

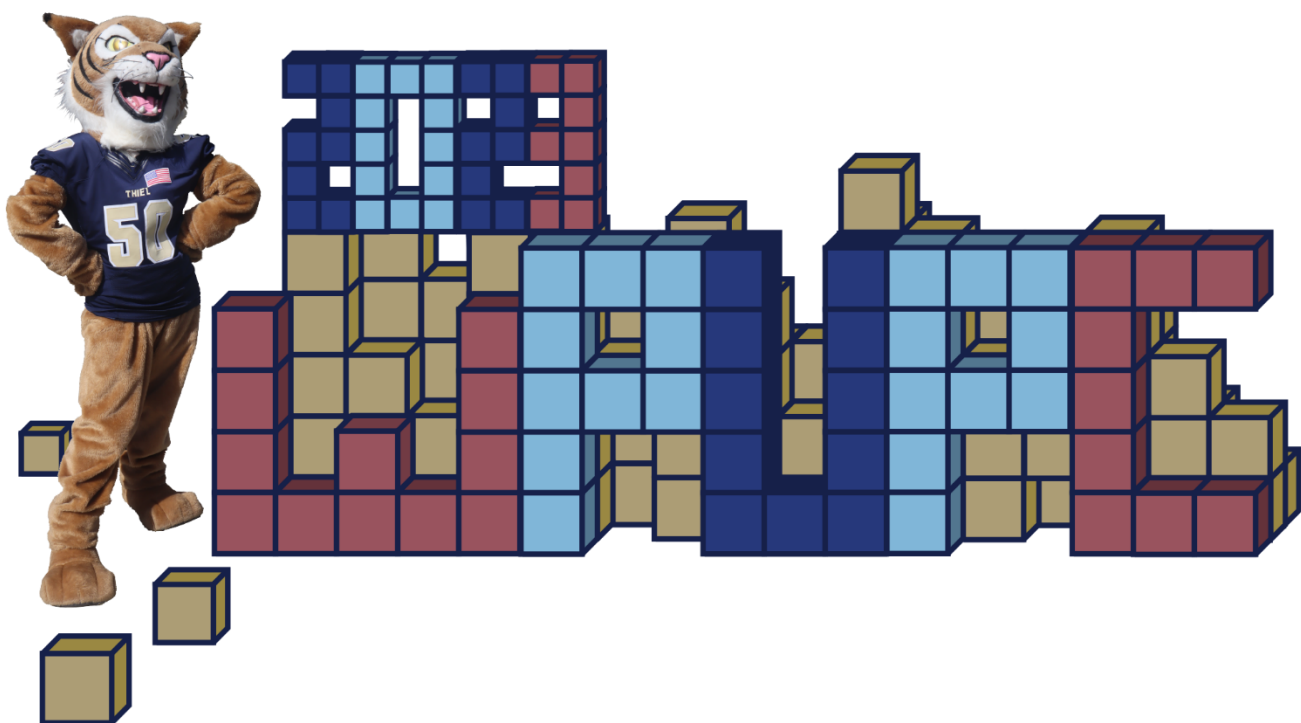
50th ANNUAL

**Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate
Psychology Conference**

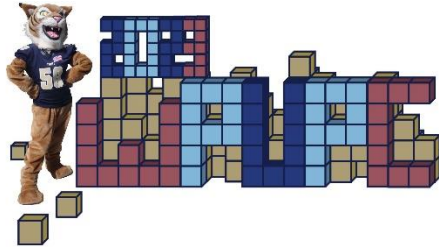
WPUPC 2023



THIEL
COLLEGE



9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 29, 2023



WPUPC Mission Statement

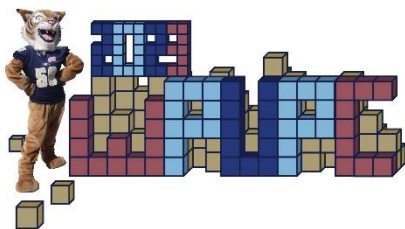
The Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference (WPUPC) is dedicated to providing students opportunities to present research in a supportive, academic environment. This conference allows students to grow as individuals, students, and psychologists while regional institutions maintain strong academic relations.

Welcome

The Thiel College Psychology Department would like to welcome you to the 2023 Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference. We are delighted to be the host for the 50th anniversary of WPUPC! Since 1973, WPUPC has been celebrating the scholarship and creativity of undergraduate students in the field of psychology. We look forward to continuing that strong tradition this year by providing a warm, welcoming, and inclusive space for student researchers to share their passions. We hope you learn from and with each other today. Here's to 50 more great years!

Photo Release

Photos will be taken during this event, which may or may not include your recognizable image. Please be advised, by participating in this event, you agree to allow Thiel College to use the images for promotional and archival purposes. If you do not wish to have us use your image, please notify the photographer or conference chair.



QUICK ACCESS LINKS

Use these links to navigate our digital program...
and thanks for helping us limit our global footprint! 🌍

[Schedule Overview \(p. 4\)](#)

[Poster Sessions – Details with Board Numbers \(p. 5\)](#)

[Oral Session #1 – Detailed Schedule \(p. 9\)](#)

[Oral Session #2 – Detailed Schedule \(p. 10\)](#)

[Oral Session #3 – Detailed Schedule \(p. 11\)](#)

[Keynote Speaker Bio \(p. 12\)](#)

[Poster Abstracts \(p. 13\)](#)

[Oral Session #1 Abstracts \(p. 36\)](#)

[Oral Session #2 Abstracts \(p. 39\)](#)

[Oral Session #3 Abstracts \(p. 42\)](#)

[Campus Map \(p.44\)](#)

[Clicking the  symbol at the bottom of any page *should* return you to this page.]

Schedule Overview*

8:15-9:00 am	Check-In, Continental Breakfast, and Poster Set-Up (Session #1) ❖ Friends of Art Lounge, Bistro Area
9:00-9:15 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Dr. Kristel M. Gallagher, Conference Chair</i> ❖ Lutheran Heritage Room
9:20-9:50 am	Poster Session #1 <i>Order of Posters HERE</i> ❖ Bistro Area
9:50-10:00 am	Oral Session Set-Up and Transition to Oral Sessions ❖ Lutheran Heritage Room, Sawhill-Georgian Room, Weyers
10:00-11:35 am	Concurrent Oral Sessions <i>Detailed Schedule of Presentations HERE</i> ❖ Lutheran Heritage Room (Oral Session #1) ❖ Sawhill-Georgian Room (Oral Session #2) ❖ Weyers Lounge (Oral Session #3)
[11:15am-12:00 pm]	WPUPC Advisory Committee Meeting] ❖ Rudisill Room
11:35-11:45 am	Poster Set-Up (Session #2) and Transition ❖ Bistro Area
11:45 am-12:15 pm	Poster Session #2 <i>Order of Posters HERE</i> ❖ Bistro Area
12:15-2:00 pm	Buffet Lunch and Keynote Address <i>Dr. Jessica L. Hartnett, Associate Professor of Psychology Gannon University</i> <i>Title of Address: Why the World Needs Psychology Majors</i> ❖ Lutheran Heritage Room
2:00 pm	Depart Campus – Safe Travels! ☺

***Conference check-in, meals, and all conference sessions will take place on the main floor of the Howard Miller Student Center (HMSC).**



POSTER SESSION #1

9:20 – 9:50AM

ROOM: BISTRO AREA

(Set-Up Between 8:15-9:00 am; Removal by 11:35 am)

1. **Ally Burrington.** *Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor – Matthew Weaver, Ph.D.*
True crime media and women: Is catharsis the key?
2. **Jade Rhoads.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Disclosing your true self can determine your future: How disclosing a traumatic past can influence your chances of getting accepted into graduate school.
3. **Shannon Donahue, Madeline Smith.** *Slippery Rock University; Faculty Advisor – Beth Ann Rice, Ph.D.*
Conditioned place aversion of ethanol cues in female Japanese quail.
4. **Abigale Regal, Clara Enterline.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Ron Craig, Ph.D.*
The role of body camera evidence in a jury's perception of guilt.
5. **Brianne Coatsworth.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
The association between insecure maternal attachment & violent offenses in adults.
6. **Megan Aaron.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.*
The relationship between athlete attachment style with coaches and disordered eating and body image in division III collegiate athletes.
7. **Morgan Wood.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
The judgement of autistic traits without diagnosis disclosure in roommate applications.
8. **Derrik Wesner, Alexis Bowser.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Gregory Morrow, Ph.D.*
Perceptions of individuals with physical disabilities as romantic partners.
9. **Michaela Brown.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Students, and brand names, and condoms, oh my!
10. **Matthew Gough.** *Penn State Behrend; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski.*
Psychometric properties of Sarcasm Appropriate Use Scale.

11. **Nicholas Guarnieri.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Brain food: Does distracted eating explain weight gain in college students?
12. **Amelia Vasilko, Megan Bertholomey, Jeff Hollerman.** *Allegheny College;*
Faculty Advisor – Megan Bertholomey, Ph.D.
The effects of maternal separation on anxiety-like behaviors in female rats.
13. **Zakaria Wilson.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Keep talking and nobody explodes: The effect of nonverbal cues on collaboration.
14. **Anna-Lise Zimoski, John Wheeler, James Hartley.** *PennWest Edinboro;*
Faculty Advisor – Ron Craig Ph.D.
The influence of expert testimony modality with computer animation displayed in court.
15. **Abigail Wolff.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.*
The lasting impact of childhood dance class: A correlational study of dance class during adolescence and well-being in young adulthood.
16. **Justina Jenkins.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Do taste buds have creative taste?
17. **Anna Kwasnica.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Ryan Pickering, Ph.D.*
Examining correlation between anxiety, depression, and political participation in young adults.
18. **Debonay Joseph.** *Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.*
Exploring the relationship between long-term memory and audio-assisted study.
19. **Kylee Yothers.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Do positive words change minds?
20. **Liam Jones, Marshall Ramos.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor –*
Megan Bertholomey, Ph.D.
The use of ketamine as a potential treatment for PTSD.
21. **Chance Dow.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisors – Wayne Haley, Ph.D. & Gregory Morrow, Ph.D.*
Man enough? The effects of threatened masculinity on self-reported penis size and body image satisfaction.



