

**JMU DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
2013 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. This scholarship was made possible by the generous donations of the family and friends of Dr. Eileen Nelson.



Lindsey Umstead

During her time at JMU, Lindsey has been active in research, teaching, and service opportunities. She is currently working with Bill Evans on her honors thesis investigating the relationship between purpose in life, motivation to serve, motivation to lead, and altruism in college students. Lindsey also works with Dr. Jakobsen in the Cognitive Development Lab studying the development of face perception during the first year of life. Lindsey will be presenting posters at several conferences this year and is also working on writing manuscripts for publication. In addition to gaining research experience, Lindsey has been a teaching assistant for Peer Advising and for Developmental Psychology. Finally, Lindsey has demonstrated commitment to service within and outside of the department, including Food Fight against Hunger, Day with the Dukes, House of Privilege, and Relay for Life. Lindsey's service contributions were recognized through the Junior Award for Distinguished Service & Junior Peer Advisor of the Year Award in 2012. Lindsey plans to continue her studies by pursuing a master's degree in college student personnel administration.

LeAnn Whitlock Memorial Scholarship This award recognizes distinguished academic performance and service to the university by a minority 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.



Lauren Okafor

Lauren Okafor transferred from Providence College in Rhode Island to JMU in the Fall of 2012. Lauren joined the Psychology major and is also completing a pre-medical concentration. Lauren is the Vice-President of the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi) group at JMU. She is also a member of the James Madison University women's basketball team and will be eligible to play in the 2013-2014 season. Her future goals include pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

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.

Matt Meccariello

Matt is a junior Psychology major who endeavors to attend medical school. The pre-medical curriculum is challenging, of its own right, but Matt manages to perform at exceedingly high levels in both his major and his pre-med courses. Matt has served as a tutor for David Daniel's Introductory Psychology course and will serve as a Teaching Assistant for a section of Honors Introductory Psychology. In addition to his excellent work in courses, Matt has also shown aptitude for research. He currently works with Dr. Jessica Irons in her health behavior lab and with Dr. Jeff Dyche in his animal research lab. Matt has demonstrated knowledge, skill, and excellent work ethic in the context of research and he brings welcome biological and medical perspectives to the research teams with which he works.

Thomas E. & Sherry Woodroof 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 Woodroof Rogowski.

Trisha Smith



The Rogowski Award was established to honor students who have distinguished themselves from their peers in some meaningful way. This distinction may come through achievement and/or circumstances. Trisha Smith suffered a brain AVM hemorrhage her first semester at JMU and, as a result, had emergency brain surgery. Thankfully, Trisha survived, endured rigorous rehabilitative therapies, and returned to JMU as a dedicated Psychology major. During her recovery, Trisha began developing short films as a way to chronicle her experience. These films served as an aid to her in her recovery. Trisha edited the films to produce a short film that was submitted to the American Academy of Neurology's annual film festival and presented during an event at JMU during Disability Awareness Week. The film was also included in the spotlight section of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services' website. In addition to films, Trisha has also spoken at several events promoting awareness of brain injury, stroke, and mental health in medical recovery. Trisha completed an internship with the Stroke Unit at RMH and volunteered at the Harrisonburg Health and Rehab Center.

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.

Cecilia Bergeria



Cecilia has been involved in a variety of academic activities while at JMU, most notable of which is her research experience. Cecilia has been a member of Dr. Irons' Health Behavior Change laboratory for 3 years during which time she has contributed to several research protocols investigating the effects of mood and drinking motives on alcohol preferences, the influence of event and campus on alcohol consumption, the effects of a brief behavioral intervention on exercise and a similar intervention for caffeine use. Cecilia has collected self-report, behavioral, and biological data for these protocols. She is currently completing her honors thesis investigating the impact of exercise on substance use that has been funded by a competitive Psi Chi National research grant. In addition to work with Dr. Irons, Cecilia has also conducted research with Dr. Saville and Dr. Holt investigating the relation between delay discounting, exercise patterns, and exercise addiction. In addition, she is also collecting data related to treadle pressing versus key pecking in a delay discounting task in pigeons. Cecilia has presented data at several conferences, regionally and nationally, and a recent submission to the Society for Behavioral Medicine was named an abstract citation winner. Cecilia has served as teaching assistant for Research Methods with Dr. Irons, and for Learning with Dr. Holt. She is a member of the honors program and was a member of the Psychology Learning Community. In past years, Cecilia has been the recipient of the Junior Award for Achievement in Research and has been on the Dean's list many times. Cecilia plans to attend graduate school to study behavioral pharmacology.

Junior Award for Achievement in Research

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

Carly Isakowitz

Carly is a junior Psychology major currently conducting her honors thesis with Dr. Jessica Irons. Carly's thesis is investigating the effects of alcohol on health-related choices. This project is an ambitious one for which Carly has developed the project, written an IRB that has been approved, received funding to conduct the study, and has begun data collection. Carly's progress is especially impressive given that she is a junior. In addition to her thesis, Carly has been involved in several other projects that focus on health behavior. She has been involved in studies related to examining the impact of exercise on substance use and she has been integral to a study involving

large-scale data collection to examine relations between and among various health behaviors including substance use, sleep, and physical activity.

