

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

68th Semi-Annual Undergraduate

Student Conference

April 21st, 2018

Wilson Auditorium

Schedule at a Glance

8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast & Psi Chi Welcome Table Psi Chi Students: Lauren Jezykcki, Megan McIntyre, Jessica Rodriguez, Jessica Seelinger
8:30 – 8:45 AM	Welcome Remarks <i>Wilson Auditorium</i> Dr. Gary Lewandowski, Chair, Department of Psychology Grey J. Dimenna, Esq., President of Monmouth University Maryam Srouji, Psi Chi Chapter Secretary
8:45 – 10:00 AM	Paper Presentations: Session I <i>Wilson Auditorium</i>
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Poster Presentations: Session I <i>Wilson Lobby</i>
10:30 – 11:45 AM	Paper Presentations: Session II <i>Wilson Auditorium</i>
11:45 – 12:30 PM	Lunch <i>Versailles & Pompeii</i>
12:30 – 1:45 PM	Paper Presentations: Session III <i>Wilson Auditorium</i>
1:45 – 2:15 PM	Poster Presentations: Session II <i>Wilson Lobby</i> Coffee will be available during the session.
2:15 – 3:30 PM	Paper Presentations: Session IV <i>Wilson Auditorium</i>
3:30 PM	Closing Remarks <i>Wilson Auditorium</i> Dr. Christine Hatchard, Department of Psychology

Paper Presentations: Session I

Moderator: Maryam Srouji, Psi Chi

8:45 – 10: 00 AM, Wilson Auditorium

Haley E. Long

Insta-Influence: The Impact of Non-Mutual Instagram Relationships on the Well-being of Women

This study measured a possible correlation between a woman's number of non-mutual Instagram friends and her overall well-being across five domains: social comparison, loneliness, self-esteem, well-being, and satisfaction with life. Ninety-six female students participated in the current study, listing their number of Instagram followers, how many people they were following, and the kind of individuals they were following most (e.g., individuals they did not know, friends, or the same amount of those they knew and those they did not). They subsequently completed surveys assessing their levels on each of the five well-being variables. The researcher hypothesized the higher the number of non-mutual friends a woman has, the higher they would rate social comparison and loneliness, and the lower they would rate their self-esteem, well-being, and life satisfaction. Each of these hypotheses were not supported, revealing a lack of relationship between a women's number of non-mutual Instagram friends and her overall well-being.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Richard Felicetti

Single Parent Adoption: The Effect of Gender and Sexual Orientation on Perceived Parental Competency

The present study examined biases about parenting abilities that may exist toward prospective single parents based upon gender and sexual orientation. Undergraduate student participants ($N = 104$) were randomly assigned to one of four conditions and asked to read a vignette describing a single person applying to adopt a child, with profiles differing only by the individual's gender and sexual orientation (heterosexual male, gay male, heterosexual female, gay female).

Participants then completed a Modified Epstein Parenting Competencies Scale in which they rated the parenting capabilities of the single person across three core elements of parenting, including: care (meeting the child's needs and protecting the child from avoidable harm), control (setting and enforcing appropriate boundaries), and development (realizing the child's potential and nurturing personal growth). A two-way factorial analysis of variance (ANOVA) found significant main effects for sexual orientation regarding overall parenting competency ($F(1, 100) = 5.33, p = .023$), control ($F(1, 100) = 6.05, p = .016$), and development ($F(1, 100) = 8.19, p = .005$), with gay individuals being rated as significantly more competent than their heterosexual counterparts. There were no significant main effects for gender and no significant interaction effects. These results suggest that the perceptions of gay parents have improved over time, and that these positive perceptions are consistent with prevailing research that confirms the competency of gay parents and the healthy outcomes of their children.

Mentor: Dr. Christine Hatchard

Kristi N. Miceli

Factors Influencing Academic Self-Efficacy in College Students

This study explored the factors that influence academic self-efficacy in college students. Academic self-efficacy is an individual's belief that he/she can successfully complete an academic task or accomplish a specific academic goal. A sample of 104 college students (15 males, 89 females) completed questionnaires assessing their general self-efficacy, academic self-efficacy, and professor support. Demographic information was collected about the participants' ethnic background, first-generation college student status, parents' educational background, and school of study. It was hypothesized that higher levels of general self-efficacy would be related to higher levels of academic self-efficacy. It was also predicted that first-generation students would have lower academic self-efficacy than non-first-generation students. A Pearson r correlation analysis revealed a significant positive relationship between general self-efficacy and academic self-efficacy ($p < .01$), as hypothesized. Contrary to the hypothesis, an independent samples t-test found no difference in academic self-efficacy between first-generation and non-first-generation students. In the future, research on academic self-efficacy should focus on interventions to increase students' confidence in their academic abilities.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Cassondra Giarrusso and Gerard Longo

Bringing Psychology to Life at Six Flags Safari: How the Animal Behavior Field Experience Course Enriches Student Education

The Animal Behavior Internship and Field Experience course, co-taught by Dr. Mehrkam and Six Flags animal trainers, is a one-of-a-kind learning experience for a select twelve Monmouth University psychology majors each Spring. This course allows students to observe first-hand how animals are trained using psychological principles in a hands-on learning environment. This semester's students were able to observe demonstrations with giraffes, elephants, parrots, coatis, and rhinos – just to name a few! Students also get direct, personalized feedback on their resumes, an opportunity to give an interactive oral presentation about an animal species on stage, and receive interactive educational experiences thanks to the expertise of trainers and other animal care professionals at Six Flags. Students have the unique privilege of designing a scientifically sound but novel enrichment strategy for a particular animal species at Six Flags, which they proposed to evaluate in a formal research proposal. This semester, Six Flags chosen three enrichment proposals to implement before the end of the course. Each student also conducted an interview with an animal behavior professional of their choice – ranging from dog trainers to university professors to elephant scientists at Disney's Animal Kingdom - allowing them to network directly with a professional related to their career interests and to further explore the breadth of animal behavior occupations. The class also actively engaged in roundtable discussions on leading research in the field of animal behavior, training, conservation, and animal welfare. Finally, this body of work culminates into a final portfolio that includes students' own self-reflections combined with supervisor feedback. Together, these requirements enabled students to leave their comfort zones and apply their professional skills in more traditional fields of psychology to animal care settings – showcasing a perfect example of versatile and wide-reaching a psychology degree can apply to the outside world.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Mehrkam

Nicholas Orlando

Who's The Boss?

This study tested the influence of gender and age on perceived motivation and productivity in the workplace. 124 participants (41 male, 82 female) were randomly assigned to read one of four vignettes where the sex and age of the employer was manipulated. Participants were asked to complete various questionnaires about their feelings towards the boss in the short story they were assigned. It was hypothesized that female participants would prefer a female boss instead of a male boss. Secondly, it was hypothesized that college students would value their employers to have education rather than experience. The results suggested that female college students prefer a female boss. Contrary to prediction, college students overwhelmingly valued their boss to have experience rather than education. Thus, it appears that college students still have gender biases regarding supervision and despite being students, they place a higher value on job experience than on education.

Mentor: Dr. Stapley

Angelina Powers

Must Love Dogs! The Effect of Breed Type and Staff Comments on Perceptions of Aggression and Adoptability

This study examines the effect of breed type (stereotypic aggressive breed vs. stereotypic non-aggressive breed) and staff comments on perceptions of aggression and adoptability. A sample of 105 college students (77 females and 28 males) were randomly assigned to one of six conditions to evaluate an adoption flyer with a picture of either a Pit-bull or Labrador retriever containing positive, somewhat negative, or no staff comments. Participants were asked to complete a questionnaire. The Labrador Retriever breed was rated more positively than the Pit-bull breed (rated as less aggressive, more approachable, more adoptable). Participants rated either breed more positively (less aggressive, trainable, friendly, approachable, and highly adoptable) when given the flyer with positive staff comments. There was no interaction between breed type and staff comments on perceptions of aggression and adoptability. Findings suggest that providing positive staff comments increase the adoptability of a dog, whereas negative comments decrease the adoptability and increase perceptions of aggression.

Mentor: Dr. Strohmetz

Megan Conchar, Princeton Medical Institute, Princeton, NJ: Clinical Research

Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Harry M. Termyna

Evaluating how Perceptions of Perfectionists Influence Others to Collaborate With Them in the Classroom

This study examined the influence different subtypes of perfectionists had on others' perceptions of their abilities to collaborate in the classroom and the likelihood that they would be willing to work with them on a group project. The researcher randomly assigned 68 students from a private university in the northeast to read a description of a hypothetical college student who was either portrayed as an adaptive (healthy) perfectionist, a maladaptive (unhealthy) perfectionist, or a non-perfectionist. All participants then filled out a collaborative value and a group work questionnaire. As hypothesized, participants perceived the adaptive perfectionist as being a more effective collaborator compared to the other two types of perfectionists. Students were also more willing to work with the adaptive perfectionist. However, contrary to the hypothesis, students did not see any difference between the maladaptive perfectionist and the non-perfectionist in terms of their collaborative value. They also preferred to work with the maladaptive perfectionist compared to the non-perfectionist. The results suggest that perfectionism is not always a desirable trait to possess within a group setting. While students may be willing to work with an unhealthy perfectionist, they do not see any benefits of their stressful disposition. This infers that perhaps they would only work with the student knowing that he/she would complete the project to "perfection" thus attaining a higher score.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Ciarocco

Kassia A. Johnson

A Race to Compare: Body Satisfaction, Self-Esteem, and Social Comparison

This study looked at the effect of social comparison on body satisfaction and self-esteem. One hundred and twenty female undergraduate students were asked to look at images of either thin or athletic peers, or thin or athletic social media celebrities. The participants were then given a series of questionnaires. It was hypothesized that participants who were in peer conditions would self-report lower body satisfaction and self-esteem. It was also hypothesized that those in the thin conditions would report lower body satisfaction and self-esteem. Those in the thin peer conditions would report lowest body satisfaction and self-esteem than those in any of the social media conditions. However, it was found that those in the athletic social media condition reported lowest self-esteem over all ($p = .054$). There was no significant difference between any of the groups on body satisfaction. Plausible implications for these findings will be discussed.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Faculty-Student Collaboration: Research Lab Highlight

Psychology Department Lab Spotlight: The Human-Animal Wellness Collaboratory (HAWC)

Human-Animal Wellness Collaboratory (HAWC) Research Assistants: Mary Kate O'Rourke and Angelina Powers

Supervising Professor: Dr. Mehrkam

The Human-Animal Wellness Collaboratory (HAWC), led by Dr. Mehrkam, exists to research human-animal interactions and understand ways to improve the overall well-being of both humans and animals in society by studying the relationships between the animals we care for and ourselves. The current HAWC study, supported by a \$130,000 grant from Maddie's Fund, researches the question: Do playgroups improve shelter dogs' welfare? The study spans nationwide conducting research in urban shelters in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Clearwater, Florida. Dr. Mehrkam's study is assisted by a team of Monmouth University students as on campus assistants, as well as paid student research coordinators at designated shelter sites. The daily tasks of the research coordinators consists of driving to an off-campus location, conducting pre and post condition salivary cortisol measurements, helping with shelter duties (e.g. walking dogs, providing enrichment), and recording behavioral observation videos. The current study seeks to find ways to improve shelter dog welfare by evaluating enrichment programs, such as playgroups, designed to reduce stress levels in shelter dogs. In addition to this study, HAWC also will be studying the well-being and job satisfaction of shelter staff and volunteers, the behavioral and cognition welfare of companion animals who receive applied behavior analytic (ABA) treatments, as well as human-animal interactions in exotic animals in collaboration with Six Flags Great Adventure & Safari.

