51st Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate **Psychology Conference WPUPC 2024**

8:30 AM - 2:30 PM - April 13, 2024



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 Mercyhurst University Psychology Department would like to welcome you to the 2024 Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference. We are excited to be the host for the 51st conference. We hope that your time today is filled with memorable experiences. We are so happy to have you! We would like to thank all individuals and departments at Mercyhurst University who helped to plan and coordinate this event. Thank you!

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 Mercyhurst University 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...
We appreciate you helping us limit our global footprint! (*)
A special thank you to Dr. Kristel Gallagher for allowing us to modify the program used last year!

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Schedule Overview

8:30 – 9:00 am	Check-In and Continental Breakfast ❖ Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center (PAC) Lobby
9:00-9:15 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks Dr. Derek McKay, Conference Chair ❖ Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center (PAC)
9:15-9:30 am	Break/Head to Mercy Heritage Room
9:30-10:00 am	Poster Session #1 * Mercy Heritage Room
10:00-10:30 am	Poster Session #2 Mercy Heritage Room
10:30-10:45 am	Break/Head to PAC
10:45-11:45 am	Keynote Address Dr. David R. Maguire, University of Texas Health Science Center Title: From the beach to biomedical research: One behavioral pharmacologist's journey ❖ Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center (PAC)
11:45-12:45 pm	Head to Grotto Commons in Egan Hall for Lunch
12:45 – 1:15 pm	Poster Session #3 * Mercy Heritage Room
[1:00-1:45 pm	WPUPC Advisory Committee Meeting] ★ CAE – Room 311
1:15 – 1:30 pm	Break/Head to Center for Academic Engagement (CAE)
1:30-2:30 pm	Concurrent Oral Presentations ❖ CAE – Rooms 107, 202, 203, 204 Goodbyes and Safe Travels!

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POSTER SESSION #1 9:30 – 10:00 AM

ROOM: Mercy Heritage Room (Set-Up Between 8:30 –9:30 am; Removal at 10:00 am)

- **1.** Garrett Beebe, Trista Buskirk, Paige Cochran, Hailey DiSanto. Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D. Influence of expectations on visually induced motion sickness.
- **2.** Thomas Palotas, Madelyn Miller, Abigail Paccone, Amber Bizzarro, Kevin Tanner, Quinten Mottice. *Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor Derek McKay, Ph.D., ABPP-CN.* An examination of Honesty-Humility, the Trail Making Test Part B, and the dorsolateral and dorsomedial prefrontal cortices.
- **3. Julia R. Williams, Spencer J. Blumling, Katherine R. Marks.** *Allegheny College: Faculty Advisor Megan L. Bertholomey, Ph.D.* Understanding the effects of stress on ethanol vs. sucrose choice behavior in female rats exposed to ethanol in either adolescence or adulthood.
- **4. Virginia Jeffrey, Autumn Burkett, Jodi Thomas, Cara Della Toffalo.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.* The effect of testosterone and estrogen on sexual reward in male rats.
- 5. Marina Nogueira Zottele, Jenna Bowman, Ana Luiza De Nadai, Brooke Lovell, Dana Battershell, Emma Kraus. *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.* My pace or yours? The effect of testosterone on paced mating in female rats.
- **6. Brooke Edwards, Dana Battershell, Kara Shoemaker.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.* Does increased testosterone impact partner preference in older male rats?
- **7.** Emma Kraus, Brooke Lovell, Jenna Bowman, Dana Battershell, Marina Zottele. *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.* Was the sex hot or not? Determining if sex hormones dictate whether the lack of control over the pace of mating is aversive or rewarding to female rats.
- **8.** Rena Chickos, Joshua Gundlach, Mason Reisz, Livia Schleicher. *Slippery Rock University; Faculty Advisor Beth Ann Rice, Ph.D.* Sign-tracking in female Japanese quail (Coturnix Japonica).

- **9.** Lily Fox. Westminster College; Faculty Advisor Deanna Buffalari, Ph.D. Drink like a fish: The impact of ethanol on social anxiety in Danio Rerio.
- **10. Ahmed Abdoulrazig, Niyah Lucas.** *North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Faculty Advisor Alvin Keyes, Ph.D.* The impact of visually-induced perceptions of racism on physiological states and information processing.
- **11. Abigale Regal, Clara Enterline, Anna-Lise Zimoski, Chantel Wilcox.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Ronald Craig, Ph.D.* Detection of deception over zoom using eye-tracking technology.
- **12. Zakaria Wilson.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.* The sleep study: Snoring, difficulties, and duration.

C

POSTER SESSION #2 10:00 – 10:30 AM

ROOM: Mercy Heritage Room (Set-Up at 10:00 AM; Removal at 10:30 am)

- 1. Caleb Rainbow, Quanah Graham. Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor Dawn Blasko, Ph.D. Do classroom decorations raise mood during testing?
- **2. Kendra Granchi.** *Westminster College; Faculty Advisor Loreen Huffman, Ph.D.* Enhancing workplace productivity and motivation: The role of positive organizational behavior, relationships, and healthy lifestyles.
- **3.** Samantha Jones. *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor Natalie Homa, Ph.D.* Exploring the mediating effect of locus of control and cultural values on the relationship between trauma and resilience.
- **4. Alicia Schackner.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Sharon Hamilton, Ph.D.* An applied behavioral analytic self-management intervention: Increasing daily crocheting habit.
- **5. Frank Hawbaker, Gregory Morrow.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.* That's so hot! Perceived attractiveness that results from giving oral sex or receiving anal sex dictates the likelihood of engaging in the sexual acts.

- **6.** Lacey Sampson. *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Ronald Craig, Ph.D.* Parental proximity and the perception of interrogator coercion.
- 7. Jordan Dickinson, Halle Graham, Reese Dotton, Lindsey Markiewicz, Isabella Cappellano-Sarver. *Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor Seyma Inan, Ph.D.* Evaluating the integrity and credibility of qualitative interviews through a pilot study: International students' perspectives at a U.S. Catholic Liberal Arts College.
- **8.** Lucas Waaland. *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.* The association between paternal incarceration, delinquent behavior, and depression in adults in the United States.
- **9.** Paige Long. *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor Natalie Homa, Ph.D.* The influence of stigma against people who inject drugs on public perceptions of harm reduction policy in Pennsylvania, U.S.
- **10. Jade Bebee.** *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor Monali Chowdhury, Ph.D.* Fear of missing out and romantic relationship quality: A correlational study.
- **11. Allyson Kirby.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Gregory Morrow, Ph.D.* Navigating relationship challenges: The relationship between attachment and of problem-solving strategies.
- **12.** Leia Ross, Marley Sorg, Stephen Dimitriadis. *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Sharon Hamilton, Ph.D.* Sports participation, self-esteem, and androgyny in female college students.

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POSTER SESSION #3 12:45 – 1:15 PM

ROOM: Mercy Heritage Room (Set-Up between 10:30-12:00; Removal by 2:30 pm)

- **1. Julie Anders, Lyssa Linden, Shanna Maleski.** *Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.* Can value affirmation journaling and spatial skill tasks help close the gender gap in STEM fields?
- **2. Alyssa Mooney, Lillian Camp, Amanda Weber.** *Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.* Spiritual bridges: Navigating childhood adversity, coping, and resilience.

- **3.** Madison Banks, Lindsey Moris, Toniyah Russell, Nia Banks. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Faculty Advisor Alvin Keyes, Ph.D. The relationship involving financial trauma and money management in African-American young adults
- **4.** Cameron Corrigan. Westminster College; Faculty Advisor Loreen Huffman, Ph.D. The correlation between adolescent romantic relationships and adulthood dating habits.
- **5. Jennifer Vaughan.** *Westminster College; Faculty Advisor Loreen Huffman, Ph.D.* The role of personality traits on social desirability and the need to belong.
- **6. Jordan Dickinson, Ethan Chadbourne, Madalynn Ward, Thomas Palotas, Julius Becker.** *Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor Derek McKay, Ph.D., ABPP-CN.* The relationship between Emotionality, Neuroticism, and verbal fluency: A facet level examination.
- **7. Brianna Coluzzi, Sophia Mavica, Brandon Sumney.** *Gannon University; Faculty Advisor Luke Rosielle, Ph.D.* Examining campus attitudes.
- **8. Machaela Campbell, Bryanna Archibald, Troy Sheppard.** *North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Faculty Advisor Alvin Keyes, Ph.D.* The perceived role of intentional guidance in the development and maturing of young adults An investigation on a more holistic approach.
- **9.** Leah Ungashick. *Allegheny College; Faculty Advisor Lauren Paulson, Ph.D.* The perceived effect of coaching behaviors on Division III athletes in relation to drinking behaviors.
- **10. Kerryn Borchey, Jemma Bryan, Haobo Zhi.** *Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.* The complexities of sarcasm use: Status, age, country and gender.
- **11. Stephen Dimitriadis, Leia Ross, Marley Sorg.** *PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor Sharon Hamilton, Ph.D.* Inter-collegiate athletes' use of imagery.
- **12. James Cromwell Young.** *Thiel College; Faculty Advisor Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.* Association between parental support, well-being, and feelings toward their parenting.