Junior Award for Distinguished Service

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

Jonny Novgrod



Jonny came to JMU as a transfer student the Fall of 2011, and 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. Since his arrival on the campus of JMU, Jonny has continued to pursue his passion for personal growth and knowledge. He is an integral part of the larger University community through his commitment to service as an “ANT,” where he is part of a team of students assisting new transfer students to JMU. Jonny is also a member of the President’s Diversity Task Force, and is actively involved in the Psychology Peer Adviser program. He 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 is exemplary both in his service and his citizenship to the University.

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.

Sarah Taylor



Sarah has excelled in all aspects of academics, research and service to our major. She has served as a teaching assistant for two semesters and her academic prowess has allowed her achieve membership in numerous honor societies including Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and the Psychology honors Society, Psi Chi. Sarah has extensive research experience working with Ms. DuVall and Drs. Jakobsen and Andre. She has given a total of four presentations at professional conferences and has a manuscript in preparation. Finally, Sarah's service activities include being an officer for multiple organizations, an admissions tour guide, and a member of the Psychology Peer Advisers. Overall, Sarah exemplifies

the optimal Psychology student who takes the opportunities she is presented with and excels.

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.

Verena Bethke



Verena was born in Germany and came to the United States to attend college at James Madison University. While at JMU, she has been a Teaching Assistant for Dr. JoAnne Brewster's Abnormal Psychology class, and is also Dr. Brewster's head tutor, training and mentoring 12 other tutors. She has been actively involved in many aspects of teaching, including making up worksheets, practice test questions, contributing to textbook selection, and giving small class lectures. Verena has also been active in research, currently working on an Honors Thesis with Dr. Kethera Fogler investigating false memory and handedness. She has worked with Dr. Michael Stoloff on a project investigating predictors of success in undergraduate psychology programs, and was a co-presenter of this work at regional symposiums. Verena plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology, with a focus in Neuroscience and Cognitive Psychology.

Senior Award for Achievement in Research

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

Amanda Campbell



Amanda Campbell's passion for psychology was evident since her first year at JMU as a student in the Psychology Learning Community (PLC). Her activities on- and off-campus as a mentor, writing tutor, and domestic violence shelter volunteer demonstrated her willingness to help others and apply what she was learning in her classes. Along the way, she earned several distinguished honors, including the James J. Hart Memorial Scholarship (2012), the Agness S. Dingledine Memorial Scholarship (2011), the Outstanding Achievement in Statistics/Research Methods Awards (2011), and several grant awards. She has presented several talks and posters at regional and national academic conferences. Amanda is also a member of several national honors societies including Psi Chi and Phi Beta Kappa. Amanda is now completing her senior honors project with Dr. Matthew Lee, investigating the impact of stereotype threat on Black men in an interrogation setting. Amanda plans to pursue a doctorate in Counseling Psychology.

Matt Clasen

Matt has worked with Dr. Dyche in the Animal Research Facility using an animal model of ADHD to test both the effects of d-amphetamine on choice behavior, and in a separate project the effects of brief paradoxical sleep deprivation on learning in a radial arm maze. He has also assisted on a project investigating the potential effect of caffeine and REM sleep deprivation on schedule induced responding. Each of these projects has been presented at regional conferences. More recently, Matt and another undergraduate student have been leading a collaborative study with both Drs. Dyche and Holt investigating the effect of acute cocaine exposure on sensitivity to delayed reinforcers in a choice paradigm. As evidence of the quality of this project Matt and his peer have received a \$1,200 research grant from Psi Chi. This research project is one of only a handful of projects from JMU to be presented at the Colonial Academic Alliance Undergraduate Research Conference this Spring.

Tiffany Crosby



Tiffany has worked with Dr. Dyche in the Animal Research Facility using an animal model of ADHD to test the effects of d-amphetamine on choice behavior, and in a separate project on the effects of brief paradoxical sleep deprivation on learning in a radial arm maze. She also assisted on a project investigating the potential effect of caffeine and REM sleep deprivation on schedule-induced responding, and has presented each at regional conferences. Tiffany has been working with Dr. Zinn on several projects that explore the use of procedural justice in the college classroom, and in a separate study, whether a token economy could improve collegiate class participation. Tiffany is currently working as the lead author on a manuscript for the procedural justice study and plans to submit it to a journal. Tiffany has also been working with Dr. Holt on a project investigating choice behavior in college students that drink heavily, moderately, or not at all. Tiffany has also been recognized as a member of the Psi Chi honor society.