Poster Presentations: Session I

10:00 – 10:30 AM, Wilson Auditorium Lobby

Nicole Gallagher

Come On, It's Just Flirting: The Effects of Media Influences on Perception of Sexual Harassment

The aim of this study was to examine if people's perceptions of sexual harassment are impacted by their exposure to the media and the setting in which the harassment occurred. Seventy-two college students either viewed a video or read a written scenario that depicted a sexual harassment situation. Half of these participants were presented with a workplace sexual harassment situation and the other half were presented with a romantic relationship sexual harassment situation. Then participants in all four conditions filled out a questionnaire asking them to rate the sexual harassment behaviors from "not okay" to "perfectly okay." It was hypothesized that those who were exposed to the written scenario will perceive sexual harassment as "not okay" more often than those who were exposed to the media clip. It was also hypothesized that there would be a main effect of setting such that those who are exposed to the workplace setting will perceive sexual harassment more than those who are exposed to the relationship setting. Finally, there will be an interaction between media exposure and setting such that those who are given the written relationship setting will have the lowest perception rate of sexual harassment as compared to those who were given the media relationship setting who will have the lowest perception rate of sexual harassment. The implications and applications will be discussed further.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Megan Conchar and Tyra Ward

Canine Enrichment Research Internship at the Animal Care and Control Team of Philadelphia (ACCT Philly)

The Canine Enrichment Research Internship gave students the opportunity to play an active role in Dr. Mehrkam's latest research project. The study – including the internship positions - are funded by Maddie's Fund, a foundation that has awarded over \$187.8 million in grants towards improving the well-being of companion animals. The current study looks to assess the physiological welfare of shelter dogs by measuring salivary cortisol and in-kennel behavior as indicators of stress in various enrichment conditions. The study seeks to compare the benefits of dog-dog play groups to human-dog play time. This was a unique experience for the Monmouth University students and alumni involved: Canine Enrichment Research interns collected salivary samples and video data, coordinated enrichment for study dogs, and played a collaborative role between the primary investigator and shelter staff. The internship immersed the students in the research process in order to gain first-hand experience deeper insight about animal welfare in a real-world setting. The researchers traveled to urban shelters in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Philadelphia to collect the data, working with the animals, behaviorists, veterinary staff, shelter employees, and Monmouth faculty. Further, the students exemplified their commitment to animal welfare research by producing a literature review based collaborating shelter staff interests.

Mentor: Dr. Mehrkam

Dianni F. Hall

Attitudes toward Vegans Influenced by Diet Motives and Pushiness

This study examined the influence of the level of pushiness when discussing a vegan diet and vegan diet motives on people's attitudes towards vegans. A sample of 37 college students were asked to read a vignette, fill out the Attitudes towards Vegetarians Scale (Chin, Fisak, & Sims, 2002), and complete a demographic questionnaire. Each participant was assigned to one of four conditions which included healthy and pushy, healthy and non-pushy, animal rights and pushy, and animal rights and non-pushy. It was hypothesized that those in the pushy vegan condition were more likely to have negative attitudes towards vegans compared to those who experience a non-pushy vegan. It was also hypothesized that those in the animal rights condition were more likely to have negative attitudes toward vegans compared to those in the personal health condition. Lastly, it was hypothesized that the pushy and animal rights vegan conditions are likely to have the most negative attitude toward vegans than the not pushy and health reasons vegan. The results did not support any of the hypotheses and therefore there was no significance found. Limitations and future research directions will be discussed.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Kaitlin A. Scarpino

Ownership of a Companion Animal: Predictive Variables for Animal-directed and Generalized Empathy

This study sought to determine the variables associated with owning a companion animal that predict a heightened development of animal-directed and generalized empathy. Human-animal compatibility, level of attachment, and age of initial ownership were selected to assess potential correlations between these variables and empathic responding. Ninety-six participants responded to a series of questionnaires that addressed their current relationship with a companion animal as well as their capacity for empathic understanding. I hypothesized that those possessing greater compatibility and higher levels of attachment with their companion animal would have higher levels of animal-directed and generalized empathy. Furthermore, I hypothesized a negative association would be present between the age that one gained ownership of a companion animal and generalized and animal-directed empathy. As the age of initial ownership decreased, the capacity for both types of empathy were predicted to increase. Using a series of correlational analyses, the results indicate that those who were highly attached to a companion animal also possessed a significantly greater capacity to express animal-directed empathy. However, high attachment did not correlate with a greater capacity for generalized empathy. Results similarly revealed a lack of connection between human-animal compatibility and both animal-directed and generalized empathy. Also, age of initial ownership was not significantly associated with either type of empathy. The results ultimately reveal a slight association between owning a companion animal and one's likelihood to express empathetic attitudes towards other non-human species.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

Shirley Sutton & Daniella Kosinski

Child Life Volunteers at K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital

Our field experience took place at K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Our supervisor, April Slowenski is a Certified Child Life Specialist and we were interns in the Child Life Program. Hospitalization is a frightening experience to process, especially for children and their families and Child Life specialists can help children through this experience. Child Life Services includes pediatric professionals who advocate for children and their families. The program helps children reduce the stress and anxiety they may experience because of their hospital stay and promotes coping skills to maximize children's recovery and outcomes. Among their duties, Child Life Specialists help prepare children for procedures, assess their developmental progress, and serve as child and family advocates. During this time, we learned valuable tools and techniques to help children and families cope with trauma, stress, illness, injury, healthcare, and end of life situations. We worked with children and families to make their stay at the hospital as enjoyable and comfortable as possible. We provided children with comfort items, play activities, and assisted with pet therapy. We were able to observe how illness and injury affects a child's development, and we learned that normalizing children's environment by providing play and support is crucial to their growth and development. From this internship, we gained communication and childcare skills and learned responsibility to better prepare for a career working with children and families. This experience served as confirmation that a career in this field or a similar field is the ideal one for us.

Mentor: Dr. Holmes

Joshua Goetz, Private Practice of Christian Bellissimo, Eatontown, NJ: Child Play Therapy

Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Brenda Cunha, Monmouth County Superior Court House, Freehold, NJ: Criminal Law

Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Emily Pizza, The Law Offices of Christopher T. Campbell, Wall NJ: Criminal Defense

Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Mary Kate O'Rourke, The Center for Advanced Behavioral Care Services, Lakewood NJ: Clinical Psychology

Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Taylor Mistretta, MOCEANS, Long Branch, NJ: Resource Center for Individuals with Disabilities
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Emily Antonette Crosby, L'Oréal USA, Manhattan, NY: Human Resources
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Nicole Vento, Bradley Beach Elementary School, Bradley Beach, NJ: School Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Emanuel De La Cruz, Waters & Sims Employment Services Inc., Red Bank, NJ: Human Resources
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

We invite you to change the lives of Monmouth students by supporting education and research initiatives in Psychology. To discuss making your impact, please contact

Karen Keene
Director of Leadership Programs
kkeene@monmouth.edu
732-571-3475

Dr. Gary Lewandowski
Chair, Department of Psychology
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732-263-5476

Paper Presentations: Session II

Moderator: MK O'Rourke, Psi Chi
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, Wilson Auditorium

Erin Schreiber

The Impact of Socioeconomic Status, Goal Orientation, and Race on Prosocial Behavior

The study examined the impact of perceived socioeconomic status, goal orientation, and race on prosocial behavior. 80 participants were randomly placed into one of two conditions in which they viewed a mock GoFundMe page with either a white or a black middle school-aged boy. Each participant viewed the GoFundMe thoroughly, completed a Perceived Socioeconomic Scale, Communal Orientation Scale, and the Prosocial Behavior Scale. Participants also completed a behavioral measure of how much money they would donate to the cause, if they could. Findings supported the claim that highly communally-oriented individuals would be significantly more likely to engage in prosocial behavior than their lower oriented counterparts. Findings did not support the claim that participants would be more helpful towards the white recipient but instead found the opposite—participants helped the black recipient significantly more than the white recipient. Finally, results showed that there is no significant impact of socioeconomic status on prosocial behavior. These results suggest that although one's socioeconomic status did not influence prosocial behavior in this study, race and communal goal orientation did.