ORAL SESSION #1 ROOM: CAE 107

Moderator: Lindsey Markiewicz

1:30 – 1:45 pm Garett Beebe, Caitlin R. Lowes.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Steven A. Berg,

Ph.D.

Anchoring and Judgment Bias: The Influence of Source Credibility

on Making Estimations Under Uncertainty

ORAL SESSION #2 ROOM: CAE 202

Moderator:	Dr. Gerry Tobin
1:30 – 1:45 pm	Megan Frank, Emma Snyder Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.
	Effect of partial notes using varying devices on test scores.
1:50 – 2:05 pm	Eli Anderson, John Hammill Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.
	What's funny? A comparison of humor by human and AI comedians.
2:10 – 2:25 pm	Madison Geis, Conner Schnupp, Amy Love. Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.
	Sex differences in body dysmorphic tendencies: mediating role of fitness.

ORAL SESSION #3 ROOM: CAE 203

Moderator: Dr. Seyma Inan

1:30 – 1:45 pm **Hannah Hinterleiter**

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

Perceptions of juvenile school and custodial interrogations.

1:50 - 2:05 pm **Aarati Poudel, Isobel Mathis**

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria

Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Social media's influence on body image.

2:10 – 2:25 pm **Hanna Long, Amanda Welsbacher.**

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria

Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Changes in anxiety levels of college students due to interactions with

virtual and animatronic animals.

ORAL SESSION #4 ROOM: CAE 204

Moderator: Dr. Melissa Heerboth

1:30 − 1:45 pm **Brianne Coatsworth**

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

Care-Recipient Perception of Burden & Adjustment to Relocation

Through the Lens of Attachment Theory.

1:50 -2:05 pm **Emily Eshleman**

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

Verdicts and victim blame: The impact of victim race and sexuality.

2:10 – 2:25 pm **Sophia DiPlacido, Maddie Schafer, Hannah Khamis**

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Potentially distressing content exposure through short form social media.

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center (PAC) 10:45 – 11:45 am

Dr. David R. Maguire, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, University of Texas Health Science Center

Title: From the Beach to Biomedical Research: One Behavioral Pharmacologist's Journey

We are excited to have Dr. Maguire join us at WPUPC and provide his unique insights into substance misuse and abuse through behavioral pharmacology. His grant-funded research evaluates novel pharmacotherapies for relapse to drug use and drug overdose, characterizes abuse- and overdose-related effects of novel drugs and drug mixtures, and examines the impact of repeated exposure to drugs of abuse on choice, decision-making, and impulsivity. Dr. Maguire has published nearly 50 original research papers, reviews, and book chapters.

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POSTER SESSION ABSTRACTS

Session #1

1. Garrett Beebe, Trista Buskirk, Paige Cochran, Hailey DiSanto.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Influence of expectations on visually induced motion sickness.

This study investigated the influence of expectation-oriented factors on Visually Induced Motion Sickness (VIMS) onset. Delving into the dynamics of vection, prediction, and VIMS, this study aimed to uncover how preconceived notions, moods, traits, and anticipations influence one's susceptibility to VIMS. The study employed virtual reality (VR), physiological monitoring, and pre/post-experimental surveys to examine mood, expectations, and VIMS symptoms. The participants were placed into two VR conditions: one where they controlled their movement and one where the researchers controlled their movement. The participants' heart rate was monitored, and they self-reported their current mood and anxiety symptoms, motion sickness symptoms, and their experience with VR. Overall, we proposed that expectations influence one's susceptibility to VIMS onset. Specifically, it was hypothesized that those who do not have control over their movement are more likely to experience the onset of VIMS. We also predicted that mood would influence VIMS onset; for example, individuals who entered the study with anxiety would be more susceptible to VIMS than individuals who entered the study in a neutral state. Finally, we posited that those who began to experience an elevated heart rate while in VR were hypothesized to more likely experience other VIMS symptoms. Results are expected to shed light on the interplay between expectations and VIMS. Ultimately, this study sought to contribute novel insights into VIMS and its dynamics through pre-existing expectations.

2. Thomas Palotas, Madelyn Miller, Abigail Paccone, Amber Bizzarro, Kevin Tanner, Quinten Mottice.

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

An examination of Honesty-Humility, the Trail Making Test Part B, and the dorsolateral and dorsomedial prefrontal cortices.

The dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC) and the dorsomedial prefrontal cortex (DMPFC) have been found to mediate higher cognitive functioning and select personality traits. Moll et al. (2002), Struss et al. (2001), and Muskin et al. (2016) have examined the relation of these anatomical areas to the neuropsychological task of the Trail Making Test (Part B; TMT-B), which is thought to tap into speeded cognitive flexibility. A recent study in personality neuroscience examined the relationship between the HEXACO

model of personality and verbal fluency, which is thought to utilize executive functioning and language areas, finding that HEXACO accounted for a statistically significant amount of variance (22%) in phonemic fluency (Palotas et al., 2023). Additionally, Zheng et al. (2017) discovered that one of the four Honesty-Humility domain facets of HEXACO (Modesty), was associated with a larger volume of regional gray matter in the DMPFC and right DLPFC. The purpose of this study, then, was to examine if higher levels of four H-factor facets (Sincerity, Fairness, Greed-Avoidance, and Modesty) were significantly related to the TMT-B. Fifty-three participants responded to a subset of the HEXACO-200 and complete the TMT-B. Correlations were used to examine the relationship between facet-level personality traits and TMT-B times. A significant correlation was found between the facet of Modesty and TMT-B time (r = .23), but not for the other facets. Results further confirm the findings of Zheng et al. (2017) as noted above. These findings add important information regarding the neuroanatomical functions of personality for future research and application.

3. Julia R. Williams, Spencer J. Blumling, Katherine R. Marks.

Allegheny College: Faculty Advisor – Megan L. Bertholomey, Ph.D.

Understanding the effects of stress on ethanol vs. sucrose choice behavior in female rats exposed to ethanol in either adolescence or adulthood.

Adolescents demonstrate increased vulnerability to stress, leading to greater impulsivity and alcohol-motivated behavior. Exposure to alcohol during adolescence may further predispose continuation of these behaviors in adulthood. However, less is known about this in females. The purpose of this experiment was to investigate the effects of an acute stressor on choice behavior between ethanol and sucrose in rats exposed to ethanol in adolescence or adulthood. Ethanol (20%) consumption was measured via intermittentaccess two-bottle choice (IA2BC) for an initial 2-week period across multiple cohorts (P35-45 in adolescent rats, P65-75 in adult rats) and for another 2-week re-exposure period when adolescents reached adulthood. Using a counterbalanced repeated-measures design, all rats were injected with yohimbine or vehicle 15 minutes prior to limitedaccess two-bottle choice (LA2BC) tests. During these sessions, rats drank from one bottle containing 20% ethanol vs. bottles containing 1, 0.5, and 0.1% sucrose in descending or ascending order for 30 minutes each. Increased ethanol intake following a 6-week deprivation was found during the re-exposure period and in the LA2BC tests, indicating binge-like drinking in all rats, but especially in the adolescent-exposed. Similarly, acute stressor exposure led to increased drinking of all solutions in both ages, though adolescent-exposed rats drank more ethanol under stress conditions than adult-exposed. Adult-exposed rats showed a more consistent increased preference for sucrose across all concentrations, while adolescent-exposed rats showed decreased preference for sucrose as the concentration was reduced. Therefore, ethanol exposure during adolescence increases stress sensitivity and risk of compulsive binge-drinking behavior during adulthood.

4. Virginia Jeffrey, Autumn Burkett, Jodi Thomas, Cara Della Toffalo.

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

The effect of testosterone and estrogen on sexual reward in male rats.

