

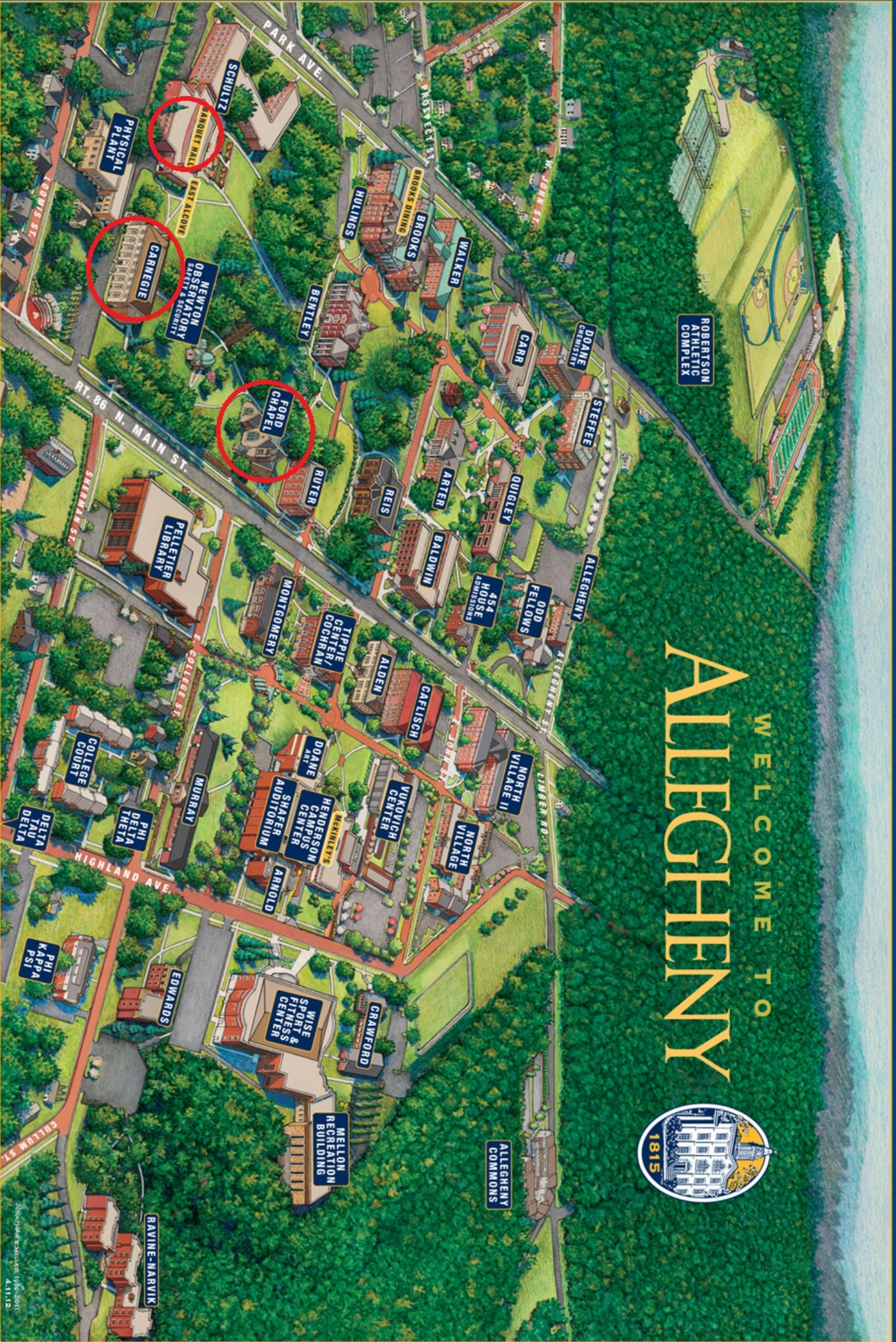
**41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY  
CONFERENCE**

***April 20, 2013***



**Allegheny College, Meadville, PA**

# WELCOME TO ALLEGHENY



## A SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE BUILDINGS OF ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

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# Welcome to the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference April 20, 2013

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*A special thank you to Allegheny student Erin Brockett '15 for designing the 2013 WPUPC Staff shirts, and to all our student volunteers.*

# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference

## Schedule

Start	End	Event	Location
7:30	8:30	Registration	Schultz Hall
8:30	9:30	Poster Session 1	Schultz Hall
9:30	9:45	<i>Break</i>	
9:45	10:45	Keynote Speaker- Judith F. Kroll	Ford Chapel
10:45	11:00	<i>Break</i>	
11:00	12:15	Paper Session 1	Carnegie Hall, Ruter, & Schultz East Alcove
12:15	12:30	<i>Break</i>	
12:30	1:30	Lunch	Schultz Hall
1:30	1:45	<i>Break</i>	
1:45	2:45	Poster Session 2	Schultz Hall

# Keynote Speaker

## Dr. Judith F. Kroll



*“Bilingualism is the norm, not the exception!”*

Until recently, studies of language processing have focused almost exclusively on native speakers who are monolingual in a single language, typically English. In the past decade, the recognition that more of the world’s speakers are bilingual than monolingual has led to a dramatic increase in research that assumes bilingualism as the norm rather than the exception. This new research investigates the way that bilinguals negotiate the presence of two languages in a single mind and brain. A critical insight is that bilingualism provides a tool for examining aspects of the cognitive architecture that are otherwise obscured by the skill associated with native language performance. This talk will illustrate what bilinguals tell us about language, cognition, and the brain.

Judith F. Kroll is Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Linguistics, and Women’s Studies and Director of the Center for Language Science at Pennsylvania State University. Together with Annette de Groot, she co-edited *Tutorials in Bilingualism: Psycholinguistic Perspectives* (1997, Erlbaum) and the *Handbook of Bilingualism: Psycholinguistic Approaches* (2005, Oxford). The research that she and her students conduct concerns the acquisition, comprehension, and production of two languages during second language learning and in proficient bilingual performance. Their work, using behavioral and neurocognitive methods, is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. She was one of the founding organizers of *Women in Cognitive Science*, a group developed to promote the advancement of women in the cognitive sciences and supported by the National Science Foundation.

Together with Paola Dussias, and Janet van Hell, Kroll is the PI on a PIRE grant (Partnerships for International Research and Education) from the National Science Foundation to develop an international research network and program of training to enable language scientists at all levels (undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral) and early career faculty to pursue research abroad on the science of bilingualism.

# POSTER SESSION 1 (8:30 – 9:30)

## Schultz Hall

*\* Names of student authors listed. Names of faculty advisors appear in parentheses.*

### **1. Influence of Personal Control and Coping Strategies on Interpersonal Stress**

*Tara Incerpi & Mandy Medvin (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College*

Previous research has explored personal control and coping strategies on stress, however only in general stressful situations. The influence of personal control and effectiveness of coping on stress in an interpersonal situation has been explored in this study. Fifty-one college participants ranging from 18-25 years old were a sample of convenience. It was hypothesized that an indirect effect of personal control on stress with coping strategy as a mediating variable. Furthermore, it was predicted that personal control may directly affect interpersonal stress. To test the emotional reaction towards an interpersonal stressful event, four self-report questionnaires regarding positive and negative adjectives, general interpersonal stress, personal control, and coping strategies were used to assess coping strategies as a mediating variable and the level of stress. A partial mediation was found with focusing on and venting of coping strategy on stress.

### **2. Perceptions of deception between friends in varying electronic mediums**

*Mary Dodds, Jordan Lefler, & Alyson Rearson (Ron Craig), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

Electronic mediums like Facebook, Twitter, and texting allow for near constant conversational connectedness with friends and family. Research has examined deception presented on webpages, personal profiles, and emails; however, little has been done looking at its presence and impact in these more conversational electronic formats. The nature of these interactions, often personal between friends, may impact the types of lies and their perceived impact. Further, the inability to receive traditional interpersonal feedback via these mediums may also impact perceptions and views of its wrongfulness. However, some of these mediums also provide a more public format for the lie, i.e. Twitter, and thus may also impact perceptions. This study explored the impact of lie told via Facebook, Twitter, texting, or cell phone conversations on perceptions of the deception. The gender of the communicators was also varied to see if that impacted perceptions. Participants completed an online survey where they read an interpersonal lie told in one the mediums and then responded to questions about the lie, its wrongfulness, in addition to their experiences regarding deception in these mediums. Data will be analyzed to identify any effects of medium perceptions of deception and experiences with deception in these mediums.

### **3. The effect of background music on fluency tasks.**

*Blake Frantz, Rianna Grissom, & Jennessa Reinhart (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University*

Some students study and complete assignments while listening to music and say that the music helps them to concentrate. Previous studies on the effects of background music on cognitive tasks (such as schoolwork or creative tasks) report mixed findings: some studies show that music enhances performance while other studies show that it distracts. No studies that used Mozart's music (suggested to enhance performance) as background for completing a creativity task were found. The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of Mozart's music as background music on fluency (a measure of divergent thinking, considered a component of creativity). Fluency is defined as "...how many different things you named" (Kaufman, 2009, p. 13). Participants were students enrolled in one of two sections of a social psychology class who completed the alternate uses tasks. It was hypothesized that subjects who heard Mozart's "Sonata for Two Pianos in D major, K 448" would have higher fluency scores than those in the non-music control group.

### **4. Bystander Sexual Assault Prevention: The Relationship Between Athletes and Non-Athletes in Measures of Rape Myth Acceptance and Need for Help**

*Dayna Rowe (Lauren Paulson), Allegheny College*

The primary focus of this study is to assess the relationship between athletes and non-athlete and their response to a bystander sexual assault prevention program. Sexual assault prevention is mandatory to have on college campuses and it is important for program's effectiveness to be evaluated. It is also important to research different demographics that may affect the frequency of sexual violence. Looking at athletes versus non-athletes allows research to work with an at-risk population and to evaluate differences in the responsiveness to a sexual assault prevention program. Participants were first year students at a liberal arts college in Pennsylvania. It was predicted that athletes would have lower rape myth acceptance and a higher need for help than non-athletes. No significant results were found.

### **5. Influence of Cell Phones on Socially Awkward Situations**

*Matthew Kridel, Jenna Dunning, & Mindi Hodder (Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

Cell phones have had an enormous impact on society, especially their capacity for text messaging and internet access. However, there have been detriments in addition to advantages of this new technology. Previous research (LaBode 2011) suggests that smart phones may have an impact on social interaction. In order to determine the impact of cell phones on social interaction we placed participants into observation rooms in pairs. We told participants that they would have to solve a puzzle, but the researcher had to leave to obtain the puzzle. The pair was then left alone in the room and observed for ten minutes. Half of the pairs had their cell phones taken from them by the researcher before he or she left the room while the other half were allowed to keep them. Researchers observing the pairs recorded the time participants spent interacting with each other and the time participants spent interacting with their phones. Participants were then issued five-point Likert scales to assess their social abilities, their partner's social abilities, and the perceived awkwardness of the situation. Demographic information was also collected. We hypothesize that people without phones will spend more time interacting with each other.

## **6. CB1 Cannabinoid Receptor Antagonism Reduces Food Motivation in Rats Via Both Satiation and Reduced Hedonic Food Value**

*Emily Thompson (Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

It is well known that CB1 antagonists reduce food intake in different species, but it may do this either by inducing satiation, or by attenuating the hedonic value (palatability) of the food. To answer this question, this experiment utilized the CB1 antagonist AM6527 in food-restricted rats and compared its effects to those of pre-feeding and devaluing reinforcer pellets with quinine. A Fixed Ratio 10 (FR10) task was employed to generate a large data set related to responding for food reinforcement. Rats were exposed to all three testing conditions in a counterbalanced fashion. Variables related to the rate and timing of animal behavior under the three conditions were used as predictors in a discriminant function analysis. It was proposed that AM6527 would affect the rats similarly to one of the other testing conditions (quinine or pre-feeding), however results showed that the drug displayed features of both natural manipulation, as well as its own unique effects, during testing.

## **7. The CB1 Cannabinoid Inverse Agonist AM 251 Increases Impulsive Responding in Rats**

*Kerry Schutte (Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

The CB1 inverse agonist rimonabant was in clinical trials as an appetite suppressant, but produced psychiatric side effects that limit its utility. We propose that some of these side effects may be related to an enhancement in impulsivity. Consisting of numerous and unique components, impulsivity is modeled in rats by swift lever press decisions, impatience during delay of a reward, and early termination of sequenced responses. A fixed consecutive number (FCN) schedule in an operant learning task may effectively model impulsivity in rats by measuring these three components. The present study implemented a model of impulsivity in rats with a FCN 8 schedule. A total of eight lever presses were required on one lever (the counting lever) before the subject could press a second lever (the reinforcement lever) to receive a food pellet. Responses were considered to be impulsive when a subject pressed the reinforcement lever before completing all eight presses on the counting lever. AM 251, a CB1 inverse agonist, when injected alone, affected variables in a manner consistent with impulsivity, but contrary to expectation, no effects were found when co-administered with a serotonergic 5-HT1A antagonist. The clinical relevance of these findings is discussed.

## **8. The CB1 Neutral Antagonist AM 6527 Produces Impulsivity-Like Effects in an Operant Task in Rats.**

*Emily Plyler & Taylor Proper (Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

AM 6257, a cannabinoid CB1 receptor antagonist, may have more clinical promise than cannabinoid inverse agonists such as rimonabant and AM 251, which suppress appetite, but produce side effects including suicidal depression. While AM 6257 lowers food intake without producing many of the negative side effects caused by rimonabant, it is still not known whether AM 6257 produces impulsivity, which may be linked to some forms of suicidal depression or similar psychological problems. The effect of AM 6257 on a model of impulsivity was measured in Sprague-Dawley rats. Rats were trained to run a Fixed Consecutive Number (FCN) task in operant boxes and were given intraperitoneal injections of vehicle or varying doses of AM 6257. Contrary to the hypothesis, the results indicated that AM 6257 did not lack impulsivity as a side effect. The rats' ratios of counting lever presses to reinforcement lever presses were lower, and number of timeouts were higher, just as in rats treated with AM 251. This may



indicate that this new class of CB1 antagonist appetite suppressants will produce impulsive behaviors, possibly indicating similar risk of suicidal depression, as seen with AM 251 and rimonabant.

## **9. Perceptions of Drug Use Among College Students**

*Katherine Buettner (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

Drug use is becoming more common in Western culture, especially with the legalization of marijuana in four states in 2013. With this in mind, those that use drugs are still stigmatized against, and this stigma could potentially affect their place in society. To test whether this stigma is true, participants were given a set of questions to see what their individual views of drug users were, and they were asked which drugs were seen as acceptable. The results found that there is indeed a stigma for drug users, and that “hard” drugs such as heroin or methamphetamine were less acceptable than drugs such as alcohol or marijuana. The discussion focuses on the potential implications of the data and what this study could do to help society. Understanding the stigma of drug users could help us as a society reduce the stigma, which would be beneficial because many drug users do not seek treatment for their use because of the stigma they receive.

## **10. Effect of Animal Bias and Behaviors on the Desirability of Dogs**

*Kymerly McClellan, Nicole Nau (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

How dogs are perceived based on stereotypes impacts how potential owners determine their desirability. This study investigated why specific types of dogs are returned and reside in shelters longer than others. Participants aged 18-35 recruited via Penn State SONA system were assessed on animal bias based on hypothetical behavior. Participants were shown pictures of 3 breeds of dogs (Labrador Retrievers – associated with positive qualities, Pit Bulls – associated with negative qualities, and Poodles which were used as neutral fillers) paired with a scenario featuring desirable or undesirable behaviors, or for the poodles, neutral behaviors. The desirability of each dog was then rated. Participants also completed the Animal Attitudes scale and the Implicit Association Test. Between-subjects ANOVAs revealed main effects of scenario types, interactions between breed type, desirability, coat color, and the AAS. Participants’ pre-conceived attitudes of animals and past experiences as well as the animals’ characteristics such as size, age, and sex could explain these findings. Further research could raise awareness and benefit the adoption process.

## **11. The Function of Music upon Perceptions and Stereotypes**

*Rachel Dion (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

Stereotypes are widely known images about a person, group, or thing, and musical genres bring about their own stereotypes. Music is expression of and combination of vocal and instrumental sounds to produce form and harmony. The combination of these sounds leads people to perceive something about another when they listen to a type of music. The Function of Music upon Perceptions and Stereotypes study aims to look at how people perceive others with different types of music, and if these perceptions can be changed. It was hypothesized that with different types of music, participants will correctly associate known stereotypes of certain musical genres upon others and will change the perception that participants have of others. Fifty-four participants were taken from Mercyhurst University Introduction to Psychology courses.

