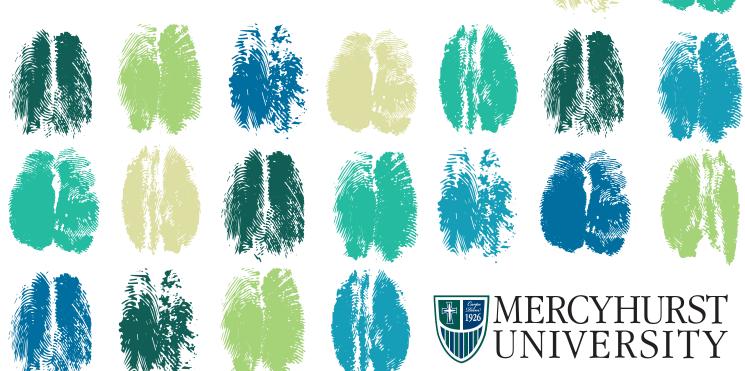


43rd Annual

Western PA Undergrad Psychology Conference

April 18, 2015 | Center for Academic Engagement





WPUPC

Mercyhurst University

















7:30A Check-in

Cummings Gallery

8:30A | Plenary Session

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

9:15A Poster Session 1

Center for Academic Excellence

10:30A Keynote Speaker

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center

12:00P Lunch

Herrmann Student Union

1:15P | Paper Session 1

Audrey Hirt Academic Center

2:30P | Poster Session 2

Center for Academic Excellence















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Keynote Speaker

T.J. McCallum, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology

Case Western Reserve University



Employing the SOC Model in Developing An Avatar to Assist Older Adults with Chronic Disease Management

The selective optimization with compensation (SOC) model was originally created to assist lifespan developmental psychologists in defining a path to optimal aging in the face of lessening resources. This project seeks to utilize technology to assist older adults in applying the model. To that aim, Dr. McCAllum and his team developed a computerized avatar designed to assist older adults with chronic disease management. The tablet-based avatar can assist the user by providing a direct connection to the health care team, as well as diet, meal preparation and exercise regimen suggestions. The avatar also provides coaching and support for complicated health regimens and administers basic health and mood measures. The avatar interacts directly with the user serving as both a resource and a motivator. In keeping with the model, the avatar provides the user with selections of behavioral choices, modes and methods of optimization once those choices are made, and access to compensation when needed. In this talk, Dr. McCallum will discuss the pilot project in which he and his team used the avatar in a Northern California senior-living community.

Plenary Session

MARY D'ANGELO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (8:30AM)

Opening of 43rd Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychological Conference

Dr. Matthew T. Weaver, Conference Chair

Introduction of President Gamble

Professor Robert Hoff

Welcome from the 11th President of Mercyhurst University, Dr. Thomas J. Gamble

Morning Posters

CENTER OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (9:15AM)

1. Perceptions of Sexual Assault: The Effects of Race and Athletics

Allison Yule (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Researching the effects of race and athletic involvement on perceptions of sexual assault is important because in criminal cases biases can result in disparities or even lack of conviction. If we know these biases then we can try to combat them. Participants were asked to read a short vignette describing a sexual assault and then answer ten questions created by the researcher on a one to seven Likert scale. Our hypothesis is that participants will assign the most blame and will be found guilty more often in a sexual assault to a perpetrator who is a non-athlete African American and least blame one who is a Caucasian athlete.

2. The Relationship Between Envy and Jealousy in the Work Place

Lauren Paoletta (Stephanie Richman), Westminster College

The purpose of this study is to see how gender and envy or jealousy of another's accomplishments will affect trust, aggression and productivity in a work environment. A total of 74 college students answered survey questions on one of three scenarios priming jealousy, envy or a control scenario. The questions relate to trust, aggression and productivity. I hypothesized women would trust less than men if envy or jealousy is present in comparison to the control I also hypothesized that productivity would decrease if jealousy is present compared to envy or the control scenario. Next, I hypothesized that men are more aggressive than women. There was a main effect of gender on trust and a main effect of scenario on productivity. There were no other significant results. In conclusion, gender does not have an effect on productivity trust or aggression in the work place and envy and jealousy effects productivity.

3. Effects of Fairy Tales on Responses to Morality from Boys and Girls

Shana Burns (Lydia Jackson), Allegheny College

The modern stories Little Red Riding Hood by Trina Schart Hyman and Red Riding Hood by James Marshall show how parents set boundaries to build a child's self-esteem, positive worldview, and independence. The two stories were used in a study that examined differences between the more serious Hyman and the more humorous Marshall versions, while also looking at differences between boys' and girls' responses. The study gave an option to cheat if children took more than one sticker after the story was read. It was predicted that the more humorous Marshall version would cause children to feel more sympathy for Little Red Riding Hood, while the Hyman version was expected to create more fear in the children. Also, it was expected that there would be an interaction with girls being less scared of Marshall's Red Riding Hood, and it would cause them to show more sympathy than boys. Lastly, it was expected that the positive ending in the Marshall version would prime children to think more about the positive outcomes of moral behavior and, in turn, cause them to cheat less, especially for girls. The study found that children did not cheat more across conditions and that there were no sex differences for level of fear and feelings about the end of the story. Results showed that girls preferred Little Red Riding Hood as their favorite character, while boys preferred the hunter.

4. Nicotine's Effect on Symptoms in Phencyclidine Model of Schizophrenia in Rats

Chelsey Gooch, KayLynn Carver, and Matthew Horchar (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

Schizophrenia is a complex, often debilitating mental illness, and little is known about its etiology or effective treatment. Studies have observed a correlation between schizophrenic populations and smoking tobacco. Schizophrenic individuals tend to smoke more than other smokers, and the schizophrenic population is composed of more smokers than populations with other mental illnesses (such as bipolar disorder). Anecdotal evidence suggests that smoking cigarettes may help some schizophrenic individuals to manage their symptoms, especially negative symptoms. The present study examined whether nicotine administration might antagonize the behavioral effects of PCP (a pharmacological model for schizophrenia). Rats were trained to respond for food reinforcement under a differential reinforcement of low rate schedule (DRL). Response rates were recorded with saline injections, varying doses of PCP, and injections of both PCP and nicotine. Nicotine (0.056 mg/ml, I.P.) did not antagonize the behavioral effects of PCP (1.0 mg/ml, I.P.) to a statistically significant extent, but there was some improvement with the addition of nicotine. Future studies should further explore the potential of nicotine as an antagonist in schizophrenia models.

5. Impulsivity, Competitiveness, and Academic Cheating

Katie Kaminski (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University

Cheating is an existing problem in academic institutions. This study aims to find the relationship between impulsivity, competitiveness, and academic cheating by finding correlations between five separate tasks. Participants, undergraduate students in northwestern Pennsylvania taking an Introduction to Psychology course, will complete the delay discounting task (Johnson & Bickel,

2002), the Barratt Impulsivity Scale-11 (Steinberg, Sharp, Stanford, & Tharp, 2012), Hypercompetitiveness Attitudes Scale (Ryckman, Hammer, Kaczor, & Gold, 1990), a novel academic competitiveness probability discounting task, and a self-report of academic cheating behaviors. It is expected that these measures will show a positive relationship between impulsivity, competitiveness, and academic cheating. Academic cheating goes against what students know is unethical, which is why it can be predicted that they are acting impulsively based on competitive urges. This relationship will show what students are more likely to participate in academic cheating and the knowledge may be useful to universities in the future when attempting to reduce academic cheating at their institution.

6. A novel Cannabinoid CB1 Antagonist with Therapeutic Potential Shows No Sign of Impulsive Responding in Rats

Julia Jagielo-Miller, Taylor M. Proper, and Marigny C. Normann (Peter J. McLaughlin), Edinboro University

Cannabinoid CB1 receptor inverse agonists have been examined as appetite suppressants, but clinical trials raised concerns they may cause psychiatric side effects such as suicidal depression. In the present study we examined a related category of appetite suppressants. AM 6527 is a CB1 receptor antagonist. To model depression, WAY 100,635 (WAY), a serotonin 5HT1A receptor antagonist, was administered to rats. In a previous study in our lab, rats received AM 6527 with and without WAY, and then were assessed using a classic test of impulsivity, the fixed consecutive number task (FCN). Rats given AM 6527 showed impaired performance consistent with increased impulsivity when it was co-administered with WAY. The FCN task, however, may be sensitive to changes in time perception and other processes. Subsequently we employed a novel impulsivity task, variable consecutive number (VCN), which does not show this sensitivity. Rats given AM 6527did not show an increase in impulsivity, with or without WAY. This suggests that CB1 receptor antagonist drugs may be a viable alternative to CB1 receptor inverse agonist drugs.

7. Weight Control, Avoidance of Negative Affect, and Exercise as Predictors of Body Satisfaction in Recreational Runners

Katie Stritzinger, Kelly Pieszak, Veronica O'Brien, Chad Losinger, and Dakota Bocan (Sharon Hamilton), Edinboro University

This study examines the relationships between exercise, motivation for exercise, and body image in recreational runners. Although exercise has many physiological and psychological benefits, exercise can also be associated with psychopathology. The Compulsive Exercise Test (CET) was developed, in part, to identify exercise attitudes and behaviors that may be associated with psychopathology (Taranis et al., 2011). Plateau et al. (2015) completed a factor analysis of the CET with athletes; finding Avoidance of Negative Affect and Weight Control were predictors of eating disorder psychopathology. This present study examines the relationships between Avoidance of Negative Affect, Weight Control, Exercise and Body Satisfaction in a group of 105 recreational runners. Participants completed an online survey that assessed Avoidance of Negative Affect and Weight Control, using the specific items of the CET identified for these factors by Plateau et al. (2015), Exercise, using the product of two questions assessing weekly frequency and duration from the Health Information National Trends Survey, and Body Satisfaction using the sum of two subscales of the Multidimensional Body-Self Relations Questionnaire-

Appearance Evaluation and Body Area Satisfaction. Results concluded that weight control motivation negatively correlated with body satisfaction, while the amount of exercise was positively correlated with body image. In addition, a step-wise multiple regression was completed to assess the predictive value of these two variable on body satisfaction. It was found that exercising to control weight predicted 22.6 percent of the variance in body-satisfaction. Adding the amount of exercise to the model increased this to 25.5%.

8. Traits Associated with Autism and Demonstration of Social Cognition

Christopher Muise (Monali Chowdhury), Allegheny College

According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are typically defined by deficits in social emotional reciprocity, deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviors, and deficits in developing, maintaining and understanding relationships (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) This study sought to determine whether neuro-typical college student's amount of behavior traits associated with ASDs had an influence on their social cognition. It was hypothesized that individuals with a higher prevalence of Traits associated with Autism and lower scores on the Empathy Quotient would demonstrate a lower ability to understand a social situation through a narrative about a still image. Results did not indicate a correlation between the ASD and the social cognition scores, social cognition measure needs to be modified prior to use in future studies.

9. The Effect of Lesioning the Nucleus Basalis Magnocellularis on Memory Acquisition and Retention in relation to Alzheimer's Disease

Lora Waybright (Jeffrey Cross), Allegheny College

Alzheimer 's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease which accounts for 50 to 80 percent of all reported cases of dementia. The incidence of the disease is expected to increase three-fold by 2050, while the exact origin of this disease remains unknown. Numerous studies have shown that acetylcholinergic neurons in the basal forebrain are among the first cells to be affected in AD, and degeneration of these cells correlates positively with the severity of dementia. This study examined the impact of electrolytic lesions on the nucleus basalis magnocellularis (nBM) in Sprague Dawley rats, tested in both memory retention and acquisition in a Morris water maze. Rats were trained in the maze prior to stereotaxic surgery, and tested in additional trials postoperatively on both memory of the maze and acquisition of a "new" maze, a mirror image of the original. Both errors and the amount of time necessary to successfully complete the maze were recorded as dependent variables.

Mood States in Populations: A Study of Depression in Dancers

Tricia Stefancin (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University

The levels of depression in dancers as compared to the general population will be studied by participant responses on the Beck Depression Inventory. Twenty participants, 10 regular students in Introduction to Psychology classes and 10 dance majors with elite dance training, will be recruited from a small, Catholic, liberal arts college. Due to the subjects being drawn from a

private, Catholic university the race is predominantly white and participants will be primarily female. All students are between the ages of 18 and 22 and have completed at least one semester of college. It is expected that dancers will show higher scores on the Beck Depression Inventory than the Introduction to Psychology students. This would mean that dancers would have higher risk of depression than the general population, and should be treated as a high risk group. It is hoped this information will lead to further research regarding mental disorders in dancers and better treatment options.

11. Sarcasm in the Workplace: How Position Changes Perspective

Alicia McAllister, Christie Leslie, Jeffery Roberto, and Hau Tuang (Victoria Kazmerski, Dawn Blasko, and Shariffa Dawood), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

Sarcasm can be difficult for many to understand or catch on to due to its ambiguous nature. Accordance to the Politeness Theory, sarcasm can be used as a form of humor and often functions as a way to maintain consensus, relieve conflict, and retain control (Holmes, 2000). Depending upon context and location, it may or may not be seen as appropriate to use. Thus, some people may interpret it as insulting or negative, while others view it as funny. There is little research on the factors that influence the perception of sarcasm in work place relationships. In this study we analyzed cultural differences in the interpretations of sarcasm, specifically looking at power distance and masculinity versus femininity in the context of Hofstede's Dimensions. We assessed the perspective of the characters within the scenarios and how it affected the interpretations of the sarcastic comments. Participants read scenarios describing a sarcastic interaction with a boss or coworker. Participants then rated these comments on how they perceived the sentence, as well as the perceived characteristics of the characters in the scenarios. Participants also completed self-reported questionnaires on the on levels of personal sarcasm and collectivism, in addition to an emotion recognition test. There was a significant interaction of perspective and intent. Participants rated a sarcastic comment as more justified when coming from a male boss, and as more humorous when from a boss. While, sarcasm can be funny, one should be aware of the context in which it is used.