Sexual behavior is rewarding for both males and females of a variety of species. Although yet to be directly tested, previous research suggests testosterone likely contributes to sexual reward in males. Likewise, since testosterone can be converted into estrogen, and estrogen is important for other aspects of sexual behavior in males, it was expected that estrogen would mimic the effects of testosterone on sexual reward in males. In the current study, after training male rats to associate a specific side of a 3-chambered conditioned place preference (CPP) maze with sexual activity, rats were chemically castrated and treated with either oil, testosterone, or estrogen. Males were then placed back into the maze, on 2 separate trials, where they were allowed to freely explore the chamber of the maze associated with sex and the one not associated with sex. A greater amount of time in the chamber associated with sex is indicative of greater sexual reward. Results and implications of the study will be discussed.

5. Marina Nogueira Zottele, Jenna Bowman, Ana Luiza De Nadai, Brooke Lovell, Dana Battershell, Emma Kraus.

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

My pace or yours? The effect of testosterone on paced mating in female rats.

Menopause is characterized by the natural decline in ovarian hormones, and for some undergoing menopause, lower levels of sexual desire. Ovariectomized (OVX) rats were used to simulate aspects of menopause. In paced mating paradigms, a female rat has complete control over the frequency and duration of a sexual interaction. Under these conditions, the female is more likely to escape the male following an intromission or ejaculation. Administration of estrogen to an OVX rat maintains paced-mating and increases sexual motivation and sexual receptivity. Although testosterone seems to enhance sexual outcomes in menopausal women, the effects of testosterone on paced mating remains to be thoroughly evaluated. Therefore, OVX females in this study were administered estrogen, or one of two doses of testosterone, to determine if testosterone mimics the effects of estrogen in OVX rats on paced mating, as well as sexual motivation and receptivity. Results and implications are to be discussed.

6. Brooke Edwards, Dana Battershell, Kara Shoemaker.

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

Does Increased Testosterone Impact Partner Preference in Older Male Rats?

Testosterone is important for many aspects of sexual behavior in male rats. Previous studies have shown that testosterone levels decrease with age, potentially affecting sexual behavior and motivation in older male rats. The purpose of this study was to determine if administering testosterone to older male rats increased their partner preference for

sexually receptive females over sexually non-receptive females. A 3-chambered maze was used where a receptive and non-receptive female were placed in separate incentive chambers, located in the end-chambers of the larger maze, that prohibited contact with the test male. The time the male spent in the direct vicinity (i.e., incentive zone) of the receptive female relative to the non-receptive female was indicative of sexual motivation, while the total number of entries into both incentive zones were indicative of overall activity. To induce sexual receptivity, ovariectomized (OVX) stimulus females were treated with estrogen and progesterone, while non-receptive OVX females were administered a vehicle control. Using a crossover design, the test males were administered either testosterone or a vehicle control prior to testing. Discussion of the results and implication of the findings will be discussed.

7. Emma Kraus, Brooke Lovell, Jenna Bowman, Dana Battershell, Marina Zottele. PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor – Wayne R. Hawley, Ph.D.

Was the sex hot or not? Determining if sex hormones dictate whether the lack of control over the pace of mating is aversive or rewarding to female rats.

Experimental evidence indicates female rats find sexual behavior rewarding when they can control the pace on the sexual interaction. However, studies suggest that sexual behavior is also rewarding when the female cannot control the pace of sex. This study was done to clarify if non-paced mating is either rewarding or aversive for female rats. Research suggests that estrogen plays an important role in the rewarding aspects sex and more recent studies show that androgens, such as testosterone, enhance aspects of female sexual behavior. However, older studies show that the administration of testosterone alone either disrupts the effects of estrogen on sexual behavior or has no effect at all. The second goal of this study was to determine if aversive (or rewarding) aspects of sexual behavior are differentially modulated by testosterone and estrogen. The rewarding or aversive aspects of sexual behavior were assessed using a conditioned place preference/aversion (CPP/A) paradigm in which females were repeatedly trained to associate non-paced sexual behavior with a visually distinct chamber of a 3-chambered maze. If non-paced mating is aversive, then females would spend less time on the side associated with sex, when given the opportunity to explore all 3 chambers. However, spending more time on the side of the maze associated with non-paced sex would indicate the type of sex is actually rewarding. Results and implications of this study will be discussed.

8. Rena Chickos, Joshua Gundlach, Mason Reisz, Livia Schleicher. Slippery Rock University; Faculty Advisor – Beth Ann Rice, Ph.D.

Sign-tracking in female Japanese quail (Coturnix Japonica).

The possibility of drug relapse can be increased due to environmental cues and stimuli that are associated with drug use (Field et al., 2017). The Pavlovian conditioning approach has been previously used to study this behavior by investigating sign-tracking and goal-tracking (Radevski & Rice, 2022). Sign-tracking occurs when the conditioned

response (CR) interacts with a conditioned stimulus (CS). Goal-tracking occurs when the CR focuses on the location of the expected reward. Therefore, sign-tracking, not goal-tracking, is related to maladaptive behaviors, which include drug-taking along with relapse behaviors (Colaizzi et al., 2020). Japanese quail are similar to humans, as they are visually oriented species (Scanes & Dridi, 2022). Similar research has already been performed in male Japanese quail (Rice et al., 2018). This research on female Japanese quail is necessary, because they are visual species, and sex differences that occur during sign-tracking behavior may be relevant. This study aimed to investigate what female Japanese quail learn about a visual cue that is predictive of a reward using a Pavlovian conditioning approach. Seven female quail were utilized in this model. We found that female Japanese quail tend to engage with a CS instead of an expected reward (Sign-tracker). This is important because there is a strong relationship between sign-tracking and drug addiction, and sign-trackers are more vulnerable to relapse due to environmental cues compared to goal-trackers (Morrow & Tomie, 2018).

9. Lily Fox.

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

Drink like a fish: The impact of ethanol on social anxiety in Danio Rerio.

Research on social anxiety is a growing field, especially in the days of modern technology limiting social interactions. Previous research has shown that alcoholism and social anxiety are highly comorbid. Substance abuse is also commonly seen to increase anxiety in general. In my study, I used zebrafish as a model organism to test this theory, since they are a naturally social species. After administering zebrafish 95% ethanol at acute doses (0%, 0.25% and 0.5%), I performed two different tests measuring their anxiety and willingness to participate in social interactions. While I did not see any significant results in general anxiety, it is interesting to look at the averages between the different groups. My results also show distinct differences in social anxiety between the groups. This study gives an insight on how alcohol affects not only zebrafish socially, but it also proposes how alcohol may affect humans in social settings and bring awareness to safe alcohol consumption habits.

10. Ahmed Abdoulrazig, Niyah Lucas.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Faculty Advisor – Alvin Keyes, Ph.D.

The impact of visually-induced perceptions of racism on physiological states and information processing.

The concept of racism continues to be a prominent social issue in the United States, which often induces stress in populations afflicted by the phenomena. The onset of acute racial-based stress which can potentially become a form of chronic stress has negative implications on information processing reaction time, cardiovascular health, mental health, and other physiological functions. In this study, we will explore the effect of short-term exposure to a negative racially-defined stimulus on physiological measures.

Thirty (15 male and 15 female) African American students from a local university, between 18-25 years old, will serve as participants. A convenience sampling approach will be employed. Three physiological measures will be recorded during the investigation. Scalp-recorded event-related potential (ERP) data will be collected via an electrode cap from areas corresponding to the occipital, parietal, anterior cingulate cortex, and frontal cortices. Heart rate variability (HRV) will be measured through the fingertips and under the arms of participants. Galvanic skin response (GSR) measurements will be collected via electrode placement on the fingertips and the palms. A task consisting of timed visual presentations – both negative and positive – will be used to record these various measures. It is predicted that all physiological measures will differ significantly during the presentation of the opposing cues.

11. Abigale Regal, Clara Enterline, Anna-Lise Zimoski, Chantel Wilcox.

PennWest Edinboro; Faculty Advisor - Ronald Craig, Ph.D.

Detection of deception over zoom using eye-tracking technology.

With more virtual interpersonal interactions, the question of the ability to detect deception in these modalities has arisen. Although observer evaluations of gaze as a nonverbal cue of deception have been debunked, more sophisticated computer eye-tracking metrics have been proposed to effectively measure deceit. Measures like pupil dilation and eye movement behavior have been used to differentiate deceptive and truthful responses connected to reading statements and in the context of some types of online interaction. The current study had participants select three out of six simple tasks to complete and were instructed to both lie and tell the truth during a Zoom interview, with eye movement captured via an eye tracker. During the standardized interview via Zoom, the participants claim to have completed all six tasks. Visual behavior during the interview was collected, including eye movement, fixation on facial elements, and pupil dilation. Multiple visual behaviors related to looking at the interviewer's eyes and mouth are analyzed to identify differences based on the veracity of the participant's statement. The results showed that individuals' dwell time on the AOIs was significantly longer for individuals being truthful. Deceptive statements in this study showed an increase in pupil dilation and a decrease in blink count as compared to truthful statements.

