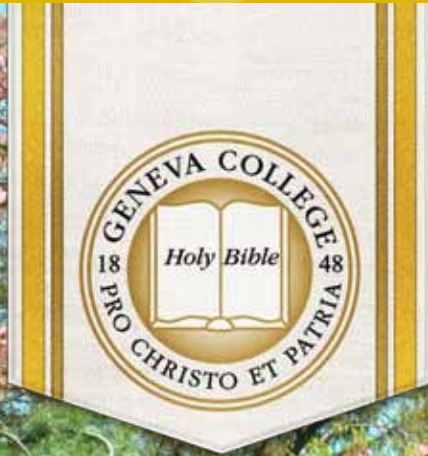
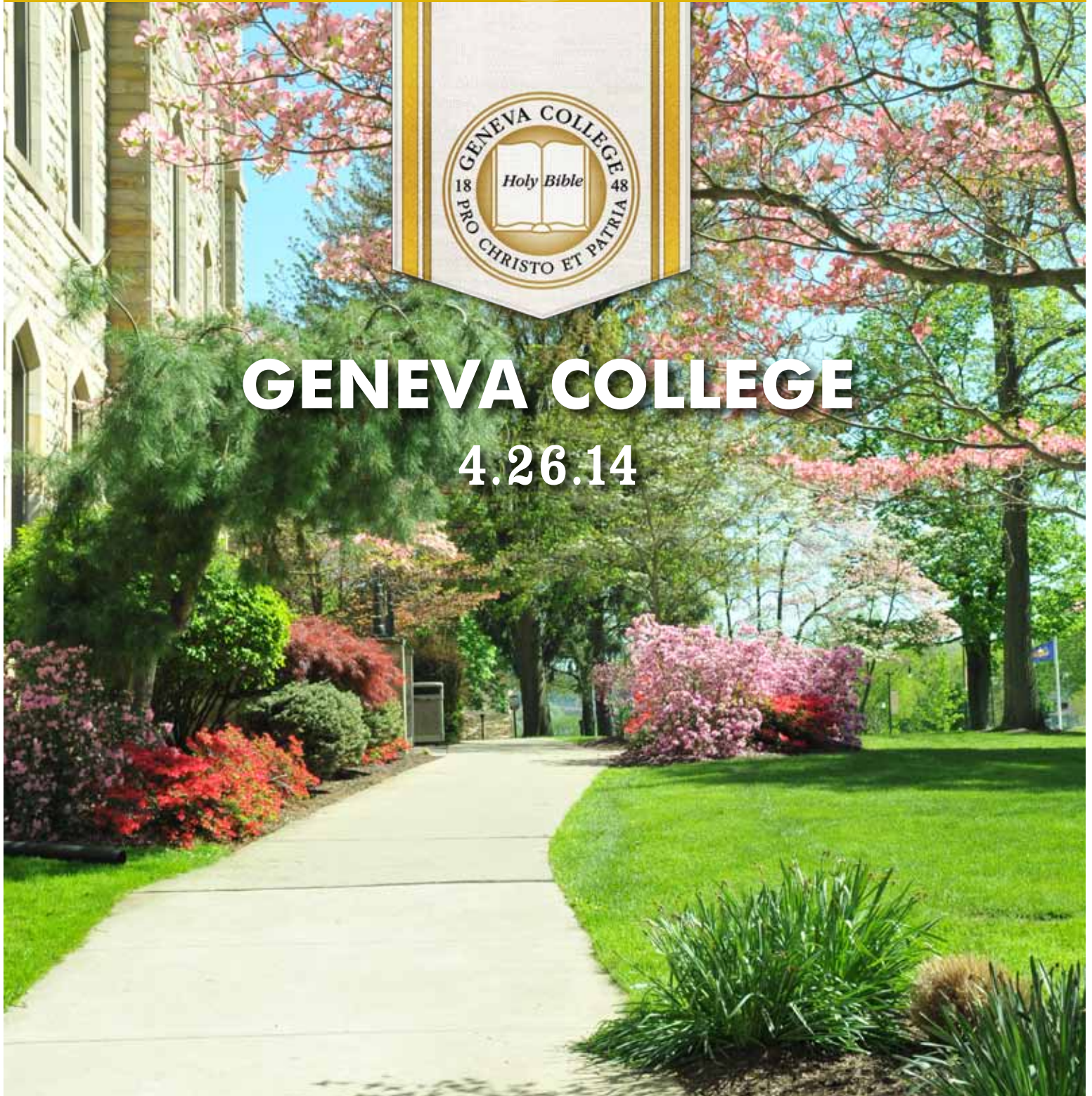


Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference



GENEVA COLLEGE
4.26.14



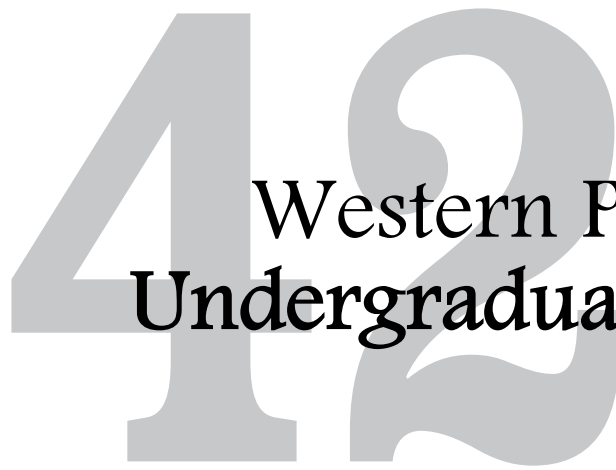


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GENEVA COLLEGE

42 Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference

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Schedule

7:30-8:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION** Benedum Room, Alexander Hall

8:45-9:45 a.m. **POSTER SESSION ONE** Skye Lounge, Student Center

10-11 a.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** Alexander Dining Hall

11 a.m.-12 p.m. **LUNCH** Alexander Dining Hall

STEERING COMMITTEE President's Dining Room

PSI CHI IDEA EXCHANGE Benedum Room

12:15-1:45 p.m. **PAPER SESSIONS** Northwood Hall

APPLIED SOCIAL SESSION NW 007

SOCIAL & ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION NW 008

STRESS, HEALTH & COPING SESSION NW 111

EMOTION SESSION NW 112

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DEVELOPMENTAL SESSION NW 211

ATTRIBUTIONS & MOTIVATIONS SESSION NW 212

CLINICAL & COGNITIVE SESSION NW 213

1:45-2:45 p.m. **POSTER SESSION TWO** Skye Lounge, Student Center

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Greta Ann Herin

Associate Professor of Biology at Eastern Mennonite University

Greta Ann Herin graduated from Kansas State University with two bachelor's degrees; one in Biochemistry and the other in Psychology, a self-styled neuroscience program. She worked as a research technician in an immunology lab and a heart physiology lab before going to graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She studied NMDA receptor modulation in the lab of Elias Aizenman, work particularly relevant to minimizing brain damage after stroke and epilepsy.

Dr. Herin was a postdoctoral fellow at the Max-Planck Institute for Brain Research and Biophysics in Frankfurt, Germany. In Heinrich Betz' lab in collaboration with Georg Nagel, she determined that sub-membrane calcium levels can activate mGluR7, important in epilepsy.

Dr. Herin has been at Eastern Mennonite University since 2006. She teaches courses related to Neuroscience, Anatomy, Physiology and General Biology. She also has a lab full of brilliant undergraduates investigating modulation of neurotransmitter receptors. Currently on sabbatical, she is doing full-time research at the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Studies at George Mason University studying the role of calcium in corticostriatal learning.

Abstract

The role of calcium in neurophysiology as a signal and a feedback inhibitor: two cases.

The entry of calcium into a neuron is a highly regulated event which activates powerful signaling cascades, resulting in many physiological and pathophysiological events such as neurotransmitter release, axon outgrowth, short- and long- term potentiation, and even cell death. In addition, calcium serves as a feedback inhibitor for many of the processes that it is involved in. In this talk, we will delve into two of the processes in which calcium serves as both a signaling molecule and a feedback inhibitor. First, using two-electrode voltage clamp in *Xenopus* oocytes, we design a novel method of testing subcellular calcium levels and then observe an unusual role of calcium on the activation of the metabotropic glutamate receptor 7 (mGluR7). Second, using whole cell patch clamping in slice, we observe calcium dependent inactivation of calcium currents in medium spiny neurons of the mouse striatum.

Poster Session One *Skye Lounge, 8:45–9:45 a.m.*

Names of student authors listed in italics.

Names of faculty advisers appear in parentheses.

1 **EMPATHY, FORGIVENESS, SELF-ESTEEM AND STRESS: HOW DO THESE TRAITS WORK AS MEDIATING FACTORS IN LEVELS RELATED TO THE TRAUMA AND ADJUSTMENT OF BULLYING VICTIMS AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL?**

Chelsea Chase, Kara Steele, Kayla Cochran (Charisse Nixon) Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

The purpose of this study is to discover what mediating factors play a role in either positive or negative adjustment of college students who are dealing with trauma from bullying at the college level. The mediating factors we will be investigating are trauma, stress levels, forgiveness, empathy, and self-esteem. The SACQ will also be used in order to measure adjustment. Prior research has focused more on personality than mediating factors on adjustment. We hypothesized that college students who rate higher in empathy and forgiveness will have more positive adjustment and lower trauma levels. We also hypothesized that subjects who have been victimized and have higher self-esteem will have more positive adjustment and lower trauma levels. The third hypothesis is people who have been victimized and display lower levels of self-esteem and higher stress levels, will have less positive adjustment and higher trauma levels. Forgiveness, empathy, self-esteem and stress will be partial mediators on adjustment and trauma levels with stress being negative. Since there hasn't been a lot of research done on this, we are unsure of how self-esteem levels will mediate adjustment. The findings of this study may help people discover ways to enhance positive adjustment. The participants in this study were 58 Behrend undergraduate students. The results determined that the most significant protective factors were found to be forgiveness, perspective taking (empathy), perceived stress and self-esteem. For the most part, our results were consistent with our hypotheses.

2 **THE EFFECTS OF ACUTE, YOHIMBINE-INDUCED STRESS AND ETHANOL ON IMPULSIVITY IN RATS**

Lanie Jacobs (Robin McGovern) Westminster College

The current study was designed to examine the effects of acute ethanol and yohimbine-induced stress on impulsivity in a rodent model. Eight male and eight female rats were used. All rats experienced each condition: yohimbine, ethanol, yohimbine+ethanol combined, and a control condition receiving saline. Every rat in all conditions was tested in a delayed reinforcement task. Impulsivity was measured by response accuracy in this task measured by choice made by the rat. It was predicted that impulsivity would increase in this condition order: control, ethanol, stress, stress and ethanol. It was also predicted that males would be more impulsive than females in all drug conditions. There were significant effects of drug and impulsivity increased as hypothesized. There was no sex by drug interaction. These results reinforce previous knowledge of the relationship between stress and alcohol intake and their effects on impulsivity.

3 **EXAMINING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DIGITAL CALENDAR USE AND PROSPECTIVE MEMORY**

Keith Stam, III, Julian Burgess (Jennifer L. Dyck) SUNY Fredonia

Prospective memory (PM), or remembering to perform an intention in the future, has an important impact on everyday life. The current research examined whether external memory aid use, such as calendars, cell phones, and computers, are associated with better PM. College students completed online questionnaires on PM and use of paper and digital memory aids, as well as questionnaires on busyness, routines, punctuality, and conscientiousness. Results indicated that the use of only digital technology to aid PM was considerably less than expected, and that the type of memory aid used varied with the type of event that was to be remembered. Additionally, participants with poorer PM used more memory aids, were late more often, were less conscientiousness, and had fewer routines in their life. Understanding use of memory aids by college students and the relationship to PM may ultimately have implications for development of better digital memory aids.

4 STEREOTYPE CHANGE DUE TO TIME AND FAMILIARITY COMPONENTS

Jamie McMinn, Maureen White (Jamie McMinn) Westminster College

This study examined the early stages of stereotyping and the effects of what familiarization on changes to such views over time. Thirty-nine first-year college men were contacted directly through email or through their sports coaches. Participants were given surveys at the beginning and near the end of the fall semester, and they contained rating scales, short answer, and open-ended questions about the participants' perceptions of each of four fraternities on campus. Participants were asked to rate each fraternity on stereotypes that were identified in a pilot test, and to indicate their degree of familiarity with members of those fraternities. It was predicted that at Time 1, participants would rate the fraternities more stereotypically on the scale due to lack of familiarity with the fraternities. It was predicted that at Time 2, participants would rate the fraternities based more on their interactions with them. Keywords: stereotypes, perceptions, familiarity, fraternity groups.

5 LEVELS OF ATHLETIC INVOLVEMENT AND WELL-BEING

Lauren Krowitz (Dr. Juvia P. Heuchert) Allegheny College

This paper addresses the differences in top-down (life satisfaction/distal) and bottom-up (mood or affect/proximal) happiness scores experienced by collegiate athletes across a spectrum of involvement (high to low). Across this spectrum of involvement exists broad differences in the time commitment, magnitude of one's self schema as an athlete, the amount of time spent bonding with teammates, and the level of coach demand experienced by athletes of different involvement. Distributed in two parts, a series of self-report questionnaires including the Profile of Mood States 2 (POMS2) (Heuchert & McNair, 2012), the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) (Diener, Emmons, Larsen & Griffin, 1985), and the General Involvement Questionnaire (GIQ), differences between 82 Allegheny College student athletes (43 males and 39 females) with a mean age of 19.37 years ($SD = 1.072$) were recruited and data was collected. The first portion, the High Involvement Period took place directly before athletes' midseason practices, and the second portion, the Low Involvement Period, was distributed and completed online during athletes 2013 Thanksgiving Break. Of the initial sample 37 participants (9 males and 28 females) returned for the Low Involvement Period of the study. The results were analyzed across involvement scores using an Independent Samples t-test, a Paired Samples t-test, a Factor Analysis as well as multiple regressions, and the top-down and bottom-up happiness scores were compared using correlational statistics. This research suggests that athletes of higher involvement levels experience lower Total Mood Disturbance and greater bottom-up happiness than lower involvement athletes. There was, however, no significant relationship found between high and low involvement athletes on measures of life satisfaction. Implications of these findings, as well as suggestions for future research are provided.

6 INFLUENCE OF CELL PHONES ON SOCIALLY AWKWARD SITUATIONS

Jenna Dunning, Melinda Hodder, Matthew Kridel, Morgan Murphy, Christine Valentino, Zachary Wolbert, Joseph Horton, Kyrsten Sackett-Fox (Jessica Hartnett) Gannon University

The advent of cell phones has had an enormous impact on society, enabling people to communicate at any time from all across the world. However, there have been detriments in addition to advantages of this new technology. One potential detriment is the impediment of social interaction in the presence of cell phones. By allowing a person's eye contact and attention to be diverted from the environment, a person can withdraw far more easily from social interaction with a cell phone than without. We wanted to study this behavior by recreating a socially awkward situation in a controlled environment. We hypothesized that, in the presence of cell phones, people would interact less than without cell phones. We also hypothesized that people who rated themselves as more extroverted would be more likely to interact with other people. Participants were placed into observation rooms in pairs. Deception was used by informing the participants that they would have to solve a logic puzzle. The research then left the room, supposed to get the logic puzzle. The pair was left in the room and observed for seven minutes. Half of the pairs had their cell phones taken by the researcher before he/she left the room while the other half were allowed to keep them. Participants were then issued a Likert scale and asked to rate their social abilities, their partner's social abilities, and the perceived awkwardness of the situation. Participants also completed the Big 5 Inventory-10 (BFI-10) Personality Test (Rammstedt & John, 2007) and a demographic questionnaire. Data pending.

7 PERFECTIONISM TRAITS AMONG COLLEGE DANCERS OF VARYING STYLES

Lauren Klimczak (Deborah Dickey) Allegheny College

The present study examined perfectionism traits within different styles of dance: ballet, jazz, tap, ballroom, and hip hop. The participants were 56 female undergraduate students who participated in a dance concert at Allegheny College. The researcher asked the participants to self-identify their style of dance, how many years of experience within that dance, and to complete the Frost Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale (Frost, 1993). Perfectionism traits were separated into two categories: adaptive and maladaptive. There was no significant difference among dance styles and maladaptive perfectionism traits $F(4,51) = 0.103$, $p = 0.981$, $\eta^2p = 0.004$, as well as dance styles and adaptive perfectionism traits, $F(4,51) = 0.839$, $p = 0.507$, $\eta^2p = 0.032$. There was a significant difference between level of experience and adaptive perfectionism traits, $F(2,53) = 3.873$, $p = 0.027$, $\eta^2p = 0.0093$. There was no difference between level of experience and maladaptive perfectionism, $F(2,53) = 0.500$, $p = 0.610$, $\eta^2p = 0.0681$. There was no significant difference among dance styles and overall perfectionism, $F(4,51) = 0.561$, $p = 0.692$, $\eta^2p = 0.022$, as well as level of experience and overall perfectionism, $F(2,53) = 1.378$, $p = 0.261$, $\eta^2p = 0.025$.