Mentor: Dr. Strohmetz

Valerie Casalino

thINK AGAIN

The purpose of this study is to determine whether the placement of a tattoo has an impact on how participants perceive individuals with tattoos, specifically gender identity, uniqueness, and credibility. It was hypothesized that when viewing a female with a shoulder tattoo, the woman would be seen as more masculine and unique than when the tattoo was placed on the lower back or if there was no tattoo visible. It was also hypothesized that the woman with the tattoo on her lower back would be seen as less credible than when the tattoo was placed on the shoulder or if there was no tattoo visible. Eighty-four college students viewed one of the three photos, consisting of the same women with either a shoulder tattoo, lower back tattoo, or no tattoo, and self-reported her perceived masculinity, uniqueness, and credibility. In addition, a question was asked to determine if they were able to notice the position of the tattoo. There was a significant difference between tattoo placement in how participants saw their gender identity, with the lower back tattoo being seen as more feminine. Tattoo placement did not predict how credible or unique the woman was. Due to the rates that individuals are marking their body, it is important to see how these tattoos influence perceptions.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

Matthew Kachersky

Let's Sweat! The Effects of Exercise on Cognitive Ability

The current research focused on the effects of exercise on cognitive ability and performance. To determine performance, a twenty-question math quiz including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division was administered to each participant after their randomly assigned condition was completed. It was hypothesized that participants in the experimental condition would score higher on the math quiz than those in the control group. Participants were led through one of two conditions, either a predetermined list of exercises including light stretches and aerobic movements, or an article about an elderly gentleman who actively runs marathons. Upon completion of the condition, participants completed the math quiz along with a short demographics and survey sheet. The evaluation of the overall effect of exercise on cognitive ability was not significant $t(14) = -.07, p = .94$. In addition, the manipulation check did not reveal that those in the exercise condition felt on average that they exerted themselves more than the control group. This work helps to pave the way for a practical application of exercise in day-to-day life or in the workplace.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Sydney Lasquinha

Why Do You Feel that Way? The Relationship between Family Expressiveness, SES, and Anger

This study observed the relationship between family expressiveness and socioeconomic status (SES) on anger and frustration. Ninety-nine participants (21 male, 78 female) completed surveys on family expression and SES. The researcher gave the participants a word search puzzle with only one word from the provided list hidden in the puzzle to inspire frustration and anger. They then completed an anger and frustration measure. The researcher hypothesized that those who had higher family expression would have higher levels of anger and frustration after completing a frustrating task. The researcher also hypothesized that as SES goes down, so will levels of anger and frustration after completing a frustrating task. A series of Pearson r correlation determined there is no significant relationship between family expressiveness and anger or frustration. In addition, there was no significant relationship between SES and anger or frustration. Family expressiveness and SES are not linked to feelings anger or frustration.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

Silvana Pagliuca

I'll Start It Later!: The Effects of Procrastination on Stress

This study examined the type of procrastinator, their stress throughout the semester, and personality traits. It was hypothesized that those who were passive procrastinators (those who are avoidant) experienced more stress, active procrastinators (those who procrastinate on purpose) scored higher in conscientiousness than other traits, and passive procrastinators scored higher in neuroticism than other traits. Seventy seven participants filled out 3 Likert-style questionnaires to assess their procrastination type, personality traits, and general stress. Their procrastination type was categorized into being an active procrastinator or passive procrastinator. To measure their personality traits, participants were scored using the Big Five Personality Inventory. To measure stress, participants filled out a questionnaire about their general semester stress. The results did support the hypothesis that active procrastinators are more conscientiousness, however it did not support that passive procrastinators scored higher in neuroticism (although it was approaching significance). The results did not support the hypothesis, however it did show approaching significance between procrastinator type and stress. Personality type does have an influence on procrastinator type and procrastinator type has a slight influence on experienced stress.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Savannah Moley

Social Stigma against the Origin of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

The present study was conducted at a small private university using 41 students recruited through the University's SONA research pool. The experiment aimed to discover the associated social stigma related to the origin of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Previous research has implied that the presence of social stigma associated with PTSD has a negative effect on the proper treatment of the disorder. Participants were asked to read a small vignette describing a stranger who suffers from PTSD. Then, the participants were directed to complete a questionnaire about the stranger. There were three different groups in which participants could be randomly assigned. These groups consisted of a combat origin PTSD group, a car accident origin PTSD group, and a hurricane origin PTSD group. No significant differences were found between the three groups in terms of PTSD stigma. With limited research conducted on the effect of the origin of one's PTSD on social stigma, this study aims to begin expanding research to ensure the proper treatment of those with a PTSD diagnosis.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Brandi A. Zabransky

One Toy, Two Toy, Red Toy, Blue Toy: The Effects of Gender Stereotypes and Gender-Typed Traits on Toy Suitability

This study evaluated how children's sex and their gender-typed traits impact the toys people think are best suited for a child. One hundred-twenty participants (21 male, 99 female) were presented with a description of a male or female child, with either masculine or feminine traits. Participants completed a rating of thirty-six masculine, feminine, and neutral toys, reporting the suitability of each toy for the described child. Three two-way ANOVAs were conducted for each category of toys (masculine, feminine, and neutral). Contrary to the hypotheses for masculine toys, participants chose toys based on the child's traits, regardless of the child's gender. For feminine toys, participants indicated these toys were best suited for girls and best suited for children with feminine characteristics. Contrary to the hypothesis, no difference was found in participants' ratings of neutral toys for either gender or characteristics. This study provides insight of perceptions of toy choice for a child and investigates whether a person will choose a toy for a child based on gender stereotypes or the interests of the child.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Alexis Mason

Emotional Influence on Helping Behavior and Willingness

A variety of research examines the factors that influence one's willingness to help others, as well as the impact that one's emotional state has on his/her decision-making. This study analyzed the influence that one's emotional state has on their helping behavior and self-reported willingness to help others. A total of 93 undergraduate students were randomly assigned to three conditions. The happy and angry conditions watched a brief video clip to elicit their emotions and the neutral condition did not watch a video. The researcher asked participants if they would like to help another student and then completed a willingness to help survey. The three conditions did not differ in their results. In this study, one's emotional state did not influence subsequent helping behavior or willingness to help.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

The Effects of Perceived Socioeconomic Status and Relative Deprivation on Persistence

Norelle Bondar

The study examined the influences that perceived socioeconomic status and relative deprivation have on persistence. 106 students (25 male, 80 women, and one unreported) were put into one of two conditions (deprived or not deprived). This study was conducted with two pairs at a time; one being the participant and the other being a confederate. After completing the socioeconomic status self-assessment, both the participant and confederate were asked to complete a timed riddle activity. For every correct answer, the participant would receive more candy than the confederate if they were in the not deprived condition and less candy than the confederate if they were in the deprived condition. At the 5 minute mark, the confederate stopped persisting on the activity and the researcher timed whether the participant continued to persist on the activity. They were then asked to complete a questionnaire measuring levels of task motivation, general motivation and a manipulation check. The hypotheses were not supported by the findings. One's socioeconomic status and feelings of relative deprivation did not influence persistence. The findings suggest that individuals perceived socioeconomic status and relative deprivation may not influence persistence. Other reasons such as having incentives and a feelings of competition. These results could help educators and employers better understand how there may be other factors such as incentives that motivate individuals to persist on a task.

Mentor: Dr. Strohmetz

Paper Presentations: Session III

Moderator: Haley Long, Psi Chi
12:30 – 1:45 PM, Wilson Auditorium

Stephanie P. Coto

InstaTrust: The Effects of Consumer Gender and Brand Aesthetic on Brand Trust.

This study used Instagram as a platform to examine the effects of consumer gender and brand aesthetic (snapshot aesthetic or traditional aesthetic) on brand trust and aesthetic preference. Snapshot aesthetic looks as if it were taken on a phone and traditional aesthetic looks as if it were taken professionally. One hundred and two (18 male, 84 female) participants were asked to rate four images and Instagram accounts based on likability. Participants also rated their agreeance with statements about brand trust. It was hypothesized that women will have higher rates of preference and trust for both snapshot and traditional aesthetic than men. Using a repeated measures analysis, the data shows the aesthetic preference hypothesis was supported ($p= 0.045$) but the brand trust hypothesis was not. Results suggested that females prefer looking at a brands' aesthetic more than males but brand trust was not influenced by the participants' gender.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Lori Morello

Recall You Maybe: The Effect of Attraction on Memory

The present study examines the effect of attraction on memory recall. A sample of 62 (58.1% females, 41.9% males) undergraduate college students were randomly assigned to view a photograph of an attractive female or a female of average attractiveness. In both conditions, people read the same description of the person's life. After completing a distractor task, participants were asked to recall as many details about the person as they can. It was hypothesized that females would recall the most information. The second hypothesis was participants in the average-attractiveness condition would recall the most information. Lastly, the third hypothesis was that females in the average-attractiveness condition would recall the most information overall. Potential explanations for the study findings about the impact of gender and attractiveness on recall will be discussed, and implications of study findings will be included.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Herleen Kaur

How Much is Too Much? The Role of Attachment in Social Media

The present study sought to examine whether attachment styles play a role in the use of Instagram. Ninety-five undergraduate students (13 males, 82 females) were asked to complete several questionnaires regarding attachment styles and use of social media. It was hypothesized that differences in attachment styles will result in differences in using, posting, and engaging in activities on Instagram. It was also hypothesized that anxious/ambivalent individuals would excessively use, post, and engage in activities on Instagram more than secure or avoidant individuals. Lastly, it was hypothesized that secure individuals would use, post, and engage in activities on Instagram more than avoidant individuals but less than anxious/ambivalent individuals. Using one-way ANOVAs, results indicated that there was a significant difference between attachment styles and using and engaging in activities on Instagram. Secure individuals were found to use Instagram more than avoidant individuals. It was also found that both secure and anxious individuals engaged in activities on Instagram more than avoidant individuals. There was no significant difference in anxious/ambivalent individuals using Instagram more than secure and avoidant individuals. The implications of the findings are discussed.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Christopher Seager

The Bystander Effect on Likelihood to Respond to a Type of Tweet

Does the bystander effect occur on social media as it does in real life? This study examines if follower size for a Twitter profile plays a role in likelihood to respond to different originalities of Tweets. A sample of college students examined a fictitious Twitter profile with a fictitious tweet or retweet that appeared as a cry for help. After looking the profile, participants indicated how likely they would be to respond to the Tweet or retweet posed and what they would say in response. No differences were found for the number of followers or the originality of Tweet. Additionally, there was no interaction effect between the number of followers and originality of Tweet. The findings suggest that number of followers and type of Tweet presented did not influence the likelihood of responding. These results indicate that the bystander effect may not occur on social media as it does in real life.

