

**19TH ANNUAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGY DAY**



**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN, CT**

MAY 5, 2016

19th Annual CSU Psychology Day Committee

Planning Committee

Michael Nizhnikov
Deborah Kraemer
Kelly Stiver
Dina Moore
Patricia Kahlbaugh
Larry Brancazio

Web Page

Michael Nizhnikov
Larry Brancazio

Program

Patricia Kahlbaugh
Dina Moore
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Faculty Poster Reviewers

Michael Nizhnikov
Patricia Kahlbaugh

Student Poster Reviewers

Kandice Green
Joshua Ryan
Kiersten Bernier

Student Volunteers

Student Psychology Research Organization (SPRO)

Whitney Hoffman
Kandice Green
Joshua Ryan
Ernest Barrett
Kiersten Bernier

Psychology Club and Psi Chi

Beckon DiGaetano
Shawn Gilhuly
Ta’Kerra Purnell
Tyrese Ford
Alex Reichelt
Caroline Heilbouer-Hammel
Rebecca Hubley
Megan Mancinelli
Alanna Mouta

Special Thanks

Virilinda Billups

Schedule of Events

Time	Event	Location
10:00-10:30	Registration <i>(Setup for Poster Session A)</i>	Student Center Theater and Connecticut Hall 109 (for Poster Session A Presenters)
10:30-11:15	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bridget Nugent University of Pennsylvania	Student Center Theater
11:30-12:10	Poster Session A	Connecticut Hall 109
12:10-1:10	Lunch <i>(Setup for Poster Session B)</i>	Connecticut Hall Dining Room (meal vouchers provided)
1:10-1:50	Poster Session B Graduate Program Information	Connecticut Hall 109
1:55-2:35	Poster Session C Graduate Program Information	Connecticut Hall 109
2:50-3:35	Student Presentations	Student Center Theater
3:35-3:50	Student Awards	Student Center Theater

Keynote Speaker

10:30 – 11:15

Dr. Bridget Nugent

University of Pennsylvania

Sex differences in the epigenetic mechanisms controlling neurodevelopment

Dr. Bridget Nugent received her PhD from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where her award-winning dissertation was focused on a novel role of DNA methylation in feminization of the brain. Following this, as a Donnelly Fellow at the Yale Institute for Biospheric studies, she investigated the hormonal and neurogenomic mechanisms of phenotypic plasticity in wild Mediterranean reef fish. Dr. Nugent currently studies prenatal stress and sex-specific epigenetic mechanisms that underlie gender biases in the etiology of neurodevelopmental disorders, as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.

Paper Presentations 2:50-3:35

Catherine Gingras, Southern

The Influence Of Exposure To Minority Groups: LGBT Acceptance And Tolerance On College Campuses

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Patricia Kahlbaugh

This study investigated college students implicit and explicit attitudes about homosexuality, the effect of persuasive messages on attitudes, and the effect of religious participation on explicit attitudes about homosexuality. Students (n=48) participated in the study by reading vignettes that portrayed either a positive or negative 'coming-out' narrative, completed implicit (IAT) and explicit (HATH) measures of prejudice, and reported their level of religious participation through a demographic questionnaire. Results indicated that overall exposure (whether positive or negative) reduced the discrepancy between the implicit and explicit scores. Those who did not receive any exposure element had a much greater discrepancy between scores. Results also indicated that religious participation was associated with higher levels of explicit prejudice. Further research is needed to gain a more comprehensive understanding as to how to eliminate or minimize discrepancy between implicit and explicit attitudes.

Raquel M. Estrella, Eastern

Witnessed Victimization, Reports, and Help Seeking Attitudes

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kristalyn Salters-Pedneault

The issue of victimization and aversion to reporting or seeking help is common on college campuses. This study examined 30 college students and measured each variable using the Secondary Exposure to Community Violence Measure, The Crime Report Scale, and the Attitudes Toward Seeking Professional Help Measure. A Pearson correlation was used to test these relationships and found a positive relationship between crime reporting and favorable attitudes ($r = .51$, $n = 16$, $p = .041$). Practical implications of this study include helping educational institutions in understanding barriers to reporting crime on campus and creating more favorable attitudes towards coping programs and services.

Victoria Smith, Central

Attitudes and Misconceptions Towards Feminism in College Aged Students

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Steven Horowitz

Although extensive research has proven that women face significant levels of inequality in a multitude of areas of American society, feminism still remains a controversial topic. Many people agree with feminist ideals that target gender inequalities, yet identification with the feminist movement remains limited. This study demonstrates the most common reasons for lack of identification, as well as the idea that many people who do not label themselves feminists still hold egalitarian beliefs/feminist values. It also focuses on gender differences in identification with the movement, and attitudes toward topics of inequality for both identifiers and non-identifiers.

Poster Presentations

Poster Session A: 11:30-12:10

Poster A1: Adelina M. Villanti, Central
Positive Attitudes Toward Internationally and Interracially Adopted Children

Faculty Sponsor: Marianne Fallon

College students (n=190) participated in two studies examining how knowledge of a person's adoptive status affects person perception and whether the combination of interracial and/or international adoption and one's ethnic identity qualifies such perceptions. Students reported greater desire to interact with an interracially adopted individual than a biologically related child. These findings may signal a shift toward more egalitarian attitudes towards adopted children, particularly those who are adopted interracially.

Poster A2: Javieska R. Acosta, Southern
Risk factors of relationship violence

Faculty Sponsor: Kelly Stiver

While there is considerable work on the impact of relationship violence, there is less examining those factors that put a person at risk of being a victim, particularly how certain traits of a romantic partner may be indicative of increased risk of aggression. Here, we examine past research to arrive at a clear picture of potential indicators of risk of relationship violence, which include: victim and partner gender, a partner possessing psychopathic traits, a history of child abuse for the victim or perpetrator, attitudes towards intimate violence, the genetic variations and neurobiology that affect how an individual responds to aggression.

Poster A3: Daniel Mueller, Eastern
Gender, Gender Role, And Sexual Orientation

This study identifies levels of shame and how both men and women are exposed to gender roles. It was conducted on people of varying sexuality both men and women. Previous research suggests that men who are more masculine should have less shame compared to women who more shame because of media, specifically objectification (Aubrey, 2007). The purpose behind the research is to further investigate shame in men and women to help understand shame experiences and understand the causes of shame better.

Poster A4: Buddy Toth, Delvin Ramirez, Julia Nicsaji, Dayvon Neal, Brittany LaBarre, Charles Joaquim, Sebastian Hernandez, Alyssa Flore, Beckon DiGaetano, Miranda Curnane, Keara Blue, & Skye Battista, Southern

You made a good point! Individual differences and situational factors associated with changing one's mind.

