes of schizophrenic brain cells is consistent with current theories of the development of schizophrenia, including genetic susceptibility interacting with environmental stressors to produce abnormalities in neurotransmitter systems, particularly dopamine. This study explores the possibility of such an abnormality in polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) content in the post mortem anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) of schizophrenics compared to controls with and without other mental disorders. Significant reductions in two n-6 fatty acids, 18:2 (n-6c) and 20:2 (n-6) were found in the schizophrenic tissue. This abnormality could alter neurotransmission and corrupt connectivity of the ACC with other cortical areas, reducing the ability of the ACC to compare internally generated motor plans and predictions with sensory experiences, resulting in a confusion between internal and external events and delusions and auditory hallucinations, and disconnections between affective, autonomic and cognitive systems that cause negative symptoms.

86. Do Residence Status and Psychological Closeness Influence College Student Adjustment?

Joanna Obert and Mary Flowers (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Psychological closeness is an estimate of the theoretical space between a student and his parents. We defined psychological closeness as the frequency with which students contact family members. These types of communication include cell phones, email, letter writing, etc. Physical distance is the distance in miles from home to the students' new residence. We hypothesized that resident status would correlate with higher levels of specific types of adjustment and psychological closeness. We found that social adjustment and psychological closeness from family and friends were all correlated.

87. Self-Discrepancy Theory as a Predictor of Emotions Caused by Idealized Media Images

Erica Schweiger (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

This study explored self-discrepancy theory as a predictor of emotions that result from women viewing media images of idealized female body types. Undergraduate women were tested and evaluated according to their individual discrepancies to measure the predicted emotional outcome of either dissatisfaction or anxiety. The test was an experimental design including a computerized display of idealized female media images and a control group of fashion and accessory items. Predicted results expected participants high in a discrepancy to experience a related emotion at a greater magnitude after exposure to the female images than participants low in the discrepancy.

88. Gender Differences in Advertisement Persuasion

Terese Rogers (Marjorie Krebs), Gannon University

This study examines the effect of stereotypes in advertisements. The prediction was that males are more persuaded by stereotypically masculine advertisements and females by stereotypically feminine advertisements. The hypothesis was tested by having participants rate persuasiveness in masculine, feminine and neutral advertisements as well as rating whether they were portrayed stereotypically. It was found that the hypothesis was not supported. The results showed that participants were actually more persuaded by neutral advertisements than those that used gender stereotypes.

89. The Influences of Experimenter Gender and Appearance on Evaluation of Self-Esteem

Jill Fullerton and Michael Hammer (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

The purpose of this study was to determine whether self-esteem would increase if participants received a compliment (that they are attractive) from a person of the opposite sex. Participants were brought into the lab, their picture was taken, and they were told that the pictures would be rated for attractiveness. Half were told that they were attractive and half were told that they were average. Based on recent findings in experimenter expectancy and the social learning theory, there should be significant interactions between the participants and the experimenter that can be measured using the MSEI, the Multi-Dimensional Self-Esteem Inventory. Our independent variables were gender of experimenter, the attractiveness rating, and gender of the participants. Our hypothesis was that those participants who were given an attractiveness rating by an experimenter of the opposite gender will score significantly higher than those given the average rating by an experimenter of the same gender. Our results showed several significant interactions between the three independent variables.

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