POSTER SESSION #2

11:45AM – 12:15PM

ROOM: BISTRO AREA

(Set-Up Between 11:35-11:45 am; Removal by 2:00 pm)

1. **Charlotte Allen, Ashleigh Dolan, Emily Mullen.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lydia Eckstein, Ph.D.*
Yoga, meditation, and me: Do (some) relaxation techniques license unethical behavior?
2. **Nicky Graham, Camryn Sankey.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Is beauty in the nose? The effect of sight and scent on attraction.
3. **Aidan Guzma.** *Westminster College; Faculty Advisor – Deanne Buffalari, Ph.D.*
Effect of short-term hormone treatment on the behavioral anxiety response in adult zebrafish when exposed to acute stress.
4. **Sarah Brammell.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Sarah Stanger, Ph.D.*
Parent physical illness during childhood and young adult mental health outcomes.
5. **Paige Long.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
The association between maltreatment in childhood and incarceration for violent crimes in adulthood.
6. **Ela Williams.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Christopher Normile, Ph.D.*
Impact of literature on Allegheny College students perceptions of undocumented immigrants.
7. **Ally Burrington, Riley Boyd, Thomas Palotas, Kaitlyn Morris, Ashton Houppert, Gabriella Hoke, Derek McKay.** *Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor – Derek McKay, Ph.D.*
The relationship between the HEXACO Model of Personality and phonemic verbal fluency: A facet-level examination.
8. **Jordyn Liedike.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Do comments on social media posts effect one's perception of sharing and believability?
9. **Camryn Wood.** *PennWest Clarion; Faculty Advisor – Mark Kilwein, Ph.D.*
A specialty certificate program evaluated with student and key stakeholder feedback.
10. **Sofia Mullenix.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
The association between anxious attachment and marijuana abuse in adults in the United States.

11. **Alexis Pleskovitch.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Sarah Stanger, Ph.D.*
Modification of "scientist": The intersection between physics education and sense of belonging.
12. **Erik Morrow, Corbin Joyce.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Sharon Hamilton, Ph.D.*
Effects of a self-compassion induction on exercise self-efficacy after a recalled exercise setback.
13. **Taiwo Lawal.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Does facial expression affect your mood?
14. **Claire Henderson.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Sarah Stanger, Ph.D.*
The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on first-time parents.
15. **Kathryn Guerrieri, Daija Jackson.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Is your self-esteem based on your health habits and how attractive you are perceived?
16. **Mary Claire Marsh.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Monali Chowdhury, Ph.D.*
The impacts of sexualized content on TikTok on body image and self-esteem.
17. **Shelby Folga, Ally Shields, Gregory Morrow.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.*
"Am I a good catch?" The effects of femininity threat on women's self-perceived value as a romantic partner.
18. **Dara Edwards.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
ADHD and you: How ADHD and diagnoses affect our perceptions of others.
19. **Ella Lunney.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisors – Matthew Venesky, Ph.D. & Ryan Pickering, Ph.D.*
Potential interactions between batrachochytrium dendrobatidis and behavior in plethodon cinereus.
20. **BreAnne Morton, Samuel Petkac.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.*
Not so sexy after all: The impact of a dopamine d1 receptor antagonist on sexual motivation and locomotion in female rats.
21. **Logan Skokowski.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.*
Don't forget your coaches: Coaches' perception of athletic performance.



ORAL SESSION #1

ROOM: LUTHERAN HERITAGE ROOM

Moderator: Dr. Laura Pickens

10:00-10:15 am **Patricia Sarada, Alyssa D'Alessandro, Marcos Mendez**
Waynesburg University; Faculty Advisor – Jenny Jellison, Ph.D.

Does sports-related aggression affect moral choices of college-aged males?

10:20-10:35 am **Sydney Patton, Caitlyn Faust**
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Megan Bertholomey, Ph.D.

The effects of chronic stress, DHED, and sex on spatial memory, and oxidative stress.

10:40-10:55 am **Jessalynn Ellis, Frank Hawbaker, Gregory Morrow, Wayne Hawley**
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.

The effects of masculinity threat on rape myth acceptance and sexual narcissism.

11:00-11:15 am **Gavin Hornyak, Alicia Zotolla**
Waynesburg University; Faculty Advisor – Jenny Jellison, Ph.D.

The relationship between academic motivation and intrinsic vs. Extrinsic religiosity.

11:20-11:35 am **Jasmin Meyer Jaafari**
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Ryan Pickering, Ph.D.

The effects of police violence media on physiological and reported stress in white people.



ORAL SESSION #2

ROOM: SAWHILL-GEORGIAN ROOM

Moderator: Dr. Natalie Homa

10:00-10:15 am **Paige Long**
Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Natalie Homa, Ph.D.

Do trauma informed parents promote better resilience outcomes in their children?

10:20-10:35 am **Abigail Fields**
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.

Sex education in United States high schools and sexual consent attitudes in first-year college students.

10:40-10:55 am **Sophia Sunseri**
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Christopher Normile, Ph.D.

Statistical understanding of undergraduate students.

11:00-11:15 am **Kaylee Tatters, Nicole Atkinson**
Penn State Behrend; Faculty Advisor – Charisse Nixon, Ph.D.

The effects of prosocial media on protective factors.

11:20-11:35 am **Emily Mullen, Courtney Kaufman**
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Monali Chowdhury, Ph.D.

Relationship between FOMO and hooking-up attitudes in college students.



ORAL SESSION #3

ROOM: WEYERS LOUNGE

Moderator: **Dr. Shannon Deets**

10:00-10:15 am **Brianna Yates, Reilly Stufft**
Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

The effects of exercise on academic performance.

10:20-10:35 am **Mei Miyatake**
Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

Relationship between high-risk sexual activity and parenting styles.

10:40-10:55 am **Michael Howard, Michael (Stan) Kinecki**
Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

Exploring the representation of stress through art.

11:00-11:15 am **Andrew Sessamen**
Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

Perceptions of autism.



BUFFET LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Lutheran Heritage Room
12:15-2:00 pm

Dr. Jessica L. Hartnett, Associate Professor of Psychology, Gannon University
Why the World Needs Psychology Majors



We are excited to welcome Jessica (Jess) L. Hartnett, Ph.D. from Gannon University as the 2023 WPUPC keynote speaker! Dr. Hartnett is a fierce advocate of making the teaching of statistics accessible, relevant, and “not awful and boring” to psychology students (see her popular online blog, “[Not Awful and Boring Ideas for Teaching Statistics](#)”). Dr. Hartnett’s passion for the teaching of statistics has led to a variety of invited talks, peer-reviewed and main-stream publications, and book chapters. Dr. Hartnett also studies affective forecasting, the fading affect bias, positive psychology, and research methodology. She has co-authored a book about positive psychology and cognition, titled *Pollyanna’s Revenge*, and excitedly has a statistics textbook forthcoming.



Poster Session Abstracts

Session #1

1. **Ally Burrington.**

Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor – Matthew Weaver, Ph.D.

True crime media and women: Is catharsis the key?

The goals of this study were to find relationships between true crime media consumers, intimate partner violence (IPV), and catharsis in college aged women. This study consisted of n=50 undergraduate students, who each consented to take a survey of true crime interest, a modified Emotional Catharsis Effect on Illness Narratives inventory, and the Trauma History Questionnaire. The main findings of this study found there is a significant correlation ($p=0.043$) between true crime interest and catharsis from true crime media, as well as a significant correlation ($p=0.004$) between IPV trauma and catharsis from true crime media. Implications of these findings show that people who experience IPV find catharsis through true crime media, which can lead to new ways for IPV survivors to cope with their trauma in a healthy manner.

2. **Jade Rhoads.**

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Disclosing your true self can determine your future: How disclosing a traumatic past can influence your chances of getting accepted into graduate school.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether knowing about an individual's traumatic past will influence the decision to accept that student into a graduate program. There has not been much research that addresses personal statements directly, but it has been found that social perceptions are a key component when evaluating others. The current study asked 21 participants to determine how likely it would be for a student to be accepted into a graduate program based on a personal statement. These participants were selected randomly from a list of faculty and staff members at Thiel College. This study had two groups to determine if trauma influenced one's chances of being accepted into graduate school. The first group received a personal statement that had a personal traumatic story, while the second group received a personal statement that had an observed traumatic story. Both groups had the same background information about the perspective student, answered demographic information, and completed the same questionnaire after reading the personal statement. It was hypothesized that students who disclose a personal traumatic story in a personal statement will have different chances of getting accepted into a graduate program than those who do not. The results of this study showed that exposing trauma in a personal statement does not help or hurt one's chances of being accepted into a graduate program. This research is important to students and faculty that are involved with applying to graduate programs because one's personal statement is argued to be the most impactful aspect of the application into a graduate program.

3. **Shannon Donahue, Madeline Smith.**

Slippery Rock University; Faculty Advisor – Beth Ann Rice, Ph.D.

Conditioned place aversion of ethanol cues in female Japanese quail.

Addiction is a deadly epidemic that takes nearly 88,000 lives a year, with less than seven percent of people struggling seeking treatment (Caron Treatment Centers, 2019). Previous literature primarily focuses on physical positioning cues in rodents (Bardo et al., 1995); while the current research focuses on discrete visual cues in female Japanese quail. Additionally, there is limited research with female quail using the conditioned place preference (CPP) method (Gill et al., 2016). The present study aims to use female avian subjects to measure preference of a discrete visual cue paired with ethanol. 19 quail received a drug (ethanol) or placebo (water), alternating for 8 days. Drug and placebo were administered via gavage at 0.75 g/kg per bird. Following the experiment, birds were given free access to either chamber. Preference was measured by beak to discrete visual cue (light) orientation. The current results show that there was not a significant difference between the control and experiment groups' time spent near the alcohol paired light. However, more time was spent at the water paired light, indicating a possible aversion to ethanol. The current results differ from a prior study's result in CPP to cocaine cues (Gill et al., 2016). This study is one of the first steps in developing a visual model of discrete cue CPP using female quail. This has the potential to aid in creating pharmacological and psychological treatments for those who suffer from alcohol use disorders and specifically may be affected by visual cues.

4. **Abigale Regal, Clara Enterline.**

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Ron Craig, Ph.D.

The role of body camera evidence in a jury's perception of guilt.