Faculty Sponsor: Kelly Bordner

We examined personal characteristics that predict whether someone will change their mind in light of contradictory evidence. We probed participants with several popular psychological myths and then attempted to debunk these by providing them with evidence to the contrary. Evidence was said to be from either scholarly or popular sources. We found that participants were more likely to change their minds after reading a paragraph that was attributed to a scholarly source. These data suggest that subtle differences in wording, or simply attributing a document to a scholarly source, may significantly increase the likelihood that readers will believe it.

Poster A5 : Yobelania Santana, Central
Women's Perception of Their Body Image

Faculty Sponsor: William B. Disch, PhD

This study examined the correlation that ethnicity, age, and social interaction had with the perception of different women on their body image. Participants reported their gender and answered a series of questions about their body by way of a survey, administered to them at Central Connecticut State University.

Poster A6: Arden Rand, Southern
Effects of priming a religious leader on individual's attitudes towards religious groups

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jessica Suckle-Nelson

This study examined the effects of priming a Jesus-, Muhammad-, or neutral-attributed Golden Rule on individual's implicit and explicit attitudes towards religious groups among 38 undergraduate college students. Participants were given an explicit attitude survey that measured attitudes towards social groups. Next, participants were given a survey that primed them with a Golden Rule quotation. Next, participants were given an Implicit Association Test to measure their subconscious attitudes towards religious groups, which was followed by the explicit questionnaire previously used, and a religiosity and spirituality survey. Such research can help researchers better understand what affects people's attitudes towards religious groups.

Poster A7: Amanda Perreault, Eastern
The Impact of Emotional Intelligence and Ethnicity on Leadership Perceptions

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Peter Bachiochi

A person's perception of a leader can impact a leader's ability to accomplish the goals and needs of a group. This current study examined the impacts of emotional intelligence (EI) and ethnicity on perceptions of ideal leaders. Seventy-six students (N=76) took the Scale of Implicit Leadership Theory, and the Emotional Intelligence Scale. Results produced statistically significant correlations between EI and the subscales of Strength, Intelligence, and Charisma. Future research should focus on recruiting students of different ethnicities to produce statistically significant results, which could then help the Office of Student Activities implement programs to help leaders of student-led organizations.

Poster A8: Stephanie Madden, Eastern
Impact of Stereotype Threat on Mathematic Performance of Women

Faculty Sponsor: Madeleine Fugere

Mathematics remains negatively stereotyped to females, a phenomenon called 'stereotype threat.' I hypothesized that women in stereotype threat conditions would perform significantly worse on the exam in comparison to women in the no stereotype threat condition as well as men in the stereotype threat condition. The study also predicted no difference between men and women's math scores in the no stereotype threat conditions. In this study, 23 Eastern Connecticut State University students participated. Only the final prediction was supported, there was no difference between men and women's math scores in the no stereotype threat conditions.

Poster A9 : Karinna Nazario, Eastern
Differences between Commuter and Residential Students, Involvement and Academic Performance

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Alita Cousins

A college student's involvement impacts their academics, but so does the students residential status. Students at Eastern Connecticut State University took a survey using the MSLQ and Involvement in Extra-curricular Activities Measure to measure their academics and involvement. Contrary to the hypotheses, students that were commuter students but were a driving distance away and were moderately involved, significantly performed the best academically.

Poster A10: Ajeyah Martin & Mokia Hull, Southern
Behavioral and Emotional Response to Social Media

Faculty Sponsor: Patricia Kahlbaugh

The current study investigates the effect of watching videos on the way people judge others, specifically, how they punish or reward them. Previous research suggests that

watching a specific type of behavior can elicit that same behavior and can affect the way people emotionally respond to viewing aggression or happiness. Participants were shown either an aggressive or a happy video, then given three different vignettes and asked to fine or reward the character described in the vignette. We expect that participants who watched an aggressive video will give higher punishments and participants watching a happy video will give lower punishments.

Poster A11: Jennifer Gumbulevich, Eastern
The Interaction of Stress, Mobile Phone Use, and Nature Contact

Faculty Sponsor: Alita Cousins

Research shows decreased perceived stress levels are related to decreased mobile phone use and increased nature contact (e.g., time outdoors) (Murdock, 2013, Mitchell & Popham, 2008). This study examined the relationship between perceived stress levels, mobile phone use, and nature contact by recruiting students from Eastern Connecticut State University who received one research credit for participation. Data was analyzed with correlation tests. This study hopes to raise awareness for college students in reducing stress. Only one hypothesis was statistically significant which states that increased stress levels are related to increased mobile phone use.

Poster A12: Michael K. Pelletier, Eastern
The Effects of Narcissism and Impulsivity on Empathy

Empathy is a trait necessary for happy healthy life, but not all humans possess the same capacity for empathy or ability to use it in a social setting. Empathy is more present in some than others; possible factors could be the presence of traits like narcissism and impulsivity, or differences in age or ethnic background. The hypothesis being tested in the study is that impulsivity and narcissism are negatively related to empathy. Fifty students (N=50) enrolled at ECSU completed three measures: the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI), The Baratt Impulsivity Scale (BIS), and the Empathy Quotient (EQ).

Poster A13: Diana Santiago Agustin, Eastern
Correlation of Self-Esteem and Sexual Behavior

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Joseph Dracobly

What will be examined will be the level of self-esteem of a participant and how they engage in risky sexual behavior. It is hypothesized that the participants with low self-esteem will be more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior. While those with high self-esteem are less likely to engage in risky sexual behavior. Also we expect men to be the ones who are more likely to participate in risky sexual behavior than women.

**Poster A14: Michelle Gluhosky, Eastern
Forms of abuse as discipline and the impact on children**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Melanie Keyes

Children have unfortunately suffered negatively for years from physical, emotional, and verbal punishment used as forms of discipline. This literature review will highlight the statistics regarding the prevalence of physical, emotional, and verbal punishment, definitions explaining their true forms, and the outcomes for children who experience these forms of punishment as discipline. Specifically, outcomes of mental health and long-term effects for physical, emotional, and verbal punishments will be reviewed. Future directions in research along with implications will be also be discussed.

**Poster A15: Jordyn Beschel & Maggie Albright, Central
Success-Oriented Men and the Consequences of Work-Life Imbalance**

Faculty Sponsor: Jason F. Sikorski

113 men who attended college and worked full-time completed standardized self-report measures. Groups were formed based on levels of competitive attitudes and ability to balance work and leisure. Statistically significant results revealed that men struggling to achieve work life balance suffer from numerous externalizing and internalizing symptoms. Prevention programs should aim to encourage young men in college to balance school, work, and leisure to prevent the exacerbation of difficulties in later adulthood.