Kira-Khanh McCarthy



Beginning in her sophomore year, Kira has been actively involved in psychological research. Under the supervision of Drs. Michael Stoloff and JoAnne Brewster, she has conducted several surveys assessing the success of undergraduate Psychology programs. This work has been presented at local and regional conferences, and will soon be submitted for publication. Kira is currently finishing her senior honors thesis on the personal characteristics and college experiences that predict success in Psychology majors. In addition to her research experience, Kira served as a member of a successful search committee for a new faculty member in Cognitive Psychology during her junior year. She completed an internship at the Blue Ridge Legal Services, is a member of Psi Chi, and is the President of JMU's chapter of the National Society for Collegiate Scholars. After graduation, she hopes to work for a year and then attend law school.

Sancho Sequeira

Sancho has worked with Dr. Jeff Dyche in the Animal Research Facility using an animal model of ADHD to test both the effects of d-amphetamine on choice behavior, and on a separate project on the effects of brief paradoxical sleep deprivation on learning in a radial arm maze. He has also assisted on a project investigating the potential effect of caffeine and REM sleep deprivation on schedule-induced responding, each of which has been presented at regional conferences. Sancho also worked with Dr. Rich West, investigating potential relationships between SAT scores and measures of intelligence. Additionally, he has been the primary investigator on a study investigating the effects of formality of dress on stranger compliance and another study investigating the effects of leadership style on employee satisfaction and motivation. Sancho and another undergraduate student have been leading a collaborative study with both Drs. Dyche and Holt investigating the effect of acute cocaine exposure on sensitivity to delayed reinforcers in a choice paradigm, and they have received a \$1,200 research grant from Psi Chi. This research project is one of only a handful of projects from JMU to be presented at the Colonial Academic Alliance Undergraduate Research Conference this Spring.

Christina Thai



Christina Thai began her time at JMU as a biology major, but realized her heart was really in psychology and after declaring a double-major, joined the Cultural and Racial Diversity Studies Lab in the Department of Psychology. Soon after, she presented a paper at a regional conference on the psychology of blood stratification in the *Harry Potter* series. In 2012, Christina began her honors thesis under Dr. Matthew Lee, investigating how the process of hypodescent impacts mixed-race individuals. Christina will be presenting work at the American Psychological Association's annual convention later this year. In addition to her experience as a psychology major, Christina has been a representative of JMU's Student Government Association, a mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, a JMU Honors Program mentor, and a chair in the JMU Chinese Student Association. After graduation, Christina plans to pursue an advanced degree in Clinical Psychology and continue research investigating the experienced of mixed-race individuals.

Senior Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes seniors who reflect commitment to the field of psychology through their service activities.

Daveon McMullen



Daveon is a dedicated serviceman to both his discipline and to his university. He has been a leader on the JMU campus as an Orientation Peer Advisor, has served on the Dean's Student Advisory Council, as the President of the JMU Association for Black Psychologists, and as a member of the Black Student Alliance. In addition, Daveon has worked as a Program Assistant and Intern in the Counseling Student and Development Center. He has also been involved in three Alternative Spring Break experiences, for one of which he served as Trip Leader. In addition to serving the campus, Daveon also serves within his discipline. He has served as a student member of a national search committee to make a new hire for the Department of Psychology and he has been a counselor at an Upward Bound funded Program at Frostburg State University.

Senior Award for Academic Achievement

This award is given to senior students who have demonstrated significant overall academic achievement in their undergraduate studies, and especially in psychology.

Sarah Janser

Sarah Janser is a Senior Psychology major who is completing her honors thesis, entitled Examining the Relationship between Strength Religious Faith and Self-Esteem among Sexual Assault Survivors under the supervision of Dr. Bill Evans. She currently works with Dr. Natalie Lawrence investigating how social influence can be used to minimize dangerous driving behaviors. Sarah has also served as a teaching assistant for Dr. Lawrence's Social Psychology course. In addition to her academic work, Sarah has also been involved in a number of volunteer and service activities such as Day with the Dukes and the Zion Project in Uganda (a mission focused on rescuing women and girls from sexual assault). Sarah is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honors Society, and Psi Chi Honors Society. She has previously received the Outstanding Achievement in Statistics and Research Methods award. Sarah plans to pursue a career in Mental Health and Behavioral Counseling.

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.

- Drew Bassett
- Christopher Deitrick
- Claire Eckenrode
- Mark Levy
- Aneta Nikolic
- Kaitlin Van Alstyne

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.

Michael Evans



Michael has been a Field Placement student at the Inpatient Unit at RMH Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters. Immediately upon his arrival at RMH in August, Michael was able to adapt to the pace of the inpatient unit, and never hesitated to offer help where it was needed. His had a very calming attitude, and he charted excellent notes on the patients' records. He worked well with all different types of patients, and was able to adapt to their levels of functioning to better help them. Overall, Michael is a very compassionate and caring individual, and works very professionally with individuals who struggle with mental illness. He truly is an outstanding Field Placement student.