

JMU DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY 2012 STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Eileen Nelson Scholarship for Senior Excellence

The Eileen Nelson Scholarship honors the contributions of emeritus faculty member Eileen Nelson, by recognizing a student who has exemplary involvement in the honors thesis program, vigor in research and service, excellence in academic achievement, and the intention to pursue graduate education in psychology. The scholarship provides \$1000 in scholarship assistance to the award winner during their senior year. This scholarship was made possible by the generous donations of the family and friends of Dr. Eileen Nelson.

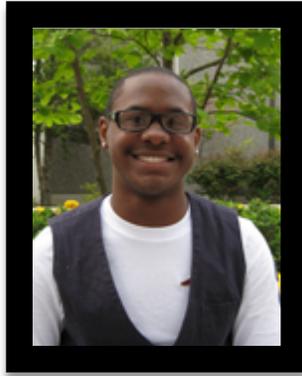


Haley Mertins

Haley began her undergraduate career at JMU as a member of the Psychology Learning Community (PLC). She has been active in research and has earned many awards including: Outstanding Achievement in Statistics in Research Methods (2010), the Junior Peer Advising Award (2011), the James J. Hart memorial Scholarship (2011), the Dean's Award for Best Research Poster (2011), and an Undergraduate Research Award (2011). She is currently working on her honors thesis with Kenn Barron and is also working with Krisztina Jakobsen in the Cognitive Development Lab. Haley has presented several posters at national conferences and has also presented a talk at a regional conference. Haley is currently a teaching assistant for the PLC class as well as the Peer Advising class for the juniors. She has demonstrated commitment to service within and outside of the department. She has assisted with the Peer Advising Food Fight and Day with the Dukes. She is a Psi Chi officer and a proctor for Senior Assessment Day.

LeAnn Whitlock Memorial Scholarship

This award recognizes distinguished academic performance and service to the university by an African American student whose talents, skills, and abilities enable them to enrich the JMU community. The scholarship was initiated by the Theta Nu Chapter of the Zeta Pi Beta Sorority, in honor of psychology major LeAnn Whitlock, a student at James Madison University from Roanoke, Virginia who was abducted from the Valley Mall in Harrisonburg and murdered on January 5, 1990. The scholarship has been enabled through generous contributions of LeAnn's family and friends, psychology faculty, several sororities, and matching corporate funding.



Daveon McMullen

Daveon was a member of the Psychology Learning Community during his freshman year. Daveon has been a member of Dr. Jessica Irons' research team since the beginning of his sophomore year. He has been involved in several projects including contingency management for health risk behaviors, event-related drinking studies, as well as alcohol choice studies. Daveon has also been an active contributor to campus leadership and service. He is an Orientation Peer Advisor (or OPA) and has been involved in alternative spring break. Daveon is the recording secretary of the Black Student Alliance on campus and he serves as an intern in the Counseling Student Development Center.

James J. Hart Memorial Scholarship

This award is named after faculty member James J. Hart, and for many years, has honored the outstanding performance among junior students. Donations to the James J. Hart Scholarship fund were sufficient in 2010 to award the first James J. Hart Memorial Scholarship. The recipient of this award is an outstanding Junior Psychology Major who not only has high academic achievement, but also, through their activities and aspirations, demonstrates a commitment to improving the human condition.

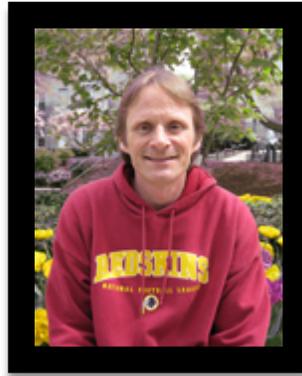


Amanda Campbell

Amanda started her career in the Department of Psychology in the Psychology Learning Community (PLC). She is a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Kenn Barron where she serves as a service learning mentor for the PLC through the Refugee Resettlement Program. Amanda has been involved other service-related activities including tutoring at Plains Elementary School under the supervision of Dr. Monica Reis-Bergan, organizing Alcohol Awareness Week with the Office of Residence Life, and House of Privilege. She has worked with Dr. Matt Lee in the Cultural and Racial Diversity Studies Lab for three semesters assisting in every part of the research project. She is currently working on a project about transgendered individuals and is collaborating with Dr. Lee in writing a manuscript. In addition, Amanda is completing an Honors Project on stereotype threat in African American students during a mock criminal trial. In 2011, Amanda received the Outstanding Achievement in Statistics and Research Methods award and has received two grants for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in Scholarship.

Thomas E. & Sherry Woodroff Rogowski Scholarship

This scholarship recognizes a single student who has a record of exceptional experiences and performance from among her or his peers. The award is made possible by the generous donations of JMU alumni, Thomas E. & Sherry Woodroff Rogowski.