**Poster A16: Kaylei Roux, Eastern
The Effects of the Color Red on Interest in a Relationship**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Joseph Dracobly

This paper explores the effects of males wearing red on female's interest in starting a long term relationship. Participants were females, who preferred males for relationships, at a liberal arts college in Connecticut. Participants took surveys with photos of African American or Caucasian models wearing a red or white shirt, and answered rating scales on attractiveness and interest in a short or long term relationship. A One Way ANOVA showed there wasn't significant results of shirt color on female's interest in starting a long or short term relationship with either of the models. All the results showed $p > .05$.

**Poster A17: Marisa N. LaBrecque, Eastern
Permissiveness, Satisfaction, and Attachment Style**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kristalyn Salters-Pedneault

This study examined the following hypotheses: 1) that an individual who has high sexual permissiveness will score high for avoidant attachment style 2) that an individual with a secure attachment style will be associated with higher levels of relationship satisfaction and 3) that individuals with high sexual permissiveness will report low relationship satisfaction. The correlation between current relationship satisfaction and secure attachment style was significant ($p < .01$). There was also a significant correlation between current relationship satisfaction and avoidant attachment

style ($p < .05$). Current findings contribute to the understudied topic of adult relationship attachment style.

**Poster A18: Kevin Guillemette, Central
Religiosity and Temperament**

Faculty Sponsor: Marianne Fallon

Previous research examining the relationship between religiosity and personality has sampled within specific religious communities or denominations. The current study will focus on relationships between the psychological temperaments proposed by David Keirse and religious beliefs and practices in a religiously diverse sample of undergraduates. I propose that Guardians will cling to tradition and community-based activities because of their preference for details and consistency. By contrast, Rationals and Idealists will be drawn to a more versatile and abstract conceptualization of the divine because of their preference for observing patterns and trends.

**Poster A19: Abel J. Lugo, Central
How Does Rock Music Affect Mood Change?**

Faculty Sponsor: William B. Disch, PhD

This study examines the effects that Rock music has on mood change. Participants reported their current emotions prior to receiving the condition. The participants then listened to three Rock songs considered to be sad. After listening to the songs, they would then report their current emotions.

**Poster A20: Matthew Collin, Eastern
Relationship between Perceived Stress, Social Control, and Alcohol Consumption in a College Sample**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Salters-Pedneault

The present study explored the relationship between perceived stress, social control, and alcohol consumption amongst college students. Results demonstrated that there was a positive relationship between social control and drinking ($r = .44$, $N = 32$, $p = .011$). There was no significant relationship found between stress and social control; however a regression analysis found a significant relationship between social control and perceived stress in regards to drinking behavior ($R^2 = .27$, $F = 5.39$, $p = .01$). The study provides supporting evidence that social control could influence an individual's drinking behavior which is supported by the current literature.

**Poster A21: Nicole D'Amico, Central
Examining Perceptions of Men and Women in Sex Work
and Gender-Atypical Occupations**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Steven Horowitz

Sex workers, as well as individuals in traditional, but gender-atypical occupations face discrimination across multiple contexts. Studies have shown that individuals in sex work are at a higher risk of physical and sexual assault. Further, those in non-traditional occupations, such as men in nursing, are viewed more negatively and are stereotyped. Women in leadership positions are also viewed less favorably. Undergraduate students (N =74) assessed their gender role beliefs, as well as likability towards a protagonist in a randomized vignette. Statistical analysis showed no main effects for likability. However, men reported more traditional gender role beliefs than women.

**Poster A22: Ally Johnson, Eastern
Effects of Religious Commitment and Sexual Compulsivity
on Shame**

Faculty Sponsor: Peter Bachiochi

Based on past research, this study addresses the relationships between commitment to religion, sexual compulsivity, and shame using a Multiple Regression correlational test. The sample (n=61) in the study consisted of males (n=35) and females (n=45) who were recruited from the population at Eastern Connecticut State University. Using the Santa Clara Strength of Religious Faith Questionnaire, Guilt and Shame Proneness Scale (GASP), and the Sexual Compulsivity Scale this study confirmed that lower levels of religiosity and higher levels of sexual compulsivity are associated with lower levels of shame in college students.

**Poster A23: Dania Shoaib, Central
Reaction to a Muslim's Three Levels of Clothing in Public**

Faculty Sponsor: William B Disch

This study examined how the general public reacts to the three levels of Muslim clothing. Level one being the hijab, level two is the ahbaya, and level three is the nikaab. Furthermore, the results will indicate that the negative influence the media and the Muslim stereotypes have on an individual, he or she will respond in a negative way and vice versa.

**Poster A24: Alexandra Krauth, Southern
To Stalk Or Not To Stalk: The Acceptability of Approach
Behaviors Towards Celebrities Versus Non-Celebrities**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jessica Suckle-Nelson

This study examined how stalking behaviors are perceived when applied to celebrities versus non-celebrities, as too often stalking is perceived as an expected side effect of celebrity life.

**Poster A25: Jacqueline Eady, Central
Healthy and Unhealthy Food Consumption
Healthy and Unhealthy Food Consumption Among College
Students**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. William Disch

This study will acknowledge the attentional bias the college students makes when choosing healthy and unhealthy food decision while living on campus. Researcher believe the problem is due to the students living away from their parents, and taking the quick and easy way out. The purpose of this study is to observe college student's intake of food to see if unhealthy foods is a priority for them.

**Poster A26: Rodrigo S. Martins, Western
A Mobile Technology Intervention for Treatment of
Borderline Personality Disorder**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shane Murphy

Previous research has shown that technology-based interventions using mobile devices can assist in the treatment of psychological disorders (Depp et al., 2011). The present study is designed to assess the effectiveness of a newly designed phone application intervention to help clients with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). In addition to the phone app, therapy dogs will be available during group therapy. The SCID-II and the MacLean Screening Instrument for BPD will be used to measure the effects of the use of the phone application for individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder.

**Poster A27: Breanna Fortin, Eastern
Adverse Childhood Experiences resilient traits and life
satisfaction**

Faculty Sponsor: Kristalyn Salters-Pedneault

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) encompass a broad range of experiences that take place in childhood; including physical harm, neglect, and family dysfunction. The current study's purpose is to examine the relationship between ACE, resilient traits, and satisfaction with life. This study will include a sample containing both sexes (n=5) males and (n=22) females, (N=27). A Pearson r correlation was conducted to examine relationship between ACE, resilient traits, and life satisfaction. A significant negative association was examined between the transformed variable ACE and SWLS ($r(25) = .48, p < .05$).