## **12. The Devil is in the Beat: Using Aggressive Music to Burn your Competitor**

*Lynzie Black, Sean Bogart, & Megan Morrow (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Past research has highlighted the effects of certain types of music on aggressive behaviors. Along with studies of music, research concerning video games and aggression are prevalent. The idea of competition may also prime aggression towards others. The competition itself may cause more aggression than the specific games. The current study investigates whether the type of music listened to while playing a PC video game will influence an individual's aggression level. In the video game, aggression was controlled. Participants were assigned to one of three music conditions: aggressive music, non-aggressive music or a control condition while they played 15 minutes of the PC video game. They were then asked to add hot sauce to chili that would be eaten by their partner. Aggressive thoughts were measured with a word completion task. The results of this study should help to understand the impact of type of music on individual's aggressive thoughts and behaviors. We expect that aggressive music will be more likely to prime aggressive thoughts and behaviors.

## **13. Personality and Food Contamination: The influence of Gender and Personality**

*Jamal Sharif, Marc Bethune, & Adam Ryzinski (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Research has shown that disgust and OCD may play a part in contagion awareness, while personality types have rarely been examined. The purpose of the present experiment was to examine the effects of specific imagery on perceptions of food risk. Participants were given a set of risk questions then asked to assess a group of photographs for quality. They were randomly assigned to view images in a control (neutral images), negative (neutral/ negative images), or disgust condition (neutral/ disgust images). Questionnaires on personality, OCD, and disgust were also collected. The prime conditions were not shown to lower risk perception across time. However personality traits such as agreeableness and extroversion correlated with disgust and subscales such as animal reminders. Females tended to report higher levels of extraversion than males.

## **14. College Students Acceptance of People with Disabilities**

*Sheila Ziems, Katherine Pope, & Holli LeVan (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Many schools are now implementing inclusion programs for students with disabilities. Our study is therefore very important to see how accepted these students will be. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between personality traits, prior exposure, and college students' acceptance of people with disabilities. Prior studies have not researched the correlation between personality traits, prior exposure and acceptance of people with disabilities in college students. We hypothesized that people who are high in openness and agreeableness would have a higher acceptance rate of people with disabilities. We predicted that individuals high in consciousness would have slightly higher levels of acceptance than those who scored high in extraversion and narcissism. Also, we hypothesized that those with prior exposure would be more accepting regardless of personality trait. We found statistically significant bias. Bias was defined as the difference in opinions the participants had when looking at pictures of disabled and non-disabled individuals. There were statistically significant correlations between personality types and acceptance levels. This research can help in gauging how well inclusion programs will work when implemented into schools.

## **15. Rap Music: Melodies or Lyrics Elicit Emotional Responsive and Behavior**

*Linh Nguyen (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

Previous studies suggest that rap music promotes negative behaviors. However, these studies did not explain what factors actually influence people's mood and behavior: the aggressive lyric or the melody of the rap song. This study will take that into account by using different ways of testing to see if lyrics or beats actually lead to higher scores on an aggression questionnaire and greater likelihood of interpreting an ambiguous situation as aggressive. Specifically, a group of participants in this study will listen to a rap song that contains violent words and images in their native language (English), the other group will listen to a rap song with the lyrics in foreign language. I hypothesize that music melodies/beats will lead to more aggressive thinking than lyrics because people respond to beats and music more powerfully than to lyrics which are not always clear.

## **16. Primed to cheat: The effects of amoral video games on deception**

*Terry Stowe (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University*

Amoral video games get a bad reputation in the media for the type of behaviors they endorse. Studies have shown that amoral video games do affect people behaviorally. A study previously conducted by Karla Hamlen (2012) looked at video games and academic dishonesty. She surveyed 86 students and found those who played video games were more likely to report they would cheat on a task than those who didn't. While this data may seem useful she used self-report information which can be questionable. This study uses a more direct behavioral measure to assess cheating. Participants were randomly assigned to play either "Grand Theft Auto IV" or "Hexic" and then took a quiz on their performance. Participants were told the best performance would receive a gift card. While participants took the quiz the experimenter left the room, allowing participants the opportunity to cheat by looking at the correct answers. Results are expected to show that participants who played "Grand Theft Auto IV" cheated more than those who played "Hexic". These findings are expected to add to the literature on video games and amoral behavior.

## **17. Effects of Coaching Behavior on Intrinsic Motivation in Team Sport Athletes versus Individual Sport Athletes**

*Shayna Spano (Lauren Paulson), Allegheny College*

Intrinsic motivation has always been the primary positive driving force for athletes and why they continue to compete in their sport. The goal of this study is to see if coaching behavior effects intrinsic motivation and if there is a difference between types of sport and gender. Division III athletes attending Allegheny College were recruited to participate in this study and were asked to complete the Sports Motivation Scale and the Leadership Scale for Sports. A hierarchical linear regression analysis was performed to see how gender was affected by intrinsic motivation (Model 1) and also how coaching behavior effects intrinsic motivation and if that differs between different sports and gender (Model 2). Model 1 did show significant results suggesting that females are more intrinsically motivated than males, but Model 2 did not yield significant results suggesting that coaching behavior does not have a significant effect on intrinsic motivation and there is no difference between sport type and gender. Model 1 is consistent with other experiments, but Model 2 is different from other results suggesting

more research to be done on this topic to further analyze the effects of coaching behavior on intrinsic motivation in athletes.

### **18. What inspires community engagement?**

*Geran Lorraine, Racheal Sporcic, & Amanda Becker (Dawn Blasko), The Pennsylvania State University, Erie, PA*

It can be quite difficult to motivate individuals to engage in service learning. It has been argued that an individual will do what he has been most rewarded for in the past (Homans, 1974). An individual will likely base their behavior on the rewards they would achieve from that interaction (Blau, 1964). Because individuals do not know what their future holds, they will choose the action they believe will give them the most power. The current study focused on the use of service learning in two general education classes; cross-cultural psychology and environmental science. Students completed a pre-class and post-class survey to determine their attitudes toward working in the community. In addition, measures of empathy were included. Early in the semester, the students were presented with three service activities appropriate for the goals of that class. These three service activities were framed by intrinsic, extrinsic, or neutral motivating statements. Students also wrote reflections of their experiences throughout the semester to see if their attitudes changed over time.

### **19. Temporary Temperament: Do Violent Video Games Provoke Aggressive Attitudes?**

*Andrew Tarbell (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University*

Previous research has shown that frequent violent video game play results in more aggression later in life. However, the effect is slight and the short-term effects are still unclear. The purpose of this study was to provide more information on the relationship between video game violence and aggression. It focused on short-term aggression and used a fighting-genre video game to represent violent video games. Thirty-six participants were randomly assigned to play a violent video game ("Mortal Kombat") or a neutral game ("Zen Pinball"). After playing the assigned game, they were presented with five scenarios designed to provide an opportunity to react aggressively. They were asked to describe how they would act in each scenario and given score of 0 to 5 depending on the number of aggressive responses they provided. It was predicted that participants who played "Mortal Kombat" would respond with an aggressive attitude more often than those who played "Zen Pinball." Additionally, it was predicted that those without video gaming experience will respond aggressively more often than those without. These findings have implications in parents' acceptance of video games and in the production of video games.

### **20. The Story of Lucky: Perceptions of animal treatment in a narrative format**

*Julie Williams, Lindsey Fuller, & Maurina Grandinetti (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

People often attribute human characteristics to animals. In the classic story Black Beauty, the reader is brought into the equine world and feels his struggles and triumphs. The current study examines the attitudes of college students towards animal abuse when they are exposed to anthropomorphic language in a narrative. Participants read narratives told from either the first person (animal perspective) or third person (narrator perspective) and complete several questions pertaining to how

the participant felt about the characters in the story, the situation the animal. They were also asked to complete the story. Measures of empathy, attitudes towards animals, attachment towards animals, and anthropomorphism were administered. We anticipate that individuals who are score higher on empathy and anthropomorphism will be more likely to rate the situation portrayed in the story as more abusive. Implications of this research study are intended to change the way in which people view the treatment of animals. If people are able to perceive animals as capable of experiencing human emotions and pain, than people will be less likely to treat animals with malice.

## **21. Effects of AM 251, a Cannabinoid CB1 Receptor Inverse Agonist, on Aversive Learning**

*Julia Jagielo-Miller (Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

To see the effects of a cannabinoid CB1 receptor inverse agonist, AM 251, on aversive learning in mature rats, we tested the rats using an elevated zero maze. Using a repeated-measures design, the rats were exposed to the zero maze following injection with AM 251 or vehicle, and tested uninjected in subsequent sessions for anxiety-like behavior. Measures of anxiety included the percentage of time the rats spent in the open parts of the maze versus the closed parts of the maze, the number of fecal boli, and exploratory behaviors such as rearing, stretched attend postures, and head dips. Since AM 251 is believed to be an anxiogenic drug, it was anticipated and found that the rats would exhibit decreased time in the open parts of the maze and reduced exploratory behaviors when given the drug.

## **22. The Effects of Smoking on Sleep Quality and Efficiency**

*Kara Izing (Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College*

The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of smoking on sleep as evidenced by PSQI and Actigraphic measures among college students who self-identified as non-smokers, smokers, and social smokers. Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index [PSQI] questionnaires were completed at the beginning of the testing period. Participants (N=46) completed three days and two nights of Actigraphic data collection. While wearing the Actigraph, participants were instructed to record bed times and morning wake times, Actigraphy removal and replacement, daytime naps, and number of cigarettes smoked per day, if any. Results showed that non-smokers experienced the least amount of sleep disturbances as evidenced by multiple PSQI subscale scores compared to smokers and social smokers. Although additional significant differences were not found between smoking status groups, trends emerged demonstrating that non-smokers experience better sleep quality compared to smokers and social smokers.

## **23. The Influence of Concussion on Depression and Sleep in College Students**

*Ashley Whalen (Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College*

The objective of this study was to investigate the effects of concussion history, frequency of concussion, and recency of concussion on measures of depression and sleep. Participants (N=32) included those with concussion history (N=19) and without concussion history (N=13). All participants completed a Demographic and Self-Report Concussion History Questionnaire, the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D), and the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI). Participants wore wrist-actigraphs that collected sleep data for 72 hours. Individuals with multiple concussions had higher PSQI Sleep Latency scores than individuals with history of one concussion. Significant differences were also found between the non-concussion group and the multiple concussion group PSQI Sleep Efficiency

scores. Total Time in Bed and Total Sleep Time as measured by actigraphy also differed significantly between groups.

#### **24. Classically Conditioning Immunity In Sprague-Dawley Rats**

*Trista Sykes (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College*

Behavioral Psychology indicates that physiological responses to drug treatments can successfully be Classically Conditioned. The ability to classically condition a response of the immune system (activation or suppression) could be a powerful tool in, for example, avoiding long-term adverse effects of the drug treatment while improving general immune function. In the proposed study, a novel stimulus (saccharin water) will be paired with either saline (control), or naloxone hydrochloride (immune activation), and subjects will then either receive daily exposure to the conditioned stimulus (Conditioning) or repeated naloxone injections (Sustained Drug Treatment). Classical conditioning of the immune response is assessed by measurement of the level of TNF- $\alpha$  present in the rat blood serum following saccharine water presentation at the end of the study.

#### **25. Is A for Academics or Adderall? Changing Students' Perspectives on Study Drugs**

*Natalie Corso, Meghan Nee, & Christina Anthony (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

The prevalence of psychostimulants is increasing throughout college campuses. These narcotics are often misused in academic settings because they are believed to increase focus and attention. However, students may not recognize the serious risks of taking psychostimulants. In order to assess attitudes towards psychostimulants and attempt to increase behavior change, we exposed students to one of three Public Service Announcements which included either a narrative, informational, or neutral video. Previous research has shown that Public Service Announcements (PSAs) may highlight the dangers inherent in unprescribed use of psychostimulants. The results of the study suggest that PSAs may be an effective tool in reducing the positive views of study drugs. Future work needs to be completed in order to determine the way to frame the most effective message. Students rarely think about the possible side effects of psychostimulants and the dangers of growing tolerance and dependence.

#### **26. Music and Exercise: Can it Help Improve Performance?**

*Eric Drusko (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University*

Music is often paired as a stimulus with exercise which can change mood, focus, attention, arousal, and functioning. It is suggested that music creates rhythm in performance through flow state, and changes the perception of fatigue. Participants were recruited from the Men's and Women's Mercyhurst tennis team. They engaged in a short exercise bicycle task, where they were asked to bike for half a mile on a medium level of resistance. The time that it takes to complete the half mile was recorded and used as an observational definition of exercise performance. The participants in the control group had a low tempo song played while they performed. The participants in the control group were asked to complete the task as quickly as possible and to the best of their ability. The experimental group had a high tempo song played, and the same instructions applied. The results are expected to show that the high tempo music group will complete the task in a shorter amount of time than the low tempo music group. This could provide evidence that high tempo music can lead to faster and more efficient exercise.

## **27. The Relationship Between Level of Motivation and a Preference for Associational Thinking in Recreational Running**

*Katherine McCormick, Allison Kirstein (Sharon Hamilton), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

This study explored the relationship between a runner's overall level of motivation, as defined by Achievement Goal Theory, and their preference for associational and dissociational thinking during training runs. Specifically, it was hypothesized that there would be a preference for associational thinking over dissociational thinking depending on the runner's overall level of motivation. Fifty-three runners were asked to participate during a registration for a combined 5k and half-marathon race. Participants completed three surveys that asked about their running habits, their attentional focus while running, and their motivational styles. The mean age for runners was 40.7 years, with a range of 21 to 62 years. Runners reported on average running for 11.5 years, and running 23.9 miles each week for the past three months. Results indicated that there was no significant correlation found between overall motivation and a preference for associational or dissociational thinking while on a training run. Several possible explanations for this finding are discussed, including asking runners about training runs as opposed to competitive runs. In addition, previous research has focused on more homogenous groups consisting of competitive runners, while this study focused on a heterogeneous group which consisted mostly of recreational runners.

## **28. The Relationship between Bullying and Exercise Motivation**

*Erica Anderson & Yun Park (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Being bullied during adolescence and poor exercise habits are both serious problems in American society. Previous research has found that bullying towards overweight youth is becoming increasingly evident in settings of Physical Education, especially when the victim is a girl (Peterson, et al., 2012). No existing research has focused on the long-term effects of bullying specifically relating to exercise motivation styles. This study intended to find a relationship between being bullied during adolescence and exercise motivation later in life. We hypothesized that scores for exercise motivation amongst college students would be greater for those students in which being a victim of bullying was prevalent during adolescence. Our second hypothesis predicted that females would be less motivated to exercise if bullied in the past compared to males. We assessed participants' degree of bullying experience and how they regulate exercise motivation. As predicted, there was a significant negative relationship between bullying experiences and exercise motivation. However, no substantial gender difference was found between motivation regulation styles. Exercise plays a vital role in weight management and those who are overweight tend to experience peer victimization (being bullied) more frequently (Peterson, Puhl, & Luedicke, 2012).

## **29. Personality Variables and Belief in God: Atheists More Intellectual**

*Cassandra Bruce, Joe Ligato, & Melissa Patterson (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University*

Previous research has found that both atheists and those who are strongly superstitious both score high in the personality trait Openness to Experience. The current study sought to examine the relationship between belief in God and facets of openness to experience using a Likert-type scale created by Richard Dawkins. A measuring construct similar to the NEO-PI-R was used to measure facets of openness, including imagination, artistic interests, emotionality, intellect, and adventurousness. It was found that

atheism correlated strongly with the facet intellect, suggesting that those who believe less in God have a strong need and enjoyment of abstraction, theoretical ideas, and intellectual pursuits, and conversely, theists do not. Correlations were found between superstitious beliefs and the facets imagination and artistic interests. The study also examined superstitious beliefs using the Magical Ideation inventory, and handedness with the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory. Atheism correlated strongly with the facet intellect, suggesting that those who believe less in God have a strong need and enjoyment of abstraction, theoretical ideas, and intellectual pursuits, and conversely, theists do not. Correlations were found between superstitious beliefs and the facets imagination and artistic interests. The study also examined superstitious beliefs using the Magical Ideation inventory, and handedness with the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory.

### **30. The Effect of Nicotine on Pain Tolerance**

*Chance Derugen-Toomey (Kirk Lunnen), Westminster College*

This experiment examined the effect of nicotine through different tobacco ingestion methods (smokeless tobacco, cigarette tobacco, and non-smokers) has on a person's sensitivity towards pain. The data obtained was from 46 male undergraduate students. Past research agrees that the presence of nicotine had an effect on participant's pain tolerance. The articles did not feature any studies with smokeless tobacco. The experiment employed a cold pressor test and use galvanic skin response tests along with heart rate. What was found was that participants with a history of cigarette use had a lower indication of pain through objective tests,  $F(3,14) = 3.58, p < .05$ . Also found was that participants with a history of smokeless tobacco use had a lower indication of pain through subjective tests,  $F(4,14) = 7.78, p < .05$ .

