



Saturday, April 12, 2025

## Conference Schedule

- PennWest – California Campus Administrator Tony Mauro at 9:15 AM in Theater, Steele Hall
- Keynote Dr. Chris Was from 9:30-10:30 PM in Theater, Steele Hall
- Travel to Duda Hall 10:30 – 11 AM
- Paper Presentations in Duda Hall from 11 AM – 12:15 PM
  - Session 1 – Cognitive/Developmental Duda Hall Room 103
  - Session 2 – Neuroscience/ Social Duda Hall Room 202
- Lunch from 12:30 – 1:30 PM in Gold Rush
  - LH/WPUPC steering committee meeting during lunch
- Poster Session 1 in Duda Hall Foyer from 1:45 – 2:30 PM
- Poster Session 2 in Duda Hall Foyer from 2:30 -3:15 PM
- Laurel Highlands breakout sessions from 3:15 -4 PM
  - Student session - Graduate School talk Duda Hall Room 116
  - Student session - Careers in Psychology talk Duda Hall Room 117
  - Faculty dialogue Duda Hall Room 103  
Facilitating undergraduate psychology research

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Chris Was

### Mind-Wandering and Task Performance: Not a Simple Relationship



This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Chris Was. Dr. Was will give a talk entitled "Mind-Wandering and Task Performance: Not a Simple Relationship" regarding his and others' work on the often deleterious yet sometimes beneficial process of thinking off task (aka mind-wandering). Dr. Was obtained his PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Utah and is a Professor of Psychology at Kent State University. His research interests include the broad area of working memory models, and his research program has focused on testing different models and aspects of working memory to determine how processing limits in working memory affect complex cognitive processes such as comprehension. Research in this area provides evidence that working memory as an attention-driven storage capacity and the facilitation of procedural memory (strengthening of prior cognitive operations) are related yet independent. Dr. Was's studies in this area consist of both experimental studies as well as individual difference studies. Another area of interest involves metacognition and student self-regulated learning. Research in this field includes in-class experiments designed to test interventions designed to increase students' knowledge monitoring abilities as well as studies aimed at increasing the ability to measure students' metacognition. We are excited that Dr. Was is coming to the conference to give this year's keynote address.

## Paper Session 1: 11 AM – 12:15 PM

Location: Duda Hall – 103

Chair: Rebeca Regeth

- 1 **The Examination of Memory Retention in High Pressure Scenarios**  
*Heather Zeigler, Sydney Gilbert, & Jenny Jellison (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jenny Jellison) Waynesburg University*
- 2 **Sex Differences in the Effects of Long-term Alprazolam Use on Spatial Learning and Memory in Rats**  
*Julia Williams (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Megan Bertholomey) Allegheny College*
- 3 **Examining the Mediating Factors of Employment, Course Load, and Stimulant Intake on Undergraduate Student Sleep and GPA**  
*Nora Alobedi, McKenna Hammar, & Andrew Hempel (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kristen Asplin) University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg*
- 4 **Exploring the Mediating Role of Self-Control in the Relationship Between Parenting Style and Empathy**  
*Noah Westover (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jenny Jellison) Waynesburg University*
- 5 **Childhood Adversity and Impulsive Eating Habits**  
*Hope Casteline & Alivia Young (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jenny Jellison) Waynesburg University*

## Paper Session 2: 11 AM – 12:15 PM

Location: Duda Hall – 202

Chair: Michael Barnaski Rebeca Regeth

- 6 **Is It Possible To Learn Complex Implicit Tasks, Such As Artificial Grammar Tasks, While Mind Wandering**  
*Vinaya Patel (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Chris Was) Kent State University*
- 7 **Sensory Sensitivity in Autistic Adults: Examining Utensil Preference Through Observational and Survey-Based Studies**  
*Dev Kartan (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Bennett) Washington & Jefferson College*
- 8 **The Causes and Consequences of Problematic Social Media Use: Self Esteem, Perceived Control, Anxiety, and Attitudes Towards Social Media as Predictors for Social Media Use, College Adjustment, and Overall Life Satisfaction**  
*Madelyn Miller (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Melissa Heerboth) Mercyhurst University*
- 9 **Effects of clonidine on varieties of visual attention in rats**  
*Gemma DeSanzo (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Peter McLaughlin) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 10 **A Peptide for Passion: The Effects of Kisspeptin on Sexual Behavior in Male Rats**  
*Jodi Thomas & Dane Sheffler (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

## Poster Session 1: 1:45 – 2:30 PM

Location: Duda Foyer

- 11 **The Impact of Year in School, Exercise Frequency and Exercise Attitudes and Habits on Exercise Self-Efficacy**  
*Carly Pry & Ryan Lewis (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sharon Hamilton) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 12 **Does Time Relate to College Students' Happiness and Stress in Class**  
*Brock Young (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebecca Regeth ) Pennsylvania Western University - California*
- 13 **What's in a Name? Implications of Applicant Names in Hiring Decisions**  
*Angelena Proffitt (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gregory D. Morrow) Pennsylvania Western University - California*
- 14 **Self-Compassion as a Predictor of Tendencies for Prosocial Behavior**  
*Lucas Beddick (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Elaine Barry) Pennsylvania State University, Fayette*
- 15 **Love Language Preferences and Accuracy of Self Identification Across the Lifespan**  
*Emily Sypolt, Austine Kinney, & Isabella DiPietro-Harvey (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebecca McDonald) Washington & Jefferson College*
- 16 **Moral Judgments, Social Groups, and AI Bias: A Comparative Analysis**  
*Jade Legar, Zachary Hockinson, & Lily Owens (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Luke Rosielle) Gannon University*
- 17 **Evaluating the Relationship between Hand Dominance and Attention in Elementary Youth Fine Motor Skills**  
*Makaila Work, Alex Lukon, & Kaitlyn Kasisky (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Marnie Moist) Saint Francis University*
- 18 **The Effect of Instagram on College Students' Motivations to Drink**  
*Sarah Willison (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lauren Paulson) Allegheny College*
- 19 **Analysis of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in College Students and Professors**  
*Julia Jacobs, Jada Martin, & Amy Newcomer (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Erica Edwards) Penn State Behrend*
- 20 **Effects of Targeted Memory Reactivation on Long-term Memory Consolidation: A Sleep-Based Behavioral Study**  
*Hanan Hamed (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kristen Warren ) Allegheny College*
- 21 **Dose Dependent Effects of the GnRH Antagonist Degarelix on Sexual Incentive Motivation in Male Rats**  
*Virginia Jeffrey, Dana Battershell, & Brooke Lovell (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 22 **Neural Mechanisms of Choreographic Memory: An EEG Study on Dance Learning and Recall**  
*Lily Kons (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kristen Warren) Allegheny College*

