

Other Student Achievements

– Archive 2013-2014



Christopher Deitrick* and Jaime Kurtz received a stipend from Psi Chi for a collaboration with Dr. Daniel Gilbert and Daniel Yudkin (graduate student) from Harvard University. The project explores Construal-Level Theory, which posits that our subjective position in relation to objects greatly influences that which we attend to and consider about the object, specifically the desirability of dates in regard to temporal distance (\$1,500 to Kurtz, \$3,500 to Deitrick).

Erin O'Toole and Alex Bureau were awarded grants from Psi Chi for their research. (\$250/each).

Natalie Lawrence's lab students won the Virginia Psychological Association's 2014 Uzi Selzer Award for the Best Undergraduate Paper in an Applied Area for their work:

Cartolaro, A.*, Kartka, T.*, Iaconelli, R.*, Keller, P.*, Kelly, H.*, Vermillera, M.*, Wampler, F.*, Welch, A.* & Lawrence, N.K. (2014, April). A social norm intervention to reduce phone-related distracted driving: Part 2. Paper presented at the Spring meeting of the Virginia Psychological Association, Norfolk, VA.

Students in Natalie Lawrence's Social Psychology course raised \$835.16 for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in the Fall semester with a cupcake bake sale. [More information.](#)

Judy West's Lifespan Development course donated \$850 and 139 books in the Fall semester, and \$620 and 50 books in Spring semester to Spotswood Elementary School.

Psychology Symposium. The 2014 Department of Psychology Symposium was a tremendous success. Wonderful posters were presented by 69 students or student teams. The following students received awards for their excellent work:

- **Joshua Gross & Kristian Ponder.** Vocal Fundamental Frequency as a Function of Deception and Stress. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Hall. (Dean's Award for Outstanding Honors Thesis)
- **Lauren Talbot.** Test Anxiety: Prevalence, Effects, and Interventions for Elementary School Students. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Monica Reis-Bergan. (Dean's Award for Outstanding Field Placement, Internship, or Practicum)

- **Christopher Deitrick.** The Beliefs of the Everyday Happiness-Seeker: Do People Know How to Improve Their Happiness? Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jaime Kurtz. (Dean's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research)
- **Melanie Vassallo, Matthew Meccariello, Emily Bates & J.J. O'Malley.** Effects of D-amphetamine Sensitization on Sprague-Dawley and Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat Acquisition and Preferred Strategy of Learning. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeff Dyche. (Dean's Award for Outstanding Combined Undergraduate & Graduate Research)
- **Alexander Bureau.** Passion for Academics and Problematic Health Behaviors. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Bryan Saville. (Department of Psychology Award for Outstanding Honors Thesis)
- **Susan Fuentes.** Family Programs in Shenandoah County. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Joann Grayson. (Department of Psychology Award for Outstanding Field Placement, Internship, or Practicum)
- **Ashleigh Cartolaro, Thomas Hartka, Ryan Iaconelli, Peige Keller, Hunter Kelly, Marissa Vermillera, Alton Wampler, & Alyssa Welch.** Using the Induced Hypocrisy Paradigm to Reduce Texting While Driving. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Natalie Kerr Lawrence. (Department of Psychology's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research)
- **Katelyn Fortuna, Frank Galante, Spencer Nations, Nicolette Robertson, Brian Shenk, & Tristan Kirkman.** Combination of Delay and Probabilistic Outcomes on Discounting of Monetary Values. Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniel Holt. (Department of Psychology's Award for Outstanding Combined Undergraduate & Graduate Research)

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:

- **Carly Isakowitz** "The effects of alcohol priming in social drinkers on hypothetical drug choices using Multiple Choice Procedures" (\$500).
- **Hailey Ratliff** "How Attachment Relates to College Students' Achievement, Motivation and Drinking Behaviors" (\$112.50).
- **Kallen Bynum** "The Explicit Stigmas Toward Mental Illness Held Between Different University Colleges" (\$52.50).
- **Thomas Hartka, Hunter Kelly, Ashleigh Cartolaro, Ryan Iaconelli, Adrian Jarvis, Marissa Vermillera, Peige Keller, Alton Wampler, Alyssa Welch** "A Social Norm Intervention to Reduce Distracted Driving" (\$484.52).
- **Christine Yohn, Ashley Shemery** "The Effects of Chronic, Partial Sleep Deprivation on Risk-Taking Behavior in Rats" (\$500).
- **Drew Bassett** "Caffeine Consumption Questionnaire Validation" (\$70)
- **Christina Choi** "The Impact of Exercise on Substance Use" (\$500)
- **Carly Isakowitz** "Gender differences in substance choice after a priming dose of alcohol" (\$500)
- **Hannah Hardin** "Are There Magnitude Effects in Concurrently Available Delay Discounting Paradigms?" (\$500)
- **Ryne Skytta** "Economic and Biological Effects on Discounting" (\$500)
- **Frank Galante** "Ideal Mate Discounting Study" (\$500)

- **Chelsea Woods** “Associations between Purpose in Life, Locus of Control & Alcohol Use in College Students” (\$125)
- **Erik Simmons, Caroline Prendergast, Christopher Deitrick** “Salimetric Feedback in the Writing Center” (\$500)

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:

- **Sarah Yi** “Qualitative Reports of Multicultural Learning in Psychology Students” presented at APA (American Psychological Assoc) in Honolulu, HI July 31-Aug 4, 2013; (\$300).
- **Sean McVay, JJ O’Malley, Ashley Shemery, Ashley Assgari, Andrew Tiry, Matt Clasen, Sancho Sequeira, Tiffany Crosby, Lauren Whitehurst** “Effects of Brief Paradoxical Sleep Deprivation on Radial Arm Maze Performance in SHRS” at the Amer. Academy of Sleep Medicine conference in Baltimore, MD June 1-5, 2013; (\$900).
- **Maria Ayala, Caroline Cooke, Nate Kelmers** “Home Court Advantage: Sleep as a Predictor of Athletic Performance” at the Amer. Academy of Sleep Medicine conference in Baltimore, MD June 1-5, 2013; (\$900).
- **Christina Thai, Matthew Ace, Maria Ayala** “Asian Americans’ Well Being and Experiences of Racial Microaggression” at the American Psychological Assoc (APA) meeting in Honolulu, HI July 31-Aug 4, 2013; (\$900).
- **Kate Hall, David Elliot, Nancy Rhodes** “Effects of Chronic Marijuana Use on Sleep, Circadian Rhythms and cognitive Performance” at the American Academy of Sleep Medicine conference in Baltimore, MD, June 1-5, 2013; (\$900).
- **Sidney Cover, Veronica Eisenmann** “Becoming Human Face Detection Specialists” at the Cognitive Development Society conference in Memphis, TN, October 18-19, 2013; (\$600).
- **Josh Gross, Matthew Clasen, Melanie Vassallo** “The Effect of Cocaine on Delay Discounting in the SHR” at the Society for Neuroscience conference in San Diego, CA, November 8-13, 2013; (\$900).
- **Shannon Kovach** “Unmet Health Care Needs for Persons with Chemical Sensitivity” at the Southwest Disability conference in Albuquerque, NM, October 11, 2013; (\$300).
- **Julia Santos, Sean Ward, Ryne Skytta, Andrew Tiry, Drew Williams, Jonny Novgrod** “Response Factors in Delay Discounting: A Replication and Extension” at the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, October 25-26, 2013; (\$900).
- **John McCray, Jason Kotarides, Morgan Duncan, Wesley Allin, Samantha Washburn, Jennifer Tallon, Rachal Willard, Allison Isrin** “Movie Choice and Empathy” at the Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) conference in Norfolk, VA, April 23-24, 2013; (\$900).
- **Lauren Johnson, Leah Schaller, Cassidy Gonzalez, Dylan Kitley, Christina Hahn** “Parents’ Use of Facebook” at the Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) conference in Norfolk, VA, April 23-24, 2013; (\$900).

- **Noah Lamma, Molly Martineau, Samantha Strusky, Sarah Salmons, Shannon Malloy** “Ratings of Therapists’ Advertisements” at the Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 23-24, 2013; (\$900).
- **Thomas Hartka, Hunter Kelly, Ashleigh Cartolaro, Ryan Iaconelli, Peige Keller, Marissa Vermillera, Frederick Wampler, Cheryl Welch** “Highlighting Injunctive Norms to Reduce Phone-Related Distracted Driving” at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 24-25, 2014; (\$900)
- **Claire Eckenrode & Alex Bureau** “Passion & Academic Burnout in College Students” at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 24-25, 2014; (\$600)
- **Rachel Case & Reanna Herbert** “Passion and Cheating in College Students” at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 24-25, 2014; (\$600)
- **Tessa Wilklow & Brittany Cairns** “Passion and Problematic Health Behaviors in College Students” at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 24-25, 2014; (\$600)
- **Sarah Killian & Michelle Maley** “Passion in College Students: Descriptive Data” at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 24-25, 2014; (\$600)
- **Denton Asdourian, Devan Weismiller, Alex Pardes** “Does Passion Predict Academic Success at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 24-25, 2014; (\$900)
- **Taylor Daddario & Abby Moomaw** “Perceptions of Alcohol and Pregnancy: Does Race Play a Role at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 24-25, 2014; (\$600)
- **Meredith Cherry, Amanda Olimpio, Megan Gruneisen** “Birth Stories: How do Narratives Affect Women’s Perceptions of Birth?” at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 24-25, 2014; (\$900)
- **Julia Brown & Kiera Guralnik** “Teaching About Transgender Issues in Classes” at Teaching of Psychology (TOP) in Tarrytown, NY, April 4-5, 2014; (\$600)
- **Zachary Buchin, Alison Fullerton, Katie Werner, Krysten Yee** “During Visual Search Task Irrelevant Human Faces Capture Attention” at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 23-25, 2014; (\$900)
- **Amanda Schultz, Emma Hoskins, Devon Weismiller, Tessa Wilklow** “Peer Advising: An Assessment of Customer Service” at NACADA in Morgantown, WV, April 28-30, 2014; (\$900)
- **Erik Simmons, Demitra Bivens, Alexis Morse, Jamie Erlemeier, Chris Detrick** “Can Capitalization Increase Roommate Satisfaction?” at Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) in Norfolk, VA, April 23-25, 2014; (\$900)
- **Jonathan Centeno & Erin O’Toole** “A Qualitative Investigation of What Increases and Decreases College Students’ Academic Motivation” at American Psychological Sciences (APS) conference in San Francisco, CA, May 22-25, 2014; (\$600)
- **Elizabeth Smith, Julia Brown, Alexandra Hubbard** “An Examination of the Relationship Between Mindset, Attitudes toward Affirmative Action, and Diversity Initiatives” at American Psychological Sciences (APS) conference in San Francisco, CA, May 22-25, 2014; (\$600)