### **31. Senior Centers and Older Adults: Perceived Benefits and Satisfaction Rates**

*Abby Middleton (Deborah Rubin), Chatham University*

This tutorial examines how senior centers benefit older adults. The purpose of senior centers is to help seniors live independently and remain in their homes and communities. This study compared satisfaction survey data from Vintage Senior Center to data from all senior centers in Allegheny County. Participants rated how they felt their senior center experience influenced various aspects of their health and wellbeing. Results from this study found a significant difference at Vintage Senior Center between the race/ethnicity of participants and overall satisfaction as well as gender and overall satisfaction. Women and African-American participants were significantly more satisfied although the overall level of satisfaction was high among all respondents. It was also found that participants who attended the senior center two or more times per week were significantly more satisfied with their experience. Vintage Senior Center respondents were younger than respondents from the county as a whole and had a significantly higher percentage of African-American participants. No other differences were found between Vintage Senior Center and the county senior centers. Older adults who are better able to maintain their health and remain independent would save money spent on health care in the United States and increase the quality of life for many older adults.



### **32. Anxiety and Spirituality**

*Sherrie Vinion & William Dorsch (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Multiple studies have shown the negative effects of anxiety. The stress of deadlines, tests, and greater workloads in college can cause anxiety. This study examined whether or not anxiety had any detrimental effects on cognitive performance, and, if so, did spiritual well-being buffer any of those effects. PSU college students were randomly assigned to a high or low anxiety condition. They completed surveys and an n-back memory test. Although anxiety level itself did not have a significant effect on scores, there was a positive correlation between the different levels of memory tasks and anxiety for both time and accuracy. Individuals who scored higher on the Emotional Well-Being subscale of spiritual well-being scored more accurately on the less difficult level of the memory task. There was also an increase in anxiety scores from pre-memory tasks and post memory tasks. These results suggest that the anticipation of greater levels of difficulty caused an increase in participants' anxiety as indicated by these scores. Having a belief in God, or other Deity, can serve as a protective factor against anxiety and allow one to feel a sense of purpose far more important than the temporary stress.

### **33. The Effect of a Priming Statement on Students' Interpretation of Philip Larkin's "Aubade"**

*Rachel Ford (Joshua Searle-White), Allegheny College*

Research has shown that a primer statement can substantially influence an individual's interpretation of a reading. Based on literature pertaining to reader response theory and investigations of semantic priming, knowledge of a poet's religion should influence how a reader interprets a poem. An excerpt of Philip Larkin's "Aubade" was used in this study to gather evidence to determine if a priming statement actually affects readers' understanding of the poet's religion. The question was asked: does prior knowledge of the author's religion affect an individual's opinion on how the poem should be read? The independent variable is the statement that the participant received above their poem on a questionnaire, either that he was agnostic, a devout Christian, or there was no religious indication. The dependent variable is whether or not the participant rated the poet as being more religious based on this statement and their subsequent interpretation of the poem. It was found that participants who were led to believe that the author was a devout Christian were more likely to rate the poem as more religious than participants who were in the control group or participants who thought the poet was agnostic.

### **34. Differences in Smoking Perceptions**

*Ana Gill (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

The purpose of this research was to understand cultural differences in smoking attitudes and perceptions. Participants were undergraduate Mercyhurst students who were given a questionnaire package that helped identify the differences in smoking attitudes and perceptions between students who are U.S. born citizens and international students. The measures included the Revised Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence (Heatherton, Koslowski, Frecker & Fagerstrom, 1991), a brief version of the Smoking Consequences Questionnaire (Brandon & Baker, 1991), and the Smoking Attitudes Scale (Adams, Shore, & Tashchian, 2000). By identifying important cultural differences in smoking, new smoking reduction/prevention strategies tailored toward each culture or nationality might prove to be

more beneficial than generalized approaches. Keywords: Differences, smoking, cigarettes, perception, attitudes, cultural.

### **35. Can Measuring Cognitive Load Help to Detect Lies?**

*Steven Perlik, Jonathan Kinnear, Brittany Howard, & Faith Shields (Michael Skelly), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

The current repeated measures design experiment examined the cognitive load necessary for participants to tell the truth compared to a creative lie while playing a memory card matching game in a dual task paradigm. For each trial, participants were asked to play the Dr. Seuss Matching game while answering a series of questions that, depending on the answer condition, were supposed to be either fictional, factual, or baseline (no questions). The number of correct card matches made in 1.5 min was used as an indirect measure of the cognitive load required for each answer condition. Participants completed two repetition of each answer condition, thus completing six trials. Trial order was counterbalanced across participants. Participants were asked to flip over two cards simultaneously, removing successful matches, and flipping back over incorrect matches. It is hypothesized that the card matching performance in the baseline condition will be higher than both the fictional and factual conditions. In addition, if fictional answers require more cognitive load than factual answers, we expect the matching performance to be higher in the factual condition than the fictional condition.

### **36. The Effects of Mood and Object Placement on Change Blindness**

*Courtney Hagan (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College*

Both top-down factors and bottom-up factors have been found to influence gaze and attention in a given environment. A 2X3 mixed design was used with the independent variables, object placement (foreground, background) as the within subjects and mood (positive, neutral, negative) as the between subjects variable. Forty-two participant's mood states were manipulated into either positive, neutral, or negative before the change detection tasks. Results were examined in terms of reaction time to detect the change and accuracy of detecting the change. Results indicated that foreground objects were faster to be detected than background objects. These results support previous literature concerning figure-ground placement.

### **37. Students' Perceptions of Cheating in Online and Traditional Classroom Settings**

*Gina Mercuri (Samantha Monda), Robert Morris University*

An exploratory qualitative research study that sought to examine student's feelings towards online and traditional classrooms and the susceptibility of cheating in each setting. Participants were interviewed with questions that focused on either online classes they have taken, or classes they have taken in a traditional classroom. The interview questions dealt with factors such as professor feedback and the susceptibility of the classroom environment for cheating. After the interview, participants were given a list of cheating behaviors and asked to rank how much each instance represented a cheating behavior. The results of the behaviors were analyzed to see if there was any correlation between one classroom setting over the other. The interviews were also analyzed to see if any patterns were different between

the online and traditional conditions. Findings included that the main reasons students are believed to cheat is to get a good grade for both settings. Also, most participants agreed that online classes are easier to cheat in because of greater resources and opportunities for academically dishonest behaviors.

### **38. What makes a Rebel?**

*Allison Christoff & Hannah Malloy (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University*

Sulloway (1996) proposed that later-borns are inclined to be more rebellious than their first-born siblings. Niebauer (2008) found that mixed-handers scored higher on openness than strong-handers. Christoff, Malloy, Martin and Niebauer (2013) attempted to draw parallels between age, birth order, gender, handedness, and rebellion. When age and rebellion scores were considered for females in that study, it was found that younger females were more rebellious. Also, there was a slight trend between handedness and rebellion in males, which provided tentative support for future research. The current study attempted to replicate and support these findings, and had mild success in doing so. The correlation for females was replicated, but nothing of significance was found for males. However, males had a higher average score for magical ideation.

### **39. Effect of Blue and White Backgrounds on Word Recognition**

*Angela Scalamogna (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

This study tested whether or not color backgrounds on PowerPoint presentations draw attention to information and therefore promote word retention. Additionally, this study considered whether or not matching the PowerPoint slide colors to the answer sheet colors improved information recognition. A previous study suggested that students prefer PowerPoint presentations over the chalkboard, and that they prefer PowerPoints in color (Apperson, Laws, & Scepansky, 2008). Fifty-four students enrolled in one of two Personality Psychology classes participated in this study. Both classes were shown a timed PowerPoint presentation in which they viewed a list of words; one class viewed a white PowerPoint while the other viewed blue. Half of each class received a blue answer packet while the other half received a white answer packet. It was expected that the two groups that viewed the blue PowerPoint will have higher recognition rates than those that viewed the white PowerPoint, and the group who had the matching blue answer packet will have the highest scores. There were no significant differences between the groups, so using a color background did not impact performance.

### **40. Fear of Returning to Performance Among Injured Dancers**

*Alexandra Salern (Samantha Monda), Robert Morris University*

When a dancer is injured and cannot perform, the experience can be both physically and emotionally distressing, particularly when it impacts their career path. There is often a profound sense of loss and detriments to his or her psychological well-being (Schnitt, 1990). The purpose of this study was to explore dancers' experiences of returning to sport after experiencing an injury. In particular, this study examined dancers' emotional responses and fears of returning to sport. Using qualitative methodology, ten male (n=5) and female (n=5) professional dancers that had experienced a significant injury were

interviewed regarding their injury experiences. Through interpretive analysis (Hatch, 2002), the interviews were coded and thematized. All participants described experiencing negative emotional responses upon experiencing their injuries. The major themes that were derived from the interviews will be identified. Discussion of the themes and implications for future research will also be presented.

#### **41. Correlation Between Coping and Deviant Behavior**

*Brad Zatorski (William Kelly), Robert Morris University*

The objective of the research was to look for a correlation between coping and deviant behavior among college students. A compilation of three scales were integrated into a questionnaire. These scales were a 20-item coping scale, a four-item deviance/psychopathy scale, and a 12-item deviance scale. These scales were then tested on a sample of college students to determine the correlation of the scales. The results and possible implications are discussed.

#### **42. Visual Cue Reactivity During States of Nicotine Deprivation and Satiation**

*Joshua Kimm & Jessica Braymiller (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

This present study examined a smoker's attraction to smoking associated visual stimuli when they were tobacco deprived or satiated. Incentive-sensitization theory suggest that addicts or even occasional users would be drawn to stimuli associated with their drug of choice, or that the stimuli would initiate a feeling of craving even when the user is already satiated. Participants in this study were presented with smoking associated stimuli when they were in both a tobacco deprived and satiated state. Using Mirametrix eye tracking software, their visual fixation points were recorded and analyzed in terms of how often the participants looked at the stimuli and the duration of the fixation points. It is hypothesized that the participants will spend a significant amount of time looking at the smoking stimuli even when they are in a satiated state.

#### **43. The correlation between test anxiety, self-efficacy, expected grade, and actual performance on an examination.**

*Cara Forke (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

How much does test anxiety, self-efficacy, and a student's expected grade contribute to a student's actual performance on an exam? In this study, students in two sections of Developmental Psychology were asked to take a one page questionnaire before their second examination in the course; Sixty-nine students participated. The questionnaire included an anticipatory test anxiety scale, a course self-efficacy scale, and one question regarding their expected grade for the exam. The results found that what a student expects to receive as a grade on the exam is the only significant contributor to their actual performance.

#### 44. College Students' Attitudes Towards High Risk Drinking

*Heather Schultz (Samantha Monda), Robert Morris University*

Studies have shown that hazardous drinking among college students remains a significant public health concern (Boekeloo et al., 2011; Foster et al., 2011; Huchting et al., 2011). By one estimate, approximately 1,825 students (18 – 24 years old) enrolled in 2- and 4-year institutions die each year from alcohol-related causes, mostly due to motor vehicle crashes; nearly 700,000 students are hit or assaulted by another drinking student each year, while 97,000 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape (Huang et al., 2010). The purpose of this study was to identify relationships between college students' attitudes towards drinking and their willingness to engage in high-risk drinking behaviors. Surveys assessing attitudes and behaviors towards drinking were completed by a sample of college students (n=208). According to the results, students reported having a relaxed attitude towards drinking. Findings indicate that students perceived it is acceptable for male students to have 5 or more drinks (89%) in one setting and acceptable for females to have 4 or more drinks per setting (75%). Further findings and discussion will be presented.

## POSTER SESSION 2 (1:45 – 2:45)

### Schultz Hall

*\* Names of student authors listed. Names of faculty advisors appear in parentheses.*

#### 1. The Influence of Pogonotrophy on Male College Students' Perceived Masculinity

*Kyle Greenberg (Joshua Searle-White), Allegheny College*

This study examined the influence of pogonotrophy, the biological term for the growth of facial hair, on male college students' perceived masculinity. Twenty male college students were chosen as participants, each of whom has a different history and biological makeup in growing out their facial hair. Participants were asked to withhold shaving for six weeks and take weekly assessments that reflect their previous week's experience with their facial hair. Two masculinity scales evaluated participants' attitudes, Conformity to Masculine Norms inventory-46 (CMN) (Parent & Moradi) and Perceived Masculinity Questionnaire 47 (PMQ) (Chesebro & Fuse). In the CMN, results indicated that participants felt higher attitudes of conformity to masculine norms, as well as aggressive and confrontational behaviors. The results from the PMQ suggest that there was a significant decrease in scores that show how strongly participants aligned themselves with the "prototypical" male, while there was an increase in the effect of external appraisals on the participants' masculine attitudes.

## 2. “We Need to Talk” - The Influence of Power Distance on Relationship Status

*Rachel Mueller, Peter Brower, & Samantha Vasy (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

The relationship between sex role stereotypes and reactions to breakups were measured in this study. Previous research has examined gender differences in relationship dissolution although no research has specifically focused on the onlooker’s perspective of the relationship. Participants were randomly assigned to read one of the four versions of a scenario depicting a heterosexual relationship in danger of dissolution. The scenarios were identical except for the gender of the partner proposing the breakup and the dominance of the partner in the relationship. Dominance was established by level of income and who initiated the argument. Participants were asked to rate the justification for the argument from the perspective of both partners. Participants also completed the BEM sex role inventory and Attitudes toward Women Scale. We hypothesized that both genders would view males as the more dominant companion and that the character in the scenario who exhibited more power would be more justified for their current decision.

## 3. Is More Sex the Cure for Low Self Esteem?

*Sarah Farrell (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University*

Self-esteem is a concept that varies among individuals and can be high or low depending on personal experiences. Experiences such as being in college provide opportunities for self-esteem levels to fluctuate. Research shows that males and females in college tend to have the widest range of self-esteem levels which are generally influenced by social aspects. Research also shows that the college students who are more social and involved in extracurricular activities tend to have higher levels of self-esteem. This study attempted to examine similar factors college students have and how it is affecting their self-esteem. One factor male and female college students have in common is sex. Research states that sexual activity is in fact a dominant part of college life. So the present study sought to determine whether sexual activity was related to levels of self-esteem. To this end, 429 college students were given a survey to measure aspects of their personal lives, self-esteem levels, and sexual activity. Analysis showed that there were positive correlations between self-esteem and athleticism, being in a committed relationship, and sexual activity. students who are more social and involved in extracurricular activities tend to have higher levels of self-esteem. This study attempted to examine similar factors college students have and how it is affecting their self-esteem. One factor male and female college students have in common is sex. Research states that sexual activity is in fact a dominant part of college life. So the present study sought to determine whether sexual activity was related to levels of self-esteem. To this end, 429 college students were given a survey to measure aspects of their personal lives, self-esteem levels, and sexual activity. Analysis showed that there were positive correlations between self-esteem and athleticism, being in a committed relationship, and sexual activity.

## 4. So you think it’s Funny: Power and Profanity in Military Culture

*Anne Lawrence & Michelle Evan (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

With the recent hearings on sexual abuse in the military, many have come to question the culture of the military itself. In this study participants read 32 short scenarios of military life. Each scenario described a military situation where a commanding officer issued a reprimand to a soldier. There were two independent variables, the gender of the soldier, and the strength of the reprimand (weak, strong/using

profanity). For half of the scenarios, participants were asked to take the perspective of the speaker of the reprimand and for half of the scenarios they took the perspective of the listener. Participants rated each scenario on how they felt the reprimand was humorous, insulting, and motivating. In addition to the ratings, the dependent variables also included reading times of the reprimand. The results showed that when participants assessed the reprimand from the perspective of the speaker they felt very differentially than when they took the perspective of the listener. Power and gender of the soldier also played an important role in perceptions of the use of profanity.

## **5. Post-Tsunami Attitudes Toward Education Reform**

*Kayla Vossler & Kimberly Molfetto (Cheryl Drout), State University of New York at Fredonia*

A small scale pilot study examining post -tsunami attitudes toward education in Japan was carried out as a follow-up to a 2008 large scale study examining attitudes toward Japanese education and education reforms. A survey was given to 15 Japanese international students visiting Western New York. They came into the social psychology lab to complete the brief English Language survey. Respondents were asked to complete a short set of demographic questions and to indicate their attitudes toward Japanese education and recent education reforms in light of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami. The pilot sample indicated the perception that the value placed upon education by most people in the culture had remained stable since March 11, 2011. The greatest difficulties facing the people of Japan were judged to be economic and political policies while the greatest difficulty facing students was reported to be fears about the future. The sample endorsed the belief that the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami had brought about increases in sense of community, emphasis upon family, and concern about the environment. Most subjects were favorable toward the spread of American educational ideas and practices to Japan. A larger scale online survey is planned as a next step.