Mentor: Dr. Strohmetz

Marisa Lacy

The Effect of Gratitude on Prosocial Behavior

The current study examined gratitude's effect on prosocial (helping) behavior. Forty participants from a medium sized university in the Northeast took part in a 20 minute study that fulfilled their class research requirement. Participants were randomly assigned and placed in one of two conditions. The first condition had participants, for a total of 3 minutes, write everything they were currently grateful for. The participants in the second condition wrote down everything that was currently annoying them for the same time period. Through a series of two questionnaires and a manipulation check, results indicated that there was no significant difference between the groups on likelihood to help. Future implications, the small sample size limitation, and strengths will be discussed.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Joelle M. Longo

Talk Realness: Assessing Voice Characteristics in Males

This study examined how the manipulation of voice pitch and the presence of queer linguistics in a German-speaking male influenced perceptions of gender, leadership, competence, and sexuality. A sample of 112 participants from a university campus completed four measures after listening to a 2-minute voice stimulus. The manipulation of pitch was successful, but the queer linguistic manipulation was not. Counter to the hypotheses, there were no main effects for queer linguistics, and only one main effect for pitch. Participants rated higher pitch conditions as more homosexual. The results also suggested, in unison with my hypothesis, that there was a significant interaction between pitch and queer linguistics for perceptions of gender, leadership, and sexuality. Participants rated the high pitch and queer linguistic condition (stereotypical homosexual) to be androgynous, highest in leadership, and most homosexual. The stereotypical heterosexual condition, the low pitch and generic speech manipulation, was rated the most masculine, medium-high in leadership, and medium-high in heterosexuality perception. These findings provoke a new age of research for LGBT+ speech that have not been explored in-depth before.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

Tierney Rosen

Body Image Pressures among College Students

The current research examined college students' experiences with body image related peer pressure. It was hypothesized that women would report experiencing higher levels of body image peer pressure than men would, that members of Greek life organizations would experience higher levels of body image peer pressure than individuals not in Greek life, and that women in Greek life organizations would experience the highest levels of body image related peer pressure than all other individuals. Sixty-eight participants of the study were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire pertaining to their body image, peer pressure, and peer pressure regarding body image that they have experienced. The majority of participants were Caucasian, female, and not a part of Greek life with an average participant age of twenty-one years old. None of the hypotheses were supported. Additional findings are to be discussed.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Olivia Mayberry

Lost in Translation: Parenting Styles and its Effect on Individual's Desires in a Romantic Relationship

The present study examines how the perceived parental style of the opposite-sex parent may influence emotional and spiritual aspects desired in a romantic relationship. Ninety-two students (18 male, 74 female) were grouped into one of three parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, or permissive) based on means from a self-report questionnaire. The perceived parenting style was then compared to self-reported means of emotional and spiritual desires one wants in a romantic relationship; affective quality of a romantic relationship, a romantic partner as a source of support, and the independence desired in a romantic relationship. Opposite of what was predicted, individuals who perceived their opposite-sex parent to be authoritarian or permissive desired the same amount of affective quality, but they desired less compared to those who perceived their parent to be authoritative. Counter to prediction, there was no significant difference regarding an individual desiring more or less independence in a romantic relationship between the three parenting styles. Additionally, opposite of what was predicted, individuals who perceived their opposite-sex parent to be permissive desired less support in a romantic relationship compared to those who perceived their opposite-sex parent to be authoritarian, or authoritative. Results suggest that the parenting style individuals perceive their opposite-sex parent to have can influence certain desires regarding the individual's romantic relationships.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

Alexa Rutigliano

The Effects of Self-esteem and Motivation on Persistence

The goal of the present study was to examine the effects of self-esteem and motivation on persistence. There were 87 participants (22 males, 65 females), and they were all students at Monmouth University. First, they completed an anagram activity sheet. To manipulate self-esteem, half of the participants were told that they did poorly, while the other half was told that they did well. Then, each participant filled out a self-esteem scale (Rosenberg, 1965). Second, they squeezed a handgrip to try and beat an arbitrary 5-minute record. To manipulate extrinsic motivation, half were promised a stress ball if they beat the record. Finally, participants filled out persistence questionnaire. On this questionnaire, there were no differences for anything. However, while there were no differences on the questionnaire, those in the extrinsic condition squeezed the handgrip longer. There was also no self-esteem or interaction effect. These findings suggest that individuals are more likely to persist when they are extrinsically motivated.

Mentor: Dr. Strohmetz

Alyssa Cosentino

The Prevalence of the Father Stereotype in Media

The purpose of this study was to examine whether students' expected future division of household and childcare tasks is impacted by their exposure to media portrayals of competent or incompetent fathers. Fifty undergraduate students were asked to complete the Who Does What survey, which evaluates their desired division of household and childcare responsibilities within their future relationships. Participants were then randomly assigned to view a video showing either an incompetent father or a competent father. It was hypothesized that after viewing a media clip showing a competent father, participants would have a stronger desire to have equal division of household and childcare tasks than they reported prior to viewing the clip. In contrast, it was expected that after viewing a media clip showing an incompetent father, participants would report more traditional views of sharing household and childcare than they did prior to viewing the clip. Explanations of study findings and potential applications of the results will be discussed.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Poster Presentations: Session II

1:45 - 2:15pm, Wilson Auditorium Lobby

Dianni Hall, Amanda Vidal, & Courtney Washeleski
Hospice and the Psychology of the End-of-Life Experience

In this service learning course, twenty students representing 5 different majors (Psychology, Health studies, Social Work, Anthropology, and Communication) went through extensive in-class training to become certified hospice volunteers for Grace Healthcare Services. Hospice is a specialized type of care for those facing a life-limiting illness, their families, and their caregivers. Hospice care addresses patients' physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs and is delivered by an interdisciplinary team of professionals, including volunteers. Volunteers provide companionship to patients and respite care and support for family members. Students learned active listening skills, to be "present", what to expect during the dying process, how to relate to cognitively impaired or non-communicative patients, hand massage techniques, and many more important lessons during the initial 6 weeks of class. Students were then matched to a hospice patient who they met with weekly. Through readings, class discussion, and interactive exercises students developed communication skills, ways to provide culturally and spiritually competent care to dying patients, and gained an appreciation of death and dying as a personal and interpersonal journey. Students also gained professional expertise and marketable skills as a certified hospice volunteers.

Mentor: Dr. Kristen Coppola

Nicole Perez
The All Stars Program at OLMC

The All-Stars Program is federally and privately funded afterschool program designed to help students pursue their interests while developing moral character, self-confidence, and the social skills that will help them achieve academic and life success. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School (OLMC), a K- 8 parochial school located in Asbury Park, New Jersey and the All Stars Program partner to provide the students with enrichment as well as after-school learning opportunities. During a typical day in this program, students eat a healthy snack, receive homework help, and perform student selected enrichment activities. These activity themes focus upon Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, or Math (STEAM). Students in the All Stars Program also benefit from field trips, physical education, summer activities and character education. My responsibilities in this program consisted of setting up snacks for snack time, helping students with their homework, and assisting teachers in any way possible. Through this internship, I was able to pursue my fascination with children and have come to understand how I can make the world a better place for children.

Mentor: Dr. Holmes

Abigail Rios
Effect of Attraction and Age on Drunk Driving Sentencing

This study examined how attraction and age influenced drunk driving sentencing among college students. One hundred students were given a male mugshot, police report, scenario of an attractive or an unattractive male whose age was 17 or 27, along with a questionnaire. The questionnaire contained a measure of punishment, demographics, and a manipulation check. The first hypothesis was that the attractive male would receive a more lenient punishment than the unattractive male. It was also hypothesized that the younger male would receive a more lenient punishment than the older male. The last hypothesis was that there would be an interaction effect where the younger more attractive male would receive a less harsh punishment than the unattractive older male. The results showed the manipulation check for attraction was effective, but the age manipulation check was not. There was no difference between attraction or age and punishment. In addition, there was not a significant interaction effect. Although, past research has shown "what is beautiful is good" could influence punishment, it did not apply for drunk driving. Further research will be needed on what influences drunk driving punishment.

Mentor: Dr. Strohmetz

Jaclyn A. Mead
Appearance in the Workplace

This study evaluated whether a job applicant's hair color affects the hiring process in the workplace. The purpose of this study was to inform people of the insignificance of a job applicant's appearance in the hiring process in the workplace. Eighty-three undergraduate students read a resume for one full minute, while being randomly assigned to one of three conditions, a profile picture of a woman with brown hair, blonde hair, or red hair. It was hypothesized that the profile picture of the woman with brown hair will be perceived as more hirable than the profile picture of the woman with blonde hair and the woman with red hair. It was also hypothesized that the profile picture of the woman with blonde hair will be perceived as more hirable than the profile picture of the woman with red hair. A hirability in the workplace questionnaire was used to assess the degree to which participants would hire the job applicant. A one-way ANOVA was conducted to determine if there was an overall significance between the three groups. A Tukey HSD post-hoc test was conducted to find what those significant differences were between the three groups. There was no overall effect on attitudes toward physical appearance in the hiring process in the workplace. These findings suggest that participants' hirability of the job applicant was not influenced by their hair color. Future research directions might focus on a different component of physical attractiveness.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkcom

Chanell Singletary-Eskridge
The Effects of Social Interaction on Perceived Adoptability and Welfare of Shelter Dogs

The purpose of this study is to assess what specific factors affect the perceived adoptability and welfare of shelter dogs. There were 109 total participants consisting of 20% males, 87% females from the ages of 18-36. Each participant was shown a muted video of a dog in a shelter alone, with another dog, or with a human and were given a packet of questionnaires (adoptability perception questionnaire, welfare questionnaire, the manipulation check, and demographics survey). As predicted, there was a significant difference between the type of social interaction of the shelter dog in each video, and the perceived adoptability and welfare of the dog. These findings can change how shelter dogs are marketed to potential adopters, and how shelter workers may interact with shelter dogs in the future.