Many jurisdictions require officer-worn cameras, and the video from these can be presented as evidence in court. Such evidence's role in trial outcomes needs to be better understood. The current study examined officer-worn camera evidence on a jury's decision-making in a DUI case. It was hypothesized that ambiguous body camera footage would diminish the impact of the written police report and result in fewer convictions. Participants read a summary of a DUI case, including a police report; half then viewed video from the officer's camera where the suspect's level of intoxication was not easy to ascertain. All participants gave a verdict and rated various pieces of evidence. Those who saw the video were less likely to vote guiltily and felt the police report to be less accurate.

5. **Brianne Coatsworth.**

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

The association between insecure maternal attachment & violent offenses in adults.

This research study examined two main research questions. The first question was “Is there an association between maternal relationships and criminal activity in adults?”. The second question was “Is there a relationship between insecure maternal attachment and violent offenses in adults?”. These research questions were answered using secondary data analysis of Wave IV of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health dataset. Data was obtained from a nationally representative sample of 5,114 individuals living in all fifty U.S. states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between maternal relationships and criminal activity in adults (the less close an individual was to their mother, the more likely that individual is to be arrested). However, there was not a significant association between maternal attachment and violent offenses. The results also proposed that race acts as a moderating variable in the relationship between maternal relationships and criminal activity in adulthood, as the correlation between maternal relationships and criminal activity was only significant for white respondents. The results of this study suggest that maternal attachment and criminal activity in adulthood are related for white respondents, but more research should be conducted with convicted and/or violent offenders retroactively.

6. **Megan Aaron.**

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.

The relationship between athlete attachment style with coaches and disordered eating and body image in division III collegiate athletes.

This study examined the relationship between the attachment style of the coach-athlete relationship on disordered eating and body image in NCAA Division III collegiate athletes at Allegheny College. The current study aimed to determine an association between the coach-athlete relationship attachment style and disordered eating behaviors and body image dissatisfaction. The researcher hypothesized that those with secure attachment to their coaches will have less disordered eating habits and lower body image dissatisfaction than those with insecure attachment. Participants were student-athletes enrolled at Allegheny College participating in an NCAA sport. The sample size consisted of 16 male and 53 female Division III Allegheny College student athletes. Descriptive Statistics comparing the means and standard deviations of the measures across gender were calculated. Independent sample t-tests were run to compare the mean difference between secure and insecure attachment groups across the disordered eating and body image scores. Bivariate Pearson correlations were run to observe the relationship between the variables at hand. A statistically significant difference between disordered eating behaviors and body image dissatisfaction and secure attachment and disordered eating behaviors and body image dissatisfaction and insecure attachment was found. Athletes with insecure attachment reported more disordered eating and body image dissatisfaction than those with

secure attachment. The current findings are important in establishing prevention and treatment measures for Division III collegiate athletes. Limitations of the present study were the small sample size being drawn from and the lack of research surrounding disordered eating behaviors and body image dissatisfaction in males.

7. **Morgan Wood.**

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

The judgement of autistic traits without diagnosis disclosure in roommate applications.

Multiple studies in the field of bias and perception have shown that the disclosure of an autism diagnosis can change how someone is perceived and judged. Those studies have explored the stigmatization of autism when there is a label to explain stereotypical behaviors. It might be presumed that a person who discloses their diagnosis would be judged more harshly for their behavior. The purpose of this study was to examine how disclosure of a student's autism diagnosis changes perceptions of their personality or character, specifically from a potential roommate. This study examined one main research question: will autism behaviors and diagnosis disclosure change how a possible college roommate views them? The research question was answered using data analysis of an experimental survey that was created to mimic college roommate applications. All participants received a generic control roommate application in addition to one of two experimental applications– either a biography containing autism symptoms or one containing autism symptoms paired with a disclosed diagnosis. Data was obtained from a sample of 53 college students from multiple four-year institutions. The results showed that there was a significant difference in perceptions of trustworthiness, distraction, athleticism, and intelligence variables between the autism diagnosis label and control groups. However, there was not a significant difference in perceptions of intelligence comparing non-disclosed autism diagnosis and control groups. The results of this study suggest that an autism diagnosis disclosure may 'excuse' behaviors when people perceive possible college roommates, but additional research should be conducted that includes more personality variables and with a greater number of participants.

8. **Derrik Wesner, Alexis Bowser.**

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Gregory Morrow, Ph.D.

Perceptions of individuals with physical disabilities as romantic partners.

Our research examines how disabled individuals are perceived as romantic partners. Our previous research found no significant difference in attraction to male targets regardless of disability and greater attraction to a female target with a disability. This study expands on that research by expanding the types of disability of the target and the target's level of adjustment to their disability. The current study is a 4 (shoulder/arm deformity vs. visual impairment vs. hearing impairment vs. no disability) by 2 (high vs. moderate level of

adjustment). We anticipate that disabled individuals will not be perceived to be less desirable romantic partners. Social desirability scores will be examined to determine whether participant's perceptions are influenced by social desirability responding.

9. **Michaela Brown.**

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Students, and brand names, and condoms, oh my!

Throughout the years, Thiel College students have expressed their distrust of less recognizable, or generic, brands of condoms. In line with this, research shows that consumers show a preference for name brand products over generic ones. The purpose of this study was to see if college students preferred name brand condoms over generic brand; I hypothesized that there would be a strong preference for name brand condoms. To test my hypothesis, free supplies of condoms were placed on six dorm floors; three floors were randomly assigned to be given name brand condoms and the remaining three floors were given generic brand condoms. At the end of each day, the number of condoms taken were recorded and the supplies were restocked. In addition, a survey was sent out to the student body that asked about the recognizability of brands of condoms, how likely students were to use them, and whether they preferred name brand over generic brand condoms. The results showed a significant difference between the number of name brand condoms taken compared to generic brand condoms. Students showed a strong preference for name brand condoms, and the survey data supported these results. Future studies should look into whether providing name brand condoms increases the amount of safe sex students are practicing.

10. **Matthew Gough.**

Penn State Behrend; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski.

Psychometric properties of Sarcasm Appropriate Use Scale.

The purpose of the current study was to examine the psychometric properties of a new brief Sarcasm Appropriate Use (SAU) Scale (Blasko, et al., 2021). The Sarcasm Appropriate Use scale (SAU) developed by Blasko, Dawood, and Kazmerski (2021) includes questions regarding when a participant reports that it would be appropriate to use sarcasm in given situations (e.g., with a boss, co-worker, or family member). This scale consists of 13 items on a 7-point Likert scale (1=extremely inappropriate to 6=extremely appropriate). Blasko, et al. (2021) used this scale, a brief Big Five Personality Inventory, the Hofstede Dimensions of Culture scale, and the Sarcasm Self-Report scale in a survey of participants from the US, China, and Mexico (N = 1158). The purpose of the present study was to further validate the SAU scale using factor analysis. We found three factors. Factor 1 was comprised of 5 items related to close relationships that explained 70.9% of the variance

(factors loadings .665 to .897). Factor 2 was comprised of 4 items using sarcasm with moderately close relationships (explained 8.8% of the variance; factors loadings .678 to .853). Factor 3 contained of 4 items representing individuals with distant social relationships (explained 5.0% of the variance; factors loadings -.766 to -.903). A reliability analysis conducted using data from 78.2% of the participants (N = 905) showed the scale to be highly reliable (Cronbach alpha = .966). A correlation with the Hofstede Dimensions of Culture scale showed that the three factors correlated with the Indulgence vs Restraint index, i.e., those who were more restrained reported it less appropriate to use sarcasm.

11. Nicholas Guarnieri.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Brain food: Does distracted eating explain weight gain in college students?

The life of a college student is very busy and on the go. Eating as a college student can be hard, and is often done while working or studying. The purpose of this study was to see if distracted eating while doing homework or studying can be a causal factor in of why college students gain weight while in school. Past research has shown how distracted eating can be harmful to individuals' recollection of what they ate and how much they ate (Oldman-Cooper et. al 2011). Research has also shown that in many studies, college students are obese and overweight due to their lifestyle (Al-Rethaiaa et.al 2010). The current study involved 17 male college students taking a standardized math test while eating a bowl of pretzels. One group of the experiment took the test in a quiet room, while the other took it with classical music in the background. I hypothesized that the group with the added distraction, the background music, would consume more pretzels than the control group (quiet room). The results of the study did not show significant difference in the amount eaten with the increase of distraction, even though the background music group consumed more pretzels while taking the test. This research suggests that distracted eating is not a primary cause of weight gain in college students, but could be a factor to consider. The finding of this study could be used to inform college students on how to prevent unhealthy eating habits

12. Amelia Vasilko, Megan Bertholomey, Jeff Hollerman.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Megan Bertholomey, Ph.D.

The effects of maternal separation on anxiety-like behaviors in female rats.

Stress is something that anyone can experience at any time in their life. However, stress exposure during critical periods of development can have long-lasting effects on affect. With an increase in child neglect and children experiencing stressful situations at younger ages, it is important to determine the long term consequences of early life stress (ELS). In addition, females are more vulnerable to the effects of stress, and women have a greater prevalence of anxiety disorders compared to men; however, females are grossly understudied. To determine the effects of ELS and a subsequent stressor in adolescence on anxiety-like behavior in adulthood, female rats were exposed to maternal separation (MS for 3 hours a day over postnatal day 1-14, and were then exposed to the immunological

stressor, lipopolysaccharide (LPS; 1 mg/kg, i.p.) or vehicle, in adolescence (postnatal day 45), to stimulate a two-hit model for stress. Rats were then tested for anxiety-like behaviors in adulthood using the novelty suppressed feeding (NSF) test. The results of this study showed an increase in anxiety-like behaviors as evidenced by increased latency to approach and eat the food, for those who underwent MS compared to non-separated controls, but no effects of LPS exposure in adolescence. Although the effects of MS were expected, future research should explore how the quantity and timing of secondary stressors, like LPS, would have an effect on anxiety-like behaviors in adulthood.

13. Zakaria Wilson.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Keep talking and nobody explodes: The effect of nonverbal cues on collaboration.