## **6. The Prevalence of Eating Disorders in Private and Public Institutions of Higher Education**

*Katrina Pampalone (Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College*

Differences in perceived stress and disordered eating was examined in private and public institutions of higher education. Students were recruited from one private institution (n=64) and one public institution (n=58) and completed the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS), the Eating Attitudes Test (EAT) and demographic information including height and weight. Significant results were not found among stress and eating pathology between comparing private and public institutions, however, perceived stress was correlated with greater symptoms of disordered eating. Inconclusive results may be due to the small sample of private and public institutions. Given that, 10.7% of the total sample (n=122) was at high risk of having a diagnosed eating disorder, it is imperative that research continues be conducted in college samples on eating pathology.

## **7. Trust Issues Among Children of Divorce**

*Lewis Maegan (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University*

In this study relationships between divorce and trust variables were examined. Specifically, marital status (married, divorced) was compared against degree of trust in government, technology, romantic relationships, family, and school. The study showed statistical significance ( $p < .05$ ) in terms of the relationship between marital status and romantic relationships. However, no other outcomes were

significant (all  $p > .05$ ). These findings support the conclusion that children's trust issues may be important considerations when dealing with the erosion of parental relationships. The findings also suggest that trust issues that may develop from parental divorce do not appear to generalize to other non-romantic-relationship domains.

## **8. Relationships between Theory of Mind and Emotion Perception in a College Sample**

*Jordan Drolet (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College*

The relationship between theory of mind (ToM) and emotion perception was examined in the present study. This research is important to determine if social perceptual and social cognitive ToM should continually be studied as different theories. It is especially pertinent to understand theory of mind in adult populations. Sixty undergraduate students (24 men, 36 women) from Westminster College completed three tasks measuring ToM and emotion perception. Social cognitive ToM was measured using a questionnaire, while social perceptual ToM and emotion perception were measured using computerized tests. It was hypothesized that emotion perception would have a stronger relationship with social perceptual ToM than with social cognitive. To test the given hypothesis, a correlation was computed to assess the relationships among the three variables. A positive correlation was found between social perceptual ToM and emotion perception, leading researchers to determine that social perceptual ToM should be studied separately from social cognitive ToM.

## **9. Examining reinforcer strength: An examination of preference assessment results on work completion.**

*Monique Litchmore (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

Motivating college aged students to complete assigned work can be difficult. Subsequently, a multiple stimulus without replacement (MSWO) preference assessment was conducted to assess potential reinforcers in order to motivate work completion. An assumption that is made about the procedure is that the stimulus selected first is of highest preference. However, an individual who engages in "self-control" may select the highest preference item last (e.g., "saving the best for last"). The purpose of this study was to evaluate the results of a commonly used preference assessment procedure and its interaction with completing algebra problems on a progressive ratio scale. Key Words: preference assessment, multiple stimulus without replacement, self-control, impulsivity.

## **10. Altering the Contents of our Wandering Minds**

*Joseph DeMaria (Jennifer Dyck), SUNY Fredonia*

Mind wandering is a shift of attention away from a primary task toward internal information. Mind wandering seems to occupy a little more than one-third of our cognition on a daily basis, but little is known on what a mind wanders about. In the present study, we designed a method to sample thoughts of a potential wandering mind and assess its contents. In experiment 1, we examined whether the content of wandering minds could be manipulated. Participants were given an essay prime and then read a passage in which they were periodically asked to write their thoughts. Results indicated that essay primes did not significantly impact the content of wandering minds. In experiment 2, we aimed to explore what exactly people mind wander about within a realistic context. Subjects were periodically



asked to write their thoughts during a reading passage. Results of experiment 2 and overall conclusions will be presented.

### **11. Examining Associations Between Digital Calendar Use and Prospective Memory**

*Keith Stam (Jennifer Dyck), State University of New York at Fredonia*

The current study involves studying the relationship between one's prospective memory, or remembering to perform an intended action in the future, and different methods of calendar use. Subjects completed a number of online surveys that evaluated how frequently memory aids are used, what different types of memory aids are used, how busy one is throughout the day, week, or even month, and how conscientious one is. We hypothesized that there would be a positive relationship between how frequently digital memory aids are used and having better ratings of prospective memory. We also expected that busier people will have worse prospective memory. We also hypothesized that the higher subjects score on a conscientious survey, the better their prospective memory will be.

### **12. Experiences of Self-Agency**

*Keith Stam, Chris Maier, Dale Haskins, & Justin Couchman (Justin Couchman), State University of New York at Fredonia*

The current experiments involve examining a subject's self-agency while performing the task of controlling objects on a computer screen with a joystick vs. watching someone else control objects. In Experiment 2, one subject moved objects around a screen using a joystick. Another subject watched these movements while making analogous movements on a joystick that did not control anything. Each subject then made a self-agency rating that indicated their sense of control over the movements. They were then asked to identify either the participant-controlled or randomly-moving object. We hypothesized that there will be a higher percentage of correct choices for the controlled and random object for the subject that is actually in control. We also believe that there will be a higher rating of for subjects that used the functional controller. As in Experiment 1, we believed that the watcher would be able to identify the objects beyond chance levels, but it was not clear whether they would show an advantage for self-controlled objects, because in this case they had kinesthetic cues that correlated with the onscreen movements.

### **13. Their Relationship was a Tango: Cutting into Metaphor Comprehension**

*Kayleigh Adamson, Christie Leslie, Rob Fogle, Ashley Kerr, & Bryan Fleeson (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Many metaphors have conceptual roots that are perceptually embodied (e.g., the pool party was a hoot) but little is known about how this influences our moment-to-moment understanding. Our goal was to better understand the nature of embodied metaphors. In the current study, we examined whether metaphor comprehension was inhibited when participants completed a separate task (e.g., judging a beep as high or low). We examined how this interference would inhibit processing of motor or auditory metaphors. Literal control sentences were also included for comparison. The data showed that reading time did increase for the metaphor conditions compared to the literal. The results showed that the perception of embodied metaphors happens quickly and interference primary affects the more controlled, slower process, of interpretation.

#### 14. Therapy Dog Interaction during Metacognitive Tasks

*Shaun Zmuda, Raela Wiley, Alexis Perez, Nancy Gee, & Justin Couchman (Justin Couchman), State University of New York at Fredonia*

The ability to monitor cognitive functions is associated with the prefrontal cortex, which is typically more developed in adults. Two studies involving a perceptual discrimination task examined the hypothesis that the presence of a therapy dog leads to stronger executive functioning in children and adults. In Experiment 1, children completed a sparse-dense perceptual discrimination task on a computer with or without a dog present. Children classified a black dog as having fewer ("sparse") or more ("dense") white spots. A third "uncertainty" response skipped the current trial, avoiding both penalty and reward. In Experiment 2, adults sat with and without a dog for two minutes while electroencephalography (EEG) measured their neural activity. They then completed the sparse-dense task. They showed heightened prefrontal activity in the presence of the dog. In children, the presence of the dog positively impacted their ability to monitor their own thinking.

#### 15. Entering the World of Comics: The Effects of Comic Type and Publishing Format on Reader Transportation, Perceived Realism, and Enjoyment

*Desiree Evanson (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College*

Comics have formed an extremely lucrative industry that is based on entertainment. Transportation into a narrative (Green, 2000) is considered to be a phenomenon that can impact narrative audience's feelings and beliefs, and is heavily tied to enjoyment. Other factors that potentially influence transportation and enjoyment are perceived external realism (the narrative's adherence to real world logic) and narrative realism (its internal story logic). This study examined the impact of comic type (Western comic vs. Japanese manga) and publishing format (original vs. mirror-image) on the scores of transportation, perceived external realism, narrative realism, attribute enjoyment, and overall enjoyment. Results were not significant, except comic type had a significant main effect,  $F(1,38)= 5.266$ ,  $p= .027$ ,  $\eta^2= .122$ . Specifically, participants in the Western comic condition had significantly higher external realism scores ( $M= 4.27$ ,  $SD= 1.06$ ) than those in the Japanese manga condition ( $M= 3.41$ ,  $SD= 1.27$ ). Some levels of transportation and enjoyment were achieved (see Tables 1 and 5), although they did not differ across conditions. The participants in the study were not experienced (see Table 6) with the types of comics tested. Further research should investigate the role of experience, as familiarity is shown to significantly increase (Green, 2004).

#### 16. No tunes may be better than iTunes in reading comprehension

*Michelle Forgione, Kristina Lalli, Alexis Pasi, & Allura Schwanke (Michael Skelly), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

The effect of music type (lyrical, instrumental, baseline) on the proportion of reading comprehension questions answered correctly was examined in a between groups design experiment. Participants read three 12th grade reading level passages with each passage followed by five comprehension questions that were located on a separate page. Depending on the music conditions participants were randomly assigned to, the passages were read either in silence or while listening to the instrumental or lyrical version of identical songs. Participants were not allowed to reread a passage once answering the comprehension passage. It is predict that a lower number of questions will be answered correctly in the lyrical condition in comparison to both the baseline and instrumental conditions, which will be equal.

This finding would suggest that only lyrical music interferes with reading comprehension. However, if both lyrical and instrumental music interfere with reading comprehension, it is predicted that both the lyrical and instrumental conditions will have lower comprehension scores than the baseline.

### **17. Memory Abilities in Different Situations**

*Eric Emerick (Julie Boron), Youngstown State University*

The objective of this study is to determine if memory can be influenced by involvement in certain situations. Guided by the Event Horizon Model (Radvansky, 2012), of interest is examining the influence of active versus passive involvement in a situation on memory. Further, if a situation changes, is there an effect on memory? An additional objective is to explore if mood influences memory performance when changing situations. It is hypothesized that participants who are in a positive mood and who are actively involved in an event when changing situations should have higher memory performance. A 2x2 repeated measures ANCOVA with mood as a covariate will be used to assess impact on memory performance. Initially, approximately 20 young adults will be studied. There will be two groups of 10; an active and a passive condition. Participants were studied one at a time. They were told to complete a series of tasks in E Prime. As a follow-up, 40 additional participants (20 middle-aged and 20 older adults) will be included to investigate if there are age differences. Implications of this study include further understanding of how memory is affected when changing situations and whether involvement (active versus passive) differentially impacts memory.

### **18. Can Willful Forgetting Cause a Release of Proactive Interference?**

*Charity Patterson, Ryan Rhodes, Seth Hembree, Derek Harvey, Kristina Dabrowski (Michael Skelly), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

The effect of prompt type (forget vs. remember) and the effect of trial number (1-4) on the proportion of target words recalled in a modified Brown-Peterson Task were investigated using a 2 x 4 mixed design. Participants were randomly assigned to one prompt condition but each participant completed the same four trials. For each trial, a series of three target words were presented individually with participants verbalizing each word aloud during presentation. Following item presentation, participants completed a verbal distractor task of counting backwards by intervals of three, paced by computer chimes, for 12.5 s. After counting, participants performed a verbal free recall of the trial target words. The prompt occurred between trials three and four where, depending on the prompt condition, participants were directed to either focus on forgetting or remembering the targets from the previous trials for 25 s. It is hypothesized that an equal buildup of proactive interference will be observed across trials 1-3 for both prompt conditions. In contrast, if directed forgetting releases proactive interference, it is predicted that fourth trial target words will be remembered better by participants in the forget condition than the remember condition.

### **19. Investigating the Social Aspects of Non-literal Language**

*Katey Marsh, Maggie Eimers, & Wei Wang (Shariffah Dawood), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Generally, sarcasm expresses criticism in a more socially acceptable manner because it often has a component of humor. According to speech-act theory (Austin, 1962; Kreuz & Glucksberg, 1989) understanding sarcasm involves the listener drawing a distinction between the literal meaning of the

sentence and the intent of the speaker. However, work relationships may affect how people interpret hidden meanings and sarcasm (Pexman, 2004). For example, a chef hearing a sarcastic remark about his new recipe failing from his colleague can be interpreted differently than the same remark from his boss. Such differing levels of power distance within relationships lead to diverse interpretations of hidden meanings, which can in turn negatively or positively affect relationships. To test this, participants read scenarios which ended with sarcastic or literal remarks. The scenarios featured either a boss speaking to a worker or two colleagues speaking to each other. Participants rated the remarks as sarcastic, humorous, or insulting. They also completed a cultural dimension scale (power distance, uncertainty avoidance, masculinity, and collectivism), an empathy scale, and a sarcasm self-report scale. We predicted that participants would perceive sarcasm differently from colleagues and bosses. Future research will look at cultural differences with respect to power level perceptions.

## **20. The Involvement of College Athletes with Sports Advertisements**

*Kelly Gallagher (Lauren Paulson), Allegheny College*

There is a high volume of research on the implications of advertisements and cognitive processing. Much of this research is based on the Elaboration Likelihood Model and Social Comparison Theory. The ELM argues that people process information with either high or low levels of involvement based on the two routes of persuasion defined as central or peripheral (Petty, Cacioppo, & Schumann, 1983). The Social Comparison Theory elaborates on the fact that we use similar others to make self-evaluations (Franzoi & Klaiber, 2007). The primary focus of this study was to see the differences in processing and response between collegiate athletes looking at pictures of other athletes, either professional or nonprofessional. Participants (N=49) took a questionnaire assessing their involvement and response to different types of sports advertisements. The hypothesis claimed that athletes/participants looking at advertisements with nonprofessional athletes would have higher levels on involvement. The results of the 2x2 between subjects ANOVA did not support the hypothesis with any significant correlations between gender and the types of advertisements shown with levels of involvement. The results add to the research of the variables that affect cognitive responses to advertisements.

## **21. A Second Look: the Effects of Prototype and Exemplar Processing on Change Blindness**

*Nick Edinger & Charles Parker (Diana Rice), Geneva College*

This research study looked to replicate results by Daniel Simons on altering cognitive processing in order to distinguish or increase change blindness. The study is a partial replication of a study done by Geneva graduate, Karen Costello on the effects of exemplar and prototype priming on change blindness. This study used a different method in order to influence others to use exemplar or prototype processing in hopes of getting significant results. The results of the priming effect on change blindness were non-significant. The non significant results are most likely due to the manipulation of priming not having a strong enough effect. Improvements that could be made to effect cognition are further discussed as well as improvements for future experiments dealing with the effects of cognitive priming on change blindness.

## 22. Student Satisfaction

*Thalia Steely (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

The purpose of this research is to discover if the diagnosis of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD) has an impact on an individual's satisfaction. It is often difficult for individuals with ADHD to form and maintain positive peer relationships due to the symptoms and nature of the disorder. Often participants are hesitant to disclose the diagnosis of ADHD; a survey will be administered electronically to ensure honesty. The researcher is measuring the level of satisfaction indicated by participant group A: "ADHD" and participant group B: "general population".

## 23. The Perception of Emotion through Music with Varying Tonalities

*Evan Wall (Sandra Webster), Westminster College*

The field of cognitive psychology is expanding with research on the concept of emotional perception through music. Thirty-six undergraduate students were presented with a series of musical clips composed in arrangements centered around minor harmonic, minor melodic, and major mode patterns in the keys of A, C, D, and G. Participants were then asked to rate the intensity of various emotions the music expressed during playback on a six-point Likert scale used to rate the hypothesized correlation between musical mode and emotion, stating that the more flats presented in an arrangement, the greater the ratings of negative emotions such as anger and sadness. The results indicate that mode significantly affects an individual's emotional perception of music.

## 24. A comparison of self-generated versus researcher-generated testing effects and knowledge maps

*Catherine Van Damme (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College*

This study examined how self-generated versus researcher-generated material affected both the testing effect and knowledge maps. The primary purpose behind this study was to add to the current body of research on pedagogic studies using ecologically valid stimuli. A random sample of students taking psychology courses from a small highly selective liberal arts school, completed a two session study participating in either the study only, researcher-generated testing effect, student-generated testing effect, researcher-generated knowledge map, or student-generated knowledge map. It was found that students who used researcher-generated knowledge maps had the highest recall one week after the initial learning session. It was also found that students in the researcher-generated knowledge map condition had the highest rating of comfort than the other conditions. The primary conclusion of this study was that students benefited from researcher-generated knowledge maps because of the structure that it provides for a student when learning a new material.

## 25. Child Comfort and Attachment to Dogs as Determined by Number and Duration of Touches

*Jenna Steinmiller & Hannah Manning (Nancy Gee), SUNY Fredonia*

In the growing field of Human-Animal Interaction there is a great deal of interest in the degree to which people are comfortable with, or emotionally attached to, the animals with which they interact. Many questionnaires have been developed to assess attachment in adults, but there is currently no good way to examine this issue in children. Additionally, direct contact has not been examined a measure of these

variables. The current study presents a video analysis of children interacting with a real dog, a stuffed dog, or a human. We hypothesize that the children will purposefully or inadvertently touch the dog more than they will touch a stuffed dog or human during the task. We also hypothesize that the duration will be longer in dog conditions. The results of this analysis will be presented and discussed.

