



*Muhlenberg College  
Third Biannual*

## **Psychology Research Day**

Tuesday, May 2, 2006  
Moyer Hall

## BRIEF PROGRAM OF EVENTS

4:20 Miller Forum, Opening Remarks

4:25 Miller Forum, Keynote Address  
Professor Mark Sciotto, Ph.D.

### ***Questions as Currency: Yes, this will be on the test!***

Dr. Sciotto is a clinical psychologist who studies factors that affect the assessment and diagnosis of childhood disorders. Dr. Sciotto will be on sabbatical next year at the Center for the Management of ADHD at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In his presentation, he will discuss the origins of his research interests, the goals for his sabbatical, and the importance of curiosity in research, clinical practice, and life.

4:45 Break

4:55 Concurrent Sessions

Poster Session: Miller Forum (5:00 - 7:00)

Oral Presentations I: Moyer 109 (4:55 - 6:30)

Oral Presentations II: Moyer 104 (4:55 - 6:30)

*There will be a 5 minute break at 5:40. Please try to enter and exit the Moyer classrooms before or after the entire session, and/or during the break.*

6:30 Please enjoy snacks throughout the event and/or join us for a reception 6:30-7:00.

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## DETAILED PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

**4:55 - 6:30**

**Oral Presentations - Session I**  
**Moyer 109**

4:55 - 5:10

*Body Image Distortions: Stroop Effect*  
Lydia Hill, Jenni Horowitz, Sarah Shipman

No abstract.

5:10 - 5:25

*Eyewitness Testimony And Self-Esteem*  
Rebecca Stackhouse, Stacy Popkin, Rebecca Goslin

We examined the relationship between confidence, self-esteem, and conformity. Participants were given a self-esteem scale and viewed a mock crime video. Participants recorded their target choice and confidence in that choice. After interaction with a confederate, who either agreed or disagreed with them, participants were asked to reevaluate their decision and confidence level. We hypothesized that the more self-esteem one has the less likely they are to conform or decrease their confidence after interaction with the confederate as compared to their original decision.

5:25 - 5:40

*Individual Versus Group Decision-Making: Which Leads Mock Jurors To Centrally Process Expert Witness Testimony?*

Nikki Dilks (\*Honors Thesis)

My study sought to determine whether or not groups process information differently than individuals. Participants in the independent condition centrally processed information and therefore were not affected by the attractiveness manipulation. However, when the information was complex, participants in the deliberation condition were affected by the attractiveness manipulation indicating that they peripheral processed.

**5:40 - 5:45 Break**

5:45 - 6:00

*Multiple Intelligence And Learning Styles Of Actors And Dancers*

Ashleigh Edwards, Rebecca Schneider, Kate Thompson

Gardner (1983) hypothesized that individuals have eight innate intelligences; people also differ in how they prefer to process information (learning style). Research shows that actors and dancers have a high kinesthetic intelligence. We hypothesized that those high with kinesthetic intelligence would prefer a kinesthetic learning style in outside disciplines.

6:00 - 6:15

*Promoting And Supporting Literacy Through The Arts*

Ricky Sommer

No abstract.

6:15 - 6:30

*The Effect Of Music On Stress*

Jon Eddy and Ben Heard

No abstract.

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**4:55 - 6:30**

**Oral Presentations - Session II**

**Moyer 104**

4:55- 5:10

*Effect Of Male Homosexuality On Attraction Levels Of Female Relatives*

Gina Forchelli (\*Honors Thesis)

Twin studies and familial studies have shown that homosexuality may have a hereditary component. The present study is looking at a possible evolutionary link: heightened levels of attraction in women related to homosexual men. A web-survey was constructed and it is hypothesized that women with male homosexual relatives will have a heightened attraction to the male stimuli.

5:10 - 5:25

*Stigmatization Of Obesity And The Lower Class*

Dawn Anness, Leah Berger, Miriam Eisenberg, Julia Zur

Studies have examined the stigma associated with poverty and obesity. Our study examined the interplay of these variables. Participants read a description of a woman. We varied weight (normal versus obese) and SES (lower versus upper-middle). Results indicated that poverty and obesity resulted in negative perceptions. No interaction was found.

5:25 - 5:40

*Exercise And Short Term Memory*

Paige Brookstein, Brandon Alexander, Erika Bartholomew, Laura Gross

No abstract.

**5:40 - 5:45 Break**

5:45 - 6:00

*Levels Of Competitiveness As Determined By Goals And Success In Men Versus Women*

Sara Rosoff and Mackenzie O'Loughlin

No abstract.