- 23 **The Role of Dihydrotestosterone on the Expression of Sexual Reward in Male Rats**  
*Autumn Burkett, AnnMarie Pfiester, & Cara Della Toffalo (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 24 **Does Hair Cortisol Relate to Blood Pressure?**  
*Sarah Mayer & Abigail Shell (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anna Marsland) University of Pittsburgh*
- 25 **Is Hair Cortisol Associated with Objective or Subjective Socioeconomic Status?**  
*Hayden Sinar, Alec Scott-Davis, & Abigail Shell (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anna Marsland) University of Pittsburgh*
- 26 **Predicting Empathy: Parental Warmth Matters More for Avoidantly Attached Teenage Boys**  
*Brianne Bernstein & Jeanette Pool (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Amy Gentzler) West Virginia University*
- 27 **The Use of the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire for Children with Callous-Unemotional Traits**  
*Leah Stacy, Megan Quinlan, & Olivia Chervenick, Jake Steggerda, & Erinn Victory (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Cheryl B. McNeil) West Virginia University*
- 28 **The Effectiveness of Inquiry-Based Learning at the College Level**  
*Adieb Al-Jayashi, Serrena M. Conklin, & Jillian R. Mazzaresse (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Erica Edwards) Penn State Behrend*
- 29 **Mental health and year of college: Students with more college experience are not better adjusted**  
*Sage Thomas (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Melissa Heerboth) Mercyhurst University*
- 30 **Impact of Cultural Identity Conflict on Mental Health of Asian Americans and Asian Immigrants**  
*Aria Zong (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ryan Pickering) Allegheny College*
- 31 **Salient Visual Field Color Does Not Induce Context Dependent Memory**  
*Bernadette Zukina & Austin Bailey (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Skelly) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 32 **A Review of Accessibility Barriers in Public Settings and Proposed Support for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
*Braislee Byrne, Monali Chowdhury, & Ryan Pickering (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Monali Chowdhury) Allegheny College*
- 33 **Exploring Cultural Identity, Sense of Belonging, and Mental Health Outcomes in International Students**  
*Chloe Kitagawa & Kallah Zacherl (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Luke Rosielle) Gannon University*
- 53 **Social Media Posts and Drinking and Eating Habits in Sororities**  
*Rachel Oberst & Monali Chowdhury (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Monali Chowdhury) Allegheny College*

## Poster Session 2: 2:30 – 3:15 PM

Location: Duda Foyer

- 34 **An International Examination of Global Human Identification, Political Orientation, and Global Concerns**  
*Brock Young, Tsahai Johnson, Darryle Carpenter, Sam Wilson, Bethlehem Linde, & Keramya Akanbi (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Justin Hackett) Pennsylvania Western University - California*
- 35 **Self-Compassion Following an Exercise Setback: A Randomized Experimental Study of the Effects of Self-Compassion Inductions on Emotions and Motivation**  
*Carly Pry & Ryan Lewis (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sharon Hamilton) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 36 **Perceived Stress and its Influence on Cognitive Distortion Recognition Among Higher-Education-Aged Individuals**  
*Dimitri Martiny (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Luke Rosielle) Gannon University*
- 37 **Unraveling the Nexus of Depression, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Stress Reactivity: Insights from the Trier Social Stress Test**  
*Mia Simpson & Marine Hartzell (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sean Coyne) Washington & Jefferson College*
- 38 **Sign-Tracking Behavior in Female Japanese Quail**  
*Hannah Miller (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Beth Ann Rice) Slippery Rock University*
- 39 **Perceptions, Attitudes, and Health Implications of Hazing by Severity and Sex of Group**  
*Charlotte Allen (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ryan Pickering) Allegheny College*
- 40 **The Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status and Access to Mental Health Resources in High School**  
*Caesar Grandinetti, Molly Fehr, Mikaela Vahey, & Lucia Zamierowski (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Luke Rosielle) Gannon University*
- 41 **Why Are We So Tired?: Implications on Faculty Burnout**  
*Dr. Darla Timbo & Brooke E. Chapman (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Darla Timbo) Pennsylvania Western University - California*
- 42 **SELF-CARE AND SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING IN SLIPPERY ROCK STUDENTS**  
*Katelynn Howarth & Julia Emerick (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Boerger) Slippery Rock University*
- 43 **College Students' Awareness in Attachment Styles**  
*Parker Yohe, Rayne Minier, & Carson Delon (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Erica Edwards) Penn State Behrend*
- 44 **Does the frequency of word body spelling affect vocabulary and spelling acquisition of novel words?**  
*Amelia Rindfleisch & Eleanor Rundus (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jocelyn Folk) Kent State University*



- 45 **Exploring the interplay between maternal depression, child language, and internalizing behaviors across early childhood**  
*Kelly Christenson, Julia A. Gajewski-Nemes, M.S., Leah J. Hunter, PhD, & Daniel S. Shaw, PhD (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniel S. Shaw) University of Pittsburgh*
- 46 **Telehealth Parent-Child Interaction Therapy's Ability to Reduce Disruptive Behaviors in Rural Appalachia**  
*Olivia Chervenick, Megan E. Quinlan, Leah K. Stacy, & Erinn J. Victory (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Cheryl B. McNeil) West Virginia University*
- 47 **Do You Think I'm Sexy? The Effects of Perceived Attraction on Sexual Decision Making**  
*Hannah Parillo & Karalyn B. Schwartz (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley & Dr. Gregory D. Morrow) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 48 **Discrimination, Death, and Disgust: Effects of Medical Technology on Disabilities**  
*Catherine Wheat (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ryan Pickering) Allegheny College*
- 49 **Mind Over Matter: Perceptions of Anxiety And Depression In Dating Partners**  
*Jacey Welcheck (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gregory D. Morrow) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 50 **Everyone is the GOAT: A Preliminary Analysis of Touchdown Celebrations from 1980-1990 and 2012-2022**  
*Benjamin Crow (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley) Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*
- 51 **Exploring Individual Differences and Word Surprisal Effects During L1 Reading**  
*Nicole Rodriguez (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gaisha Oralova) University of Pittsburgh*
- 52 **The Relationship between Secondary Trauma and Gun Violence Exposure through the Media**  
*Maley Gleason (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lauren Paulson ) Allegheny College*
- 54 **Effects of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub> Receptor Agonist, Quipazine, on Traumatic-Stress Reactivity and Ethanol Consumption in Female Sprague-Dawley Rats**  
*Josh Salisbury & Megan Bertholomey (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Megan Bertholomey) Allegheny College*
- 55 **Prior Childhood Trauma and its Links to Criminal Thinking and Behavior**  
*Taylor Jarrot, Jenna Moore, & Adam Yoder (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kristen N. Asplin) University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg*



## Abstracts

### 1 Paper Session 1

#### **The Examination of Memory Retention in High Pressure Scenarios**

*Heather Zeigler, Sydney Gilbert, & Jenny Jellison (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jenny Jellison), Waynesburg University*

Stress impairs retrieval, particularly retrieval for details or things that require thought (Zerbes et al, 2020). However, studies on this phenomenon typically induce stress by requiring a public speech or injecting participants with stress-inducing chemicals (i.e. adrenaline). We were seeking to test this memory impairment in situations designed to model real-life, particularly for law enforcement agents. Participants went through four scenarios in a laser shot simulator, dubbed either “high stress” or “low stress,” and took a memory quiz after each. We hypothesized that participants in the high stress condition would perform more poorly on their memory quizzes than participants in the low stress condition. The hypothesis was not confirmed.