8 THE EFFECT OF FAMILIAR VS. UNFAMILIAR MUSIC ON TASK COMPLETION

Corvette Morrison (Melissa Heerboth) Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this study was to determine the effects that music familiarity has on task completion. This study expanded upon previous research on the effects of genre and music pace on task completion. College students were divided into three conditions including familiar music, non-familiar music and a no music (control condition). The participants were asked to perform low importance tasks (word search and word memorization) and high importance tasks (reading comprehension and word problems) under one of the three conditions. Their performance on each task was then compared. The hypothesis was that while listening to familiar music, participants would score higher on task completion on low-importance tasks but score lower on task completion on high-importance tasks. Also, it is hypothesized that while listening to unfamiliar music, participants would score higher under the high-importance tasks than the low importance tasks. With the no music condition it was hypothesized that this condition had a negative effect on the low-importance tasks but produced the highest scores among the high-importance tasks. This study did not find statistically significant results among any of the three conditions.

9 PET OWNERSHIP AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Brett Boutwell (Melissa Heerboth) Mercyhurst University

The human-animal companionship has become a natural component to the overall completion of a family unit or a simple factor in a person's overall happiness. Because pets exemplify some of our most basic emotional and compassionate needs, it has led researchers to question the extent to which pet ownership and personality traits correspond with each other. Data can confirm that common personality characteristics are associated with a particular pet preference/ownership, but there has not been much research on the influence pet ownership has on personality development. This study investigated the connection between the type of family pet (a dog, cat, both, neither) a child had growing up and the type of personality traits that were developed during this critical period via the Brief Big Five Personality Assessment and a self-report measure of pet ownership history. Participants primarily consisted of freshmen ($n=20$), recruited from the Introductory to Psychology course for class credit. The analysis of variance did not reveal a significant difference, $F(3,25)=.665$, $p=.581$ between extraversion and type of participants' first pet, including a dog ($M=8.89$, $s=3.16$, $n=17$), a cat ($M=7.57$, $s=1.99$, $n=7$), other types of pets ($M=9.25$, $s=2.36$, $n=4$), or both a cat and a dog ($M=11.0$, $n=1$).

10 SOCIAL FACILITATION

Gabriella Pietropaolo, Felicia Schiefer (Jennifer Dyck) SUNY Fredonia

Pertaining to the phenomenon of social facilitation, this study examined the impact of the presence of others on performance, and whether the impacts it had were more or less severe for varying levels of cognitive tasks. Participants completed two tests, both containing 25 simple math problems (low difficulty) and 10 paper-folding tasks (high difficulty). Researchers were either absent or present while the tests were taken. Results revealed that while researchers were present, performance was enhanced for the simple mathematical tasks, but worsened for the difficult paper-folding tasks. Results also indicated that while researchers were not present, performance was enhanced for both tasks. This suggests that the mere presence of others has the ability to hinder or enhance our performance on certain tasks, and the extent to which we are impacted will depend on the difficulty of the task at hand.

11

THE PRESENCE OF SOCIAL LOAFING IN DIFFERING GROUP SIZES*Nicole Maxwell, Josh Hoover, Samantha Jensen, Pete Ostergren, Jordan Baum (Dr. Diana Rice) Geneva College*

The objective of this study was to determine at what sized group level the presence of social loafing would appear. The study expanded upon previous works done by Karau & Williams (1993); as well as Latane, Williams & Harkins (1979). The experiment involved participants performing a tedious task within groups ranging from 2 to 4. While performing the task, proctors observed several predetermined variables that typically exemplify social loafing behavior. Data suggests that groups of a smaller size tend to grade their peers more harshly than those in larger groups. We also found that groups of a larger size took a greater amount of time to complete the task, as well as portrayed more significant levels of social loafing. All data collected is valid and points toward the original hypothesis. However, due to limited trial runs, it is necessary to stress the tentative nature of connection between the study's original hypotheses and its findings.

12

EFFECT OF MULTITASKING ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE*Lauren Lind, Chelsey Sengillo (Jennifer Dyck) SUNY Fredonia*

The use of cellphones in today's society is growing, and with access to social media and texting at the tip of our fingers, there is increased interest in the effects these devices have on academic performance. The purpose of this study was to examine whether or not multitasking on a cellular device while reading has an effect on test performance. The study consisted of 60 students in which each group read a passage followed by answering several multiple choice questions. The expected group to perform worse on the memory test is the three distractions group. Multitasking appears to have a negative impact on test performance and demonstrates that students who frequently use their cell phones while learning may have lower test scores than those who do not.

13

PERSONALITY, CONFIDENCE & EYEWITNESS ACCURACY*Hunter Erdman (Dr. Matthew Weaver) Mercyhurst University*

Eyewitness testimony is a questionable form of evidence due to the subjective nature of individual memory. Recent research points to the fact that even very confident forms of eyewitness testimony have proven themselves to possess an unreliable relationship to their perceived accuracy (Palmer, Brewer, Weber, & Nagesh, 2013). More simply put, eyewitnesses seem to be making inaccurate judgments & perpetrations or identifications despite their high levels of supposed "certainty", or correctness in their beliefs. This intent of this study is to examine the relationship, if any exists, of that held between the Big Five-Factor personality traits and eyewitness accuracy (Goldberg, 1992).

14

COMPARISON OF DISSOCIATIVE AMNESIA AND AMPI SCALES IN A COLLEGE STUDENT SAMPLE*Emily Brazeau (Dr. William Kelly) Robert Morris University*

Dissociative amnesia is the inability to recall important autobiographical information, usually of traumatic or stressful nature, that is inconsistent with ordinary forgetting (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). This study will examine correlation between dissociative amnesia and the 13-scale Ausburg Multidimensional Personality Instrument (AMPI). It was predicted that scoring high on the Anxiousness scale would correlate with dissociative amnesia. Undergraduate students (N = 476) were asked to complete a survey which was based off of the AMPI scale, including a scale measuring dissociative amnesia experiences. (Kelly, 2013). The Anxiousness Scale ($p = .036$) found that individuals who scored significantly higher on Anxiousness were classified as having dissociative amnesia symptoms. Along with the Anxiousness Scale, the Somatization, Dysphoria, Hystericality, Psychodeviance, Feminine Interests, Paranoia, Schizotypic, and Hypomania scales were significant.

15

TIME PERCEPTION IMPACTS RATS' PERFORMANCE OF A COUNTING TASK*Rachel Drozdowski, Julia Jagielo-Miller, Felicia Myers (Dr. Peter McLaughlin) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

Fixed Consecutive Number (FCN) tasks are commonly used as a measure of impulsivity in rats. However, as with other measures of impulsivity, task performance may be sensitive to changes in the perception of time. Our interest in this study was whether rats were counting the amount of lever presses, or basing the number of lever presses completed on their perception of the passage of time. We began with an FCN 8 where rats would have to press a counting lever 8 times before pressing the reinforcing lever. We randomly placed rats on an FCN 4 or FCN 12, in addition to an FCN 8 and FCN 4 control tasks. In the FCN 4 and FCN 12 experimental tasks, we varied the amount of time the counting lever was retracted between presses in order to hold constant the amount of time typically taken to complete a successful chain in the FCN 8 task. We found that chain length was altered dramatically when FCN changed, suggesting the rats were measuring the passage of time rather than counting lever presses. Future projects will be altered to account for the susceptibility in time perception.

16

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER IN FILMS*Jett Hoover, Jacob Delmonico, Elaina Vaughn, Jennie Smith (Dr. Diana Rice) Geneva College*

The purpose of this study was to determine if a particular media outlet, being that of the film industry, was a valid way in which the spreading of knowledge or the changing of paradigms took place in a society. Films from the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and the 2000s were reviewed and coded based on several criteria that examined the accuracy of the disease portrayed as well as the prominence of the character in that film. The frequency of films displaying characters with autism was also looked at through these decades. Following the official diagnosis of autism as a mental illness in the 1980s a significant increase in films having characters affected with the disorder was shown. As well as an increase in frequency there was also an increase in the average coded scores of movies through these times. These findings seem to indicate that a change in the film industry is an appropriate way to monitor alterations in a society.

17

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT CULTURES AND RACIAL /ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN DECISION MAKING BIASES*Mary Cappotelli (Dr. Joseph McFall) SUNY Fredonia*

We conducted a study on decision making biases across cultures. Participants were recruited through the use of Amazon Mechanical Turk then took an online survey through Qualtrics. Amazon Mechanical Turk is a distributive work flow site capitalizing on human intelligence that contains a diverse group of workers. Our participants consisted of comparison groups of white Americans, minority groups from within the United States (black American, Hispanic/Latino American, and Asian American), a sample from India, as well as a diverse non-American group. The survey assessed decision biases including the sunk cost fallacy, counterfactual reasoning, and probability estimation. We also randomly assigned participants to receive one of two instructional stories followed by two questions. The instructional stories were either describing how the sunk cost fallacy or counterfactual reasoning bias worked. We implemented these stories to discover whether or not learning how these biases worked affected the participant's decision making on the following vignettes.

18

EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION ACCURACY*Samantha Mann (Dr. Matthew Weaver) Mercyhurst University*

Witnesses viewing simultaneous lineups can be unwittingly drawn to choose the person who looks most similar to the perpetrator. This method becomes difficult when the perpetrator is absent. Lindsay and Wells (1985) therefore developed the sequential lineup procedure. This forces a witness to compare each individual lineup member with their memory of the perpetrator as opposed to the other lineup members. The purpose of this study is to determine if an eyewitness is likely to identify a perpetrator accurately if a lineup is shown sequentially as opposed to simultaneously. There are several benefits of this research on humankind and society. First, this research can lead to a change in criminal law procedures. Second, this research can lead to fewer innocent people serving time for crimes they did not commit due to mistaken identification by eyewitnesses.

19

THE EFFECTS OF CODE-SWITCHING ON NARRATIVE TRANSPORTATION AND STORY-CONSISTENT BELIEFS*Megan Earley (Dr. Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College*

The purpose of this research was to examine the effects of code-switching on narrative transportation and story-consistent beliefs. This study sought to find whether Spanish language familiarity affected transportation and story-consistent beliefs when reading a narrative that contained code-switching. Participants (N=42) completed pre-test questionnaires regarding their beliefs on racism in the United States and opinions on language use before reading a copy of Junot Díaz's short story "The Cheater's Guide to Love" from his collection entitled *This Is How You Lose Her*. Participants then completed a post-test questionnaire including duplicate questions from the pre-test questionnaire (to measure belief change) as well as transportation, perceived realism, and language fluency scales. The results of this study did not support the hypothesis that language familiar participants would report higher levels of transportation than language non-familiar participants when reading a narrative that contained code-switching.

20

AGEISM IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS: AN ANALYSIS OF NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE PORTRAYAL OF THE ELDERLY

Jessica Copney, Victoria Trapanik, Katelyn Amig, Michael Osman (Dr. Diana Rice) Geneva College

This study is designed to examine the portrayal of the elderly in children's books between 1980-2014. Thirty-four books were analyzed to determine the number of instances of positive and negative attributions of the elderly in both text and illustrations. Illustrations were categorized based upon the eight primary emotions and were compared to the total number of illustrations in the book. Text was examined using the Feeling Wheel to standardize descriptors into six categories: mad, sad, scared, peaceful, powerful and joyful (Cobb, 2000). Frequency and chi square analyses were performed to determine any significant difference in instances of positive and negative attributions.

21

THE EFFECTS OF CANNABINOID ANTAGONISTS ON IMPULSIVITY IN RATS

Taylor Proper, Emily Plyler (Dr. Peter McLaughlin) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

The CB1 antagonist rimonabant, which was designed as an appetite suppressant, did not pass clinical trials due to its numerous psychological side effects, of which we propose that impulsivity was a critical component. This led to the production of a 'second generation' of drugs including the CB1 antagonists AM251, AM6527, and AM4113. Each of these new appetite suppressants was tested on an FCN 8 (fixed consecutive number) operant task to measure impulsivity in rats. Surprisingly, results indicated these 'next generation' drugs mildly produce impulsivity, with more pronounced effects when rats were pretreated with a serotonin antagonist, WAY-100,635. In contrast, a new CB1 antagonist, AM6545, which is believed to not cross the blood-brain barrier, did not produce impulsive responding. These results suggest that AM6545 is a safe appetite suppressant in animal models of psychological side effects.

22

MUSIC'S ACTUAL AND PERCEIVED IMPACT ON WORKING MEMORY

Marika Koch (Dr. Matthew Weaver) Mercyhurst University

Previous research into working memory and music tends to show that people perform worse on working memory tasks when listening to music, particularly vocal music in a language that the listener readily understands. However, previous research has also shown that there is some potential for working memory to be aided by music, particularly if the presentation of a stimulus is rhythmically-coordinated with the music being played. This experiment investigated whether or not people's performance on working memory tasks (in the form of two-column addition) were significantly affected by background music of the listener's choice. Participants were then asked to report on their level of confidence in the accuracy of their performance on the working memory task in order to indicate whether or not perceptions about work while listening to music and without are accurate. The independent variable in this experiment was the auditory condition, whether or not the participants were listening to music while performing the working memory task. The dependent variable was how accurately the participants responded to the working memory task.

23

JUMPING THE HURDLES: IS YOUR GAME AFFECTING YOUR LIFE?

Alyssa Craig, Jacqueline Husted, Allison DeFurio (Victoria Kazmerski) Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

Stress is something that everyone, especially college-level athletes, feels daily. This study explored the effects of participating in spring sports at a college level on perceived and physiological stress of a student. Surveys were administered to a control group of Introduction to Psychology students as well as to athletes. The surveys included questions regarding how students feel about their course load and obligation to their sports teams. Answers were recorded using Likert scale style responses, as well as partially open ended questions. The first hypothesis stated that student athletes would have higher perceived stress compared to the control group. This may be due to the extra responsibility given to those athletes on top of their school work. The second hypothesis stated that student athletes would have lower physiological stress compared to the control group. This was believed to be true based on the information found about exercise helping the body cope with stress. The results provide insight on how to adapt programs to aid in stress management.

24

THE IMPACT OF CHOICE AND INTEREST ON LEARNING AND AFFECT*Zachery Wessel (Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College*

The overall purpose of this research was to investigate how having an interest in or choice about what we learn influences the process of learning (recall) and our enjoyment of the material. In the study, there were four different conditions: choice of interesting videos, choice of less interesting videos, no choice and will watch an interesting video, or no choice and will watch a less interesting video. Participants were all students of Allegheny College who volunteered to take part in the study. This study explored a few of the components of interest, as well as the effects of interest and choice on participants' ability to recall information. To measure student learning, participants watched a TED talk and were later tested on the video material. It was hypothesized that there would be both a main effect of interest and choice, with participants in the more interesting and choice of video conditions showing greater scores on the recall test and having greater positive changes in affect and arousal. Results were analyzed through a series of 2x2 between subject ANOVAs, and post-hoc correlations were run to see if any relationships existed between participant perceptions of interest and their actual performance. There were minimal significant results in support of the cognitive enhances suggested by previous research with regard to interest, but one of the main findings from the study supported the hypothesis that participants in the more interesting video conditions showed a greater change in positive arousal after viewing the video. This study should contribute to the field of research on interest by suggesting the need to attempt to manipulate interest in future studies, and exploring the interdependent relationships of the components that characterize the state and nature of interest.

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DECEPTION DETECTION: INVESTIGATING INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES*Christina Ayers, Sarah Craig, Erica Edwards (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski) Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

How often have you heard or thought to yourself, "How did I not see through the lies?", or "How did I miss the signs?" Deception is a part of our everyday lives, whether it is a simple white lie or a who-done-it crime. This study examines who is better at detecting deception: are females better than males and are psychology students better than engineering students. What makes them better? Is it the personality type of the person detecting deception, or is it their ability to pick up on social and emotional cues. Our hypothesis is that psychology majors and female participants overall would be significantly better at detecting deception. In this study, participants were given scenarios involving deceptive or truthful situations. They were asked to rate each scenario in terms of truthfulness. Participants were also asked to complete the Reading the Mind in the Eyes test, the MAB-II, the Mini-markers, and a demographic sheet. The preliminary data analysis showed individual differences based on gender and major in terms of truthful rating accuracy was significant.