Mentors: Dr. Mehrkam and Dr. Ciarocco

Richard A. Reres
How Does Judging Influence You: The Effects of Judgment on Perceived Body Image and Self-Objectification

This study observed how the act of judging others influences an individual's perceived body image and reported levels of self-objectification. Sixty participants (19 male, 40 female, 1 participant did not report gender) were instructed to fill out a body image and self-objectification questionnaire. The participants were then randomly assigned to one of three judgment-driven conditions in which they were asked to record statements judging the individual pictured in the task. The minimal judgment task asked the participant to record five statements, the extensive judgment task required ten statements, and a control condition asked the participant to record five statements on anything they chose. The body image and self-objectification questionnaire was administered again after the judgment-driven task. I hypothesized that those who engaged in the act of judging would report a lower perceived self-body image and higher levels of self-objectification. Furthermore, I hypothesized that those who were placed in the extensive judgment task would report a lower perceived self-body image and higher levels of self-objectification than those who were in the minimal judgment task and control condition. Using a series of repeated measures analysis of variances the results showed that there was no significant differences between reported perceived body image and levels of self-objectification after engaging in the judgment-driven tasks.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Jules Lenaz
Sexual Disorientation

This study evaluated the relation between attraction to sexually dimorphic traits and attraction to gendered personality traits. One hundred and fourteen students from a northeastern university completed an online survey asking them to rate the attractiveness of three faces (a masculine, feminine and androgynous face) and then the attractiveness of the Bem Sex Inventory items. It was hypothesized that scores of attractiveness towards sex of face would be positively correlated to the corresponding gendered personality traits. Results demonstrated that there was not a significant relation between the rating participants gave towards the sex of a face and the ratings of attractiveness towards paired gendered personality traits. A possible explanation for these results may be that the survey did not measure the intended variable of personal sexual attraction towards faces, but rather a perception of facial attractiveness. Future research may explore possible alternative methods of data collection, including new measures of facial sex as well as different wordings of survey questions.

Mentor: Dr. Lisa M. Dinella

Sydney Seitz
What Do You Value in Your Future Career?

The aim of this correlational design was to determine whether individuals' loci of control can affect their future career values. A convenience sample of fifty five undergraduate students (34 female and 21 male) was collected at a private university. Participants completed Rotter's Locus of Control Scale (1966) and an adapted version of Bakker's Career Value Scale. Six subscales were utilized to test how much each participant valued the service orientation and team orientation in their future career, as well as financial rewards, independence, prestige, and excitement. Contrary to the hypotheses, there was only trending association between undergraduates' loci of control and the career value of independence, $r = -.25, p = .07$. Future research should explore further the association between an undergraduates' locus of control and how much they value independence in their future career.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

Lori Morello
Don't fear the reaper: Information avoidance and health locus of control.

Information avoidance is any behavior that allows individuals to ignore or delay receiving readily available information because it could potentially change their lives in a negative way (e.g., Golman, Hagmann, & Lowenstein, 2017). Young adults are one group of individuals who typically avoid information related to their personal health (e.g., STD testing). Research has shown that health locus of control has an impact on a variety of health decisions (e.g., Vodermaier et al., 2011) but little research has examined the relationship between health locus of control and information avoidance. The present study examined information avoidance about death, health locus of control, (internal versus chance) and superstition. We hypothesized that those who would avoid information would score higher on superstitious beliefs (would not want to "tempt fate"), higher on chance locus of control, and lower on internal locus of control. Young adults who did not want information about the date of their death scored higher on chance locus of control and those who did not want information on the cause of death scored higher on internal locus of control. Knowing patients' health locus of control may be one way for health care providers to alter how they frame the introduction of testing that may result in negative information. It may be that those with high levels of internal health locus of control avoid information because they would feel personally responsible for the outcome even though in reality, they would not be able to change the results.

Faculty Mentor: Kristen Coppola

Dana Pingaro, Neuropsychology Rehabilitation Services, Neptune, NJ: Neuropsychology
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Samantha Truglio, Center for Vocational Rehabilitation, Eatontown, NJ: Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Savannah Lagana, The Children's Center of Monmouth County, Neptune, NJ: Speech-Language Pathology
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Meghan Courtney, Jersey Shore Free School, Little Silver, NJ: Alternative Education Sudbury School
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

Natalie Mallamaci, Long Branch Police Department, Long Branch, NJ: Police Work
Mentor: Dr. Hatchard

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Paper Presentations: Session IV

Moderator: Amanda Vidal, Psi Chi

2:15 – 3:30 PM, Wilson Auditorium

Matthew Steinfeld

Divorce Quality and Type of Infidelity on Perceptions of Relationships

The present study examined the relationship between parental divorce quality and type of potential infidelity and how they influence perceptions of that relationship. Parental divorce quality was defined as either high or low based on responses to a divorce quality measure. The different types of infidelity were defined as emotional and physical infidelity, based upon two suggestive snapchats that hinted at infidelity. 51 participants who come from divorced families, from a private university in the Northeast region were obtained and compensated with class credit. Participants first filled out a questionnaire measuring the quality of their parents' divorce. Then they viewed a suggestive snapchat of a partner's potential emotional or physical infidelity. The two-snapchat groups were either the emotional or physical infidelity group. After viewing the snapchat, participants filled out a questionnaire about perceptions of relationships. The hypotheses were not supported, as participants had similar attitudes towards that relationship and infidelity. Future research can look at what other factors may influence perceptions of relationships.

Mentor: Dr. Strohmetz

Michelle Tejada

Family Matters: Factors Influencing Desired Family Size

The purpose of the current study was to examine if there was a positive correlation between participants' number of siblings and number of children desired in the future. Demographic factors (parent's marital status, gender, and birth order) were also examined to find any influences on desired family size. The current study was conducted among 86 participants (12 male and 74 female) where they filled out a desired family size questionnaire and a demographic questionnaire that was created for the purpose of the study. Participants were recruited from a web-based research pool from a private university in New Jersey. It was hypothesized that participants with more siblings would desire more children in the future, and that women would desire more children than men. Lastly, it was hypothesized that participants with divorced parents would desire less children in the future. Findings suggest that there was no significant relationship between participants' number of siblings and number of children desired ($p > .05$). There was also no significant difference between participants' gender and number of children desired ($p > .05$). There was no significant effect of parent's marital status on number of children desired ($p > .05$). Future research directions will be discussed as there are many factors that can influence family size preferences.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Meghan K. Courtney

The Effects of Social Media Exposure of Couples on Single Women's Partner Standards

This study examines the impact of exposure to different types of dating couples through social media on dating standards and dating confidence. Fifty-nine single women viewed one of two Instagram profiles displaying images of either ideal or mediocre couples. Two questionnaires were used to measure mate preferences and dating confidence after the viewing of the Instagram profiles. The manipulation was effective. Counter to the hypotheses, mate preferences and dating confidence were not affected by the type of couples viewed. Further research should examine what aspects of an individual's life may be affected by social media exposure.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

Gianna Venezia

What to Do? The Influence of a Bystander's Self-Efficacy and Social Desirability on Cyberbullying Intervention

This study observed the influence of bystanders on cyberbullying intervention. Ninety participants (63 female, 27 male) were instructed to complete two questionnaires based on their level of self-efficacy and social desirability, view a Twitter cyberbullying conversation and then fill out two additional questionnaires based on their inclination to intervene in the situation they had read. I hypothesized that the higher the level of self-efficacy, the higher the likelihood of intervening in the cyberbully attack. Also, the higher the level of social desirability, the lesser the likelihood of intervention. Additionally, I hypothesized that those high in self-efficacy would be more likely to write a comment against the bully, compared to those low in self-efficacy. Finally, that those who are low in social desirability would be more likely to write a comment against the bully, compared to bystanders high in social desirability. Using both Pearson r correlations and chi square analyses, the results revealed that those higher in self-efficacy were not significantly more likely to intervene in the self-report measure. However, when given the chance to intervene in the behavioral measure, those high in self-efficacy were significantly more likely to comment against the bully. Additionally, those higher in social desirability were significantly less likely to intervene in the self-report, and when given the opportunity to intervene in the behavioral measure, those with low social desirability were significantly more likely to comment against the bully. Results affirm that self-efficacy and social desirability influence bystander intervention and can be used in prevention programs.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

Ethan C. Flynn

Use Your Imagination: The Effect of Sensory Imagination on Heart Rate

The current study evaluated the effect of sensory imagination on heart rate. Seventy-four participants were randomly assigned to a relaxation condition, exhaustion condition, or suspense condition. Participants then imagined a scenario that an audiotape described, which differed based on the condition they were placed in. After, participants measured their heart rate by placing their fingers on their neck and recorded the measurement on a demographics sheet. Those in the relaxation condition listened to a relaxing beach scenario, while those in the exhaustion scenario listened to an intense workout scenario, and those in the suspense condition listened to a thrilling scenario. It was hypothesized that the relaxation group would have the lowest heart rate, followed by the exhaustion group, followed by the suspense group. There was no significant difference between the mean heart rate for the relaxation, exhaustion, and suspense condition. Future research on the relationship between sensory imagination and the body can develop the modern understanding of the mind and body connection.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Kristi Pannone

The Impact of Functioning Level and Disorder on Hiring Attitudes

Do people have more negative hiring attitudes towards a low functioning individual with autism over a high functioning individual with Down syndrome? A sample of 111 undergraduate college students (26 males, 85 females) received a Walmart stock room associate position application and a letter of recommendation from a therapist. The letter was describing either a low or high functioning individual with autism or Down syndrome. Participants then listened to a recording of a skype interview. Finally, the participants completed a hiring attitudes questionnaire and a demographics form. It was hypothesized that there will be more positive hiring attitudes towards a high functioning individual over low functioning. Based on that I hypothesized that there will be no difference between autism and Down syndrome. Finally, I hypothesized that individuals who have negative attitudes towards autism and low functioning individuals, the employer will then have negative hiring attitudes. Also, if the individual is high functioning and has down syndrome, the employer will have more positive hiring attitudes. However, the hypotheses were not supported. The findings suggest that participants did not discriminate against hiring applicants with a disability; no matter their functioning level. These results could help future employers be more accepting towards hiring applicants with disabilities.