“Welcome to the dangerous and challenging world of bomb defusing. . .” (Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes: Bomb Defusal Manual, 2015). This is the introduction to the manual for the video game Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes, a game focused on effective communication between players to successfully defuse virtual bombs before time runs out. The research question of the current study is to discover if presence-based, nonverbal cues (such as facial expressions and body language) are important to completing collaborative tasks (defusing a bomb) effectively. Previous research suggests a split, with some studies supporting the importance of body language, and others suggesting that it provides no significant advantage whatsoever. Sixteen undergraduate students were recruited for the purposes of the current study. They were asked to complete a survey establishing their familiarity with the task and their demographic information before beginning the bomb defusal game. Eight teams of participants were formed; 4 teams defused the bomb using remote communication (over the phone), while the other 4 sat across from each other. After defusing the bomb, participants’ time remaining in seconds and number of mistakes made while defusing was recorded, as well as the number of additional attempts necessary to achieve defusal. The hypothesis was that remote teams would perform worse on all measures, yet the results show no significant differences between the conditions for all variables. This result suggests that non-verbal communication cues are not important enough to negatively impact collaborative work.

14. Anna-Lise Zimoski, John Wheeler, James Hartley.

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Ron Craig Ph.D.

The influence of expert testimony modality with computer animation displayed in court.

Advances in animation technology are changing how demonstrative evidence is presented in court. Experts can present computer animations to help explain their interpretation of events. However, the use of such animations may bias jurors. The current study focused on the impact of how the expert’s testimony was presented with the animation evidence on decision-making about guilt. A mock trial scenario with animation was generated where the expert’s testimony was presented in either audio or written format. In addition, the side

the expert testified for was also varied. Participants were asked to decide the suspect's guilt along with how influential the different types of evidence were. The data has been collected, and the analyses are underway.

15. Abigail Wolff.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.

The lasting impact of childhood dance class: A correlational study of dance class during adolescence and well-being in young adulthood.

The dance world has many contributing factors that influence a dancer's well-being in terms of their eating habits and body satisfaction. Research has acknowledged that certain factors of the dance classroom could display negative and disempowering effects on experience (Walter et al., 2018; Hancox et al., 2017). Some factors identified are the presence of a mirror, the required uniform, and the teacher's influence on their students (Dantas et al., 2018; Oliver, 2008). The purpose of this study was to analyze specific empowering and disempowering factors of dance class environments during adolescence along with the lasting impacts they may/could have on the eating behaviors and levels of body satisfaction of young adult women. The sample included 30 females who self-reported their dance experience during adolescence. Participants anonymously completed the Eating Attitudes Test (EAT-26) as well as a modified Body Attitudes Questionnaire (BAQ) that investigated their current eating habits and level of body satisfaction. They also completed a research-created Former Dance Experience Questionnaire (FDEQ) which measured the influence of empowering and disempowering classroom factors. Results indicated a significant positive correlation between high levels of disordered eating and high levels of body dissatisfaction, but failed to support the hypothesis that the level of empowerment determined by the dance class environment is related to the eating habits or body satisfaction of former dancers. This study created space for future research surrounding the topic of empowering and disempowering aspects of adolescent dance classes in relation to overall well-being of young women.

16. Justina Jenkins.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Do taste buds have creative taste?

When consumers go shopping for wine, they are presented with many options. What influences their final purchasing decision? This study aimed to determine whether the label on a wine bottle influences taste preferences and the likelihood of it being picked by the consumer. Past research has looked at many factors that might contribute to a final purchasing decision. For example, the presence of the word "family" on the label (McGarry Wolf, 2012) or the information on the back of a label and how that information influences consumers purchasing decisions (Charters, 1999). With all factors considered that brought the research question of does the halo effect influence taste preferences? And does the label of wine effect taste preference? The current study asked 16 undergraduate students, 21 years of age or older, to taste two wines from two different bottles - one with a 'traditional

label’ and the other with a ‘non-traditional label’. Although the labels on the bottles were different, the brand and type of wine was the same. The type used was Cabernet Sauvignon, from the same winery, bought at the same time. As they tasted the wine, they were asked to fill out a wine tasting score card. The score card was used to gauge their enjoyment of the wine, how much they would pay for the bottle of wine, and lastly their overall rating of the wine. Finally, participants were asked to fill out a demographics and wine behavior questionnaire where the last question asked which wine they preferred. Results from the study show no significant difference in if participants had a higher taste preference for the traditional label or non-traditional label.

17. Anna Kwasnica.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Ryan Pickering, Ph.D.

Examining correlation between anxiety, depression, and political participation in young adults.

Political participation is essential to maintaining and developing a strong, robust democracy. However, recent data has found U.S. citizens’ political engagement to be concerningly low, with 18-25 year olds demonstrating the lowest levels of participation. Previous research has suggested a correlation between mental health and political participation, but does not specifically address how anxiety and depression may affect the political involvement of young adults. In this study, we used an internet survey to test the correlation between symptoms of anxiety and depression and political participation in a sample of adults aged 18-25. We used the Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI) to measure participants’ anxiety levels, and the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II) to measure depression levels. A Political Participation Survey was used to assess participants’ political participation across four different areas of focus: participation in elections, engagement with political news media, social media engagement, and political activism. No significant correlation was found between anxiety and political participation or between depression and political participation. The findings of this study demonstrate a need for researchers to continue investigating the relationship between political participation and mental health.

18. Debonay Joseph.

Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

Exploring the relationship between long-term memory and audio-assisted study.

This study explores the relationship between background sounds and long-term memory. Certain kinds of sounds have recently become popular not only for being soothing and relaxing but also for being “focus-inducing”. These include audio such as “white noise” and “nature sounds”. This study uses these examples as a comparison to audio that is considered distracting or attention-grabbing such as “traffic sounds” or “police sirens”. Subjects took a simple memory assessment under one of 5 conditions: silence, white noise,

nature sounds, traffic sounds, and police sirens. The assessment was a 15-item concrete word-list that the participants studied under the effects of a randomized sound condition. They then performed a distractor task (answering demographic questions) so that we can accurately assess their long-term memory. Finally, participants performed a recognition test by indicating the words they previously studied from the word list. I hypothesize that audio such as “white noise” and “nature sounds” will at least be as good as the baseline (silence) scores, but audio such as “traffic sounds” and “police sirens will result in lower scores.

19. Kylee Yothers.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Do positive words change minds?

Many people do not understand compliments. Compliments can be something that we either hear a lot or not that often. Compliments are a way to support a person or give them a sense of acknowledgement for things they can or cannot change. The purpose of this study was to give an insight of how compliments affect others. Past research has shown both positive benefits or no change in a person’s mood after receiving a compliment. The current study had 20 participants fill out a survey, then take a math quiz. After the math quiz, the participants were taken one by one into another room. On the way to that room, half of the participants received a compliment and half did not. All the participants then took a post survey of how they felt and their current mood. The results of this study were not significant; compliments did not necessarily benefit or hurt the participants. Both groups, experimental and control, had similar changes in their mood. One reason for this could be that my experiment had mostly females. Past research shows if women were abused mentally or physically, then when they are older they will not accept a compliment as well. They will simply push it to the side. Future research should include more male participants and ask background questions regarding their homelife. By doing this, it could lead to more explanation regarding the effect of receiving compliments.

20. Liam Jones, Marshall Ramos.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Megan Bertholomey, Ph.D.

The use of ketamine as a potential treatment for PTSD.

Ketamine, a known dissociative anesthetic, has been used for research in the psychiatric field to help fight treatment-resistant depression, with emerging studies focused on its ability to treat PTSD. The focus of this study was to investigate the effect of ketamine on a rodent model in order to determine its effectiveness on avoidance and fear-related behavior. A model of PTSD was induced in all rats by exposing them to an ethologically relevant stressor (predator odor) while playing white noise as a discrete stimulus in the background in one chamber of a conditioned place preference apparatus. To assess the effects of treatment, the rats were injected with 10mg/kg ketamine or vehicle i.p. and then tested at 24 hours and 1 week post-administration. The rats were then assessed for their freezing and avoidance behavior, which represent the presence and severity of PTSD

symptoms. The results showed that the rats treated with the ketamine had a greater average decrease in the number of freezing episodes from day 1 to week 1 post-treatment when both exposed and not exposed to the discrete stimulus. Results also indicate that when exposed to the discrete stimulus, there is a decrease in avoidance in reaction to the contextual stimuli over a week timeframe. These results indicate that ketamine is an effective short-term treatment for PTSD, but to further understand its effectiveness we must investigate a more longitudinal study to see if multiple treatments of ketamine are necessary for the total extinction of PTSD behavior.

21. Chance Dow.

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisors – Wayne Haley, Ph.D. & Gregory Morrow, Ph.D.

Man enough? The effects of threatened masculinity on self-reported penis size and body image satisfaction.

Precarious manhood theory posits that masculinity is a condition that is hard won but easily lost. Previous research shows that when men have their masculinity threatened, they tend to self-report being taller, more muscular, and stronger. Internally, however, masculinity threatened men seem to report greater appearance anxiety, contradicting their external self-reports. Moreover, previous research suggests that the penis embodies male masculinity. However, the effects of threatening masculinity on self-reported penis size remain to be determined. In this study, participants were asked to complete a 30-item Conformity to Masculine Norms Inventory (CMNI-30), which was presented as a personality survey. Through this survey, participants received false feedback regarding their masculinity. Participants were randomly assigned to receive either an affirming masculinity score or a threatening masculinity score. Participants were then asked to answer questions regarding their genital appearance and body image satisfaction.



Session #2

1. Charlotte Allen, Ashleigh Dolan, Emily Mullen.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lydia Eckstein, Ph.D.

Yoga, meditation, and me: Do (some) relaxation techniques license unethical behavior?

Recent research has found that practitioners of yoga and meditation may show an inflated sense of self (Gebauer et al., 2018; Vaughan-Johnston, 2019). We sought to build on these findings by studying the effects of these practices on unethical behavior, reasoning that their virtuous nature may also license dishonesty (Merritt et al., 2010). Across a pilot study

and an experiment we found limited support for this, though more research with bigger sample sizes is needed.

2. **Nicky Graham, Camryn Sankey.**

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Is beauty in the nose? The effect of sight and scent on attraction.