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A COMPARISON OF COPING STRATEGIES ON INDUCED STRESS*Alicia McAllister, Christie Leslie, Cassandra Branblett (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski) Penn State Erie, The Behrend College*

Stress is present in everyday life, an excess of which can lead to depression and anxiety disorders. In our research we aimed to observe the effects of different coping methods used by undergraduate students in response to stress. Our research induced stress in participants using a modified version of the Trier Social Stress Test. The participants were then instructed to use one of three types of coping methods; music, humor, or mindfulness, or a control condition in which the participants listened to a podcast from National Public Radio. The participants' heart rate and blood pressure and self-report of stress were taken at the very beginning of the study, after the Trier Social Stress Test, and after the coping condition. We hoped to identify the most effective coping method by gender and overall in relation to stress. As predicted, females were more vulnerable than males to perceived stress, although their overall blood pressure was lower. We found that participants self-reported stress levels were higher than their physiological measures of stress. There was a main effect of coping in that all coping methods reduced both physiological and perceived stress more than the control condition. Identification of the most effective coping methods would allow for students to better deal with stressful situations.

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DETERMINANTS OF ATTITUDES TOWARD SEEKING COUNSELING: MAJOR, STRESS LEVEL AND STIGMA*Jessica Copney, Sarah Hunt (Dr. Diana Rice) Geneva College*

This study looked to investigate potential determinants of college students' attitudes toward seeking counseling. The observed variables were major, perceived stigma and stress level. Participants were 77 Junior and Senior undergraduate students enrolled at Geneva College. Measures used were the student life stress inventory (Gadzella, 1991), Discrimination-Devaluation Scale (Link et al, 1989), and the Inventory of Attitudes Toward Seeking Mental Health Services (Mackenzie et al, 2004). Major was determined through self-report. A criterion for a group was at least five subjects per major for it to be a significant. All those which did not qualify as a group were put into a group called "other". Majors included were education, engineering, biology, psychology, communication disorders, human services, Biblical studies, business, biopsychology and communications. After acquiring scores for each inventory, statistical tests were run yielding significant results for a relationship between stigma score and attitudes toward seeking psychological counseling. There were no significant relationships between major or stress and attitudes toward seeking counseling. These results show that the most significant influence of college students' attitudes toward seeking mental health services is stigma. Such attitudes are largely determined on an individual basis. Stigma and attitudes are not grouped based upon major or stress level.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE, PARTICIPANT SEX, AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MYTHS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS*Ashley Hollenback (Dr. Juvia Heuchert) Allegheny College*

This research examines domestic violence myths with respect to the participant's biological sex and domestic violence experience or perpetration. Little quantitative research has been done on this subject. Factor analysis of the ten self and partner subscales of the Revised Conflict Tactics Scales (CTS2) (Straus, Hamby, Boney-McCoy, and Sugarman, 1996) yielded four factors. Scores from the Domestic Violence Myth Acceptance Scale (DVMAS) (Peters, 2008) were then regressed onto the four factors. Sexual coercion perpetration was a statistically significant predictor of domestic violence myth acceptance. Domestic Violence Myth Acceptance scores approached statistical significance between male and female participants, with males having higher myth acceptance than females, once perpetration severity had been controlled for. Research findings suggest that domestic violence myths may act as either direction or permissiveness for the perpetration of future domestic violence or rationalization for previous occurrences of domestic violence.

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PERSONALITY AND ITS EFFECTS ON MOOD BEING ALTERED THROUGH MUSIC*Sarah Mohan, Dr. Matthew Weaver (Dr. Matthew Weaver) Mercyhurst University*

The aim of this study is to test whether or certain personality types are more susceptible to having their mood altered through music. This study will attempt to induce three moods: sadness, anger and happiness. Three songs for sadness, three songs for anger, and three songs for happiness will be selected by the researcher for the participants to listen to. The difference between this study and other's is that the researcher will select all the music. Before the participants begin the study they will fill out a Big 5 Personality Inventory, and a mood survey created for this study. After each section of songs the participants will fill out the mood survey to keep track of whether or not the mood induction is effective. The hypothesis for this study is that individuals who score high in agreeableness, low in extroversion, high in neuroticism, high in openness, and low in conscientiousness on the Big 5 Personality Inventory are going to be very susceptible to being effected by music chosen by another individual. It is predicted that more than half the participants will be able to have their moods induced.

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DO BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER? EXPLORING THE MATCHING HYPOTHESIS IN SAME-SEX FRIENDSHIPS.*Rianna Grissom (Dr. Gregory Morrow) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

The purpose of this research study is to apply the Matching Hypothesis on same-sex friendship pairs (Cash, T., & Derlega, V., 1978). Proposed by Elaine Hatfield, the Matching Hypothesis is a question of social desirability in regards to physical attractiveness. It was hypothesized that people would be more inclined to have a romantic relationship with someone of their own level of physical attractiveness. Results indicated that people preferred those rated as physically attractive regardless of their own rating. The present study will ask participants to rate individuals on nine personality factors (including physical attractiveness) based solely on a photograph of their face. The targets are same-sex friends who are recently graduated; and photographs in the survey are randomized so that friends do not precede each other. In doing this research, we hope to see if close friends are more similar in physical attractiveness and social desirability than would be expected by chance.

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THE EFFECTS OF USING A STRESS BALL ON MOOD, AROUSAL, AND PERFORMANCE IN A COLLEGE CLASSROOM SETTING*Andrea Galbo, Grace Flood, Ivy Deegan (Dr. Sharon Hamilton) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

A number of studies have found a positive relationship between physical activity and improved attention in junior high students (Mead, Roark, Larive, Percle, Auenson, 2013), including increased mood and arousal when using stress balls in an elementary school classroom (Stalvey, Brasel, 2006). In addition, one study has found a significant effect of hand clenching on cognitive performance in a laboratory setting (Propper, McGraw, Brunye, Weiss, 2013). The current study investigated the effects of using a stress ball on mood, arousal, and performance in a college student population. Forty-eight college students enrolled in two sections of an upper level undergraduate psychology class were the participants of this study. One section of participants used a stress ball throughout the lecture. The second section of participants was provided with a circular sticker to place on their hands. Participants completed the Feeling Scale and the Felt Arousal Scale before and after the class lecture. Also, all participants completed a brief quiz on the lecture material in order to assess performance. The differences between groups on mood, arousal, and performance are examined using t-tests.

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EXAMINING GENDER ROLES: DO TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES AFFECT THE LIKING OF WOMEN AS LEADERS?*Ixzel Legos (Dr. Melissa Heerboth) Mercyhurst University*

According to social role theories, women are seen differently than men as potential leaders due to gender stereotypes that stem from the traditional roles that have been historically occupied by each gender. Accordingly, women's capability of being good leaders might be affected by the gender role they are exercising. The present study focused on the likeability of both women and men in certain traditional or non-traditional gender roles. Participants in the experimental and control condition were exposed to gender stereotype stimuli, through the display of photos of both men and women in either traditional or non-traditional gender roles. Afterwards, they were asked to fill out a paper-and-pencil questionnaire in order to determine their perceptions of gender in both gender roles. Our hypothesis that individuals are more likely to dislike women in non-traditional gender roles due to gender stereotypes failed to be supported. However, the results showed that there was significance ($t(8)=-2.77, p>.05$) women portrayed in traditional ways were liked less than women in non-traditional ways, while there was no significant difference in the liking of men in both gender roles.

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THE EFFECTS OF COGNITIVE LOAD INTENSITY ON THE RATE OF CHANGE DETECTION*Vincent Reginella (Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College*

Change blindness has been shown to occur across many contexts. Change detection has been a measure of the rate of change blindness in studies investigating its occurrence. Furthermore, it's been shown that cognitive load delays responses to detection of changes. A one-way ANOVA was used with the Sudoku puzzle difficulty levels as the between-subjects variable (Simple vs Complex Sudoku puzzles). Twenty-seven participants' cognitive load was manipulated into either a simple Sudoku group or a complex Sudoku group. Participants were then subsequently submitted to a change detection task. Their perceptions of the task were gathered in a post-test questionnaire. Results were examined in regards to reaction time, as well as perceptions of the cognitive load task. Results indicated that the cognitive load task did not significantly affect reaction times and accuracy of the change detection task, although it did have a significant impact on one aspect of perceptions of the cognitive load task. These results both conflict with previous literature in respect to reaction times and almost all of the task perception measurements. This experimental framework also provides a novel pathway to further explore change detection and cognitive load in relation to change blindness.

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BIRTH ORDER, PERSONALITY TRAITS, AND THEIR INFLUENCE IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS*Alexandra DiPerna (Dr. Juvia Heuchert) Allegheny College*

A cross-sectional design was utilized to examine the specific personality characteristics of the NEO-FFI-3 and their influence in the nature of participants' interpersonal strengths. The purpose of this research was to determine if there is a correlation between birth order, participants' personality traits, and their role in interpersonal relationships among a sample of students in a college setting, specifically Allegheny College. Numerous areas of research have explored the ways birth order and personality characteristics have had a role in shaping a person's emotional capabilities, their behavior, and other components of their life. Although certain stereotypes have long been associated with birth order, these stereotypes are also seen in different aspects of behavior. As stated by Sulloway, firstborns are seen to be higher in Neuroticism and Conscientiousness whereas later-borns are seen to be higher in Agreeableness and Openness to experience, both with exhibit themselves in different ways when interacting with others (Sulloway, 1996). Data analysis was used to test for a relationship between common personality characteristics of children in a certain birth order and common ways in which they act in their interpersonal relations. Tools

used include the NEO Five Factor Inventory-3 (McCrae & Costa, 2010), the Inventory of Interpersonal Strengths (Inventory of interpersonal strengths, 2009), and a few demographic questions. These questionnaires were previously utilized in both large and small scale studies. Additionally, this study will look specifically at the five facets of the NEO-PI-3 and those most common for participants of different birth order. The influence of these traits will exhibited through the responses and will be correlated with the responses on the Inventory of Interpersonal Strengths (IIS). No significant correlations were found between birth order and facets of the IIS, however results from the data analysis showed important trends to be considered for further research of distinct interpersonal relations.

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RACIAL DEPICTIONS IN CHILDRENS BOOKS

Autum Bennett, Mackenzie Hobdy, Mason Pakhtigian, Kendrik Jones (Dr. Diana Rice) Geneva College

Racial disparities have been depicted in numerous ways in the history of American society. A study by Pescosolido et al titled *Culture and Conflict: The Portrayal of Blacks in U.S. Children's picture books through the mid- and late-twentieth century*. Their prime focus was observing the way in which African Americans were depicted throughout a number of award- winning children's books. We replicated this observation through looking at books, from years 2000 to 2014, which won the Caldecott award. We sought to reflect that these books, which contained non-white characters, would be portrayed in a positive matter but their presence will be minimal. Analysis and scaling of these prize-winning books are being collected.

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COMPARATIVE VALIDITY OF THREE COGNITIVE STYLES IN THE PREDICTION OF DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Jenna Dunning, Kaitlyn Hanick (Dr. Michael Sadler) Gannon University

Cognitive style has been proposed as a key predictor of depression. However, the theoretical and empirical literature is still underdeveloped with respect to the mechanisms involved in this association. Additionally, there are at least three competing theories of cognitive style predictors of depression, each operationalized in a different psychological scale or questionnaire. The additional variable of stress is integral to some but not all of these theories. We will present tests of the direction and strength of associations of three models of negative cognitive style and symptoms of depression in a student sample. Directions for further study will be discussed, aimed at improving our understanding of the etiology of depression. As part of an ongoing larger study of the etiology of common psychiatric symptoms, participants completed cognitive style assessments including the Dysfunctional Attitude Scale (DAS), Cognitive Style Questionnaire (CSQ), and Ruminative Responses Scale (RSS). Participants also completed the Inventory of Depression and Anxiety Symptoms (IDAS). Sample size is currently 186 participants. Data analysis is underway. Preliminary results show that each cognitive style is positively and moderately associated with levels of general depression in our sample.

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERSONALITY, PREVENTIVE HEALTH BEHAVIOR, RISK HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND PERCEIVED SUSCEPTIBILITY

Marissa Kelley (Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University

There is an abundant amount of research showing how personality can have an effect on a person's everyday life and behaviors. The purpose of this research was to discover if there is a relationship between personality, behaviors and attitudes related to our health, such as preventive-health behavior, health-risk behavior and perceived susceptibility to illness. Participants in this study were 30 undergraduate students enrolled at Mercyhurst University. Personality, preventive-health behavior, health-risk behavior and perceived susceptibility were all measured using self-report questionnaires. Personality was addressed through the Big Five Inventory (John, 1991). It was predicted that Conscientiousness would have a positive correlation with preventive-health behavior, Extraversion would have a positive correlation with health-risk behavior and Agreeableness would have a negative correlation with perceived susceptibility among others. The data analysis is ongoing but the results obtained will add to the research and literature on personality and health behavior. If the hypotheses are supported, it will add to public education regarding what might predict health behaviors.

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OVERT ALTRUISM AND ITS EFFECTS ON BURNOUT*James Razanauskas (Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University*

The purpose of this research was to understand the relationship between altruism and burnout using a correlational design. Participants consisted of 30 undergraduate students from Mercyhurst University. Students were given a series of five tests to help identify whether overt altruism and burnout were occurring in a University environment. Previous research indicates that in certain environments, specifically service related professions that are associated with high measures of altruistic behavior, there are individuals who are at a greater risk for burnout. The hypothesis was that University students who scored high on measures of altruism would score high on measures associated with burnout. Results indicate that the Mercyhurst students who participated are not experiencing burnout but did score high on a measure of negative attitudes toward self-efficacy. The importance of this study is to indicate that there should possibly be a degree of awareness, differentiation, self-assessment, and healthy boundaries stressed for individuals who have high degrees of altruistic tendency, and therefore may be at higher risk for burnout.

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THE EFFECT OF ATTRACTIVENESS IN FACEBOOK PROFILE PICTURES ON STUDENTS AT PENN STATE*Meg Spierito, Shaila Costanza, Michael Osman (Dr. Diana Rice) Geneva College*

The present study investigated the influence of attractiveness on the likelihood of their acceptance by others. This was tested by creating two Facebook profiles, one with a female pre-tested to be attractive and one with a different female pre-tested to be unattractive. The control factor was the information provided on the Facebook pages, including college, place of work, and the "about me" section of the profiles. The influence factor was tested by adding 100 different people, 50 males and 50 females, to each profile and monitoring the ratio of friend requests sent and friend requests accepted. The results showed that there is a greater likelihood of acceptance for those deemed attractive as opposed to those deemed unattractive.

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EFFECTS OF FACEBOOK ON SELF-ESTEEM*Stephanie Lukasiak (Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University*

The uses of Facebook and what effects the uses can have on yourself and others is something one rarely ever thinks about. Depending on how much time one spends on Facebook and what they spend their time doing, it could have a positive or a negative effect on their self-esteem. Exploring what one spends their time doing on Facebook and how it makes them feel about themselves is a very meaningful topic. The purpose of this research was to explore what people on Facebook are using their time doing and what effects what they are doing might have on their self-esteem. To examine this, a group of 36 undergraduate students from Mercyhurst University completed the Coopersmith Self-Esteem inventory and a Facebook survey to explore their usage and activities. It was predicted that those who spend more time updating their personal profiles, will have higher self-esteem than those who spend time worrying about what others put on Facebook. Data analysis is not yet complete, but if the results are as anticipated, then there are implications for self-esteem and Facebook usage being connected. Improvements in social media sites should be explored to help with the prevention of low self-esteem in Facebook users.

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DOES THE IMPORTANCE OF MORAL IDENTITY PREDICT (UN)FAIR BEHAVIOR?*Breana Gallagher, Vincent Reginella (Lydia Jackson) Allegheny College*

Predicting moral behavior has long been a puzzling task for social scientists. Scholars have suggested that the Self-Importance of Moral Identity (SMI) may vary across people and should serve as a predictor of (im)moral behavior. SMI has been defined as a self-concept organized around moral traits (e.g., caring, compassionate, fair) and consists of two separate dimensions: truly internalized self-importance (internalization) and the importance of publicly presenting oneself as moral (symbolization) (Aquino & Reed, 2002). Previous studies demonstrated that these dimensions differentially predict donation behavior and volunteerism (Aquino & Reed, 2002). However, moral identity has not yet been investigated in contexts when someone's self-interest is directly pitched against one's own. Using a ticket-allocation paradigm, participants anonymously and privately allocated 10 tickets between themselves and an ostensible other. We hypothesized that people who score higher on the symbolization subscale would be more likely to allocate themselves more tickets (given the absence of self-presentation concerns) and that people who score higher on the internalization subscale would be more likely to allocate tickets fairly or to favor the other participant. Data collected from thirty-three undergraduate students indicated that 17 participants favored themselves. Males tended to give themselves more tickets ($M=6.8$, $SD=1.92$) than females ($M=5.8$, $SD=1.78$), although this difference did not reach significance, $F(1,28)=1.95$, $p=.17$. Contrary to our predictions, symbolization and internalization were unrelated to actual ticket allocation $r(28)=.09$, n.s. and $r(28)=.11$ n.s. Limitations and implications are discussed.