## **26. A Manipulation of Stress and Dog Presence on Heart Rate and Working Memory**

*Samantha Galloway, Alexis Perez, Tina Schwartzmeyer, Marcus Stendahl, & Nancy Gee (Nancy Gee), SUNY Fredonia*

Research in the area of Human-Animal Interaction has demonstrated that pet ownership is related to reduced physiological response to stress, risk for coronary heart disease, and increased survival rate following a heart attack. Most of this previous research on the physiological impact of pets has focused on the effect of pet ownership or pet presence. The current study examines the impact of touching a dog on heart rate (HR), while the stress level of the situation was varied. Participants (ages 18-25) wore a HR monitor while they listened to a story (low stress), performed a working memory test to the point of failure three times (increased stress), and then listened to a story again (low stress). This manipulation was repeated for each participant under three different conditions: Touching a therapy dog, touching a stuffed dog, and touching a human. Heart rate and working memory data will be presented and discussed.

## **27. The Impact of Touching a Dog on Heart Rate in Children during the Execution of a Working Memory Task**

*Amy Fisk, Nancy Gee, Marcus Stendahl, & Victoria Coglitore (Nancy Gee), SUNY Fredonia*

Research in the area of Human-Animal Interaction has demonstrated that the presence of a dog has a moderating impact on some measures of physiological reactivity to stress. For example blood pressure is lower in children who have a dog with them when they have a physical examination by a doctor or go to the dentist. However, this research has not examined the impact of touching the dog, nor has it evaluated performance during a cognitive task. In the current study, participants ages 6-13 wore a heart rate (HR) monitor while listening to a story and performing a working memory task on three occasions: touching a dog, touching a stuffed dog and touching a human. Preliminary data suggests that HR is significantly lower while touching the dog relative to the human or stuffed dog. The complete data set will presented and discussed.

## **28. Effects of "om" in meditation**

*Fred Hintz (Joshua Searle-White), Allegheny College*

Meditation is an alternative therapeutic practice that is increasing in popularity. Since the origin of the practice of meditation comes from religious traditions, there are many prescriptions for the proper practice of meditation that have not been tested scientifically. One such prescription is the use of Sanskrit mantras, particularly the syllable "om", which is said to enhance the relaxing and mystical effects of a meditation practice. Three meditation practices were compared: repeating the syllable "om", repeating the word "one", and being told to relax and not repeat a word. Dependent variables assessing the effects of meditation were affect, cognitive relaxation, and mystical experience. No significant differences were found between the groups. The findings support the propositions of Smith's

ABC Relaxation Theory, which suggests that mantra meditation is a singular relaxation technique, and that individual variables like attitudes toward relaxation and personality characteristics interact with the type of relaxation exercise practiced.

### **29. The Relationship Between Family Roles and Prospective Career Orientation**

*Lynsay Paiko, Eric Ellison, & Carmina Georgescu (Veerasamy Suthakaran), SUNY Fredonia*

The purpose of this study is to explore how the familial roles of students interested in the counseling profession are linked to their career orientation. We will utilize a qualitative approach, using the Consensual Qualitative Research design (CQR: Hill et al., 2005), to examine the roles and dynamics of the participants in their respective families. The interview consisted of eight undergraduate students who are interested in majoring in counseling psychology. Participants were interviewed as a group in two separate sessions. A series of questions were be posed to the group and the responses of all the participants in each session were be audio-taped and transcribed. We are planning to use general systems theory to inductively derive the connection between familial roles and counseling career orientation from the qualitative data.

### **30. Public Perception of Psychiatric Service Dogs**

*Joseph Lavadie (Joyce Jagielo), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

Drugs and psychotherapies are common means of alleviating symptoms of mental health disorders. These traditional approaches, however, are sometimes ineffective, only partially effective, or rejected by the client. A newer, controversial approach involves the use of psychiatric service dogs (PSDs), which has been shown to be very beneficial to individuals with anxiety and mood disorders. The present study examined perceptions of PSDs through the use of a Likert-scale survey of Edinboro University students. Following initial perception questions, participants viewed a short video of either a military or non-military individual's use of a PSD in order to determine the extent to which each is effective in influencing participants' perceptions of PSDs.

### **31. Magical Ideation as a Correlate of Obsessive-Compulsive Symptomology**

*Keith Barker & Jacob Rogers (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University*

The present study examines a hypothesized correlation between magical ideation (MI) and sub-clinical obsessive-compulsive symptoms in non-clinical populations. 150 undergraduate students (aged 18-24 years) enrolled in an introductory psychology course were surveyed using self-report measures to quantify magical ideation, sub-clinical obsessive-compulsive symptoms, and handedness.

### **32. How is Cheating Influenced by the Pressure of a Peer?**

*Callie Keating, Crystal Conklin, Ashanae Walker, & Rebecca Morrison (Dawn Blasko), Pennsylvania State University- Erie*

This study was developed to examine the effect of peer pressure on academic dishonesty in college students. Participants were asked to complete a trivia task in which they were instructed to communicate with the other participant through Google chat messaging. In the first attempt of the trivia

task, participants were told to collaborate with their partner. During the second attempt, participants were told to complete the task independently. Unbeknownst to the participant, their counterpart was actually a confederate experimenter who, during the second portion of the trivia task, tried to get the participant to cheat by instigating them into sharing information. The participants who responded to this instigation were labeled as either passive cheaters or active cheaters. The researchers were interested in whether there would be a difference in the likelihood of cheating between the experimental and control conditions. The preliminary research has shown that the situational factor of peer pressure is a significant predictor of academic dishonesty.

### **33. The Acute Effects of a 2 Day Vinyasa Yoga Practice on Cognitive Performance**

*Veronica Quinlan (Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College*

Yoga has shown potential benefits for maintaining and improving cognition. The objective of this study was to examine the acute effects of yoga on cognitive performance in college students. Specifically, short term memory, reasoning, concentration, and planning were examined. The only significance found was the interaction of Spatial Sliders  $F(1,22) = 14.02, p < .05$  pre-test and post-test for the yoga group. The pre-test and post-test mean and standard deviation are 34.75(13.08) and 51.50 (20.15). Findings suggest that acute effects of yoga practice have potential benefits in improving cognition performance.

### **34. The Effect of Health Behaviors on Mental Toughness**

*Paul Spisak (Catherine Massey), Slippery Rock University*

The objective of this study was to examine the association among health behaviors and mental toughness. Research has shown that physical activity in adolescents was related to level of mental toughness. It was hypothesized that exercise and healthy lifestyle choices will have a positive association with mental toughness, whereas drug use will be negatively correlated with mental toughness. Participants were 216 undergraduate students who completed demographic information, and questionnaires on health behaviors (i.e. diet, exercise, and drug use) and mental toughness. A standard multiple regression analysis was computed to identify health behaviors that are predictors of mental toughness. The regression equation was significant,  $p < .01$ . The significant predictors of mental toughness were levels of exercise, drug use and gender,  $ps < .05$ . The implications for mental toughness in relation to significant predictors are discussed.

### **35. Have a Left Frontal Day: Coffee, Depression, and Electroencephalography**

*Amanda Woodside (Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College*

On the EEG, relatively more activity is observed in the right frontal hemisphere, as compared to the left, in cases of depression. One risk factor in the development of depression is coffee consumption, which may be protective against depression. This study examined coffee consumption with self-reports of depression and resting EEG asymmetry. The study also sought to assess asymmetry under random assignment of experimental coffee consumption (caffeinated versus decaffeinated). Demographic information, health behaviors, and mood inventory scores were assessed by questionnaires in an undergraduate population ( $n=102$ ; 76% female). A secondary sample was selected from this pool for EEG procedures ( $n=32$ ; 72% female), which included pre and post coffee measures of resting frontal



asymmetry using a double blind placebo controlled method. Consumption of coffee was not found to influence asymmetry. Consistent with the literature, CESD-R scores were positively correlated with right frontal activity at baseline, but more left frontal activity following consumption of caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee. The opposite effect was found with lower CESD-R scores. Results support research findings that depression is correlated with asymmetry. However, the protective effects of coffee against depression may only emerge following long term habitual consumption.

### **36. Measuring Fluency using Alternate Uses task and Photo Caption**

*Niesha Gittings, Elizabeth Long, & Jordyn Payne (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

Divergent thinking tasks have been recognized and studied as an effective tool for measuring a component of creativity. Research has indicated that the type of task used affects the results, and more open-ended measures should be studied to allow for more spontaneity and creativity (Sternberg, 2012). The purpose of the present study was to compare fluency scores obtained from traditional (alternate uses) and non-traditional divergent thinking tasks (photo captions). Participants were enrolled in one of two cognitive psychology courses. Participants were able to arrive before or stay after class to participate in the study as an extra credit opportunity. It was expected that participants would generate more responses when they were presented with the generation of photo captions task (a “real-life” task) compared to the alternate uses task. Results indicated that the alternate uses task had a higher fluency score when compared to photo captions.

### **37. Interpretations of Four Common One-Point AMPI Codetypes among College Students**

*John Mathe, Trisha Bubenheim, Daniel Lutz, & T’Azia Dixon (William Kelly), Robert Morris University*

The Ausburg Multidimensional Personality Instrument (AMPI; Kelly, 2013) allows advanced undergraduate students to have “hands-on” lab experiences administering and interpreting a brief multi-scale personality test. The AMPI has domains that simulate the MMPI but were developed specifically for college students. In the current study, interpretive correlates for four commonly occurring one-point codetypes (Spikes 0 - Introversion, 4 - Psychodeviance, 2 - Dysphoria, and 9 - Hypomania) were examined using a sample of 559 students. To develop interpretive codetype descriptions, t-tests were used to identify items on a self-report inventory that discriminated between students with the AMPI codetypes examined in this study and the remainder of the sample.

### **38. Mindfulness and Self Efficacy: A Corollary Review**

*Eric Young, Morgan Martinez, Joe Ligato, & Cordelia Wilson (Christopher Neibaur), Slippery Rock University*

The current study attempts to draw correlations between Mindfulness and General Self Efficacy of college students participating in upper division psychology courses. Students were presented with a questionnaire composed of the Mindfulness Attention Awareness Scale (MAAS) and The General Self-Efficacy Scale (GSE); it was hypothesized that those students with a higher mindfulness score would then have a positive corollary toward self-efficacy. If mindfulness is intentional awareness of emotional states and conditions that are then directed willfully, then students with higher mindfulness scores would choose to believe more strongly in their own abilities to achieve agreeable outcomes. Participants filled out the MAAS, GSE and reported GPA scores to test the hypothesis.

### **39. Are You Creative in College?**

*Alecia Wenslow & Alan Lopez (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

College students, who will become the future work force, should be encouraged to develop their creativity due to the need for creativity to realize societal and economic benefits (e.g., Florida, 2002). However, a recent study by Pachucki and colleagues (2010) found that less than one third of college students reported being creative in their academic work when asked how they “pursue or express creativity.” Do college students think they are creative in their academics? And do they think that other people are creative in college? Moreover, is there a bias towards perceptions of a particular major or minor being more or less creative? Ratings of those with traditionally creative and non-creative majors were compared, as research suggests that those with creative majors typically score higher on creativity tasks (e.g., Silvia, Martin, & Nusbaum, 2009). An online survey was developed to analyze college students’ perceptions of their own academic creativity (e.g., classes, studying), as well as perceptions of others’ creativity.

### **40. What handwriting reveals: Mood, personality, and intelligence**

*Lauren Uht, Angela Laska, Jacob Guras, & Khasheka Hodge (Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

Handwriting is a unique and distinctive characteristic which varies in all humans but due to the onset of technology people utilize typing rather than handwriting to communicate. This study explores the inferences people make about other people based on their particular handwriting style. In this study, participants viewed handwriting samples and answered questions on the perceived characteristics of the person who produced the sample (e.g., perceived gender, personality, GPA attractiveness, and mood). We are interested in whether variables such as perceived style and attractiveness predict other variables such as gender or mood.

### **41. Computer Assisted Learning**

*Sean MacKellar, Andrew McLellan, & Tarik McMillan (Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

College campuses and high schools across the country are relying more heavily on computers for instructing students than in years past. One potential drawback of computer-based instruction is it provides students with an opportunity to go off task during the learning period (e.g., switch to Facebook or check email). The goal of our study was to examine the relationship between distraction (i.e., switching away from the learning task) and academic performance. In order to examine this, we had students read an article while sitting at a personal computer. Next, they watched a video from an overhead projector and then took an exam on their individual computers. Using monitoring software, we recorded the number of times and length each student deviated from their assignment. We are interested in examining if the degree of distraction is related to the students’ ability to answer questions about the material.

#### **42. The Effects of Personality Type on Relationship Satisfaction**

*Kimberly Perry (William Kelly), Robert Morris University*

This study examines the correlation between relationship satisfaction and a 13-scale broad-band personality instrument. Students completed the AMPI (Kelly, 2013) and the satisfaction scale (Hendrick, 1988). It was predicted that higher scores on the AMPI scales measuring negative experiences (Dysphoria, Anxiety, and Hystericality) would relate to lower relationship satisfaction. The results of this study can be applied in a variety of relationship counseling scenarios.

#### **43. Self-evaluations of creativity: the correlation between expert and college student ratings of erasure poetry**

*Andrew McIntosh, Jennifer Braine & Andrew Kraus (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

Are college students as effective at determining their own creativity as experts are at rating student creativity? The purpose of this study was to examine college students' ratings of their erasure poetry products as compared with expert ratings of the poetry products. Erasure poetry was chosen because it is a relatively new form of poetry, so it reduces practice and training effects and requires that all participants start with the same set of words. Twenty-two students enrolled in an English 102 class completed erasure poems for the study. The experts were all English department professors with poetry expertise. The erasure poems were rated by students and experts for creativity, originality, and elaboration. It is expected that there will be high inter-rater reliability for the expert ratings. It is also expected that the experts' ratings will be higher than the students' ratings for the erasure poetry products.

#### **44. The Eye of the Beholder: The Impact of Target Age and Facial Tattoos on Ratings of Attractiveness and Personality Characteristics**

*Katie Makufka (Ann Romanczyk), Slippery Rock University*

What makes a person attractive? There is no definitive description of attractiveness other than it is what people of a given time and place find attractive. It seems that people find tattooing attractive. Tattooing is growing in popularity among teens and college students (Rooks, Roberts, & Scheltema, 2000; Nathanson, Paulhus, & Williams, 2006, etc.). This increasing frequency suggests that a positive stereotype towards tattoo wearers exists, but there is little known about the content of this stereotype. The present research used photos of men as stimulus materials in a 2 (Age: 20s v. 40s) x 2 (with and without facial tattoos) factorial design. Ratings of attractiveness and personality characteristics were recorded for each of the four photosets. Results reveal that age of the target and presence v. absence of a tattoo produced both main effects and interactions. In college-aged participants the age of the target tattoo wearer is clearly connected to ratings of attractiveness and personality. Additional questions about the interpersonal impact of tattoos were answered by participants who identified themselves as either tattooed or not tattooed.

#### **45. What Makes a Smile Sincere: Do We Express Emotions on One Side of Our Face Better Than the Other?**

*Eric Levine (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University*

People have a variety of ways to express their emotions; in particular, their wide array of facial gestures can depict almost any mood. Somebody who is smiling sincerely presents a completely different picture than somebody who is smiling insincerely. This was established using a Likert scale assessment in experiment one where we looked at whether people are good at detecting if somebody is smiling sincerely or insincerely. The twenty pairs of faces were then used in experiment two by creating four composite faces for each individual: sincere right composite (right side of the face copied and flipped to create a mirror image of the other), sincere left composite, insincere right composite and insincere left composite. Again, subjects rated the sincerity of the smiles for these images. The goal was to determine if one side of the face was more responsible for expressing emotion (sincerity) than the other.

#### **46. Resilience During Adversity**

*Ciarra Karnes (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University*

The purpose of the current study was to explore factors that contribute to resiliency. Early work by Werner (1982) studied children who grew up in challenging situations. While many grew up to display destructive behaviors, one third did not and Werner called this group resilience. Bonanno (2003) defined resilience as, “reflecting the ability of individuals to maintain relatively stable mental functioning throughout the course of events”. Our study wanted to look further into resiliency by using the Connor-Davidson Resilience scale. The Connor-Davidson Resilience scale is a popular way to measure resiliency, and is what we have used to measure resilience in people experiencing homelessness. The second question on Connor-Davidson scale measures how much social support a person has. Our study further investigated this question by asking follow up questions about the type of social support, (e.g., financial or emotional) as this may be important to the overall measure. Participants were presented with the Resilience scale and with additional questions in order to further qualify the type of social support that contributes to overall resiliency. The hope of this study is tap into what makes people more resilient in adverse situations, and to see whether or not social supports affect their resilience.

