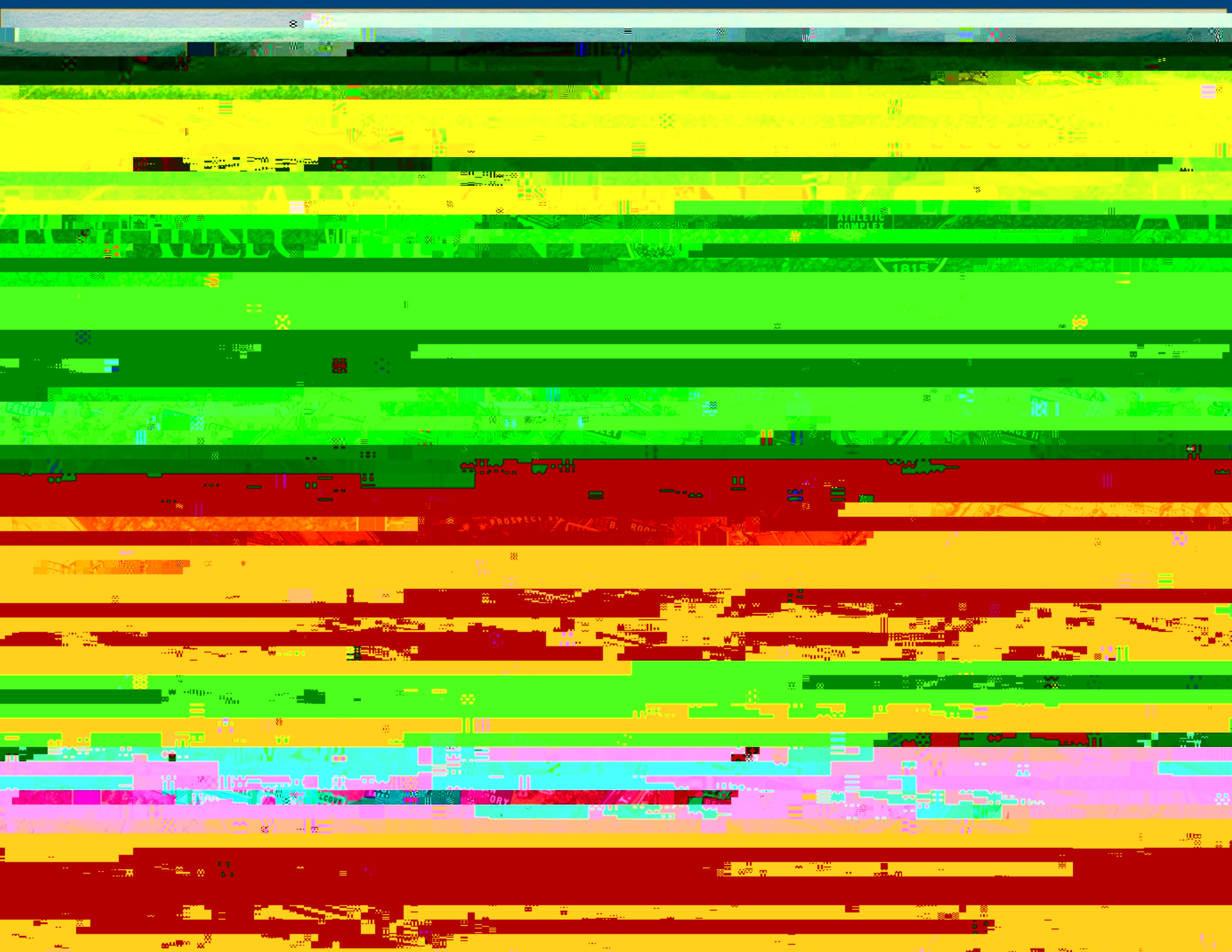
41ST ANNUAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY

CONFERENCE



A special thank you to Allegheny student Erin Brockett '15 for designing the 2013 WPUPC Staff shirts, and to all our student volunteers.

