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.

Emily Jacobson

Emily has been an outstanding student in a variety of areas during her time at JMU. She maintains an admirably high GPA, she is active in a number of student organizations and service activities. Perhaps most notable among her achievements is her record for engaging in research. Emily has worked with Steve Evans, Joann Grayson, Cheryl Talley, and Kenn Barron (her thesis advisor) to engage in research experiences that will be formative in helping her towards her goals to create and develop new community programs for child abuse prevention. Emily has also contributed to the department by serving as a student member of a committee to select a new faculty hire in the area of biopsychology. Emily has won the James J. Hart Memorial Scholarship Award (Spring 2010), the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Statistics and Research Methods (Spring 2009). She is the recipient of the 2011 JMU Phi Beta Kappa Award for Best Honors Thesis. Emily’s thesis was entitled “Effect of Foster Parent Training Programs on Satisfaction and Skill Retention” (Dr. Kenn Barron, Advisor).

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.

Shantell Russ

Shantell Russ, the recipient of the Whitlock Scholarship, is a junior psychology major with a minor in human resource development. She has received numerous distinctions and awards in her JMU career thus far, including the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, membership in Psi Chi, and the Dean’s list, and President’s list. Outside of JMU, Shantell is a volunteer at Keister Elementary School, where she tutors second graders. She is also a Big Buddy to two freshman in her scholarship program. Her future plans include graduate school for school 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.

Haley Mertins
Haley is a Family Studies minor, and she is currently working on her honors thesis with Dr. Kenn Barron on the “Assessment of Undergraduate Skills Necessary for Entering the Workforce and Graduate School.” She is planning on attending graduate school in the field of School Psychology. Haley was a co-presenter at the National Conference on Best Practices in Assessing Teaching and Learning in Psychology. Haley has been extensively involved in research projects supervised by Dr. Barron, Melinda Burchard, and Dr. Varga. She also held a teaching assistantship position for an Exceptional Education class. She is a member of Psychology Peer Advising, where she serves in the leadership role of co-teaching the junior peer advising class. As a Peer Advisor she has volunteered for activities such as the Special Olympics “Day with the Dukes,” the JMU Hunger Banquet, the annual Food Fight against Hunger, and Relay for Life. She has also volunteered with CISAT Open Houses and JMU’s Choices day for the past two years. Haley is also member of a number of other organizations including, Psi Chi, National Collegiate Scholars, the JMU's Honors Program. In 2010, Haley received our Outstanding Achievement in Statistics and Research Methods Award. She has been on the JMU Dean's list four times, and the President's list last semester.

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.

Jacob Truelove                    Spring 2010
David Comer                      Fall 2010

Jacob is currently a Junior. He has been actively involved in Dr. Bryan Saville's research lab for several semesters. He is completing an honors thesis examining the effects of interteaching on learning under Dr. Saville's supervision. Jacob also worked with Dr. Sherry Serdikoff's animal research lab and he completed a conference presentation regarding that work. Jacob is currently a teaching assistant for Dr. Saville's Learning course. Jacob works for The Matthews Center where he helps children and young adults with autism. He plans to attend graduate school to study Applied Behavior Analysis. Jacob described his educational experience as follows: "I’m not working for grades, because grades won’t help me work in the future to help others; knowing what I’m doing and being able to do it well is what truly matters.” His words capture his ambition and success that are integral factors that led to his selection for this scholarship.
David is currently the president of One in Four, an all male sexual assault awareness and prevention organization on campus. He has served as a committee member for Take Back the Night and is a trained help line member with Campus Assault Response (CARE). David has served on the planning committee for the Red Flag Campaign, a public awareness campaign designed to address dating violence and promote the prevention of dating violence on college campuses. The work of the Red Flag Campaign was honored at a state dinner hosted by Vice-President Joe Biden. David maintains an admirably high psychology GPA and has been involved in research. David has served as a teaching assistant for Lifespan Human Development, and as the assistant coordinator of Dr. Joanne Brewster’s tutors for Abnormal Psychology. He also has served as a tutor for several students who were enrolled in General Psychology and Life-Span Human Development. David’s extracurricular activities and outstanding leadership have allowed him to stand out among his peers as a psychology major devoted to research, tutoring, and activism.