# Paper Sessions (11:00am – 12:15pm)

## Group 1 Cognition

Carnegie Hall 100

### Session Chair: Jeff Cross

#### 1. The Effects of Narrative Spoilers and the Influence of Epistemic Curiosity on Narrative Enjoyment

*Roma Panganiban (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College*

Recent research on “spoilers,” or information that gives away crucial details of a story, has been controversial in finding that spoilers can enhance a reader’s enjoyment, thus overturning popular opinion of them as something to be disliked and avoided. The present study has proposed an extension of that previous research that also takes into account an individual’s epistemic curiosity, or knowledge-seeking drive, as a factor that may explain these results. The primary hypotheses were that higher-curiosity readers would indicate more baseline enjoyment of a given narrative and spoilers would increase all participants’ enjoyment of a narrative, but that higher-curiosity participants’ enjoyment would be increased less by spoilers than that of lower-curiosity participants’. The results indicated that both spoilers and curiosity do serve to enhance narrative enjoyment; however, there is no interaction between the two. The present study introduced an original distinction between terminal spoilers, which reveal the ending of a story outside of its linear event structure, and contextual spoilers, which provide additional information about the circumstances of a narrative without giving away its ending. The results ultimately indicated that both types increase reading enjoyment equally, suggesting that conventional wisdom on the desirability of spoilers may not be so wise.

#### 2. The Effect of Sex and Priming on Inattentional Blindness to Sexist Stimuli

*Nicholas Diana (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College*

Recent research on the inattentional blindness phenomenon suggests that our perception is not always as complete as we believe it is. Using the inattentional blindness paradigm, the current study hopes to expand our understanding of perceptual gaps between members of different groups (e.g. sexes, races, sexual orientations, abilities, etc.) by examining the effects of sex and priming on inattentional blindness to a sexist stimulus. Contrary to predictions, results indicated that male participants were more likely than female participants to correctly identify the sexist stimulus, and participants in the implicit prime condition were more likely than those in the explicit and no prime conditions to correctly identify the sexist stimulus. There was also an interaction that showed that specifically within the implicit prime condition male participants were significantly more likely than female participants to correctly identify the sexist stimulus. These unexpected results further illustrate the need for a better understanding of the impacts of recent and long-term experience on perception.

### **3. Are You Listening? How Music and Conversation Affect Driving**

*Bryan Fleeson & Ashley Turner (Victoria Kazmerski), Pennsylvania State University, The Behrend College*

Listening to music and engaging in conversation with passengers are two of the most common distractions people expose themselves to while driving. Studies have shown that music can play a major role in driving behavior and can even alter a person's mood. One study found that high-tempo music leads to increased speed and more red light violations during a simulated driving task (Brodsky, 2002). Another study found that music competes for one's available cognitive resources resulting in a high mental load and processing demand while driving (Dalton et. al., 2007). The purpose of this study was to determine how music and working memory load impact driving behavior. It was hypothesized that participants would drive the fastest and make the most errors when listening to high-tempo music with conversation and drive the slowest and make the least amount of errors without the presence of music or conversation. A main effect was found between conversation conditions for errors. We also found a significant interaction between speed, gender, and conversation.

### **4. Children's Enjoyment and Experience in a Dialogic Reading Program**

*Alicia Welch (Andrea Zevenbergen), State University of New York at Fredonia*

Dialogic reading between a parent and their child has been shown to facilitate early development of literacy skills among preschool children. Throughout the past 25 years, researchers have also been considering the interest level of the child and its effect on literacy development. Within my study, I explored children's interest level and experience during a dialogic reading program as assessed through parent interviews. Participants in this study included low-income families and children with behavioral factors or developmental challenges between the ages two and five, of which the majority were English speaking. During the study, two meetings occurred with the interviewer, parent, and child. At the first meeting, a pre-assessment focused on vocabulary was given to the child and the parent was taught the techniques of dialogic reading. At the second meeting, the child was given a post-assessment and the parent was given a concluding interview. Qualitative analysis was done on the parent interview data. Categorization of the data was done individually by the researchers; consensus was developed and definite themes were extracted from the data. Definite themes included: Liking certain books, disliking certain books, liking certain techniques, disliking certain techniques, liking certain aspects of a book, disliking certain aspects of a book, varying interest levels, and child initiating reading or requesting additional reading.

### **5. I'll Have What He's Having: Social Desirability and Memory Conformity of Eyewitnesses**

*Elspeth Heiss-Moses (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University*

In our current legal system, eyewitnesses are heavily relied on to sway judges and juries decisions. However, it is not generally considered that the perceptions of eye witnesses are easily changed by others which can cause inaccurate testimony. This study aims to see whether this is due to social desirability or memory inaccuracies. First, the participants completed a social desirability questionnaire. They were then shown one of two versions of a crime video and asked to complete a survey about the details of the video immediately after. They returned 24 hours later at which time they spoke to a partner (who watched the other version of the crime) and asked to completed the same survey as the day before. It is predicted that people who score higher on the social desirability measure will be more

influenced by their partner's responses, leading them to change more of their own answers on the second survey in order to conform. These findings will help us better understand the role of social factors in eyewitness reliability.

## **Group 2 Gender/Culture**

## **Carnegie 101**

### **Session Chair: Heather C. Lumm**

#### **1. Self-expression and Cultures: The Influence of Individualism and Collectivism on Self-expression on Social Network**

*Yiming Chen (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

What do individuals from different cultures post on their social networks? Social networks are now available in most countries in the world, but the differences of individuals' self-expressions on social networks have not been studied before. The purpose of this study was to look at the influence of individualism and collectivism on individuals' self-expressions on social network. 15 American participants and 15 Chinese participants each was asked to submit 2 social network status updates of their friends with permission of the authors. Contents of all the status updates were then coded based on Gordon's (1968) 8 categories of 30 subcategories. It is anticipated that the contents of status updates submitted by the American participants will focus more on personal characteristics, such as their traits, attitudes, and abilities. In contrast, the contents of status updates submitted by Chinese participants will focus more on social identity, such as social roles and memberships.

#### **2. Attitudes towards Marriage as a Function of Gender and Sexual Orientation of the Authors of a Message Advocating Marriage**

*Anna Katharina Spaelti (William DeLamarter), Allegheny College*

In the last couple of decades significant changes in the institution of marriage have been observed, including a decrease in marriage rates and an increase in divorce and cohabitation rates. In an effort to examine what might be influencing these changes, this research examines whether changes in traditional gender roles for women as well as the growing support for same-sex marriage have affected attitudes towards marriage. The hypothesis that gender and sexual orientation of the authors of an article advocating marriage would affect attitudes towards marriage was not confirmed. No significant differences were found among experimental conditions. The suggestion is made that marriage still retains its romantic and idealistic value that overcomes gender differences. Furthermore, the rapidly growing support for same-sex marriage nationwide indicates that hearing a message advocating marriage by a gay or lesbian couple no longer results in negative attitudes towards marriage. Finally, methodological limitations regarding the population sample and the unsuccessful manipulation of sexual orientation of the authors are addressed.

### **3. The Effects of Benevolent Sexism on Body Shame and Body Surveillance**

*Ashley Walch (Monica Riordan), Chatham University*

Self-objectification and benevolent sexism can have negative effects on females, with both shown to increase body shame and surveillance in women (Shepherd, Erchull, Rosner, Taubenberger, Queen, & McKee, 2011). Previous research has indicated that female students from single-sex and coeducational institutions vary in numerous respects and this study sought to explore any differences or similarities that might exist between a sample from an all-women's institution in this study and the sample from a coeducational institution used previously by Shepherd et al. (2011). 67 female college students from an all-women's college in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania were randomly divided into one of three groups –two experimental groups that witnessed either an act of benevolent sexism or an act of benevolence and a control group. All groups filled out questionnaires to measure their trait objectification and sexism levels as well as their levels of body shame and body surveillance. None of the participants experienced an increase in body shame and exposure to an act of benevolent sexism did not result in increased levels of body surveillance. However, exposure to an act of benevolence did result in such an increase. These results elucidate the variation that exists between the samples used in each study.

### **4. Attachment Style and Desire for Interdependence: Connection to Relationship Satisfaction and Commitment**

*Lauren Wilson (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College*

This study used 44 heterosexual dating couples to examine how attachment style predicts partners' desires for interdependence and how this desire affects commitment and satisfaction in romantic relationships. The mean length of a relationship was two years and four months. Participants were administered self-report measures to assess attachment, desire for interdependence, relationship satisfaction, and commitment. It was predicted that ratings for anxious attachment would be positively correlated with desire for interdependence and commitment, whereas avoidance attachment ratings would be negatively correlated with desire for interdependence and commitment. It was also hypothesized that difference in desire for interdependence would be negatively correlated with commitment and satisfaction. Regression analyses showed that avoidant attachment was a significant predictor of desire for interdependence and commitment. Difference in desire for interdependence was a significant predictor for female commitment, and both male and female relationship satisfaction.

### **5. The Perceived Competence of Women in Sports Broadcasting**

*Whitly Breakey (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

Women are typically stereotyped and excluded in the workplace more than males. Sports journalism is a male-dominated area making it even more difficult for a female to gain leverage. This research focused on how harshly a woman is judged if she makes a mistake in a sports broadcasting scenario. Participants entering the lab were given scenarios of a target sports broadcaster, identified as either male or female, that either made a mistake or did not make a mistake. Participants then rated the target's competence. Our hypothesis that female sports broadcasters would be judged more harshly than males when they made mistake was not supported  $F(1,28)=.069$ ,  $p = .795$ . However, the results showed that females rated sports broadcasters who did not make a mistake ( $M = 72.25$ ,  $s = 11.28$ ) as less competent than



males rating the same group ( $M = 84.33$ ,  $s = 1.15$ ),  $F(1,28) = 4.86$ ,  $p = .036$ ,  $\eta^2 = .148$ . Males and females did not differ on their competence ratings of sports broadcasters who made a mistake.

## Group 3 Social

## Carnegie Hall 107

### Session Chair: Dawn Blasko

#### 1. Perceptions of Stereotypes in Pop Culture

*Simmonne Bell (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College*

The purpose of this study was to find an effect of stereotypes when a person is acting counter-stereotypically to their race in pop culture. This study had 60 participants, 15 Black men, 15 White men, 15 Black women, and 15 White women. All participants were told that they would be assessing positive and negative personality traits of a person based on Facebook information they were given. Participants read and evaluated whether they would be willing to become friends with the person. The hypothesis is that there would be more negative stereotypes associated with Whites acting Black and Blacks acting White in pop culture. The results showed the most negative stereotype for perceptions of a White person viewing a White person “acting Black” and also for a Black person viewing a Black person “acting White” in comparison to a White person viewing a Black person “acting Black” and a Black person viewing a White person “acting White”.

#### 2. Metacognition and Confidence Predictions of Athletic Performance

*Elise Bartoul (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

Research exploring the relationship between confidence levels and performance levels (Kruger & Dunning, 1999) has shown that individuals grossly overestimate their competency and cognitive ability, and that in particular those possessing the lowest metacognitive skills consistently rank themselves above average. The present study replicates this confidence effect with athletics. The experimental process included a questionnaire administered to athletes (particularly football players), asking them to recall their physical, athletic performance in several areas, as well as to rank their confidence in this activity and estimate their ability compared to the team as a whole. I hypothesized that the athletes would rate their performance over average regardless of their actual scores and ability.

#### 3. Leadership Perceptions as a Function of Gender, Attractiveness, Experience, and Gender Role

*Leah Palmer (Jack Croxton), State University of New York at Fredonia*

Leadership roles are essential in today’s society, not only in organizations, but throughout various domains. It is important to determine what factors may influence perceptions of individuals in leadership positions. Two studies were designed to determine the effect of gender, attractiveness, past experience, and the stereotypical gender role on the perceptions of a leader. Surprisingly, more traits associated with leadership were attributed to females than to males. Attractiveness had the largest

effect in these studies, where attractiveness was found to be advantageous, particularly for the female targets. Being selected for the leadership program was advantageous for females and disadvantageous for males. Gender role typically affected perceptions of the caring characteristics, such as showing kindness and warmth, where targets in a volunteer role were seen as more likely to possess these traits than those in an entrepreneur role. Future research should utilize a more diverse sample to increase external validity.

#### **4. Effects of Media Portrayal On Mock Jurors' Use of Polygraph Evidence**

*Joshua Karr & Chelsea Lyle (Ron Craig), Edinboro University*

Guilt or innocence is based on the evidence presented during a trial. The use of polygraph evidence in a trial has been controversial, with concerns about its validity and prejudicial impact on jurors. Research in the 1980s & 1990s has shown limited impact of polygraph testimony on jurors. However, its presence in popular culture has changed substantially since that time and may impact its influence on juror decision making. Since many of the media portrayals of the polygraph focus on civil/domestic disagreements (i.e. the Maury show), its effect on jurors in those cases might be heightened. The current study examines mock jurors' decisions based on the presence of deceptive polygraph results and severity of the allegation. Participants in an online survey were asked to read a hypothetical court case and assign guilt or innocence and confidence in that decision. The case involved either a DUI, driving while using drugs, vehicular homicide, or divorce. Participants were also asked questions about their views of and media exposure to the polygraph. Responses will be analyzed to determine the effect of the polygraph evidence on verdicts, if it varied based on the types of allegation, and any impacts on confidence.

#### **5. What Being Attractive Can Do: Perceptions of Fairness and Body Type**

*Rachel Endres (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

Previous research has discovered that people who are perceived as attractive are also perceived to have better personality attributes (Berscheid, Dion, & Walster, 1972). The current research tested if the positive attributes associated with attractive people's personality would have implications on how they were perceived in a petty crime case. Participants read a scenario of a young woman shoplifting. The scenario was either paired with a picture of a girl with a waist-to-hip ratio of .7, seen as attractive, or 1.0, seen as less attractive. Participants were then asked a series of questions on how the woman in the story should be punished. It was hypothesized that the .7 waist-to-hip ratio would be given less punishment than the 1.0 waist-to-hip ratio. While the hypothesis was not supported, there was significance, with males being more lenient than females across conditions. A possible reason for this could be the use of a female target.

**Session Chair: Rob Hoff****1. The Effects of the Pheromone Androstadienone on Physical Attractiveness, Sexual Attractiveness, Personality, and Behavior**

*Kristina Dabrowski, Leatra Tate, & Rianna Grissom (Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University*

This study explored the influence of the pheromone Androstadienone on participants' impressions of six target individuals. Participants (51 female undergraduates) made judgments of personality characteristics, physical and sexual attractiveness, willingness to make a Facebook request to or accept a Facebook friendship request from each target. The targets were 3 male and 3 female Facebook profile photos, previously rated as low, moderate, and high in attractiveness. Participants in the experimental group completed their ratings on questionnaires impregnated with a 96.8% pure androstadienone solution. Participants in the control group completed their ratings on questionnaires not impregnated with the pheromone solution. The result of this study showed significance in the ratings of male targets in the presence of the pheromones in the areas of extraversion, sending, and accepting a Facebook request. There was also an interaction between attractiveness level, the presence of pheromone, and the targets gender.

**2. The Effects of Control Priming on Automatic Stereotyping of Sexual Orientation**

*Thomas Byler & Sandra Webster (Sandra Webster), Westminster College*

The Implicit Association Test (IAT) was used to measure automatic stereotypes after a priming task. I hypothesized that participants receiving control-related priming would show a reduction in automatic stereotyping compared to those who received neutral priming. Fifty undergraduate students participated in either condition (data was omitted for one participant in each condition), completing a 12-item sentence scramble task that primed control concepts, followed by the IAT. This provided reaction times for critical blocks that paired heterosexual and homosexual categories with pleasant and unpleasant categories in stereotype-consistent and stereotype-inconsistent blocks. Participants showed a stereotype activation on the IAT, with faster reaction times in stereotype-consistent pairings,  $F(1, 44) = 9.00, p < .005, \eta^2 = .17$ . Participants did not show a significant difference in reaction time based on priming condition, suggesting that control priming did not cause a reduction in automatic stereotyping.

**3. Does it Matter if a Threat is Direct or Indirect: An Attentional Blink Study**

*Quinn Romonovich (Sandra Webster), Westminster College*

This study looked at differences in the processing of threatening faces. Participants were 30 male and female undergraduate students, ranging in age from 18 to 23. A RSVP task with schematic faces (happy, fearful, angry, and neutral) as T1 and T2 stimuli, and distorted schematic faces as distractor stimuli. Lag times 2, 4, 6 and 8 were used. It was predicted that when T1 was a neutral face that accuracy would be highest for angry, then fearful, happy and lowest for neutral. It was predicted that when T2 was neutral that accuracy for angry and fearful faces would be lower than happy and neutral at low lag times and

higher at high lag times. It was found that when T1 was neutral the highest accuracy was when T2 was neutral or angry. It was found that when T2 was neutral that the highest accuracy was when T1 was neutral.

#### **4. The Stigma Associated with Chronic Illness**

*Carolyn Mahany, Allysa Dupont, & Olivia Merisola (Jack Croxton), State University of New York at Fredonia*

Due to the immense stigma faced by people living with chronic illness, this study was conducted to educate and reduce the amount of social isolation experienced by such individuals. This study measured individuals' perceptions of persons with chronic illness. Specifically: genital herpes, epilepsy and chronic migraines. We tested participants reactions based on given information about a fictitious target person, using a social distance assessment. It was predicted and found that there was an interaction between gender and target illness. There were also main effects for both variables. Overall, people living with genital herpes were perceived most negatively, and those with epilepsy were perceived least negatively. The implications of this study will impact previous and future research done in the fields of social and health psychology. Further results and their implications will be discussed at the conference.