### 2 Paper Session 1

#### **Sex Differences in the Effects of Long-term Alprazolam Use on Spatial Learning and Memory in Rats**

*Julia Williams (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Megan Bertholomey), Allegheny College*

Benzodiazepines (BZDs) are one of the most widely prescribed classes of drugs in the United States. The long-term use of these medications has multiple concerns, including a multitude of memory deficits. These deficits have been understudied in females. This study exposes male and female rats to long-term alprazolam (ALP). Multiple types of spatial memory were examined using the radial arm maze apparatus. Results indicate a main effect of ALP on working memory, a main effect of ALP and an interaction of ALP and sex on long-term memory, and no difference in cognitive flexibility learning. These effects did not persist following cessation of use. This study supports the existence of memory deficits following long-term use of BZDs, while implicating an important sex-difference.

### 3 Paper Session 1

#### **Examining the Mediating Factors of Employment, Course Load, and Stimulant Intake on Undergraduate Student Sleep and GPA**

*Nora Alobedi, McKenna Hammar, & Andrew Hempel (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kristen Asplin), University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg*

Sleep plays an important role in cognitive function, memory consolidation, and academic performance, yet many undergraduates struggle to prioritize sleep due to academic work, employment, and social demands. This study examines the relationship between sleep duration and GPA, with a focus on mediating variables including employment status, course load, and stimulant intake. We hypothesized that students who average more than 7 hours of sleep per night would have higher GPAs compared to those who sleep less. Our methodology includes a mixed-question survey incorporating the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) (Buysse Jr. et al., 1989) alongside questions on academic workload, employment, and stimulant use. Data analysis is currently ongoing, with approximately 50 student responses.

#### 4 Paper Session 1

##### **Exploring the Mediating Role of Self-Control in the Relationship Between Parenting Style and Empathy**

Noah Westover (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jenny Jellison), Waynesburg University

Parenting style has been known to effect self-control, with negative parenting decreasing adolescent self-control (Zhang & Wang, 2023). Parenting style has also been shown to effect empathy (Wang et al., 2021), though the exact mechanism through which this occurs remains unknown. Acting with empathy often involves inhibiting one's desired behaviors and acting in ways that benefit others. Therefore, we proposed that the reason parenting style effects empathy is because it effects self-control. In other words, we hypothesized that self-control would mediate the relationship between parenting style and empathy. Participants completed anonymous measures of Parenting Style, Self-Control, and Empathy. None of the bivariate correlations were significant and the hypothesis was not confirmed.

#### 5 Poster Session 2

##### **Childhood Adversity and Impulsive Eating Habits**

Hope Casteline & Alivia Young (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jenny Jellison), Waynesburg University

Childhood trauma is strongly related with many poor physical, mental, and behavioral health outcomes, and these outcomes are often interrelated. Aquilina et al (2021), for example, found that childhood trauma correlated with poorer quality dietary choices. We propose that this may, in part, be due to the relationship between childhood trauma and lower inhibitory control (Moreno-Manso et al, 2022). Using an online survey, this study aimed to explore the relationship between childhood trauma, quality of dietary choices, and impulsive eating. We predicted that, replicating Aquilina et al, higher ACE scores would correlate with lower quality dietary choices. We further predicted that this relationship would be mediated by impulsive eating. Both hypotheses were supported.

#### 6 Paper Session 2

##### **Is It Possible To Learn Complex Implicit Tasks, Such As Artificial Grammar Tasks, While Mind Wandering**

Vinaya Patel (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Chris Was), Kent State University

The current investigation examined whether it is possible to implicitly learn a set of rules, such as those found in an artificial grammar task, while mind wandering. Participants memorized 23 grammatical stimuli in 10 blocks. Between blocks were mind wandering probes. Then participants were presented with 32 novel stimuli indicating whether they were grammatical or nongrammatical. A Bayesian correlation analysis indicated no correlation between the amount of mind wandering and the proportion of items correctly identified in the testing phase ( $r = .04$ ), with a 95% CI [-14, .22] and a Bayes Factor of  $B_{01} = 12.78$ . The results suggest the degree of mind wandering was not related to learning of artificial grammar, suggesting that implicit learning can occur although one is mind wandering.

#### 7 Poster Session 2

##### **Sensory Sensitivity in Autistic Adults: Examining Utensil Preference Through Observational and Survey-Based Studies**

Dev Kartan (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Bennett), Washington & Jefferson College

Sensory differences are a defining feature of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Anecdotal claims exist that autistic individuals favor smaller spoons, empirical research on this phenomenon is limited.

An observational study was conducted in a facility for adults with autism, examining spoon selection across different foods. A survey assessed the relationship between spoon preference and ASD traits in a college sample.

Findings revealed that autistic individuals demonstrated strong habitual behaviors and specific preferences for spoons, with the smallest spoon being the most frequently selected. The survey showed a significant correlation between sensory sensitivity and a preference for smaller utensils. These results highlight the role of sensory differences in meal-related behaviors.

## 8 Paper Session 2

### **The Causes and Consequences of Problematic Social Media Use: Self Esteem, Perceived Control, Anxiety, and Attitudes Towards Social Media as Predictors for Social Media Use, College Adjustment, and Overall Life Satisfaction**

*Madelyn Miller (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

This study examined how self esteem, anxiety, attitudes towards social media, perceived control, and social media use predicts college adjustment and overall life satisfaction. Data were collected from students at a small liberal arts college in Northwest Pennsylvania by anonymous electronic forms (n=159). The results of the regression indicated four predictors explained 62.5% of the variance ( $R^2=.625$ ,  $F(6,152)=42.266$ ,  $p<.001$ ). It was found that self esteem significantly predicted life adjustment ( $\beta = .329$ ,  $p<.001$ ), as did perceived control ( $\beta = .204$ ,  $p=.003$ ), negative affect ( $\beta = -.156$ ,  $p=.032$ ), and positive affect ( $\beta = .332$ ,  $p<.001$ ). These findings add important information about adjustment to the field of personality and social psychology.

## 9 Paper Session 2

### **Effects of clonidine on varieties of visual attention in rats**

*Gemma DeSanzo (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Peter McLaughlin), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

The locus coeruleus (LC) produces norepinephrine, which plays a role in attention and arousal. Clonidine is an  $\alpha$ -2 adrenergic receptor agonist, which has been shown to reduce activity in the LC, affecting attention. The investigation aims to discover clonidine's effects on sustained and divided attention in Long-Evans rats. Each rat was injected with a 5 to 80  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  dose of clonidine or vehicle. The rats were subjected to a light/dark signal detection task for sustained attention, with an auditory component for the divided attention task. As predicted, the data supported the hypothesis that clonidine would impair sustained and divided attention. In the future, we aim to compare the effects of clonidine to the cannabinoid cannabigerol, which works at the same receptor.

## 10 Poster Session 2

### **A Peptide for Passion: The Effects of Kisspeptin on Sexual Behavior in Male Rats**

*Jodi Thomas & Dane Sheffler (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

Recent studies suggest that kisspeptin may have some clinical utility in the treatment of sexual disorders (Mills et al., 2023). Consistent with preclinical findings, administration of kisspeptin into the medial amygdala of male mice enhances sexual motivation (Adekunbi et al., 2018). However, the effects of peripheral administration of the hormone on other aspects of sexual behaviors have not been assessed in males. In this study, male rats were chemically castrated with a GnRH receptor antagonist, and then randomly assigned to either kisspeptin or placebo treatment, as well as to either testosterone or placebo treatment. After treatments, copulatory behaviors and sexual incentive motivation were assessed over the course of several weeks. Results and implications will be discussed.