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COLLEGE STUDENTS AND STRESS BALLS IN THE CLASSROOM: STUDENTS' RATINGS OF EXPERIENCE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH SELF-REPORTED ATTENTIONAL SYMPTOMS

Ivy Deegan, Grace Flood, Andrea Galbo (Dr. Sharon Hamilton) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Previous research has found that elementary students enjoy using a stress ball in academic settings (Wells, 2012). Also, stress balls are often recommended for students diagnosed with attentional difficulties (Appelbaum, 2008). The current study extended this research to a college student population. Forty-eight college students enrolled in two sections of an upper level undergraduate psychology class were the participants of this study. One section of participants used a stress ball throughout the lecture. The second section of participants was provided with a circular sticker to place on their hands. Participants then completed an Experience Survey which assessed their experience using the stress ball or the sticker. In addition, all participants completed the Adult ADHD Self Report Symptom Checklist (ASRS). Results are examined both in terms of differences between the two groups on the Experience Survey and the correlation between the ASRS and the Experience Survey for the stress ball group.

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INVOLVING A THERAPY DOG IN A PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM AS A WAY OF ENRICHING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Jenna Steinmiller, Sarah Anderson (Dr. Nancy Gee) SUNY Fredonia

Previous laboratory based research has demonstrated that the presence of a therapy dog impacts categorization performance by preschool children. For example, children make fewer errors on the task and they correctly categorize animate objects better than inanimate ones when the dog is present. In the current study the children are asked to categorize a wide variety of category types, half of which include dog related stimuli and half do not. This manipulation is crossed with the presence/absence of the therapy dog. What is unique about this study is that it is actually conducted in preschool classroom as part of the instructional curriculum of the class. The results of this study will have implications for the role of therapy dogs in the enhancement of preschool learning environments.

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A MANIPULATION OF STRESS AND DOG PRESENCE ON HEART RATE, HEART RATE VARIABILITY AND WORKING MEMORY

Jamie Curtis, Alexis Perez, Christina DellaNeve (Dr. Nancy Gee) SUNY Fredonia

Human-Animal Interaction has demonstrated that certain positive physiological responses are connected to the presence of animals. Research in this area found that there is a decreased physiological response to stress, risk for coronary heart disease, and increased survival rate following a heart attack in the presence of a pet. 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) and heart rate variability, while the stress level of the situation was varied. Children (ages 5-10) 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 child 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.

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HEART RATE VARIABILITY AND WORKING MEMORY PERFORMANCE IN THE PRESENCE OF A THERAPY DOG

Samantha Galloway, Amber Conte, Ken Baum (Dr. Nancy Gee) SUNY Fredonia

Research in the area of Human-Animal Interaction has demonstrated that physiological reactivity to stress can be moderated by the presence of a companion animal. For example, blood pressure and heart rate (HR) do not elevate as much in the presence of the animal during the stressor. The current study examines heart rate variability and working memory performance during variations in stress induced by listening to a story (low stress) or recalling increasing complex sequences of words or shapes to the point of failure three times (higher stress). College students were asked to wear a HR monitor while they repeatedly listened and performed the verbal and visual WM tasks in the presence of the dog and handler, handler, and with no observer. The results indicated that the WM tasks were stressful to participants, but the presence of the dog did not moderate this increase in physiological reactivity.

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STORYTELLING

Brooke Schutrum, Josh Andrzejewski, Kimberly Molfetto, Samantha Galloway (Dr. Nancy Gee) SUNY Fredonia

The purpose of this study was to determine whether or not the presence of a therapy dog would improve language production during the telling of a story by school-aged children. Prior research has indicated that the presence of a dog can reduce symptoms of stress or discomfort like heart rate and blood pressure. The presence of a dog seems to have a positive effect on a child's willingness to communicate. 40 children, aged 32 months to 9.5 years, acted as participants in this study. In the presence of either a human listener or a therapy dog, the children were asked to describe the events depicted in a picture book. Although data collection is still underway we expect to find more, and greater complexity of, language in the presence of a dog, which could lead to new ways to improve the academic success of young children. Actual findings will be presented at the conference.

Paper Sessions *Northwood Classrooms, 12:15–1:45 p.m.*

Names of student authors listed in italics.

Names of faculty advisers appear in parentheses.

APPLIED SOCIAL SESSION, Northwood 007

EFFECTS OF CRITICAL HYPE ON CONSUMER INTENTIONS

Alicia Carrol, Michael Squeglia, & Douglas Kelly (Charisse Nixon) Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

The effect movie critics have on the consumer decision making process is a matter of debate among professionals in the fields of marketing and psychology. Movie trailers have begun to contain critical reviews in an effort to utilize their potential marketing influence. The aim of the current study was to explore the effect on-screen critical reviews have on consumer intentions. The results of this study highlighted the role of a trailer's placement during previewing (e.g. shown first versus second) as paramount, irrelevant as to whether a trailer employed promotional reviews made by critics. A discrepancy may be present between an individual's consumer beliefs about how film critics influence them and their consumer intentions actually elicited by such marketing techniques.

THE IMPACT OF ANIMATION SIMULATION IN CLOSING ARGUMENTS ON JUROR'S PERCEPTIONS

Megan Zurasky, Mary Dobbs (Dr. Ronald Craig) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

The presentation of visual evidence in court is commonplace; however, recent technological advance have allowed for the production of visual animations. These animations, based on evidenced and expert testimony, portray events consistent with either the prosecution or defense view of the case. Judges are allowing these animations to be presented to juries in both criminal and civil proceedings. There is a dearth of research regarding the potential impact of these animations on juror decision-making. This study examined the impact of computer generated animation evidence presented in the context of a criminal trial and certainty of guilt or innocence of a defendant. Undergraduates were presented with a mock trial scenario with either a computer-generated animation, still-frame pictures from the animation or no visual evidence. Participants identified guilt or innocence of the mock defendant, their certainty decision, and impact of evidence presented. Data will be analyzed to determine if there is a significant impact of the animation on verdict and certainty of decision.

EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION: CONFIRMING FEEDBACK, CONFIDENCE, AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Paul Bailey (Dr. Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University

Confidence and accuracy of eyewitnesses generally correlate except when certain stimuli are present, like confirming feedback which inflates confidence without changing accuracy. Confirming feedback's effect could be reduced by pre-existing knowledge of eye-witness testimony. The current project is designed for this area of research. Thirty undergraduate participants from Mercyhurst University were divided into two groups. One group received confirming feedback regarding an identification they made following a video-simulated crime, and the other did not. Their confidence is measured by self-reported scores on Likert scales. Pre-existing knowledge of eyewitness testimony procedure was measured as a percent of correct responses on a test of knowledge regarding factors affecting eyewitness behavior. The hypothesis of this study states that in the presence of confirming feedback, participants' confidence will be high except when participants demonstrate pre-existing knowledge of eye-witness testimony. The results of this study have yet to be analyzed to any conclusive degree but ideally they will reflect these predictions. The implications would demonstrate the need to research the effects of pre-existing knowledge and its ability to combat factors which would inflate confidence.

THE VIDEO GAME EXPERIENCE

Matthew McCullough (Dr. Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University

Controversy over the effects video games may possibly have on the affect and behavior of players has attracted attention recently. Current research suggests that it is not the video game, but the disposition of who is playing the game that may make some individuals more susceptible to the effects of the game's content. The current research attempts to further explore this possibility. Twenty undergraduate participants from Mercyhurst University were randomly assigned to play one of two video games. Lemmings and Lamers were chosen as game conditions for the reason that they are similar in all respects, but opposite in objective. Lemmings is a prosocial video game with a goal of saving lives, while Lamers parodies Lemmings with a goal of destroying lives. Participants were asked to complete a series of tasks before and after playing their assigned game to provide baselines for differentiation. The results are expected to support past research, which this study replicates, showing prosocial responses after prosocial video game play and more aggressive responses after violent video game play. If the hypothesis is supported by the data, results could guide more responsible creation of video games for the market, as well as a generally more educated public able to make better market decisions for themselves and their children.

MODE OF PRESENTATION AND LEVEL OF SPEAKER EXPERTISE ON PERCEPTIONS OF DECEPTION

Caitlin Kraska (Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College

Recent research examining the ability to detect deception suggests it is a difficult task because of the multiple cues present in a person's dialogue. The current study expected to expand past research by examining how the level of speaker expertise and the mode of presentation affect a listener's ability to detect deception. A total of 52 participants were recruited to participate in the study. Participants were asked to watch a video or listen to a series of statements regarding debt collection policies, told by a speaker who was identified as an expert or non-expert in the field. Participants then identified whether they believed the statement was true or false. Finally, they completed a post-test questionnaire regarding their experience with the study. A 2x2 between subjects ANOVA was conducted with mode of presentation (audio, visual) and level of speaker expertise (expert, non-expert) as the independent variables, and number of correctly identified statements, ratings of speaker trustworthiness, and perceived difficulty of the task as the dependent variables. Contrary to the researcher's predictions, results indicated no main effects. Participants were just as likely to correctly identify deceptive statements in the visual-only expert, visual-only non-expert, audio-only expert, and audio-only non-expert conditions. The only significant effect, agreeing with previous research, was that task difficulty was associated with mode of presentation. These findings highlight the difficulty of identifying deception. The unpredicted outcomes illustrate the need to further examine which characteristics are more useful to identify deception in a conversation.

SOCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION Northwood 008

STEREOTYPE CHANGE DUE TO TIME AND FAMILIARITY COMPONENTS

Nicole Betters, Jamie McMinn, & Beth White (Jamie McMinn) Westminster College

This study examined the early stages of stereotyping and the effects of what familiarization on changes to such views over time. Thirty-nine first-year college men were contacted directly through email or through their sports coaches. Participants were given surveys at the beginning and near the end of the fall semester, and they contained rating scales, short answer, and open-ended questions about the participants' perceptions of each of four fraternities on campus. Participants were asked to rate each fraternity on stereotypes that were identified in a pilot test, and to indicate their degree of familiarity with members of those fraternities. It was predicted that at Time 1, participants would rate the fraternities more stereotypically on the scale due to lack of familiarity with the fraternities. It was predicted that at Time 2, participants would rate the fraternities based more on their interactions with them. Keywords: stereotypes, perceptions, familiarity, fraternity groups.

THE EFFECT OF DIVERSITY AND DIVERSITY IDEOLOGY ON ORGANIZATIONAL ATTRACTIVENESS

Stephanie Marich (Jamie McMinn) Westminster College

This research tested the effect of diversity and diversity ideology on organizational attractiveness and desire for employment. Sixty undergraduates, ages 17 to 23, read fictitious organizational information that described a diverse or non-diverse setting and an all-inclusive, colorblind, or multicultural diversity ideology. Openness to diversity, organizational attractiveness, and desire for employment were measured. It was predicted that organizational attractiveness and desire for employment would be strongest in a diverse, all-inclusive setting when openness to diversity was strong and surface-level similarities between the participant and employees were present and lowest when the multicultural ideology was used and no surface-level similarities existed. Results indicated that increased openness to diversity produced stronger levels of organizational attractiveness and desire for employment, regardless of diversity or ideology manipulation. The findings may be important for the organizational recruitment process and in future research on what aspects of diversity cause applicants to desire employment.

THE EFFECTS OF DIVERSITY ON EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND CREATIVE PERFORMANCE

Alyssa De Santis (Jamie McMinn) Westminster College

Creativity is beneficial for collaboration within groups, and emotional intelligence (EI) may indicate positive group interaction. This study evaluated how diversity affects group members' creativity, along with perceived performance and satisfaction with a task. Homogenous groups were predicted to score higher on creativity, EI, satisfaction, and performance. Using a between groups design, 33 students, ages 18-23, were randomly assigned, in triads or dyads, to either a diverse (6 total) or homogenous group (7 total) using false feedback. The Wong and Law Emotional Intelligence Scale measured EI, independent coders rated group creativity on the task, and self-report data evaluated performance and satisfaction following the task. Significant data were not found for the main hypotheses. Group size was significantly, negatively correlated with performance but there was no relationship between diversity and group productivity. Research shows that group composition can affect creativity in a business setting, even if the current study did not. Creativity and high EI may still be beneficial skills to consider when hiring employees.

UNCOVERING POLITICAL AFFILIATION IN-GROUP STEREOTYPES USING AN IMPLICIT ASSOCIATION TEST

Erica Hillwig, Sherri Pataki (Dr. Sherri Pataki) Westminster College

This research examined whether Democrat and Republican political party members would assign positive traits to themselves that were stereotype consistent with their party more than positive traits that were stereotype consistent with the opposing party, negative traits that were stereotype consistent with the opposing party, and negative traits that were stereotype consistent with their own party. Seventy-two participants filled out a questionnaire that requested information including their political party affiliation. They then took a Political Identity Implicit Association Test (IAT) to determine their implicit party preference, and a Political Trait IAT to measure the positive and negative stereotyped traits they most closely identified with themselves. Results indicated that participants of both parties more closely identified themselves with positive words that were stereotype consistent with the Republican Party, in comparison to negative words consistent with that party and both positive words and negative words that were consistent with the Democratic Party.

THIRD PARTY PERCEPTION OF INTERSECTIONALITY

Nathan Huber (Dr. Sherry Pataki) Westminster College

Broadly, intersectionality is the study of disenfranchised groups. Recent literature suggests that race and gender form a unique oppression in black women. Grollman found that multiply disadvantaged people were exposed to more discrimination than their singly disadvantaged or advantaged counterparts. However, no literature exists addressing the influence different perceptions have on racial discrimination. The present study examined the effect that a third-party perception of intersectionality has on racial based discrimination. One hundred and twenty male and female students at Westminster College were surveyed on how severely they perceived racial discrimination in white men, white women, black men, and black women. It was hypothesized, similarly to Grollman's study, that the third-party perception of racial based discrimination against a multiply disadvantaged individual would be viewed as most severe. The findings supported this hypothesis, suggesting that additional discriminatory factors should be examined when considering the severity of racial based discrimination.

STRESS, HEALTH, AND COPING SESSION Northwood 111

THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENT MEDIA ON THOUGHTS & BEHAVIORS

Michael Rebman, Jordon Lyon, & William Shelstead (Charisse Nixon) Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Past research has suggested that violent media had an effect on aggressive responses, both implicit and explicit; however, there has been some conflict. Additionally, the majority of past research has only examined the effects of one type of media on aggression while neglecting others, such as print media. This study investigates which form of violent media, print, video, or song, elicits the most implicit and explicit aggression. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three violent media conditions and then two measures of implicit aggression and one survey of explicit aggression. Implicit aggression was assessed through the State Hostility Scale and a Word Completion Task. Explicit aggression was assessed using the Hot Sauce Paradigm. We expect that violent visual media will elicit the strongest aggressive thoughts and behaviors compared to the print and violent music. Results showed that media type can influence aggressive thoughts but not aggressive behaviors. The results of this study should help understand the differing types of media effects on explicit and implicit aggressive behaviors.

INVOLVEMENT & COLLEGE STUDENTS' STRESS: FINDING THE SWEET SPOT

Margaret Eimers, Anthony Gabagen & Vidhya Venkataraman (Charisse Nixon) Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

The purpose of the current study was to identify the optimal levels and types of group involvement to maximize positive college adjustment and minimize related stress levels in college students based on Astin's Student Involvement Theory. Our primary research question was to identify how much student involvement, stress, coping strategies, and group attachment style were predictors of college adjustment as defined by the four subscales of The Student Adaptation to College Questionnaire: Academic Adjustment, Social Adjustment, Personal Emotional Adjustment, and Goal Commitment /Institutional Attachment. We also predicted that the type of involvement, physically active (sports) or social (non-active), may have impacted college adjustment. Participants completed the Social Group Attachment Scale, the Coping Strategies Inventory, a demographics questionnaire, the Perceived Stress Scale, and the Student Adaptation to College Questionnaire. Results revealed that stress and social group attachment were significant predictors of personal emotional adjustment. Stress was the only significant predictor of goal commitment /institutional attachment, and involvement was the only significant predictor of academic adjustment. We found no significant difference between participants involved in physically active (sports) and those in non-physically active groups.