12. Zakaria Wilson.

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

The sleep study: Snoring, difficulties, and duration.

This study examined two main research questions. The first question was "Is snoring associated with how long one sleeps on the average night?" The second question was "Is snoring associated with trouble staying asleep?" 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 50 US states in 2008. A self-administered survey

was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between snoring and how long one sleeps on the average night, with less hours of sleep reported by individuals who snore. There was no significant relationship between snoring and trouble staying asleep. Further, a moderation analysis showed that anxiety had an effect on the association between snoring and average time slept. The results of this study suggest that snoring may not be incredibly important for overall sleep quality since even the significant difference of average time slept was less than an hour between those who snore and those who do not. More research should be conducted to better understand how anxiety might play a role.



Session #2

1. Caleb Rainbow, Quanah Graham.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.

Do classroom decorations raise mood during testing?

The setting of academia has been a topic of much research, especially in recent years. Creative classroom settings have been incorporated into various academic environments to improve student mood and lessen stress. In the current study, the researchers took this a step further and examined how the independent variables of classroom environments in three levels of decoration impact two dependent variables of test stress anxiety and academic performance on exams. From the findings in prior research related to stress and testing, the researchers hypothesized that students in the 'highly decorated' classroom condition would experience less stress than students in the 'no decoration' classroom or a 'moderately' decorated classroom setting. Students were separated into three rooms with varying levels of decoration and tested on the same exam. Before and after taking the exam, participants were asked to answer and complete a short survey measuring stress levels. The surveys measured how the decorations in each classroom affected participant stress throughout the exam. The data indicated that there were no statistically significant effects of room condition decoration level on exam scores. Those in the highly decorated classroom showed a more positive mood shift than the no decorated condition and the moderately decorated condition. Key Words: Boring, Stress, Exams, Survey, Grading

2. Kendra Granchi.

Westminster College; Faculty Advisor – Loreen Huffman, Ph.D.

Enhancing workplace productivity and motivation: The role of positive organizational behavior, relationships, and healthy lifestyles.

This research study investigates the multifaceted relationships between positive organizational behavior (POB), workplace relationships, healthy lifestyles, and their

combined impact on employee productivity work productivity and motivation within the context of industrial/organizational psychology. Through surveys and analysis, this study aims to shed light on the factors that can contribute to creating a more productive and motivated workforce. In a sample of faculty staff from several colleges in Pennsylvania and nearby states, data collection examined the impact of POB, workplace relationship quality, and health-related behaviors on measures of productivity and motivation at work. Positive correlations were expected between POB, workplace relationship quality, healthrelated behaviors, and the workplace outcomes of productivity and motivation. This study contributes to the existing literature in industrial/organizational psychology by highlighting the importance of a holistic approach to enhancing workplace performance. By fostering a positive organizational culture, nurturing interpersonal relationships, and promoting health-conscious behaviors, organizations can effectively boost employee motivation and productivity. Understanding these dynamics can offer practical insights for employers and HR professionals seeking to optimize workplace environments. Ultimately, this research underscores the significance of considering not only job-related factors but also employee well-being and positive workplace culture in the pursuit of enhanced productivity and motivation.

3. Samantha Jones.

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

Exploring the mediating effect of locus of control and cultural values on the relationship between trauma and resilience.

This research paper analyzes the correlation that exists between individuals who present traumatic experiences and resiliency levels with a focus on internal and external locus of control as well as collectivistic and individualistic perspectives of these individuals. The goal of this research is to determine if traumatic experiences not only are correlated to resiliency but also if traumatic experiences have a relationship with an individual's locus of control. In addition, there is a focus on collectivistic and individualistic thought processes to find a relationship between how one conceptualizes and moves forward from traumatic experiences and their levels of resiliency. To answer these questions, we created a survey that contains five evidence-based scales and questionnaires pertaining to traumatic experiences, resilience levels, locus of control, and collectivism and individualism. This survey was sent to a convenient sample of adults. Correlation analyses will examine if there is a relationship between trauma, how resilient an individual is, and if locus of control and collectivism and individualism strengthens or weakens this relationship.

4. Alicia Schackner.

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

An applied behavioral analytic self-management intervention: Increasing daily crocheting habit.

An applied behavioral analytic intervention was used to increase the crocheting behavior a university psychology student enrolled in a behavioral modification class. First, a functional analysis of the relevant behaviors was conducted using two methods: an interview and a direct observation of the behaviors. It was determined that crocheting occurred infrequently primarily due to an absence of stimulus control and because it was often followed by wrist pain. Also, a strong competing behavior was scrolling on the social media which was immediately reinforced. Baseline data was collected for three-weeks, and a changing criterion single-subject design was used to evaluate the intervention which included increasing stimulus control and applying a social reinforcer. The changing goal, or criterion for the duration of crocheting was included to address the effect of wrist pain on the behavior. Results are presented for in single-subject line graphs for two response measure: the duration of time spent crocheting and the frequency of rows complete each day. It can be concluded that the behavior changed with the institution of the second criterion, and that there is a moderate level of evidence that the intervention is responsible for the behavior change.

5. Frank Hawbaker, Gregory Morrow.

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

That's so hot! Perceived attractiveness that results from giving oral sex or receiving anal sex dictates the likelihood of engaging in the sexual acts.

Probability discounting tasks have been used to examine aspects of sexual decision-making. For example, probability discounting tasks have been used to determine the extent to which participants indicate a willingness to engage in sex without a condom, as the risk (i.e., STI) associated with engaging in the sexual act decreases. However, the extent to which a sexual act loses its value (i.e., is discounted) as a rewarding outcome associated with engaging in the act becomes less likely remains unknown. Male and female participants were administered two probability discounting tasks (i.e., giving oral sex, receiving anal sex) in a random order and were asked to indicate the likelihood they would engage in those sexual acts as the likelihood their sexual partner would find them as more attractive for engaging in the act decreased. It was expected that participants would discount both giving oral sex and receiving anal sex as the probability their partner would find them more attractive for engaging in the act became less certain. It was also expected that receiving anal sex would be discounted more than giving oral sex. Results and implications of the findings will be discussed.

6. Lacey Sampson.

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

Parental proximity and the perception of interrogator coercion.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estimates that more than 32,000 Juvenile arrests were made in 2020 for violent crimes. However, there is a growing concern juvenile suspects are more likely to falsely confess to a violent crime than their older counterparts. Few states require a parent to be notified, let alone present, during the interrogation of a juvenile. While they are afforded the same Miranda Rights as an adult, they are also less likely to invoke them. One potential source is the developmental differences between the age groups and susceptibility to coercive tactics used during the interrogation process. Some have argued a safeguard may be parental availability during the interrogation. This study examined the influence of mock jurors' attitudes toward the juvenile interrogation process and subsequent confession based on parental proximity. Undergraduate students were asked to participate in reading a mock juvenile interrogation with parental proximity varied. Participants then answer questions about the suspect's guilt, the interrogation process, and the subsequent confession. No significant differences were identified for guilt, accuracy of the confession, or perceived coerciveness based on parental proximity. However, the perception of elements of the coerciveness of the interrogation was correlated with the certainty of guilt and the impact of the confession on decision-making. Thus, supporting the use of video recordings forl juvenile interrogations.

7. Jordan Dickinson, Halle Graham, Reese Dotton, Lindsey Markiewicz, Isabella Cappellano-Sarver.

Mercyhurst University; Faculty Advisor – Seyma Inan, Ph.D.

Evaluating the integrity and credibility of qualitative interviews through a pilot study: International students' perspectives at a U.S. Catholic Liberal Arts College.

This qualitative pilot study analysis explores the use of qualitative interviews within social science research, emphasizing the critical need for data validity and reliability, challenges that are particularly pronounced for researchers new to conducting structured interviews. Conducting a pilot test is a critical step in refining the qualitative data collection process, offering researchers an opportunity to enhance the actual interview based on preliminary findings. This poster outlines the methodology employed in a pilot study aimed at verifying the validity of qualitative data concerning the experiences of international students in a small liberal art college in the USA. Additionally, the poster abstract highlights the significance of pilot testing the interview framework. A semi-structured interview format was chosen for the pilot, conducted with undergraduate students. The outcomes from this pilot test indicate that the chosen interview instrument is effective in capturing the nuanced aspects of the students' experiences.

