

Other Student Achievements (2011-12)

On Saturday, November 5, 2011 approximately 20 volunteers from **Psychology Peer Advising and Dr. Evans' Psyc 328 (Psychology of Leadership) class** went to Almost Heaven in West Virginia to build houses for Habitat for Humanity. During this trip, the volunteers were responsible for cleaning up and organizing the tool house, loading and unloading wood into the warehouse, and drilling and securing panels and beams on the exterior of the homes. After working for Habitat for Humanity several times over the course of the year, the volunteers were excited to see the progress that has been made on homes that they have previously helped to construct, and were glad to help make progress on new homes. Habitat for Humanity is a project that the Psychology Peer Advisers continue to remain passionate about and their participation in this project will continue in the future.



Psychology Major **Christina Thai** will be published in the upcoming edited interdisciplinary volume entitled "A Wizard of Their Age: Critical Essays from the Harry Potter Generation." Her chapter is called "Harry Potter and Blood Status: A Psychological Look at Blood Stratification in the Wizarding World" uses the psychology of social stratification to explore how blood status underlies the division of classes in Rowling's wizarding world." Christina works in Dr. **Matt Lee's** Cultural and Racial Diversity Studies Lab. According to Dr. Lee, Christina's chapter includes an analysis of ingroup/outgroup effects and the principle of hypodescent in judging people of mixed and monoracial backgrounds. She was inspired by alumnus **Candace Vanderpoel's** honors thesis, as well as the research on social cognition and racial identity occurring in the lab. Congratulations Christina! [More information.](#)

Psychology in the News. Do people have a similar experience reading on paper, a computer screen or on an electronic reader? This is the topic of psychology major **Leah Hartman Densmore's** thesis. A story about her thesis has been posted on the JMU website. [More information.](#)

Psychology Major **Sarah Yi** won the **2012 Feist-Levine Undergraduate Research Award for Best Poster** for her presentation of "The role of men's and women's gender role beliefs in predicting homophobia" at the 26th Annual Conference on the Teaching of Psychology in Tarrytown, NY. Alex Borgella and Dr. Matt Lee were co-authors. One of the reviewers wrote, "This poster could easily win an APA graduate student award for its clarity & rigor of methods used. Timely research too. Presenter was thoroughly prepared, answered questions at a level of a young faculty member. Perhaps the best undergraduate poster I've seen in the past 3 years." Congratulations Sarah!

Haley Mertins honored with Carrier Award. The Carrier Award is given to one male and one female student who pursue leadership development by active involvement on campus, positively impact and contribute to the community, and maintain strong academic records. These student leaders possess outstanding skills in organization, motivation, delegation, and communication. Each student also demonstrated an ability to adequately balance their academic pursuits and co-curricular involvements by maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Congratulations Haley!

Psychology Symposium. The 2012 Department of Psychology Symposium was a tremendous success. Wonderful posters were presented by 58 students or student teams. The following students received awards for their excellent work:

- **Jacob Truelove.** Interteaching: Does discussion group size affect course performance? Faculty Advisor: Dr. Bryan Saville (Dean's Award for Outstanding Honors Thesis).
- **Brenda Blanchard.** Marital Rape in the Legal System. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Joann Grayson (Dean's Award for Outstanding Field Placement, Internship or Practicum).
- **Ryan Van Patten.** Contingency management of grade point average in a social fraternity. Faculty Advisors: Drs. Jessica Irons and Kevin Apple (Dean's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research)
- **Janna Kline, Megan Roth, Daisy Andonyadis, Sarah Taylor, & Sarah Marrs.** Does working memory predict planning in children? Faculty Advisor: Dr. Krisztina Jakobsen (Dean's Award for Outstanding Research by a Undergraduate-Graduate Student Team).
- **Haley Mertins.** Assessing undergraduate psychology major skills necessary for job and graduate school. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kenn Barron (Department of Psychology Award for Outstanding Honors Thesis).
- **T'Airra Belcher.** Retention at the Op Shop. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Joann Grayson (Department of Psychology Award for Outstanding Field Placement, Internship or Practicum).
- **Brittany Dunay, Haley Mertins, & Emily Wilson.** How general is attention capture for faces? Faculty Advisor: Dr. Krisztina Jakobsen (Department of Psychology Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research).
- **Jacob Williams, Kristen Kaufmann, Amanda Devoto, Meghan Ward, Alec Bernstein, Matthew Meccariello, & Nicole Roteliuk.** Formative assessment in two undergraduate classes. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tracy Zinn. (Department of Psychology Award for Outstanding Research by an Undergraduate-Graduate Student Team).

CAA Conference. Five Psychology Majors were among the ten JMU undergraduate students that represented our university at the 10th Annual Colonial Academic Alliance Undergraduate Research Conference, April 13-15 at Old Dominion University. The students, their presentation titles, and their advisors included:

- **Daisy Andonyadis,** Study of College Students' Narcissistic Personality Traits and Their Parent's involvement (Dr. Natalie Lawrence)
- **Jacqueline Belhumeur,** The Effects of Social Comparison on Perceived Susceptibility and Severity to Stroke Among College Students (Dr. Monica Reis-Bergan)
- **Brittany Dunay,** Visual Pop-out Effect in Adults (Dr. Krisztina Jakobsen)
- **Haley Mertins,** Assessing the Development of Student Skills Necessary for Graduate School and Jobs (Dr. Kenneth Barron)
- **Aubrey Smiley,** Development of a Nonverbal Self-report Emotion Measurement Tool (Dr. Michael Hall)

JMU Psychology Research Grants. The Department of Psychology is pleased to announce that the following students received grants to cover some of the expenses incurred to conduct their research projects:

- **Aaron Robinson** and **Cory Speicher** have received a grant in support of their research project “Pluralistic Ignorance and Hazing. (\$105)
- **Michael Ariale** has received a grant in support of his research project “Music Priming: Its Effect on Racial Perception.” (\$60).
- **Kira-Khanh Mai McCarthy, Rebecca Kinsey** and **Kristen Smith** have received a grant in support of their research project “The Psychology Major: Determining a formula for success.” (\$423).
- **Maegan Pisman** has received a grant in support of her research project “Siblings, PCIT, and Autism: Generalization Across Settings.” (\$300)
- **Ryan Van Patten** has received a Department of Psychology Research Grant in support of his research project “Contingency Management of GPA.” (\$500).
- **Janna Kline** and **Daisy Andonyadis** have received a Department of Psychology Research Grant in support of their research project “Trustworthiness and the Ovulatory Cycle.” (\$157)

JMU Psychology Travel Grants. The Department of Psychology is pleased to announce that the following students received grants to cover some of the travel expenses incurred to present their research at professional conferences:

- **Megan Arnold** and **Teri Corbett** have received a grant to present “Examining impulsivity in the spontaneously hypertensive rat using a temporal discounting task” at the Eastern Association for Behavior Analysis in Charlotte, NC, October 27-29, 2011
- **Jacob Truelove** has received a grant to present “Interteaching: Does discussion group size affect exam scores” at the meetings of Eastern Association for Behavior Analysis in Charlotte, NC, October 27-29, 2011.
- **Amanda Campbell** has received a grant to present “Teaching about transgender identity to decrease genderist attitudes” at the Diversity Research Symposium at Ball State University in Muncie, IN, October, 29, 2011.
- **Christina Jordan** has received a grant to present “Gender attitudes study” at the Diversity Research Symposium at Ball State University in Muncie, IN, October, 29, 2011.
- **Dawn Savage, Cecilia Bergeria, and Amber Campitelli** have received a grant to present “A comparison of college student drinking and drinking across campuses and events” at the meetings of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies in Toronto, Canada, November 10-13, 2011.
- **Ryan Van Patten** has received a grant to present ““Exercise and depression” at the meetings of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, in Toronto, Canada, November 10-13, 2011.
- **Sarah Yi** has received a grant to present “The role of traditional gender role beliefs in predicting male and female homophobia” at the meetings of the Farmingdale State College 26th Teaching of Psychology Conference, Tarrytown, NY, March 23-24, 2012.



- **Sally Boyd, Heidi Corwin, Kelsey Owens, Sarah Montgomery, and Kristen Smith** have received a grant to present “Raising Generation Me: The relationship between parenting practices and college students’ focus on the self” at the annual meetings of the Virginia Psychological Association in Norfolk, VA, April 26.
- **J.J. O’Malley** has received a grant to present “The Effects of Seat Selection on Impression Formation” at the annual meetings of the Virginia Psychological Association in Norfolk, VA, April 26.
- **Alec Bernstein** has received a grant to present “Token Economy to Increase Participation in Higher Education Classrooms” at the annual meetings of the Virginia Psychological Association in Norfolk, VA, April 26.
- **Michael Ariale, Kelsey Erwin, and Brittany King** have received a grant to present “Does high African American perceived prototypicality equal high attractiveness?” at the annual meetings of the Association for Psychological Science in Chicago, IL, May 24-27.
- **Kristen Kaufman, Matthew Meccariello, and Nicole Roteliuk** have received a grant to present “Formative assessment in two undergraduate courses” at the annual meetings of the Association for Psychological Science in Chicago, IL, May 24-27.
- **Sarah Taylor and Elizabeth Souza** have received a grant to present “eTextbook vs. Print Textbook Performance and Usability: An eye-tracking study” at the annual meetings of the Association for Psychological Science in Chicago, IL, May 24-27.
- **Haley Mertins, Brittany Dunay, and Emily Wilson** have received a grant to present “How General is Attention Capture for Faces?” at the annual meetings of the Association for Psychological Science in Chicago, IL, May 24-27.
- **Kira McCarthy, Rebecca Kinsey, and Kirsten Smith** have received a grant to present “APA Goal 2: Can we reinforce the foundation?”, “A Psychology Program Assessment: Are students prepared for life after graduation?”, and “Developing Communication Skills in Undergraduate Psychology Majors: What are we doing and are we doing enough?” at the Southeastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology (SETOP) in Atlanta, GA, February 24-25.
- **Suzanna Powell, Andy Young, Chelsea Rugel, Zach Goble, and Kylan Engelmann** received a grant to present “The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Radial Arm Maze Performance” at the annual meetings of the Eastern Psychological Association in Pittsburg, PA, March 1-3.
- **Ashleigh Deibert, Lauren Snead, Rebecca Keegan, and Melissa Hunt** received a grant to present entitled “Elements of Facebook Profiles that Lead to Decisions Regarding Attractiveness and Safety” at the annual meetings of the Virginia Psychological Association in Norfolk, VA, April 30.
- **Hunter Greer and Kerin Sweezey** received a grant to present “College Students Relative Use of Faculty and RateMyProfessor.com” at the annual meetings of the Virginia Psychological Association in Norfolk, VA, April 30.
- **Rachael Porter, David Morton, David Schoembs, and Roslyn Brown** received a grant to present “Delay of Gratification and Social Media Use” at the annual meetings of the Virginia Psychological Association in Norfolk, VA, April 30.
- **Leah Hartman** received a grant to present “The Effects of E Ink on Eye Movement and Reading Time” at the annual meetings of the Eastern Psychological Association in Pittsburgh, PA, March 1-4.