THE EFFECTS OF PROXIMAL AND DISTAL CUE REACTIVITY ON THE LEVELS OF CRAVING IN NICOTINE SMOKERS

Marlee Pyzewski (Dr. Matthew Weaver) Mercyhurst University

In this study, different cues were presented to trigger an effect on the levels of craving in nicotine smokers through proximal and distal cue reactivity by collecting psychological and physiological data. The proximal cues consisted of visuals directly linked to smoking behaviors (e.g., close in proximity to drug administration). The distal cues presented consisted of a stimuli that has been regularly present during drug use. The participants were deprived of nicotine for 5 hours prior to attending. Bearing in mind that each participant will have had different previous exposures to nicotine, each participant was likely to have a varying level of craving response to the induced stimuli. A participant with a significantly higher pre-exposure and dependency is likely to have a higher level of addiction, predicting a dramatic reaction to this study. The degrees of induced reactivity to cues through physiological responses as a result of possible forced withdrawal, based on deprivation, will vary and be the main focus of the results. This study will be a 3 group between-subjects design with the manipulation of present-ed cues. The psychological responses were analyzed from surveys and the Questionnaire on Smoking Urges and Fagerström Test of Nicotine Dependence. The physiological responses were analyzed through a BIOPAC system (BioPac Systems INC. MP36, Goleta, CA.) while watching a slideshow presentation of the cues. The psychological and physiological responses, acting as the dependent variable, vary based on the manipulation of the cues.

MOTIVATIONAL CHANGES FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

Christina Kamien (Melissa Heerboth) Mercyhurst University

There has been a large amount of research demonstrating that there are increasing health concerns within the collegiate population. Past research has shown that there has been a significant decrease in the amount of physical activity that adolescents and young adults are participating in. This study aimed to predict what factors contribute to exercise behavior in college. Participants filled out six surveys: Dieting Beliefs Scale, How Healthy is Your Diet, How Good Are My Sleep Strategies, Sleep Beliefs Scale, The Godin Leisure-Time Exercise Questionnaire, and Exercise Beliefs Scale. The scores from these surveys were then used to predict college exercise behavior. The results of this study indicate that time spent exercising in college can be predicted from the model, ($R=.802$, $R^2=.644$, $F(7,19)=4.907$, $p=.003$.)

PERCEPTIONS OF WELL-BEING: A NEUROLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF MEDITATION AND SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Sook Yee Leung (Dr. Lynne Curtis) Chatham University

While various forms of meditation involve solitary practice, meditation can also be conducted in an interpersonal context, such as group drumming, to promote a greater sense of social connectedness. Studies have found that activities, such as finger tapping with others facilitates interpersonal rhythm synchronization, which activates neurological correlates of social behavior engagement, promoting a synchrony that can carry over to a sense of social connectedness that promotes social interaction. Hence, it is worthwhile to examine the relationship of the extent of interpersonal involvement via interpersonal synchrony in meditation to experience of social connectedness and a sense of well-being in the form of positive affect and negative affect. Three variations of meditation-based drumming exercises will be examined: producing steady drumming patterns by oneself (unguided drumming), listening to steady drumming patterns (listening), and drumming along with someone (guided drumming). This study will explore the extent of interpersonal synchrony on meditation's effects on brain region activation, social connectedness, positive affect, and negative affect. The Emotiv EEG device was used to measure brain area activation. The Social Connectedness Scale-revised and the Positive and Negative Affect Scale to assess social connectedness and affect, respectively, will be used. This study is a between-subjects experiment, consisting of pre and post testing with a single-session treatment. Preliminary statistical analyses show statistical significance in negative affect and a trend towards significance in social connectedness. Completed experimental results will be available during the conference.

STRESS, IS THE BARK BIGGER THAN THE BITE

Katey Marsh, Catie Bertges (Victoria Kazmerski) Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Stress has been shown to cause both short term and long term negative health affects in people. Previous psychological studies have found that animals such as dogs can assist in reduction of stress. In this study we looked to see if dogs can actually help to reduce the feelings of stress in humans after a stressful incident has occurred. Stress was measured by self-reported measures and physiological responses, including heart rate and blood pressure. The participants completed the questionnaires, a stressful task of logic questions, and then one of three conditions. The three conditions in our study were: interacting with a dog after the task, building shapes with blocks while the researcher was present to converse, and building shapes with blocks alone. Their physiological responses were recorded intermittently throughout. We hypothesized that those college students who interacted with dogs after a stressful event would show less physiological signs of stress. We hope to help colleges see the implications of stress and to reduce cardiovascular diseases through the reduction of stress. Colleges can then help students cope more positively by implementing programs encouraging interactions between college students and dogs. Though no significant results have been found, the patterns of the means suggests that diastolic blood pressure increased when the participant was in the researcher condition, possibly suggesting that the dog condition mitigated frustration, which is linked to high diastolic blood pressure.

EMOTION SESSION Northwood 112

TEXTING WITH EMOTIONAL CUES: EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIVITY OF THE EMOTICON

Marissa Fischer (Sherri Pataki) Westminster College

This study analyzed emoticon use and text messaging based on participant's attachment style and emotional expressivity. Individuals with more avoidant characteristics were predicted to text and use emoticons the least within romantic relationships, friendships, and familial relationships whereas individuals with more anxiously attached characteristics were predicted to text and use emoticons the most. Those with more secure attachment characteristics were predicted to text and use emoticons moderately. In addition it was predicted that individuals with high levels of emotional expressivity would text and use emoticons more than individuals with low emotional expressivity. The relationship type that was predicted to use the most emoticons was the romantic type. A sample of 60 undergraduates completed measures of attachment, emotional expressivity, texting, and emoticon use. The sample was comprised of 45 women and 15 men. Results were analyzed using regressions and ANOVA. Overall individuals' attachment styles were not related to emoticon usage, however sex of the individual approached statistical significance. Emotional expressivity and emoticon usage were not correlated. The hypothesis that emoticons would be used the most within romantic relationships was also supported.

VICARIOUS SHAMING

Nancy Hall, Monica Riordian (Dr. Monica Riordian) Chatham University

Theories of vicarious shaming, or experiencing feelings of shame while watching others in shaming situations, were tested from survey questions. Not being able to identify with a character in a shaming situation would suggest that the viewer was more likely to judge and shame others in that type of situation, while identifying with the character suggests that vicarious shaming has resulted by viewing the character in a shaming situation. In a non-experiment, participants completed surveys. Scores between relatedness to character and tendency to shame others or experience vicarious shaming, were then compared. Results were expected to show that vicarious shaming occurs, even while subjects are being entertained. A correlation between the number of hours a participant watched reality TV and the number of times they indicated feeling vicarious shame was non-significant ($r = -.13$, $p = .38$). Future studies should further examine the maladaptive aspects of perpetuating a culture of shame through media exposure versus the possible benefits of vicarious shaming. Keywords: vicarious shaming

THE EFFECT OF NEGATIVE MORAL EMOTIONS ON RISK TAKING

Andrew Didio, Dr. Sandra Webster (Dr. Sandra Webster) Westminster College

This experiment examined the effect that shame, guilt, and embarrassment had on risk taking. The literature described and differentiated between the three negative moral emotions and stated their connection to risk taking. The experiment was a 2×4 between subjects design measuring the amount of risk men and women take at four levels of emotion (shame, guilt, embarrassment, and neutral). Fifty six participants imagined themselves in four different given scenarios and rated how ashamed, guilty, and embarrassed the participant would have felt in each. Appraisals were asked after each scenario to determine morality and control of the protagonist in each scenario. Participants performed the Iowa Gambling Task to measure risk. Results showed that people are unable to differentiate the three negative moral emotions and often times mix up the three thinking they are feeling one when they are really feeling another. These results also showed that negative moral emotions had no effect on risk taking. Keywords: guilt, shame, embarrassment, and risk

SOCIAL NETWORKING AND EMOTION

Stephanie Thompson, Erin Slattery, Elizabeth Roberti, Pamela Kus (Dr. Jack Croxton) State University of New York at Fredonia

The goal of this study was to understand the impact of social media sites on people's reactions to various messages. We varied whether the message was uplifting (I got a puppy) or depressing (my puppy died), and whether or not a picture accompanied the message. We also varied the relationship of the sender to the receiver (friend or acquaintance) and the message was received from each of the following types of media: Facebook, Text Messaging, and Twitter. After receiving the message the subjects completed a survey. They guessed what types of emotion the sender was feeling and reported how the message affected themselves. We found that text messaging had the greatest impact, particularly when the subject received a sad message. Further results will be reported at the meeting.

DON'T STOP THE MUSIC: AUGMENTATION OF MOOD USING TEMPO

Julian Martinez (Dr. Webster) Westminster College

Music has the ability to induce emotion within the listener however; this study investigates how music augments pre-existing emotion. 88 college-aged students, 45 men and 43 women, were randomly assigned into a mood induction group (happy, sad, or neutral). Participants were randomly assigned to one of three different excerpts of Four Seasons by Vivaldi played in a fast, slow, or neutral tempo. All participants completed an emotion rating scale before and after music on a 1-5 scale. The results showed that no augmentation occurred except in the neutral mood and fast tempo condition where positive affect increased. In future research using different aspects of the music such as mode, rhythm, and arrangement may find more results. Only one augmentation effect meant that tempo might not be the best tool to use to augment moods. Keywords: tempo, augmentation, mood, and affect

APPROPRIATENESS OF NONLINGUISTIC VOCAL AND FACIAL PAIRINGS IN EMOTION DECODING

Emily Zetzer (Dr. Sandra K. Webster) Westminster College

This study examined appropriateness of facial and vocal expression pairs in emotion decoding. Four nonlinguistic vocalizations and facial emotions were, anger, fear, joy and sadness. College students (N=11) were presented with faces and voices in a 4 (Vocal Expression) x 4 (Facial Expression) x 2 (Target Gender) x 2 (Participant Gender) mixed design with repeated measures on the first three factors and asked to rate the appropriateness of the facial expression presented with a vocal emotion pairing on a rating scale from 0 to 7. Trials consisted of both congruent and incongruent vocal and facial expression pairings. When trials were congruent appropriateness ratings were high. When vocal joy was paired with facial anger, fear, sadness appropriateness ratings were low. Facial fear and anger appropriateness rating were also low when paired with incongruent vocal pairings. Limitations include vocal expression was presented prior to facial expressions.

PERSONALITY SESSION Northwood 113

BIG FIVE PERSONALITY TRAITS AND INTUITIVE EATING: A CORRELATIONAL STUDY

Amanda Haskin, Monica Riordan (Monica Riordan) Chatham University

According to Trait Theory, personality is made up of a number of broad traits. A trait is a relatively stable characteristic that causes an individual to behave in certain ways. An individual's eating habits may be associated with their personality traits. Personality traits such as low conscientiousness, high neuroticism and low extraversion have been positively correlated with maladaptive eating behaviors, therefore it is hypothesized that high conscientiousness, low neuroticism, and high extraversion may positively correlate with Intuitive Eating, an adaptive eating behavior. This survey study's intent was to find a correlation between personality traits (independent variable) and intuitive eating habits (dependent variable). Participants from an online marketplace, Amazon's Mechanical Turk, were asked to fill out questionnaires that measured personality (BFI-44) and intuitive eating habits (IES-2). The findings support the hypothesis; there are statistically significant correlations between each of the hypothesized personality traits and intuitive eating habits. These results may create an opportunity to identify those at risk for disordered eating and facilitate an avenue towards enhancing personality characteristics that are conducive with intuitive eating. Discussion of future research into social and cognitive aspects is also posited.

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN ACADEMIC MAJOR AND DRUGS: AN APPLICATION OF HOLLAND'S THEORY TO DRUG PROBLEMS

Matthew Goddard (Dr. Matthew Weaver) Mercyhurst University

Drugs have been a problem on college campuses for many years now (National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2010). This study looks at academic majors to see differences in use of drugs, perceptions of use on campus, and perceived stigma of individuals treated for substance abuse. Holland's theory has shown a relationship between academic major and personality type (Holland, 1997). Other research has shown a relationship between personality type and drug use. This study combines this previous research and finds a relationship between academic major and drug use as well as perceptions. The study also tests stigma of individuals treated for substance abuse. The study found this relationship using an ANOVA where differences were found between the different academic majors studied. The relationship among academic major and drug use is expected to be due to a socialization process that happens to students within each academic major.

THE DARK TRIAD, DETERMINISM, SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Joseph Ligato, Matthew Pleso, Jesse DeFazio, Blaine Shrum, Daniel Estes (Christopher Niebauer) Slippery Rock University

The current study investigated personality scales associated with the Dark Triad and Determinism as well as a Social Intelligence scale and their relationship with College GPA. This was done as a follow up study to previous research showing that positive dispositional traits were associated with college success. The importance of these findings will be discussed.

AN INVESTIGATION INTO IDENTIFIED TRAITS FROM A SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Daniel Estes (Dr. Niebauer) Slippery Rock University

The current study investigated personality scales associated with life perspectives such as freewill and environmental measures such as social intelligence. In particular, significant correlational relationships were identified in regards to Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Freewill, and Social intelligence. The current study seeks to illuminate these relationships, and other findings of the research, to discuss possible implications pertaining to these correlations. The importance of these findings will be discussed.

DOES PERSONALITY HAVE AN EFFECT ON PET PREFERENCE?

Kristina Donnelly-Brotzman (Dr. Chris Niebauer) Slippery Rock University

This current study investigates possible connections between the personalities of pet owners and the type of animal they keep as their pet. Past research (Gosling, 2010; Bagley, 2005; Johnson 1991) found that extroverted personalities tend to prefer dogs, while introverts prefer cats. The purpose of this study is to determine if extroverted, introverted, Type A, or Type B personalities are related to the type of pet that person may own. The hypothesis of the current study is consistent with previous research such that extroverted participants should prefer a dog, while an introvert would prefer a cat. This survey was conducted online in order to reach as many participants as possible. Conclusions discuss the importance of how personality may shape determine the pets that we choose.

DEVELOPMENTAL SESSION Northwood 211

INHIBITORY CONTROL AND WORKING MEMORY PREDICTS HELPING BEHAVIORS IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

Sarah Mohn (Mandy Medvin) Westminster College

This study examined if executive function predicts prosocial behavior. A total of 32 preschool children, aged 3 to 5, were used in 2 sessions. The first session contained 2 executive function measures; inhibition (delay of gratification and delay gift-wrap) and working memory (forward digit span and count and label). The second session involved 2 prosocial laboratory tasks that looked at willingness to help (clothesline and crayon) and a teacher rating prosocial questionnaire. To test the hypothesis that higher levels of executive function (inhibition and working memory) would predict higher levels of instrumental prosocial behavior a correlation analysis was conducted. Results showed that higher levels of inhibitory control were predictive of higher levels of prosocial behavior. Regression analyses found that higher levels of inhibition lead to higher levels of the teacher rating prosocial behavior questionnaire. Implications include that inhibition may be crucial to the development of prosocial behavior.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PRESCHOOLERS INHIBITORY CONTROL, SOCIAL SKILLS, AND EMERGENT LITERACY

Jennifer Polkabla, Mandy Medvin (Mandy Medvin) Westminster College

Children's academic success can be attributed to higher skills in inhibitory control, social environments, and emergent literacy. In this study, inhibitory control and social skills were examined with their relation to emergent literacy in 33 preschool aged children from 3 to 5 years of age. Measures of inhibitory control assessed children's ability to suppress dominant responses and answer with subdominant, correct responses. Social skills measured compliant behaviors, maturity levels, and peer interactions and emergent literacy skills were measured through the assessment of phonological awareness, letter knowledge, and receptive vocabulary skills. It was hypothesized that children with higher inhibitory control and social skills would have higher emergent literacy skills. There were no significant relationships found between children's inhibitory control, social skills, and emergent literacy. Secondary analyses revealed that males' inhibitory control composite was significantly correlated with alliteration awareness, social skills, and assertion subscale. Keywords: inhibitory control, social skills, emergent literacy, preschool.

SURGENCY AND STRATEGIES: DO THEY AFFECT EMOTION REGULATION IN PRESCHOOLERS?

Lauren DiLullo (Dr. Mandy Medvin) Westminster College

This study examined how surgency (SUR) and regulatory strategies affect children's emotional control. SUR is defined as being highly impulsive and very social. Surgent children were predicted to have better teacher-parent-rated emotion regulation (ER) scores if they utilized self-regulation (SR) strategies during a Forbidden Toy task. Emotion regulation and SR strategies were measured in 32 preschoolers aged 3-5. Highly surgent children were predicted to have poor ER unless they used self-regulation strategies. Correlation analysis indicated that when the SR strategy of diversion was used during the Forbidden Toy task, preschoolers had better regulation of negative emotions. Linear regression analysis revealed that it is the strategy used not surgency that influences ER. Compared to previous research, this study is unique in that it measured the regulation of positive emotions in surgent preschoolers instead of just negative emotions. However a more sensitive measure should have been used for ER.

