Senior Psychology major Jessica Stephan received a $900.00 Psi Chi grant to study relationship initiation, under the supervision of Dr. Gary Lewandowski.

The title of Jessica’s project was *Call Me: The Influence of Ego Depletion on Relationship Initiation*. The grant was utilized to give monetary compensation to the study’s participants. Jessica hoped to learn more about people’s interactions and how they get involved in a new relationship.

This multi-faceted study included a depletion task, where one group of participants experienced depletion by exposure to a nearly illegible copy from a textbook, while the other group was exposed to a clear photocopy. Jessica was able to relate the study to many existing theories and concepts in psychology, including self-expansion, dissonance, and learning.

Beginning in the fall of 2009, Jessica will begin the School Psychology program at Georgian Court University.

Senior Psychology major Shannon Connell was the recipient of this year’s Dean’s Award of Excellence.

She was nominated with the support of one hundred percent of the faculty members in the Psychology Department. This well-deserved award comes at the end of an extraordinary undergraduate journey for Shannon. Shannon has served the university in many roles, including as a peer advisor for First Year Seminar and as the president of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. She has also worked diligently as a research assistant with Dr. Lisa Dinella, and is the co-author of several conference presentations and upcoming publications.

Beginning in the fall of 2009, Shannon will begin the Psy.D. program at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia.
On May 2, 2009, the Psychology Department hosted the 50th Semi-Annual Research Conference in Wilson Hall. After welcomes from Dean Green, Dr. Stapley, and Psi Chi President Barbara Fulmer, students were able to showcase their research projects. The day consisted of both paper and poster presentations, where students presented the results of their original thesis projects. Another part of the conference included an Applied Psychology poster session, where students taking PY 410 (Field Experience) with Dr. Hiatt shared their posters with the audience.

Thomas Bingham was the recipient of the best paper presentation award, while Stephanie Sullivan was the recipient of the best poster presentation award. A new award was given this year, the Alcatel-Lucent Foundation Applied Psychology Poster award. Christina Grimaldi was the recipient of this award at the conference.

Since it was such a special anniversary year for the department, a guest speaker, Dr. Paul Amato, visited from Pennsylvania State University to share his work on Emerging Trends in the Study of Children and Divorce. Audience members were exposed to new research focusing on the impact of nonresidential fathers and the relationship between parents and children post-divorce.

In addition to the keynote address by Dr. Amato, two special awards were given out this semester. Dr. Alan Cavaiola (Monmouth College class of 1973), a current member of Monmouth University’s Psychological Counseling Department, received the Distinguished Alumni Award for his outstanding contributions to the understanding and treatment of substance abuse. Dr. Jack Demarest received the department Visionary Award for his role in conceptualizing the Psychology Department’s current Research Sequence, which culminates in the opportunity for students to collaborate with a faculty mentor, resulting in an original thesis project.

On a final note, we were also fortunate enough to welcome back alumni from the past 25 years of Monmouth’s Psychology program.

This semester the conference was organized by Dr. Natalie Ciarocco and Dr. Janice Stapley.
The Monmouth University Psychology Club was busy this spring. During the semester, the club hosted a meeting with CAP Dr. Natalie Ciarocco about ways to fulfill Experiential Education requirements. Students currently participating in psychology internships spoke about their experiences with club members. The club also hosted a meeting about academic scheduling with DAC Dr. Gary Lewandowski. He shared changes to the curriculum and made recommendations about elective courses. The last meeting of the year was social in nature ending with an Easter Egg hunt for students.

Along with meetings, the Psychology Club participated in and organized several community service events. The semester started with a booth at the annual MLK event. In April, the club held an Easter party at Manna House (a home for victims of domestic violence). The students organized dinner for the families and an Easter Egg hunt for the children.

To end the year, the club members fundraised by selling candy from Old Monmouth Chocolates and elected new officers for next year. In what has become an annual event, the Psychology Club hosted a party before graduation for the faculty, friends, and families of graduating seniors.

**PSI CHI UPDATE**

On March 29th the Monmouth University chapter of Psi Chi welcomed 23 new members at their annual induction ceremony. Psi Chi is the National Honor Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. The ceremony featured all the work and accomplishments of Psi Chi students thus far.