Jonny Novgrod

Jonny came to JMU, as a transfer student in the fall of 2011, with a remarkable history of performance both in and out of the classroom. Jonny has twice been recognized as a member of “Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges” and even served as Marshal of commencement ceremonies at his previous institution. It is clear that we are not the only ones to recognize the great work and potential of this hard working student. Since his arrival on the campus of JMU, Jonny has continued to pursue his passion for personal growth and knowledge and has become, in many ways, an ambassador for the University. Jonny is currently actively involved in Dr. Daniel Holt’s research laboratory where he is working on a project investigating the cross-species generality of decision making. Jonny is also currently a teaching assistant for Dr. Holt’s *Introduction to Behavior Analysis* course. Already Jonny is an integral part of the larger University community serving as an “ANT” where he is part of a team of students assisting incoming transfer students. Jonny is looking forward to pursuing a career where he can integrate his interests in chemical dependence and treatment, judicial affairs, student life and development, and teaching. Jonny will be the first one to tell you that each day provides an opportunity to learn and accomplish something new and give back to the larger community. In summary, Jonny is a JMU student that continues to pursue a high level of personal growth through active and exceptional engagement in exploring and creating opportunities, teaching, and social consciousness.

Casey Mitschele Dorsey Scholarship

This scholarship recognizes a single student who has a record of exceptional experiences and performance from among her or his peers. The award is made possible by the generous donations of JMU alumni, Casey M. Dorsey and her husband Jeffrey.

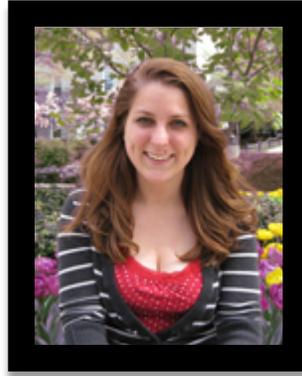


Megan Arnold

Megan Arnold has been an outstanding student in research, teaching, and service to the discipline and department. She has a high GPA and has completed graduate-level courses as an undergraduate. She has worked with Drs. Saville, Holt, Serdikoff, Dyche, and Irons completing research related to behavior analysis. Her efforts have culminated in several conference presentations at local, regional, and national meetings and she is in the process of completing an honors thesis under the supervision of Bryan Saville. Megan works as the department's animal caretaker under the supervision of Suzie Baker who sings high praise of her work. In addition, Megan has been working with Trevor Stokes to develop a training curriculum for a behavior analysis practicum experience that he will implement once completed. She also served as a teaching assistant for introduction to behavior analysis. Megan has won the department's award for achievement in research and she has been on the Dean's List and President's list several times. Megan is in the process of applying for graduate programs in Behavior Analysis.

Junior Award for Achievement in Research

This award is given to juniors who have demonstrated significant achievement in undergraduate research projects.

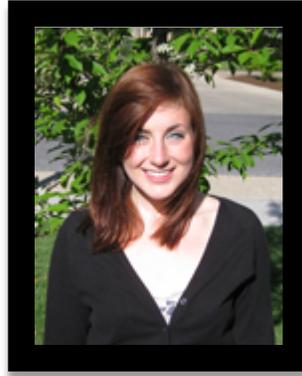


Cecelia Bergeria

Cecelia has been an active contributor to research in the Department of Psychology. She has been a valuable member of Dr. Jessica Irons' research team since the beginning of her sophomore year. Cecelia has worked on several projects with Dr. Irons including contingency management of health risk behaviors including exercise and caffeine use. She has also been integral in the execution of an event-related drinking study designed in collaboration with other researchers at the University of Missouri Science and Technology campus—work that was presented as a poster at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Cecelia is currently preparing to begin data collection on her honors thesis project. Her thesis will be an investigation of the impact of exercise on health risk behaviors, particularly substance use. She will conceptualize her study from both behavioral and neuroscientific perspectives. In addition to her work with Dr. Irons, Cecelia has also been a member of Dr. Bryan Saville's research team where she has learned to collect and analyze complex delay discounting data. In addition to her work in research, Cecelia serves as a teaching assistant for Dr. Irons' Psychological Research Methods course and for Dan Holt's Learning course.

Junior Award for Distinguished Service

This award is given to juniors who have demonstrated significant achievement in undergraduate service projects.