**11 Poster Session 1****The Impact of Year in School, Exercise Frequency and Exercise Attitudes and Habits on Exercise Self-Efficacy**

*Carly Pry & Ryan Lewis (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sharon Hamilton), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

The Exercise Self-Efficacy of college students was explored. Participants (N = 265) completed the Exercise Self-Efficacy Scale, reported their year in school, and provided ratings of the Exercise Frequency, and Exercise Attitudes and Habits. A linear regression predicted Exercise Self-Efficacy was equal to  $6.54 (\text{Constant}) + 2.28 (\text{Exercise Attitudes and Habits}) + 1.58 (\text{Exercise Frequency Rating}) + 0.09 (\text{Year in School})$ . Exercise Attitudes and Habits ( $t(265) = 5.27, p < .001$ ) and Exercise Frequency ( $t(265) = 7.23, p < .001$ ) significantly contributed to Exercise Self-Efficacy. An ANOVA demonstrated that the model significantly predicted Exercise Self-Efficacy ( $F(5,259) = 48.7, p < .001$ ), accounting for 48.8% of the variance ( $R^2 = .484$ ).

**12 Poster Session 1****Does Time Relate to College Students' Happiness and Stress in Class**

*Brock Young (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebecca Regeth), Pennsylvania Western University - California*

There has been much debate between people as to which time they feel the happiest in their day. In this study, it is hypothesized that there would be a negative correlation between morning/afternoon stress and happiness, higher happiness levels in the afternoon, and higher stress levels in the morning. We studied college students eighteen or older and asked them to fill out a multiple-choice survey with questions from the Subjective Happiness Scale and Perceived Stress Scale. The questions were modified slightly to pertain more towards the classroom. The results came back supporting the study's hypotheses of a negative correlation between morning/afternoon stress and happiness as well as higher levels of happiness in the afternoon and higher levels of stress in the morning.

**13 Poster Session 1****What's in a Name? Implications of Applicant Names in Hiring Decisions**

*Angelena Proffitt (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gregory D. Morrow), Pennsylvania Western University - California*

This study examines implicit biases toward job applicants with gender-concordant, gender-discordant, and gender-neutral names in hiring scenarios. Based on prior research, we hypothesize that individuals with gender-discordant names will experience more bias, while those with gender-neutral names may face less. Participants evaluated standardized job applications where only the applicant's name and sex varied. Perceived suitability for hire and competence were measured using rating scales. Results will provide insight into how name-based gender perceptions influence employment decisions and whether gender-neutral names offer an advantage.

**14 Poster Session 1****Self-Compassion as a Predictor of Tendencies for Prosocial Behavior**

*Lucas Beddick (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Elaine Barry), Pennsylvania State University, Fayette*

While the relationship between other-focused variables (e.g., empathy) and prosociality is widely understood, there is an increasing interest in how self-focused variables are related to prosociality. For the present study, 99 undergraduate participants were surveyed to investigate the relationship between self-compassion and prosocial tendencies. It was hypothesized that composite self-compassion would be correlated with prosocial tendencies, and particularly that the common humanity subscale of self-compassion would be correlated with prosocial tendencies. Results showed that the self-compassion composite did not predict prosocial tendencies ( $r = 0.04, p = 0.691$ ). However, common humanity was correlated with prosocial tendencies, supporting the secondary hypothesis ( $r = 0.24, p = 0.018$ ).

**15 Poster Session 1****Love Language Preferences and Accuracy of Self Identification Across the Lifespan**

*Emily Sypolt, Austine Kinney, & Isabella DiPietro-Harvey (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebecca McDonald), Washington & Jefferson College*

This study explored how accuracy of reported love language preferences changes with age. Gary Chapman proposed five love languages: Quality Time, Acts of Service, Physical Touch, and Gift Giving/Receiving Gifts. Participants across three age groups—young adults, middle-aged adults, and older adults—completed a survey assessing perceived and actual love languages. The study hypothesized that younger adults would favor passion-oriented love languages, older adults would prioritize stability-oriented ones, and self-awareness would improve with age. While no significant differences were found across age groups, trends suggested younger adults favored Quality Time, while older adults leaned toward Acts of Service. Older adults were also more accurate in identifying their love language.

**16 Poster Session 1****Moral Judgments, Social Groups, and AI Bias: A Comparative Analysis**

*Jade Legar, Zachary Hockinson, & Lily Owens (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

Moral judgments vary by multiple factors, and are highly influenced by individual group membership. Research shows social groups like political parties (Voelkel & Brandt, 2019) and gender (Capraro & Sippel, 2017) influence moral judgments. AI has also been shown to absorb political, cultural, racial, and gender biases (Hall and Ellis, 2023; Laacke, 2023; Peter 2022; Tosh 2024) and amplify those biases in its responses. We asked participants several demographic questions targeting political parties, religion, and gender and along with moral dilemmas. Participants rated their confidence on a 6-point Likert scale (Chomeya, 2010). We compared demographic groups' moral responses, then tested AI models with the same questions to assess bias replication.

**17 Poster Session 1****Evaluating the Relationship between Hand Dominance and Attention in Elementary Youth Fine Motor Skills**

*Makaila Work, Alex Lukon, & Kaitlyn Kasisky (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Marnie Moist), Saint Francis University*

The study involved 21 participants, mixing males and females, ranging from grades K through 8th. Students were observed on attention to instructions with the nine-hole peg test. We predicted mean time differences in the nine-hole peg test based on attention to instructions and hand dominance. Significant differences were shown when the children used their dominant hand versus non-dominant hand. Results show no significant differences in completion times between children with good attention to instruction and poor attention to instruction. There was not an interaction between hand dominance and attention to instructions. These findings suggest that hand dominance can affect children's fine motor skills, but their type of attention does not.

**18 Poster Session 1****The Effect of Instagram on College Students' Motivations to Drink**

*Sarah Willison (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lauren Paulson), Allegheny College*

College students use Instagram and other platforms to post alcohol-related content that glorifies alcohol misuse. The current study aims to gain a greater understanding of how college students respond to viewing negative alcohol-related content on social media. The researchers will be using the Drinking Motivation Questionnaire Revised (DMQ-R) to assess college students' motivations to drink based on the test's four subscales. The participants will be Allegheny College students from different academic classes (freshman-seniors) and the study

will require 36-45 participants. They will be split into three groups and view three mock Instagram feeds: a control group, content promoting alcohol use, and content detailing the dangers of alcohol misuse. A one-way between-subjects ANOVA will be conducted.

## 19 Poster Session 1

### **Analysis of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in College Students and Professors**

*Julia Jacobs, Jada Martin, & Amy Newcomer (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Erica Edwards), Penn State Behrend*

This study compares intimate partner violence (IPV) experiences between college students and professors at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. Using an online survey, we assessed the relationship between IPV victimization and factors such as environment, personality, and abilities. Our hypothesis suggested that students would experience higher IPV levels in the past 6 months, while professors would report more IPV over their lifetime. Data analysis included independent t-tests and multiple regressions. Results showed slightly higher, though not significant, IPV among students in the last 6 months and more IPV in professors' lifetime. Findings will guide interventions for a safer academic environment.