8. Lucas Waaland.

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

The association between paternal incarceration, delinquent behavior, and depression in adults in the United States.

This study examined two main research questions. The first question was "Is there an association between paternal incarceration and diagnosed depression? "The second question was "Is diagnosed depression associated deviance outcomes?" 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 50 US states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. The results showed that there was a significant relationship between paternal incarceration and depression diagnoses. There was also a significant relationship between a depression diagnosis and delinquent behaviors. However, in a moderation analysis, a depression diagnosis was determined to not be a moderating variable between paternal incarceration and deviant behavior. The results of this study suggest that paternal incarceration is significantly linked with both depression diagnoses and delinquent behaviors. More research should be completed to determine a stronger mediating link from paternal incarceration to delinquent behaviors.

9. Paige Long.

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

The influence of stigma against people who inject drugs on public perceptions of harm reduction policy in Pennsylvania, U.S.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of demographic characteristics on stigmatizing beliefs, as well as the ability to identify with and accept "the other." The other was defined as "people who inject drugs" (PWID). The goal was to examine the influence of such stigma against PWID on public perceptions of harm reduction policy in Pennsylvania. Data was collected via survey from a convenient sample of 113 participants living in Pennsylvania (Mage = 32.67; 72% female; 50% Democrats). Participants completed a modified version of the Bogardus Social Distance Scale, the Perceived Stigma of Substance Abuse Scale, questions about their support for harm reduction interventions, and demographic questions regarding religiosity and political identity. Supporting the initial hypothesis, data revealed that older age, higher religiosity, and higher conservatism were associated with higher levels of stigma against PWID and lower levels of support for harm reduction. Given that previous research shows positive impacts of harm reduction interventions on addiction, future research should examine ways to increase support for these policies in Pennsylvania voters. Examining the influence of informative propaganda could be beneficial—as increasing visibility of the epidemic could inspire people to gain knowledge and challenge their preconceived notions.

10. Jade Bebee.

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

Fear of missing out and romantic relationship quality: A correlational study.

This study explored the correlation between the variables of fear of missing out (FOMO) and perceived quality of romantic relationships in young adults. FOMO, as described by Przybylski (2013), is the pervasive concern that others are experiencing rewarding events while one is absent. A sample of 120 participants were recruited via Amazon Mechanical Turk, with a mean age of 26.56 years (SD=3.48). FOMO levels were assessed using the 10-item Fear of Missing Out Scale (Przybylski, 2013), and relationship quality was measured using the 18-item Perceived Relationship Quality Component Scale (PRQC) developed by Fletcher, Simpson, and Thomas (2000). Results of a Pearson's correlation did not show a significant correlation between FOMO and PRQC totals (r= 0.102; p=0.27). Additional analyses yielded some interesting findings - FOMO and PRQC scores were found to differ significantly based on several demographic variables. For example, participants were found to differ significantly in FOMO total score based on ethnicity (F=14.73, p < .001), employment status (F=2.47, p=0.048), and education level (F=3.87, p=0.006). In addition, participants were found to differ significantly in PRQC total scores based on gender (F=8.08, p < 0.001), education level (F=4.57, p= 0.002), and employment status (F=2.45, p=0.049). Insights into findings and future directions were discussed.

11. Allyson Kirby.

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

Navigating relationship challenges: The relationship between attachment and of problem-solving strategies.

The objective of this study was to examine how individuals with varying attachment styles approach problem-solving in their relationships. Undergraduate students from Pennsylvania Western University participated (N=89). Data collection utilized a LimeSurvey questionnaire, which included the Close Relationships (ECR) questionnaire (Shavers et al, 1998) to assess attachment, and the Interpersonal Behavior Questionnaire (IBQ) (Rusbult et al, 1986) to measure problem-solving strategies. Results indicated that anxious attachment positively correlated with exit, loyalty, and neglect, but negatively correlated with voice. Avoidant attachment was positively correlated with exit and neglect, and negatively correlated with voice. These results suggest that different attachment styles are related to how individuals approach problem-solving in their relationships.

12. Leia Ross, Marley Sorg, Stephen Dimitriadis.

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

Sports participation, self-esteem, and androgyny in female college students.

This study examined the relationships between self-esteem, androgyny, participation in competitive sports in undergraduate women. Bem (Bem, 1974) defined androgyny as scoring high on both the masculinity and femininity subscales of the BEM Sex-Role Inventory. Research has generally found a positive correlation between androgyny and

measures of psychological health and well-being. (Hall, Durborow, & Progen, 1986), and participation in athletics and the development of adaptive physical, social, and psychological attributes (Guastello & Guastello, 2013). The current study hypothesized a positive relationship between self-esteem and athletic participation, and a higher proportion of androgyny for participants with the most experience in competitive athletics. Two-hundred and twenty-two female college students in undergraduate psychology classes completed an online survey that assessed the number of years of participation in competitive athletics, self-esteem using the Rosenburg Self-

Esteem Survey, and sex-role type using the BEM Sex-Role Inventory. No significant correlation between self-esteem and the degree of participation in competitive (r = .064, p < .05). A higher proportion of participants met the criteria for androgyny in the group with twelve or more years of experience in competitive sports compared to all other participants (X2 (1, N = 197) = 8.410, p < .01.)



Session #3

1. **Julie Anders, Lyssa Linden, Shanna Maleski.**Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.

Can value affirmation journaling and spatial skill tasks help close the gender gap in STEM fields?

Imagine being a woman in high school during 1970, a new class is being offered teaching students how to use technology; yet only men are allowed to enroll. History has shown that women have not always been provided the same educational opportunities as men. Previous research shows that men perform better than women on tests of spatial reasoning, specifically, spatial visualization and mental rotation. Even when women demonstrate high academic performance, they may be discouraged from entering STEM fields based on the implicit belief that men will perform better. The current study is designed to bridge the understanding of why the performance differences are there, or not; and to utilize value affirmation journaling as a tool for mitigating stereotype threat. We used a Value Affirmation Intervention (VAI) to investigate the effectiveness of how journaling about personal values can reduce or eliminate stereotype threat in a mental rotation task (MRT). All participants completed a 43-trial mental rotation task (MRT) that measured speed and accuracy. A Navigation Strategy Questionnaire (NSQ) was used as a self-assessment of individual differences in navigation strategies. The dependent variables were speed and accuracy on the mental rotation task. The results were analyzed with a 2(Gender) X 3(Affirmation condition) ANOVA. This analysis showed no significant main effects of gender or value-affirmation intervention on mental rotation task performance. However, the results imply that there may not be enough stereotype

threat among the participants, or a significant gap between genders in STEM fields on the Penn State Behrend campus.

2. Alyssa Mooney, Lillian Camp, Amanda Weber.

Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Spiritual bridges: Navigating childhood adversity, coping, and resilience.

College can bring a change in routine, atmosphere, and everyday experiences. For some, it is an exciting time in their lives. For others, it can be a time of constant hardships and obstacles that feel overwhelming or unachievable. When a person has adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), their overall college education and social involvement can be negatively affected. These experiences may affect coping strategies, causing them to be more destructive than constructive. An online survey was used through Penn State's SONA system and included the Brief COPE Inventory, the Attitudes Related to Spirituality Scale, and the Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire Amended Version. It is anticipated that among those who have experienced ACEs and score high in spirituality will have more constructive coping strategies than those who score low in spirituality. Overall, those who have experienced ACEs will have more destructive coping strategies than those who have not experienced ACEs. If the anticipated results are supported, the data can aid college students by bringing awareness to the benefits of spirituality and supportive resources on campus.

3. Madison Banks, Lindsey Moris, Toniyah Russell, Nia Banks.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Faculty Advisor – Alvin Keyes, Ph.D.

The relationship involving financial trauma and money management in African-American young adults.

The purpose of the study is to explore how perceived financial trauma and financial literacy impact decision-making as it pertains to money management. How we spend money is determined by the lifelong experiences we encounter. Those experiences may consist of trauma from previous generations that trickle into others' lives. By studying locus of control and its relation to childhood experiences, it can be concluded that individuals with more stable socioeconomic backgrounds and who think that they have dominion over their choices, are more likely to make productive decisions and have healthier relationships with money. Study participants from a local university will complete a modified Locus of Control (LOC) scale, a Financial Stressor Inventory Scale (FSIS), and a series of seven information-based money management challenges. The money "earned" will be assessed based on the independent measures mentioned. It is expected that there will be a significant inverse correlation between the amount of dollars accumulated (combined EII and EIS) and the individual's financial trauma score. There will also be a significant positive correlation involving money accumulation and LOC. A

multivariate analysis of variance will serve to illustrate the main and interactive effects of Locus of Control (LOC), gender, method of information delivery, money management options, and reported financial trauma on the amount of money accumulated during the study (a combination of EII and EIS).