THE EFFECTS OF CYBERBULLYING VS. TRADITIONAL BULLYING ON DISTRESS LEVELS AND DEFINITION

Irma Velic, Elizabeth Kremer, & Kayla Pelczar (Charisse Nixon) Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Bullying is considered present when negative actions are repeated over time to one or more persons. In this study two different forms of bullying will be identified: traditional bullying and cyber-bullying. There are many similarities between both forms of bullying, when looking at the characteristics of the bully and the victim in a bullying situation. For instance, bullies tend to show high emotionality and low self-control. On the other hand, victims manifest problems of low self-esteem, loneliness, depression, social anxiety and school phobias. Traditional bullying has been studied quite extensively and seems to exhibit negative effects for all of the children in the traditional bullying situations. Cyberbullying is a relatively a new concept and will need to be studied further in order to see its full effects. This study will attempt to determine the current definition of bullying and the distress levels associated with this form of aggression.

RECIPROCATED FRIENDSHIPS: INFLUENCES ON EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE

Cheryl Barnes, Dr. Mandy Medvin (Dr. Mandy Medvin) Westminster College

There are gaps in the literature linking friendship reciprocity and emotional competence of preschoolers. Thirty-three children were recruited from a preschool in Western Pennsylvania. The sample included 15, 3 year old children and 18, 4-5 year old children. Children completed 2 measures of friendship including a nomination task and rating scale task and 3 emotional competence measures which included emotion labeling, affective perspective taking, and knowledge of emotion causes. The design of the study was correlational. It was hypothesized that children who participate in a greater number of reciprocated friendships would have highest levels of emotional competence, more specifically emotion knowledge. A greater number of reciprocated friendships were associated with higher levels of emotion knowledge. Children who reported more reciprocated friendships had the highest emotion knowledge composite. Reciprocated friendships are beneficial to preschool children and offer opportunities to develop emotional competencies. Preschool children should be encouraged to play in dyads in and out of the classroom. Keywords: reciprocated friendships, emotional competence, preschoolers

ATTRIBUTIONS AND MOTIVATIONS SESSION Northwood 212

GENDER ROLE IDEOLOGY AND RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION

Christina Guardiani (Dr. Sherri Pataki) Westminster College

In this study, gender role ideology and ambivalent sexism were examined in couples as a predictor of relationship satisfaction. It was hypothesized that a similarity between partners' beliefs and egalitarian as opposed to traditional beliefs about gender would increase relationship satisfaction. Self-reports of gender role ideology, sexism, and relationship satisfaction were examined from 30 college-age, dating, heterosexual couples. The hypotheses were not fully supported by the data; however multiple relationships were found between men and women's differing levels of gender role ideology and self-reports of masculine and feminine traits. For men, there was a connection between feminine traits and sexism towards men, and for women the connection was between masculine traits and lower levels of sexism. This study has implications for the further investigation into the relationships between traits and beliefs related to gender.

ATTRIBUTIONS OF BLAME FOR A SEXUAL ASSAULT ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS

Megan Favale, Alexandria Maley (Dr. Jack Croxton) SUNY Fedonia

The purpose of this study was to determine how individuals perceive sexual assault as a function of the following variables: Age (teenage or college aged victim), type of drug involved, and choosing to take a drug versus being tricked into taking the drug. The subjects were asked to read one out of eight different fictional scenarios involving a sexual assault which took place at a college party. They were asked to estimate the victim and perpetrator's emotions, assigned blame, and attributed responsibility for the incident. They were asked how much empathy they had toward the victim and assigned punishment to the perpetrator. The victim was blamed more and the perpetrator was blamed less when it was a teenage victim. More blame was placed on the perpetrator when marijuana was the drug that was taken and more blame was placed on the perpetrator when there was deception employed. A number of interactions were found and will be discussed at the conference.

THE EFFECT OF LEADERSHIP STYLES ON GROUP PRODUCTIVITY IN GENDER-DIVERSE GROUPS

Carrie Whisel (Jamie McMinn) Westminster College

This study examined how leadership styles affect the productivity of gender-diverse groups. There were 108 undergraduate students recruited in groups of 3 that were either gender-homogenous or gender-diverse, and a research assistant emulated either a task-oriented or relationship-oriented leadership style. Their task was to construct origami sailboats as a measure of group productivity. It was predicted that diverse groups with a relationship-oriented leader would have the greatest productivity, whereas both diverse and homogeneous groups with a task-oriented leader would have the lowest productivity. Analyses found no significant effect of leadership styles or group composition on group productivity. However, groups had more favorable perceptions of relationship-oriented leaders. The findings can be implemented into management training for a positive work environment.

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART 4: MOTIVATION FOR THE FUTURE

Amanda Martin (Dr. Stephen Paul) Robert Morris University

The present study examined the effects of motivation-type (intrinsic and extrinsic) and self-continuity (current-self and future-self) on intent to study. Based on these variables, four requests for attendance (scripts) to an evening study session were crafted. Two that emphasized intrinsic motivation (learn and apply course content) and two that emphasized extrinsic motivation (better grades and food provided). Within each of these, two script variations were created that either emphasized benefits relevant to the current-self (better prepared for the test) or to the future-self (your future-self is counting on what you do today). Scripts were equated on number of words and number of sentences. Results showed only significant main effects of both motivation-type and self-continuity (no interaction). Extrinsic motivation produced greater intent than intrinsic motivation, and future-self produced greater intent than current-self. Recommendations for practical applications of these findings are provided. In addition, implications of these findings to the literature are discussed.

CORRELATIONS BETWEEN PARENTING STYLES AND FUTURE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Christina Basso (Dr. Sherry Pataki) Westminster College

This study focuses on the association between parenting styles and children's future romantic relationships. It was predicted that individuals were most likely to model behavior of parents if they had an authoritative parenting style, least likely if they had a neglectful parenting style, and moderately likely to model their parents if they had an authoritarian or permissive parenting style due to the implications of the social learning theory. A group of 60 undergraduates completed the Remembered Relationship with Parents Scale (RRP10) to evaluate how each parent's parenting style related to the participants' behavior in romantic relationships. A correlation was used to determine the relationship between parenting styles and future romantic relationships. No significant correlation was found. Significant correlations were found between authoritarian parents and authoritative relationship behaviors, and between neglectful parents and authoritarian relationship behaviors. The hypothesis was not supported by these findings. More studies of this nature could help to better understand the way that parents affect their children's future relationships or if they have any affect.

CLINICAL AND COGNITIVE SESSION Northwood 213

THREATS TO SELF-ESTEEM AND THE EFFECTS OF CONFORMITY LEVELS IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS

Nicole Rochon (Dr. Matthew Weaver) Mercyhurst University

This study looks at the relation between threatened self-esteem and a person's willingness to conform. The study will be a 2X2 between-subjects design, separated by gender and experimental and control groups. The manipulation of the independent variable, self-esteem, will be provoked by ensuring that the participants look at picture perfect models depicted through a power point. The female and male participants influenced by the independent variable will browse view the same power point containing pictures of both male and female models. The control group will view a power point containing landscape pictures which displays gender neutral characteristics. The participants will then read through conforming situations and rate how likely they would be willing to conform. The conforming circumstances will be exhibited through social scenarios varying on levels of social pressure. After reading the scenarios, the participant will fill out the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale and the Marlowe-Crowne Social desirability scale. The hypothesis is that participants, who experienced threats to their self-esteem, by looking at perfect models displayed in the power point, will be more likely to conform in social situations.

USE OF DISCRETE TRIAL INSTRUCTION TO AID IN VOCABULARY ACQUISITION FOR COLLEGE AGED PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Tracey Howland (Dr. Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University

Discrete trial instruction (DTI) is a popular skill building and discrimination technique used for children on the autism spectrum. Difficult tasks are broken down into simple skills that are taught first, and then subsequently built upon until the difficult task is accomplished. There are many people with developmental disabilities that are entering the higher education system and are able to succeed with slight assistance. With this new influx of students with learning difficulties, there have been additional programs created to accommodate these students. This study's focus was to test a training program with students with developmental disabilities in the gaining of vocabulary. A single case design study was employed in five participants with varying degrees academic ability and a diagnosis of a developmental disability. This study investigated whether there was significant vocabulary gain after performing 20 minutes weekly of discrete trial instruction (DTI) in class, compared to 20 minutes of individual in-class studying methods. With access to reinforcement behind DTI that is not present with individual studying, it was hypothesized that the words obtained in the DTI condition will be gained more quickly than those gained through the individual studying condition. Data analysis is currently in progress; if the hypothesis is correct it would be a demonstration that short term reinforcement in long term goals, such as increases in vocabulary gain, is significant to acquisition success.

RELATION BETWEEN SUB-CLINICAL AUTISM TRAITS AND READING EMOTIONS IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

Ashley Drewry (Dr. Monali Chowdhury) Allegheny College

Following the spectrum model of autism, there is now considerable evidence for a broader autism phenotype (BAP), or a set of subclinical personality traits and symptoms associated with autism, observable in the general population. The current study explored how these sub-clinical traits of autism found in a sample of college students are related with the ability to read emotions. The relationship between different demographic variables such as sex, academic major, and GPA with the BAP and ability to read emotions was also assessed. Participants (N = 109) were students from all class years at Allegheny College from areas of natural science, social science, and humanities. Participants completed the (a) Autism Quotient (AQ) – a 50-item questionnaire developed by Baron-Cohen et al. (2001) to assess presence of autistic traits in the general population; (b) Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test (Baron-Cohen et al., 2001) – a 36-item task requiring participants to identify the emotion expressed in pictures of a person's eyes; and (c) a demographic questionnaire. A one-way ANOVA was used to examine differences on AQ scores and scores on the Eyes test based on gender and academic major. Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference tests were used for post-hoc comparisons. Correlations between AQ and Eyes test scores and GPA was also examined. As far as AQ scores, natural science majors were found to score higher than humanities majors suggesting that the BAP might be more likely to be present in students in these majors. This was congruent with findings from Baron-Cohen et al. (2001) who reported students in disciplines such as physics and mathematics were more likely than arts students to possess more of sub-clinical traits associated with autism. Females scored significantly higher than males on the Reading the Mind in the Eyes test. There were no significant relationships AQ and Eyes test scores and participants' GPA. Findings from this study helps provide further insight into the broader autism phenotype found in the general population.

MUSIC LANGUAGE FAMILIARITY AND READING TASK DIFFICULTY ON READING COMPREHENSION

Emily Farr (Dr. Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College

The current study looked at the distraction of background noise and how streams of information compete within the phonological store. Specifically, the study looked at the effects of passage difficulty and music language familiarity on reading comprehension. Participants were required to read both an easier and more difficult reading passage while listening to music in either English or Portuguese and to answer corresponding comprehension questions for each passage. When a 2x2 mixed ANOVA analysis was run, no main effects of passage difficulty or music language on reading comprehension scores were found. There were also no significant interactions. Results are discussed in terms of what features of background noise contribute the most to distraction and how this information is applicable to a school and work environment.

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE ROLE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS PLAY IN THEIR TRANSITION TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITES

Michael Carter (Dr. Matthew Weaver) Mercyhurst University

Today, with so many job cuts of teachers and counselors occurring all over the country it makes it evident where our priority of education stands. Although funding thousands of jobs in education can be very costly, we need to make sure that we make plans to afford the education we need to move in a positive direct for the future. In the end the students are the victims. This research study is looking for the perception students have about high school guidance counselors and what their role as a high school guidance counselor is. Approximately 60 students will conduct two surveys to determine what their high school guidance counselor experience was like. As well as their current assessment of what the guidance counselor's role is in the transition for high school students into postsecondary educational opportunities. The survey looking at the guidance counselor role in the student's transition will be doing using a rating scale to determine the importance of the guidance counselor's daily task. The predictions of this research study will be that high school counselors play a significant role in the successful transition to postsecondary educational opportunities.

Poster Session Two *Skye Lounge, 1:45–2:45 p.m.*

Names of student authors listed in italics.

Names of faculty advisers appear in parentheses.

1 **SEXUAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPOSTOR PHENOMENON: A PILOT STUDY**

Matthew Turner, Dr. Brian Saltsman (Dr. Brian Saltsman) Allegheny College

Through this study we sought to discover any possible relationship between level of sexual identity development and characteristics of the Impostor Phenomenon. Using various models of identity development (Cross 1971, 1978, 1991; Hardiman and Jackson 1997; Helms 1990), as well as the Clance IP Scale (Clance 1985), a short battery of questionnaires was developed and given to study participants. A clear need for a more global approach to research of sexual identity development has emerged.

2 **DOES WORK/LIFE SATISFACTION LEAD TO GOOD GRADES IN HIGH SCHOOL?**

Joseph Ligato, Matthew Pleso, Jesse DeFazio, Blaine Shrum, Daniel Estes (Christopher Niebauer) Slippery Rock University

The current study investigated personality scales associated with Work/Life Satisfaction as well as a Leadership scale and their relationship with High School GPA. This was done in order to see whether positive dispositional traits are associated with increases in academic success. Numerous traits were associated with College GPA such as Capacity for Love, Hope, Gratitude, Zest, Curiosity and Leadership. The importance of these findings will be discussed.

3 **THE HALO EFFECT AND PERCEIVED VIRTUES**

Zachary Wolbert, Erin Ferguson, Maitham Al-Bedhawi (Dr. Luke Rosielle) Gannon University

A poster describing an investigation of the halo effect as it pertains to attractiveness and virtues will be presented. The halo effect is a psychological phenomenon in which superficially physically attractive people are assumed to also possess positive personality characteristics (Thorndike, 1920). The purpose of this research is to investigate the specific kinds of positive or negative attributions that are made to people of varying levels of attractiveness. In this experiment, we took 60 pictures of faces and had participants rate each face's attractiveness. Based on these ratings, we randomly selected 10 high, 10 low, and 10 moderately attractive faces and asked a separate group of participants to rate each face on a number of different virtues (e.g., kindness, creativity, etc.). Five of the six virtues (Wisdom/Knowledge, Courage, Humanity, Justice, and Transcendence) displayed statistically significant positive correlations.

4 **THE STROOP EFFECT AND STRESS**

Courtney Elliott, Melissa Cortes, Madeline Pelczar (Dr. Luke Rosielle) Gannon University

The Stroop Effect refers to the phenomenon in which it is more difficult to name the color of a word when the meaning and color of the word are contradictory (Stroop, 1935). In the current research, we are interested in investigating the relationship between the Stroop Effect and stress in college students. For this study, participants completed the Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen, Kamarck, & Mermelstein, 1983) before being given 55 seconds to complete the Stroop task. We are interested in whether there is a relationship between the amount of time it takes the participant to complete the Stroop task and the amount of perceived stress. We hypothesize that participants who are under a lot of stress will take longer to complete the Stroop task than participants who are not under a lot of stress.

5 OBSERVING THE RAMBO EFFECT IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS: PERCEPTIONS OF VULNERABILITY IN MEN

Sarah Morrison, Dr. Gregory Morrow (Dr. Gregory Morrow) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

In this study participants were primed with one of two scenarios. One in which a man in an intimate relationship acted in an aggressive manner upon stress in the relationship (masculine) and one in which the man acted in a vulnerable emotional manner (non-masculine). Participants then completed a survey to determine if they felt that the masculine or the non-masculine response by the male depicted in the scenario was more appropriate as per the participant's personal opinion.

6 IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ODOR AND PHYSICAL ATTRACTIVENESS?

Jacob Pontzer, John Liszka, Katherine O'Connor (Dr. Luke Rosielle) Gannon University

The relationship between physical attractiveness and odor was tested in the current experiment. Female participants rated five shirts previously worn by males and then were shown pictures of the same males in a random order. Participants then rated the attractiveness of the male photographs. We are interested in testing whether there is a relationship between the attractiveness of the photographs and the ratings of the shirts. Our results indicated that a woman's attraction to a man's scent is predictive of her attraction to his face only when she is ovulating. The other groups did not yield significant results, so we cannot say that there is a correlation between the two variables across every stage in the cycle.

7 EFFECTS OF POLYGRAPH EVIDENCE INDICATING INNOCENCE AND JUDICIAL WARNINGS IN CIVIL VS. CRIMINAL TRIAL

Gina Aki, Marlee Demay (Dr. Ronald Craig) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Polygraph evidence is generally inadmissible in the court due in part to judicial beliefs that juries exaggerate the importance of polygraph evidence. While previous research indicated it has minimal impact on a juror's decision, more recent media portrayals of the polygraph may have changed perceptions of its value. In addition, the impact of polygraph evidence may vary based on the type of cases (e.g. criminal vs. civil). Another factor identified by previous research to impact perceptions of polygraph evidence is providing cautionary information about it. In this study, participants read a mock trial scenario depicting either a criminal or civil case. The presence of polygraph evidence indicating innocence was varied, as was the presence of a judicial warning. Participants then responded to question regarding their verdicts, level of certainty, and influence of evidence on the decision making process. Data was analyzed to examine the effects of the polygraph evidence, judicial instructions, and case severity on juror's decisions and their level of certainty in their decision.