Have you ever wondered what humans base attraction off of? There have been previous studies that have looked at if sense of sight or sense of smell is influential when determining attractiveness of a partner. Our research aims to determine if different sexes rely more on one sensory cues rather than multiple when determining attractiveness. Our study used the t-shirt pheromone test, with 51 participants split between two groups, one using scent and sight together and one separate, to rate attractiveness on a Likert scale. The hypothesis of the study was that the ratings of attraction based on participants' scent and sight together would be significantly different than those who rate attractiveness based on sight and scent separately. The results did not support the hypothesis; there was not a significant effect of sensory cues on attractiveness $t(49) = -.978$, $p = .333$, with the scent and sight together group and separately group having similar mean values. The mean of attractiveness for scent and sight together for shirt and picture two was 3.14 (SD=1.43), while the mean of attractiveness for scent and sight separately was 3.54 (SD=1.48). T-tests of pictures and shirts 1,3,4, and 5 were similar in values and not significant. This information can be used in the real world by knowing not to rely on one sense when determining partner attraction. This will help remind people on dating apps to evaluate their partner fully using all senses rather than just on physical attractiveness.

3. **Aidan Guzma.**

Westminster College; Faculty Advisor – Deanne Buffalari, Ph.D.

Effect of short-term hormone treatment on the behavioral anxiety response in adult zebrafish when exposed to acute stress.

Chronic hormonal treatment may have significant effects on anxiety levels and, as a result, observable behavioral stress responses. Previous literature has suggested hormone treatment may affect psychological structures, shoaling behavior, and development, but no previous literature has focused on the relationship between hormone treatment and anxiety like behaviors. Adult zebrafish were treated with a 25nM concentration of either 17- β estradiol or 11-ketotestosterone then exposed to an acute stressor before observation in the novel tank. The zebrafish were randomly assigned among ten three-liter tanks that housed individual small groups. These small groups consisted of no more than five and no less than three fish. Each fish had the possibility of being assigned to one of three groups: control, 17- β estradiol hormone treatment, and 11-ketotestosterone hormone treatment. To ensure proper hormone concentration was maintained during constant exposure, water was changed out every second day. Temperature ($25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1$) and pH (7.0-7.2) were monitored daily to make sure the environment was consistent. Upon completion of the 14-day treatment period, all zebrafish groups were exposed to an acute stress, net chasing, for a

total of two minutes, then were immediately placed in a novel tank to measure behavioral responses. Responses such as transition time into the upper portion of the tank (latency period), total transitions to the upper tank, total time spent in upper portion of the tank, and number of freezing bouts were recorded. No significant results were found based on analysis of treatment or gender differences in relation to modified behavioral stress responses.

4. **Sarah Brammell.**

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Sarah Stanger, Ph.D.

Parent physical illness during childhood and young adult mental health outcomes.

Many American adults (N = 25,417) live with a chronic, physical health condition (Boersma et al., 2020). There have been many retrospective studies on the impact of parent substance abuse or mental health disorders on children, but there have been few on how parent physical illness may also have a lasting effect. Some studies have pointed towards parent physical illness affecting children and young adults' mental health (Barkmann et al., 2007; Stoeckel & Weissbrod, 2015), with other studies positing that a disruption in parenting may cause more symptomology in children (Armistead et al. 1995; Kallander et al., 2018). The present study explores the correlation between experiences with parent physical illness during childhood and depression, suicidality, and obsessive-compulsive symptoms (OCS) in young adults. No prior studies have explored OCS' correlation to parent physical illness. Symptomologies were assessed using the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D; Radloff, 1977), Adapted Positive and Negative Suicide Ideation Inventory (PANSI; Osman et al., 1998), and the Florida Obsessive-Compulsive Inventory (FOCI; Storch, 2007). The Brief Illness Perception Questionnaire (Brief IPQ; Broadbent et al., 2006) was adapted to be retrospective and reflective of parent illness perceptions to assess the comprehensibility of the illness, emotions regarding the illness, and the cognitive perceptions of the illness. It was hypothesized that more negative experiences with parent illness would correlate with more mental illness symptomologies. The findings of the study were sparse, but indicate a need for more exploration of these variables with more stringent recruitment procedures.

5. **Paige Long.**

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

The association between maltreatment in childhood and incarceration for violent crimes in adulthood.

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between childhood maltreatment and violent criminal behavior in adulthood. In this study, maltreatment was defined using physical and sexual abuse variables. Specifically, I examined age of first abuse experience and frequency of abuse thereafter. Furthermore, violent criminal behavior was defined using variables related to criminal history. Specifically, I examined age of first arrest (pre respondents 18th birthday), frequency of arrests thereafter (post respondents 18th birthday), charge/conviction history (forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault,

manslaughter, and/or murder), and years spent incarcerated (across the life course). The results of this study depicted a significant, positive correlation between maltreatment in childhood and incarceration for violent crimes in adulthood. The sample was obtained through Wave IV of the Adolescent to Adult Health (ADD Health) Data Set. In total, there were 5,114 respondents aged 25-34. Of the respondents, 2,353 identified as male and 2,761 identified as female, with varying racial identities. Responses were measured using a self-report questionnaire method. Data was analyzed using a Chi-Square Test of Independence; which revealed that individuals who experience physical and/or sexual abuse during childhood are more likely to be incarcerated for violent crimes in adulthood compared to those individuals who have not. Gender was examined as a moderating variable, and it did not appear to moderate the relationship. However, it did reveal important gender discrepancies that should be noted. Specifically, it was revealed that men who experience sexual abuse in childhood are three-times more likely to commit violent crimes in adulthood compared to women. Thus, highlighting the sociocultural trend described in the background literature, stating that men exhibit externalizing behaviors, whereas women exhibit internalizing behaviors.

6. **Ela Williams.**

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Christopher Normile, Ph.D.

Impact of literature on Allegheny College students perceptions of undocumented immigrants.

The United States general population's opinions towards undocumented immigrants as well as the politization of feelings regarding undocumented immigration is concerning considering the influx of undocumented Latinx/e immigrants crossing the border into the United States. My study filled a gap in the literature surrounding the impact of narration style and paratextual information on participants' feelings towards undocumented immigrants. Participants in this study filled out a questionnaire that asked them to rate on a 5-point Likert scale the extent to which they agreed with statements intended to measure their feelings towards undocumented immigrants. Participants were then primed with the information that the text they were about to read was fiction or nonfiction before they read a short paragraph about a single Latinx/e adult who is crossing the border without documentation. Following completion of the questionnaire, participants were given a filler task which included questions regarding qualitative information on the participants reading habits and emotions. Finally, participants were asked to answer the questionnaire again and answer demographic questions. This study measured the impacts of different narration styles (first person vs third person vs journalism) and paratextual information (fiction vs nonfiction) on participants' feelings towards undocumented immigrants. The results of this study showed no statistical significance; however, the trend in the influence of narrative style indicated a potential for statistically significant results if there would have been more participants.

7. **Ally Burrington, Riley Boyd, Thomas Palotas, Kaitlyn Morris, Ashton Houppert, Gabriella Hoke, Derek McKay.**

Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor – Derek McKay, Ph.D.

The relationship between the HEXACO Model of Personality and phonemic verbal fluency: A facet-level examination.

Introduction: Personality has been examined in the phonemic verbal fluency (PVF) literature as a contributor to individual differences in PVF ability (e.g., the ability to produce words within a given time period which is thought to tap into executive function and language centers). Much of the literature has solely examined the Five-Factor Model's (FFM; Costa & McCrae, 1987) relationship to PVF. However recent research has revealed support for a six-factor alternative model of personality trait structure known as the HEXACO model (Ashton & Lee, 2007). Palotas, Burrington, Boyd, Hoke, Morris, Houppert, & McKay (2023, April) recently found evidence to suggest the HEXACO model may serve as a better predictor of PVF versus the FFM with Agreeableness showing the strongest correlation and the HEXACO model accounting more variance in PVF than the FFM overall. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine HEXACO's relationship with PVF at the facet-level to gain a better understanding of what may be driving relationships at the domain-level. Methods: Participants were asked to complete a PVF task with a research assistant and to respond to a HEXACO questionnaire. The final sample included 37 college students. Correlations were used to examine facet-level personality traits and PVF. Results: Statistically significant correlations were found between PVF and the following HEXACO facets: Greed Avoidance, Forgiveness, Flexibility, Prudence, and Inquisitiveness. Conclusions: The findings help to expand our understanding of links between personality and PVF by examining facet-level relationships and may have implications for future personality/PVF research and/or clinical implications.

8. Jordyn Liedike.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Do comments on social media posts effect one's perception of sharing and believability?

Did you know that over 4.74 billion people across the world use social media daily? The purpose of this study is to see if the type and amount of comments, positive or negative, on a social media post will affect a person's perception to see if they will share and believe the post. Past research has shown how the strength of the influence of social media and the power of conformity are prevalent in the online world today. The current study included 50 undergraduate students looking at a fake social media post. They then completed a survey asking questions about their perception of the social media post, including whether they would have a "good" impression, value, trust, belief, and a high likelihood to share the social media post. The first group, which consisted of 13 participants, looked only at the fake social media post with no comments or shares. The second group, which had 13 participants, looked at the same social media post but also viewed comments that supported the post. Group three, with 11 participants, looked at the post along with mainly negative

comments. Group four, with 13 participants, looked at the post along with a comment section that contained 50% supportive and 50% negative comments. I hypothesized that the perception of a fake story with more positive comments on social media would be shared and believed more than a fake story with more negative comments. The results showed there was no significant effect of the type of comments on how people value, share, believe, and have a “good” impression of a social media post.

9. **Camryn Wood.**

PennWest Clarion; Faculty Advisor – Mark Kilwein, Ph.D.

A specialty certificate program evaluated with student and key stakeholder feedback.

In 2015, Pennsylvania was number six among the top ten states most impacted by the opioid epidemic. Pennsylvania has taken an educational and patient advocacy approach for professionals to help reduce the effects of opioid and drug use (Pennsylvania priority topic investments, 2022). In 2018 Clarion University (now Pennsylvania Western University, Clarion) started an Opioid Treatment Specialist Certificate Program (OTSCP). The OTSCP is five years old and is facing programmatic change without participant input. To provide a certificate to meet students’ expectations, we created a programmatic evaluation where we surveyed previous and current students. The survey was constructed of demographic questions, Likert-scale questions about the program, and open-ended questions about the program. We also interviewed key stakeholders who helped in the creation of the OTSCP. Survey results and key stakeholder comments regarding the OTSCP are shared in this presentation. Conclusions are drawn from the data suggesting best practices for running such a program. Topics addressed include the role of harm reduction, the changing face of the epidemic, ongoing engagement with alumni and maintaining connections with the community and region. The OTSCP has received support from both participants and stakeholders to remain a specialty certificate for Penn-West Clarion. Ways to build upon the success of the OTSCP are discussed.