6:00 - 6:15

*Effect Of The Diagnostic Labels Of Autism Versus Asperger's Disorder On Perceptions*

Leah Berger (\*Honors Thesis)

Stigma might accompany the diagnosis of autism and not Asperger's Disorder. To test this hypothesis, participants read a case report of a child. The report varied by the diagnosis (autism versus Asperger's) and IQ (average versus superior). Participants completed a survey assessing their prognosis. Results and implications will be discussed.

6:15 - 6:30

*Personality And Distractibility*

Elizabeth Cady and Rachel Jutkowitz

No abstract.

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**5:00-7:00**

**Poster Session**

**Miller Forum, Moyer Hall**

*The Effect Of Aromatherapy Upon Mood And Memory*

Stephanie Scrofani

The experiment conducted explores the effect of cinnamon and frankincense oil aromas on memory and mood. Twenty-one young adults (18-21 years of age) underwent a series of tests that assessed cognitive and emotional response. Participants were separated into three groups: the frankincense condition, the cinnamon condition, and the control.

*Relationship Of Anxiety And Alcohol Consumption Among College Students*

Sabrina Krum, Rachel Schein, Ali Szakacs

Anxiety and alcohol are common friends among many on a college campus. Students are encouraged to drink alcohol in social settings and may be expected to consume mass amounts of it. This current study examines the affects that anxiety felt by college students has on alcohol consumption.

*Emotion And Memory*

Kim Russo, Adam Cohen, Adam Nodiff, Chad Hegstrom

No abstract.

### *Stereotype Threat Effect on Career Path Decisions in College Women*

Gina Forchelli, Melissa Golden, Kate Swisher, Lauren Teixeira

The present study investigated the relationship between stereotype threat and self-perceived efficacy in stereotypically masculine and feminine skills. A total of thirty female undergraduate students completed various questionnaires. Stereotype Threat had an effect on self-perceived efficacy.

### *The Effect Of Stress On Eating Habits In College Students*

Sara Gearin, Megan Francis, Lisa Gingold

To examine the effect of perceived stress on eating habits, 30 college students filled out surveys on these two topics regarding personal history over the past month. It was predicted that higher perceived stress would correlate with a change in eating habits, specifically that there would be greater changes in females.

### *The Effects of Music on State- Dependent Memory in College Students*

Samantha Borah, Zachary Itzkowitz, Michael Capawana

We studied the effects of music on state dependent memory to see whether playing classical or rock music during both memorization and recall resulted in the greatest number of words remembered. Participants read a word list while one type of music was played during memorization only, recall only, or both.

### *Implicit Attitudes Toward Singles Versus Couples*

Christina Lindsay and Amy Coughlin

This study was concerned with implicit attitudes among college students toward single individuals, versus individuals who are a member of a romantic, heterosexual couple. Participants acted like landlords and read profiles of potential tenants. There were four different profile conditions. Each participant read one single applicant's profile and one couple applicant's profile. Participants chose which applicant they would lease the apartment to and answered other questions concerning applicants. It was predicted that the more negative attitudes would be directed toward individuals who are not members of a married couple.

### *Relationship Between Emotional Dependence on Others and Expected Age of Marriage*

Meghan Phillips, Leslie Jordan, Caroline Pottash, Sarah Manning

Our study examined the possibility of a relationship between an individual's dependence level and the age at which they foresee themselves getting married. We hypothesized that individuals who rated highly in dependence would want to marry at a younger age than those who were reportedly more independent.

### *The Influence of Various Types of Exercise on Depression*

Lynn Boyle, Rachel Hisler, Lauren Gurwicz, Sandy Crawford

The purpose of our study was to determine the relationship between types of exercise and depression. The types of exercises we compared were cardio, weight-lifting and stretching. We measured the frequency and duration of the aforementioned exercises and participants' level of depression through the use of surveys.

### *The Effect of Color of Paper on Test Anxiety*

Anna Rossi, Rachel Eisenberg, Elyse Ettin

We conducted an experiment examining the effects of the color of exam paper on the participants' anxiety levels. We hypothesized that red paper would be related to higher anxiety levels than white paper. We tested this by administering a math exam on either red or white paper.

### *The Role Of Introversion Versus Extraversion On Academic Jealousy*

Niki Kelman, Jennifer Lagosz, Natalie Puorro

This study used a survey to measure levels of jealousy in academic settings and levels of extroversion. We were interested in finding a correlation between how jealous people are of their peers' grades and their personality types; introverts versus extroverts. We hypothesized that introverted people would have higher jealousy levels.

### *Yoga's Effect On Focus*

Amanda Wade and Juliann Gilbert

We were studying the effects of yoga on one's ability to focus. We attained our data by having participants take a short-term memory test which involved remembering letter sequences both before and after their exercise. We compared one's focusing abilities after yoga to those who took part in an aerobics exercise.