12. Altering Motivation with Manipulations to Emotion and Self-Theory

Jordan Salsbury (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University
Motivation is a key force in the achievement of success for any individual; therefore,
understanding the way in which motivation is affected is crucial. The primary focus of this study is
to observe the effects of manipulating emotion and self-theory in individuals. Participants (n=25)
consisting of college students were separated into three groups, an emotional manipulation,
control, and fluid intelligence manipulation. This study aimed to increase motivation in one group
through priming students to have a positive mood and another group by priming students to
believe in fluid intelligence. Participants in the emotional independent variable group were
primed for a positive mood by watching a humorous video. Participants in the self-theory group
were primed for fluid intelligence by reading scientific evidence supporting the theory.
Manipulations to these two variables were an attempt to increase motivation. No other studies

have tested these two variables together, thus this study aimed to bridge the gap. The findings provide vital information concerning the factors that influence motivation.

13. The Effects of Mirror Exposure on Body Dissatisfaction

Haley Clark (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Body dissatisfaction threatens young generations due to the media's portrayal of the "ideal self". Men and women feel dissatisfaction towards their body shape, size and weight. Nevertheless, standing in front of mirrors has shown to lead to body checking behaviors in men and women. These behaviors are dangerous to health because people become obsessed with their ideal body images instead of accepting their current bodies. Personality has the ability to correlate with body dissatisfaction, and the current study used personality and mirror exposure as independent variables. It was hypothesized that extraverted individuals exposed to mirrors would have higher body dissatisfaction than extraverted individuals in the control group. Each group completed a series of questionnaires relating to body image, personality, stress, and dieting beliefs in a small and enclosed space. The enclosed space contained a four feet by four feet mirror that experimental participants looked into while answering the questionnaires. The results concluded that there was no main effect for the condition of mirror exposure and for the extraversion group. The condition results came out to be F(1,20)=.56, p=.59 and the extraversion category's results were F(1,20) =4.56, p=.28. There was also no interaction between the condition and the extraversion because the results were F(1,20)=.88, p=.36. Keywords: body checking, body dissatisfaction, and extraversion

14. Eyewitness Accuracy

Joyce M. Sumner (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Abstract: In this research study we conducted an experiment where a perpetrator entered a classroom and spoke with an instructor, after 60 seconds the perpetrator began to exit classroom and dropped two textbooks before exiting the room. Undergraduate students (N-45) were asked to identify the perpetrator, from a photo line-up with the perpetrator and five fillers after a two day interval. This research is important to both the field of psychology and criminal justice as eyewitness evidence plays a critical role in at least 77,000 criminal cases per year in the United States. In order for a person to receive justice, the system must use accurate and reliable research findings. We predicted that participants with the trait of extraversion would be more accurate than people with the trait of introversion in identifying the perpetrator and that group size would make a difference in the accuracy. There were no significant differences between the large and small group, there were also, no significant differences between participants with the trait of introversion or extraversion in the accuracy of the identification.

The Impact of Moral Licensing on Consumer Choice

Christian Reese (Patricia Rutledge), Allegheny College

Morality is a term defined as behaviors that are labeled right or wrong. Moral licensing is a psychological concept that describes a decreased drive to perform moral acts following a prior moral act. The present study examined the impact of moral licensing on consumer choice when participants were presented with products that donate a portion of their profits to a charitable organization. College students were randomly assigned to a writing activity that either morally licensed them or kept them morally neutral. The presence of licensing was measured by a

manipulation check. Moral licensing was measured by the self-descriptive ratings that participants gave on positive, negative, and neutral adjectives on a numerical scale from one to five; five represented a strong descriptor and one represented not a descriptor. Consumer choice was measured by the number of selected products with a charitable donation included. In addition to measuring consumer choice of morally licensed participants, a simple post-test was conducted to see how the licensing of these individuals carried through into a second moral decision. Participants were asked to decide between donating a dollar to charity and receiving a dollar. There were no conclusive results found in this study. Possible explanations for the failure of moral licensing affecting consumer choice included varying moral standards of participants, the environment where testing took place, the absence of a measure for baseline morality, and the failure of the licensing activity to properly license participants.

16. When is a Reception an Elitist Affair?: A Study of Embodied Metaphors

Erica Edwards, Cherylann Carter, Desmond Kane, Alysha Simmons, and Rachel Zimmerman (Victoria Kazmerski), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

Nonliteral language is often used to convey abstract and complex meanings in communication. Metaphors, a form of nonliteral language, can hold embodied roots (e.g., the reception was an elitist affair). Embodied language is thought to be processed through corresponding brain pathways, such as the auditory and motor systems. To better understand the nature of embodiment, the current study examined participants' ratings of both auditory and motor metaphors and semantically equal control stimuli. Participants compared the metaphors and semantically matched controls on similarity and rated vividness. Participants also completed the Randomized Short Betts' QMI (Sheehan, 1967) an assessment of vividness of imagery, a visioning ability scale (Thomas, 2004) an imagery vividness scale, a brief measure of the Big-Five (Gosling, 2003), and a sensation seeking scale (Hoyle et al. 2002). Further analysis will be conducted to determine relationships between the sentence ratings and the vividness scales. We expect to find that participants will rate the vividness of the meaning for the metaphors higher than the control stimuli. Also, we anticipate participants with higher QMI and the visioning ability scale scores will rate the stimuli as more vivid.

17. Perceptions of Social Science Majors

Neena Sabherwal, Angela Jeffery, Kelsey Jeziorski, and Amanda Joseph (Luke Rosielle), Gannon University

Social Science majors often hear certain stereotypically negative remarks about their major such as, "You're analyzing me right now, aren't you?" and "You know you will have to get a graduate degree to do anything with that major, right?" We know many hold this point of view, but what about other Social Science majors? The purpose of the current study is to explore the implicit associations undergraduates have about Social Science majors. Using a computer programmed implicit association test, we asked subjects to match positive and negative stereotypes (e.g., "low salary", "logical") to various Social Science or Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) majors. Exposing these implicit associations about Social Science majors may help to decrease stereotype threat that may dissuade students from entering Social Science fields.

18. A Progressive Approach for Making L2 Programs Available and Sustainable: Rethinking Priorities and Resources

Sydney Proya (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

Educational policies continue to disregard the need for proficient bilinguals in the United States. The lack of K-12 foreign language programs makes the United States an international exception in terms of educational priorities. The traditional instruction based methods for L2 acquisition are more expensive and less effective in developing effective communication skills than alternative teaching methods, yet they remain the most utilized means of L2 acquisition. By recompiling resources and rethinking program objectives, more effective and sustainable programs can be built. Under the present conditions, foreign language programs are widely unavailable to students until they reach high school. This not only discourages fluency in high school students, but disregards the sensitive period for language development in primary and elementary school students. Teaching through immersion and utilizing play based learning methods would set a strong foundation for natural L2 acquisition in primary and elementary education. Grass roots movements are developing to make foreign language programs available outside of the public school system and to hopefully let L2 learning be recognized as a national priority. Because Allegheny College is locally involved in The World Language Program I have included how such a program could be implemented in the Meadville community, by rethinking our own resources and objectives, as an extension of the college's present involvement.

19. Navigating the STEM World: Psychological Readiness, Flexible Mindset, and Self-Efficacy in Spatial Performance

Grace E. Waldfogle, Megan A. Harris, Nicholas Bowser, Dominik T. Dodds, and Kyle Mink (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College Many STEM professions show an unbalanced gender ratio favoring males that can be explained by looking into the current lack of growth mindset in our culture. This is based on the idea that individuals have the ability to learn and develop their skills regardless of their situation. In the current on-going study, we worked with local female and minority students who took part in local outreach programs (MCE/WISE). The Our Spatial World project has two goals: 1) to assess and train spatial skills and 2) to develop positive attitudes towards spatial skills and STEM fields. A special emphasis is placed on learning self-efficacy and the idea that spatial skills can be learned and improved upon. Overall, participants improved performance on spatial related tasks from pretest to post-test. They also expressed greater levels of confidence, learning self-efficacy, and interest in STEM fields after the training.

20. The Relationship Between Gender, Intelligence, Religious, Spiritual, and Paranormal Beliefs

Kayla Shaffer and Holly Schott (Chris Niebauer), Slippery Rock University The relationship between gender and paranormal beliefs has been explored through previous research, as has the relationship between intelligence and spiritual belief. The present study aims to explore the relations between gender, intelligence, religious/spiritual belief, and paranormal beliefs. These factors were measured on several scales, such as a Paranormal Belief Scale, a Spiritual Involvement, and Beliefs Scale, as well as select questions from the Baylor Religion

Survey. It was hypothesized that religious beliefs and paranormal beliefs would be negatively correlated. In addition, gender will correlate with the particular type of paranormal belief held.

21. Does listening to music affect performance on visuospatial and language-comprehension tasks differently between musicians and non-musicians?

Breana Gallagher, Jeff Cross, and Alec Chien (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

Musicians often refer to music as a language, but the current study investigates whether musicians automatically process music in the same way English speakers automatically process English, and the potential implications of that relationship. Three groups defined by their musical expertise, were each given a visuospatial and a language-comprehension task in the presence of music and in silence. The present study hypothesized that musical listening affects performance on cognitive tasks differently between musicians and non-musicians such that musicians would score lower on the language-comprehension task in the presence of music (because they are essentially processing two languages at once). Additionally, the study was designed to investigate relationships between musical sophistication and performance on cognitive tasks, hypothesizing that those with greater musical sophistication would perform better on both the visuospatial and language-comprehension tasks. Participants scored higher on the language-comprehension task in the silence condition. However, participant's scores on the visuospatial task did not differ significantly between the music and silence conditions. These results suggest that cognitive tasks can be hindered by musical listening, but it is task specific. Implications and limitations are discussed.

22. The Effects of the Mirror Illusion on the Vasomotor Response and Thermal Biofeedback

Steven Pickering (Kirk Lunnen), Westminster College

32 healthy Westminster College student volunteers, 15 men and 17 women between the ages of 17 and 23, participated in a 2x3 mixed design which explored the effects of the mirror illusion on the induction of thermal biofeedback (TBF) to elicit a vasomotor response in healthy individuals. Treatment in a single session of illusory thermal biofeedback induction did not produce any significant lasting changes in measured skin temperature or galvanic skin response. Notable and significant changes were reported during the process of stimulation, indicated by significant spikes and drops in measures, however no prevalent changes resulted. This study also examined the effects of gender on TBF through illusory stimulation. More research examining the relationships between biofeedback and other similar treatment modalities remains to be explored.

23. Lesbian Dating

Jessica Miller and Kate Urtz (Jennifer Dyck and Joseph McFall), State University of New York at Fredonia

This study included 56 self-identified lesbians from diverse geographical locations, and of various ages. Participants completed a survey, either online or on paper, on the differences between first and second dates, what activities they partook in when on these first and second dates, and what differences exist between a date and a friendship outing. A unique coding system was created in

order to place qualitative data into an analytical format that could be used to show common themes across participants. It is expected that the results will show different themes (such as romance, sexual intentions, or getting to know each other) are more important for some age groups than for others.

24. Gender Differences in Sympathy Ratings in Response to Counterfactual Thinking and Direness of the Situation

Carli Obeldobel, Nalyn Sriwattanakomen, Tayler Hansen, and Jessica Nickerson (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington and Jefferson College The present study explored gender differences in sympathetic responses to unfortunate situations. In each situation, the ease of counterfactual thinking (CT) and the direness of the situation were manipulated. It was predicted that female participants would report greater overall sympathy in response to unfortunate situations than would male participants; participants would express greater sympathy towards targets in more dire circumstances than targets in less dire circumstances; situations where CT was easier would evoke greater sympathy than situations where CT was harder; and women would report greater sympathy than men for situations that were less dire. The target questions presented the following four unfortunate situations: a broken leg, a date cancellation, spilled coffee, and being late to a midterm, which all differed in levels of direness and ease of undoing. Our findings suggest that gender alone plays a minor role, if any, in determining sympathy. The more dire version elicited greater sympathy for a broken leg and spilled coffee. However, greater sympathy was evoked in the less dire version of being late to a midterm. Additionally, when CT was easier, greater sympathy was evoked for being late to a midterm. An analysis of the trends across situations showed that males varied in their sympathy depending on the direness of the situation while females were more consistent in their expression of sympathy. The implications of this gender difference trend are intriguing.

25. Handedness and Hypochondriasis as Determinants of Change Blindness

Blaine Shrum (Chris Niebauer), Slippery Rock University

Previous research found that mixed handers score higher on measures of hypochondriasis (Niebauer & Naegele, 2007). This relation may have been due to mixed handers updating their beliefs more often than strong handers. Research on hypochondriasis suggests that it is the result of heightened somatosensory experiences along with lowered threshold for change. Change blindness occurs when an individual is unable to detect a change in an environment. The current study is testing if handedness and hypochondriasis would be predictors of change blindness. The hypothesis is that participants who are mixed handed will detect correct changes in a short video more than strong handers. It is also predicted that individuals who score high in hypochondriasis will detect more changes than occurred.

26. The Relationship between Moral Foundations and The Dark Triad

Spencer Knafelc, Matt Bayless, Matt Pleso, and Milo Freese (Chris Niebauer), Slippery Rock University

The relationship between morality and personality is a topic of interest to those who want to better understand what constitutes a 'moral' person. In this study, the moral foundations that one holds to be more important relative to the others, taken from moral foundations theory (J. Haidt & J. Graham, 2007), are compared with the personality traits of The Dark Triad (narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism), along with the political affiliation one associates with. In the moral foundations theory, the aim was to derive values from an evolutionary and psychological perspective, and to show that one's view on morality may come from any of these foundations. To find that negative personality traits may be positively correlated with any particular moral foundation could suggest that other foundations are to be valued more.

27. Body Image and Eating Disorder Tendencies in Collegiate Dancers

Kelsey Sawyer (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University

This study focuses on collegiate ballet and modern dancers and the immediate effects these types of dance have on body image and further development of eating disorders. A study like this has implications for future research in that it helps establish the kind of group more likely to develop these issues and may lead to research of a better prevention method for ballet or modern dancers who could experience these problems at some point in their dance career. The main question to be addressed is whether or not there is a difference between ballet and modern dancers and dancers in general compared to non-dancers, when looking at the immediate effects of dance on body image and eating disorder tendencies. Undergraduate dance majors enrolled in the highest level ballet and modern classes and Introduction to Psychology female students with previous dance experience will complete two surveys dealing with body appreciation and eating disorder attitudes and behaviors. For the dancers, this will take place immediately following their scheduled class time in the studio facing away from the mirrors. Non dancers will complete the surveys in a separate quiet room in the Psychology building. The results should indicate that ballet dancers have a more negative body image and greater tendency of developing an eating disorder than modern dancers according to previous research. They should also indicate that dancers in general have lower body appreciation and a greater likelihood to partake in eating disordered attitudes and behaviors than non-dancers.