Mentor: Dr. Strohmetz

Anjel R. Perez

The Influence of Personality Traits on Criminal Cases

This study examined how high or low scoring empathy and emotional stability in participants influenced juror decision-making relating to a criminal assault case. Eighty-four undergraduate students were given the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire and a modified version of the Big Five Inventory. These assessed participants' levels of empathy and emotional stability. Participants then read a criminal assault case scenario, followed by completing a case questionnaire and providing their demographics. It was hypothesized that those who score high in empathy and emotional stability would give the lightest sentence, consider the defendant's background the most, and consider the defendant a bad person the least. A two-way ANOVA was conducted to analyze the differences between empathy and emotional stability with the dependent variables. Those who scored high in empathy were more likely to consider the defendant's background than those who scored low in empathy. However, there were no other significant main effects or interaction effects for the independent variables. Although only one hypothesis was supported, it is still important to examine the relationship between juror personality traits and criminal case decision-making.

Mentor: Dr. Van Volkom

Gerber Bolanos

You're Funny! Be My Friend! Humor Type as a Predictor of Perceived Future Friendships and Likeability

Successful humor and laughter have a positive impact on the body and in other areas of one's life. However, there is little research in the area of failed humor. The current study focuses on how failed humor may affect future friendship and likeability. Participants viewed either a video that presented successful humor or one that presented failed humor. After that, they completed a friendship questionnaire, a likeability questionnaire, and a demographics questionnaire. It was hypothesized that individuals who experienced successful humor would rate the person in the video as more likely to be a potential friend and more likeable than people who experienced failed humor. Fifty-four participants completed the study. The age mean was 19.6 and participants were mostly Caucasian. The majority of participants were also first-year students. The study was a two-group design and a series of independent-samples t-tests were used to analyze the findings. The results were not significant for either hypothesis tested. The type of humor experienced did not impact the likeability of the person joking or his friendship potential. Future research should continue to focus on the area of failed humor and its impact on relationships.

Mentor: Dr. Ciarocco

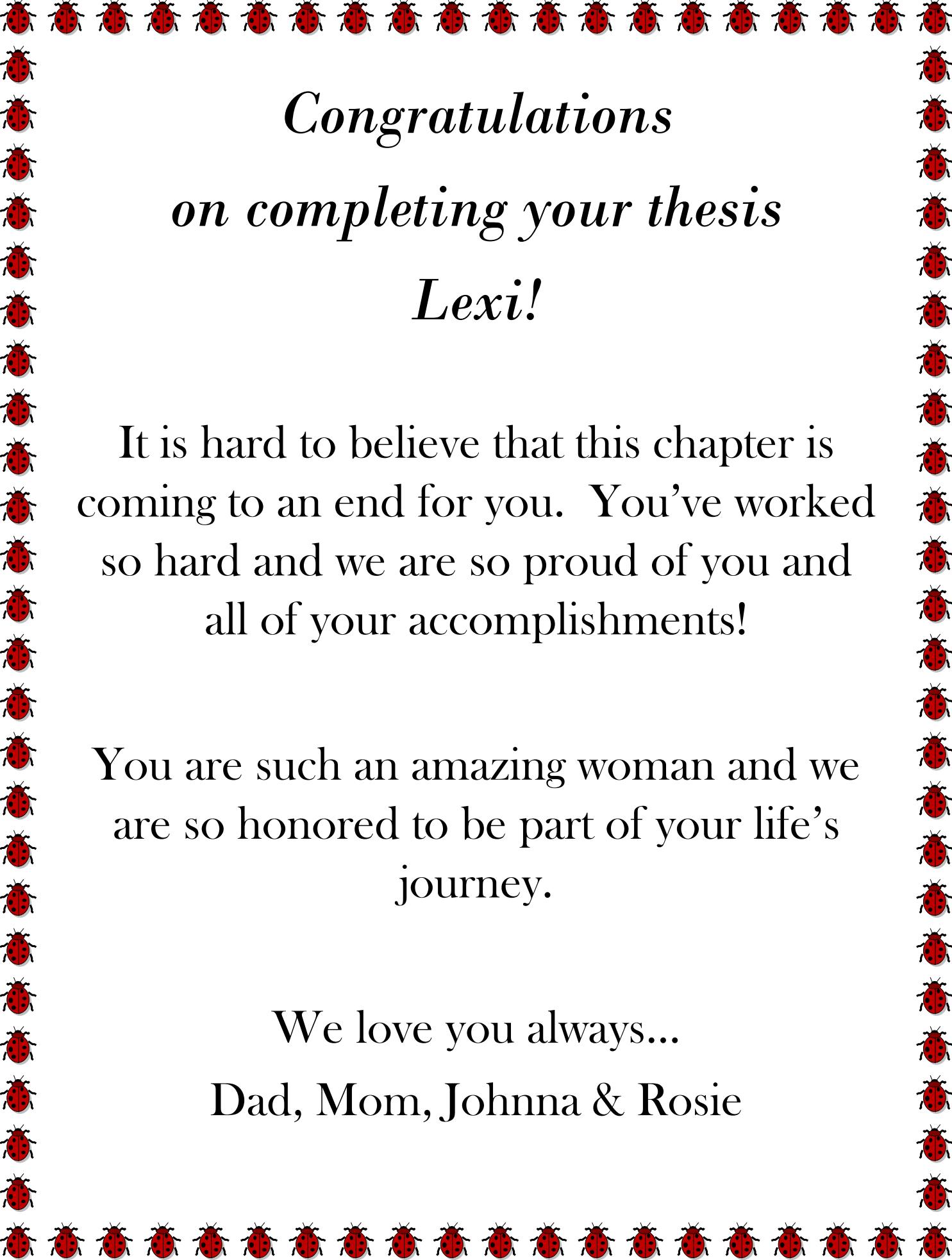
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Congratulations on completing your thesis Lexi!

It is hard to believe that this chapter is coming to an end for you. You've worked so hard and we are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments!

You are such an amazing woman and we are so honored to be part of your life's journey.

We love you always...
Dad, Mom, Johnna & Rosie



Congratulations Kristi!

Wishing you the best of luck on your thesis presentation today.

We are so proud of everything you have accomplished at Monmouth. You have always worked hard and done your best in school and it really showed over the last four years.

It has been an honor to watch you grow into a confident and amazing young woman. To see you articulate and present during conferences has been a pleasure.

You are not done yet. Next year you will graduate with your Master's Degree and begin your career. We know you will do great and look forward to seeing how successful you become.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Keep working hard and know that we are always there for you.

Love

Mom, Dad, and Briana

Erin,

Congratulations on completing your research thesis! We know how hard you worked on this project, and throughout your time at Monmouth. We are incredibly proud of you, and all you have accomplished, and look forward to what the future holds for you as you graduate and move on to the next chapter in your life.

Love Mom, Dad, Audrey and Claire

Fean I was lucky enough to get a sister that also became my best friend. You've worked so hard to get to where you're at and finally all the late nights, lack of sleep and hard work has paid off.

I'm so proud of you, no matter what. You're going to do big things one day and I can't wait to see you success and life. Congratulations Stephie! I love you so much. P.S. Joshua wanted me tell you "Congratulations Tia Feefee, I love you so much! I'm lucky to have an aunt like you and I can't wait to go on adventures with you."

Love,
Vivian "The Bean" Coto



I don't even know where to start. Everyone is so insanely proud of everything you've accomplished these last few years. You've grown into a hardworking, amazing woman who is going to make an impact in this world. You just graduated and it already feels like you've done so much to advance your career.



From your internship, to working at one of the biggest entertainment companies in the world and then finally designing and implementing your own experiment, you've done incredible things in only one year. I can only imagine the things you'll accomplish in the future baby. I love you and congratulations!

Love,
Christopher

CONGRATULATIONS MARISA!

We are so very proud of you and all that you have accomplished in your life, especially these last 4 years of college. We have proudly listened as you told us about your school and work activities and achievements. You have blossomed into a smart, beautiful, caring young woman.

Since you were very young, you have always shown concern for your family and friends as well as your beloved animals. We are sure that your thesis reflects who you are, your passion for the subject and your hard work. We know that you will continue to reach for the stars as you move forward in life to fulfill your dreams.

We are so proud of you and know that you will succeed in any goal that you set for yourself.

Watch out world – **HERE SHE COMES !!!**



With all our Prayers and
Love always,

Buela and Buelo
Tia Alicia, Uncle Rj, Briana,
Ally, Erika
Tio Rafa
Tia Amanda, Uncle Mike,
Mikey

Max, Lucky and Casey



Congratulations Tierney!!!

As your college career is coming to a close and we reflect on all of the moments over the past four years it has become clear what an exceptional young woman you have become. It has been our great pleasure to watch you grow and demonstrate your true gift with giving to others. You demonstrate such commitment and dedication to achieve your goals. It is truly commendable and you should be very proud of all of your achievements. We are sure that you will reach all of the career goals that you set for yourself and you will find great success and happiness as you embark on your path. We can't wait to see what a bright future lies ahead of you!!



Love you tons,

Mom and Dad

Norelle Bondar, Kristi Pannone, Angelina Powers, Abby Rios, Alexa Rutigliano, Erin Schreiber, Chris Seager, and Matt Steinfeld

Always remember the secrets to being successful in both research and life:

1. Never let go of the vine;
2. Don't chase every squirrel you see;
3. And most importantly, always believe and trust in yourself!



You guys all rock! Job well done!

-- Dr. Strohmetz

Congratulations Thesis Students!!!



I am so proud of what you accomplished this semester.
You have worked so hard in the face of many obstacles, yet you did it!
Bring it on world. You're ready!

- Dr. C

Michelle

I imagine that you must be feeling a lot of emotion because there are only a few hours left until your graduation. Let the successes in your life continue, I adore you, my daughter."