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POSTER SESSION 1 (8:30 – 9:30)

3. **The effect of background music on fluency tasks.**

Blake Frantz, Rianna Grissom, & Jennessa Reinhart (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University

Some students study and complete assignments while listening to music and say that the music helps them to concentrate. Previous studies on the effects of background music on cognitive tasks (such as schoolwork or creative tasks) report mixed findings: some studies show that music enhances performance while other studies show that it distracts. No studies that used Mozart's music (suggested to enhance performance) as background for completing a creativity task were found. The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of Mozart's music as background music on fluency (a measure of

12. **The Devil is in the Beat: Using Aggressive Music to Burn your Competitor**

Lynzie Black, Sean Bogart, & Megan Morrow (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Past research has highlighted the effects of certain types of music on aggressive behaviors. Along with studies of music, research concerning video games and aggression are prevalent. The idea of competition may also prime aggression towards others. The competition itself may cause more aggression than the specific games. The current study investigates whether the type of music listened to while playing a PC video game will influence an individual's aggression level. In the video game, aggression was controlled. Participants were assigned to one of three music conditions: aggressive music, non-aggressive music or a control condition while they played 15 minutes of the PC video game. They were then asked to add hot sauce to chili that would be eaten by their partner. Aggressive thoughts were measured with a word completion task. The results of this study should help to understand the impact of type of musicpe on individual's aggressive thoughts and behaviors. We expect

The influence of Gender and Personality viors.pe 13.

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15. **Rap Music: Melodies or Lyrics Elicit Emotional Responsive and Behavior**

Linh Nguyen (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Previous studies suggest that rap mus

the participant felt about the characters in the story, the situation the animal. They were also asked to complete the story. Measures of empathy, attitudes towards animals, attachment towards animals, and anthropomorphism were administered. We anticipate that individuals who are score higher on empathy and anthropomorphism will be more likely to rate the situation portrayed in the story as more abusive. Implications of this research study are intended to change the way in which people view the treatment of animals. If people are able to perceive animals as capable of experiencing human emotions and pain, than people will be less likely to treat animals with malice.

21. **Effects of AM 251, a Cannabinoid CB1 Receptor Inverse Agonist, on Aversive Learning**

Julia Jagielo-

27. **The Relationship Between Level of Motiv**

atheism correlated strongly with the facet intellect, suggesting that those who believe less in God have a strong need and enjoyment of abstraction, theoretical ideas, and intellectual pursuits, and conversely, theists do not. Correlations were found between superstitious beliefs and the facets imagination and artistic interests. The study also examined superstitious beliefs using the Magical Ideation inventory, and handedness with the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory. Atheism correlated strongly with the facet intellect, suggesting that those who believe less in God have a strong need and enjoyment of abstraction, theoretical ideas, and intellectual pursuits, and conversely, theists do not. Correlations were found between superstitious beliefs and the facets imagination and artistic interests. The study also examined superstitious beliefs using the Magical Ideation inventory, and handedness with the Edinburgh Handedness Inventory.

30. **The Effect of Nicotine on Pain Tolerance**

Chance Derugen-Toomey (Kirk Lunnen), Westminster College

This experiment examined the effect of nicotine through different tobacco ingestion methods (smokeless tobacco, cigarette tobacco, and non-smokers) has on a person's sensitivity towards pain. The data obtained was from 46 male undergraduate students. Past research agrees that the presence of nicotine had an effect on participant's pain tolerance. The articles did not feature any studies with smokeless tobacco. The experiment employed a cold pressor test and use galvanic skin response tests

the online

44. **College Students' Attitudes Towards High Risk Drinking**

Heather Schultz (Samantha Monda),

2. **“We Need to Talk” - The Influence of Power Distance on Relationship Status**

Rachel Mueller, Peter Brower, & Samantha Vasy (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

The relationship between sex role stereotypes and reactions to breakups were measured in this study. Previous research has examined gender differences in relationship dissolution although no research has specifically focused on the onlooker’s perspective of the relationship. Participants were randomly assigned to read one of the four versions of a scenario depicting a heterosexual relationship in danger of dissolution. The scenarios were identical except for the gender of the partner proposing the breakup and the dominance of the partner in the relationship. Dominance was established by level of income and who initiated the argument. Participants were asked to rate the justification for the argument from the perspective of both partners. Participants also completed the BEM sex role inventory and Attitudes toward Women Scale. We hypothesized that both genders would view males as the more dominant companion and that the character in the scenario who exhibited more power would be more justified for their current decision.