Keywords: IPV, environment, experience, personality & abilities

## 20 Poster Session 1

### **Effects of Targeted Memory Reactivation on Long-term Memory Consolidation: A Sleep-Based Behavioral Study**

*Hanan Hamed (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kristen Warren), Allegheny College*

Memory consolidation begins after encoding and strengthens with sleep. Targeted memory reactivation (TMR) enhances this by re-exposing the brain to sensory cues from prior learning. This study examined TMR's effects on procedural memory during a 60-minute nap. Participants completed the Serial Reaction Time Task (SRTT) with two 12-item sequences, each paired with distinct auditory tones. Tones from one sequence were replayed during non-REM sleep. Analysis revealed significant reaction time improvements across trials post-sleep but no TMR effect on motor performance. Accuracy remained unchanged, suggesting TMR may need longer sleep to be effective. Future research should explore optimal nap lengths, SRTT with the non-dominant hand, and TMR's role in neurodegenerative disease treatment.

## 21 Poster Session 1

### **Dose Dependent Effects of the GnRH Antagonist Degarelix on Sexual Incentive Motivation in Male Rats**

*Virginia Jeffrey, Dana Battershell, & Brooke Lovell (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

Sexual behavior has been linked to better quality of life and longevity. However, androgen deprivation therapies used in the treatment of prostate cancer have the unwanted side effects of reducing aspects of sexual behavior. Likewise, in male rats, when testosterone is decreased by administering a high dose of GnRH antagonist (1.5 mg/kg), it drastically reduces levels of testosterone and sexual incentive motivation (SIM), which is when male rats have a greater preference for a sexually receptive female compared to another male. In the current study, the goal was to identify an effective low dose of a GnRH antagonist (1, 3, or 10 ug/kg) that decreases sexual behavior, but can be readily reversed to reinstate sexual motivation.



**22 Poster Session 1****Neural Mechanisms of Choreographic Memory: An EEG Study on Dance Learning and Recall**

*Lily Kons (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kristen Warren), Allegheny College*

While dance is fundamental to human culture, its neural basis is underexplored. This study examined dance learning and recall using EEG. Fifteen dancers watched seven short clips while wearing an EEG cap, followed by 30-second mental imagery periods. After all the clips, they performed the choreography from memory. Alpha power increased significantly during imagery, especially in posterior regions, suggesting its role in memory recall and motor planning. A strong positive correlation showed that individuals with higher alpha power during video watching also had higher alpha power during imagery. These findings highlight EEG's potential to reveal choreographic memory processes. Future research should explore marking, verbal rehearsal, and other memory-enhancing techniques in dance learning.

**23 Poster Session 1****The Role of Dihydrotestosterone on the Expression of Sexual Reward in Male Rats**

*Autumn Burkett, AnnMarie Pfiester, & Cara Della Toffalo (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

Sex is rewarding across species. Previous research indicates that testosterone, but not estrogen, is important for sexual reward (Hawley et al., in press). However, circulating testosterone is converted into estrogen or dihydrotestosterone (DHT). Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the role of DHT on the expression of sexual reward in male rats. Males were conditioned to associate one side of a 3-chambered maze with sexual activity. Prior to being returned to the maze several days later to assess their preference for the side associated with sexual activity, all males were chemically castrated with degarelix and then randomly assigned to receive either vehicle, testosterone, DHT, or DHT with estrogen. Results and implications will be discussed.

**24 Poster Session 1****Does Hair Cortisol Relate to Blood Pressure?**

*Sarah Mayer & Abigail Shell (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anna Marsland), University of Pittsburgh*

Stress has been associated with high blood pressure, potentially linked by the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis. The HPA responds to stress and cortisol is the end output. Cortisol accumulates in hair, reflecting HPA axis activity. Hair cortisol is a potential cardiometabolic risk marker. Previous studies show that elevated HCC is associated with high blood pressure and increased risk of hypertension. We aimed to investigate the relationship between hair cortisol and blood pressure in a sample of community dwelling older adults. We found that hair cortisol was related to blood pressure, but not after correcting for sex, age, and race. Our findings in combination with prior research highlights stress and cortisol levels as a potential target to reduce or prevent future morbidities.

**25 Poster Session 1****Is Hair Cortisol Associated with Objective or Subjective Socioeconomic Status?**

*Hayden Sinar, Alec Scott-Davis, & Abigail Shell (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anna Marsland), University of Pittsburgh*

Stress activates the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis which releases cortisol. Classical measurements of cortisol (for example, blood, urine, saliva) reflect levels at the moment of sampling. A newer technique, analyzing levels of cortisol in hair, offers longitudinal measurement of HPA activity over months. This can circumvent methodological issues with shorter-term measurements of cortisol. We investigated whether objective or subjective socioeconomic status (SES), a potential form of chronic stress, might predict hair cortisol levels. We



found that an objective measure of SES predicted hair cortisol while subjective SES did not. Future studies should continue to investigate how socioeconomic status might relate to long-term HPA activation.

## 26 Poster Session 1

### **Predicting Empathy: Parental Warmth Matters More for Avoidantly Attached Teenage Boys**

*Brianne Bernstein & Jeanette Pool (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Amy Gentzler), West Virginia University*

Low empathy can harm teen relationships and reduce prosocial behaviors. Avoidant attachment (insecurity and fear of rejection) is one predictor of lower child empathy, but it is unclear why. We predicted that lower parental warmth may explain this relationship. This study explored whether teens' avoidant attachment to parents was linked to teen empathy, with perceived parental warmth as a potential mediator and teen gender as a moderator. The sample was 292 teens (14-17 years old). Teens who reported more avoidant attachment perceived less parental warmth, which predicted lower teen empathy. The link between parental warmth and teen empathy was only significant for boys. Interventions aimed at improving boys' relationships with parents may foster more empathy.

## 27 Poster Session 1

### **The Use of the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire for Children with Callous-Unemotional Traits**

*Leah Stacy, Megan Quinlan, & Olivia Chervenick, Jake Steggerda, & Erinn Victory, (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Cheryl B. McNeil), West Virginia University*

Callous-unemotional (CU) traits may develop during early childhood and are often predictive of negative life outcomes. Common CU traits are a lack of empathy or guilt and an overall disregard for the feelings of others. Researchers have examined the relationship between parenting behaviors, as measured by the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (APQ), and CU traits. This project outlines the literature on the relationship between APQ parenting practices and CU traits in childhood. Across studies, CU traits were negatively associated with parental care and involvement. The lack of parental warmth present in child-parent dyads also worsened childhood disruptive behaviors and predicted CU traits. Parental intervention could reduce externalizing behaviors and predict future treatment success.

## 28 Poster Session 1

### **The Effectiveness of Inquiry-Based Learning at the College Level**

*Adieb Al-Jayashi, Serrena M. Conklin, & Jillian R. Mazzaresse (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Erica Edwards), Penn State Behrend*

This study examined the impact of IBL on information retention among Penn State Behrend students. A between-subjects experimental design was used, with participants assigned to either an IBL or control condition. The IBL group formulated post-lecture questions, while the control group did not. A post-lecture knowledge assessment measured retention. Results indicated no statistically significant differences between groups, suggesting that further exploration of IBL's implementation is needed.