4. Cameron Corrigan.

Westminster College; Faculty Advisor – Loreen Huffman, Ph.D.

The correlation between adolescent romantic relationships and adulthood dating habits.

It is often said that one's ability to form close relationships with others is an indicator of overall life happiness. As human beings, we thrive on connection and intimacy, yearning for kinship. The need for comfort and familiarity begins to evolve from birth, as a mother tends to her child (Erikson, 1994). Furthermore, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, a theoretical model referred to as an understanding of human behavior, suggests that we cannot survive without companionship (1943). That being said, in 1969, John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth created the theory of attachment, a framework of thinking that describes a human's desire for a lasting psychological interconnection with another. For my senior Capstone project, I measured the correlation between adolescent romantic relationships and their effect on adulthood dating habits. Particularly, how the likelihood of a significant romantic relationship that occurred before the age of 18 equates to how an individual habitually dates over the age of 18. I hypothesized that there was a positive correlation between adolescent romantic relationships and adult dating habits. In addition to this, I incorporated attachment theory as a mediator, as I also hypothesized that each attachment style will have different associations among adulthood dating habits. To test these hypotheses, people of any dating status from the ages of 18 through 25 were studied. Participants were not limited to just undergraduate students. A survey was created, asking demographic questions, questions about my research, and questions from five scales, set as the standards.

5. Jennifer Vaughan.

Westminster College; Faculty Advisor – Loreen Huffman, Ph.D.

The role of personality traits on social desirability and the need to belong.

This research paper investigates the intricate interplay between personality traits, social desirability, and the human need to belong. Grounded in social psychology and personality theory, the study delves into the profound significance of belongingness as a fundamental human motivation and its implications for individual behavior. The hypotheses posit that individuals with certain personality traits, such as extraversion, lack of direction, and openness to experience, are more susceptible to peer pressure and the desire to belong due to their inherent sociability and openness to new experiences. Conversely, introverted, antagonistic, conscientious, and emotionally stable individuals

may exhibit greater resilience against peer pressure, stemming from their self-assurance and rational decision-making processes. To test these hypotheses, a diverse sample of participants aged 18-25 completed four surveys: the Big Five Inventory, the Need to Belong Survey, a Peer Pressure Questionnaire, and the Marlowe-Crown Social Desirability Scale. These instruments, administered using Likert-scale ratings and true/false responses, aim to capture participants' personality traits, feelings of belongingness, experiences of peer pressure, and tendencies towards social desirability and the need to belong. By examining the complex interactions between personality traits, social desirability, and the need to belong, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of human behavior and its implications for social dynamics, mental health, and educational outcomes. The findings may inform interventions aimed at promoting positive social relationships, fostering resilience against peer pressure, and enhancing individuals' sense of belongingness across diverse settings.

6. Jordan Dickinson, Ethan Chadbourne, Madalynn Ward, Thomas Palotas, Julius Becker.

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

The relationship between Emotionality, Neuroticism, and verbal fluency: A facet level examination.

Personality has been examined in the semantic (SVF) and phonemic (PVF) verbal fluency literature as a contributor to individual differences in fluency ability (e.g., the ability to produce words within a given time period and thought to tap into executive function and language centers). Burrington et al. (2023) examined the HEXACO model of personality's relationship with PVF at the facet level and found several facets were significantly correlated. Interestingly, facets of Emotionality showed a strong relationship to PVF (correlations ranging from -.21 to -.25) but potentially to small sample size, these correlations were not statistically significant. Hence, the purpose of this study was to further examine the relationship between facets of HEXACO Emotionality and PVF/SVF with an increased sample of 62 college students to strengthen/clarify findings. Five-Factor Model Neuroticism, which is conceptually similar to Emotionality, was also examined in relation to PVF/SVF. Participants completed HEXACO/FFM questionnaires and PVF/SVF tasks with a research assistant. Correlations were used to examine the relationship between facet-level personality traits and PVF/SVF. Significant correlations were found between the HEXACO Emotionality facet of Fearfulness and PVF (r = -.27)and SVF (r = -.49) and between the Anxiety facet and PVF (r = -.24). Only the Neuroticism facet of Self-Consciousness was related to either PVF (r = -.27) or SVF (r =-.24). Results suggest that executive/language functioning may be negatively impacted by higher levels of these traits, which may have neuroanatomical underpinnings. Findings help to further understanding of personality in conjunction with future research/clinical studies.

7. Brianna Coluzzi, Sophia Mavica, Brandon Sumney.

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

Examining campus attitudes.

Although the use of service dogs on college campuses has been increasing in recent years, little is known about the perceptions of these service dogs and the people who use them (Ramp et al., 2021). Service dogs are defined by the ADA as "a service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks directly related to the person's disability"(ADA, 2024). Our goal in the current study is to examine the opinions on the use of service dogs on college campuses. Participants completed the Multidimensional Attitudes Scale Toward Persons with Disabilities (MAS) (Findler et al., 2007), the Community Attitudes Towards the Mentally Ill scale (CAMI) (Taylor & Dear, 2017), the Crowne and Marlowe Social Desirability Scale (MC-SDS) (Crowne & Marlowe, 1960), an ad hoc scale we developed to measure participant's knowledge of the federal laws regarding service dogs, and a second ad hoc scale to measure perceptions of service dog use on a college campus. We hope to examine relationships among these scales to develop a more complete understanding of how service dogs and their owners are perceived, what barriers they face, and the source of these barriers.

8. Machaela Campbell, Bryanna Archibald, Troy Sheppard.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Faculty Advisor – Alvin Keves, Ph.D.

The perceived role of intentional guidance in the development and maturing of young adults – An investigation on a more holistic approach.

This investigation aims to reveal individuals' perceptions of a vital community composition and what they experience in their respective tribes. The conflict-centered stage model of Erik Erikson, the pyramidal needs-based model of Abraham Maslow, and the cyclical and holistic model Naim Akbar drive this research. Collectively, these theoretical approaches reveal the comprehensiveness of the human and, thus, call for a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of individuals as they are guided through their individualized growth periods. One hundred participants from a local university and communities within a 100-mile radius of the institution will be solicited. Fifty individuals - 25 males and 25 females - will be enrolled in the institution and seeking no counseling or treatment. The remaining 50, with the same gender group size, will be young adults in a treatment setting. All participants will receive two versions of the Inventory of Modern Human Tribal Experience and Development. The first selfreport reveals what they expect from a tribe. The second will reveal what they experience regarding community intentionality in their development. Independent Samples t-tests will be conducted to test the prediction that differences will emerge due to gender and counseling status. A Pearson correlation analysis will determine if a relationship emerges between the overall responses to the two versions of the inventory.

9. Leah Ungashick.

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

The perceived effect of coaching behaviors on Division III athletes in relation to drinking behaviors.

College-aged students are prone to consuming alcohol more than any other age. In student-athletes, there are other factors that may have an impact on alcohol consumption that other college students do not have. Different coaching styles have different effects on athletes, on and off the court and field. The different styles including; democratic behavior, autocratic behavior, positive feedback, instruction, and social support. The purpose of the present study was to examine the relationship between perceived coaching behaviors and alcohol behaviors among Division III student-athletes, by having N = 39participants complete the Leadership Scale for Sport (LSS) and the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT). The LSS asking questions regarding different coaching styles and the AUDIT asking questions about alcohol consumption and behaviors. There are not many prior studies that investigate this relationship but there is prior research on student-athletes recording greater risk of harmful alcohol-related behaviors. The findings of the LSS and the AUDIT questionnaire suggest there is no correlation in the relationship between perceived coaching behaviors and alcohol behaviors in Division III athletes, denying the initial hypothesis of this study, which was the more an athlete perceived their coach to portray an autocratic coaching behavior, the more harmful their alcoholic behaviors would be. Due to the results of the present study, there is reason to further research into the effect of gender-related and age-related differences between coaching behaviors and alcohol-related behaviors. Keywords: coaching behaviors, harmful alcoholic behaviors, Leadership Scale for Sport, AUDIT questionnaire.

10. Kerryn Borchey, Jemma Bryan, Haobo Zhi.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

The complexities of sarcasm use: Status, age, country and gender.