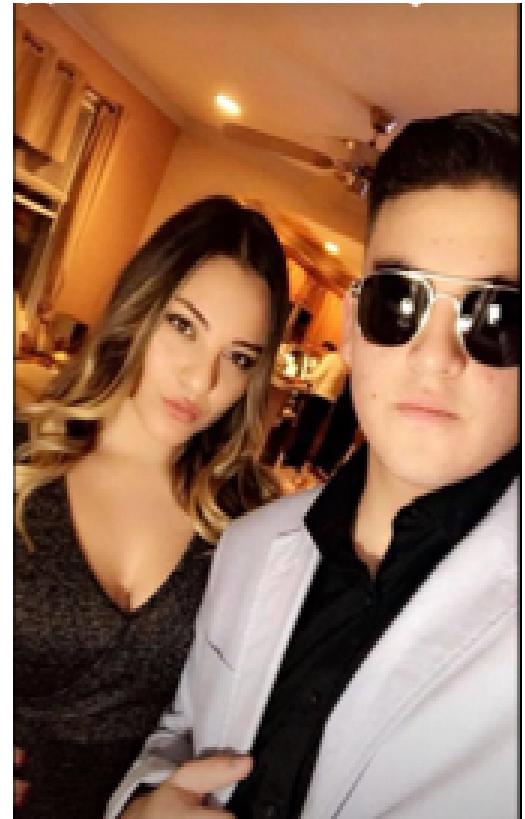
The intelligence that God gave you is the best gift you have received from this life, it was long hours of dawn to present papers and give exams. Today you enjoy with satisfaction having finished your studies, I trust that you will be a great professional because You have managed to make your dream come true and I thank God, because I have the privilege of being your mother and being by your side to celebrate your achievements."

SANDRA



I am a very proud man because I have a very responsible and intelligent daughter who throughout these four years in the university has put all his effort and sacrifice to become an excellent professional. I am very happy because you have finished your university career, it has not been easy because I have witnessed all the effort you have made "You have always proven to be very responsible and intelligent and I am proud to know that today you will receive your professional title. May the successes continue!"

MANOLO



- "What a great joy for the whole family is that the day of your graduation has finally arrived, we congratulate you very much and we encourage you to continue striving to go much further. This achievement you have obtained after all the effort and dedication you have put into your studies. We congratulate you because you have completed your stage as a university student and the prize you will receive for being a fighter is the diploma that certifies you as a professional. You are a beautiful woman and also responsible and intelligent. We wish you much happiness in this new stage of your professional life. What a great joy for the family!
"Congratulations.

Te queremos mucho Mishu nunca olvides que siempre estaremos para ti cuando nos necesites, y "Que viva la Graduada"



Nicholas,

We are all very proud of you and all your accomplishments. We all know how hard you have worked to get to this point and we are excited to be by your side to watch what happens next. This is an amazing accomplishment and just know that your family is behind you always.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Christopher, Michael,
Adrianna, Nanny



To Our Kristi,

The dedication, hard work and commitment you have given to preparing your thesis is nothing short of amazing. We are honored to call you sister and daughter. You've had a remarkable academic career at Monmouth University and are well prepared for life at graduate school. You have committed to the journey and we couldn't be prouder.

Love Jessi and Mom

Congratulations to my awe-inspiring class on the completion of your thesis!



Bradley and I are very proud of you!!
~Dr. Van Volkom

Congratulations Marisa!

We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished at Monmouth! Your hard work and perseverance throughout these four years, including all the preparation on your Gratitude Thesis, has truly been an inspiration to all of us. We will forever be grateful that you are in our life ... Ever since you were a little girl, your love for animals and your desire to help people, has always impressed us. To know that you are beginning a career where you will be able to incorporate the two things you love most in life, brings us not only tremendous pride but happiness in seeing you achieve your dream. Know that with each chapter of your life, we will be cheering you on from the sidelines! Always walk with faith, hope, and love and know that not a day goes by without us praying for your continued success and happiness. We know you will accomplish great things in grad school and in life that will make a difference in the lives of all the people you meet along the way. Continue striving for the best in yourself and know that on your life's journey, you will always have the love, support and guidance of your family.

Amo,
Mom and Paul

Dear Big Sister,
I can't believe you are already a senior in college! The time flew by so quickly and I'm really proud of all the hard work and effort you put into your studies. Finish this year strong and keep up the good work!

Love your favorite sister, Alyssa

Congratulations, Marisa on your thesis! We all knew you could do it! Good luck in grad school. I know you will do great! I will always be there to help you out in life if you ever need anything. Thank you for being my first and best friend.

Love you Marisa! Your brother, Tom





Congratulations Kassia,

I am so proud of you!
Monmouth University was
the best choice you made for
yourself for your education.

You are timeless elegance.
You have grown into a
beautiful, intelligent and
compassionate woman.
Watching you achieve your
goals and dreams has been
an incredible experience.

The Air force has been
blessed that you have chosen
them to make your future
with them.

You will do great things. I pray that God keeps you close to
his heart and that you are truly loved.

I love you.

Mom xo

Congratulations Lori!!

We are so proud of all you have accomplished. Anything you do is possible with hard work and dedication.

"I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes to the windows of opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known".

Love you always,
Mommy, Daddy & Honey

Richie,

The day you asked me to be your Godfather was a special day in my life. Watching your drive over these 4 years has made me so very proud of you. I am sure that wherever your next endeavor takes you there is no goal that is unattainable. God bless and stay focused always.

Your Favorite Godfather,
Nick

Rich,

I'm so proud to have been by your side throughout the development of not one, but two amazing theses. I am so excited to see what you accomplish in grad school and I have no doubt that you will pull off whatever you set your mind to. As a wise scholar once said,"you're mindful of it all when your mind full of it all."

Love, Emma

Stephanie,

You are an amazing woman who is smart, brilliant and ambitious. We know you are a hard worker and will achieve success at whatever you put your mind to.

We think you are awesome and have always made us proud we are your biggest fans. You've worked so hard these past four years, regardless of the many obstacles that life has handed you, your drive and determination have always come through. We are sure that you will accomplish everything you thrive for.

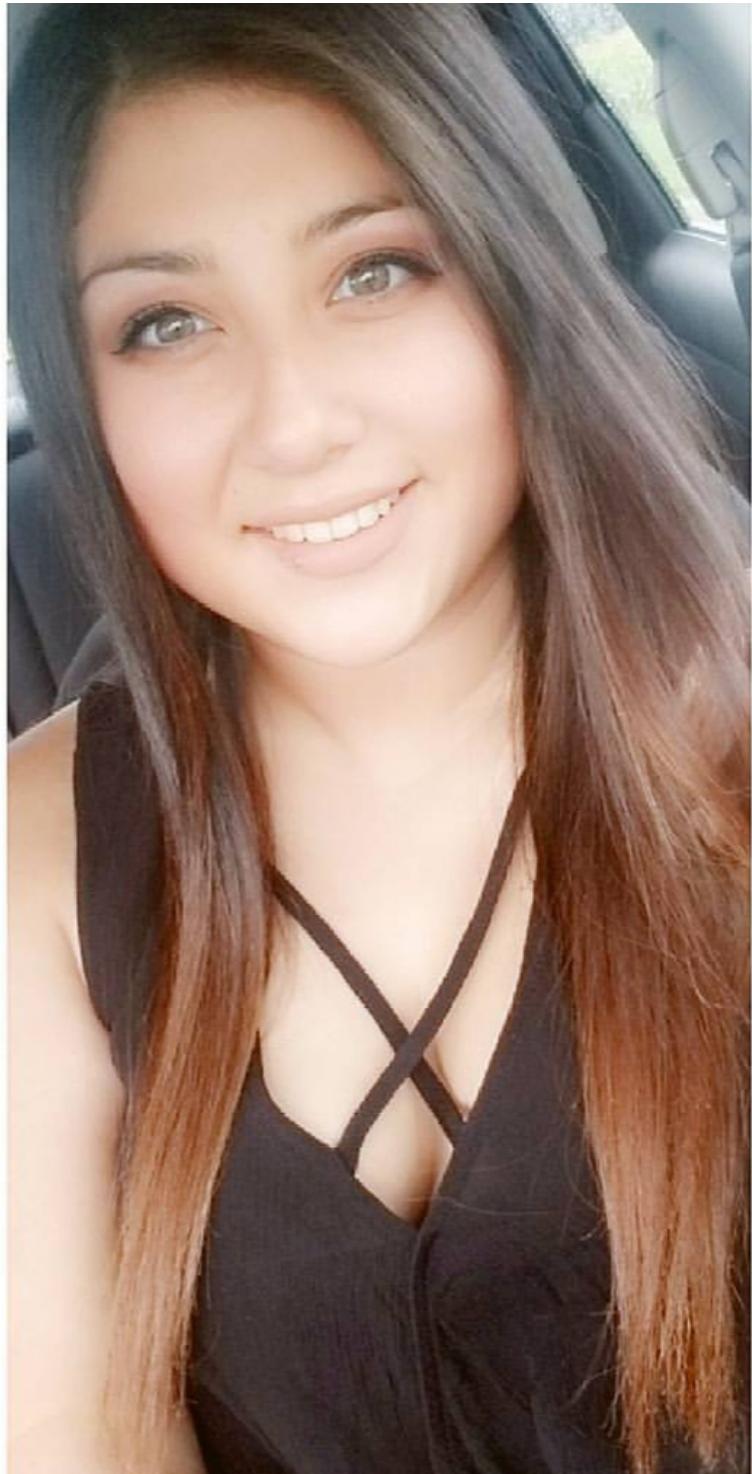
It has been a pleasure to watch you grow into the wonderful young woman that you are today. We are so very proud of you.

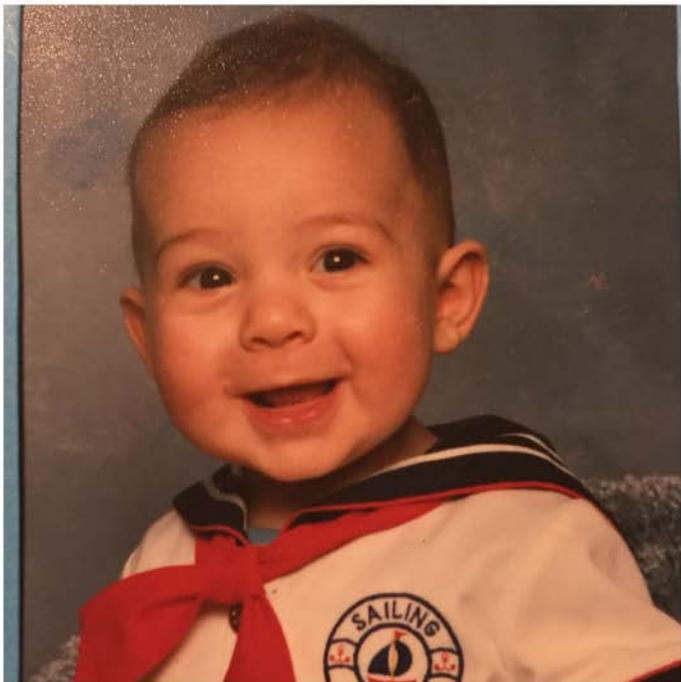
Thank you for bringing such joy and pride to our family. We will always be there for you now and forever, your future is bright.