## 29 Poster Session 1

### **Mental health and year of college: Students with more college experience are not better adjusted**

*Sage Thomas (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University*

It is reasonable to expect that as students progress through their undergraduate years, they would experience increases in self-esteem (SE), perceived control, and adjustment to college. Our study, however, found that seniors

( $N = 41$ ), juniors ( $N=41$ ), sophomores ( $N=32$ ), and freshmen ( $N=42$ ) at a small liberal arts college in the Great Lakes region did not have statistically significant differences between these variables. For trait SE,  $F(3, 152) = .591$ ,  $p=.622$ ; for state SE,  $F(3,152) = .157$ ,  $p=.925$ , for control,  $F(3,152) = .291$ ,  $p= .832$ , and for adjustment to college,  $F(3,152) = .048$ ,  $p=.986$ ). The lack of increases in adjustment, self-esteem, and sense of control has implications for student mental health as well as student retention. The limitations of our study were a small sample size, c

### 30 Poster Session 1

#### **Impact of Cultural Identity Conflict on Mental Health of Asian Americans and Asian Immigrants**

*Aria Zong (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ryan Pickering), Allegheny College*

This study examined the relationship between cultural identity conflict, discrimination, and mental health among Asian Americans ( $n=15$ ) and Asian immigrants ( $n=7$ ). Using a 15-item survey assessing cultural identity, discrimination experiences, and mental health outcomes, analyses revealed three key findings: Cultural identity showed a strong positive correlation with mental health, independent of discrimination experiences; Discrimination did not mediate this relationship, challenging minority stress theory assumptions; and Asian Americans reported marginally higher discrimination than immigrants, despite both groups exhibiting comparable mental health outcomes. This study's purpose is to inform culturally tailored mental health interventions that leverage cultural identity strengths.

### 31 Poster Session 1

#### **Salient Visual Field Color Does Not Induce Context Dependent Memory**

*Bernadette Zukina & Austin Bailey (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Skelly), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

Historical studies confirm the phenomenon of context-dependent memory (CDM), where matching contextual settings at encoding and retrieval enhances memory. However, more recent findings using chewing gum fail to support CDM. We argue that chewing gum may be associated with many memories, leading to high cue overload. Therefore, the present study minimized cue overload by altering participants' visual field color while completing a word recognition task. The experiment used a  $2 \times 2 \times 2$  mixed design, with 2 types of encoding-retrieval context settings (matched, unmatched), 2 visual fields (yellow, clear), and 2 word types (concrete, abstract). The findings confirmed a recognition benefit for concrete over abstract words. However, context-dependent memory was not observed.

### 32 Poster Session 1

#### **A Review of Accessibility Barriers in Public Settings and Proposed Support for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

*Braislee Byrne, Monali Chowdhury, & Ryan Pickering (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Monali Chowdhury), Allegheny College*

With the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders on the rise, the development of more inclusive, accessible practices in public settings has become increasingly necessary (Tola, et. al, 2021). This integrative review sought to (1) identify the various communication, sensory, and societal access barriers present in public spaces such as the workplace, higher educational facilities, recreational settings, and healthcare facilities, and (2) synthesize available research on feasible solutions to these barriers. Results suggest that programs such as Texting with Interpret Preview & Suggest (Haroon & Dogar, 2024), the Autism ASPECTSS™ Design Index (Mostafa, 2015), and the SPACE framework (Doherty et al., 2023) can improve accessibility in public settings for individuals with autism.

**33 Poster Session 1****Exploring Cultural Identity, Sense of Belonging, and Mental Health Outcomes in International Students**

*Chloe Kitagawa, & Kallah Zacherl (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

Over 1.1 million international students are currently pursuing higher education in the U.S. (Open Doors, 2024). Adapting to a new country can be overwhelming and isolating, especially with the impact of language barriers and socio-cultural differences (Andrade, 2006; Zheng et al., 2023). The current research aims to examine the relationships between cultural identity, sense of belonging, and mental health among international students. We administered the Multicultural Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM), Sense of Belonging Instrument (SOBI), and Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scale (DASS-21) to self-identified international students along with a questionnaire on campus social involvement. Findings will explore these relationships and identify interventions to enhance inclusion and well-being.

**34 Poster Session 2****An International Examination of Global Human Identification, Political Orientation, and Global Concerns**

*Brock Young, Tsahai Johnson, Darryle Carpenter, Sam Wilson, Bethlehem Linde, & Keramya Akanbi (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Justin Hackett), Pennsylvania Western University - California*

Global human and citizenship identifications are often linked to a left-wing political orientation (McFarland et al., 2019) and greater concern for global issues and human rights. However, most data comes from Western countries. We tested this connection's generalizability using data from 45 countries ( $N = 13,169$ ). Global human identification correlated with a more liberal orientation and greater concern for global issues and human rights ( $r's > .20$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Moderation analyses showed this relationship was stronger among liberals. Findings emphasize the need for an international perspective on global human identification and its key associations.

**35 Poster Session 2****Self-Compassion Following an Exercise Setback: A Randomized Experimental Study of the Effects of Self-Compassion Inductions on Emotions and Motivation**

*Carly Pry & Ryan Lewis (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sharon Hamilton), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

Participants ( $N = 265$ ) completed the Self-Compassion Scale and then experienced a simulated exercise setback. Participants were then randomly assigned to a condition: a self-compassion common humanity, a self-compassion kindness or a control condition. Participants rated negative emotions pre- and post- conditions, and self-efficacy for overcoming the setback. ANOVAs revealed that the self-compassion inductions had no significant effect on Self-Efficacy Ratings ( $F(181) = 0.493$ ,  $p = 0.612$ ), but significantly reduce negative emotions ( $F(163) = 11.3$ ,  $p < .001$ ). Results also revealed a significant positive relationship between trait self-compassion and negative emotions ( $r(253) = .530$ ,  $p < .001$ ).

**36 Poster Session 2****Perceived Stress and its Influence on Cognitive Distortion Recognition Among Higher-Education-Aged Individuals**

*Dimitri Martiny (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

This study examines the relationship between perceived stress and cognitive distortion recognition in higher-education-aged individuals (18-29). Using the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-14) and the Cognitive Distortions Scale (CDS), it explores whether higher stress levels correlate with reduced accuracy in identifying maladaptive thought patterns. The study also investigates academic standing as a moderating factor, hypothesizing that upper-level

students exhibit weaker correlations due to developed coping skills. Findings may inform interventions to enhance cognitive flexibility in academic settings.

### 37 Poster Session 2

#### **Unraveling the Nexus of Depression, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Stress Reactivity: Insights from the Trier Social Stress Test**

*Mia Simpson & Marine Hartzell (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sean Coyne), Washington & Jefferson College*

Stress research links depression and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), but few studies examine all three together. We hypothesized that BDI and ACEs scores would affect STAI scores, expecting higher STAI scores with high BDI but low ACEs and lower STAI with low BDI but high ACEs. Forty Washington & Jefferson College students participated in either the TSST or pTSST group. This study was part of a larger study but for our purposes, students completed BDI, ACEs, and STAI pre- and post-condition. Results showed significant correlations between BDI, ACEs, and STAI scores, suggesting depression and ACEs may moderate stress responses. This study contributes to understanding these complex interactions.

### 38 Poster Session 2

#### **Sign-Tracking Behavior in Female Japanese Quail**

*Hannah Miller (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Beth Ann Rice), Slippery Rock University*

Our study investigates the effects of PT150, a glucocorticoid receptor antagonist, on sign-tracking (ST) behavior in female Japanese quail. While PT150 has been shown to reduce ST in males, little research has been done in females, limiting its applicability to human addiction models. Using quail as a visual system model, we hypothesized that PT150 (0, 20, 40 mg/kg) would reduce ST. Preliminary results show females learned the CS+ predicted food ( $p < 0.001$ ) and engaged in more ST than goal-tracking ( $p < 0.001$ ). Given similarities between male and female ST responses, we expect PT150 to reduce ST in females. Data collection is ongoing.