28. Parental Attachment and Distance Travelled for College

Alexandra Martinez, Megan Barclay, Justin Misterka and Renato Popovic (Rebecca McDonald), Washington and Jefferson College

Based on previous research suggesting that parental attachment may continue to predict a child's exploration behavior during adolescence and the transition to young adulthood (Belsky, Garduque, & Hrncir, 1984; Seiffge-Krenke, 2006), the present study investigated the relationship between parental attachment and distance traveled to attend college. Two-hundred students attending an academically selective liberal arts college provided the name of their hometown and completed

the Parental Attachment Questionnaire (Kenny, 1987). The study found a significant negative correlation between distance travelled to college and the parental attachment score (r=-.20, p<.05). A secure parental attachment was associated with an increased likelihood that a young adult would choose to attend college closer to home. These findings suggest that securely attached young adults continue to follow attachment functions such as proximity maintenance, secure base, and safe haven when selecting colleges to attend due to the strange situation (Ainsworth, 1989).

29. Traits of Autism Associated with Internet Addiction and Social Anxiety in College Students

Greta Hilbrands (Monali Chowdhury), Allegheny College

The Internet, though extremely useful and important, may become problematic in individuals with certain traits (Finkenauer, Pollmann, Begeer, & Kerkhof 2012; Rosen, Whalin, Rab, Carrier, & Cheever 2013). This study investigated the relationship between problematic Internet use, traits of autism, and symptoms of psychiatric disorders in 127 college students. It was hypothesized that students who exhibited more of traits associated with autism would be more likely to report problematic Internet use. Further, presence of traits of autism would be linked with presence of symptoms of other psychiatric disorders of depression, social anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. These hypotheses were supported by the research findings. There was a significant correlation (r = 0.22) between presence of traits of autism and problematic Internet use. Traits of autism were also significantly correlated with symptoms of depression (r = 0.31), social anxiety (r = 0.53), and OCD (r = 0.30). These results have implications for understanding the broader autism phenotype or the presence of traits associated with autism in the general population. Risks of problematic Internet use and symptoms of other psychiatric disorders associated with the presence of such traits indicates the need for more elaborate help structures for mental health on college campuses.

30. Emotional Responses to Political Propaganda

Matthew Hatfield (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

The current study examines emotional reactions to political propaganda found in the context of social media websites. Previous research has indicated that several factors, such as emotional contagion, need for cognition, and need for affect are relevant to the relationship between political images and attitudes and perceptions of those images. Participants (N=25) from a small liberal arts college with ages ranging from 18-45 were required to answer a questionnaire in which they rated politically charged gun control and anti-gun control internet memes on a variety of emotional reactions (humorous, offensive, true, disgusting, happy, angry) on Likert scales then indicate whether they would like, share, dislike, or ignore the image if seen on a social media website. They were then asked to answer additional emotional scales to gauge their demographic information and emotional reactions. The measures included a political ideology questionnaire (Leighninger & Popple, 2011), a subscale of emotional contagion located in the Multi-Dimensional Emotional Empathy Scale (Caruso & Meyer 1998), the need for cognition scale, and the Positive and Negative Affectivity Schedule (Watson & Clark, 1994). It is currently anticipated that individual measures of need for cognition, need for affect, political ideology, and degree of offensiveness will serve as a model that can accurately gauge levels of humor in anti-gun and progun memes.

31. Prevalence of the False-Consensus Effect through Conflict Resolution

Emma Crawford and Rebecca Osterwise (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington and Jefferson College

This study investigated the prevelance of the false-concensus effect in conflict solution among college undergraduate students. Three demonstrations of conflict were given and participants were asked to respond to the questions that followed (N = 96, N = 89, N = 86). The two hypotheses we tested suggested that people will denote that a higher percentage of the population would make the same decision they would make than actually would and that people will attribute more positive traits to those who would make the same decision as they would. By comparing T tests, we found that the false-consensus effect was present in about half of the trials, while a series of Chi Square analyses proved that in all 3 of the trials participants listed positive characteristics for the population that would make the same choice they would make (p < .01). Our investigation demonstrates that people can over-estimate that their beliefs, attitudes or actions are commonly shared and tend to characterize those that share them positively. The study presented additional question as to whether personal or financial factors would increase the presence of false-consensus.

32. PTSD-Comorbidity

Amanda Cole (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Research into the relationship of those who suffer from a co-morbid diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Alcohol Dependence/Substance Use Disorder and the rate at which these problems are increasing is rapid. In order to explore the prevalence and relationship of the diagnosis in the local community, an archival study was conducted utilizing the records of a local outpatient treatment facility. The hypothesis is that those males who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder will be diagnosed with either Substance Use Disorder or Alcohol Dependence at a higher rate when they have been exposed to physical, sexual or emotional abuse as opposed to those males who are diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress disorder and Substance Abuse Disorder/Alcohol Dependence who have not been exposed to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. An archival analysis was conducted of a psychological treatment facility of males that have been given a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, co-morbid diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and either Alcohol Dependence, or Substance Use Disorder. Data availability not yet complete, but it is anticipated that my hypothesis will be supported.

33. Effects of Physical Attractiveness on Perseverance and Conformity

Sean McErlane (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

It has been known since 1972, when Dion, Berscheid, & Walster discovered the "halo effect", that a person's physical attractiveness positively influences how we perceive their personality, happiness levels, income, and a list of other attributes. However, there has yet to be a study that examines the behavioral differences of people when in the presence of an attractive experimenter. Before the study occurred, the experimenters were rated on a 7-point Likert scale to determine how physically attractive they were. Participants were given conformity and persistence tests by either an attractive or an average looking experimenter. They were also given

a personality test. Results showed that participants persisted less on unsolvable tasks when in the presence of an attractive experimenter F(1, 21)=7.26, p=.02, $\eta^2=.29$. However, conformity was not influenced by the physical attractiveness of the experimenter. Also, personality did not have an effect on conformity or perseverance, nor did the relationship status of the participants.

34. The Effect of Pitch Height on Color Lightness Perception Torey Bocast (Monica Riordan), Chatham University

Two theories explain cross-domain mapping of pitch height and color lightness. Modalities may be mediated by higher cognitive processes, and the Theory of Magnitude suggests the association stems from physical brain structure. Current theories suggest that in bimodal sensory conflicts vision dominates over audition; however recent research conflicts with that theory. These theories of bimodal sensory processing suggest that the presence of an auditory stimulus will affect the perception of lightness. In a factorial within-subjects experiment, participants viewed shades of gray while hearing a tone of varying frequency. Response derivation from stimulus color and effect of auditory stimulus was assessed with an ANOVA test. No significant effect of frequency was found. This may be due to the theory of visual dominance or the specific stimuli used in this study.

35. The Effect of Sexualized Video Game Avatars on Sexism Kyrsten Sackett-Fox, Kaitlyn Roose, Hagai Budilovsky, and Joseph Horton (Luke Rosielle), Gannon University

Does exposure to sexualized avatars in video games lead to sexist views by men and women? The effects of video games have been widely studied, but the primary focus of this research has been on the effects of violent video games on aggression. One aspect of video games that doesn't get a lot of attention and is far less understood is the effect of video games on sexist thoughts and attitudes. For this study, we created a video game in MediaLab which subjects were asked to play. In this game subjects were randomly sorted into one of four conditions (sexual female characters, sexual male characters, sexual male and female characters, and a control condition of non-sexual objects) and were asked to complete a quest to identify the characters or objects from video games that were presented to them. The subjects were then asked to complete a survey which consisted of the Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (Fiske & Glick, 1996), Ambivalence toward Men Inventory (Fiske & Glick, 1999) and the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale (1960). We are interested in whether subjects who were exposed to the sexualized avatars displayed more sexist attitudes than those exposed to the non-sexualized objects.

36. The Effect of Chronic and Acute Stress on College Students' Unethical Behaviors

Rebecca Cohen (Lydia Jackson), Allegheny College

There is no research directly linking chronic sleep restriction (resulting in chronic stress) and cheating. A gap also exists in the research of how acute stress may affect unethical behavior. 37 undergraduates were recruited to participant in the current study which examined the correlation between chronic sleep restriction and cheating and experimentally manipulated acute stress to test its effects on cheating. Chronic sleep restriction was measured using the Epworth Sleepiness Scale (Johns, 1991) while chronic stress was measured using the Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen,

Kamarck, & Mermelstein, 1983). These scales were correlated with the number of matrices solved and over-reported in number-search-paradigm frequently used to assess unethical behavior (Gino, Ayal, & Ariely, 2009). Participants were randomly assigned to one of two experimental conditions: in the acute-stress-condition, participants completed the Trier Social Stress Test (Kirschbaum, Pirk, & Hellhammer, 1993); participants in the no-acute-stress condition were asked to briefly brainstorm what they may say during a job interview. Results indicate limited support for the hypotheses that stress and sleep restriction are associated with increased cheating. More research is needed to fully explore the effects of chronic sleep restriction, chronic stress, and acute stress since these factors may result in immoral behavior. Knowledge of what motivates and impacts individual's behaviors is essential for understanding how larger groups and organizations function-such as college students, businesses, and other subgroups of society where an individual's immoral behavior is typically discouraged for the benefit of the greater good.

37. The Impact of Knowledge, Concealability, and Perceived Dangerousness on Mental Illness Stigma

Louis Friello (Stephanie Richman), Westminster College

Stigma towards individuals afflicted with mental illnesses has been shown to negatively affect their quality of life. The current research examined whether increasing knowledge of an unnamed mental illness as well as its concealability and dangerousness will decrease stigma in illnesses, as well as whether or not the concealability and perceived dangerousness of mental illnesses had an effect on levels of stigma. 180 participants (91 females, 89 males) were recruited using Amazon's MTurk. Participants read vignettes of an unnamed mental illness and completed the Social Distance Scale and the Characteristics Scale, both of which measure stigma towards individuals with mental illnesses. None of the hypotheses were confirmed; however individuals who suffered from a mental illness throughout their life had significantly less stigma than those who had not. These findings show that diagnostic knowledge is not necessarily a useful stigma-reducer, and alternate routes to the reduction of stigma should be explored.

38. The Relationship between Personality Facets, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Mobile Phone Use and Attitudes

Kathryn Brong (Monali Chowdhury), Allegheny College

As mobile phones grow in popularity and become more ubiquitous to our daily lives, the differences in personal use and attitude towards the device may be important to understanding trends in behavior. This study sought to investigate how the different dimensions of the Big Five Personality Facets, as well as the Autism Spectrum Quotient, Empathizing Quotient, and Systemizing Quotient were related to different factors of mobile phone use and attitude. The latter of these measures were designed to discern between self-perceptions of Objective Use and Subjective Attitude. One hundred college students participated in the study completing all factors. The Systemizing Quotient was negatively correlated to forms of use and dependency, while the Autism Quotient was correlated to social application use. All five facets of personality were correlated with use or attitude in some way or another. Neuroticism was positively correlated to multiple forms of use, as well as dependency and enthusiasm for the device, while Openness-to-experience was negatively correlated to use and dependency.

39. "How are you doing?": An In-Depth Look at Advanced Theory of Mind, Sub-Clinical Traits of Autism, and Social Acting Among College Students

Kathryn Mohan (Monali Chowdhury), Allegheny College

Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a condition that is inherently tied to social behavior. This study explored traits associated with autism and their relationship to social acting ability among college students. Social acting is when one participates in pro-social behavior that is considered appropriate by society's standards, even if the behavior is considered to be a lie. An example of this is when someone passing you on the street asks "how you are doing?" and you respond that you are good, despite that not always being the truth. Using two measures of social acting—self-designed social behavior vignettes and The Awareness of Social Inference Test (TASIT)—this study assessed participants on their social acting understanding. Participants were also tested for their trait loading of autism, as measured by the Autism Spectrum Quotient (AQ), Empathy Quotient (EQ), and Systemizing Quotient (SQ). It was predicted that higher trait loadings of autism would correlate negatively with social acting scores, due to deficits in social skills that often accompany autism. The present study found that there were no significant relationships among the variables, but still many important findings to explore and be discussed.

40. Visual-Haptic Cross-Modal Perception of 2D Symmetry

Trista Musich (Allison E Connell Pensky, Ph.D.), Allegheny College Research has shown that object symmetry is understood by touch or vision alone. We investigated whether this information is transferable between these modalities. We also measured participants' strength of visual imagery to determine if this could predict one's ability to perform this task. We ran a 2x2x2 mixed-model design testing study-test conditions between-subject (haptic-visual, visual-haptic) and within-subjects variables of line contour (straight, curved) and object symmetry (symmetrical, asymmetrical). Our results replicated previous studies showing that symmetry is extracted by touch and vision. We extended this finding by showing that symmetry is transferable between these modalities, with superior performance in the visual-haptic condition. The correlations with visual imagery differed between conditions and across variables and may represent a beginning step in understanding why such large individual variability exists in haptic performance.

41. Traits associated with Autism and other Psychological Disorders and their Correlation with Help Seeking Behavior Daniel Pecchio (Monali Chowdhury), Allegheny College

Recent statistics suggest that mental health conditions are on the rise on college campuses (NAMI, 2012). An inter-related issue is that college students might not be seeking help for mental health issues until it reaches an acute stage. The purpose of this research was to examine the relationship between traits of autism, symptoms of other psychiatric disorders (social anxiety, depression, and obsessive compulsive disorder), and help seeking behavior in college students. Since autism is related to deficits in social relationships and reciprocal interaction, it is plausible that individuals having more traits associated with autism might be at a higher risk of

not seeking help for mental health issues. Results indicated that a negative correlation exists between traits of autism present in neurotypical college students and help seeking. A negative correlation was also found between symptoms of the other psychological disorders and help seeking. These results have implications for support structure on college campuses for students with mental health issues.