With lots of Pride and joy,

Love you, Always.

Mom, Dad, Beanie, Little Joshua and of course Jerry.





May your hands always be busy
May your feet always be swift
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift
May your heart always be joyful
And may your song always be sung
May you stay forever young

Dear Rich,

Your accomplishments never cease to amaze us. Congratulations on your thesis and graduate school. We are so very proud of you and we love you to the moon and back! We know you'll do great things.

Love, Mom & Dad



Brandi,

Congratulations on a job well done. I'm sure today will be only the first of many proud, successful moments for you.

I look forward to sharing them all with you.

Love always,
Nicholas

To my thesis class,

Thank you for being the most encouraging, fun group. We did it! I am so proud of all everyone has accomplished and grateful to have met all of you beautiful people.

Love Always, Haley

Kristi, Olivia, Norelle, and Harry -
Thanks for being my friends. You're all amazing and this year wouldn't have been the same without you. Congrats on a successful thesis completion!

Love Always, Haley

Dear Norelle,

You have chosen your path – you have walked it well. I can't wait to see where you will allow it to lead you. I am so proud of what you have been able to overcome, the accomplishments you have achieved, and not allowing those monsters behind closed doors stop you.

Keep up the good work – stay true to what you believe – try again, fail again, fail better!!

Love always,
Mom

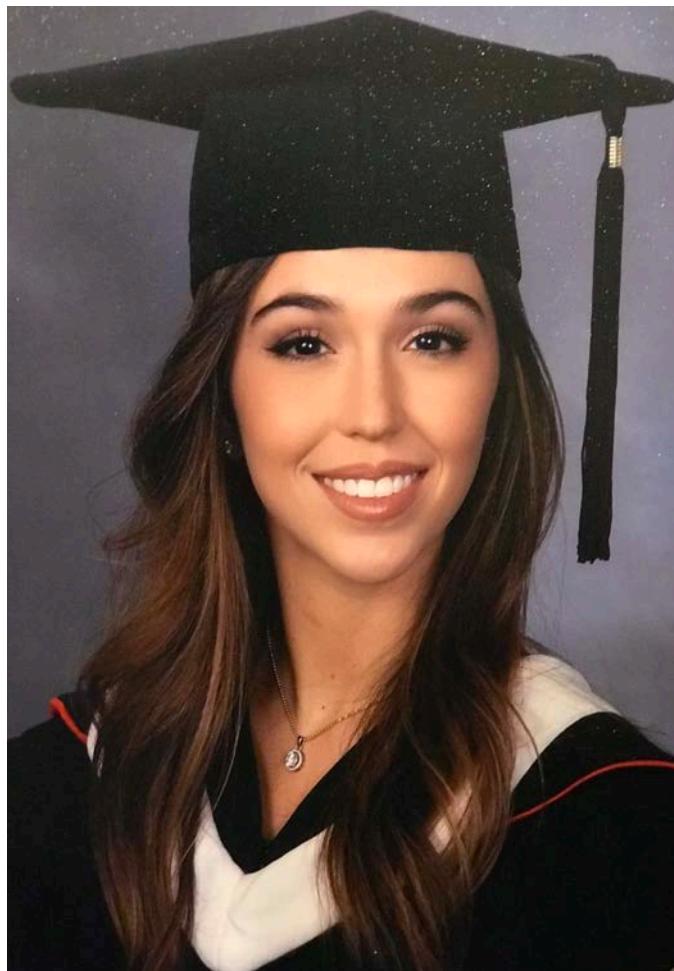
Congratulations Gianna!!

This is such a huge and amazing accomplishment that you should be so proud of! We are very proud of you and what you've achieved! The past four years seemed to have flown by. Monmouth University has been great at preparing you for what is ahead in graduate school. There is nothing you can't accomplish once you've set your mind to it. We love you very much and cannot wait to see you present your thesis!!

Love forever,
Mom and Dad

Congratulations,
Gianna!!
Can't believe all
you've
accomplished!

Love, Robert



I Woof U!!
Love, Nico

YAY Gianna!!!!
I'm so proud of
you!!

Love,
Grandma Sheila

So proud of my
beautiful, amazing, and
smart godchild!! Go
knock 'em dead!!
Love, Aunt Donna & family

We are so proud of you!
Congratulations on your accomplishment!
Love, Aunt Mary & Uncle Jim



Dear Matt,

Your smile and your caring, determined, and insightful personality are the gifts you share with the world, don't ever change. Congratulations on your wonderful accomplishments in your years at Monmouth.

Time has flown by so quickly and we could not be more proud of the purposeful and hard work you have put into your college years up to and including your thesis.

These years are the foundation for your bright future. Continue to spread joy to those around you with your sense of humor and loyalty, they are priceless attributes, and always stay passionate for the things you believe in.

We love you to infinity and beyond and we are honored to share this day with you!

All of our love,

Mom, Kevin, Uncle Noel and Schmuppy

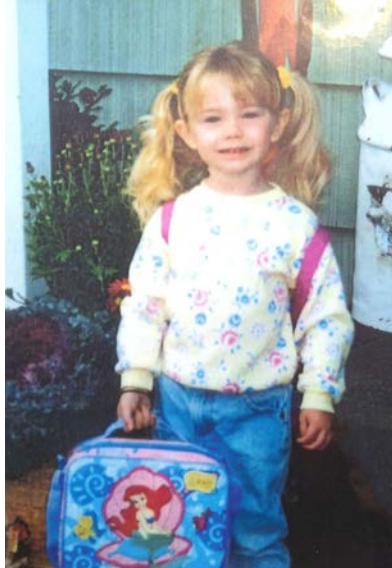
You did it Silvana!

We both watched you work long and hard on your thesis and we just want to let you know that we are amazed and proud of your accomplishment. It has been a long hard road – with many other roads to encounter – but we have no doubt that you will go for your dream and reach your goal because we know how determined you are.

We love you so much. It is easier to wish you were little again so that you didn't have to face the changes up ahead, but we all know you're ready!

Wonderful things are ahead and we will always, always, always be there for you!





Congratulations Haley!

We are so proud of your accomplishments these past few years. From kindergarten to undergrad you have amazed us in your ability to do what you do, and do it with compassion.

We are so excited to see where your next journey will lead you.

We love you to the moon and back (Boo).

Love you,

Mom, Dad, Grandma,
Aunt Wendy, Josh
and the Nannin



CONGRATULATIONS BRANDI!

We are so proud of you and your remarkable accomplishment on your thesis.

Your hard work and dedication shows that anything is possible and this effort is something to be extremely proud of.

We love you very much and cannot wait to see you present your research.

Love you to the moon and back!

Mom & Dad



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



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IN PSYCHOLOGY



Chris,

We are so proud of everything you have achieved at Monmouth, combining studies and being a division one soccer player these past four years. Your hard work and dedication to everything you do is paying off and will continue to do so, which is why we are sure you will have an amazing career and life ahead of you. We are so excited to watch what you achieve in the next chapter of your life.

Good luck today and many congratulations.

All our love,

Mom, Dad and Andrew

CONGRATULATIONS, Angelina!

You did it. We are all so proud of you and your success throughout your college years at Monmouth University. It's hard to believe how fast this day has come. From that little girl with the drive and passion to do anything.

The world is yours, go take it.

Now you are off the Payroll.

Good luck today and Congratulations!

Love Daddy, Mommy & Anthony



Dear Richie,

It has been a pleasure watching you grow into the wonderful young man that you have become. We are very proud of you and wish you only the best in your future endeavors. We love you!

Love, Aunt Molly, Jen and Ben

Dear Richie,

Congratulations on your thesis and graduation. Best wishes for your next adventure!

Love,

Uncle Nick, Aunt Su,
Mike & Nicky

Matt,

From the moment you were born I knew you were going to be a very special person. Through the years you have grown up to be a very caring, compassionate young man. It definitely shows in all the hard work you have done to help people, especially young adults and children. There is no doubt in my mind you will make a huge difference in the lives of youth and whoever you come in contact with. Your positive outlook on life is inspiring.

Congratulations!!! on one of many great accomplishments you have done and I am confident there will be many more in the future.

We are so very proud of you!!!!

We love you very much!!!

Dad & Cathy

Olivia Mayberry

Congratulations Olivia! We love you and are so proud of how hard you worked this year! We can't wait to see what the future has in store for you!

Love Amanda and Steve

Kassia -

Remember that time you didn't want to do a paper presentation? Here you are! You're crushing it and I am SO PROUD OF YOU!

Love Always, Haley

Congratulations to you all on achieving this important milestone. We are so proud of you! We look forward to seeing how you 'Pick Your Little Piece of the World and Improve It!'

Lisa M. Dinella, PhD

Congrats to my internship students!

Shelly * Megan * Meghan * Emily*
Brenda * Manny * Josh * Savannah*
Natalie * Taylor * MK * Dana * Emily *
Samantha * Nicole

I am so proud of each of you and honored to have been part of your growth and exploration.

*Most fondly,
Dr. Hatchard*

“SERVICE TO OTHERS IS THE RENT YOU PAY FOR YOUR ROOM HERE ON EARTH.”

Muhammad Ali

**MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

*“Pick Your Own Little
Piece of the World
and Improve It.”*

Over the last six years, this department has been my world. As I finish my term as chair, I wanted to thank everyone in the department (students, faculty, and staff) for their time, energy, and enthusiasm, in our shared pursuit of constant improvement. It is only because of everyone's dedication to the highest quality undergraduate education that this department is such a wonderful piece of the world to inhabit. I sincerely appreciate everything you all have contributed.

I'm looking forward to the department's continued growth and improvement under Dr. Hatchard's leadership. Greater success is yet to come.

With gratitude,
Dr. Lewandowski
Outgoing Chair of Psychology