### 39 Poster Session 2

#### **Perceptions, Attitudes, and Health Implications of Hazing by Severity and Sex of Group**

*Charlotte Allen (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ryan Pickering), Allegheny College*

Hazing is a dangerous practice of interpersonal violence that is perpetuated on college campuses primarily in the United States which can cause physical and psychological harm. I hypothesized main effects of sex and severity, and an interaction between sex and severity of victim. Participants ( $n=85$ ) read hazing vignettes and took the National Survey of Student Hazing Modified and Hazing Treatment Scale Modified (Allen & Madden, 2008; Schiffer et al., 2021). A factorial ANOVA analyzed the data. Results, consistent with hypotheses, indicated a significant main effect of severity  $F(1,77) = 192.347$ ,  $p = <0.001$ ,  $\eta^2 = 0.714$  and sex  $F(1,77) = 4.002$ ,  $p = 0.049$ ,  $\eta^2 = 0.049$ , but there was no significant interaction between sex and severity,  $F(1,77) = 2.743$ ,  $p = 0.102$ ,  $\eta^2 = 0.034$ .

### 40 Poster Session 2

#### **The Relationship Between Socioeconomic Status and Access to Mental Health Resources in High School**

*Caesar Grandinetti, Molly Fehr, Mikaela Vahey, & Lucia Zamierowski (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Luke Rosielle), Gannon University*

Socioeconomic status (SES) influence many aspects of life, such as education. In the American public school system, disparities in resources between wealthier and poorer districts often impact students' access to essential

services. Over the past two decades, the prevalence of psychosocial problems among high school students has risen from 7% to 18% (Brooks et al., 2000). This study examines whether the socioeconomic status of American high school students affects their ability to find and utilize mental health resources, as well as how their schools educate them on these topics. To explore this issue, we designed a survey assessing students' familial SES and their exposure to and access to mental health resources in high school. We hypothesize that students from lower SES background

#### **41 Poster Session 2**

##### **Why Are We So Tired?: Implications on Faculty Burnout**

*Dr. Darla Timbo & Brooke E. Chapman (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Darla Timbo), Pennsylvania Western University - California*

Faculty burnout has become a significant concern in higher education, with increasing workloads, administrative demands, and student needs contributing to emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced personal accomplishment (Maslach & Leiter, 2016). Rooted in Maslach and Jackson's (1981) three-dimensional model of burnout, this study examines the prevalence, contributing factors, and potential interventions for faculty burnout across various institutional settings.

This research will synthesize existing literature on faculty burnout and highlight evidence-based strategies for prevention and intervention, including mindfulness-based stress reduction (Roeser et al., 2013), workload redistribution, and more to enhance faculty well-being.

#### **42 Poster Session 2**

##### **SELF-CARE AND SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING IN SLIPPERY ROCK STUDENTS**

*Katelynn Howarth & Julia Emerick (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Boerger), Slippery Rock University*

This study explored the relationship between self-care and subjective well-being. 147 students participated, including 64 first year students, 29 sophomores, 17 juniors, and 37 seniors. Participants completed the Mindful Self-Care Scale (MSCS), the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire, the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC-10) and an open-ended question about their definitions of self-care. Qualitative analyses of responses to open-ended question revealed 8 themes: Emotional, Environmental, Purchases, Intellectual, Disconnect/Withdraw, Body Care, Social, and Spiritual. All 6 factors of Mindful Self-Care were significantly correlated with each of three Oxford Happiness Subscales and the Resilience Scale. Results will be discussed in terms of how to support students' well-being.

#### **43 Poster Session 2**

##### **College Students' Awareness in Attachment Styles**

*Parker Yohe, Rayne Minier, & Carson Delon (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Erica Edwards), Penn State Behrend*

Attachment styles are commonly associated with parent and child relationships to demonstrate how a child acts and reacts around their parents, but these styles can be used throughout any adult relationship as well. We conducted a study with participants from Penn State Behrend to identify their self-awareness of their own attachment style. We gathered 59 participants for this survey and looked to gather data about the correlation between college students and their self-awareness of their attachment styles. Some of our hypotheses were close to having significant findings with the participants' data, but none of the findings could be counted as significant.



**44 Poster Session 2****Does the frequency of word body spelling affect vocabulary and spelling acquisition of novel words?**

*Amelia Rindfleisch & Eleanor Rundus (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jocelyn Folk), Kent State University*

Previous research indicates that learning the spellings of novel words leads to a higher chance of acquiring the meaning. It has also been found that it is easier to acquire the spelling of a new word if it is made up of more common spellings for each sound. This current study investigates the relationship between learning the spellings and meanings of novel words and the role that spelling frequency plays. 208 university students read a series of sentences, some containing novel words. Novel words contained either high or low frequency spelling bodies. After the participants read the sentences, they were tested on their knowledge of the spellings and meanings of these novel words. These data will have implications for how best to teach new vocabulary.

**45 Poster Session 1****Exploring the interplay between maternal depression, child language, and internalizing behaviors across early childhood**

*Kelly Christenson, Julia A. Gajewski-Nemes, M.S., Leah J. Hunter, PhD, & Daniel S. Shaw, PhD (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniel S. Shaw), University of Pittsburgh*

This study examined reciprocal, longitudinal relations between maternal depression, child language skills, and child internalizing behaviors in 403 low-income, racially/ethnically diverse, mother-child dyads. Mothers reported depressive symptoms and child internalizing at all time points; child language was parent-reported at age 2 and directly assessed at ages 4 and 6. Cross-lagged panel analyses showed maternal depression at age 4 predicted poorer child language at age 6 and higher child language at age 4 was positively linked to age 6 maternal depression. Higher child internalizing behavior at ages 2 and 4 predicted greater maternal depressive symptoms at ages 4 and 6, respectively. Results highlight connections between child development and maternal well-being in early childhood.

**46 Poster Session 2****Telehealth Parent-Child Interaction Therapy's Ability to Reduce Disruptive Behaviors in Rural Appalachia**

*Olivia Chervenick, Megan E. Quinlan, Leah K. Stacy, & Erinn J. Victory (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Cheryl B. McNeil), West Virginia University*

Past studies have identified barriers to accessing mental health care in rural areas, such as lack of professionals, transportation, and stigma. Telehealth Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) has shown to reduce child disruptive behavior, but has not been explored in rural settings. In this study, Appalachian families received in-person (N = 85) or telehealth (N = 27) PCIT. Parental perception of child disruptive behavior was measured with the Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (ECBI). An independent-samples t-test revealed no significant difference in the change in ECBI scores from pre- to post-treatment between in-person and telehealth groups ( $t(49) = -.30, p = .76, \eta^2 = .0008$ ), suggesting that both methods of PCIT are comparable in reducing disruptive behavior in rural settings.