Poster Session B: 1:10-1:50

Poster B1: Alexis Melendez, Central Extracurricular Involvement, Time Management Behavior, and Academic Performance in College

Faculty Sponsor: Bradley M. Waite, PhD

Students from a northeastern U.S. public university (N = 156) completed questionnaires measuring time spent in extracurricular activities, specific dimensions of time management behavior and academic achievement goals, and two academic performance variables; GPA and expectations of academic performance. Two multiple regression analyses were conducted to predict each academic performance variable. Results indicated that time management behaviors reflecting preference for organization, mastery academic goals and performance-avoidance goals predicted students' expectations of academic performance. The regression predicting GPA was not significant. The present study offers information showing the connections among achievement goals, organizational behavior, and expectations of academic performance.

Poster B2: Daniela Kelliher, & Adelina Villanti, Central Racial Differences in Hypermasculinity

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jason F. Sikorski

Participants consisted of 265 male undergraduate students who completed self-report measures assessing traditional masculinity and hypermasculinity. Black participants reported higher levels of hypermasculinity compared to their White counterparts by describing experiencing greater pressure to display toughness through violence and the restriction of emotions. Future research should include larger and more diverse samples to examine which social factors interact with racial identity to predict hypermasculine tendencies using more sophisticated statistical models.

Poster B3: Sonia Shahid, Central American College Students' Likability of South Asian Women Displaying Different Skin Tones

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Bowman

This study measured participants' adherence to Christianity and their judgments of South Asian women varying in skin tone (light or dark) and religion (Muslim or no religion). Psychology students were randomly assigned to view one image and then complete a likability scale and the Rejection of Christianity Scale (Greer & Francis, 1992). Results indicated that skin tone did not affect likability. Very religious Christians liked the woman more than less religious Christians. Perhaps South Asian females living in the U.S. do not need to lighten their skin to feel accepted. Rigid adherence to Christian values relates to more acceptance of other religions.

Poster B4: Rachel Scrivano, Eastern The Relation between Socioeconomic Status, Life Satisfaction and Attitudes towards the Elderly

Faculty Sponsor: Kristalyn Salters-Pedneault

Elderly individuals encounter daily hardships such as maltreatment, mental health and chronic diseases. This study aims to provide information on two specific variables that could be associated with these daily challenges, specifically attitudes towards the elderly. By hypothesizing that both high socioeconomic status (SES) and life satisfaction relate to positive attitudes towards the elderly, this study attempts to offer awareness of variables that may contribute to such hardships. The results of this study can function as preliminary research for how college students' attitudes towards the elderly impact the elderly population.

Poster B5: Sabrina Aliano, Central Short-Term Meditation Effects on Higher order Cognitive Functioning

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. William B. Disch PhD

This study examined the positive effects that short term meditation holds on higher order cognitive functions. Future results will indicate whether prefrontal functioning can be enhanced with the practice of short-term meditative techniques.

Poster B6: Michael Squires, Mikayla Konecy, Emily Ferens, Jessica Pappas, Jessica Franco, Southern The Effect of Paternal Age and Diet on the Neuroanatomical Development of Adolescent Rats

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kelly Bordner

This study examines the effect of paternal factors (age and diet) on the neuroanatomical development of adolescent rats. Specifically, cerebellar tissue was collected for the assessment of GABA_B receptors via Western Blotting analysis.

Poster B7: Emily Ferens, Mikalya Konecy, Michael Squires, Jessica Pappas, Jessica Franco, Southern The Effects of Paternal Age and Obesity on the Social Development of Adolescent Rats

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kelly Bordner

This study examines the effect of paternal factors (age and diet) on the social development of adolescent rats. Specifically, we examined social behavior using Conditioned Place Preference and Social approach assays.

Poster B8: Christopher M. Graziano, Central Binaural Brainwave Entrainment Induced Alpha State and its Effect on Memory

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. William Disch

Abstract. A binaural beat occurs in the brain when two separate tones at different frequencies are played in each ear. If the difference in frequency is between seven and thirteen hertz the binaural beat can produce a mental alpha state. Fifty six undergraduate participants from Central Connecticut State University completed tasks under two randomly ordered conditions. One condition was to perform memory tasks no auditory stimulation, the other was randomly selected between a binaural or monotone stimuli. Two variations of a Working Memory Capacity test were performed by each condition to determine the short term performance of each stimuli.

Poster B9: Shawn Gilhuly, Jessica Pappas, Jaime Bustamante, Victor Bernatene & Murphy Murad, Southern

Effects of Prenatal Alcohol on Postnatal Growth and Development

Faculty Sponsor: Michael Nizhnikov, PhD.

Perturbations to the fetus can affect growth. High dose prenatal ethanol exposure results in effects ranging from decreased brain region to decreased body weight. There has only been one study looking at the effects of low levels of prenatal ethanol on development. We exposed pregnant rats to either 1 g/kg ethanol, water, or left dams untreated during gestational days 17 to 20. We weighed the offspring daily till postnatal day 48. There was no effect of prenatal treatment but a significant difference due to sex. This suggests that such low levels of prenatal ethanol exposure had no effect of postnatal development.

Poster B10: Kristina Lacasse, Britt Conroy, Emilio Flores & Natica Blake, Southern Relationships Among Reading, Attention, and Working Memory In College-Age Students

Faculty Sponsors: Dina Moore & Larry Brancazio

In this study, we investigated whether individual deficits in decoding, phonological processing, working memory, or nonverbal intelligence are predictive of poor decoding and word-reading performance in a general college student population. Seventy four college students were given a series of tasks including measures of word and pseudoword reading, phonological manipulation of spoken words, fluency, nonverbal reasoning, working memory, and executive functioning. A regression analysis showed that decoding, phonological awareness, and phonological memory were significantly predictive of word reading. These results show that reading ability involves phonological skills and differences in word reading ability were not a function of intelligence.

Poster B11: Theresa Shine, Kristina Duffy, Whitney Hoffman, & Jacqueline Turcios, Southern Language and social communicative differences between children with autism, speech sound disorders and typical development

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Julia Irwin

A characteristic of autism spectrum disorders is delayed language development. Children with autism score similarly to children with speech sound disorder. With the use of expressive and receptive language assessments we investigate the differences between children with autism, children with speech sound disorder and typically developing children. These scores will be compared to social measures, to identify if language development is directly related to measures of social competence.