10. **Sofia Mullenix.**

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

The association between anxious attachment and marijuana abuse in adults in the United States.

Attachment styles, developed by Bolby and Ainsworth, are used to signify how people see their relationships and themselves (Schindler, 2019). It is known that heroin use is associated with insecure anxious attachment style while alcohol is associated with a mix of attachment styles (Schindler et al., 2009). Attachment styles are used to signify how people see their relationships and themselves. There are four main attachment styles; secure (associated with healthy relationships and perceptions), anxious preoccupied (associated with confusion, uncomfortableness, and anxiety), dismissive avoidant, and fearful avoidant (associated with emotional detachment, hostility, anxiety, and fearfulness). The goal of this research was to examine the relationship between fearful avoidant and anxious preoccupied

attachment styles and marijuana abuse. Learning which type of drugs certain attachment styles use could play a huge role in the therapeutic treatment of addiction and drug abuse and is a valuable tool for understanding how childhood affects adulthood relationships and coping mechanisms. The results showed a significant association between the number of cannabis abuse symptoms and the number of fearful avoidant traits. There was also a significant association between the number of cannabis symptoms and anxious preoccupied traits, although this correlation was weaker. Whether or not participants were told hurtful things before the age of 18 by their parents was tested as a moderating variable with higher levels of fearful avoidant traits being associated with higher numbers of cannabis abuse symptoms for these subgroups.

11. Alexis Pleskovitch.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Sarah Stanger, Ph.D.

Modification of "scientist": The intersection between physics education and sense of belonging.

Women and minorities have been historically underrepresented in physics. This is true in every branch of physics from teachers to students, to the figures spoken about in classes. To combat stereotypes that are currently impacting women and minorities, previous studies have worked to design lessons and interventions centered around sense of belonging, identity, and interest in physics. The present study used a set of interactive lessons centered around diverse voices in physics to teach students in introductory astronomy-based classes about physics concepts as well as women and their discoveries in astrophysics. These lessons were hypothesized to increase sense of belonging, identity with the terms “physicist” and “scientist”, and interest in physics. Paired-sample t-tests were used to look at changes in students’ identity and their sense of belonging. Qualitative analysis was used to find gaps in the quantitative measures and was coded with four major themes in mind: physics content, classroom components, difficulties, and dedication while looking at students’ beliefs about their sense of belonging, identity, and interest in physics. The hypotheses were largely unsupported due to logistical issues with the duration and implementation of the lessons. However, students were able to learn from these lessons and had significant learning gains. This project can be used to better understand how interactive lessons affect students and how the implementation of those lessons can affect student learning. Future directions for this include helping students belong in the scientific community, identify as scientists, and continue to progress in science.

12. Erik Morrow, Corbin Joyce.

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Sharon Hamilton, Ph.D.

Effects of a self-compassion induction on exercise self-efficacy after a recalled exercise setback.

The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of a self-compassion induction on exercise self-efficacy, following the recall of an exercise setback. 190 undergraduate students taking psychology courses at Edinboro University completed the study (75%

female, 22% male). Participants were asked to recall and write about an exercise setback they have experienced and were then randomly assigned to complete either a self-compassion writing induction, or a control writing condition. They also completed the state self-compassion scale (short form) and the exercise efficacy scale to assess their levels of state self-compassion and exercise self-efficacy. Participants also were asked their frequency of exercise. A multiple-regression analysis was performed examining the contributing effects of the condition (Self-Compassion Induction writing versus Control writing conditions), Exercise Frequency and State Self-Compassion Scale to Exercise Self-Efficacy Scores. Self-compassion and writing conditions showed no significant contribution to self-efficacy. However, Exercise Frequency did show a significant contribution to Exercise Self-Efficacy. In addition, an ANOVA showed no significant differences between the Self-Compassion Induction Group ($M= 3.05$ $SD=.69$), and the Writing Control Group ($M=3.06$ $SD=.80$). ($F(1,125)=.008$, $p=.928$). It is possible that a one-time self-compassion induction is not strong enough to improve levels of self-compassion or exercise self-efficacy, meaning self-compassion may require more training to enhance. Results indicating that exercise frequency contributed to exercise self-efficacy is consistent with much previous research indicating that past performance is the strongest determinant of exercise self-efficacy.

13. Taiwo Lawal.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Does facial expression affect your mood?

Facial expression determines the mood. People are quick to insinuate a person's emotion based on their face, but just because you have a facial expression does not mean you feel the way your face says. People often make facial expressions unconsciously. My research question is, does facial expression determine mood? This study aims to see how facial expressions correlate and prove that facial expression determines the mood. Participants in this study were recruited from Thiel College. Participants were divided into four groups: the Duchenne smile group, the non-Duchenne smile group, the straight/neutral face group, and the judges. Except for the judges, the participants were asked to watch one funny and one sad video and to complete a survey. The judges were asked to observe the participants as they watched the videos and rate their facial expressions. The judges were also asked to pretend they were watching a video so the participants would not notice. After everyone watched the video and completed the survey, I examined how the participants' assigned facial expressions affected their mood and reaction toward the videos. I also compared the judges' and participants' surveys to see if the judges correctly guessed the participants' emotions correctly. My Duchenne group found the sad videos much sadder than my straight face and non-Duchenne smile group. My Duchenne smile group found the funny videos much funnier than my straight face and non-Duchenne smile group. The judges did not correctly guess how the participants felt.

14. Claire Henderson.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Sarah Stanger, Ph.D.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on first-time parents.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected first-time parents who had their first child during the pandemic. Postpartum depression (PPD) and anxiety (PPA) can affect parents, estimates suggest 14% and 35% may experience PPD and PPA, respectively (MBA, 2022). PPD/PPA can also affect the parents' child bonding abilities, and the pandemic may have affected both (Hyland et al., 2020). Correlational analyses were conducted to examine relationships between PPD/PPA, bonding, and parent coping. A sample of parents (N = 52, M parent age = 33.6, 75% female, 76.9% White) of 1-3-year-old children (M child age = 1.9, 51.9% male, 67.3% White) in the US were recruited using Amazon Mechanical Turk. The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (Cox et al., 1987) measured PPD symptoms. The Postpartum Specific Anxiety Scale (Adapted; Fallon et al., 2016) measured PPA symptoms. The Responses to Stress -COVID-19 Questionnaire (Conner-Smith et al., 2000) measured parent coping strategies with pandemic stress. The Postpartum Bonding Questionnaire (Brockington et al., 2006) measured bonding difficulties. I hypothesized that parents with more anxious/depressive symptoms would report more bonding difficulty. I also hypothesized that parents who experienced less anxious/depressive symptoms would use more primary/secondary coping strategies, and experience better bonding. PPD/PPA symptoms were significantly associated with greater difficulties with bonding. More PPD/PPA symptoms were associated with greater difficulties with bonding. Implications include the importance of mental health support accessibility, bonding interventions in PPD/PPA treatment, and PPD/PPA symptom assessment beyond the immediate postpartum period.

15. Kathryn Guerrieri, Daija Jackson.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Is your self-esteem based on your health habits and how attractive you are perceived?

Attractiveness is an influential part of our society. How we are perceived plays a very important role in how we feel about ourselves. Our generation has put more pressure on ourselves to be attractive to the preferred sex, likely due to the rise in social media use. The comparison of each other, with the goal of being labeled as attractive, can influence our self-esteem. If people are given statements to read on what is deemed attractive in our society, will their self-esteem be lower compared to people who do not read the same statement? We sent out two surveys to the Thiel College student population. Both surveys conveyed demographic and health questions, but the difference was that one survey contained health tips and the other showed research on what is deemed more attractive to both genders. After reading their given statement, participants took the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. We hypothesized that the participants who received the statement on attractiveness would exhibit lower self-esteem due to dissonance arousal. After data analysis, we concluded that the opposite actually occurred; the participants who received the basic health tips had lower self-esteem. If people are showing lower self-esteem when given health tips, their lifestyles may be an indicator of insecurities. Future research should

conduct both a pre-test and a post-test to measure the self-esteem before the article was read and focused on a specific BMI to see the different results.

16. Mary Claire Marsh.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Monali Chowdhury, Ph.D.

The impacts of sexualized content on TikTok on body image and self-esteem.

This study experimentally investigated the impact of TikTok use on 31 college-aged users' body image and self-esteem. With social media, specifically TikTok, gaining popularity over the years (Jan et al., 2017), many studies have been conducted to see how social media use impacts cognitive and behavioral characteristics of users (Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997; McKinley & Hyde, 1996). Negative social comparison may lead users to "feel inadequate, have poorer self-evaluations, and experience negative affect" (Vogel, 2014, p. 207). This study examined how viewing different kinds of content on TikTok, sexualized and non-sexualized, impacts a viewer's body image and self-esteem using a pre-post test design. The primary hypothesis was that exposure to sexualized content on TikTok will have an effect on a user's view of their body image and self-esteem. The experimental group would have a decrease in positive body image and self-esteem scores compared to those in the control group. Views on body image and current self-esteem were assessed using the OBCS and SSES. Results suggested, not supporting the primary hypothesis, that there was no significant difference between experimental and control groups for both the OBCS ($F(29) = 0.63$, $p = 0.44$) and SSES ($F(29) = 0.48$, $p = 0.50$). Finding no significant differences between the pretest and posttest scores may be due to the fact that participants may already be exposed to and habituated to different types of sexualized content on social media in their daily use, showing no change in their perspectives at the moment of study.

17. Shelby Folga, Ally Shields, Gregory Morrow.

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.

"Am I a good catch?" The effects of femininity threat on women's self-perceived value as a romantic partner.

When masculinity is challenged, some men feel they must reestablish it by providing social proof of their masculinity. Femininity, however, has significantly less research on whether it can be threatened; perhaps due to the perception that femininity is tied to biological processes. The current study takes a direct approach to threatening femininity by providing false feedback that is culturally inconsistent with stereotypic feminine gender identity. To assess potential stress from the feedback, participants rated their level of disagreement with their feedback. In addition, the Mate-Value Inventory was completed to determine whether femininity threat impacted participant's perceptions of themselves as a romantic partner. Results and implications will be discussed.