**47 Poster Session 2****Do You Think I'm Sexy? The Effects of Perceived Attraction on Sexual Decision Making**

*Hannah Parillo & Karalyn B. Schwartz (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley & Dr. Gregory D. Morrow), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

The decision to engage in safe sex (i.e., using skin barrier protection) is influenced by many factors, including the risks and rewards that come from engaging in sexual activity. In the current study, a probability discounting task

was used to examine how willing participants would be to engage in unsafe sex based on different probabilities (from 0-100%) of being perceived as more attractive by their hypothetical partner for not using skin barrier protection. The participants completed this task twice, first with the hypothetical partner they were most attracted to and would be most willing to have sex with, and second with the hypothetical partner they were least attracted to but would still consider having sex with. Results and implications of the findings will be discussed.

#### **48 Poster Session 2**

##### **Discrimination, Death, and Disgust: Effects of Medical Technology on Disabilities**

*Catherine Wheat (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Ryan Pickering), Allegheny College*

This study investigated how medical technology devices, disclose disability, affect human behavior, if different types of devices change behavior, and then make an indirect assumption of prejudice, stigma, and discrimination towards a person with a disability. Medical devices have supported quality of life and independence. Devices disclose a disability which leads to negative effects. This study had 60 participants. Results found that disgust, perceived vulnerability to disease, infantilization, and shame/guilt increase after viewing medical devices. Mortality salience was not significant. There was no significance between group types (mobility, physiology, control) on the variables. I therefore suggest that discrimination, prejudice, and stigma increase towards people with disabilities.

#### **49 Poster Session 2**

##### **Mind Over Matter: Perceptions of Anxiety And Depression In Dating Partners**

*Jacey Welcheck (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gregory D. Morrow), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

This study explored how mental health diagnoses, specifically anxiety and depression, influence perceptions of romantic attractiveness. Using a 3 (no diagnosis, anxiety, depression) x 2 (target sex) x 2 (participant sex) factorial design, we examined how individuals with anxiety and depression are perceived as potential romantic partners. Drawing on previous research, we hypothesized that individuals with depression would be seen as less attractive, while those with anxiety would be perceived as more attractive as dating partners. Our findings shed further light on the complex relationship between mental health and romantic attraction.

#### **50 Poster Session 2**

##### **Everyone is the GOAT: A Preliminary Analysis of Touchdown Celebrations from 1980-1990 and 2012-2022**

*Benjamin Crow (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Wayne Hawley), Pennsylvania Western University - Edinboro*

According to recent research on the concept of narcissism, younger generations were more likely to exhibit narcissistic behavior. For example, younger generations were more likely to agree with items on a narcissistic personality inventory (i.e., "I am an extraordinary person") compared to past generations (Twenge, 2013). Consistent with this finding, in recent decades, compared to in the past, words such as "I" and "me" as opposed to "we" and "us" are more likely to appear in lyrics of popular music (DeWall et al., 2011). The goal of the current study was to examine, through a content analysis, if touchdown celebrations in National Football League games tended to be less team-oriented in recent years than they were in the past. Findings and implications will be discussed.

#### **51 Poster Session 2**

##### **Exploring Individual Differences and Word Surprisal Effects During L1 Reading**

*Nicole Rodriguez (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gaisha Oralova), University of Pittsburgh*

Reading, or word processing (WP), relies on linguistic, lexical, and general knowledge to integrate a series of words into a coherent sentence. Individual deficits in any of these skills can lead to difficulty during WP. Furthermore, the



predictability of a word, or surprisal, also influences WP. The study explores if individual differences (ID) in L1 readers moderates surprisal effects during early and late WP. ID was measured with an ID battery and surprisal was measured using large language models. Eye fixations during natural reading served as measures of real-time WP. Mixed models revealed that L1s high in word knowledge had shorter initial & total fixations on syntactically surprising words, suggesting that these readers are more efficient at resolving syntactic ambiguity.

## 52 Poster Session 2

### **The Relationship between Secondary Trauma and Gun Violence Exposure through the Media**

*Maley Gleason (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lauren Paulson ), Allegheny College*

The United States experiences significantly higher rates of gun violence than other developed nations, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths annually. Beyond direct victims, indirect exposure to gun violence can contribute to secondary traumatic stress. This study examined the relationship between secondary trauma in undergraduate students and indirect gun violence exposure via media. Participants completed demographic questions and the Secondary Traumatic Stress Media-Induced Questionnaire and the Media Exposure to Acute Mass Violence Scale. Results demonstrated a significant positive correlation between media exposure and secondary traumatic stress. This research underscores the importance of mental health support and interventions following mass violence events.

## 53 Poster Session 1

### **Social Media Posts and Drinking and Eating Habits in Sororities**

*Rachel Oberst & Monali Chowdhury (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Monali Chowdhury), Allegheny College*

Social media can often be used by sororities to promote their chapters and recruit new members. While social media provides a broader reach, it can also have negative consequences (Roberson et al., 2018). This study examined (1) social media posts on drinking and problematic eating habits within sororities, (2) the impact of these posts on drinking behaviors and body image, and (3) strategies and guidelines for sororities regarding responsible social media use. Results suggest that social media posts can normalize heavy drinking (Cirillo et al., 2022) and can reinforce disordered eating patterns and, in turn, body dissatisfaction via social comparison with peers (Skubisz et al., 2023). It will be beneficial for sororities to have clear codes of conduct on mindful social media posting.

## 54 Poster Session 2

### **Effects of the 5-HT<sub>3</sub> Receptor Agonist, Quipazine, on Traumatic-Stress Reactivity and Ethanol Consumption in Female Sprague-Dawley Rats**

*Josh Salisbury & Megan Bertholomey (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Megan Bertholomey), Allegheny College*

Individuals diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are more likely to have alcohol use disorder (AUD), making both conditions harder to treat. Notably, PTSD and AUD both implicate the serotonin system. The present study examined the effect of quipazine, a serotonin-3 receptor agonist, in an animal model of comorbid PTSD (via predator odor [PO] exposure) and AUD, with the prediction that PO-exposed female rats would consume more alcohol, alcohol drinking would reduce later trauma-related avoidance behavior, and that quipazine would reduce both of these behaviors. PO exposure tended to increase alcohol drinking, and quipazine tended to reduce drinking, but had no effect on avoidance. Future research should focus on the dose-dependent effects of both PO exposure and quipazine.

**55 Poster Session 2****Prior Childhood Trauma and its Links to Criminal Thinking and Behavior**

*Taylor Jarnot, Jenna Moore, & Adam Yoder (Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kristen N. Asplin), University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg*

Trauma often is a key risk factor for criminal thinking and behavior. Childhood trauma leads to emotional dysregulation, negative or destructive thoughts, lapses in memory, intrusive thoughts, etc. These thought disturbances make criminal thinking and behavior more likely. We hypothesized that prior childhood trauma would correlate to criminal thinking/behavior. We surveyed students using the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) score (Felitti et al., 1998), Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS, Walters et al., 1998), and questions about criminal behavior. We received more female than male responses and most were in the 19-26 age range. We are currently analyzing our data to determine correlations between childhood trauma, criminal thinking, and criminal behavior.

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| 47 .....   | Schwartz, Karalyn B.   |
| 25 .....   | Scott-Davis, Alec      |
| 45 .....   | Shaw, Ph.D., Daniel S. |
| 10 .....   | Sheffler, Dane         |
| 24 .....   | Shell, Abigail         |
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| 25 .....   | Sinar, Hayden          |
| 27 .....   | Stacy, Leah            |
| 46 .....   | Stacy, Leah K.         |
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