Sarcasm is a complex form of language where you say one thing but mean another. It can be used in a positive manner, such as in joking or forming social bonds. Many factors influence the usage and acceptance of sarcasm (Katz et al., 2004). For example, men use sarcasm more than females (Blasko et al., 2021). Age also influences sarcasm usage; older individuals have difficulties using cues in understanding sarcastic intent (Phillips et al., 2015). Sarcasm use and perception can vary by country, i.e., patterns of social interactions and behaviors that are shared among groups of people (Blasko et al., 2021). In this study we analyzed part of a large data set. Data were collected from individuals in five countries that varied in terms of cultural variables such as individualism/ collectivism, masculinity, and long-term orientation. We found that the likelihood of using sarcasm varies by situation. Overall, participants were more likely to use sarcasm

in casual (e.g., with friends) than formal (e.g., with a boss) relationships. We confirmed that males were more likely to use sarcasm than females. People in the US, Sweden, and Singapore reported they were more likely to use sarcasm than those in China and Mexico. These findings help us to understand some of the complexities of sarcasm usage. For example, the interpretation of sarcasm can change depending on whether we are speaking with close friends or a boss. People may view sarcasm humorously when speaking with friends, but when heard from a boss it may be hurtful.

11. Stephen Dimitriadis, Leia Ross, Marley Sorg.

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

Inter-collegiate athletes' use of imagery.

The primary purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between competitive trait anxiety and the overall use of imagery. Participants were recruited from all the men's and women's Division II teams at a public university. Thirteen athletes volunteered (seven males and six females) with nine participants completing all the LimeSurvey questionnaires fully. Most participants were 18 to 21 years in age (93.8%). The relationship between competitive trait anxiety, measured by the SAS-2, and overall use of imagery, measured by the SIQ Total Score, was analyzed using a Pearson R Correlation. A significant negative correlation was found between competitive trait anxiety and overall use of imagery. (r= -.817, p < 0.01.) We then examined the relationship between the SAS-2 (competitive trait anxiety) and each of the five types of imagery subscales of SIQ. A significant negative Pearson R correlation was found between the measure of competitive trait anxiety and the Motivation General Mastery (SIQ-MGM) subscale of the SIQ (r= -.710, p < 0.05.). One weakness of this study is the low sample size. However, our results are consistent with what other researchers have demonstrated.

12. James Cromwell Young.

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

Association between parental support, well-being, and feelings toward their parenting.

This study examined two main research questions. The first question was "Is there an association between parental well-being and their feelings about parenting?". The second question was "Is there an association between the strength of parental support systems a parent has and their feelings about parenting?". 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 50 US states in 2008. A self-administered survey was utilized to collect the data. For this study's purposes, only parents were used, making the total 2,579 respondents. The results showed that there was a significant negative relationship between respondents' poor well-being and their feelings about parenting, however the correlation was weak. There was also a significant relationship between a

parent's support from their parents and their feelings toward respondent's own parenting. Further, a moderation analysis showed that gender had no effect on the association between a respondent's closeness to their father and their feelings about parenting. The results of this study suggest that parental well-being and the strength of support systems a parent has are related to how well they feel in their role as a parent. However, more research should be done to analyze the relationship between parental well-being and parental support, to understand if all three variables are interconnected.

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ORAL SESSION ABSTRACTS *Session #1*

1. Garett Beebe, Caitlin R. Lowes.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Steven A. Berg, Ph.D.

Anchoring and Judgment Bias: The Influence of Source Credibility on Making Estimations Under Uncertainty.

The current investigation will examine the nature of cognitive processing in the context of decision-making behavior. The focus of this project will center on the judgment biases resulting from utilization of information that is heuristically accessed from available memory. Classic anchoring effects have demonstrated that people tasked with formulating judgments of frequency in uncertain situations will use any available information sampled from memory as a reference for making their estimations. The specific aim of the present experiment will be to assess whether individuals exhibit patterns of behavior consistent with previous findings pertaining to anchoring effects, shown by corrupted subjective judgments, and to what extent those judgments in the form of numerical value estimations are influenced (if at all) by knowledge of the credibility of the source of the would-be anchor. Will subjects disregard information when there is prior knowledge of low source credibility – or – regardless of this knowledge prior to making their numerical value estimation, will anchoring effects emerge in a similar fashion to instances when the credibility of the source is known to be high? That is, will there be a reduced effect of anchoring (or no detectable anchoring) when the source of the information is known to be less as compared to more credible? Will the pattern of results for high and low anchors look the same for both high and low credibility conditions? Implications which follow from our findings will be considered within the context of the well-established availability heuristic, and any notable effects will be explained by accounting for the previously discovered anchoring phenomenon. A twosystem framework, arranged in the form of a dual-process model that distinguishes intuition from reasoning, will be used to interpret our results. By reflecting on theoretical explanations of anchoring effects, such as selective accessibility and numerical priming, we hope to reveal the influence of source credibility on the process of making numerical value estimations under uncertainty.

Session #2

1. Megan Frank, Emma Snyder

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.

Effect of partial notes using varying devices on test scores.

This study investigates how access to guided note-taking materials via tablets or laptops during lectures affects the learning of undergraduate students. In this study, we investigate how different note-taking materials and devices impact student performance. Based on previous research, it was hypothesized that participants in the iPad condition and the partial notes condition would have the most significant improvement in scoring from posttest to pretest. In addition to this, it was expected to find that those in the partial notes condition would be prompted to write more and use more organizational markings which would also result in higher test scores. To achieve this, forty-three undergraduate volunteers (22 female, 21 male) recruited from a Psych100 class, were divided into groups of 4, shown two lectures and asked to take notes. The 11 groups were divided into two conditions based on note-taking devices: iPad with stylus and typing on a computer. Within each group participants were once again evenly divided into two conditions: Partial notes and no partial notes. Effect of student learning outcomes was found by measuring the difference in pre and post lecture quiz scores for both lectures. The results showed that in this study, there was no statistically significant interaction between note taking device and partial notes availability on quiz score growth. However, there was a statistically significant interaction between organizational notes and quiz score growth.

2. Eli Anderson, John Hammill

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Dawn Blasko, Ph.D.

What's funny? A comparison of humor by human and AI comedians.

This study will dive into differences in perception of humor amongst first-year university students when presented with written jokes originating from the AI program Witscript and human comedians. These jokes are topical and portrayed in the style of Late-Night Television. The jokes range from lighthearted to belittling with survey questions for each focusing on the enjoyment of the joke, the comfortability of the joke, the repeatability of joke, and the likelihood that it was written by a human. For example, "Parts of Disney's Magic Kingdom in Florida were shut down temporarily when a bear was spotted inside. Looks like Disney's Magic Kingdom wasn't quite prepared for the bear necessities." (Witscript) A one to ten scale will be used to discern everyone's perception of the jokes. The Ruch and Heintz short-version sense of humor scale will be presented after rating the jokes. To compare the humor ratings from the survey answers within subjects T-Tests and 2x2 mixed design ANOVAs will be run to compare the data collected from each participant. The data depicts a higher deficit in humor comprehension as one's score on the Ruch and Heintz humor scale elevates, with extraverts having a higher sensitivity to the humor presented. The data collected will depict whether humor must be written by a human to be engaging, if AI can create more humorous jokes than a human, and if there are significant humor perception differences depending on gender, personality type, and score on the Ruch and Heintz sense of humor scale.

3. Madison Geis, Conner Schnupp, Amy Love.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Sex differences in body dysmorphic tendencies: mediating role of fitness.

Body dysmorphia often affects a person's self-worth and body esteem, which can affect their daily functioning. Due to a person's increased exposure to various media, they have more opportunities to engage in social comparison, increasing their chances of having lower body esteem. Previous research denoted a mixed motivation body alteration for both sexes throughout the years: muscularity (increasing muscle mass) or thinness (decreasing body weight). This research will examine differences in body dysmorphia due to their identified sex. It challenges the misconception that males are less likely to experience body dissatisfaction and will examine whether females are motivated to be muscular or thin. It is predicated that sex and scores on the body image avoidance questionnaire (BIAQ) will display the greatest difference in body dysmorphia. It was predicted that males will have lower body esteem scores and higher for a drive for muscularity compared to females. Females will score higher for body esteem scores and lower for muscularity. Overall, these results will be influenced by a participants' relationship with fitness and their body esteem. This study holds importance because it gives a glimpse at how someone's relationship with their body affects how they behave. Conducting this study also allows us to compare our data to those who ran these studies before and see if there have been any socio-cultural changes since the creation of our scales.

Session #3

1. Hannah Hinterleiter

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

Perceptions of juvenile school and custodial interrogations.