18. Dara Edwards.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

ADHD and you: How ADHD and diagnoses affect our perceptions of others.

Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder, known better as ADHD, is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders in the world, but those who have it tend to find themselves alienated from the rest of their peers. The purpose of this study was to determine whether an ADHD diagnosis had an influence on our perceptions of the affected individual. Past research shows that children tend to show more avoidant and negative behavior toward those with ADHD, whereas most older adults tend to have a less harsh approach to the individuals. The current study asked 39 undergraduate students to read one of two scenarios and complete a survey containing questions pertaining to their perceptions of the individual mentioned in the scenario. Participants were selected through convenience sampling by going into one of the class sessions held on campus and randomly assigning participants to a scenario. The first group of 19 students was given the neurotypical scenario and the second group, having 20 students, was given the neurodivergent scenario containing stereotypical symptoms of ADHD. The survey included questions regarding their likelihood of establishing friendship, likelihood of engaging in confrontation, as well as the likelihood of becoming frustrated all compiled and calculated appropriately to determine the perceptions of the surveyed students. Research suggests that an ADHD diagnosis has no influence on participants' perceptions of ADHD, nor the individuals afflicted with the disorder. Future research should revise the questionnaire and shift participant-focus from undergraduate students to those who have ADHD and those who work in the medical field. Research should focus on gender biases that may lead to misdiagnosis of ADHD in comparison to other disorders that may exhibit the same symptoms and prevent those from taking unnecessary medication, protect them from harmful behaviors, provide proper mental health counseling, and therefore improve their quality of life and improve their self-esteem.

19. Ella Lunney.

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisors – Matthew Venesky, Ph.D. & Ryan Pickering, Ph.D.

Potential interactions between batrachochytrium dendrobatidis and behavior in plethodon cinereus.

There is a discrepancy with host-pathogen interactions with some behaviors such as sociability increasing even in highly aggressive groups and exploration decreasing when infected with a pathogen. I am specifically interested in how *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) influences the behavior of amphibians. *Plethodon cinereus* is one species of salamander that is known to clear Bd infections, shown to experience slight behavioral changes with limb lifting and a slight drop in body mass. The aggressive behaviors of *P. cinereus* between a non-exposed group and an exposed group over a three week span were examined using the Mirror Test. *P. cinereus* lacks the ability to recognize themselves in a mirror, as such, a mirror can be used to elicit aggressive, sociable, and exploratory behavior between salamanders without introducing another animal into the container. Behavior was shown to be significantly influenced by exposure. Exposed groups

continuously showed high levels of nose taps, a method for the species to pick up chemical cues of their surroundings. Additionally, the exposed and non-exposed groups showed a general increase in flat trunk behavior, a non-exploratory and submissive behavior. The exposed group also showed a decrease in full trunk behavior, an exploratory and aggressive behavior. In conclusion, adequate evidence was collected to support that exposure to Bd had a large effect on decreases in higher energy, exploratory behaviors and increases in lower energy, non-exploratory behaviors within red-backed salamanders. The association between these behaviors and survival in the wild, and the direct mechanism and the actual measurement of energetic expenditure from a more physiological perspective are both future topics to consider when considering the influences of host-pathogen interactions between *P. cinereus* and Bd.

20. BreAnne Morton, Samuel Petkac.

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.

Not so sexy after all: The impact of a dopamine d1 receptor antagonist on sexual motivation and locomotion in female rats.

In both humans and other animals, sexual behavior is associated with a variety of beneficial physical and mental health outcomes. Therefore, it is critical to identify the biological factors that underlie sexual behaviors. The majority of studies to date that have examined the role that dopamine plays in sexual incentive motivation have been conducted with males. In addition, these studies were conducted with drugs that are arguably less selective and that profoundly impacted motor function. In a more recent study, administration of lower doses of a more selective dopaminergic D1 receptor antagonist disrupted the rewarding aspects of sexual behaviors in male rats without impacting locomotion. During mating, female rats also exhibit an increased level of dopamine in brain areas implicated in incentive salience and reward. Therefore, the goal of the current study was to examine the effects of a selective dopamine D1 receptor antagonist on sexual incentive motivation in female rats. In two different experiments, female rats were treated with different doses of SKF83566 and placed inside a maze with an incentive female rat and male rat that were individually sequestered behind a perforated barrier. The percentage of time spent in the vicinity of the male relative to the overall amount of time in the vicinity of both stimulus animals was indicative of sexual incentive motivation. Trials were recorded and analyzed. Results and implications to be discussed.

21. Logan Skokowski.

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.

Don't forget your coaches: Coaches' perception of athletic performance.

Recruitment and coaching have big impacts on students and the environment at any higher education institution. However, most of the research around sports is done on the athletes; therefore, there is very little research done on the coaching side of sports. This study aimed to address whether a coach's perception of an athlete's performance affects their willingness to recruit that student for their team. For my experiment I had 12 coaches and sports practitioners watch a short basketball highlight video. They were then put into one of two groups, the negative outcome group, or the positive outcome group. Following the video they read a fake Instagram post on the outcome of the game, and then fill out a recruitment preference survey. The results of this study found that the outcome of a sporting event does not increase or decrease the likelihood of a player getting recruited. A limitation of this study was the number of participants due to the difficulty of communicating with the coaches. In future studies, it would be interesting to involve more than one institution and see if the results are the same across all institutions or if there are differences based on factors such as division and size of the institution.



Oral Session #1 Abstracts

1. Patricia Sarada, Alyssa D'Alessandro, Marcos Mendez

Waynesburg University; Faculty Advisor – Jenny Jellison, Ph.D.

Does sports-related aggression affect moral choices of college-aged males?

Miu and Szekely (2015) found participants experiencing high negative emotional arousal, such as anger, tended to make deontological responses to moral dilemmas, basing them on rigid rules ('some things are just right/wrong no matter what'), regardless of the social consequences. Further, a study by Sofia and Cruz (2017) suggests that athletes in sports with higher levels of physical contact have a higher tendency to be more aggressive than those who participate in sports with lower levels of contact. Thus, we predicted that those who participate in contact sports would be more susceptible to the effects of anger on moral dilemma responses. We recruited male baseball and football players for participation in our study. Those teams were then each split into two groups. The experimental groups were first asked to recount an event in their athletic career that made them angry, while the control groups were simply asked to recount training procedures of their last practice. Then all four groups were asked to complete a moral dilemma questionnaire. We hypothesized that, regardless of sport, all participants in the experimental groups would respond to the dilemmas with more deontological responses. Additionally, football players would be even more susceptible to this effect. Interestingly, the only significant effect we found was of Sport, with baseball players making more deontological responses. The interaction was not significant.

2. Sydney Patton, Caitlyn Faust

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Megan Bertholomey, Ph.D.

The effects of chronic stress, DHED, and sex on spatial memory, and oxidative stress.

Sex differences are important when looking at certain diseases because some have a higher prevalence in one sex over the other, which can make treatment complicated. Alzheimer's Disease is a neurological disease that is seen more in postmenopausal women. The theory behind that is because after women experience menopause they have extremely low levels of estrogen. Estrogens improve memory and decrease the likelihood of neurons being damaged by oxidative stress because of its antioxidant properties. Due to oxidative stress being a marker of AD on top of amyloid beta and tau proteins, and estrogen's neuroprotective characteristics to decrease these markers, estrogen replacement therapy has been considered for being a treatment. However, it has been found that males and females respond to stress and estrogen differently. Plus, estrogen replacement therapy has its drawbacks. DHED is a drug that increases estradiol without the peripheral effects, but it has not been tested for sex differences. The goal of this experiment was to see what effects sex, stress, and DHED had on spatial memory and oxidative stress. Female rats were ovariectomized while males were given a sham surgery. Rats received two weeks of chronic mild stress then two weeks of DHED treatment. Afterwards spatial memory was tested by the radial arm maze. It was found that there is an interaction between test day, sex, and DHED for working memory and trial time. These findings can be used to further understand estradiol's effects on memory and how it affects males and females differently.

3. Jessalynn Ellis, Frank Hawbaker, Gregory Morrow, Wayne Hawley
PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne Hawley, Ph.D.

The effects of masculinity threat on rape myth acceptance and sexual narcissism.

The number of emergency room visits for sexual assault increased by 1,550% from 2006 to 2019. Therefore, perhaps now more than ever, it is important to identify factors related to sexual assault. Masculinity is a precarious state that is hard-won and easily lost. When masculinity is threatened, men may compensate by adopting more sexist attitudes and engaging in maladaptive behaviors (e.g., increased aggression). The goal of the current study was to examine the extent to which men endorse rape myths and adopt sexually narcissistic attitudes after they experienced a threat to their masculinity. Participants were asked to complete a 30-item Conformity to Masculinity Norms Inventory (CMNI-30) disguised as a personality test. This was used to generate false feedback regarding their masculinity. Participants were randomly assigned to receive either an affirming masculinity score or a threatening masculinity score. After receiving their gender feedback, participants were asked to complete the Rape Myth Acceptance Scale and the Sexual Narcissism Scale, presented randomly. The results of this study will be discussed within the context of precarious manhood and traditional masculine norms.

4. Gavin Hornyak, Alicia Zotolla
Waynesburg University; Faculty Advisor – Jenny Jellison, Ph.D.

The relationship between academic motivation and intrinsic vs. Extrinsic religiosity.

Those who are intrinsically religious focus on the meaning and purpose of life that it brings, while those who are extrinsically religious are drawn to the rituals, practice, and social components (Michaels, Petrino & Zampol, 2020). Biswas and Biswas (2007) found that those who were intrinsically religious (“spiritual”) scored higher on measures of work motivation than those who were extrinsically religious. We sought to examine whether this correlation exists in the academic realm as well. We measured participants’ intrinsic vs extrinsic religiosity, overall religiosity, academic motivation, and GPA. We predicted that intrinsically religious students would have higher academic motivation and GPA’s than students who are extrinsically religious. Our hypothesis was not supported.

5. Jasmin Meyer Jaafari
Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Ryan Pickering, Ph.D.

The effects of police violence media on physiological and reported stress in white people.