#### **5. Efficacy of Mental Illness as a Mitigating Factor in Capital Punishment Cases**

*Cecilia Slifko (Sandra Webster), Westminster College*

In bifurcated capital punishment trials, two phases occur: during the first phase, the defendant is determined to be either innocent or guilty; the second phase is the penalty trial, in which the jury determines whether a life sentence or capital punishment is appropriate to the case. During the penalty trial, mitigating and aggravating factors are considered. The experiment explored the effects of mitigating evidence, which is presented to potentially reduce sentencing. The hypothesis stated that the presence of mental disorders as mitigating evidence in a case would lead to lighter sentencing than when no mitigating evidence is provided. The independent variable was the presence of mitigating evidence; the dependent variable was the punitive sentence that the participants selected. Sixteen undergraduate students individually acted as mock jurors and read eight court homicide scenarios, four with mitigating factors and four without mitigating factors. They selected a sentencing for each scenario that ranged from 20 years in prison to the death penalty. Results showed that mock jurors give less harsh punishment to court homicide scenarios with mitigating circumstances. These results may mean that actual real-world juries are less punitive when mitigating evidence is presented than when it is absent from a trial.

**Session Chair: Monali Chowdhury****1. College Student Perceptions of Individual Uniqueness as Diversity**

*Nicole Karpinsky, Sandra Webster, Simmone Bell, & Emily Zetzer (Sandra Webster), Westminster College*

A diversity climate survey was administered to undergraduate students at Westminster College from September 30 to October 15, 2012. The online survey was sent by email to all undergraduate students a total of three different times. Students had the option of being entered into a drawing to win a \$25 bookstore gift certificate upon participating. The survey assessed student's perceptions and attitudes toward diversity. The sample included less than a quarter of the students (334 students responded) and was not representative of the college. An open ended question was given asking the students what else made them unique or diverse. Responses ranged in content from categories such as gender, race, sexuality, disability, and class status. A large number of students mentioned race (21.85%), religion (17.66%), and personality (17.36%) the most often. Many students did not fit the ten coded categories that were created. Most interestingly, 53.89% of students' responses qualified to the Other category. This category included things such as types of college courses, family structure, and athletics. No one student possessed a similar description. Even more noticeable, 117 students described their uniqueness using multiple categories, while one in ten said nothing made them unique. This research will contribute to an understanding of diversity theory through connections to the color-blindness ideology, in which people believe that distinctions like race and ethnicity should not be considered and everyone should be treated the same. Unfortunately, color-blind ideals get in the way of clear thinking and tend to mask racial inequalities. It should be noted that diverse differences be supported and embraced, not hidden or down played. This research is important because it contributes a lot to understanding the diversity climate and provides an exploratory analysis for future research. It can be applied to better understand the how students perceive diversity as it applies to themselves.

**2. Objective and Subjective Social Status and Responses to the Alternate Uses Task**

*Guy Rundle (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

There is some research done on measures of objective socioeconomic status (OSES) and creativity that found a positive correlation between OSES and creativity due to the importance of education. However, no studies were found that examined subjective socioeconomic status (SSES) and creativity. The purpose of this exploratory study is to examine the relationships between OSES and SSES and creativity as measured by ratings of responses to two alternate uses tasks. Students enrolled in one of five psychology classes or one of two math classes were recruited and were offered extra credit by their instructors. The online survey included Hollingshead (2011) questions for OSES and the MacArthur Scale of Subjective Social Status (Adler, 2000) to measure SSES. Implications for future research will be discussed.

### **3. Relationships between Family Satisfaction, Socioeconomic Status, Academic Achievement, and Perceived Stress**

*Caitlin Rozgonyi (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College*

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationships between family satisfaction, socioeconomic status, academic achievement, and perceived stress among college students. Positive family satisfaction and high levels of income were predicted to correspond with the highest level of academic achievement and lowest levels of perceived stress, and negative family satisfaction and low levels of income were predicted to correspond with the lowest level of academic achievement and the highest levels of stress. Hypotheses were tested using 100 voluntary undergraduate college students. Participants completed several self-report measures that measured the key constructs. Results showed that financial problems significantly correlated with family satisfaction and stress ( $p < .05$ ). Interestingly, perceptions of financial problems predicted family satisfaction and stress, whereas actual income did not.

### **4. Effects of Therapy Dogs on College Students' Anxiety Levels: Implications for use of "Courthouse Dogs"**

*Sophia Katz (Joshua Searle-White) Allegheny College*

The use of therapy dogs in a courthouse setting to help victims testify is a relatively new subject. The present study looked at the relationship between a therapy dog and student's anxiety levels. The study used a random sample 42 of Allegheny College students that were randomly assigned into the test group or control group. The control group had no dog present whereas the test group had a certified therapy dog present. The student's blood pressure was taken pre and post-test. The experiment consisted of the student completing a stressful task. After the second blood pressure reading was taken the participants completed the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Spielberger, 1983). It was predicted that there would be a significant reduction of blood pressure (pre to post-test) in the test group. Additionally, it was predicted that the overall State anxiety scores would be lower in the test condition. The test group had significantly lower State anxiety scores than the control group. There were no significant changes between the control and test group for blood pressure. The significance of the interaction between therapy dogs present during a stressful task and State anxiety scores is discussed. The potential implications for therapy dog use in courtrooms is presented.

### **5. Religious Involvement and its Relationship with Well-Being and Religious Prejudice**

*Julia Christman (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College*

This study looked at religious involvement and its relationship with overall well-being and prejudice toward other religions within the Christian population at a small private college in western Pennsylvania. It was predicted that religious involvement for Christians would have a positive relationship with well-being. Religious involvement was also predicted to have a negative relationship with religious prejudice, and well-being was predicted to have a negative relationship with religious prejudice. One-hundred participants were selected from a small private college in a rural area in western Pennsylvania to complete surveys measuring their religious involvement, well-being, and views of other religions. A Pearson correlation was done and there were no significant relationships among religious involvement, well-being, and religious prejudice. There was, however, a significant positive relationship with religious involvement and perception on God ( $r = 0.25$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and a significant positive relationship with

perception on God and religious prejudice ( $r=0.39$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). Keywords: religious involvement, well-being, prejudice.

## Group 6 Health

Carnegie Hall 212

### Session Chair: Rod Clark

#### 1. Activity Motivation: Factors Influencing Likelihood to Exercise

*Kaleigh Hubert (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

Exercise is an essential component of preventative and restorative health behavior in the face of the obesity epidemic. Various factors, such as self-efficacy and optimism, influence one's motivation and likelihood to exercise. Limited research is available regarding self-efficacy and optimism together as they relate to exercise; therefore, this study sought to examine how self-efficacy and optimism relate to one's motivation to exercise, as well provide an increased knowledge of the interaction of these constructs. I hypothesized that both self-efficacy and optimism would be positively correlated with exercise behavior, and the correlation between self-efficacy and exercise would be stronger than that of optimism and exercise. Additionally, self-efficacy and optimism would be positively correlated, and would collectively be an indicator of one's likelihood to exercise. Participants were asked to complete questionnaires on self-efficacy, optimism, and exercise behavior, and the results showed that the model was significant,  $R = .574$ ,  $R^2 = .330$ ,  $F(5,35) = 3.44$ ,  $p = .012$ . Self-efficacy ( $\beta = .416$ ) and year in school ( $\beta = -.539$ ) were both significant predictors of exercise behavior,  $t(33)2.794$ ,  $p = .008$ , and  $t(33)=3.041$ ,  $p = .004$ , respectively.

#### 2. Animal Based Intervention and Its Effect on Anxiety

*Katherine Whittam (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

Previous studies have shown that Animal Based interactions have a tendency to relieve stress; however these studies typically involve having the participants bring their own dog into the laboratory. This procedure may inform the participant about the nature of the study and/or provide other cues to the nature of the research. In this study, participants in the experimental group were subject to a surprise interaction with a dog following a social evaluation stress induction. Participants in the control group underwent the same stress induction but did not interact with the dog. Our findings showed that the stress levels of participants were not affected by interacting with the dog.

#### 3. Alcohol Use Predicting Perceived Risk and Decision Making in Sexual Situations

*Kara Matsey (Robin McGovern), Westminster College*

This study evaluated college students' perceptions of high- and low-risk sexual behaviors involving alcohol. Participants read a vignette containing arousal and risk cues about sexual encounters with new acquaintances. Male ( $n = 38$ ) and female ( $n= 55$ ) students age 18-23 were surveyed on alcohol use using

the Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test to establish risk level. Students rated the likelihood of engaging in sexual decisions with new acquaintances. The Cognitive Appraisal of Risky Events measured risk and benefit perceptions. Students evaluated cues using Davis et al.'s (2007) questions on effectiveness and role in decision making. Regression analyses indicated alcohol consumption significantly influenced perception of risks, benefits, and sexual decisions ( $p < .05$ ;  $p < .01$ ). Abstinent or low risk drinkers had lower risk sexual decisions and AUDIT scores. Moderate or high risk drinkers had higher risk sexual decisions and AUDIT scores. These findings reiterate the importance of sex education and safe sex practices while intoxicated. Keywords: scenario, perceptions, student alcohol use, alcohol risk, sexual decisions

#### **4. Self-Report Examined as an Intervention Aimed to Improve Medical Adherence**

*Adele Campbell (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

The primary objective of this study was to test self-report as an intervention that may lead to improvement of medical adherence. Two groups of undergraduates from a small Catholic Liberal Arts University near the Great Lakes were used as participants in a control and experimental group. Each group was asked to follow simple prescription instructions over a course of a week and return for a follow up meeting where a pill count for each vial was performed. The experimental group actively filled out a prescription table as they took each dose; this element of the study is the independent variable and was not present in the control group's experiment. A t-test was used to evaluate the data between groups. Keywords: self-report, medical adherence, medical adherence rate

#### **5. Testing External Validity of the Normal Tables of the Nine Hole Peg Test**

*Dawn Earp (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

The purpose of this study is to compare right hand dominant individuals with left hand dominant individuals for the Nine Hole Peg Test with the current normal tables. My hypothesis is that I will find significant differences between the current left-hand, right-hand tables and my table based on hand dominance. The results of this study will assist the psychology professional in acquiring more accurate results with this tool in assessing for physical dysfunction that may impact mental health.

## **Group 7 Perception**

**Ruter Hall 106**

### **Session Chair: Lauren Paulson**

#### **1. Embodied Cognition and Weight Perception: Does stress on your body have an impact on your opinions and judgments?**

*Shannon Shaffer (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University*

Recent studies have shown that the weight of a clipboard can influence how you rate currency. The purpose of this study was to determine whether the weight of the clipboard would also influence how



participants rate photographs of males, females, and objects. Participants were shown a series of photographs of both people and objects and asked to record how much they thought the person or item in the picture weighed while holding either a light clipboard or holding a clipboard that weighed approximately 1 pound more than the light clipboard. They were then shown the photographs of the people again and asked to rate them on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being their perception that the individual was extremely underweight and 10 being extremely overweight. In addition, we also wanted to study if the participant's body mass index (BMI) would influence their results as well. It was determined that there was no effect for which clipboard the participants held when it came to their recording the weight of the person or object. However, there was a significant effect between the participants BMI and their recordings of the weight of the pictures in the first series of photographs.

## **2. Exploring the Black Dog Syndrome: How Perceptions of Animals are Influenced by Subconscious Prejudice**

*Kymerly McClellan & Nicole Nau (Heather Lum), Pennsylvania State University, The Behrend College*

The "Black Dog" syndrome is a phenomenon in which black dogs and cats are seen as less desirable, less adoptable, and are more subjected to euthanasia. Yet, there has been little empirical research examining this concept, and even less on the human mechanisms which may influence perceptions of darker colored animals. The purpose of this study was to examine how perceptions of dogs and cats are influenced by their color and how unconscious prejudice that humans may have can contribute to this perception. This was accomplished by showing participants different colored dogs and cats, and asking them to rate them on how aesthetically pleasing it is, how friendly, whether the participant thinks pet will make a good pet, how likely the participant may be to adopt this pet, and how aggressive they perceive the pet. They also completed the Implicit Association Test, Animal Attitudes Scale, and Animal Attachment Scale. The results indicate that there is indeed an underlying prejudice towards different colored animals based on human prejudice. These results will allow researchers to gain a better picture of the underlying prejudice that may exist for certain pets based on color.

## **3. The Effects of Text Type on Task Performance in Simple and Complex Tasks**

*Caroline Reina (Sandra Webster), Westminster College*

This experiment tests the effects of text message conversation style on simple and complex task performance. A visual memory task was used to measure speed and accuracy. The task level was manipulated by the detail of the icons. The simple icon contained two details and the complex contained three, based on the icons used by McFadden and Tepas (1997). 30 students from Westminster College performed a 2-minute practice block that was followed by four six-minute blocks of the repeated measures visual task with a 2-minute break after each block. The participants received text messages during alternating experimental and control blocks. The transcripts of the text messages were coded and used for data analysis. Results of this experiment showed that accuracy increased with the presence of informative texting for the simple task, but created significant declines in accuracy for the complex task.

#### **4. Gender Primes in Math Performance**

*Caitlin Sniezek (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

Subtle environmental cues are shown to have an influence on performance (Papies 2010). In this study, I will be using scent as a subtle gender cue to see if it affects math performance in my participants. For my study, participants were brought into the lab and given a timed math test. The lab was scented with a female, male, or gender-neutral scent. My hypothesis is that when exposed to a male-specific scent, women will perform worse than when exposed to a female-specific or gender-neutral scent.

#### **5. Jealousy and the Impact of an Individual's Prior Sexual History on Relationship Perception**

*Allison Aylesworth & Sherri Pataki (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College*

This study looked at 120 undergraduate students, 60 men and 60 women ranging in age from 18 to 23. Jealousy and sexual experience were examined in perception desirability. We hypothesized that more jealous participants would be less interested in forming relationships with individuals who had more rather than fewer sexual partners. We predicted that less jealous participants would be unaffected by the number of prior sexual partners. This was a quasi-experimental design that contained questionnaires measuring jealousy and desire for an interpersonal relationship, all measured on a Likert scale. The results showed that the interaction between jealousy and sexual history was a significant predictor for perception with a  $p < .05$ . Participants with lower jealousy were unaffected by sexual history however, individuals with higher jealousy were affected by sexual history. These findings suggested that jealousy and sexual history are key characteristics for many individuals when favoring individuals for interpersonal relationships. Keywords: sexual relationships, jealousy, interpersonal relationships.

## **Group 8 Personality**

**Ruter Hall 109**

### **Session Chair: Brian Saltsman**

#### **1. The influence of personality characteristics and the willingness to online date**

*Melanie Coleman (Monica Riordan), Chatham University*

Behaviors are influenced by many biological, learned, and cognitive factors. One influence on our behaviors is our personality characteristics. This study is designed to explore whether personality characteristics influence a specific behavior: dating online or offline. Two samples of participants were chosen in this study. Forty-seven male and female participants from an online crowdsourcing site and forty female college students were recruited for the completion of the survey. Participants completed a survey which consisted of two questionnaires. The first questionnaire asked for demographics information, including questions about the participant's dating behaviors. The second questionnaire was the Big Five questionnaire, which measures 5 personality characteristics: extraversion, neuroticism, conscientiousness, agreeableness, and openness. The results for both of the two samples found that

there was no significance between the personality characteristics and whether people online dated or offline dated or whether they were willing to online date or offline date. Even though no significance was found between these groups, suggestions are made as to why they are not.

## **2. An Investigative approach at Perceptual Differences and Interactions amongst a Live and Virtual Pet**

*Maurina Grandinetti & Nicole Nau (Heather Lum), Pennsylvania State University, The Behrend College*

The advancement of technology has made an immense impact on our society today, explicitly using games as a teaching and training tool. Researchers intend to expand this domain of training, specifically dog training. The goal of this study is to examine the perceptual, cognitive, and interactive differences between a live pet training scenario and a virtual pet training game-based system. Researchers will measure the length of time it takes for the participants to master each command as well as their perceived workload and frustration levels. Their level of pet training experience, gender, and other measures will be used as individual differences variables in relation to the performance measures. The results of this research should shed light on the differences as well as similarities between live interaction and a game mediated environment. This research project will allow us to expand this field while lending from the major theories which exist related to it. We anticipate that the domain chosen will lend itself to these individual differences, especially those related to gender, anthropomorphism, and perceptions of technology. We can determine how individual differences can contribute to or hinder learning and interaction whether in a live or game scenario.