8 THE POWER OF THE ORGANIC LABEL

Deva Dorris (Dr. Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University

Does the organic food label have the power to bias our taste perception, increase how much we are willing to pay, and affect our caloric estimations? This study examined these questions by testing twenty participants from Mercyhurst University with three food samples (cookies, chips, yogurt), which were labeled either organic or regular. In reality, all of the samples provided were from the same brand and organic. Participants tasted the samples, then rated the foods individually on different qualities. Data is ongoing, but results are expected to reveal that organic labels increase the willingness to pay as well as the perceived nutritional value. It should also be expected that caloric estimations were less biased for those who are pro-environmentalists, regularly read nutrition labels, and often purchase organic foods. These results would imply that we draw many conclusions using an automatic cognitive process, known as a heuristic. The effects of the organic label have important implications for both the manufacturer of the goods as well as the marketers and advertisers.

9 THE EFFECT OF MIRRORS ON SELF PRESENTATIONAL EFFICACY AND STATE SOCIAL ANXIETY

Abbey Astley (Dr. Lauren Paulson) Allegheny College

How mirrors affected students' psychological responses.

A GENETIC ALGORITHM APPROACH TO MODELING FIXATIONS ON ADVERTISEMENTS*Tim Casto (Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College*

Using eye-tracking equipment, participants were tracked while viewing advertisements, half with search based instructions and the other half with free viewing instructions while they viewed the ads. After the number of fixations was collected, a genetic algorithm was developed to attempt to model how the participants viewed the advertisements, in both the search based instruction condition and the control group, by producing fixation plots for both of the advertisements. The genetic-algorithm-produced fixation plots were compared to the participant-produced fixation plots, using quadrant analysis, to measure accuracy of the algorithm. It was expected that people viewing advertisements with a search-based goal in mind would score higher on a post test about the information from the ads viewed than those without the search based goal. In addition, it was expected that the algorithm would better reflect the results of the search condition than those of the free viewing condition. The goal of the present study was to attempt to replicate human fixations on advertisements with algorithmically generated fixations.

ACCOMMODATION IN EMAIL: EFFECTS OF PERSONALIZATION AND TOPIC TYPE ON RESPONSES TO AN EMAIL*Courtney Morando (Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College*

The main goal of this research was to examine how accommodation is demonstrated in email between college students. The study explored how the level of personalization and the type of topic affected rates of accommodation in a student's response to an email. Participants read and responded to an email that was either personalized or non-personalized with a neutral topic or an email that was personalized or non-personalized with a controversial topic from a hypothetical peer with a gender neutral name. The controversial topic used was Facebook Confessions and the neutral topic used was Gator Day. Accommodation was measured through language style matching scores and whether the participant complied with a request made in the email from their peer. Higher scores and compliance were expected to be seen when an email was more personalized and when an email contained a neutral topic. The personal language that participants used in the emails they constructed was also assessed to see if they used more personalization if they received an email that was more personalized. While results of the current study supported the interaction that higher language style matching scores would be seen in emails that were more personalized and about a controversial topic, there was little support for higher rates of accommodation when the email was more personalized or when the topic was neutral. It would be important for future research to explore different topics, more features of personalization, and the influence of sex on rates of accommodation.

THE USE OF SARCASM IN THE WORKPLACE: WHICH PERSPECTIVE MATTERS?*Alicia McCallister, Christie Leslie, Robert Fogle, Erica Edwards (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski, Dr. Dawn Blasko & Dr. Shariffah Dawood) Penn State Erie, the Behrend College*

Sarcasm is a type of language often used in daily conversations. With the use of sarcasm there can be situations where the speaker's interpretation of their comment can be incredibly different from the listener's. Sarcasm in the workplace is especially difficult, because the intent can all depend upon who the speaker and the target is. When it comes from a coworker or an employer, the interpretation of the comment can be taken in different ways. According to constraint-satisfaction theory, sarcasm is understood under a variety of social and environmental constraints. In this study, participants read brief scenarios that ended in a statement that could be interpreted as sarcastic or literal depending on context, perspective (speaker/listener), speaker status (boss/worker), and comment type (sarcastic/literal). We measured reading times and ratings of humor, sarcasm, and insult. We also measured five cultural dimensions and conducted a theory of mind task that measures the ability to perceive other's emotions. The results showed that sarcastic comments were more humorous from the speaker's perspective than the perspective of the listener, but the inverse was true for the literal comments. Interestingly culture also played a role; the groups were similar in humor ratings when the worker was speaking, but when the boss spoke, those who were individualists thought it was more humorous when compared to the collectivists. Consistent with the constraint-satisfaction model, the data show that interpretation can be influenced by many variables, such as status, perspective, and comment type.

13

A LITTLE HELP Y'ALL: THE EFFECT OF ACCENT ON WILLINGNESS TO HELP*Philippa Panayiotou (Lydia Jackson) Allegheny College*

This study was conducted to investigate if accent has an effect on willingness to help. Using a well-established helping paradigm by Batson et. al 1997, participants listened to a radio broadcast of a young woman who has recently lost her family. The recording was either done in a Northern standard accent or Southern non-standard accent. The participants were then informed the woman was in fact real and had recorded a personal appeal asking for help with a fundraiser. Participants then heard the personal appeal in the same accent first heard. Participants reported if they were willing to help the woman. Helping did not vary due to accent. Limitations and future directions are discussed.

14

PERFECTIONISM AND COGNITIVE ANXIETY IN COLLEGIATE VARSITY ATHLETES*Ben Perko (Dr. Lauren Paulson) Allegheny College*

This study addressed the relationships between cognitive anxiety and perfectionism. Specifically, the multidimensional approach to perfectionism was studied looking at two specific areas: perfectionist strivings and perfectionist concerns. The study also studied gender differences in cognitive anxiety prior to and post competition. Participants (N=42) from NCAA Division III recognized sports (Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball and Women's Lacrosse) participated in this study. A multiple regression and correlational analysis was run to explore any significant relationships. Multiple regression analysis revealed significant results for cognitive anxiety where both perfectionist strivings and perfectionist concerns were significant predictors of cognitive anxiety. Perfectionist concerns showed the strongest correlation with cognitive anxiety. Overall, results of this study supported previous studies and contributed to the body of research behind perfectionism and cognitive anxiety in athletes. Future research should be dedicated to further investigation of perfectionism with other athletic characteristics such as self-confidence and self-talk to obtain a broader scope of perfectionism's importance.

15

EFFECTS OF PERSPECTIVE TAKING ON A RECOGNITION TASK OF CONCEPTUALLY RELATED TOOL OBJECTS*Michelle Holcomb (Dr. Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College*

Tools are used every day to make our lives easier. By retrieving function and manipulation information of tool objects, we know how to use tools correctly according to their function and how to hold tools to perform their appropriate actions. The present study examined the effects of context, specifically, perspective taking, on semantic activation of conceptually related function and manipulation tool objects within a triad picture display of tool objects. Participants (n=23) completed a recognition task in which target tool objects shared function or manipulation information with another tool object within the display. Reaction time (RT), accuracy, and eye movements were measured throughout the experiment, and tool object recall was measured on a post-test questionnaire. Main effects of perspective taking for RT and word recall were found, as well as main effects of conceptual relationship of tool objects for accuracy and eye movements. An interaction effect of perspective taking and conceptual relationship was found for accuracy on the recognition task. Results suggest that perspective taking influences semantic activation of function and manipulation information of tool objects.

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AN INVESTIGATION INTO NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION VIA SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MAGICAL IDEATION*Daniel Estes, Blaine Shrum, Milo Freese (Dr. Niebauer) Slippery Rock University*

The adult theory of mind task (Baron-Cohen, Jolliffe, Mortimore & Robertson, 1997) is a reliable test of social cognition and emotional intelligence. Participants must decide which emotion is being expressed by viewing the eyes only. The current study investigated whether magical ideation (belief in supernatural) is related to how well an adult scores on the theory of mind task. The hypothesis is that people who score high on theory of mind may not be conscious of how they can predict others behavior and therefore may develop unusual beliefs to explain their success. The importance of these finding will be discussed.

17

THE EFFECT OF ATTRACTION ON BEHAVIOR*Emily Zaskowski (Dr. Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University*

The purpose of this study is to look at the effect that attraction has on behavior in a single subject design. This is an experimental behavioral analysis approach to look into four areas that could be affected by attraction including, test performance, rate of test completion, heart rate, and skin conductance. During the initial session, each participant completed a preliminary survey to assess the characteristics in others that they find attractive. Based on results, confederates were found that best fit and failed to fit the results that were obtained from each participant. During the second session in a reversal and counterbalanced design, the confederates administered various sections of a computerized Stroop task to the participant to determine if their presence would be a determinant of behavior change. It was hypothesized that the confederate that best fit the survey results, the one that the participant would find most “attractive,” would cause an increase in the amount of time to complete the Stroop task sections, and an increase in the number of errors occurring. As well as an increase in heart rate, and would experience a higher skin conductance. The “unattractive” confederate was expected to create little or no response from the participant. Data completion is ongoing. If the results are as anticipated then this will show that attraction has an effect on behavior that is both controllable (test effects) and uncontrollable (physiological responses).

18

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEO-FFI AGREEABLENESS SCORE AND VOCAL ACCOMMODATION IN THE SEXES*Romy Schueller (Dr. Lauren Paulson) Allegheny College*

This study investigated the relationship between the NEO-FFI Agreeableness subscale, sex and vocal accommodation. Agreeableness and sex were used as predictors with vocal accommodation as the criterion. Participants read a list of ten words aloud while being audio recorded. They then heard a prerecorded voice say the list of words which they shadowed while being audio recorded. The participants also completed a twelve item personality questionnaire of questions from the NEO-FFI Agreeableness scale and then indicated their sex. Accommodation score was defined as how many times out of the ten words the participant convergently accommodated. Accommodation was determined by trained research assistants using an AXB forced choice procedure. Both agreeableness and sex were found to be not significant predictors of vocal accommodation.

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TRAITS ASSOCIATED WITH WORK SATISFACTION AND BELIEF IN GOD*Cassandra Bruce, Joe Ligato (Dr. Chris Niebauer) Slippery Rock University*

Previous studies have shown differences in belief in God and personality. In one study, self-identified atheists and agnostics scored higher than believers on the personality factor Openness to Experience from Costa and McCrae’s “Big Five” personality scales (Galen 2009). A recent study has also found a correlation between belief and GPA, with believers having a higher GPA than non-believers (Bruce et al. 2011). Work satisfaction is associated with curiosity, hope, gratitude, and spirituality. The current study examined traits associated with work and life satisfaction to see if there were any correlations with belief in God. Those who identified themselves as having a belief in God were correlated with zest, gratitude, and unsurprisingly, spirituality.

20

PROBLEM SOLVING: A MEASUREMENT OF FUNCTIONAL FIXEDNESS*Doug Aaron, Dante Aaron (Dr. Gerard Barron) Mercyhurst University*

An experiment was conducted to observe functional fixedness and creative problem solving. The purpose of this study was to attempt to recognize variances in cognitive abilities amongst college students. In a situation in which an object affords multiple possibilities for action, this study was conducted through systematic replication using multiple uses for the same object. The immediate problem of interest to this author concerned the conditions under which a perceiver is able to switch from perceiving one of an object’s uses to another use. Thirty (30) Mercyhurst University undergraduate students were randomly assigned to either a primed or non-primed condition. Those in the primed group were established by presenting them objects which was placed inside a Ziploc bag. This technique was intended to prime the participants to consider the bag as a container. For the non-primed group all of the items, including the bag, were placed on a table and the objects were placed on top of the empty Ziploc bag. Then a tower building activity was developed for this study, as a distractor, to determine if primed college students could do a problem solving activity faster than non-primed individuals. This researcher hypothesized that participants primed for functional fixedness will complete the task slower than participants who are not primed for functional fixedness. The results of a one-way ANOVA revealed a statistically significant main effect for task completion time between participants primed and not primed for functional fixedness.

21

DOES ACUTE AEROBIC EXERCISE HAS AN EFFECT ON LONG-TERM MEMORY?*Irene Rameriz (Melissa Heerboth) Mercyhurst University*

Previous studies have demonstrated that exercise has a positive effect on physical health, well-being and cognitive function. The purpose of this study is to assess whether or not acute aerobic exercise has a positive effect on long-term memory in college students. In this study participants in the experimental group were exposed and ask to participate to fifteen minutes of acute aerobic exercise. Participants in the control group were exposed to a nine minutes documentary and did not exercise. Long-term memory was assessed via a word recall task in which all participants were exposed twice to 15 nouns and were asked to recount the words a week later. Results showed that there was no significance $t(8) = .375, p > .05$.

22

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL STYLES, HAPPINESS, AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS.*Taylor Deats, Joseph Ligato (Dr. Christopher Niebauer) Slippery Rock University*

This study was designed to explore the relationships between parental styles, happiness, and GPA among college students. Past research shows relationships between parental styles and happiness as well as parental styles and GPA (Cheng & Furnham, 2004; Hong & Ho, 2005; Straight & Yeo, 2014). Participants filled out the Parental Authority Questionnaire (1991) and Oxford Happiness Questionnaire (2002) with self-reported GPA. Participants with authoritative parents are being considered to see if they are happier along with obtaining higher GPA's versus their peers who experienced different parenting styles.

23

DOES CONSENSUS INFLUENCE SURVEY RESPONSE?*Jesse DeFazio (Dr. Christopher Niebauer) Slippery Rock University*

According to previous research (Brown, 1982), when an individual is told to represent the opinions of others, that individual tends to overestimate the amount that others agree with his opinion. This is known as the False Consensus Effect where individuals were likely to predict the answers of the majority to correlate with their own on a survey about preference. In the current experiment, this notion of False Consensus Effect was reversed: rather than one influencing the perceived opinion of many, the many influenced the perceived notion of one. A questionnaire containing four scenarios relative to college students was distributed to participants. The Independent variable is the percentage, whether it was a number above or below 50% that others supposedly agree with the scenario opinion and the dependent variable is the likelihood the individual will agree with the opinion. Therefore, the hypothesis is that individuals will be more likely to agree with opinions with higher percentages from others and less likely to agree with opinions with the lower percentages from others, thereby creating consensus.

24

LOOK THIS WAY: THE ROLE OF COLOR SATURATION IN ADVERTISEMENTS*Jessica Duvall (Dr. Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College*

The main goal of this research was to examine how color saturation of print advertisements affects viewer attitudes and eye fixation patterns. A one-way ANOVA eye-tracking design was used with the level of color saturation (low, control, high) as the between-subjects variable. Thirty-five participants viewed a set of five advertisements. The results were examined in terms of how saturation affect an individual's mean duration of fixation, mean number of fixations, average attractiveness of advertisement, and average probability of buying the product presented after viewing the advertisement. Results indicated that color saturation has an effect on both average fixation duration and average number of fixations, where low saturation conditions had higher numbers of fixations for longer periods of time. Saturation did not have an effect upon advertisement attractiveness ratings or likelihood of buying the presented product, but attractiveness of advertisement and likelihood of purchasing the product were found to be positively correlated. These results shed light on how the individual components of color affect viewing of advertisements and open up paths for further research.

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PERCEPTIONS OF DIFFERENT INTERPERSONAL LIE TYPES BY ELECTRONIC MEDIUM*Alyson Reardon, Jorday Leffer (Ronald Craig) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania*

Much of the research on deception in electronic communication has focused on webpages, social profiles, and emails. However, its use in conversational electronic formats (e.g. texting) is not well understood. The nature of formats like texting is often personal done between friends, as such the type of lie presented may be perceived differently than through other forms of communication. Without the traditional interpersonal feedback, perceptions of deceptions and views of its wrongfulness may be different. This study explored the perception of different types of lies told via Facebook, texting, or phone conversations. Three types of lies were examined; a support lie, an exaggeration of self-importance, and one told to cause harm. Participants either read or listened to a conversation containing one of the lie types told in one the mediums. They then responded to questions about the lie, its wrongfulness, experiences with electronic deception, and perceptions of the lie in different mediums. Data will be analyzed to identify any effects of perceptions of different types lies and the mediums they are told through.

26

TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION: THE EFFECTS OF BLOGGING VERSUS NOTE-TAKING ON INFORMATION RECALL*Saige Foster (Dr. Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College*

This experimental study used a one way between subjects ANOVA to explore whether blogging or note taking was more strongly correlated with gains in student comprehension. Allegheny College students from psychology courses (n=29) were recruited to read an article and either take notes on the article or write a blog about the article and then complete a handmade recall test, based on the article read. Analysis revealed no significant differences in recall test scores between bloggers and note takers, although results of the post-test questionnaire revealed that 70% of the participants indicated they used technology in their courses, and majority of the students tested found blogs to be either somewhat enjoyable, quite enjoyable, or very enjoyable. The post-test questionnaire also revealed that more participants believed that they would learn more if required to blog for class, than did not believe. The benefits of educational blogging and ideas for future studies are also discussed.