The group jumped into action by hosting two “meal making” events at the Long Branch Ronald McDonald House in April. Student members, alongside faculty, came together to make and serve dinner to those staying in the house.
The department of psychology is proud of the psychology majors in the class of 2009. While our students will undoubtedly go on to do a number of great things, the following is a preliminary list of students who have decided to continue their education in the fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aubrey Clark</td>
<td>Master’s, Social Work, Monmouth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Connell</td>
<td>Psy.D., Clinical Psychology, Chestnut Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Damiano</td>
<td>Master’s, Educational Counseling, Monmouth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arci Guzman</td>
<td>Albert Einstein School of Medicine of Yeshiva University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawna Kelly</td>
<td>Master’s, Clinical Psychology, West Chester University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Maiorano</td>
<td>Master’s, School Psychology, Rowan University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Menendez</td>
<td>Master’s, Corporate Communication with specialization in Human Resource Management, Monmouth University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rozan Mizrahi</td>
<td>Master’s, Social Work, Hunter College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Stephan</td>
<td>Master’s, School Psychology, Georgian Court University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krista St. Louis</td>
<td>Ph. D., Human Services Psychology with a concentration in Community and Applied Social Psychology; University of Maryland Baltimore County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Wood</td>
<td>Master’s, Professional Counseling, Monmouth University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This spring four students were selected for various department awards. Congratulations to all!

**Megan Inglesby** was bestowed the **Randeberg Memorial Award** for her outstanding all around performance as a Psychology major, exemplifying the ideals of service and involvement in psychology. The award reflects excellence in academic work, commitment to scientific research and discovery, and the demonstration of leadership and social responsibility.

**Jennifer McClosky** received the **Griffin Award** for the highest grade point average as a graduating psychology student.

**Krista St. Louis** was honored with the **Rose Feinberg Memorial Award** for being a deserving student in psychology. This award was donated by Harold Feinberg, and by family and friends of the late Mrs. Rose Feinberg, a graduate and faculty member of Monmouth University.

**Katherine Wood** was bestowed the **Alice Gustav Scholarship Award** for outstanding performance as a returning psychology major who exemplifies the ideals of compassion, hard work, independence, striving towards excellence, and a commitment to the feminist tradition.
FACULTY HAPPENINGS

~Natalie Ciarocco, Ph.D.

~Lisa Dinella, Ph.D.
Books:

Conference Presentations:

Course Creation:
PY 103 HYBRID: Introduction to Psychology
Created and implemented 4 sections of a technologically enhanced Introduction to Psychology course. Students used online tutorials, quizzes, exams, discussion boards, and wiki sites to learn, synthesize, and apply relevant course material.

Community Outreach Talks, Presentations, and Projects:
Invited Guest Speaker for St. Peter’s Preparatory High School in Jersey City, New Jersey. Facilitated workshops on the topic of gender equity in schools (October, 2008).

Coordinated community service project for Psi Chi, International Honor Society Students of Monmouth University, and the Psychology Department Faculty. Together, students and faculty made dinner for families at the Ronald McDonald House on two separate nights in April 2009.

Presented “Creating Research Partnerships with school stakeholders: A relationship centered approach” for the Gender Research Center Faculty Forum Brown Bag in April 2009.

~Robyn Holmes, Ph.D.
Publications:

Book Translation:
Dr. Holmes had her book titled, Fieldwork with Children translated into complex Chinese.

Conference Presentations:


~Gary Lewandowski, Ph.D.
Grants:
Stephan, J.*, & Lewandowski, G. W., Jr.** (January 2009-Present). Call me: The influ-
ence of ego depletion on relationship initiation. Psi Chi: Undergraduate Research Grant. (Award Amount: 900.00).

Publications:

Conference Presentations:

Invited Talks:

Popular Press:
- Men’s Health April 2009 issue
- Cosmopolitan February 2009 issue

~Judith Nye, Ph.D.

Nye, J. L., & Bellina, A. (2008, October). Turning the ship around: Making the change from fall to summer orientation and forging cross-divisional relationships in its wake. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Orientation Directors Association, Boston, MA.

~Janice C. Stapley, Ph.D.

~Michele Van Volkom, Ph.D.

*Monmouth University Undergraduate Student
** Faculty Supervisor