Poster B12 : Kiersten Bernier, Christina Lasto, Lindsay Halas, & Jacqueline Turcios, Southern Autism and speech comprehension: Timing and amplitude differences in discriminating speech sounds

Faculty Sponsor: Julia Irwin

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability in which communication deficits are apparent. Speech comprehension involves integrating a visual percept from the speaker and an auditory percept of their voice. Those with ASD may be missing out on key visual cues from the speaker due to their lack of attention to the face. This project investigated if children with autism successfully use visual information from a speaking face. Preliminary results, of event related potentials, show that children with typical development process speech sounds in the context of visual information more quickly than children with ASD.

Poster B13: Kate DeMartino, Taylor Rispoli & Jacqueline Turcios, Southern Tracking the Effectiveness of an iPad App to Improve Speech Perception.

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Julia Irwin

Listening to Faces, or L2F is an interactive program that uses an iPad interface to present videos of speakers producing monosyllabic words. The program helps train children with ASD to focus on the mouth of the speaker. Preliminary data shows an increase in accuracy after training with L2F, indicating that children improved performance in identifying speech in noise. The program has been modified to include an eye-tracking assessment that will test the pre and post results of eye gaze during varying levels of background noise. The results of eye-tracking will provide information for professionals to draw focus for intervention.

Poster B14: Alisha Marie Soto, Central
The Effects of Stress, Coping, and Anxiety on Self-Efficacy and Academic Achievement

Faculty Sponsor: William Disch

This study will examine the correlation between stress, coping, anxiety, and motivation due to self-efficacy theory. It will also examine how this correlates with academic performance. Participants will report their grade point average as well as take several scales that will measure their stress, coping, anxiety, self-efficacy, and academic motivation.

Poster B15: Evans A Le Comte, Western
Alternatives to Pharmacology Regimens in Bipolar Disorder (Post-Acute Phase)

Faculty Sponsor: Shane Murphy

The present proposal examines the effects of both common psychotherapeutic and complementary and alternative therapeutic interventions (CAMs) on individuals with Bipolar Disorder symptoms. Participants (N=300) will be invited from college campuses and mental health clinics to take online assessments utilizing: The Hypomanic Personality Scale (HPS; Eckblad & Chapman, 1986); and The UPPS Impulsive Behavior Scale (UPPS; Whiteside & Lynam, 2001). After 6-month follow-up assessments and random assignment to one of four conditions, intervention efficacy will be evaluated. The four conditions in this study are: cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), psychoeducation (PE), massage/aroma-therapy (CAM), or quiet reading for six months.

Poster B16: Jimnalyn Santiago, Central
The Effects of Color on Short Term Memory Performance

Faculty Sponsor: Steven Horowitz

This study evaluated whether the use of color can moderate or change aspects in short term memory performance. Short term memory recall during exposure to color or no color within word memory tests were obtained from CCSU students. The study design involved a demographics questionnaire and two word memory tests with one consisting of no color and the other consisting of color, counterbalanced. Results were analyzed through descriptive statistics and a paired samples t-test which showed no significance between the exposure or no exposure of color within scores of both word memory tests. Limitations and possibilities for future research are also discussed.

Poster B17: Justin Rivera, Central
You've Got Me Feeling Emoji's

Faculty Sponsor: Steven W. Horowitz, Ph.D

The ability to judge others' emotions is needed for establishing and maintaining smooth interactions in a community. Evidence suggests that the acknowledgment of meaning to a face is influenced by the facial actions produced by an observer during the observation of a face. When brought to light of facial emotional recognition we can see the distinction of emotional construct brought from adding individuals' perception toward facial expression. This study has found that participants will respond to an emoji more than to an accompanying text.

Poster B18: Solveig Millett, Eastern
Stress in Parents of Children with Cerebral Palsy

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jeffrey Danforth

This study examined the difference in stress between parents of children with CP and parents of typically developing children. Twelve parents of children with CP and 11 parents of typically developing children completed the Parenting Stress Index Short-Form, 4th Edition and demographic questions. Stress scores were significantly higher in the CP group than the control group. These results support existing research that parents of children with CP experience more stress than parents of typical children. Results should help to inform resource allocation as well as how therapists and clinicians can best help these families.

Poster B19: Kelly Coleman, Central
Music and Mood

In past research, it was shown that music that was preferred by an individual had a positive effect on them. Through my study, Music and Mood I was trying to find out if certain songs can make an individual feel a certain way, if their mood changed based on the song that I played. I played three different songs to the participants and had them answer surveys. After conducting this study I had found that each song that was played the results matched what the songs were expressing and how the participant felt while listening to them.

Poster B20: Rachel Pilver, Eastern
Stress and Working Memory

Stress is problematic for undergraduates because it causes negative outcomes. Working memory is affected by stress. Using the Digit-Span task, this study investigated the effect of cold-pressor stress on working memory and blood pressure. No significant results were found for the hypothesis that when under stress, working memory will be lower than when not stressed or for the hypothesis that when under stress, an increase in blood pressure will occur compared to when participants are not stressed. No significant relationship was found for the hypothesis that the greater the increase in blood pressure, the greater the decrease in working memory.

Poster B21: Joseph Fazzino, Eastern Environmental Mission Statements' Influence on Job Pursuit, Attractiveness, and Perceived Fit

When employees feel that their employer's socially responsible practices align with their values, employees will begin to identify more with the organization (Carmeli et al., 2007). Individuals tend to choose organizations whose values match their personal values (Judge & Bretz, 1992). The present research will utilize an experimental design and focus on undergraduate students aged 18 and above attending Eastern Connecticut State University. The study will attempt to understand how a hypothetical organization's pro-environmental mission statement will influence participants perceived job pursuit intentions, organization attractiveness, and perceived-organization fit, based on their levels of environmental concern. The findings of this study revealed that the type of ad viewed whether neutral or environmental did not influence any variables or outcomes. Individual's environmental concern was driven by their levels of perceived fit, but not the group they were assigned.

Poster B22: Melanie Byrne & Royce Manifold, Eastern The Effect of Melatonin on the Sleep Problems of Young Children Diagnosed with Autism

Faculty Sponsor: Chunying Sandy Jin Ph.D. BCBA-D

There has been an increasing trend of prescribing melatonin for the treatment pediatric sleep problems. The purpose of our study is to review and evaluate the efficacy and social acceptability of melatonin for treating sleep problems in children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Results of the study will be discussed in terms of its short-term and long-term efficacy, the specific types of sleep problems that are effectively addressed with its administration, measurement systems that are used in the published studies, social acceptability, possible negative side effects, and questions that remain unanswered.

