

## JMU Department of Psychology

### Other Student Achievements – Archive 2014-2015

**Kerry Gaffney** was awarded a 2015 Spring Undergraduate Research Grant from Psi Chi, for her project, working with Dr. Melanie Shoup-Knox, entitled “The Effect of Pre-Optic Anterior Hypothalamus (POAH) Temperature Manipulation on Yawning” (\$1,474).

**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). [More information.](#)

**Meredith Kurtz** was awarded a Psi Chi Professional Development Grant for her project Mindfulness Practice as Intervention for Substance Abuse with Dr. Jessica Irons (\$250).

**Amanda Schultz** was awarded a Psi Chi Professional Development Grant for her project Interteaching Intervention with Dr. Tracy Zinn (\$250).

**Students in Natalie Lawrence's Social Psychology** course raised \$901.78 for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in the Fall semester. Students learned about using social influence to increase donations in a "change war." During the Spring semester the students raised \$1,161.75 and donated it to RISE Love Packs Ministry, that helps feed hungry children in the local area, and Active Minds, a national organization dedicated to raising mental health awareness among college students.

**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:

- **Zach Buchin** was awarded \$500 for testing materials to be used toward his “Examination of Critical Thinking” project.
- **Julia Ricotta** was awarded \$60 for copies for use in her “Improving the Quality of Interteaching Pair Discussion” project.
- **Rachel Palkovitz, Hannah Overberg, Chelsea Rugel, Kathryn Kavanagh, & Rachel Butts** were awarded \$500 for lab supplies for their “Social Housing in Deer Mice” project.
- **Rachel Larkin** was awarded \$20 for copies for her “Retention across Pedagogies” project.
- **Kathryn Howard** was awarded \$80 for copies for her “The Impact of ‘Fearful’ and ‘Serene’ Mood on Mortality Salience” project.
- **Kathleen Owens** was awarded \$500 for participant payments and lab supplies for her “Effect of 24 Hour Sleep Deprivation on Cannabis Preference” project.
- **Nancy Windsor** was awarded \$81 for participant payments for her “The Relation of Service Activity on the Growth of Empathy” project.
- **Kaitlin Fitzgerald** was awarded \$240 for copies for her “Helicopter Parenting and Parent-Child Attachment” project.
- **Danielle McGovern & Gabrielle Payabyab** were awarded \$395.75 for testing materials and copies for their “The Effect of Cognitive Flexibility Practice on Causal Attributions for Human Behavior” project.

- **Kallen Bynum** was awarded \$82.50 for copies for her “The Influence of Lay Concepts & Causal Theories on Definitions of Mental Illness & Social Outcomes” project.
- **Alyson Cregger** was awarded \$150 for copies for her “The Effect of Communication Type on Knowledge Retention of Brain Injuries” project.
- **Rianna Yung** was awarded \$500 for participant incentives for her “Campus Climate Study 2015” project.
- **Matthew Wolf** was awarded \$500 for lab supplies for his “Using a Token Economy in Search of an Amount Effect” project.
- **Grant Pointon** was awarded \$500 for lab supplies for his “A Comparison of Combined Versus Individual Cognitive Coping Strategies for Managing Pain” project.
- **Chris Deitrick, Hunter Kelly, Kaitlin Fitzgerald, Ryan Harting, Alan Yablonski, Savannah Moxley, & Emily Oliver** were awarded \$297 for lab supplies for their “Social Psychological Interventions to Reduce Phone-Related Distracted Driving” project.