Keynote Address

MARY D'ANGELO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (10:30AM)

Employing The SOC Model in Developing An Avatar to Assist Older Adults with Chronic Disease Management

T.J. McCallum, PH.D.

Introduction by Gerard Tobin, Ph.D., Chair of the Mercyhurst Department of Psychology

Paper Sessions

AUBREY HIRT ACADEMIC CENTER (1:15PM)

Interpersonal Interaction Papers: M-213 Hirt

Moderator: Robert Hoff, Mercyhurst University

1. Personality and Productivity: Groups vs. Individuals

Brett Boutwell (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Because humans are social people who live, interact, and work in a social world, our personalities heavily influence how we behave in every situation. Often times, our lives deeply revolve around the work we do and the relationships we have with other people, which is why it is important to understand our personalities and how they influence our interactions. This has led some researchers to explore how particular personality traits correspond with the type of work we do and how well we work in particular situations and with other people. Data can confirm that character traits such as extraversion, agreeableness, openness, and conscientiousness increase predictable work engagement and motivation (Akhtar, et al., 2015), but it does not take into account the interactions between colleagues. This study investigated the relationship between extraversion and productivity working either alone or in a group. Participants took the Brief Big Five Personality Assessment and completed a crossword puzzle alone or in a group. Participants were mainly freshmen (n=23) enrolled in the Introductory to Psychology course for class credit. The analysis of variance did not reveal significance, F(1, 21) = .004, p = .947, between extraversion and group productivity, but there was a significant difference between productivity and group/individual condition, F (1, 21) = .64.1, p = .000.

2. Effects of Self Affirmation on Compassion and Altruistic Responses

Danielle Dros (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Affirmation theory states that self-affirmation increases individual's identity awareness thus leading one to be less preoccupied with oneself and more attuned to the needs of others. The purpose of this research is to explore the relationship between self-affirmation in regards to both

self-and other-focused compassion as well as helping responses. It was predicted that engaging in a self-affirmation activity would increase participants' self-and other-focused compassion and ultimately result in faster helping responses to a staged book drop. Participants consisted of 29 undergraduate students enrolled at Mercyhurst University. Participants' self-and other-focused compassion were measured prior to and after the affirmation activity through the use of self-report questionnaires. A second researcher positioned behind a one-way window timed participant's responses to a staged book drop. The data analysis is ongoing but the results obtained will add to the research and literature on self-affirmation theory. If the hypothesis is supported, these findings would suggest that helping behavior could be increased through the use of self-affirmation.

3. Animal Interaction: Does Personality Affect 'Kinection'? Kayla Beatty, Danielle Carioto, and Howard K. Savoy II (Melanie Hetzel-Riggin), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

It has been shown that animal interaction has been a successful way to reduce stress in people (Souter, 2007), but there is a gap in current research regarding animal interaction in a college setting to decrease stress. The current study measures the reduction of stress levels by interacting with a simulated animal. Participants completed a PANAS questionnaire before and after interacting with the simulated animal, as well as Mini Marker Survey and perceived stress scale after the interaction. The first hypothesis was that interaction with a simulated animal will lead to decreases in negative affect; the second hypothesis is that neuroticism will significantly decrease stress levels during a virtual animal interaction; the third hypothesis is that openness will significantly decrease stress levels during a virtual animal interaction. Researchers ran multiple linear regressions where the predictor variables were openness, extraversion, and neuroticism and the outcome variables were: total score on the Perceived Stress Scale, change in negative affect of the PANAS and change in positive affect of the PANAS. The overall regression equation was significant for Perceived Stress Scale R2 = .30, F (3,35) = 4.94, p = .006., and the change in negative affect of the PANAS R2 = .20, F (3,37) = 3.08, p = .04. There was no significance for change in positive affect of the PANAS. A discussion of the results and limitations will be presented.

4. Effects of Children Teaching on the use of Interpersonal Cognitive Problem-Solving Skills

Taylor A. Dreste (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College

There is little research that examines the potential benefits of having children teach as part of a cognitive-behavioral intervention. In the present study, a between subject design was used to test the hypothesis that at-risk youth who are required to teach Interpersonal Cognitive Problem-Solving (ICPS), will show an increased understanding of ICPS as indicated by a significant improvement on the Problem-Solving Measure for Conflict (PSM-C), compared to children who do not teach. Participants included 13 at-risk youth between the ages of eight and fourteen (M=10 years old). Results showed that children who were required to teach ICPS did not show greater improvements on the PSM-C compared to those who did not teach. However, results were inconclusive due to methodological limitations. This research can be furthered with a larger sample size, a longer intervention, and more time dedicated to having children teach ICPS. Keywords: Interpersonal Cognitive Problem-Solving (ICPS), Adolescents, teaching, means-end

5. Cross-Cultural Differences in Attitudes Toward Altruism, Forgiveness and Gratitude

Curtis Wojcik, Felicia Schiefer, and Gabriella Pietropaolo (Jack Croxton), State University of New York at Fredonia

As a relatively new field of study, positive psychology has rarely been assessed in a cross-cultural context. The present study aimed to compare Chinese, Taiwanese, and American cultures in regards to five central aspects of positive psychology: altruism, forgiveness, gratitude, life satisfaction (SWL), and psychological well-being (PWB). Additionally, culture-based perceptions and stereotypes concerning these positive psychological principles were also addressed. A 67-item survey was administered to undergraduate students from universities in China (n=139), Taiwan (n=112), and America (n=75). Half of the participants in each sample answered as themselves and, to address potential stereotypes, the other half answered as they would if they were hypothetically a member of the other culture (e.g. a Chinese participant would answer as if they were an American). Altruism and gratitude were significantly correlated regardless of culture. In the Asian cultures there was a significant correlation between altruism and PWB, but this was not true for the American sample. The Chinese were more forgiving than either the Taiwanese or the Americans. Americans reported lower PWB than the Chinese and Taiwanese. The Chinese scored highest in altruism and the Americans scored the lowest. The American participants rated themselves higher in altruism than the Asian participants, and vice-versa. Although Americans scored highest in SWL, the Chinese and Taiwanese scored highest on the PWB subscale of purpose in life. The implications of these findings and limitations of this research will be discussed at the conference.

Emotion and Creativity Papers: M-205 Hirt

Moderator: Peter McLaughlin, Edinboro University

Positive Emotion Induction on Creativity

Samuel Griffiths (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University
Previous research has found a connection between creativity and mood, such that more positive
moods are associated with a greater degree of creativity such as according to creativity researcher
Dr. Shelley Carson, "Increases in positive mood broaden attention and allow us to see more
possible solutions to creative problems." Other research such as the Broaden-and-Build Theory by
Fredrickson indicates these findings as well, showing that an increase of positive emotions
increases the amount of personal resources such as creativity. The current study used Guiliford's
Alternative Uses Task for creativity, in which subjects were given two minutes to think of as many
uses as they could for a common item. Subjects were also measured on the General Happiness
Scale, which is a short survey that measures current mood. It was predicted that greater degrees
of happiness would be associated with greater degrees of creativity. The importance of such
relationship is discussed, along with implications into society and Psychology.

2. Differences in Creativity Scores between Undergraduates With and Without Academic Minors

Shris Schneider (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University

Creativity skills are recognized as a valuable asset to today's employers (e.g., Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2013). One of the first opportunities to assess future employees is in college. Few studies have been performed on creativity and college majors (notably Silvia & Nusbaum, 2012) but none have been performed on college minors and creativity. The presence of an academic minor in college may be related to creative potential. The present study compared differences in creativity scores as measured by two Instances Tasks (Wallach & Kogan, 1965; e.g., "Make a list of things that are square") between undergraduates with and without minors. It was expected that students with minors would score higher due primarily to combining knowledge from different disciplines (Sawyer, 2012) or by enhancing their primary discipline (Hao, 2010). Participants were recruited from nine upper level psychology classes at Edinboro University. Responses were collected via an online survey. This study utilized three calculations of creativity scores for each group: first, a measure of fluency or the total number of responses of each participant (Runco, 2013); second, a percentage scoring ratio that divides original responses (those produced by <20% of the total sample) by each participant's fluency score (Plucker, Qian, & Wang, 2011), and lastly a percentage score that utilized Wallach and Kogan's definition of an original response (a response that is one of a kind within the entire sample) divided by each participant's fluency score. Results and implications for academic career planning will be discussed.

3. Verbal Abuse and Its Perceived Severity Among Narcissistic and Altruistic Individuals

Karissa Davis (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College

Abstract This correlational study explores how narcissism and altruism traits affect perception of harm caused by verbal abuse. A narcissistic individual is likely to see little harm in dominating another individual, because that is how they boost their self-esteem. Altruistic individuals on the other hand may empathize more with a victim of verbal abuse allowing for a perspective more closely related to that of the victim. This may cause the perceived harm to be higher in an altruistic individual than a narcissistic individual. Forty four undergraduate students participated in this study. Participants completed surveys of narcissism, altruism, and perception of verbal abuse in arguments. People with narcissistic personalities perceive verbal abuse as more harmful to mental health than those with narcissistic personalities. Keywords: verbal abuse, personality, narcissism, altruism

4. An Appraisal Investigation of Anger, Fear, and Happiness in Simulated Risky Driving

Emily Breisinger (Sandra Webster), Westminster College

There is little research explaining why men are riskier than women. This experiment investigated how situational appraisals explain gender differences in risky driving decisions. Across all emotions, men were anticipated to be more risky because they would appraise the situation (risk) differently than women. Forty men and forty women were randomly assigned to an anger,

fear, happy, or neutral emotion condition before simulated driving. Participants then appraised emotion and risk (certainty and control). Results indicated that men made more simulated risky driving decisions and rated themselves as more risky compared to women. Induced emotion had no effect on risky driving or risk appraisals. This may mean that induced emotion and appraisals are not as strong influences as gender is on risk taking. However, results showed that induced emotion was ineffective. Therefore, future studies need to examine driving relevant emotions, looking at how they relate to and effect risky driving.

5. Emotion Understanding, Theory of Mind, and Inhibitory Control: Predictors of Children's Sharing Behaviors?

Jordyn Moon (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

Research has shown that 3- and 4-year-old children rarely share without explicit requests from others. This study examined the skills behind children's sharing when prompted nonverbally with an outstretched hand or a frown. It was hypothesized that high levels of emotion understanding, theory of mind, and inhibitory control would predict children's sharing in response to fewer nonverbal cues from a social partner. Participants (N = 48), ages 3 to 5, were evaluated on emotion knowledge, understanding beliefs of others versus oneself, and impulse control. Regression analyses revealed that children's emotion understanding and inhibitory control were not predictors of children's sharing with fewer nonverbal cues. Theory of mind did not mediate the relationship between inhibitory control and sharing with fewer nonverbal cues. Previous research found that Chinese preschooler's theory of mind related to their sharing to fewer cues; therefore, cultural norms related to the development of children's sharing behaviors were discussed.

Clinical Papers: M-207 Hirt

Moderator: Dawn Blasko, Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

1. Goals and Termination of Psychotherapy in Relation to Patient Outcome

Breana McIntosh (Kirk Lunnen), Westminster College

This study examined relationships between various aspects of the psychotherapeutic process, including patient treatment goals, reasons for termination of therapy, and patient outcomes resulting from psychotherapy. Participants included 26 former psychotherapy patients and five currently practicing therapists from a local clinic. Former patients participated in a phone survey which included the Helping Alliance Questionnaire (HAq), Client Satisfaction Questionnaire (CSQ-8), and questions relating to outcome. Therapists completed the Helping Alliance Questionnaire: Therapist version (HAq-T). It was expected that a congruency between patient-reported and therapist-reported treatment goals as well as a congruency between patient-reported reasons for termination and those documented on discharge summaries would be associated with more positive outcomes of therapy. A congruency between patient and therapist-reported treatment goals was expected to also be associated with congruency in reasons for termination reported by both therapist and patient. Levels of congruence in both treatment goals and reasons for termination were found to be associated with patient outcomes. These findings are important not

only to the local clinic but can be put to good use in all psychotherapeutic settings in order to better the treatment experience.

2. The Relationship between Internalized and Body Dissatisfaction in Men

Marqus A. Koranteng (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College

This correlational study examined the relationship between social comparison and body dissatisfaction in men, and whether or not the internalization of media influences had a mediated effect. Comfort in masculinity was also examined in its relation to body dissatisfaction. Participants consisted of undergraduate male students of Westminster College (N=100). The test instruments of this study included: The Sociocultural Attitudes towards Appearance Questionnaire, the Physical Appearance Comparison Scale, the Masculine and Feminine Self-Disclosure Scale, and a personal statement questionnaire designed for this study. Internalization was positively correlated with body dissatisfaction across the subgroups (athletes, non-athletes, heterosexuals, bi/homosexuals). Comfort in masculinity was not related body dissatisfaction in any of the subgroups. Limitations included a limited population of bi/homosexual participants and location.

3. Rejection as a Predictor of Emotional and Physical Pain

Michelle Myler (Stephanie Richman), Westminster College

The main purpose of this study was to test the hypotheses that trait (long lasting) rejection, state (temporary) rejection, and rejection sensitivity moderate the effect of rejection condition on physical and emotional pain. Six hierarchical regression analyses were conducted. Seventy five undergraduate college students were first assessed in terms of their trait rejection sensitivity, then they were randomly assigned to either a state rejection or state acceptance condition using Cyberball. Cyberball is an open-source virtual ball-toss game that can be used for research on ostracism, social exclusion or rejection. Within this study Cyberball was used to exclude some participants, by not having the ball tossed to them during the game, and to include the other participants by having the ball tossed to them all throughout the game. After the Cyberball manipulation, physical pain, emotional pain, and state rejection sensitivity were assessed. Overall, I expected that participants in the rejection condition compared to the acceptance condition would report feeling more pain and that rejection sensitivity would moderate that relationship. I also predicted that participants who experienced trait and state rejection would experience more emotional and physical pain. Results showed that the effect of RSQ (rejection sensitivity) and rejection condition on physical and emotional pain was significant. The effect of rejection sensitivity and trait rejection on physical and emotional pain was also significant. The effect of state rejection and rejection condition on emotional and physical pain was not significant. Keywords: rejection sensitivity, emotional and physical pain, college students

4. Emotion Regulation Predicts Ability to Cope with Stress

Brady M. Keister, (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

The purpose of this study was to better understand the relationship between emotion regulation (ER) and coping with stress. It was predicted that participants who utilize reappraisal strategies of ER, compared to suppression strategies, would report the use of healthier coping strategies, leading to more effective coping. In this study, 72 participants from a small college in western Pennsylvania, ages 18-22, were recruited for participation. Affect was measured (PANAS) to

determine mood. ER strategies were measured (ERQ) as an overall predictor of reappraisal/suppression strategies. Responses to stress were measured (RQS) to determine how participants cope with stress. Intercorrelations and linear regressions of all measures provided support for the first hypothesis, that ER predicted positive coping, but positive affect was found to be an even stronger predictor of positive coping. Higher levels of suppression were also associated with higher levels of certain negative coping strategies, providing support for the second hypothesis.