Poster B23: Courtney Taylor, Kathryn Konnik, Tyler Mirando, Nathan Lannan, Central Inducing Gratitude Improves Relational Processing on a Visual Perception Task

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Marianne Fallon

Undergraduates performed a visual perception task before and after a writing intervention induced gratitude, positive affect (without gratitude), negative affect, or neutral affect. Within the task participants are instructed to ignore context (absolute judgment) or use contextual information to make judgments (relative judgment). Inducing gratitude, but not positive affect in general, significantly improved performance on the relative judgment, whereas inducing negative affect improved performance on absolute judgments. Thus, feeling grateful for people improved relational processing.

Poster B24: Meaghan Rodgers, Eastern High Rate Cell-Phone/Smart Phone Use and Depression in Adolescents and Young Adults

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jeffrey Danforth

Poster Session C: 1:55-2:35

Poster C1: Bethany Fries, Central **Comprehension While Reading on an Electronic Device in College Students**

Faculty Sponsor: William B. Disch, PhD

This study examined the correlation of reading on electronic devices with distractors and the readers' comprehension of the literature task. Participants read from electronic devices with the chance to go online if they so choose, they were told that the topic being studied was comprehension while reading in college students. They were then given a test to determine how much they had comprehended from the reading.

Poster C2: Kira Eleveld, Central **Emotion Regulation on Music Selection Processes**

Faculty Sponsor: Steven W. Horowitz

This study explored whether emotional regulation had an effect on college students' music selection processes. They were asked to state their emotional state. Participants listened to three 20 second music excerpts. Sad participants were more likely to choose a sad song. Happy participants were more likely to choose a happy song. Angry participants were more likely to choose an angry or sad song. Participants were asked to read scenarios and pick which song they would listen to if they were in the situation given to them. Participants matched the mood of the song to the mood elicited by the scenario.

Poster C3: Latia Rakestrau, Central **The Effect of Divorce rates on Future Marriages**

Faculty Sponsor: Steven W. Horowitz

A study was conducted exploring how parent's marital status affected college students' views on marriage. They were asked to state whether their parents are married, divorced, unmarried but cohabitating, or unmarried and no longer cohabitating. The participants were asked their views on marriage as something they would like to participate in the future. Students who had parents still married had the highest chance of wanting to get married. Students with divorced parents had a higher chance of wanting to get married than students with parents who were separated.

Poster C4: Barbara Thomas, Western **Non-traditional Therapy for Treating Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Resulting from Military Sexual Trauma**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shane Murphy

Previous research has shown there are limitations when utilizing cognitive behavioral techniques to treat posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from a military sexual trauma (MST) (Northcut and Kienow, 2014). The present study will evaluate the effectiveness of adding to traditional therapy a nontraditional treatment option of getting veteran survivors of MST out into a more natural setting doing mindfulness meditation while hiking. We

propose to conduct a randomized controlled trial comparing a ten-week combined movement therapy intervention and cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) group with a group that participates only in CBT therapy. Assessment instruments used to test the effects of the intervention will be: Life events checklist (LEC-5), Modified PTSD symptom scale (MPSS-SR), Clinician-administered PTSD scale (CAPS-5).

Poster C5: Li Ting Lin, Western **The Effectiveness of Implosion and Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy with Arachnophobia**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Shane Murphy

Participants with arachnophobia will be randomly assigned to receive implosive therapy, VRET, or be placed in a control group. Treatment patients will meet with the clinician individually and weekly for one hour sessions for a total of 8 weeks. The patients will complete the Fear of spiders questionnaire to measure their fear and subsequently take the Behavioral Avoidance Test to assess how long the patient can tolerate the live spider. It is expected that participants in the VRET condition would be more likely to show significant improvement between pre and post-test compared to those in the implosion and control group.

Poster C6: Emberleigh L Luce, Central **Generational Attitudes and Perceptions of Therapeutic Interventions Regarding Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**

Faculty Sponsor: William B. Disch Ph.D

This study examined the correlations between self-reported positive, negative or neutral attitudes towards obsessive compulsive disorder/ attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and self-reported perceptions; of said disorders. Participants were given a survey with three different perceptual and attitude-based scales. Participants were then asked to answer each question using a nine-point Likard scale; ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Poster C7: Haley Gustavson, Southern **Heavy Drinking and Executive Dysfunction among College Students**

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kenneth Walters

A sample of 816 college students completed a quantity-frequency measure of typical alcohol use. Subjects were then classified into two groups; non-drinkers and heavy drinkers (19 or more drinks weekly; 1.5 standard deviations above sample mean). Participants completed the Barkley Deficits in Executive Functioning Scale, measuring: time management, self-organization / problem solving, self-restraint, self-motivation, emotion regulation, and total executive functioning deficits. Heavy drinkers scored significantly higher on the total executive functioning deficits score and each sub-scale. The greatest difference was in the area of self-restraint, followed by self-motivation.

Poster C8: Diana Figueroa, Central
State of Psychological Well-being Influenced by Mindfulness

Faculty Sponsor: William Disch

This study examined the effects of mindfulness on a participant's psychological well-being which include their stress levels, thoughts of motivation, and self-acceptance. The study consisted of 85 participants ranging from ages 18 to 44 years old. Participants were given a series of questionnaires to complete and were then properly debriefed once the study was completed. Studies that have previously researched this topic, have found that there is a positive correlation between mindfulness and psychological well-being.

Poster C9: Megan Rabuffo, Southern
Non-medical Stimulant Use and Interpersonal Problems among College Students

Faculty Sponsor: Kenneth Walters, Ph.D.

This study explored college student nonmedical stimulant use (NMSU) in relation to interpersonal functioning. A total of 816 undergraduates participated (18-24 years). Participants reported their non-medical usage of stimulant medication. Subjects were classified into two groups; non-users (never) versus users (any usage). Participants completed the Inventory of Interpersonal Problems, assessing interpersonal difficulties in eight areas. Students with NMSU reported significantly greater difficulties in the areas of domineering, vindictive, and interpersonally cold behavior, as well as fewer difficulties in the areas of socially avoidant and nonassertive behavior. The traits of domineering, vindictive, and cold behavior are commonly associated with conduct problems.

Poster C10: Alexandra E. Steel, Eastern
Pet Therapy, Mood and Social Facilitation

Faculty Sponsor: Peter Bachiochi

This study investigated the hypothesis that the presence of a therapy animal increases positive mood and increases social facilitation amongst individuals. A sample of 36 students from Eastern Connecticut State University completed the Pet Therapy Program Questionnaire, the Positive and (Soft and Hard) Negative Affect Measure, and the Social Skill Scale. A repeated measures ANOVA found that the results were not statistically significant. Implications for the study suggest that further research with a larger and more diverse subject pool is required to better investigate the possible benefits of pet therapy in clinical and academic environments.