3. **Is More Sex the Cure for Low Self Esteem?**

Sarah Farrell (Stephen Paul), Robert Morris University

Self-

significant (all $p > .05$). These findings support the conclusion that children's trust issues may be important considerations when dealing with the erosion of parental relationships. The findings also

14. **Therapy Dog Interaction during Metacognitive Tasks**

Shaun Zmuda, Raela Wiley, Alexis Perez, Nancy Gee, & Justin Couchman (Justin Couchman), State University of New York at Fredonia

The

22.

variables. The current study presents a video analysis of children interacting with a real dog, a stuffed dog, or a human. We hypothesize that the children will purposefully or inadvertently touch the dog more than they will touch a stuffed dog or human during the task. We also hypothesize that the duration will be longer in dog conditions. The results of this analysis will be presented and discussed.

26. **A Manipulation of Stress and Dog Presence on Heart Rate and Working Memory**

Samantha Galloway, Alexis Perez, Tina Schwartzmeyer, Marcus Stendahl, & Nancy Gee (Nancy Gee), SUNY Fredonia

Research in the area of Human-Animal Interaction has demonstrated that pet ownership is related to reduced physiological response to stress, risk for coronary heart disease, and increased survival rate following a heart attack. Most of this previous research on the physiological impact of pets has focused on the effect of pet ownership or pet presence. The current study examines the impact of touching a

ABC Relaxation Theory, which suggests that mantra meditation is a singular relaxation technique, and that individual variables like attitudes toward relaxation and personality characteristics interact with the type of relaxation exercise practiced.

29. **The Relationship Between Family Roles and Prospective Career Orientation**

Lynsay Paiko, Eric Ellison, & Carmina Georgescu (Veerasamy Suthakaran), SUNY Fredonia

The purpose of this study is to explore how the familial roles of students interested in the counseling profession are linked to their career orientation. We will utilize a qualitative approach, using the Consensual Qualitative Research design (CQR: Hill et al., 2005), to examine the roles and dynamics of the participants in their respective families. The interview consisted of eight undergraduate students who are interested in majoring in counseling psychology. Participants were interviewed as a group in two separate sessions. A series of questions were be posed to the group and the responses of all the participants in each session were be audio-taped and transcribed. We are planning to use general systems theory to inductively derive the connection between familial roles and counseling career orientation from the qualitative data.

30. **Public Perception of Psychiatric Service Dogs**

Joseph Lavadie (Joyce Jagielo), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Drugs and psychotherapies are common means of alleviating symptoms of mental health disorders. These traditional approaches, however, are sometimes ineffective, only partially effective, or rejected by the client. A newer, controversial approach involves the use of psychiatric service dogs (PSDs), which has been shown to be very beneficial to individuals with anxiety and mood disorders. The present5(h)-1e(t)-6(5(-3(ffe)-3(

task, participants were told to collaborate with thei

39. **Are You Creative in College?**

Alecia Wenslow & Alan Lopez (Heather Snyder), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

College students, who will become the future work force, should be encouraged to develop their creativity due to the need for creativity to realize societal and economic benefits (e.g., Florida, 2002). However, a recent study by Pachucki and colleagues (2010) found that less than one third of college students reported being creative in their academic work when asked how they "pursue or express creativity." Do college students think they are creative in their academics? And do they think that other people are creative in college? Moreover, is there a bias towards perceptions of a particular major or

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42. **The Effects of Personality Type on Relationship Satisfaction**

Kimberly Perry (William Kelly), Robert Morris University

This study examines the correlation between relationship satisfaction and a 13-scale broad-band personality instrument. Students completed the AMPI (Kelly, 2013) and the satisfaction scale (Hendrick, 1988). It was predicted that higher scores on the AMPI scales measuring negative experiences (Dysphoria, Anxiety, and Hystericality) would relate to lower relationship satisfaction. The results of this study can be applied in a variety of relationship counseling scenarios.