**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.

**Dawn Savage**

Dawn has been a productive member of the psychology department as well as the JMU campus at large. She has shown promise in both research and leadership. Dawn has worked with Dr. Jessica Irons for the last four semesters and is completing an honors thesis under her supervision. Her thesis will study the impact of mood on alcohol consumption and how drinking to cope may influence that relationship. Dawn has also worked on several other studies including the development of a central screening tool for much of Dr. Iron’s research. She has also contributed to a study on the Teacher Behavior Checklist for which she has trained other research assistants and collected data. In addition, Dawn has contributed to both an exercise intervention and a smoking cessation protocol. She serves as an invaluable member of Dr. Iron’s lab and exhibits professionalism, detail orientation, and enthusiasm throughout each step of the research process. In addition to her research work, she has served as a teaching assistant for research methods and drugs and behavior under Dr. Irons' supervision. Dawn’s leadership roles include being campus Orientation Peer Adviser and a FROG (First year Orientation Guide) and she is president of her sorority Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi.
**Junior Award for Outstanding Research**

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

Megan Arnold

Megan gained early research experience working in Dr. Sherry Serdikoff’s behavior analysis lab. As Megan puts it, she learned, among other things, “the importance of creating a controlled environment, manipulating one variable at a time, minimizing the probability of confounding variables… and that the rat is always right.” With other students, Megan presented her research at the 2010 meeting Southeastern 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. Megan has been on the Dean’s List multiple times. In addition to being a member of Psi Chi, she is also a member of the Virginia Association for Behavior Analysis and the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis. After graduating from JMU, Megan plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Ph. D. in Experimental Psychology/Behavior Analysis.

**Junior Award for Distinguished Service**

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

Jacqueline Belhumeur
Jackie served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for Biological Psychology with Dr. Jeff Dyche and she has served as TA for Human Anatomy taught by Drs. Phillips and Rifai. She coached Special Olympics throughout high school. At JMU she has tutored an at-risk child. She is in the honors program and is currently completing an honors thesis entitled "Psychological and Physiological Precursors to High Blood Pressure in College Students" supervised by Dr. Monica Reis-Bergen. She has also served as a research assistant in several with Dr. Kenn Barron and Dr. Jeff Dyche. She has two minors, Human Science and Special Education. Jackie plans to attend graduate school to study health psychology.

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.

Jessica (J.) Hayden

Jessica began her undergraduate career at JMU in the Psychology Learning Community. She has been active in research for several semesters working Dr. Kenn Barron, Dr. Sheena Rogers, Dr. Bill Evans, Kara Karr, Dr. Krisztina Varga, and Dr. Natalie Lawrence. Jessica has received several departmental grants to help with research costs and and travel. She presented her work at the annual meetings of the Virginia Psychological Association. Jessica has volunteered during the last four years with Horses and Healers and Camp Holiday Trails where helped children with various physical, emotional, and mental disorders build their physical strength and self-esteem through horse riding therapy sessions. She has also helped certify a therapy dog at a retirement home. Jessica plans to attend graduate school to pursue a degree in Marriage and Family Therapy.
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.

Marjorie Levinstein

Marjorie began her undergraduate career at JMU in the Psychology Learning Community. She has two minors in Human Science and Anthropology and she is completing the Behavior Analysis Concentration in Psychology. She is a member of Psi Chi. She was a co-presenter at the National Conference on Best Practices in Assessing Teaching and Learning in Psychology. She has been active in research for several semesters working Dr. Monica Reis-Bergan, Dr. Kenn Barron, Dr. Sheena Rogers, Dr. Bill Evans, Kara Karr, Dr. Krisztina Varga, and Dr. Natalie Lawrence. She was also a teaching assistant for the Psychology Learning Community. She recently volunteered in Honduras building part of a school; as well as, learning about culture in the village, interacting with local children and parents, and helping teach the children math. Marjorie has been on the Dean's List four semester, and the President's List three semesters including this past Fall. She was a Member of the Psychology Learning Community in 2007-2008 and is currently a Member of the Golden Key Honor Society, the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Marjorie plans to study Behavioral Neuroscience in graduate school.
Senior Award for Achievement in Research

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

Derek Pope

Derek has been an outstanding student in several areas during his time at JMU. He has been on the Dean's list every semester while being a student at JMU and also was on the presidents list in the Fall of 2009. Derek is currently completing his honors thesis tentatively entitled "Contingency Management and Exercise" under the supervision of Dr. Jessica Irons. Derek has engaged in research through several laboratories and has learned to execute both human and animal protocols. He has worked with Dr. Tracy Zinn, Dr. Bryan Saville, and Dr. Sherry Serdikoff. He has been helped teach statistics under the supervision of Dr. Tracy Zinn, learning under the supervision of Dr. Bryan Saville, and research methods under the supervision of Dr. Jessica Irons. Derek has presented his research at the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis and is submitting his thesis work to the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies conference. Derek is a member of the Behavior Analysis Concentration and plans to pursue graduate school in Behavior Analysis.