5. Imagined Contact Reduces Prejudice toward Students with Physical Disabilities

Tarah Stewart (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effects of imagined contact on adolescent attitudes toward people with physical disabilities. A total of 90 students (29 boys and 35 girls) between the ages of 13-18 were counterbalanced into two groups to imagine either a positive experience with a gender-matched student in a wheelchair, or a positive day at a park (control). Following the imagined scenario, participants completed measures of the two main outcome variables: their overall attitudes toward and future intentions to interact with people with physical disabilities, and two measures of influencing variables: anxiety and empathy toward people with physical disabilities. In regression analyses, there was no effect of condition. Higher levels of intended behavior were affected by both higher empathy and lower anxiety, while more positive attitudes were only influenced by higher levels of empathy. Research to further examine imagined contact in adolescents was suggested. Keywords: imagined contact, prejudice, physical disabilities, intergroup relations

Cognition, Priming, and Memory Papers: M-214 Hirt

Moderator: Aimee Knupsky, Allegheny College

1. Effect of Variety of English on L2 Vocabulary Cued-Recall Task and Attitudes of Novel Learners

Matthew Turner (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The purpose of the current study was to examine the effect of the variety of English used by the instructor on success on an L2 cued recall task and learners' attitudes toward the instructor. Participants (N=44), who were native-English speakers with no prior experience in German (L2), completed an L2 vocabulary lesson. A one-way between subjects design was used, with variety of English as the independent variable, and reaction time, accuracy scores, and attitude measures as the dependent variables. Participants were shown 12 photo-objects and the German translation was given audibly by a recording of the instructor. Those in the non-English group heard only the German word, played twice. Those in the strong-accented English condition heard the German and English translations. The English in the strong-accented condition was modified to contain a strong German accent. The weak-accented English condition was exposed to the same stimuli as the strong-accented group, only the English was spoken with a weak German accent. Participant completed a cued-recall task in which they had to name the pictures in German, and their reaction times and responses were recorded. Afterwards, participants completed an attitudes questionnaire. The variety of English was not found to have a significant effect on accuracy scores

or learner attitudes. Results indicate that using the learner's L1 may not have an effect in novel learners, but research still points to the importance of context when considering pedagogical methods in the L2 classroom.

2. The Three Dimensions of Emotion and their Effect on Recall and Recognition Memory

Rachel Ferrari (Sandra Webster), Westminster College

The present study focuses on three dimensions of emotion in words: pleasure, arousal, and dominance. There were 52 undergraduate participants from a private, Liberal Arts school that participated in this study. Participants viewed 40 words shown one by one through an E-prime program then were asked to recall the words that they could remember. Afterwards, a recognition test was presented with the 40 previous words and 40 new words. Participants were asked which words were new and which words they had previously saw. The results of this 2x2x2 repeated measures study show a rather interesting outcome. The results for recall supported the previous research with the exception of dominance affecting recall. Words that were pleasant as well as high in arousal, were mostly recalled if they were dominant as well. The most recognized words were unpleasant, arousing, subordinate words. This data supports the explanation from previous study that recall is mostly remembered with nonthreatening words. This study focused on the major three dimensions of emotion and their effects on recall and recognition

3. Adjusting the Prism: Testing the Anchoring Effects of Color Aviv Lang (Lydia Jackson), Allegheny College

While numeric anchoring effects have been researched extensively, alternative anchors have been less extensively researched. The current study explores the literature on anchoring and expands the existing research by examining color as a visual anchor. Beginning with Tversky and Kahneman's classic anchoring model, the current study explores various models and methods for creating anchoring effects. Building on this previous research, the present study tested color anchors by showing participants green, blue, or white (control) images. Participants were asked to select the actual logo color for a fictitious brand and then asked to rate how likely they would be to purchase either a green or blue version of three different kitchen appliances. The results of the current study indicate that color does influence perception of logo colors. However, product preferences were not significant across green and blue anchor conditions. Further research is needed using other colors and products to discern the role of color as an anchor. The results highlight the potential range of applications for the anchoring effect beyond its classical numeric application, as well as a new perspective on the role of color in branding and product preferences.

4. Gender Stereotype Priming and Effects on Pain Tolerance

Kiersten Kerr (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Gender roles and personality styles play a large role in the way people are socialized into today's society through exposure to various environmental and social factors. The present study examined how the priming of gender roles of female participants can affect pain tolerance. A sample of collegiate women (N=24, Mage=19.04) were randomly assigned to be primed for a housewife, career woman, or control group. They completed a cold pressor task and pain threshold and tolerance times were recorded. An ANOVA analysis was conducted and results of pain tolerance were not significant, F(2, 21)=1.107, p=.349. The sample size was too small to find

significant difference, however results found that the housewife stereotype group had the lowest pain tolerance (M=35.74), followed by the control group (M=45.96), and the career woman stereotype had the highest pain tolerance (M=51.78). Results support the hypothesis. The pain tolerance of women varies depending on the situation, stereotype, and environmental factors. Key terms: gender roles, cold pressor task, personality, stereotype

5. Effects of Weapon Priming on Measurable Retaliation Hunter K. Erdman and Matthew B Goddard (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

As an increasing number of states have recognized an individual's lawful right to carry a concealed firearm for self-defense purposes, the number of armed citizens in the United States has risen over the past two decades. This increase in gun ownership among law-abiding citizens has been cited as one factor that may be responsible for recent decreases in violent crime rates observed throughout several areas of the country. Individuals who have access to a firearm fulfill their need for physical security through owning or carrying a firearm and present as a more difficult target to successfully victimize. However, the strength of the relationship between gun ownership and violent crime rates has yet to be fully explored. It appears important to examine this relationship further because research has demonstrated that one's mere exposure to a weapon has been positively correlated with aggression and that aggressive individuals tend to engage in retaliatory behaviors more often and with an increased degree of severity than nonaggressive individuals (Baron, 1971; Berkowitz & LePage, 1967). Thus, it may be that individuals who are opting to arm themselves may be inadvertently increasing their own likelihood of escalating conflicts in which they are involved that may have otherwise ended non-violently. The results of this study may lead one to better comprehend how the simple presence of a firearm, despite the motive behind possessing one, may affect an individual's willingness to engage in retaliatory behaviors.

Social Papers: M-212 Hirt

Moderator: Melissa Heerboth, Mercyhurst University

1. Activist Theatre: The Effects of Theatre Performance on Socio-political Attitudes and Willingness to Engage in Activism

Autumn Vogel (Lydia Jackson), Allegheny College

System justification is a motivation to legitimize the status quo, disabling individuals from feeling as if they can change the social systems responsible for oppression and inequality. System justification stems from viewing a system as stable, unchanging and inescapable (Kay & Zanna, 2009). Research supports that if people perceive systems of oppression and inequality as unlikely to change and impossible to escape, then they will not work to change it (Jost & Hunyady, 2005; Wakslak, Jost, Tyler & Chen, 2007). This study presents theatre as a tool for reimagining our social order so as to de-legitimize current social systems and motivate social action to correct them. Audience members of a community-created feminist performance, "Caged", participated in preand post-performance surveys assessing gender-specific system justification, intentions to participate in collective action, and intentions to participate in virtual activism. Results supported the hypotheses as tendencies to justify systems of gender inequality decreased and intentions to

participate in collective and virtual activism increased after viewing the performance. Findings, limitations and future directions are discussed.

2. Exploring the Relationship Between Knowledge of the Insanity Defense and Popular Media

Gina Aki (Ronald Craig), Edinboro University

A plea of not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) evokes specific expectations and beliefs often based on inaccurate speculations regarding the insanity defense. Research on public perceptions regarding the NGRI defense has identified that people hold many myths and misconceptions about the defense. A survey developed to measure beliefs about the NGRI defense is the Knowledge of the Insanity Defense Scale (KIDS). While it is clear the misconceptions of the NGRI defense exist, their source is not well understood. A common source for beliefs about the legal system has been popular media, coined the "CSI effect." This study examined the relationship between exposure to popular media and perceptions of the NGRI defense. Participants' knowledge of the NGRI defense was measured using the KIDS and then were asked to indicate the type and frequency of crime media watched. No significant impact for media exposure on KIDS scores was identified; however, a significant impact of exposure to NGRI defense in an educational setting occurred on 7 of the 9 KIDS subscales, with such exposure corresponding to decreases in misconceptions. The findings are discussed in relation to systematic methods to minimize popular misperceptions of the NGRI defense.

3. Physical Attractiveness and its Influence in Employment Suitability: The "Beauty is Beastly" Effect

Irene Ramirez (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Previous studies have demonstrated that physically attractive individuals benefit from their attractiveness, for instance they are perceived as more sociable, happier, successful and it can also be beneficial for employment suitability. On the other hand the "Beauty is Beastly" effect indicates that attractiveness can be unfavorable to women in certain employment environments. Therefore, the purpose of the present study was to test whether or not physical appearance can affect females in certain employment suitability. Participants were asked to imagine that they were recruiting officers for a company and that they had to decide what applicant fitted better for the given job. Participants were provided with ten different female photographs. Five out of the ten pictures were attractive females and the other five were unattractive females. Participants were provided with the candidate's information and a questionnaire for each photograph. The questionnaire allowed the Participants to rate each candidate and to determine whether or not physical attractiveness can be harmful for females in certain employment environment.

4. Effects of Publicity of Responses on Conformity

Hannah Rea (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

The goal of this study was to see how the level of publicity of responses affects conformity to a unanimous majority. Participants in this study were 31 undergraduate students enrolled at Mercyhurst University. These students participated in either a public response group, who verbalized their responses in front of a unanimous majority, or a private response group, who

recorded their responses on paper after being informed of how a unanimous majority had responded. Both groups were shown a visual discrimination task that involved comparing the size of a standard shape to three options and then provided the experimenter with their responses. It was predicted that the participants in the public response group would conform to the unanimous majority more often. The data analysis is ongoing but the results obtained will add to the research and literature on conformity. These findings would present clear implications for the criminal justice system and the current jury-decision making process, in that requiring jurors to make their decisions publicly may hinder the goal of justice.

5 Determining the Effect of Sibling-Order on Self-Worth and GPA

Kira Kitchen (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University

Grade-point average (GPA), self-worth, and sibling-order have all been studied individually, but never in the same context. The focus of this study was to look at GPA, self-worth and sibling-order in the same setting and determine whether or not there was a relation between them. One reason as to why this study focuses on determining a relationship between these three topics is because there is a literature gap, where there is no prior literature attempting to connect these three. The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale and the Parental Acceptance and Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ) were the two surveys used within the confines of this study in order to determine whether there is a relationship, and to assist in validating prior literature on the topic at hand.

Afternoon Posters

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (2:30PM)

The Effects of Induced Acute Stress on Impulsivity

Michelle Winwood (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University

Stress becomes a large part of life as things like age, experience, and responsibility increase. It affects everyday decisions and situations. Impulsivity has a closely related tie to stress; stress can lead to an impulsive action. The current study examined acute, induced stress and if that reflects upon the likelihood of impulsive actions. Stress was induced with a modified Trier Social Stress Test (TSST) and impulsivity is measured with the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (BIS-11) and the Delayed Discounting Task (DDT). Results are currently being calculated and scores documented from the impulsivity scales before and after the stressor will be analyzed with a within subjects design t-test for statistical significance. In support of the hypothesis, scores of impulsivity will increase following the induction of a stressor. This could be generalized that an individual under increased amounts of stress is more likely to act impulsively or have impulsive thoughts as compared to an individual who is not highly stressed.

2. Examining the Impact of Appearance on Perception and Response

Camille Rombold (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University
The impact of physical appearance on perception and response will be examined in order to assess
the importance that appearance has on how people view one another. Participants will be
undergraduate students at a private liberal arts university in the Great Lakes region. They will be
enrolled in the PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology course. Participants will be given a vignette
explaining his or her assumed role as an employer hiring a potential employee. Participants will
then be presented with an organized, well-constructed résumé, an unorganized, unstructured
résumé, and a neutrally constructed résumé. Each résumé will have either a picture of a welldressed, conservative applicant, a picture of an unkempt applicant, or no picture. Participants
will then complete a questionnaire to determine which résumé will be the most appropriate for a

job opening. It is expected that participants will choose the well-constructed résumé with the

3. Craving Caffeine in Response to Stress

professional, well-dressed applicant for the position.

Rebecca Haritonovich (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University
This study explores the connection between stress and caffeine craving. Because caffeine is so
widely used, especially on a college campus, it is important to determine how stress affects an
individual's craving for caffeine. This study utilized multiple surveys, the Caffeine Expectancy
Questionnaire, to obtain information on the individual's typical caffeine consumption, as well as,
the Caffeine Sensory Modality Questionnaire, to determine their level of craving for caffeine at
the current moment. Individuals will participate in a task intended to increase stress levels and
proceed to record the caffeine craving after the stressor. The stressor was adapted from Wilson
(2014), where a fast-paced analogy quiz is used. The goal of this study is to determine how
caffeine craving is affected by a stressful situation.