43. **Self-**

Paper Sessions (11:00am – 12:15pm)

Group 1 Cognition — Carnegie Hall 100

Session Chair: Jeff Cross

1.

influenced by their partner's responses, leading them to change more of their own answers on the second survey in order to conform. These findings will help us better understand the role of social factors in eyewitness reliability.

males rating the same group (M= 84.33, s = 1.15), F(1,28) = 4.86, p = .036, η2=.148. Males and females

effect in these studies, where attractiveness was found to be advantageous, particularly for the female targets. Being selected for the leadership program was advantageous for females and disadvantageous for males. Gender role typically affected perceptions of the caring characteristics, such as showing kindness and warmth, where targets in a volunteer role were seen as more likely to possess these traits than those in an entrepreneur role. Future research should utilize a more diverse sample to increase external validity.

4. **Effects of Media Portrayal On Mock Jurors' Use of Polygraph Evidence**

Joshua Karr & Chelsea Lyle (Ron Craig), Edinboro University

Guilt or innocence is based on the evidence presented during a trial. The use of polygraph evidence in a trial has been controversial, with concerns about its validity and prejudicial impact on jurors. Research in the 1980s & 1990s has shown limited impact of polygraph testimony on jurors. However, its presence in popular culture has changed substantially since that time and may impact its influence on juror decision making. Since many of the media portrayals of the polygraph focus on civil/domestic disagreements (i.e. the Maury show), its effect on jurors in those cases might be heightened. The current study examines mock jurors' decisions based on the presence of deceptive polygraph results and severity of the allegation. Participants in an online survey were asked to read a hypothetical court case and assign guilt or innocence and confidence in that decision. The case involved either a DUI, driving while using drugs, vehicular homicide, or divorce. Participants were also asked questions about their views of and media exposure to the polygraph. Responses will be analyzed to determine the effect of the polygraph evidence on verdicts, if it varied based on the types of allegation, and any impacts on confidence.

5. **What Being Attractive Can Do: Perceptions of Fairness and Body Type**

Rachel Endres (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Previous research has discovered that people who are perceived as attractive are also perceived to have better personality attributes (Berscheid, Dion, & Walster, 1972). The current research tested if the positive attributes associated with attractive people's personality would have implications on how they were perceived in a petty crime case. Participants read a scenario of a young woman shoplifting. The scenario was either paired with a picture of a girl with a waist-to-hip ratio of .7, seen as attractive, or 1.0, seen as less attractive. Participants were then asked a series of questions on how the woman in the story should be punished. It was hypothesized that the .7 waist-to-hip ratio would be given less punishment than the 1.0 waist-to-hip ratio. While the hypothesis was not supported, there was significance, with males being more lenient than females across conditions. A possible reason for this could be the use of a female target.

Group 4 Social — Carnegie Hall 110

Session Chair: Rob Hoff

1. **The Effects of the Pheromone Androstadienone on Physical Attractiveness, Sexual Attractiveness, Personality, and Behavior**

higher at high lag times. It was found that when T1 was neutral the highest accuracy was when T2 was neutral or angry. It was found that when T2 was neutral that the highest accuracy was when T1 was neutral.