**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:

- **Caroline Cooke** “Sleep Habits, Cell Phone Use, & Perceived Stress in Traditional College Students” presented at SLEEP conference in Minneapolis, MN on 5/31-6/4/14; \$300.
- **Elizabeth Smith** “Attitudes Toward Affirmative Action: The Necessity of Group Process and Grand-Work” presented at the American Psychology Association (APA) in Washington, DC on 8/7/14; \$600.
- **Fiona Hoehn & Kiera Guralnik** “Perceptions of Baldness Across Race: Do Black Men Have it Better?” presented at the American Psychology Association (APA) in Washington, DC on 8/9/14; \$600.
- **Ethan Bannar** “Leading Treatments in Law Enforcement PTSD” presented at the Society for Police and Criminal Psychology (SPCP) conference in Las Vegas, NV on 9/17-20, 2014; \$300.
- **Rachel Enstrom, Laurel Brubaker, & Mariah Hawes** “Altruism, Service Learning, Purpose in Life, and Positive Global Change” at the International Leadership Association conference in San Diego, CA on October 30-November 2, 2014; \$750.
- **Emily Bates, Melanie Vassallo, & Matt Meccariello** “Auditory Masking in Spontaneously Hyperactive Rat: An Examination of the Continuum of Impulsivity” at the Society for Neuroscience conference in Washington, DC on November 15-19, 2014; \$900.
- **Ethan Bannar & Megan Roy** “Partnering with the LGBT Community to Teach about and Reduce Transphobia” at the Association of American Colleges and Universities in San Diego, CA on March 26-28, 2015; \$300.
- **Kimberly Johnson, Erica Silva, & Akyla Joseph** “The Commodity Model of Sex and Rape Myth Acceptance” at the Association for Psychological Science conference in New York City, NY on May 21-24, 2015; \$900.
- **Christopher Deitrick, Savannah Moxley, Kaitlan Fitzgerald, Emily Oliver, Alan Yablonski, & Ryan Harting** “Strengthening the Injunctive Norm Against Phone-Related Distracted Driving”, “Who Texts and Drives? The Relationship Between Phone-Related Distracted Driving and Psychological Traits”, “Harnessing the Power of Normative Social Influence: Reducing Phone-Related Distracted Driving on a College Campus”, “Using the Induced Hypocrisy Paradigm to Reduce Phone-Related Distracted Driving in the Field” at the Virginia Psychological Association conference in Virginia Beach, VA on April 24, 2015; \$900.
- **Carley Sullivan, Taylor Daddario, & Elizabeth Smith** “Motherhood, Race & Perceptions of Behavior” at the Association for Psychological Science (APS) in New York, NY on May 21, 2015; \$900.
- **Allison Isrin, Mariah Hawes, Brady Dailey, & Erin Lee** “Studying Perceptual Adaptation to Foreign Accents in a Classroom Setting: Whether Learning is Generalizable across Speakers, Accents, and Words”

at the Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) conference in Virginia Beach, VA on April 15-17, 2015; \$900.

- **Nataly Martin, Allison Piotrowski, & Katie Tousley** "Enriching Academic Advising: Peer Advising 'Tech Wizards' Unite" at the NACADA-Region 2 conference in Richmond, VA in March 2015; \$900.
- **Daroon Jalil, Catherine Mathers, Ashley Heberling, & Emily Wingate** "Studying Foreign Accented Speech Through False Memory" at the L. Starling Reid Undergraduate Psychology conference (UVA) in Charlottesville, VA on April 17, 2015; millage.
- **Shane Bryant, Shane Herr, Caroline Morris, Nikole Gregg, & Julia Ricotta** "The Effects of In-Class Application Questions on Academic Performance in an Interteaching Classroom" at the American Psychological Science (APS) conference in New York, NY on May 21-24, 2015; \$900 .
- **Kacie Bornheimer, Matt Campbell, Kate D'Amica, David Deck, Claire Gallagher, Jonathan Hall, Monet Harris, Angel Hopkins, Amber Locke, Becky Misdorn, Kaytlyn Oard, Jessica Ostrowski-Wright, Christina Park, Melinda Potts, Samantha Powell, Olivia Shrader, Connie Stiles, Ben Swaim, Leia Thomas, & Janice Yahner** "Predictors of Sustained Reading", "Mood and Media Choice", "Family Characteristics and Minor Delinquency in Adolescence", "Smart Technology Use and Performance on Memory Tasks" at the Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) conference in Virginia Beach, VA on April 16-17, 2015; \$900.
- **Kerry Gaffney, Ryan Pruett, & Lauren Gambrell** "The Relationship Between Ambient Temperature and Brain Temperature Implications for the Thermoregulatory Hypothesis of Yawning" at the SYNAPSE conference in Asheville, NC on 3/28/15; \$900.
- **Demitra Bivens & Alyssa Welch** "Why Do We Travel?" at the Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) conference in Virginia Beach, VA on April 15-17, 2015 ; \$600.
- **Alexis Morse & Erik Simmons** "Can a Familiar Roommate Ease the Transition to College?" at the Virginia Psychological Association (VPA) conference in Virginia Beach, VA on April 15-17, 2015; \$600.
- **Rachel Keith, Kristian Ponder, Sancho & Sequeira** "Sleep Deprivation & Voluntary Alcohol in Adolescent Rats" at SYNAPSE in Ashville, NC on March 28, 2015; \$900.
- **Megan Mischinski & Nicole Fox** "Enriching the Peer Advising Experience through Assessment" at NACADA in Richmond, VA on March 18-20, 2015; \$600.
- **Hunter Kelly** "Highlighting the Injunctive Norm to Reduce Phone Related Distracted Driving" at APS (Association for Psychological Science) in New York City, NY on May 21-24, 2015; \$300.
- **Amanda Schultz** "The Effects of In-Class Application Questions on Academic Behaviors" at APS (Association for Psychological Science) in New York, NY on May 21-24, 2015; \$300.