4. Awareness of Facebook's Impact on the Quality of Life

Katelyn Duberg (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

There are millions of users on Facebook around the world. There has been debate of the negative and positive effects of social media on society as a whole. In evaluating this, the factors of self-esteem and cognitive absorption were chosen for this study. The influence of Facebook on self-esteem and cognitive absorption was explored by batteries of the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale and a subtest of the Digit Span Test. The Self-Absorption Scale was used as a decoy questionnaire to limit the demand characteristics. A between subjects post-test only design was used in this study. Twenty-four college students were randomly assigned to two groups, the group exposed to Facebook before completing the tests and a control group that was not exposed to Facebook. The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale and the Self-Absorption Scale was administered after the Digit Span test due to the importance of task switching to evaluate cognitive absorption. It is predicted that students will score lower on the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale and the Digit Span test due to the influence of Facebook browsing. Implications of the results, limitations, and suggestions for future research will be discussed.

5. Will Incentives, Education, and Employee Feedback Increase Safety Eyewear Behavior?

Alizabeth Steudler (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

This study examined the effects of incentives, feedback, and education on correct safety eyewear behavior. Wearing safety eye wear is crucial in any manufacturing company due to small dust-like particles of metal floating in the air at any given point of time. These dust-like particles can cause serious eye damage, including blindness. Nine male participants with highly variable safety eye ware behavior, employed by Eriez Magnetics participated in this experiment utilizing a multiple baseline design with a reversal phase. They were separated into three groups, each group corresponding with a section on the shop floor. Incentives were given based on 100% accuracy of correct safety eyewear behavior. Feedback was given weekly to each member of the groups based on each group's performance. Education was provided to two groups, in two different forms (factual vs. emotional) in order to observe if there was a difference in performance based on education. A reversal phase was done after two weeks of intervention for a period of three days to examine the effects of treatment. Expected results are to support the hypothesis that with incentives, education, and feedback will increase employee safety eyewear behavior. Potential limitations of the study include the small group sizes and the consistency of behavior through the reversal phase.

6. Working Hard or Hardly Working: The Varying Effects of Effort on Ego Depletion

Ilea Franklin (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

The study involved the examination of ego depletion in a controlled setting. Ego depletion refers to the strength model proposed by Dr. Roy Baumeister to conceptualize self-control as an exhaustible mechanism. Through using a between-groups experimental design, the study examines how key influences (i.e. a food-restriction task and standard e-crossing task) of an individual's mental strength affect performance on a subsequent mental task. Participants were randomly assigned to either the depletion or no-depletion group. As a result, those in the depletion group

will be expected to spend less time attempting a set of word jumbles, as well as significantly more often provide incorrect answers than the no-depletion group. If the results of this study are congruent with the hypothesis, then this will add support for the theory of ego depletion, as well as further explore the relationship between ego depletion and its effect on any following mental tasks.

The Effects of Journaling on Stress

Park Bogan (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Journaling is a therapeutic technique that has not been extensively researched with regards to its effect on stress relief. In order to explore this, undergraduate participants from Mercyhurst University underwent a number of structured journaling exercises with the goal of reducing stress levels over the course of the study. Participants were split into a control group and an experimental group. Both groups will take part in self-report surveys to evaluate their stress levels as well as and their life stressors. Participants in the experimental group were instructed to write in a journal three times a week for a seven minute period about stressors in their academic, social, and family life, as well as stressors involving any clubs or sports teams they are involved with. The control group will not take part in this journaling exercise, though each participant in the experimental and control groups completed a self-report of their stress levels throughout the testing period via two surveys at each session. Both groups then took an overall demographic survey after their sixth, and final, session. A mixed-factorial design will be used to compare the experimental and control groups. It is predicted that a structured journaling therapy will reduce stress levels in undergraduate students in the experimental group after they take part in a writing session. Results are also expected to indicate what the largest hassles and uplifts are for the average college student.

8. Priming Effects of Advertisements on Eating Habits

Kelly McCall (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Research on the priming effects of advertisements has generally found that commercials and television do play a role in what people choose to eat and how much. With the pressure of a thin ideal in society and the obesity epidemic in mind, this study investigates the priming effects of advertisements featuring thin and active people verses those featuring unhealthy foods. Mercyhurst University undergraduate participants were randomly assigned to one of two groups one featuring commercials featuring thin and active people and the other featuring unhealthy foods; these were spaced throughout a twenty minute television program. Both groups were then offered the same food options after viewing the program: apples, carrots, and wheat thins to represent healthy food options, and brownies, pop tarts, and chips to represent unhealthy food options. Data analysis is ongoing, but results are expected to show that the participants exposed to the thin and active people will choose the healthy food options, and the participants exposed to the unhealthy food advertisements will choose the unhealthy food options. Implications for the effects of advertisements on one's eating habits will be discussed.

9. Effect of Distraction on Exercise

Christa Morrison (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Exercise has been seen to improve the mood of many individuals. The results from working out enhance the psychological well-being of the individual. However when exercise is paired with a

distraction these psychological benefits are increased even more. The purpose of this study is to explore how distractions like watching television and listening to music may increase positive mood. A between participants design with 3 groups was used: exercise while watching t.v, another exercise while listening to music, and third exercise without a distraction. Prior to exercise participants completed the Profile of Moods States questionnaire, and the Self Absorption questionnaire. Each group exercises for 22 minutes and after were asked to estimate how much time they had exercised. They then completed the POMS questionnaire again. It is predicted that students would have a higher score on the POMS after use of a distraction while exercising. Implications of the results, limitations, and suggestions for future research will be discussed.

10. The Shame Game: Self-Objectification, Body Shame, and Surveillance

Lydia K. Moss (Sandra Webster), Westminster College

Internalization has been studied alongside self-objectification as a mediating variable in body image research. In the present study, it was predicted that self-objectification is correlated with body shame, body surveillance, and internalization. It was also predicted that there would be main effects of both gender and treatment condition on body shame and surveillance, and an interaction of gender and treatment. Internalization was also predicted to act as a mediating variable between the predictor and criterion. The Objectified Body Consciousness-Youth Scale, Body Image Guilt and Shame Scale, Ideal Body Internalization Scale, State Shame and Guilt Scale, a word stem completion task, and DEXA images were utilized. Internalization did not act as a mediating variable, however there were gender effects on objectification, and treatment main effects on shame and surveillance. There was no significant group and gender interaction on any variables. Body image research is critical because of the influence of the media contributing to unrealistic expectations for body image and the consequences that follow these expectations.

11. Body Satisfaction Differences Among Low, Moderate, and High Levels of Exercise in a Sample of Recreational Runners

Dakota Bocan, Chad Losinger, Veronica, O'Brien, Kelly Piesak, and Katie Stitzinger (Sharon Hamilton), Edinboro University

Although the psychological benefits of exercise have been well documented, the relationship between exercise and psychological health may be complex. Recently, Kim, et al. (2012) found that participants who reported exercising less than 2.5 and more than 7.5 hours per week reported more mental health problems than those who reported weekly exercise durations in the middle of this range. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the relationship between these same three levels of exercise and the body image satisfaction of recreational runners. Exercise is often positively associated with body satisfaction; however, there are exceptions, such as in exercise dependence and sometimes with obligatory exercise. One hundred and fifteen participants completed an on-line survey that assessed exercise habits using the same measure as Kim, et al. (2012), two questions from the Health Information National Trends Survey, and body satisfaction using two subscales of the Multidimensional Body-Self Relations

Questionnaire- Appearance Evaluation and Body Area Satisfaction. A MANOVA revealed an overall significant difference between the three groups, with the high duration group having a higher

mean body satisfaction than the middle and low duration groups. Results are discussed in terms of the Kim, et al. (2012) study, and previous research on exercise and body satisfaction.

12. Sense of Belonging and Academic Achievement in College: Examining the Influence of Organizational Involvement

Tyler Ferraino (Melanie Hetzel-Riggin), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

College student attrition and retention is a prevalent problem in American universities. Finding ways to increase student retention would benefit universities and students alike. If schools were able to fix issues that cause students to dropout, tax payer money would not be wasted in financial aid to those who struggle academically and socially and do not finish their degrees. By surveying students in select clubs and organizations, the researchers were able to better understand how amount of time dedicated to clubs, position held in clubs, and number of clubs involved in influences sense of belonging to the university. The researchers evaluated the correlation between club involvement and academic success. Participants included students involved in organizations, as well as students who are enrolled in courses that require them to volunteer as participants in research. Participants completed a survey with demographic items and questions pertaining to club involvement, sense of belonging, etc. The researchers used a modified version of the SACQ to evaluate student's sense of belonging. It was hypothesized that increased involvement time and higher position held will lead to increased sense of belonging and decreased academic success. Furthermore, students who participate in more clubs are predicted to have a greater sense of belonging and greater academic success. The researchers are still processing data. Currently the average total results of the modified SACQ have shown that the majority of participants have shown a greater sense of belonging towards their campus.

13. The Effect of Socialization Factors on Empathizing and Systemizing Traits in College Students

Annie Altman (Monali Chowdhury), Allegheny College

Previous research has found differences in empathizing and systemizing traits based on gender and academic major of college students (Wakabayashi et al., 2012; Focquart et al., 2007; Wakabayashi et al., 2007). Research indicates that someone's empathizing and systemizing traits are predetermined at birth (Focquart et al., 2007). This current research looked to see if factors of socialization and the environment, specifically socioeconomic status, parents, parenting styles, siblings, sibling relationships, and gender affect a person's empathizing and systemizing traits. Participants (N=99), consisting of male (n=17) and female (n=82) undergraduate students, took an online survey including measures of these various environmental factors along with the Empathizing Quotient and Systemizing Quotient. Results did not indicate any significant relationship between socialization factors and Empathizing Quotient and Systemizing Quotient scores, besides a significantly positive relationship between Sibling Relationship Questionnaire Warmth and a participant's Empathizing Quotient score. This result indicates that the socialization factor of sibling relationships may impact a person's Empathizing Quotient score. Insignificant results related to the other environmental factors could be a result of instruments used in this research that did not effectively capture the environmental factor that they were intended to. Other results indicated a difference between male and female participants regarding both the

Empathizing Quotient and the Systemizing Quotient and a difference between sophomores and juniors on the Systemizing Quotient. Future research should investigate these environmental factors, in a variety of samples, to comprehensively understand the relationships between these factors and empathizing and systemizing traits in neurotypical males and females.

14. YOU'VE GOT MAIL: The Influence of All-Caps Font Type "Shouting" in E-mail

Rachel Raczynski (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The purpose of this research was to examine the influence of senders' use of all-caps font type "shouting" in e-mail. More specifically, the e-mail recipient's perceptions of the likability and the personality of the sender was examined. Thirty-five participants responded to an e-mail about green initiatives at Allegheny College and if they would take part in the initiative. The participants were randomly assigned to either the no use of all-caps condition (N=18) or the use of all-caps condition (N=17). The participants completed a post-test questionnaire after responding to the e-mail. The post-test questionnaire included questions that could be used as a manipulation check, the Big Five Factor Model of Personality Scale (Gosling, Rentfrow, & Swann, 2003), and the Reysen Likability Scale (Reysen, 2005). It was hypothesized that the use of all-caps font type would decrease the perceptions of the sender's likability, that participants would be more likely to agree to take initiative to the environmental effort if they perceived the sender as more likable, and that the sender would be perceived to have less extraversion, less agreeableness, less conscientiousness, more emotionally stable, and less openness to experience when the e-mail included all-caps. The results showed minimal support for the hypotheses or were partially supported. The use of all-caps e-mail was perceived as less conscientiousness, less professional, less enthusiastic, and the sender was perceived as less knowledgeable.

15. The Effects of Mental Stimulating Activities on Immediate and Delayed Memory in the Elderly

Erica Evans (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this experiment was to investigate if daily mental activity in elderly adults would increase their memory functioning. Crossword puzzles were used as mental stimulation to see if they have a greater effect on memory than those in the group who is not doing the mental stimulating activity. Two groups of participants were used, the experimental group which solved crossword puzzles and the control which did not have an extra level of stimulation. The experimental group solved two crossword puzzles daily for a three week period. A pretest/posttest model was used in order to compare the immediate and delayed memory of both groups. The dependent variables of the study are both immediate and delayed memory and the independent variable is the group the participants were in (either experimental or control). The methods used to measure memory was a Logical Memory Subtest of the Wechsler memory scale including two short stories and the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test of 15 words. The statistical test that will be used is a mixed design with one between factor (type of stimulation) and a within factor (pretest/posttest). Data analysis is ongoing, but it is predicted that those completing crossword puzzles will have a significant increase compared to the group not completing the crossword puzzles. The implications of this study is that daily mental stimulation, even in older age adults, will effect immediate and delayed memory and thus crossword puzzles would be an easy and accessible tool to the general public.

16. Psychoneuroimmunology and depression: Targeting glial cells in Interleukin-1B Mediated Inflammation

Shelby Hernan (Jeffrey Cross), Allegheny College

Depression is one of the top contributors to the global burden of disease and is characterized by chronic social, emotional, and physical disability. It is necessary to establish efficient treatments for depressed individuals by understanding depression's conglomeration of psychological and biological symptoms. Systemic inflammation and depression have a significant overlap in their composite symptoms including anhedonia, anxiety, and imbalances between the expression of proand anti-inflammatory proteins. The rodent model of inflammation-induced depression via intraperitoneal injection of Interleukin-1B was utilized to characterize specific depressive symptoms caused by systemic inflammation; minocycline and propentofylline were introduced in attempt to attenuate the behavioral consequences of inflammation. There were no significant differences between IL-1B infected, pharmacologically treated, and control subjects in the radial arm maze (F=0.715, p=0.563) or elevated plus maze (F=1.467, p=0.277). There were significant differences in recall performance of a spatial water maze (F=3.884, p=0.041) between the IL-1B and control (p=0.004) and minocycline treated IL-1B (p=0.024) conditions. These findings suggest that the functional consequences of acute inflammation-induced depression can be attenuated by modulating the communication between the systemic and central systems with chemical agents that target glial cells. Acknowledging the relationship between inflammation and depression as well as the affiliation between immune and environmental stressors will ultimately assist medical science in understanding and more effectively treating depression

17. Predicting Auditory Implicit Bias of Aggression against African Americans within Interracial Relationships

Asha Alexander (Aimee Knupsky) Allegheny College

Previous research on implicit bias suggests that implicit bias is not concrete but has the ability to be changed and deconstructed. Looking at Generation Millennials, the current study takes a look at their implicit attitudes towards interracial relationships and how gender role plays a part with the stereotypical narratives unconsciously set in modern society. This study and hoped to expand the gap in literature when it comes to finding bias within younger generations and what these biases mean for the future leaders of a community. Contrary to previous research on implicit bias, results showed that participants were more likely to see White partners in interracial relationships as aggressive than the Black partners. There was also an interaction that showed that participants grouped the women together regardless of race, because of the dynamic between violence and women. The unexpected results illustrated a level of overcorrection that come into play when people perceive their bias and attempt to circumvent it with positive bias.