Poster C11: Maura Skehan, Central
The Effects of Meditation on Students

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Steven Horowitz

This study examined the relationship between students' meditation experience with levels of perceived stress, test anxiety, and quiet ego characteristics-growth and detached awareness. This was done using surveys asking participants for demographics and the number of times they had meditated in the past 30 days. Surveys consisted of three reliable and valid questionnaires: the Perceived Stress Scale,

the Cognitive Test Anxiety Scale, and the Quiet Ego Scale. Data was reduced by conducting a one-way ANOVA; it was found that there was significance between mediation experience and test anxiety. According to eta squared, 13.6% of participants' test anxiety was accounted for by how often they mediated in the past 30 days. Correlations were obtained, finding significance between measures. Future research on this relationship can help students have a positive education experience.

Poster C12: Tyler Mirando, Central
Predicting Use of Tutoring Services in Psychological Science

Faculty Sponsor: Marianne Fallon

Undergraduates completed an online survey assessing factors that predict their likelihood to use Psychological Science tutoring services. Factors included grit, mindset, and personality. Personality was found to predict likelihood to see a tutor $F(5,185) = 2.719, p = .021, \text{adjusted } R^2 = .043$. Students in the current sample underutilized tutoring programs as predicted; only 7% of the students sampled had met with a tutor infringing on the identification of roadblocks.

Poster C13: Melanie Ravo, Eastern
Television Advertisement's Effect on Children's Food Preferences

Faculty Sponsor: Joseph D. Dracobly, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Most foods advertised to young children are sugary breakfast foods and less healthy snacks. The purpose of the study is to determine if an advertisement for a less preferred food can affect a child's initial food preference. Preferences for healthy and less healthy foods will be established by repeated paired-stimulus preference assessments. Based on these preferences, either an advertisement for a healthy or less healthy food will be shown, to determine any immediate and sustained effects on preference. Findings from this study could be used for healthcare educators, expanding their understanding of protective and risk factors for obesity in children.

Poster C14: Kyle Majewski, Eastern
The impact of parental incarceration on children, families, and communities

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Melanie Keyes

With parental incarceration effecting a large number of American children and families, its effects can be felt at a societal level. This review will discuss the differential effects on children based on the incarcerated parent's gender, factors which contribute to the likelihood of negative life outcomes, and some implications for research and practice. Future research in this area can be used to develop programs designed to prevent more children from becoming second generation offenders. This can be achieved through modifying legal practices to help reduce the likelihood that these disadvantaged children will also become incarcerated.

Poster C15: Kaylei B. Arcangel, Eastern
The Relationship between Stress, Procrastination, and Academic Performance

Faculty Sponsor: Joseph D. Dracobly, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Academic performance is vital in college. This is how students will learn and grow to become successful in their futures. This study sought to examine the relationship between procrastination, stress, and academic performance. Thirty-eight students from a public liberal arts university in New England completed four surveys. Results were analyzed using Pearson correlation, multiple regression, and paired-samples t-test. The results showed non-significant differences for primary hypothesis, but significant differences amongst lower and upperclassmen. Implications include identifying interventions such as classes or weekly e-mails to help students with their procrastination and how to handle their college workload.

Poster C16: Eminent Abebe Gurganus, Central
Resilience, Social Connectedness, Social Support, and Academic Achievement

Faculty Sponsor: William Disch, PhD

Despite the recognition that academic achievement is an important predictor of lifelong success, it remains an elusive outcome for many college students in the U.S. The present study examined the relationship among self-reported resilience, self-reported social connectedness, self-reported social support, and self-reported grade point average (GPA) in a sample of undergraduate students at a Connecticut public university. It was hypothesized that resilience, social connectedness, and social support would be correlated with academic achievement. It was also hypothesized that resilience would mediate the relationships between social connectedness and academic achievement as well as between social support and academic achievement.

Poster C17: Delvin Ramirez, Heather Bloch, Southern
Armed Robbery Jury Simulation : The Effects of Mental Illness on Sentencing

Faculty Sponsor: Patricia Kalhbaugh

Influencing jury in court cases has something that has always been looked at and questioned. Research done by Landry and Aronson showed us that victims who were more attractive and has positive regard increased the defendants jail time. The question why this study is being done is to see if defendants would get more or less jail time based on if they had a physical or mental condition. What was found was drug addicts were given harsher sentencing compared to the other defendants.

Poster C18: Kailey Cassidy, Eastern
Disability Identification

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Peter Bachiochi

Short Abstract:. This study examined the effects of disability identification on individuals' quality of life, perceived stigma, and self-esteem. It was hypothesized that disability identification is positively correlated with quality of life and self-esteem. Secondly, disability identification was hypothesized to be negatively correlated with perceived stigma. In order to test these hypotheses the Darling Heckert's Disability Identity Questionnaire, Quality of Life Scale, Perceived Stigma Scale, and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale were used. Once these results were received three Pearson Correlations were conducted to find the relationships. The findings from this study are beneficial to the staff from the Office of AccessAbilities.

Poster C19: Rebecca McCarthy, Central
Measuring Mindset in College Students

Faculty Sponsor: Marianne Fallon

This study was a pilot test for a new measure of growth and fixed mindset, or the idea that intelligence can be changed with effort or is something that is unchangeable. This measure, once refined, could prove important for future research. This is especially true in expanding the application of growth mindset to domains unrelated to the classroom. To test the validity of the measure it was compared to measures of achievement goals as well as hope and grit, which were assumed to be at least somewhat related to mindset.

Poster C20: Emma Cook-Jensen, Megan Mancinelli,
Kelly Robinson. Smana Seradiou & Madeline Smith,
Southern
Psychometric Assessment of Feelings About a Reading Survey

Faculty Sponsor: Deborah A. Carroll

We evaluated test-retest reliability and the factor analytic structure of a 7-item Feelings about Reading survey, adapted from McKenna and Kear (1990). We used a 5-point Likert-type rating scale, with smiley face emoticons ranging from very happy to very unhappy. The purpose of our survey is two-fold: to measure initial attitudes toward reading in first and second graders, and to measure changes in attitudes toward reading, following empirically validated intervention. Test-retest reliability is acceptable. A two-factor structure was hypothesized, but the items did not load on the factors into two distinct categories: recreational reading and academic reading, as expected

Poster C21: Megan Mancinelli, Kelly Robinson, Smana Seradieu, Maddy Smith & Nicholas Ferrigno, Southern Longitudinal Impact of a Dialogic Reading Intervention in 1st and 2nd Graders

Faculty Sponsor: Deborah A. Carroll

Durwin, Carroll, and Moore (2016) previously reported on the efficacy of dialogic reading as part of a theory-based approach to improving reading skills of at-risk readers in first and second grade. The intervention groups showed significant improvements in comprehension compared to children receiving school-only intervention. The purpose of the present study was to explore the longitudinal effects of the Dialogic Reading Intervention in children who had not yet achieved grade-level comprehension after one year of intervention. Additionally, we are evaluating the reading comprehension of students who previously received school-only intervention, but served as wait-listed controls for our dialogic reading intervention.