Juveniles are more susceptible to coercive interrogation techniques than adults. Most of the tactics, procedures, and methods used on adults in interrogations are implemented within schools in various ways. For example, schools use school resource officers and administrators in questioning of juveniles similar to police. Recent developments have found that these techniques are consequences of school criminalization and the school-to-prison pipeline. The main goal of this study was to examine general perceptions of custodial and school interrogations. This study also examines participants' perceptions regarding parents as an essential safeguard within interrogations. The current study recruited 91 students from Allegheny College a small liberal arts institution, who participated in an online survey. The current study had three hypotheses in total. The first hypothesis was participants are more familiar with custodial interrogations than school interrogations and will view them as more coercive. The second hypothesis was participants will view juvenile protections such as parent's presence as necessary in the custodial condition and not the school condition. The final hypothesis is, that participants

generally viewed juveniles as more guilty within a school versus a custodial setting. Overall, there were no significant findings throughout the four analyses. The results showed that participants viewed the interrogations as coercive and severe. Participants also answered that the juvenile was mainly guilty and that safeguards are important. Future research could benefit from examining this topic further. The current study aimed to aid in the lack of knowledge of school interrogations and people's perceptions and judgments of these interrogations.

2. Aarati Poudel, Isobel Mathis

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Social media's influence on body image.

The impact of social media on body image is a widely discussed topic, particularly among women. A previous study indicated that women are more likely to feel shame than men due to frequent exposure to images of idealized female bodies that are typically characterized by youth, slimness, and whiteness. Rapid evolution of social media platforms in recent times help this study to provide a new perspective. This study aims to explore the negative impacts of social media on body image. All the participants in this study, will be female students, recruited from Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, and range in age from 18 to 30. They will complete an online survey through Penn State Behrend Research Participation Subject Pool (SONA). On the survey, we are using a variety of questionnaires including demographics, Penn State Worry Questionnaire (PSWQ), Body Shape Questionnaire (BSQ-16B), Self-esteem scale, and Social Media Appearance Preoccupation Scale. Using these surveys, we will be able to identify conclusions on the way social media affects women's body image and self-esteem. We hypothesize that women who experience preoccupation with appearance and extensive social media usage will have higher levels in body dissatisfaction and lower self-esteem, compared to women who have a lower social media usage. By studying these aspects, we intend to provide understanding on the fundamental processes that contribute to body dissatisfaction among female college students who use social media.

3. Hanna Long, Amanda Welsbacher.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

Changes in anxiety levels of college students due to interactions with virtual and animatronic animals.

College is a stressful adjustment for many students, especially when their pets are left at home. To address this, emotional support animals have become common on college campuses. However, not all students are able to have a live animal on campus. In this study we sought to determine if interactions with animals, virtual and animatronic pets influence mental health, specifically anxiety levels, of college students. The hypotheses

of this study include (1) college students will exhibit lower levels of anxiety after both the virtual videos of pets and the animatronic pet's interactions, and (2) anxiety levels will show a larger decrease from the interactions with animatronic pets than interactions with the virtual videos of pets. Anxiety levels will be measured before and after each pet interaction using a pulse oximeter, measuring both heart rate and oxygen saturation, and the State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) as a pre and posttest following the interactions. A Univariate Analysis of Covariance indicated significant differences in the STAI score for the first interaction type, F(1,27) = 4.50, p = 0.044, those who interacted with animatronic pets (M = 27.00, SD = 7.44) scored lower on the STAI than those who interacted with video pets (M = 33.08, SD = 7.48). The effect size measured by Cohen's d was d = 0.82, indicating a large effect size. This study's preliminary data demonstrated that animatronic animal therapy is a viable option for pet therapy and reducing anxiety levels in college students.

Session #4

1. Brianne Coatsworth

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

Care-Recipient Perception of Burden & Adjustment to Relocation Through the Lens of Attachment Theory

This research examines the relationship between older adults' self-perception of being a burden as a care-recipient and psychosocial adjustment to a residential living facility. This research study also aims to investigate the impact of adult attachment orientation on the above relationship. This study consisted of n=47 participants recruited from St. Paul's Senior Living Community in Greenville, Pennsylvania, whose residencies varied from independent living to assisted living care to nursing care. A self-administered survey was mailed to participating residents and cumulated by the researchers to collect data regarding adult attachment orientation, self-perception of being a burden as a carerecipient, and psychosocial adjustment to long-term residency. The results supported that there was a significant, negative correlation between older adults' self-perception of being a burden and psychosocial adjustment to a long-term residential facility. Furthermore, results proposed that the dimension of attachment orientation acts as a mediator to this relationship. In other words, an older adult's dimension of relationship anxiety and dimension of closeness has a significant influence on their self-reported psychosocial adjustment to their relocation to a residential living facility, regardless of their self-perception of being a burden. The population of older adults is anticipated to skyrocket in the ensuing decades not just on a national level, but an international level. With this research, gerontologists can better prepare for the boom in residents in longterm care facilities by evaluating factors that could influence quality of care and quality of life.

2. Emily Eshleman

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

Verdicts and victim blame: The impact of victim race and sexuality.

Much of the current literature on the impact of victim identity characteristics on jury decision-making has observed that when victims are Black, sentences are more lenient for defendants in comparison to cases with White victims. Additionally, studies have shown that victim blaming decreases in hate crimes and sentence severity increases. However, there are contrasting results on the impact of victim sexuality on jury decisions, and few studies examine the combined impact of race and sexuality. The current study aimed to bridge this gap using an intersectional approach. Approximately 73 undergraduate students acted as mock-jurors and were presented with a one-page case summary describing a murder in which the race and sexuality of the victim varied across conditions. They were asked to read the transcript, evaluate the culpability of the victim, determine if the crime was hate-based, give a verdict, and rate their confidence in that verdict. No significant impact of race or sexuality of victims on sentence was observed, and victim blaming did not moderate the relationship between victim race or sexuality and sentence. Further, there was no significant difference in sentence severity between those who perceived hate-motivation and those who did not. Future research should investigate the impact of race and sexuality saliency, expand on current variables, and further study the impact of crime severity.

3. Sophia DiPlacido, Maddie Schafer, Hannah Khamis

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; Faculty Advisor – Victoria Kazmerski, Ph.D.

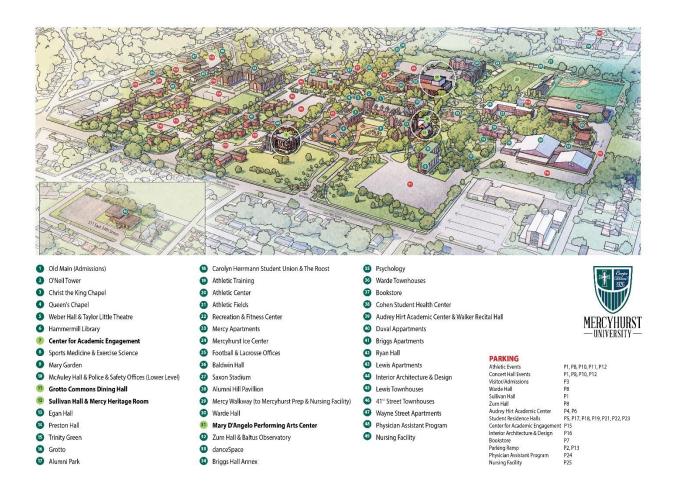
Potentially distressing content exposure through short form social media.

Previous research has explored the impact of social media on its users' wellbeing. However, the constant evolution of social media has allowed for gaps within this area of literature. The present study aims to explore the impact of incidental exposure to potentially distressing content through short-form media on individuals' anxiety and stress levels. The experimental group will be watching a series of short form videos containing distressing media, such as videos of a car accident or wildfire. The control group will be viewing short form videos containing neutral and non-distressing media, such as a car driving normally down the road or a campfire. The State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI-Y) will be used to measure anxiety levels, the Content Based Media Exposure Scale (CM-E) will measure media exposure, and the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire (TEQ) will be used to measure empathy. Stress will be measured using a portion of the APA Stress in America (2023) Survey. It is hypothesized that 1) individuals exposed to potentially distressing content media treatment will report increased levels of anxiety and stress, 2) people who spend more time on social media will report higher levels of distressing media exposure, and 3) that empathy will act as a moderator of the effects of stress and anxiety when viewing distressing media. This

research could help individuals make more informed decisions regarding social media content and could establish a causal link between content media exposure and the experience of stress and anxiety.

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Map of Mercyhurst University Campus



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