18. The Impact of Animation Simulation Perspective In Closing Arguments on Juror's Perceptions

Erin Connel and Emilee DeMay (Ron Craig), Edinboro University

The presentation of visual evidence in court is commonplace; however, recent technological advances have allowed new forms of visual evidence to be produced. One example is computer animation; based on evidence and expert testimony these animations portray events consistent

with either the prosecution or defense view of the case. Courts are allowing these animations to be presented to juries as demonstrative evidence. There is little research on the impact that animation evidence may have on juror's decision making. In addition, factors regarding the way the animation is presented (i.e., clarity, detail, perspective) may also impact jurors. This study examined the impact of computer animation evidence in a mock criminal trial and the role the perspective of the animation played in assessing guilt. Participants read details of a mock criminal negligence trial and then viewed animation based on the prosecution's expert or saw no visual evidence. Those who saw the animation viewed one of four versions, where perspective of the animation was varied. Participants then indicated their perception of the guilt of the defendant, certainty of decision, and the impact of the evidence presented. Data will be analyzed for impact of the animation and perspective regarding guilt and certainty of decision.

19. The Effects of Accent Prejudice on the Subjective Well-Being in Non-Native English Speakers

Maura Matvey (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The purpose of this research was to examine the relationship between accent prejudice and well-being in nonnative English speakers. The literary analysis in Spanish of this research examined the interaction of accent prejudice and subjective well-being mediated through cultural identity in the novel De cómo las muchachas García perdieron el acento by Julia Álvarez. The purpose of the experimental portion of this research was to examine the effects of accent prejudice on the subjective well-being and recall abilities in nonnative English speakers. This study sought to find whether an experience of accent prejudice lowered the subjective well-being and increased recall abilities in nonnative English speakers. Participants (N=17) completed a pre-test version of the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire before reading either a prejudiced or neutral news article. Participants then completed a post-test version of the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire and a post-test questionnaire which included a recall task based on the information from the articles. The results of this study did not support the hypothesis that an experience of accent prejudice would decrease subjective well-being and increase recall abilities in nonnative English speakers. Although significant results were limited, this interdisciplinary research has promising directions for future research.

20. Therapist and Client Ratings of Therapeutic Alliance as a Predictor of Deterioration

Annette McHaddon (Kirk Lunnen), Westminster College

Treatment deterioration has been recognized as a reality; however there is a lack of research regarding its nature. In the present study, therapeutic alliance and client satisfaction are investigated as possible predictors of treatment deterioration. It was hypothesized that clients who experience deterioration as a result of psychotherapy would have lower therapeutic alliance and satisfaction ratings as compared to improvers and no-changers. Participants were categorized as deteriorators, improvers, and no-changers based on both self-reported psychotherapy outcomes and review of therapist-completed discharge summaries. Discharged clients (N=26) from a local outpatient psychiatric facility and their therapists completed the Helping Alliance Questionnaire (HAq) and the Client Satisfaction Questionnaire (CSQ-8). Clients who experienced treatment deterioration gave lower ratings of therapeutic alliance as well as satisfaction as compared to improvers or no-changers. There was no significant difference between therapists' ratings of

alliance between the groupings. These results indicate that lower ratings of therapeutic alliance and client satisfaction are associated with treatment deterioration.

21. Parenting styles and their Relationship to the Dark Tetrad

Kristina Brotzman (Chris Nieubauer), Slippery Rock University

This study looks at the relationship between parenting styles - authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and their the dark tetrad - machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy. The hypothesis is that participants who were raised by authoritarian parenting styles will have higher incidences of sadism and those raised by permissive parenting styles will have higher incidences of narcissism.

22. Effects of Caffeine on The Rate of Change Detection

Morgan Mechlenburg (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The present study examined the effects of caffeine on the rate and accuracy of change detection. The change detection task involved object placement variation in the background and foreground of 10 scenes. The initial and modified image of a scene were alternated, separated by a blank interval (flicker paradigm). Participants (N=34) were randomly assigned to consume caffeinated coffee, caffeinated tea or decaffeinated coffee. The reaction time of detecting the change and accuracy of detecting the change were both analyzed. Results indicated that participants were more accurate at detecting detect foreground changes than background changes, which supports previous literature regarding figure-ground placement. Caffeine did not have a significant effect on the reaction time or accuracy of change detection. It is important for future research to continue to identify other factors that may help to increase our abilities to detect changes.

23. Linguistic Families: The Effect of Language Family on Attribution of Speaker Culpability and its Influence on Foreign Language Education

Tyler Prinkey (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The purpose of this research was to examine how people of Germanic and Romantic language families are attributed guilt when they commit a moral infraction. The literary analysis of this research examined Middlebury College and the growth and decline of language programs due to historical influences such as major world wars and economic depressions. The purpose of the experimental portion of this research was to measure the effect that language stereotypes have on the attribution of culpability. In order to examine the dependent variables: assessment of culpability, assessment of positive characteristics, and assessment of negative characteristics, participants (N=27) were presented a scenario in which a speaker neglected to help an elderly lady. After each participant was randomly assigned to a condition: German male or German female, French male or French female; each participant was asked to answer a questionnaire assessing the speaker. The results of the study did not support the hypotheses of the study that German speakers would be attributed higher levels of culpability when compared to French speakers, and that male speakers would be attributed higher levels of culpability than female speakers. Although the results of this study had limited significance, this study shows promise for future research.

24. The Impact Cocaine Has On the Epigenome of Second Generation Rats

Alexa Mochan (Rodney Clark), Allegheny College

Cocaine is a dangerous drug used by hundreds of thousands of people of all ages. To explore its effect on the children of those addicted to drugs, 4 male and 4 female Sprague-Dawley rats were placed in either a cocaine or control treatment condition and then bred. Each of the parental rats and four offspring from each litter were sacrificed and their brains were analyzed for DNA methylation content. This experiment showed that while control animals did not reveal a significant difference from cocaine rats, control animals did reveal significant differences from the positive control and cocaine rats did not.

25. CB1 Inverse Agonism Causes Impulsive Behavior in States of Disrupted Serotonin Signaling

Emily S. Plyler, Caitlin M. Luskin, and Felicia M. Myers (Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University

Rimonabant is a cannabinoid CB1 receptor inverse agonist that had therapeutic potential as an appetite suppressant, but failed to receive FDA approval due to psychiatric side effects, including suicidal behavior. One component of these adverse reactions that can be studied outside of human clinical trials is impulsive behavior. Rats were trained in a novel impulsive choice task and given AM 251, a CB1 inverse agonist similar to rimonabant. It was found that up to 8 mg/kg AM 251 produced no effects on its own. To induce a serotonin dysregulation proposed to be similar to that of suicidal depression in humans, animals were pretreated with the serotonin 5HT1A receptor antagonist WAY 100,635. With the pretreatment, a lower dose of AM 251 (4 mg/kg) significantly enhanced impulsivity. Translating these results to the human population, CB1 inverse agonist treatment does not typically produce impulsive behavior, but may do so in individuals with serotonin dysregulation.

26. The Effects of Visual Stimulus on Exercise Behavior

Anthony Lazarow (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Exercise behaviors, and the lack thereof, constitute a large portion of risk factors for many of the chronic diseases that are now endemic in the United States. In addition, exercise has a protective effect on good health, and in fact promotes better health. This research looks to address the influence that a visual stimulus has on the exercise motivation in a population of undergraduate students at a small liberal arts university. This research utilized a between groups design with a baseline measurement, a three day activity log, and a re-test after the activity log was completed. The visual stimulus was presented during the initial session as materials for another study that were simply in the environment in an effort to disguise the intention. In addition to this stimulus being presented as a background/environmental stimulus, a number of other self-report measures were administered to further disguise the intent of this research. The hypothesis is that a participant will demonstrate a greater motivation to exercise, as measured through the activity log, when exposed to a visual stimulus of models who are "fit" as opposed to the second treatment group of "unfit" models. The results are expected to show a positive relationship between the "fit" stimulus group and increased exercise behavior. These results could further our

understanding of how to design a successful and cost effective intervention to increase exercise behaviors in various populations and environments.

27. Siblings and Prosocial Behaviors

Kathryn Russo (Melissa Heerbooth), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this study was to find a correlation between empathy and number of siblings among participants. Empathy is the prosocial trait of being able to understand and feel the emotions of others. Along with empathy, there was also research conducted to find out if there was a correlation between collectivism and number of siblings. Collectivism is a social outlook upon society in which one's personal happiness greatly revolves around the harmony and the contentment of others around them. Also, research was conducted to see if birth order as well had an effect on empathy/collectivism levels. The study involved having students come into the lab and fill out two questionnaires. One that measured empathy, the Toronto Empathy questionnaire, developed by Nathan Spreng. The other measured levels of collectivism/individualism, this certain Individualism/Collectivism scale was developed by Harry Triandis. After the participants filled out the questionnaire, they were given a demographics which asked questions concerning age, year in college, gender, birth order, and number of siblings. This demographic questionnaire gave us a clear picture at the participant's family structure. Upon further statistical testing, we were able to conclude if number of siblings and birth order has any positive correlation with empathy and collectivism.

28. Student-athletes' Overall Satisfaction at the College Level

Lauren Kilroy (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this study is to explore the overall level of satisfaction in student-athletes at Mercyhurst University since sometimes an athlete's performance is deemed more important than their physical and mental well-being. Participants include members of three athletic teams on campus: Women's ice hockey, Women's basketball, and Wrestling. Surveys were distributed to each participant, and data was coded using inductive coding techniques. From the data, it is expected that student-athletes with low levels of satisfaction will stem from their current coach. Information regarding the participants coach will be embedded in the survey to determine the kind of coach they are playing under. Findings may suggest that coaches who receive low ratings by their athletes, are responsible for a poor well-being of the athlete.

29. Can Mood and Race Affect College Students' Views In A Controversial Court Case?

Matthew Jankowiak (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The main goal of the present study was to determine if mood and race could affect college students' views on the outcome of a controversial court case. The present study used a mood manipulation task to manipulate participants' moods prior to reading a summary of a court case and answering questions about their views on the defendant, who was either Black or White, being guilty or not guilty. A one-way, between subjects design was used with the independent variables of mood (happy/sad) and race (Black/White) serving as the between subjects variables. The dependent variables in the study were the participant's responses to a questionnaire that was given to them after reading the controversial case. Forty-eight participants participated across four conditions, as they were randomly assigned to one of four control groups: Black-Sad, Black-

Happy, White-Sad, White-Happy. Results indicated that, in accordance with previous research, mood did in fact play a role in the participants' decision-making process, as those in a sad mood were "somewhat upset" by the White defendants' actions as opposed to those in a happy mood that responded they were simply "a little bit" upset. However, results also indicated that participants found the defendant's actions more offensive when the defendant was White instead of Black, which goes against what previous research has shown. Overall, while the findings of the present study seemed to act in accordance with previous research on mood, the findings of the present study on race failed to replicate what previous research has discovered thus far.

30. College Identity Salience and Stress

Matthew Pleso, Spencer Knafelc, Kayla Shaffer, Matt Bayless, and Milo Freese (Chris Niebauer,) Slippery Rock University

Identity salience and stress have been a focus of research in order to understand the concept of the "self" better. Identity salience and stress have been thought to be related to each other based on the theory of identity known as the "broken loop". This theory claims that when contradicting situations refute our identity salience, this contradicting situation causes perceived stress in our lives. We then work to reduce the stress and reconfirm our identities and increase salience. The present study investigates the identity salience of college students and perceived stress levels. It is hypothesized that college students with strong levels of identity salience have less general stress than college students with weak levels of identity salience.

31. The Impact of Medium (Text *vs* Film) on Transportation Into a Second Language Narrative

Liz Hawk (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The purpose of this research was to examine the impact of story medium (text versus film) on individual's engagement with narratives in their second language (Spanish). The literary analysis of this research investigated the themes and imagery provoked by the Spanish text and film chosen for the current study, in addition to an exploration of the comprehensibility of the narrative in the reader's second language. The purpose of the experimental portion of the study was to test the effects of story medium on immersion into a narrative in the Spanish language. This study sought to find whether story medium (text versus film) impacted the amount of narrative transportation into a narrative that was entirely in Spanish. Participants (N=12) were randomly assigned to either read a portion of the text, or watch a corresponding clip from the novel La virgen de los sicarios (Our Lady of the Assassins) by Fernando Vallejo, which was made into a film in 2000. Participants then completed a post-questionnaire to measure transportation into the narrative. Finally, participants completed a post comprehension test and perceived language fluency scales for each condition. The results of this study did not support the hypothesis that the text condition would have higher levels of transportation. However, significant results were found for the amount of transportation into the film condition. This study is the first to explore transportation into a second language narrative, and the implications of the findings could create a basis for future directions of this new field of study.

32. A Qualitative and Quantitative Look At Intimate Relationships In College Students

Leah Burgess (Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University

Much of the research on intimacy has been focused on the quality of relationships between two people such as "couples" (Otto, Laurenceau, & Siegel, 2015). The current study explores intimacy in a much greater variety of relationships in the participants' lives, including family and friends, as well as significant others. Specifically, this study explores the relationships between gender, adult attachment styles (assessed by The Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised (Fraley, Waller, & Brennan, 2000), and the Fear-of-Intimacy Scale (Descutner & Thelen, 1991) and the number and general quality of participants' relationships.