Poster C22: Andres Capacho, Central Analyzing Family Connectivity in Association with Stress

Faculty Sponsor: William B. Disch, PhD

This study examined the correlation between family connectivity and how one handles and copes with stress. Participants will report their stress and anxiety coping, current stress, family connectivity and closeness. Scales were administered to the participants questioning their stress coping, anxiety coping, family members in their household, family connectivity, and family closeness.

Poster C23: Kelsey Sanelli, Eastern Does an understanding of disabilities and behavioral disorders influence perception of individuals with disabilities and disorders?

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Joe Dracobyly

Children with behavior disorders or developmental disabilities are often perceived as less acceptable by both adults and their peers, which can lead to reduced access to services and reduced opportunities for positive social interactions. The purpose of the current study is to a) explore how individuals label and attribute causes to behavior exhibited by children with behavioral disorders and developmental disabilities and b) explore if education or experience with inappropriate behavior, developmental disabilities, or both affect these labels and attributions. This could help us understand if, and how, exposure to, or education about, behavior disorders and developmental disabilities changes perception.

Poster C24: Corrie Cirelli, Eastern Literature Review of School-Based Interventions for Children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Faculty Sponsor: Melanie Keyes

It is important to examine whether children and adolescents with ADHD are receiving proper treatment to help them create skills that help them to excel in a classroom setting. In this review, ADHD background information (e.g., symptoms, prevalence, risk factors), current treatments (e.g., medication, special education, protocols/accommodations), and school-based interventions will be synthesized. Specifically, the school-based interventions aim to target the student behaviors of having their school supplies organized, tracked, creating a schedule, teaching social skills, and focusing on homework completion. Recommendations for future research will be discussed along with practical implications for school systems.

Poster C25: Marney Pollack & Michelle Gara, Central Using a Board Game to Teach Negative Number: An Exploratory Study

Faculty Sponsor: Rebecca A. Boncoddio, Ph.D.

The new Common Core State Standards do not introduce negative numbers until students reach sixth grade. Some argue that with effective instruction, children have the cognitive capability to learn negative numbers before this age (Tsang et al., 2015). Additionally, this knowledge may have positive implications for future arithmetic learning (Booth & Siegler, 2008). Board games are an effective instructional method for teaching children arithmetic skills (Siegler & Ramani, 2009; Laski & Siegler, 2014). The current study investigates the benefits of playing a board game that incorporates both negative and positive numbers with children in early elementary school.

Poster C26: Sonja Gagnon, Eastern Differences in Family Functioning between Emerging Adults with Healthy and Unhealthy Eating Attitudes

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Melanie Keyes

For several decades research has been conducted about whether family functioning is characteristically different for families of eating disordered patients. There have been mixed results in past research. In the present study, 174 participants from Eastern Connecticut State University and Hanover Psychological Research on the Net completed the FAD and the EAT-26 online. Results indicated that family functioning was significantly different for women who have unhealthy eating attitudes compared to healthy women. Results will be useful for helping understand the role families play in eating attitudes and eating disorders. Implications for eating disorder prevention are discussed.

Poster C27: Jordan Viens, Jessica Hynds, Ryan Wood, Eastern

Variables that Influence Veteran's and Members of the Armed Forces Success in College

Faculty Sponsor: Joseph D. Dracobly, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Most psychological measures for veterans and members of the Armed Forces focus on the role of traumatic events; however, other barriers to college success may exist. In this study, we taught individual veterans and members of the Armed Services to collect direct observation data on self-identified barriers to their success. After completing several brief questionnaires, each participant collected data on a behavior of concern and reviewed it weekly with the researchers. Based on these ongoing results, this method could provide an opportunity for veterans and members of the Armed Forces to improve their academic and social success in college.

Poster C28: Jesse Bober, Eastern

A Descriptive Study on College Students' Sleep Problems

Faculty Sponsor: Chunying Sandy Jin

College students regularly experience sleep difficulties during their academic year. These problems not only impact their academic performance but also pose a serious health risk. The present study is a qualitative and quantitative descriptive analysis of undergraduate students' sleep patterns. Data were obtained via both objective (i.e., sound and activity monitoring) and subjective methods (i.e., closed- and open-ended questionnaires). The nature of the sleep problems, the conditions under which they occur, and the implications for function-based treatments are discussed.

Poster C29: Aliza Lipman, Central
Rejection Sensitivity, But Not Social Anxiety Mediates the Relationship Between Addictive Internet Habits and Avoidant Tendencies

Faculty Sponsor: Marianne Fallon

We examined whether rejection sensitivity and social anxiety mediate the relationship between addictive internet habits and socially avoidant tendencies in college age men and women. We observed a significant positive correlation between addictive internet habits and avoidant tendencies that was significantly mediated by increases in rejection sensitivity but not social anxiety. These findings suggest that clinicians who treat young adults with internet addiction address concerns about social rejection rather than anxiety within social contexts.

Poster C30: Annaliisa Erickson, Eastern
The Effects of Family Support and Early Adversity on Resilience

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Joseph Dracobly

Being exposed to early life stressors creates a regulatory resilience to deal with more stress in the future (Seery, Holman, & Silver, 2010). Supporting individuals by practicing everyday coping and emotional regulation strategies builds a propensity for resilience (DiCorcia & Tronick, 2011). Fifty Eight college students completed surveys to determine the effects of emotional support and exposure to early adversity on resilience. The Pearson correlation concluded no significant relationships between these variables. These participants lacked exposure to adversity. Opening the sample up to individuals who did not attend college might affect the association between adversity and resilience.

Poster C31: Sarah Lessne, Southern
Psychometric Analysis of a Measure of College Functional Academic Problems

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kenneth Walters

A short instrument of 15 concrete indicators of functional academic difficulty was developed. A total of 266 college students, 18-24 years, completed the measure, involving self-report, 'yes/no' responses. A composite score was calculated as the total of affirmative responses. Academic performance was measured by GPA (self-report and university-verified). Of the 15 items, 13 were well-correlated with the total score. Internal consistency among the 15 items was acceptable ($KR-20 = .73$). After removal of two questionable test items, internal consistency remained unchanged. The 13-item composite score was significantly and negatively correlated with GPA