Lindsey Umstead

Lindsey is distinctive in her dedication to and enthusiasm for the Psychology Major and the Department of Psychology in several ways. She serves as Coordinator of Psychology Peer Advising and, as a result, she serves the entire Department of Psychology community by offering advising to other psychology majors in order to help them achieve the best experience possible. She has also participated in the Counseling and Student Development Center's Student Outreach Internship, which gave her the chance to spread awareness of mental health topics to JMU students while developing presentation skills. She is currently a member of the Cognitive Development lab, which is providing her with an opportunity to work very closely with Dr. Jakobsen learning research skills. Lindsey has volunteered with Special Olympics in JMU's annual "Day with the Dukes;" she has represented the Psychology Department for several CISAT Open Houses as well as JMU's "Take a Look Day." Additionally, she has served as a volunteer for the Social Justice League with their "House of Priviledge" event. She is also a member of Psi Chi and is minoring in Family Studies. Lindsey's goal for the future is to attend graduate school for clinical mental health counseling.

Jerry O. Haynes Memorial Award for Outstanding Seniors

This award is named after faculty member Jerry O. Haynes, and honors graduating seniors who possess outstanding records of achievement in academics, service, and research.



Ryan Van Patten

Ryan has worked with both Dr. Irons' and Dr. Apple's research labs. He has been a co-author on several conference posters at the Eastern Teaching of Psychology, Southeastern Teaching of Psychology, Virginia Applied Behavior Analysis and the Southeastern Applied Behavior Analysis Conferences. In addition, he authored and presented a poster and was a co-author on a Behavioral Medicine special interest group symposium at the most recent meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Ryan has been a co-author on a paper that is currently under peer review for publication. His primary work in Dr. Irons' lab has been related to exercise including how exercise impacts mental health and testing ways to increase exercise among sedentary individuals. He has contributed to other studies involving caffeine cessation and alcohol choice. In addition to promise as a researcher, Ryan has also shown skills as a leader in the laboratory. He has been the coordinator for several projects, perhaps the largest of which was a study designed to test the impact of a behavioral intervention on the GPA of a fraternity. Ryan was involved in every aspect of the study from its conception, data collection, analysis, and presentation of findings. As a final testament to his devotion to research, he has applied himself to pedagogical research as a teaching assistant for Dr. Irons' Psychological Research Methods course and Bryan Saville's Learning course. Ryan truly has exhibited outstanding achievement in research during his time here at JMU. Ryan is attending St. Louis University in the fall to begin a PhD program in Clinical Neuropsychology.

James O. Benedict Senior Teaching Award

This award is named for faculty member James O. Benedict, and honors a senior who has demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in higher education in the field of Psychology, or who has served as a teaching assistant in Psychology while an undergraduate student. Once endowed, this award will become a scholarship will provide funds annually to a deserving student.



Megan Arnold

Megan's undergraduate career has been characterized by her focus on research and on gaining teaching experience. She has worked with multiple faculty members, including Drs. Bryan Saville, Jeff Dyche, Jessica Irons, and Trevor Stokes. Along with other students, she has presented research at meetings of the Association for Psychological Science, the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis, and the Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis. She is currently completing an Honor's Thesis project under the direction of Dr. Bryan Saville, examining addictive behaviors and impulsivity. In addition to her research experience, Megan has also served as a Teaching Assistant for Psyc 180, Introduction to Behavior Analysis and for Psyc 211, Psychological Research Methods. She has also served as the department's animal caretaker, where she has responsibility for numerous aspects of animal care and lab maintenance. Megan's academic achievements have landed her on the Dean's List multiple times. She is also this year's Casey Mitschele Dorsey Scholarship winner and a past recipient of the Junior Award for Achievement in Research and a departmental travel grant. After graduating from JMU, Megan plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in experimental psychology with a focus on behavior analysis. She plans to enter academia and pursue a research and teaching career.

Senior Award for Achievement in Research

This award is given to senior students who have demonstrated significant achievement in undergraduate research projects.



Kendra Burek

Kendra has excelled in research in a range of studies while at JMU, working with both Drs. Tracy Zinn and Kenn Barron. She has been involved multiple projects, including examining the role of touch in product satisfaction, evaluating the effectiveness of the Immediate Feedback Assessment Technique on learning and retention, and exploring student and faculty perceptions of classroom policies. Kendra currently serves as research assistant for Dr. Zinn's Industrial/Organizational Psychology research group. Her current research with Dr. Barron examines assessment and program evaluation. Along with other students, she presented her research at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science. Her outstanding academic performance has landed her on the Dean's List for numerous semesters, as well as the President's List. After graduation, Kendra plans to work in human resources and attend graduate school in the field of Industrial-Organizational Psychology.



Kristen Smith

Kristen has been involved in research with Drs. Michael Stoloff, Kenn Barron, and Natalie Lawrence. She has been working with Dr. Stoloff for three semesters to study what kinds of

skills psychology majors develop during their undergraduate careers that lead to successful outcomes. She has been involved in data collection and analysis and has co-presented the results at the Southeastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology. In Dr. Lawrence's lab Kristen was involved in helping to create a measure of modern parenting and examining the relationship between parenting styles and student dispositions. She will co-present this data at the Virginia Psychological Association at the end of April. Finally, Kristen is working as a lab assistant in Dr. Kenn Barron's assessment team, which facilitates the Department of Psychology Assessment Day. Once the data is analyzed, she will contribute to a paper that makes recommendations for next year's senior assessment process.