33. Comparison of Personalities of Different Majors

Amanda Whitaker (Matthew T. Weaver), Mercyhurst University
This experiment will determine if there is a difference in the personalities of students with
different majors and if the personality of a person affects his/her satisfaction with his/her
respective major. In order to do this, a questionnaire will be used to separate participants into
Holland's six vocational personality types. Another one will be used to gain background
information. After that, the information will be compared to the other participants that were
designated to have the same personality type and any correlations amongst the participants will
be examined. The participants will be male and female Mercyhurst University students most likely
between the ages of 18 and 22 and the identifications will be completely confidential. Pearson's
correlation will be used to determine the results. It is predicted that correlations between the
various aspects will exist which will further support the belief that personality does have an effect
on a person's choice in major, and the major that they choose can be due in part to the life that
they live and they things they are interested in.

34. How Cognitive Load Affects Spatial Working Memory Performance in Video Game Players and Non-Video Game Players

Robert Jackelen (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The main goal of the present study was to examine how cognitive load affects spatial working memory performance in video game palyers and non-video game players. A 2x2 between subjects design was used with cognitive load (low vs high) and video game experience (video game player vs non-video game players) as the between subjects variable. 38 participants took part in a video game playing manipulation of cognitive load, and then had their spatial working memory tested through the use of a Corsi test. Results indicated that video game players performed better on spatial working memory tasks than non-video game players. Results showed that level of cognitive had no effect on sptail working memory performance. Overall, the results replicate some previous research about the positive effects of video game playing.

35. Bossy vs. Boss: The Role of Feminist Stereotypes and Identification in the Endorsement of Leadership Gender Roles

Curtis Wojcik, Kara Hall, and Bradley Volz (Jennifer Dyck), State University of New York at Fredonia

We investigated the effects of feminist stereotyping, feminist identification, and internalized misogyny on perceptions of different gendered leaders. Male and female college students read two passages about either a male or a female protagonist in a leadership position. One passage depicted the protagonist as a young child, the other depicted the protagonist as an adult. Participants then completed a survey about each of the passages and their views on women and feminists. It was predicted that the male protagonist would be evaluated more positively than the female protagonist with the protagonist's age, feminist stereotyping, feminist identification and internalized misogyny all moderating this effect. Because data collection is ongoing, results are forthcoming. This research is the first to address the interplay of all these factors in determining one's endorsement of gender roles.

36. Exercise or Video Games? A Comparison of Methods to Cope with Stress

Brittany Smith and Sarah Jelinek (Melanie Hetzel-Riggin), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Stress is experienced by college students on a day to day basis and in major events occurring in their life (American Health Association, 2009; Bland, Melton, Welle, & Bigham, 2012; Welle & Graf, 2011). With all of this stress experienced, college students need effective ways to cope. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of exercise versus video games as coping strategies to reduce stress in college students. It was hypothesized that exercise would be more effective in reducing stress than video games. This experimental study had participants partake in either an exercise game (Dance Central 2), video game (Bejeweled 3), or control group (reading magazines). Participant also completed self-report questionnaires on stress (Pre and Post PANAS and Perceived Stress Scale). The researchers conducted a One-Way ANOVA with the independent variable being the three groups and the dependent variable being level of stress. Preliminary analysis has indicated there is not a significant difference between the groups and the total Perceived Stress score (F(2,49) = 0.769, p = 0.469) or the change in the PANAS positive affect score (F(2,49) = 0.293, p = 0.747). The change in the PANAS negative affect scale was statistically significant (F(2, 49) = 3.297, p = 0.046) with post hoc analysis showing a difference between Dance Central and Bejeweled (mean difference = -1.72, p = 0.016). These beginning results indicate dancing as exercise did not reduce stress and further analysis may determine that it is not an effective coping strategy for college student.

Attachment and Workplace Jealousy

Shane Greenlee and Kayla Turano (Gregory Morrow), Edinboro University The purpose of this study is to examine the possible association between relationships that individuals' experience in the workplace (i.e., time spent at work, interactions with coworkers, etc.) and participants' experiences in their romantic relationships outside of the workplace. More specifically, we are examining how adult attachment styles are associated with participants'

experiences of workplace jealousy, defined as jealousy of the time one's partner spends at the workplace or relationships she/he has formed at the workplace. Workplace jealousy will be assessed via a modified version of an 18-item scale developed by Gomillion, Gabriel, and Murray (2014) to measure jealousy toward a romantic partner's friends. Gomillion et al.'s items were reworded to assess jealousy toward coworkers (e.g., "It sometimes bothers me when my partner shares personal information with his/her coworkers") rather than jealousy toward partners' friends (e.g., "It sometimes bothers me when my partner shares personal information with his/her friends"). Attachment will be measured using the Experiences in Close Relationships Questionnaire developed by Fraley, Waller, and Brennan (2000).

38. Does Parental Attachment Predict Distance Traveled for College?

Renato Popovic, Megan Barclay, Alexandra Martinez, and Justin Misterka (Rebecca McDonald), Washington and Jefferson College

Based on previous research suggesting that parental attachment may continue to predict a child's exploration behavior during adolescence and the transition to young adulthood (Belsky, Garduque, & Hrncir, 1984; Seiffge-Krenke, 2006), the present study investigated the relationship between parental attachment and distance traveled to attend college. Two-hundred students attending an academically selective liberal arts college provided the name of their hometown and completed the Parental Attachment Questionnaire (Kenny, 1987). The study found a significant negative correlation between distance traveled to college and the parental attachment score (r=-.20, p<.05). A secure parental attachment was associated with an increased likelihood that a young adult would choose to attend college closer to home. These findings suggest that securely attached young adults continue to follow attachment functions such as proximity maintenance, secure base, and safe haven when selecting colleges to attend due to the strange situation (Ainsworth, 1989).

39. The Effect of Melody Familiarity on Recalling Words in Working Memory

Colleen Bowser, Deb Campbell, Taylor Harbison, and Veronica O'Brien (Michael Skelly), Edinboro University

Previous literature commonly reports that items presented in a familiar melody are retained better in long-term memory than if the items are presented in an unfamiliar or no melody (e.g., Rainey & Larsen, 2002). No study to our knowledge has tested melody familiarity with recall of items held in working memory. This being stated, the present between groups design experiment examined the effect of melody familiarity on the number of words recalled correctly using a short-term memory task. The stimuli consisted of 13 nouns that were recorded to the melody of jingle bells, a novel melody, or a monotone spoken voice. These three recordings represented the familiar melody, unfamiliar melody and spoken conditions, respectively. Participants were randomly assigned to one of the three melody conditions. All participants first listened to their assigned recording followed by completing a 30 s distracter task. Immediately following the distracter task, participants completed a written free recall of the word items. Results indicate a significantly lower number of items recalled for the unfamiliar melody condition compared to both the familiar melody and spoken conditions, which were not significantly different from each

other. Findings are discussed in terms of the uniqueness of the unfamiliar melody recording in comparison to the familiar melody and spoken conditions.

40. Does Proofreading Silently Help to Detect Homophone Errors More Than Proofreading Aloud?

Dallas Wilcox, Jessica Betts, Michelle Hutchings, Allison Saccani, and Rachel Cocchiara (Michael Skelly), Edinboro University

A proofreading task was given to participants in order to evaluate the effect of both reading style (silent vs. aloud) and word error type (non-word vs. homophone) on a reader's ability to identify word errors in a passage. A 435 word passage were created that contained 20 non-word errors and 20 homophone errors. Depending on the reading style condition participants were randomly assigned to, passages were read verbally or silently. Participants were instructed to identify errors by circling the error directly on the passage with a pencil. There was no time restriction in reading the passage, however, participants were instructed to read the passage once and to not re-read the passage. Data was analyzed using a 2x2 mixed analysis of variance that indicated only a main effect of error type, both reading style and the interaction between error type and reading style were not significant. Overall findings suggest that participants detected non-word errors significantly better than homophone errors, regardless if the passage was read aloud or silently.

41. Goodness Rating Scale Instructions Appear to Affect Taste Perception of Soda

Shane Greenlee, Brittany Sica, Felicia Clemente, and Marlee DeMay (Michael Skelly), Edinboro University

It has been reported that expectations may affect a person's perception of taste. For example, Woods et al. (2010) showed that participants are more likely to claim that an identical beverage is different if the two drinks to be sampled are poured from different containers versus similar containers. The present experiment explored the effect of instruction bias on the perception of soda pop taste. Used was a 2x2 between groups design to examine the effect of soda (Pepsi, Sprite) and the effect of instruction bias (congruent, incongruent) on soda taste goodness ratings. Participants ranked their randomly assigned, blinded soda using a goodness scale from 1-7. Standard soda cans were masked and a straw was used to minimize both vision and smell detection of the soda. Depending on the bias condition, participants in the congruent condition used a goodness scale that matched the soda can's content (Rating the goodness of Pepsi while sampling a Pepsi) versus the incongruent condition that mismatched the scale from the content of the soda can (Rating the goodness of Pepsi while sampling a Sprite). Results from the two-way between ANOVA indicated only a main effect of instruction bias, with participants providing higher ratings if the content of the soda can was congruent than incongruent with the goodness scale.

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Registering Your Computer or Device to Mercyhurst Network

The registration of your computer or network enabled device for use on the Mercyhurst Network will occur when you first attempt to access the Internet on the Mercyhurst Campus. All PCs (Laptops and Desktops) and other network enabled devices must be registered through the Bradford Campus Management system to provide Internet access while on the Mercyhurst campus.

Username: psychguest Password: Lakers1926

Note: Devices registered with this guest account will be deleted from Campus Manager on Sunday, April 19th.

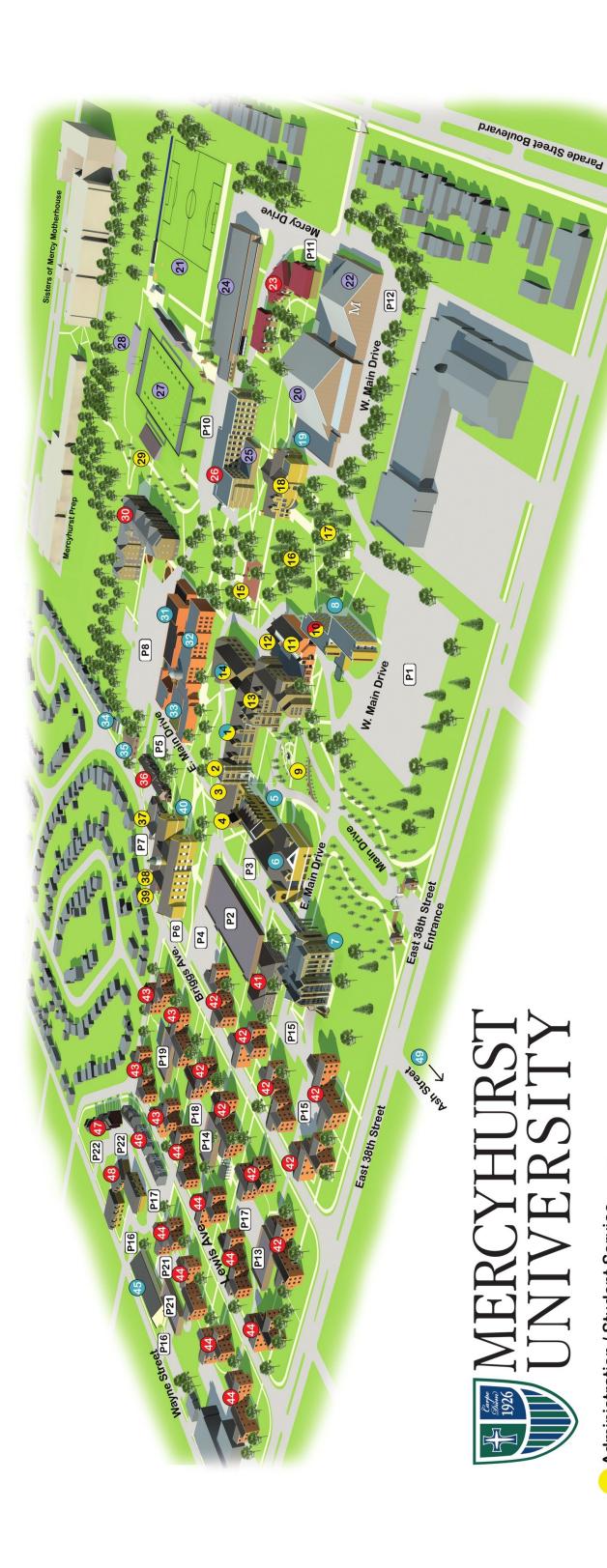
Instructions on Registering your Computer on Bradford Campus Manager

Step 1: Connect your PC to the Mercyhurst Network

- Make sure you are connected to the network using either wireless or wired do not connect both to do the registration.
- If using wireless, make sure you connect to LakerVapor.
- If using wired make sure you have a Cat5e Ethernet cable and plug it into the DATA Wall Jack if you have wireless connectivity on your computer do not connect to LakerVapor when you plug-in the wired connection.

Step 2: Registration Process

- Double-Click your Internet Explorer/FireFox icon to open your browser.
- Your Browser will be automatically directed to the Mercyhurst Network Registration pages.
- Read the Acceptable Use Policy / Code of Conduct.
- After you read the policy and if you agree to it, click on the Accept button.
- Select the Next >> button.
- Select the "Guests" Start>> button.
- On the Welcome/DOWNLOAD page:
- Enter your Guest UserName, Password, and Reason for Visit.
- Select the **Download** button.
- Successful notification will appear when you are registered. Wait the designated 70 seconds for the registration to complete before browsing.



Administration / Student Service

- Old Main (Undergraduate Admissions) O'Neil Tower
 - Christ the King Chapel
 - Queen's Chape
 - Mary Garden 4 6 2
- McAuley Hall / Police & Safety Offices (Lower Level)
 - Dining Hall
 - Sullivan / Mercy Heritage Hall **±** 2 π 4
 - Egan Hall
- Preston Hall / Walker School of Business
- **Alumni Park** Grotto

Garvey Park

- Herrmann Student Union Mercy Walk 15 17 17 29
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Academic

- Weber Hall & Taylor Little Theatre
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- Department of Interior Design Walker Recital Hall
- Physician's Assistant Program 45 49
- 4 Blocks North of the Erie Campus) (511 East 34th Street

Residential

Warde Residence Hall Warde Townhouses **Mercy Apartments** (Lower Level) **Baldwin Hall** 23 26 30 36 41

Police & Safety Offices

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Athletic / Recreation

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