27

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXPERIENCED PARENTAL DISCIPLINE AND ENDORSEMENT OF AGGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE: IS MORAL DISENGAGEMENT A MEDIATOR?*Justine Eicker (Dr. Lydia Jackson) Allegheny College*

This study examined the relationship between experience with parental discipline, the endorsement of aggressive discipline behaviors, and moral disengagement in college students. It was hypothesized that all three of these factors would be highly correlated with one another, thus creating a mediation model with moral disengagement as the mediator between experience with parental discipline and the endorsement of aggressive discipline behaviors. 52 participants took three questionnaires that measured these factors and a linear regression was run to find if there was a significant relationship. The only significant relationship found was between the endorsement of aggressive discipline behaviors and moral disengagement, which is a replication of previous studies. It was also found that participants who scored the highest in experience with parental discipline had the lowest scores for endorsement and moral disengagement. Links between aggressive parental discipline and its endorsement, like moral disengagement, should continue being studied to better understand how these values are passed down and accepted from generation to generation.

28

IS SITUATIONAL EMPATHY AFFECTED BY FEAR?*Tim Martin, James Wherry, Allison Franco (Dr. Willford) Slippery Rock University*

Previous studies have examined different emotions and how they interact through video stimulus (Eisenberg et al., 1991). The present study aims to find a significant relationship between the fear and empathy that an individual experiences in a given situation. To account for individual difference, a baseline empathy measure will be given (Davis, 1980). Previously validated emotion-eliciting videos (Schaefer, Nils, Sanchez, & Philippot, 2010) will be used as stimuli. To measure participants' reaction to these films heart rate, galvanic skin response, and self-report measures will be taken. In addition to the previously mentioned goal, demographic differences and the relationship between empathy, fear, and tenderness will be examined.

29

POSITIVE STEREOTYPES AND THEIR EFFECT ON ANXIETY AND PERFORMANCE IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

Alexander Alnajada, Lydia Jackson (Lydia Jackson) Allegheny College

Previous stereotype threat research has primarily focused on the negative stereotypes of race or sex differences and standardized test performance. The present study expands on that by looking into positive college student stereotypes. The first hypothesis of this study was that college students exposed to the positive college student stereotypes will perform worse on the standardized test than those not exposed. The second hypothesis of the study was that those students exposed to the positive stereotypes would have increased anxiety. Participants completed a questionnaire manipulating identity salience, took a test containing questions from a practice GRE, and then completed a mood questionnaire. Data were analyzed on 49 college students. The manipulation check was not successful in that neither group was more worried about their performance. Differences were present in the total GRE scores and the total quantitative scores but not for the total verbal scores. Overall, differences were not present in anxiety. However, the experimental group reported feeling more confident and more tired compared to the control group. These findings can be utilized in school and college settings. These findings also add to the body of literature in stereotype threat in relation to positive stereotypes. Limitations and future research are discussed.

30

CONDOM USE SELF-EFFICACY, STD PERCEPTIONS, AND PHYSICAL REMINDER CUES: DOES GENDER MATTER?

Danielle Jones (Dr. Lauren Paulson) Allegheny College

The current study examined condom use self-efficacy, STD perceptions, the use of a physical reminder cue, and whether gender plays a role. By using a pretest/posttest design, participants were to wear a silicone wristband for three weeks after watching two short videos regarding HIV positive individuals and STD rates. Participants were recruited from a small liberal arts college and were randomly assigned to three groups: a control group, a video only group, and a wristband and video group. Overall, there were no significant differences from the pretest to the posttest when comparing mean scores of both the Condom Use Self-Efficacy scale and the Worry About Sexual Outcomes scale. Future research is needed for physical reminder cues as an intervention tool that can be paired with sexual education and increase the use of condoms among young adults.

31

PERCEPTION OF MEASUREMENT

Amy Puckett (Dr. Stephen Paul) Slippery Rock University

The ability to measure the length of unmarked stimuli when no environmental cues were present was investigated. Participants looked at the stimuli and approximated the length to the best of their ability. Participants filled out an objective questionnaire as to have an athletic ability score assigned to them, and answered basic questions about measurement. The findings were then classified by reported level of athleticism, with measurement knowledge being accounted for as well. This study was conducted on a group of Robert Morris University students with varying levels of reported athletic experience.

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YOURS, MINE, OURS: EXPLORING POST-BREAKUP FRIENDSHIPS

Sam Ahmed, Katelyn Fasano, Kevin Smith (Dr. Gregory Morrow) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

An aspect of interest in couples' relationships and the relationships with their friends is the impact of a couples' relationship status on those friends and friendships. Of particular interest is the interaction between a couple and their friends after a break-up or divorce. How people perceive the way they are treated by their friends during and after a split has not received a lot of attention. Surprisingly, little research has been done on the effects of a break-up on friendships. Considering the high rate of divorce in the U.S., it would be a good idea to see how the split affects the relationships of the couple and their friends. Since family and friends are so important to people, especially during times of stress or need, research in this area may allow greater insight into the roles people play in each other's lives. In addition, a better understanding of the roles others have in a person's life will allow for more understanding between people and reduce expectations, and therefore reduce possible resentments. The less resentments society has as a whole, the better off people are in general.

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PERCEPTIONS OF MISTAKES AND RACIAL STEREOTYPES IN THE WORKPLACE*Yiming Chen (Dr. Melissa Heerboth) Mercyhurst University*

East Asians in North America are stereotyped as more competent and less warm than Whites (Min & Berdahal, 2012). We wanted to investigate whether individuals' actual perceptions of East Asians could match these stereotypes. East Asian and White characters in a series of vignettes were portrayed as making 3 different types of mistakes: interpersonal mistakes (less warm), technical mistakes (less competent), or no mistakes. We found that the competence and warmth of East Asian and White characters were perceived similarly when they made mistakes in the workplace.

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TRAITS OF EFFECTIVE COUNSELORS IN UNDERGRADUATE CLINICAL POPULATIONS*Brandon Falvo (Dr. William Kelly) Robert Morris University*

This study examined whether/how a population of clinical psychology undergraduate students scored differently on the scales of the Augsburg Multidimensional Personality Instrument (AMPI) as opposed to a group of non-clinical psychology undergraduate students. Statistical differences between groups will be reported. The results and limitations are discussed.

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MEASURING SOCIAL ANXIETY WITH THE AUSBURGH MULTIDIMENSIONAL PERSONALITY INSTRUMENT*Alyssa Cass (Dr. William Kelly) Robert Morris University*

This study examined whether individuals with social anxiety would score differently on the scales of the Ausburgh Multidimensional Personality Instrument (AMPI) relative to a comparison group. University students completed the AMPI which contained a section that pertained specifically to social anxiety disorder. The scores were then calculated and compared to other groups. The results and limitations were discussed.

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THE EFFECTS OF A NON-DIETING APPROACH TO HEALTHY EATING ON MOOD AND EATING BEHAVIOR IN ALLEGHENY COLLEGE STUDENTS*Lynette Kehoe (Brian Saltsman) Allegheny College*

Research has shown that dieting can have many negative effects on people's physical and mental health. With dieting being such a common phenomenon in our society, and the importance of maintaining a healthy body, an alternative approach, called intuitive eating was developed. Intuitive eating is a method of natural eating that involves listening to the natural cues of the body, and has been shown to have many positive effects on people's mental and physical health. For this study, participants were asked to learn about intuitive eating and follow it for a week. Mood state and levels of intuitive eating behavior were measured before learning about intuitive eating, and again at the end of the week. The hypothesis of the present study was that participants will have an increase in positive mood after engaging in this non-dieting approach, and that participants will have an increase in intuitive eating behavior after engaging in the non-dieting approach. The hypotheses were supported by the findings of this research.

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DOES SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING PREDICT CREATIVITY, RISK TAKING AND GOAL APPROACH BEHAVIORS?*Dylan Shaffer, Dr. Jennifer Willford (Dr. Jennifer Willford) Slippery Rock University*

Subjective well-being is defined as positive affect, happiness and life satisfaction. Individuals that are happier than others have a better outlook on life and accomplish more as well. These happier individuals are thought to have better physical and social health. College can be a very stressful time for students. The current study predicts that high subjective well-being leads to an increase in creativity, risk taking and goal approach while mediated positively by social affiliation and negatively by stress. The sample of the study included Slippery Rock University undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 26. There were six different scales used included Subjective Happiness Scale, Kaufman's Domain of Creativity scale, Zuckerman's Sensation Seeking scale, Work Extrinsic and Intrinsic Motivation Scale, Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support and Undergraduate Stress Questionnaire. There were five strong correlations found in the research. However, there was no mediation of social affiliation and stress. This means that subjective well-being is such a strong predictor of success that the two mediators don't account for the success.

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 β CASOMORPHIN-7 AND ITS EFFECT ON BEHAVIOR IN VPA MODEL RATS*Ryan Pearson, Shelby Overman (Dr. Rodney D. Clark) Allegheny College*

The purpose of this experiment was to record and observe the behaviors of rats post injection of β casomorphin-7 (BCM7). BCM7 has been implicated in disorders such as autism, schizophrenia, and major depression in human subjects' blood, urine, and CSF. Past research in rats has shown that BCM7 induced changes in behavior characterized by the circling of their cage, periods of high grooming, long periods of inactivity, and increased analgesia. The specimens used currently were male valproic acid (VPA) rats used as a model of autism. The current experiment utilized a Latin square design of injections with a schedule containing baseline and vehicle trials (control). The doses of the BCM7 were 30 $\mu\text{g/kg}$, 60 $\mu\text{g/kg}$, and 90 $\mu\text{g/kg}$. There were four behavioral tasks that included: t-maze, tail-flick test (with and without naloxone), and opto-varimex; and one that did not: defensive burying. The results revealed no statistical significance, but the observations showed that BCM7 changes the rats' behavior to a certain degree. The rats were seen twitching with numerous acts of grooming and circling the cage. Other observations showed rats with long periods lasting over 3 minutes. The current experiment did not fully support the hypothesis that BCM7 would produce change in the behavioral tasks, but observations made during the testing lend to the overall idea that BCM7 has an effect on rat behavior. Further research with this drug in lower order organism such as the rat may lead to a better understanding of complex neurological disorders such as autism or schizophrenia.

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SOME BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF MEFLOQUINE: EVALUATION OF GABAA AND GABAB ANTAGONISTS IN RATS*Lauren Krowitz, Dr. Rodney Clark (Dr. Rodney D. Clark) Allegheny College*

The objectives of the present study are to determine the behavioral effects of Mefloquine (MFQ) in rats responding under a fixed ratio (FR) schedule of food presentation and evaluate the effects of potential GABAA and GABAB antagonists. MFQ generated dose-related decreases in overall rate of responding relative to saline values with the highest dose producing almost complete rate suppression. Moreover, the behavioral disruptions produced by various doses of MFQ are currently believed to be mediated by the actions of GABA. The exact mechanisms, however, have yet to be determined. MFQ was examined concurrently with selected doses of (+) Bicuculline, a potent GABAA receptor antagonist. (+)Bicuculline appeared to decrease the rate disruptive effects of MFQ. MFQ was also examined with the 2-Hydroxysaclofen, a GABAB antagonist. 2-Hydroxysaclofen showed marginal effects at the doses tested.

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EFFECT OF HISTORY OF UNAVOIDABLE AVERSIVE STIMULATION ON EFFECTIVENESS OF A PUNISHMENT CONTINGENCY IN THE RAT*Sarah Wilhoit, Colleen Bodnar (Dr. Rodney Clark) Allegheny College*

The present study examined the behavior of ten female Sprague-Dawley rats under a concurrent continuous reinforcement and continuous punishment schedule. The experimental group of rats had previously been given a history of unavoidable shock on a fixed time ninety-second schedule. The control group had no such history and both groups were lever trained under continuous reinforcement. The study did not yield pre-post-test results within either group. Yet, there was an apparent trend in the data of the control group. This group did demonstrate a reduction in responding during the experimental phase, $p=0.276$. This is not a statistically significant result, but it approaches significance when compared to the experimental group, $p=0.747$. This trend in results suggests support for the hypothesis that the control group would reduce its rate of responding during the experimental phase while the experimental group would not see a reduction in response rate. The present study did have limitations, the control and reduction or elimination of which may lead to more significant results.

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AMPI FAKE-GOOD AND FAKE-BAD SCALE*Shawna Kelly (Dr. William Kelly) Robert Morris University*

This research demonstrates a study regarding a fake-good and fake-bad scale for the Ausburg Multidimensional Personality Instrument (AMPI), a brief personality test used for teaching advanced undergraduate students about the use of clinical personality tests such as the MMPI. The current study examined if the AMPI validity scales could be used to identify students under conditions to either fake-good or fake-bad compared to students instructed to respond as their "real" selves. The results indicated that two of the validity scales (U and G) could be used with some success to identify over and under-reporting of distress.

THE EFFECTS OF Ω -3 FATTY ACIDS ON DEVELOPMENT OF HYPERTENSION IN STROKE PRONE SPONTANEOUSLY HYPERTENSIVE RATS

Maria Miranda, Amelia Redding (Jeff Cross) Allegheny College

The Stroke Prone Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat (SHRSP) model has been used widely by many researchers investigating high blood pressure, stroke and heart disease. One of the best ways to avoid heart disease is to eat a diet rich in ω -3 fatty acids. ω -3 fatty acids found in fish oil (FO) help lower triglycerides, which are fats located in the blood, lower blood pressure, reduce the risk of stroke, improve the health of arteries, decrease the amount of plaque and serve to maintain the function of the nervous system. The effect of oral FO administration via gavage (0.4% body weight) was investigated in young male SHRSP rats. Animals in this study were fed FO every day for 0, 3, 6 or 9 weeks. SHRSPs with the longer regimen of FO had significantly lower systolic blood pressure (BP) and shorter escape latency in the Morris Water Maze (MWM), which suggests that FO improves intracerebral blood vessels and can facilitate learning and memory processes. Evans blue(EB) staining of brain parenchyma was more evident in animals that with the shortest regimen of FO and suggesting that vulnerability to leaks in the Blood Brain Barrier (BBB) can be reduced by FO supplements.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE DOGS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TWO COLLEGES

Joseph Lavadie (Dr. Joyce Jagielo) Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Traditional methods of alleviating the symptoms of mental health disorders include the administration of drugs as well as psychotherapies. However, a newer and more controversial approach being utilized is a pairing of a psychiatric service dog (PSD) with an owner diagnosed with a mental disorder. A psychiatric service dog works in a similar fashion to a traditional service dog (i.e., seeing-eye dog) except that a PSD's predominant function is to help alleviate the psychological symptoms that an individual might suffer from mental disorders such as PTSD, Bipolar Disorder, and Schizophrenia. The present study examined the perceptions of PSDs using a Likert-scale survey of students at Edinboro University (high population of OSD students) and Lockhaven (low population of OSD 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.

CHOROID PLEXUS TARGET-BASED THERAPY IN RATS WITH CHRONIC HYDROCEPHALUS: USE OF AN AQUAPORIN-1 ANTIBODY TREATMENT

Hannah Phillips (Dr. Jeffrey Cross) Allegheny College

Hydrocephalus is characterized by an excessive accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the ventricular system, which causes a swelling of the lateral, 3rd and 4th ventricles, also referred to as ventriculomegaly. Current treatments for the disorder include procedures such as implantation of a shunt system or a 3rd ventriculostomy. These options are invasive and tend to fail within three to five years, resulting in multiple surgeries in a patient's life. Aquaporin-1 (AQP1), a water channel showing high expression on the apical surface of the choroid plexus, has shown to play an important role in CSF formation. Previous research has predicted that an AQP1 antibody could serve as a potential adjunct therapy in treating patients with hydrocephalus. The aim of the present study was to analyze whether an AQP1 antibody treatment in the right lateral ventricle of a hydrocephalic rat model could improve the common physiological and behavioral deficits characterized by the disorder. Anatomical analysis and immunohistochemistry (IHC) was used to assess uptake of the antibody as well as effect on ventricle size. IHC was also used to assess possible uptake of antibody in another AQP1 expressing organ, the kidney. Behavioral changes were measured with the Morris water maze and the object preference test. Results showed that animals treated with an AQP1 antibody in the right lateral ventricle expressed positive staining, indicating antibody uptake, as well as significantly smaller ventricles nearest the pump implant. There was no positive staining of the antibody in the kidneys. Behavioral improvements in memory and cognition tasks across the 14-day treatment were observed. This study indicates a viable relationship between AQP1 antibody therapy and improvement in behavioral and physiological symptoms of hydrocephalus.

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