## **3. Contingencies of Self-Worth: Differences in Self-Esteem Between College Dance Majors and Non-Dance Majors**

*Abby Savage (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

This study sought to identify whether there are differences in contingencies of self-esteem between college dance majors and non-dance majors. Self-esteem has been correlated with academics, appearance, approval from others, competition, family support, God's love, and virtue, based on Crocker, Luhtanen, Cooper, & Bouvrette's (2003) contingencies scale of self-worth. The Rosenberg Self-Esteem scale was used to evaluate differences that are hypothesized to exist in self-esteem between college dance majors and non-dance majors. A second survey using Crocker's (2003) study was then used to ask questions based on contingencies of self-worth to evaluate the hypothesis that college dance majors place more importance on external factors of evaluation than non-dance majors based on the seven contingencies of self-worth. These findings were expected because of research on common perceptions of the self, dancers have, commonly relating to low self-esteem.

## **4. Predicting College Adjustment: Religion and Narcissism**

*Abby Dudzic, Paige Robertson, & Racquel Wright (Victoria Kazmerski) Pennsylvania State University, The Behrend College*

There are many factors that affect a student's adjustment to college. According to studies run by Burris et al. (2011) and Brelsford et al. (2011), students who are more religious have protective factors that can aid in positive adjustment. In contrast, Hotzman et al. (2010), explain that narcissistic personality traits may lead to negative adjustment. College adjustment, narcissism, and religiosity were assessed using three different surveys. We hypothesized that there would be a strong, negative relationship between

the traits of narcissistic and religious students and that religious traits would be a better predictor of adjustment in college students. The analysis revealed a moderate, positive correlation between Institutional Attachment of the SACQ and the Self Sufficiency subscale of the NPI. Attachment was also positively correlated with Authority. Upon running a stepwise regression three significant models for Attachment and NPI subscales were found. Authority was the only significant individual predictor of attachment, and age was the only significant predictor for Social Adjustment. These data show that some facets of trait narcissism, such as authority and self-sufficiency are beneficial in the shift from life at home to life on a college campus.

## **Group 9 Development**

## **Ruter Hall 201**

### **Session Chair: Juvia Heuchert**

#### **1. The Cost of Chaos: Investigating the Effects of Chaos on Family Function**

*Glenda Fulmer (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University*

Household chaos is a multi-dimensional construct that includes components such as clutter and messiness, crowding and noise, disorganization and instability. Research links home chaos with parental depression, stress, fatigue, and distressed caregiving. For children, chaos contributes to lower levels of social competence, low academic performance, and lower self-regulatory abilities. This study sought to test the discriminant and convergent validity of the Chaos, Hubbub, and Order Scale (CHAOS), a self-report measure of home chaos, against other self-report measures of family functioning. It was also predicted that test scores of chaos would correlate with other test scores of family function. Participants completed self-report measures of family functioning including chaos, coherence, routines, and communication. Results are expected to show that higher levels of chaos are correlated with lower levels of coherence, routines, and communication. Predicted results will further confirm that CHAOS is a valid measure that should be utilized to determine the level, and focus of intervention needed to help a family improve their home environment.

#### **2. Effects of Bystander Behavior and Group Normative Beliefs on Electronic Aggression**

*Jaimi Hicks (Mandy Medvin,) Westminster College*

This study examined both group norms and bystander type influences on likelihoods of sending aggressive text messages, as well as the emotions felt by the aggressor and bystander. The electronic aggression studied male and female 5th graders from public and private schools (n=45), assigned into either unconcerned, guilty, or defender bystander groups, and aggressive or anti-aggressive normative groups. Bystander and group norm effect on likelihood and emotion was measured using questionnaires based on ambiguous scenarios. No effects for likelihood were found, though higher levels of aggressor's guilt were found in the anti-aggressive norm group. Participants in the defender condition also rated bystanders of having a more positive affect. Participants reported a higher liking of out-group members in the unconcerned bystander condition. These findings suggest that the study of the influence of

bystander behavior and group norms on electronic aggression is valuable, and further work is warranted.

### **3. Factors Related to Gains from a Parent-Child Shared Reading Program**

*Samantha Jemiolo (Andrea Zevenbergen), State University of New York at Fredonia*

The goal of our study was to examine the relationships between various independent variables and gains in child vocabulary after participation in a dialogic reading program. During dialogic reading, parents encourage children to become the teller of the story. We looked at the relationships between child's reported enjoyment of reading, previous reading experiences, family income, and the amount of time the participating parent spent away from the home (i.e., working or in school), and the child's vocabulary scores. Forty-six families, consisting of at least one child and one caregiver, participated in a four-week dialogic reading program. Families varied in income level, race, and time parent spent outside of the home. Most of the caregivers were mothers; however, two grandmothers and one aunt participated as the primary caregiver. Children were tested on vocabulary during the first and second meeting, and the vocabulary scores were correlated with the set of predictor variables to determine if any significant relationships existed. We found that the child's reported enjoyment of reading and the amount of time the parent spent away from the home were both positive predictors of vocabulary scores. Further studies examining these variables in larger samples would be beneficial.

### **4. The Relationship between Biophilia and Early Childhood Experiences**

*Elizabeth Greggs (Joseph Wister), Chatham University*

This study is designed to connect experiences one had growing up and by extension the area in which one grew up to a person's attitudes toward Biophilia. Biophilia is humans' genetic draw towards nature and the associations that are made with that. This topic is of interest because it is helpful in determining attitudes towards the environment. The idea of choosing different geographical regions was meant to determine the type of people that are willing to take care of the environment. Those having grown up in a rural environment were chosen for the purpose of having to directly make their living off the land or having lived in an area that is conducive to spending time outdoors and therefore one could assume that they have a very strong connection to the environment and preserving it. Those having grown up in an urban region were chosen because they are the group that is most likely to have the least connection to the environment. This is because most people that live in urban areas do not use the land to survive but actually are actively working against it. In this experiment we expect to find that those having grown up in a rural area will have a stronger connection towards Biophilia than those who have grown up in the urban area. This study will help determine if the geographical area in which someone grew up, as well as early childhood experiences effect attitudes of Biophilia and responsibility, knowledge's and values of nature or if it is just a genetic phenomenon that is predetermined with birth.

### **5. Through the Looking Glass**

*Alexa Bradley (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University*

Body dissatisfaction is a known antecedent of eating disorders, with an increase in eating disorders over recent years, it is important to pinpoint what triggers body dissatisfaction. In a culture, like ours, body dissatisfaction is prevalent; an unrealistic waif-like figure has become the standard of beauty. However,

for some groups, such as dancers, this expectation has been reinforced more frequently. Serious dancers are under constant pressure to maintain a certain aesthetic. The present study aims to reveal a difference between how dancers view their bodies versus how non-dancers view their bodies. 160 participants were pooled, ranging in age from 14-34. Participants comprising the dancer group were selected from prestigious dance schools in Erie. Individuals were presented with questionnaires, and asked to select images based on various aspects of body satisfaction. Their height and weight were measured, and their BMI's calculated. Results are expected to show that dancers are less accurate when asked to select the image that most accurately represents them. Dancers are also predicted to show discrepancies between their self-selected image, and their feel image, and are predicted to be less satisfied with their current weight. The expected results may have implications in revised teaching methods for dance educators.

## **Group 10 Motivation/Emotion**

**Ruter Hall 203**

### **Session Chair: Lydia Jackson**

#### **1. Impulsivity and Credit Card Debt in College Students**

*Jordan Kist (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

This study examined the associations between impulsivity and credit card debt in college students. Impulsive individuals seem to engage in more risky behaviors including impulsive spending. An important factor of impulsivity is relative insensitivity to delayed outcomes: the choice of a smaller sooner outcome over a larger later outcome. Delay discounting is a measure of individual subjective value of these outcomes. Delay discounting is of growing interest because it is relevant in many socially important problems such as drug addiction and pathological gambling. Increased credit card debt may affect a number of health factors such as anxiety, obesity, drug use, and depression in college students. Researchers used multiple self-report questionnaires including a General Health Assessment, Credit Card Survey, and two personality questionnaires, the Barratt Impulsivity Scale and the Sensation Scale. A computerized delay discounting task was used to measure individual degrees of discounting (impulsivity) in participants. Results showed a relationship between higher impulsivity and credit card debt in participants.

#### **2. Are Students Intrinsically Motivated to be Creative in College?**

*Brittany Carr (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

Students' performance level can be reduced and they may be less likely to get the full benefit out of their education if they do not feel intrinsically motivated to be creative in their academic classes (Lei, 2010). Therefore, this study examines students' intrinsic motivation to be creative in their courses for general education and for their major. Participants completed an online survey that included the Intrinsic Motivation Inventory (IMI, Deci & Ryan, 1985) Interest/Enjoyment scale twice, once directed at general education and again for major courses. Three items that asked specifically about the motivation to be creative in these classes were added. It is expected that the students will be more intrinsically

motivated in classes specific to their major, and more motivated to be creative in these classes than their general education classes.

### **3. Effects of Required Participation**

*Christopher Kessler (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

This study was meant to look at the concept of requiring participation in a college classroom and assess the potential negative effects it has. Past research has looked at participation by itself and concluded that not only is it important, but it is important to increase it in classrooms of all ages to help foster increased learning. However, it is often used as a way to increase participation but the negative side effects are often disregarded. The negative side effects are what were looked at, those being potential dissatisfaction with the class, no grade change or worsening of grade, and a minimum amount of participation. This study was meant to address these side effects. Three groups of participants were used, a group in which participation is required and they are informed of it, a group in which they are not informed of the requirements, and a group in which the participation was not required. They then answered questions about the satisfaction of the lecture as well as completed a quiz on the information learned. It is hypothesized that students with required participation will produce little to no grade change, low class satisfaction, and minimal amounts of participation.

### **4. Effects of Anger, Happiness, and Sadness on Risky Decision Making**

*Naomi Brown (Sandra Webster), Westminster College*

This study investigated how the emotions of anger, happiness, and sadness affect risky decisions individuals make. Previous research has shown that individuals who experience the emotion of anger make riskier decisions than those who are happy. The emotions of anger, happiness or sadness were elicited in 60 undergraduates. The participants were 18-23 year-old men and women (n=31 females). After the emotions were elicited each participated completed the Iowa Gambling Task which measures real life decision making. A one-way between subjects ANOVA was conducted to compare the effects emotions (anger, happiness, and sadness) on risky decision making. The study found a gender split when females are angry they make risky choices, as well as when males are happy they make risky choices. Future research into why anger caused a gender split, also to study if emotion regulation would help males make less risky decisions when enduring this emotion.

### **5. Personality Traits as a Measurement of Academic Success: Relationship between Subscales of Conscientiousness and GPA**

*Joseph Ligato, Melissa Patterson, Patrick Conley, Cassandra Bruce, & Eric Young (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University*

Research has been conducted on personality traits and how they correlate with academic success. However, most research focuses on general traits and specifically the Five Factor Model's Traits. Studies normally show a positive correlation between Conscientiousness and academic success. However, subscales of the Five Factor Model and of other models such as HEXACO and 16PF have not been rigorously tested. A study was carried out among university students to determine whether Intellectual Openness, Love of Learning, Creativity and Conscientiousness have a statistically significant correlation with GPA. Conscientiousness was found to be trending towards a statistically significant correlation.

Because of this a follow up study was done on the 6 facets of conscientiousness. The 351 participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire with 60 questions measuring Self-Efficacy, Orderliness, Dutifulness, Achievement-Striving, Self-Discipline, and Cautiousness. It was hypothesized all would be correlated with GPA. The results showed that Self-Efficacy, Dutifulness, Achievement-Striving, and Cautiousness were associated with college GPA. These results have significant real world implications that will be discussed.

## **Group 11 Physiological /Neuroscience**

## **Schultz East Alcove**

### **Session Chair: Joshua Searle-White**

#### **1. Blueberry Extract and Cabergoline Paired Treatment of Parkinson's Disease**

*Maura Miglioretti (Robin McGovern), Westminster College*

Blueberry extract and the dopamine agonist cabergoline were used to develop a more effective treatment plan for Parkinson's disease. A 2x2 between-within repeated measures design was used. 16 adult male rats of the *Rattus norvegicus* species received a unilateral 6-OHDA MFB lesion to mimic the disease. Behavior was evaluated using the rotarod task. It was theorized that animals in the combined treatment group would perform better on the task compared to the other groups, and the cabergoline-only and blueberry-only groups would perform better on the task than the nontreatment group. The effectiveness of the blueberry extract was shown to be significant between groups,  $p < .05$ . The use of cabergoline alone and the interaction of blueberry and cabergoline were shown to be ineffective in this case. This finding suggests that the use of antioxidants may be viable as a treatment for oxidative stress related disorders and movement disorders.

#### **2. Differences in Cue-Reactivity in Dependent and Social Smokers**

*Jessica Braymiller & Joshua Kimm (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University*

Smoking behavior has proven to be a pressing problem within our country, for nearly "19.3% of all adults (aged 18 years or older) in the United States smoke cigarettes" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011). Although smoking is known to have negative effects on the health and well-being of those who partake in it, individuals still continue to smoke. For that reason, it is important to understand the factors that may be maintaining this harmful behavior. The purpose of this study was to determine if cues in the environment associated with smoking behaviors serve as conditioned stimuli, in turn maintaining addictive and/or social smoking behaviors. Approximately 20 smokers, pulled from the Mercyhurst University Campus and the Erie, Pennsylvania community at large, were assessed on their psychological and physiological reactions (level of craving for a cigarette, and changes in heart rate, skin conductance, and blood pressure) to visual smoking-cues. The cues were presented via photographs while eye gaze was tracked. Keywords: cue-reactivity, smoking-cues, dependent smokers, social smokers, deprivation, satiation



### **3. Effects of Cabergoline and Venlafaxine on a Behavioral Measure of Impulsivity in a Rat Model of Major Depressive Disorder**

*Jenna Rimko (Robin McGovern), Westminster College*

This study was designed to examine effects of cabergoline and venlafaxine on impulsive behavior in an established rodent model of major depressive disorder (MDD). It was hypothesized that concomitant venlafaxine and cabergoline injections would increase response accuracy in the differential reinforcement of low rate response (DRL) task, which is a measure of impulsive behavior in rodents. The subjects were Long Evan's male rats that underwent olfactory bulbectomy surgeries to model MDD symptoms. The rats were injected with one of four treatments, venlafaxine (20mg/kg) or cabergoline (0.5mg/kg) separate or combined, or saline. The rats were trained to perform the DRL task and then tested on the task after two trials of saline injection and two trials of drug injections. The results showed that concomitant venlafaxine and cabergoline injections significantly reduced impulsive behavior in the rats compared to the saline injections. These findings potentially give insight into the effects of combined medications to help enhance pharmacotherapy efficacy and reduce impulsive behaviors in human patients with MDD.

### **4. Have a Left Frontal Day: Coffee, Depression, and Electroencephalography**

*Amanda Woodside (Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College*

On the EEG, relatively more activity is observed in the right frontal hemisphere, as compared to the left, in cases of depression. One risk factor in the development of depression is coffee consumption, which may be protective against depression. This study examined coffee consumption with self-reports of depression and resting EEG asymmetry. The study also sought to assess asymmetry under random assignment of experimental coffee consumption (caffeinated versus decaffeinated). Demographic information, health behaviors, and mood inventory scores were assessed by questionnaires in an undergraduate population (n=102; 76% female). A secondary sample was selected from this pool for EEG procedures (n=32; 72% female), which included pre and post coffee measures of resting frontal asymmetry using a double blind placebo controlled method. Consumption of coffee was not found to influence asymmetry. Consistent with the literature, CESD-R scores were positively correlated with right frontal activity at baseline, but more left frontal activity following consumption of caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee. The opposite effect was found with lower CESD-R scores. Results support research findings that depression is correlated with asymmetry. However, the protective effects of coffee against depression may only emerge following long term habitual consumption.

### **5. Dextromethorphan and Ethanol Effects on a Spatial Memory Task**

*Alexandra Bailey (Robin McGovern), Westminster College*

This study examined the concomitant effects of dextromethorphan and ethanol on a spatial memory task. Spatial memory was measured using the Morris Water Maze task and nine Long Evans adult male rats. The study used a 3(Drug) X 3(Dose) repeated measures design with the amount of time spent in the platform quadrant tested as the dependent variable. Dextromethorphan was administered at a high dose of 30mg/kg and low dose of 20mg/kg, and ethanol injected at a high dose of 2g/kg and low dose of 1g/kg. Saline was used as the control throughout the experiment. It was hypothesized that ethanol combined with DXM would produce a dose-dependent decrease in performance on the spatial memory

task. Repeated measures ANOVAs revealed that animals who received the higher dose of DXM and ethanol showed a decrease in performance on time spent in the northwest quadrant of the water maze, indicating a more preservative response when the escape platform was removed,  $p < .05$ . Thus, higher doses of DXM and ethanol do not appear to affect spatial memory, but may affect perseverative behaviors.

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