Senior Distinguished Service Award



Jacqueline Belhumeur

In high school Jackie coached Special Olympics and when she came to JMU she applied her exemplary abilities to numerous service activities. She served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for Biological Psychology with Dr. Jeff Dyche and for Human Anatomy taught by Drs. Emma Phillips and Lina Rifai. She has tutored an at-risk child and taught lessons on preventing sports injuries to elementary school children. Additionally, she has worked as a reading tutor and as direct care staff for the Talisman's Programs for teens with Asperger's Syndrome. Jackie is in the honors program and is currently completing her thesis entitled "The Effect of Social Comparison on College Student's Health Knowledge and Perceived Susceptibility of Stroke" supervised by Dr. Monica Reis-Bergen. She has also worked as a research assistant in several labs in the psychology and engineering departments presenting three scholarly posters from these projects. In addition all of her service activities she is also double minoring in Human Science and Special Education. Jackie plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical-Health Psychology.



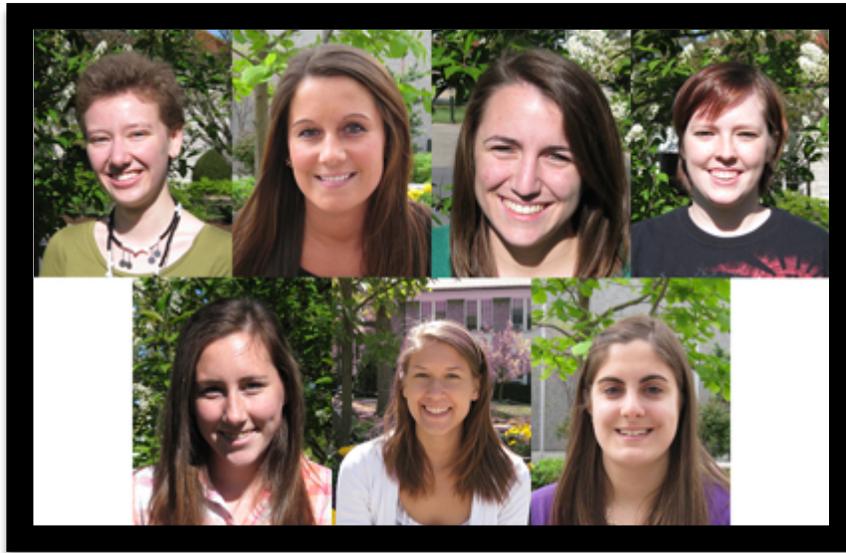
Alec Bernstein

Alec is distinctive among Psychology majors in that while he is in the Behavior Analysis concentration, he has served on several research teams for Drs. Saville, Jakobsen, and Zinn. He has also interned for two summers at the University of Pennsylvania as a research assistant. He

has been very active in various service projects while at JMU, including serving on an Alternative Thanksgiving Break to New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina relief, serving as a swimming instructor for a child with severe autism during the summer months, as well as serving as a tutor for an “at-risk” child for five consecutive semesters while at JMU. Alec is the President and Fundraising Chair of JMU’s Club Baseball team, and he is also a member of the Psychology Club and Active Minds. In the future, Alec plans on attending graduate school in Psychological Science, Clinical Psychology, or Behavior Analysis. He is also considering a career as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Outstanding Achievement in Statistics & Research Methods

This award is given to students who showed significant talent in the methods courses through research creativity and diligence about good research design and data analysis strategies.



Left to Right: Verena Bethke, Sarah Janser, Amanda Devoto, Katelyn Cutts, Jacquelyn Ferrance, Emily Collins, Shannon Kovach

Outstanding Field Placement Award

This award is given to students who distinguish themselves on the basis of their commitment, use of psychological theory, and professional performance.



Stefani Schaper

Stefani works closely with the Center for Marriage and Family Counseling visitation program and has developed positive rapport with the parents and children who come to visit one another each week. She is collaborating with one of our board members to plan and implement a fundraiser, which is instrumental to our existence as a nonprofit agency. Stefani organized and hosted our 40th birthday Open House on Friday, March 23. She has represented the agency in a positive way to local TV stations and to JMU. We are honored that she has received this wonderful award and her efforts at the Center will have a lasting impact on the community.

Outstanding Peer Advisor Awards

Peer Advisors offer significant help to the Department of Psychology through one-to-one assistance to students planning their programs of study and by offering career-related symposia.

2012 Award Recipients

Senior Peer Advising Award

Haley Mertins

Junior Peer Advising Award

Lindsey Umstead