Senior Distinguished Service Award

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

Kelsey Seward

Kelsey Seward has acquired a distinguished record of service in her years with the Psychology Department. Freshman year, Kelsey participated in the Alternative Spring Break program on a trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica. While there, she worked with the Center for the Upliftment of the Mentally Ill. She provided social interaction as well as food and shelter for homeless adults with substance abuse and mental illness. In Harrisonburg, Kelsey has been active in community volunteer work. She has served as treasurer for Circle K (a branch of Kiwanis). Kelsey worked at Wilbur Pence Middle school as a teacher's aide during her junior year. She has also tutored an at-risk child twice a week. She is also working with Gus-the-Bus, an early literacy program. Kelsey completed a Field Placement during Fall 2010 at Western State Hospital under the supervision of Clinical Psychologist Dr. F. Christy McFarland. At her placement, Kelsey worked with a multidisciplinary clinical treatment team that included the unit psychiatrist, Dr.
McFarland, nurses, social workers, and direct care staff. Kelsey was an active participant in treatment planning meetings. She assisted with psychosocial groups and attended community outings with patients preparing for discharge.

**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: Shantell Russ, Stacie Gregorius, Jacob Truelove, Elizabeth Cannon, Mary Kate Hall. Not Shown: Elizabeth Ludwig, Amanda Campbell, and Cody Shifflett.*

- Amanda Campbell
- Elizabeth Cannon
- Stacie Gregorius
- Mary Kate Hall
- Elizabeth Ludwig
- Cody Shifflett
- Shantell Russ
- Jacob Truelove
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.

Amber Coury is completing her second semester as a field placement student at Western State Hospital. Before she graduates, she will have completed over 230 hours of onsite work under the on-site supervision of Dr. Michael Shutty. Ms. Coury has been collaborating with Dr. Shutty on co-facilitating the Reality Testing group and creating a manual for future group leaders. She is developing teaching stories for use in the group. Dr. Shutty writes, “Ms. Amber Coury has been an exceptional field placement student. She is a mature, independent, confident student with exceptional social skills and work habits…. The patients clearly enjoyed having her lead the group, as she is energetic and sensitive to their needs. Amber provided an excellent role model (and leader) for the other field placement students in the group, and worked cooperatively to provide them opportunity to contribute to the discussion- I found this teamwork very professional and unselfish.” Ms. Coury’s academic work for the field placement was equally stellar. She wrote one of the best papers in the class, examining the best practices for Multidisciplinary Teams. She received perfect grades on her weekly reflection logs which demonstrated her high level of integration of course work and her ability to apply the concepts from research to the field. Her in-class presentation was flawless. Overall, her level of work is exceptional and her level of enthusiasm is contagious.

Chelsea Smith is completing a second semester as a field placement student at Western State Hospital, working under the site supervision of Dr. Steve Johnson. She will complete over 270 hours of onsite work before she graduates. Ms. Smith has been collaborating with Dr. Johnson on creating a manual for field placement training. She has actively worked with the unit’s multidisciplinary team and she has been involved in direct patient care. In April, she will be presenting a summary of her work at the Virginia Psychological Association spring conference. About Chelsea Dr. Johnson writes: “I can decidedly state that Chelsea has been the best student that I have supervised in quite some time.” He cites, in particular her “positive, supportive, and recovery-oriented attitude.” Her interest in the patients is shown in active listening, helping them set goals, and then taking initiative to check back to help them chart progress towards the goals. Dr. Johnson speaks of Ms. Smith’s commendable knowledge of psychopathology and her skills in understanding the diagnostic criteria. She has shown remarkable ability to integrate into a team of seasoned professionals and her contributions are valued by the entire staff. She demonstrates an outstanding level of professionalism.
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.

Senior Peer Advising Award

Julia Coelho

Junior Peer Advising Award

Haley Mertins