Police violence against the Black community in the United States is often protested by social media movements such as #BlackLivesMatter. Investigations into stress responses elicited by exposure to police violence media have shown that White people experience a lack of racial stamina eliciting desensitization. To examine differences in stress response based on the race of police gun violence victims, a between-subjects factorial experimental design was used. In the present study, electrocardiograms and survey measures were utilized to measure stress. The conditions in the

present study used identical social media posts depicting two victims of police gun violence; a White man (Condition 1) and a Black man (Condition 2). Physiological data was collected during three phases of the study; the Baseline, Stressor, and Recovery periods, and survey data was collected during the Baseline and Stressor periods. Two hypotheses were proposed; 1) there will be a significant increase in survey-reported and/or physiological stress measures between the Baseline and Stressor periods, and 2) these significant increases will be lesser in Condition 2 than Condition 1. Results of Paired-Sample T-Tests demonstrated significant differences between the Baseline and Stressor periods for both conditions and in both survey measures. No significance was found between these periods for any physiological ECG features collected. In addition, no significance was found between conditions for any ECG features or survey responses. This study provides insight into the effect of police gun violence media on stress not previously studied and lays the base for continued research into race-based differences in stress responses.



Oral Session #2 Abstracts

1. Paige Long

Thiel College; Faculty Advisor – Natalie Homa, Ph.D.

Do trauma informed parents promote better resilience outcomes in their children?

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between trauma-knowledge and resilience outcomes. Specifically, we investigated whether or not trauma-informed caregivers promote better resilience outcomes in children. Data was collected from a sample of parents/guardians raising biological and/or foster children in the state of Pennsylvania. To distinguish between biological and foster children, caregivers reported in context to their oldest child and/or the child that has been in their care the longest. Using a modified version of the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC-25), we measured resilience outcomes in foster and biological children, as reported by caregiver. It was hypothesized that those children with trauma informed caregivers would score higher on the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC-25) than those without trauma informed training. Furthermore, using a modified version of the Trauma-Coping Self-Efficacy Scale (CSE-T), we assessed caregiver confidence in helping children cope with trauma. With the accumulation of protective factors in mind, it was hypothesized that foster children who have experienced trauma in their lifetime would score higher on the CD-RISC-25 than biological children; even if their parents are trauma informed.

2. Abigail Fields

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.

Sex education in United States high schools and sexual consent attitudes in first-year college students.

Sexual assault continues to be a growing problem in our nation, a specific population that is affected by this is college students. Sexual consent is a very difficult concept to explain with many different aspects like verbal vs nonverbal consent, and gender differences in knowledge on sexual consent. Sex education in the United States is very limited, and oftentimes doesn't include an in-depth analysis on consent, which would affect individuals' opinions or attitude on consent guidelines (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2020). This study aimed to see if there was a correlation between sex education and attitudes towards consent in first year college students. The participants of this study were 21 first-year, Allegheny College students. They took a descriptive and sex education survey to determine if individuals received any sort of sex education and if they did, how in depth it went. This was then used in tandem with the Sexual Consent Survey-Revised Likert scale results to determine if there was a correlation (Brousseau, Humphreys, 2010). There were no significant results found, but limitations posted on the study may have contributed to this. Sexual assault is an issue that must be dealt with and this study is shedding light on potential areas to research, for example, attitudes of sexual consent among college students and sex education provided in high schools. There are further directions this research can be taken in order to add to knowledge and improve sexual education in school aged students.

3. Sophia Sunseri

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Christopher Normile, Ph.D.

Statistical understanding of undergraduate students.

Statistical cognition is the processes, representations, and activities involved in acquiring and using statistical knowledge by looking at: (1) how people acquire/use statistical knowledge, (2) how they should think about statistical concepts, as well as (3) closing the gap between the previous two ideas (Cumming et al., 2008). This paper looked at the connections between statistical cognition, prior knowledge, statistical self-efficacy, major discipline, and gender. Participants were provided with a statistical self-efficacy questionnaire designed to measure their belief in their ability to complete statistical tasks. Participants then completed a statistical cognition survey designed to measure how much knowledge the students have about key statistical concepts. Results revealed no significant difference in statistical cognition across disciplines. Furthermore, their prior knowledge in statistics did not significantly affect statistical cognition scores. However, the gender of the participant did have a statistically significant effect on self-efficacy, in that women had lower self-efficacy scores than men. This information tells us that statistical education across disciplines may be fairly consistent, prior experience does not limit someone's knowledge, and women are suffering from the stereotype threat which leads them to believe they cannot excel in math as well as men can even if their scores reveal otherwise.

4. Kaylee Tatters, Nicole Atkinson

Penn State Behrend; Faculty Advisor – Charisse Nixon, Ph.D.

The effects of prosocial media on protective factors.

The present study was designed to examine the effects of prosocial media on protective factors such as resilience, hope, and empathy. Participants were undergraduate students at Penn State Behrend University, who were 18 and older. The participants were randomly assigned to view a prosocial or neutral media clip. After watching the clips, participants received a survey. The study hypothesized that when participants view prosocial media, their protective factors would increase. The key findings of this study are that prosocial media does affect peoples' hope. Therefore, the earlier hypothesis is partially correct.

5. Emily Mullen, Courtney Kaufman

Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor – Monali Chowdhury, Ph.D.

Relationship between FOMO and hooking-up attitudes in college students.

This study analyzes the relationship between the variable of fear of missing out (FOMO) and hooking-up in emerging adults. FOMO is defined as “a pervasive apprehension that others might be having rewarding experiences from which one is absent” (Przybylski, 2013). College-aged individuals are believed to experience higher levels of FOMO due to increased autonomy in decision-making, greater responsibilities, and increased social opportunities (Milyavskaya, 2018). As FOMO induces a fear of missing out on experiences in the emerging adulthood demographic, there is the potential that individuals may be more open to hooking-up behaviors so as to not miss

out on sexual experiences. 151 college students participated in an online survey for course credit. The sample was predominately white (75%) and female (69%) and was composed mostly of freshman and sophomore students with a mean age of 19.66 years old. Participants were asked to complete the empirically valid, ten-item Fear of Missing Out Scale as well as the College Hooking Up Attitudes Scale (Przybylski, 2013; Fielder & Carey, 2010). The results indicated a significant positive correlation between hooking-up attitudes and FOMO total scores, $r = .28$, $p < .001$. Higher FOMO scores were significantly correlated with more positive attitudes towards hooking-up as a part of college social life. However, there were no significant relationships between FOMO scores and participants' own hooking-up frequency or number of hook-up partners. While the current study explores a new association between FOMO and hooking-up attitudes, more research is needed to understand the variable of FOMO and its behavioral correlates.



Oral Session #3 Abstracts

1. Brianna Yates, Reilly Stufft

Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

The effects of exercise on academic performance.

Numerous studies provide evidence that increasing physical activity improves brain health (Cirillo, 2021; Donofry, et al., 2021). Long term participation in exercise can improve cognitive performance, which helps the brain retain memory and improve function. Basic cognitive functions are related to attention and memory facilitated learning (Alomari, et al., 2021). Physical activity helps promote brain health by improving cardiovascular health, improving blood flow to the brain, reducing inflammation, and lowering stress hormones (de Sousa Fernandes, et al., 2020). While there are many studies that provide evidence for improved memory by utilizing exercise, these studies mostly only include aerobic exercises. The purpose of this study was to determine if exercise (in general) has a direct impact on academic performance. Physical activity and GPA were self-reported. Participants were given self-reported questionnaires that measured intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. We hypothesized that participants who engaged, at minimum, in the CDC recommended guidelines for physical activity (75 minutes of high intensity workouts per week or 150 minutes of moderate intensity workouts per week) (CDC, 2022) will have overall higher academic performance.

2. Mei Miyatake

Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

Relationship between high-risk sexual activity and parenting styles.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 50% of new sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are contracted among young adults who are between the age of 15 to 24 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021). Being diagnosed with STDs can increase the risk of falling ill to major life-threatening diseases (National Library of Medicine, n.d.). In addition, there are numerous studies that report a relationship between poor parenting styles and delinquency in children/ young adults (Erin, 2021; Maughan, 2010). The purpose of this study is to discover the factors that differentiate between people who tend to have high-risk sexual activity and people who do not, based on the parenting styles they were raised with. I conducted an online questionnaire including demographic questions, social desirability scale questions (Crowne & Marlowe, 1960), questions about high-risk sexual activity (Ying et al., 2020), and a childhood nurturing scale based on Seltzer, 2012. I hypothesize that those who score low on the nurturing scales will engage in more high-risk sexual behavior.

3. Michael Howard, Michael (Stan) Kinecki

Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

Exploring the representation of stress through art.

The study examined stress amongst undergraduate college students and the ability to detect stress through visual aid. First-year psychology students were asked to complete a College Undergraduate Stress Scale (Wadsworth Group, 2002) in addition to completing a House Tree Person Test (Buck, 1948). The House Tree Person test was administered to the subjects and was scored for stress using a rater blind to the purpose of the study. We will compare the results of the objective stress scale and the House Tree Person test to see if a relationship between stress exists between the two measures.

4. Andrew Sessamen

Gannon University; Faculty Advisor – Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.

Perceptions of autism.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a chronic, complex neurological disorder present in a growing percentage of the population (Ramsey et al., 2016). The causes and characteristics of ASD are the subject of widespread discussion (Depastas et al., 2022). Given this, what are people's perceptions of people with ASD and its related characteristics? Rather than ask directly how people feel about ASD, the Adult Autism Subthreshold Spectrum (AdAS) questionnaire was modified to inquire about people's feelings towards people who have the specific behaviors and characteristics associated with ASD (although ASD is never mentioned in the questionnaire itself) (Del'Osso et al., 2016). The AdAS uses 160 self-report yes/no questions regarding behavior. However, this was modified to 155 questions using a Likert scale to gauge perceptions on these behaviors. This will allow us to determine how people who possess the characteristics of someone with ASD, without mentioning ASD specifically.



Map of Thiel College Campus



Acknowledgments

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the individuals and departments who made this fabulous event possible!

- ❖ Janet DiBell + AVI Catering
- ❖ Monica Adametz + Special Events
- ❖ Department of Psychology
- ❖ Christopher Casanta – Graphic Designer
- ❖ Psychology Student Workers – Raquel McDonald and Paige Long
- ❖ Dr. Greg Butcher – Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the College
- ❖ Student Volunteers
- ❖ Campus Facilities and Housekeeping
- ❖ Information Technology Staff
- ❖ Public Safety