4. **The Stigma Associated with Chronic Illness**

Carolyn Mahany, Allysa Dupont, & Olivia Merisola (Jack Croxton), State University of New York at Fredonia

Due to the immense stigma faced by people living with chronic illness, this study was conducted to educate and reduce the amount of social isolation experienced by such individuals. This study measured individuals' perceptions of persons with chronic illness. Specifically: genital herpes, epilepsy and chronic migraines. We tested participants reactions based on given information about a fictitious target person, using a social distance assessment. It was predicted and found that there was an interaction between gender and target illness. There were also main effects for both variables. Overall, people living with

Group 5 Social — Carnegie Hall 112

Session Chair: Monali Chowdhury

1. **College Student Perceptions of Individual Uniqueness as Diversity**

Nicole Karpinsky, Sandra Webster, Simmone Bell, & Emily Zetzer (Sandra Webster), Westminster College

A diversity climate survey was administered to undergraduate students at Westminster College from September 30 to October 15, 2012. The online survey was sent by email to all undergraduate students a total of three different times. Students had the option of being entered into a drawing to win a $25 bookstore gift certificate upon participating. The survey assessed student's perceptions and attitudes toward diversity. The sample included less than a quarter of the students (334 students responded) and was not representative of the college. An open ended question was given asking the students what else

4. **Gender Primes in Math Performance**

Caitlin Sniezek (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Subtle environmental cues are shown to have an influence on performance (Papies 2010). In this study, I will be using scent as a subtle gender cue to see if it affects math performance in my participants. For my study, participants were brought into the lab and given a timed math test. The lab was scented with a female, male, or gender-neutral scent. My hypothesis is that when exposed to a male-specific scent, women will perform worse than when exposed to a female-specific or gender-neutral scent.

5. **Jealousy and the Impact of an Individual's Prior Sexual History on Relationship Perception**

Allison Aylesworth & Sherri Pataki (Sherri Pataki),

there was no significance between the personality characteristics and whether people online dated or offline dated or whether they were willing to online date or offline date. Even though no significance was found between these groups, suggestions are made as to why they are not.

2. **An Investigative approach at Perceptual Differences and Interactions amongst a Live and Virtual Pet**

Maurina Grandinetti & Nicole Nau (Heather Lum), Pennsylvania State University, The Behrend College

The advancement of technology has made an immense impact on our society today, explicitly using games as a teaching and training tool. Researchers intend to expand this domain of training, specifically dog training. The goal of this study is to examine the perceptual, cognitive, and interactive differences between a live pet training scenario and a virtual pet training game-based system. Researchers will measure the length of time it takes for the participants to master each command as well as their perceived workload and frustration levels. Their level of pet training experience, gender, and other measures will be used as individual differences variables in relation to the performance measures. The results of this research should shed light on the differences as well as similarities between live interaction and a game mediated environment. This research project will allow us to expand this field while lending from the major theories which exist related to it. We anticipate that the domain chosen will lend itself to these individual differences, especially those related to gender, anthropomorphism, and perceptions of technology. We can determine how individual differences can contribute to or hinder learning and interaction whether in a live or game scenario.

3. **Contingencies of Self-Worth: Differences in Self-Esteem Between College Dance Majors and Non-Dance Majors**

Abby Savage (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

This study sought to identify whether there are differences in contingencies of self-esteem between college dance majors and non-dance majors. Self-esteem has been correlated with academics, appearance, approval from others, competition, family support, God's love, and virtue, based on Crocker, Luhtanen, Cooper, & Bouvrette's (2003) contingencies scale of self-worth. The Rosenberg Self-Esteem scale was used to evaluate differences that are hypothesized to exist in self-esteem between college dance majors and non-dance majors. A second survey using Crocker's (2003) study was then used to ask questions based on contingencies of self-worth to evaluate the hypothesis that college dance majors place more importance on external factors of evaluation than non-dance majors based on the seven contingencies of self-worth. These findings were expected because of research on common perceptions of the self, dancers have, commonly relating to low self-esteem.

4. **Predicting College Adjustment: Religion and Narcissism**

Abby Dudzic, Paige Robertson, & Racquel Wright (Victoria Kazmerski) *Pennsylvania State University, The Behrend College*

There are many factors that affect a student's adjustment to college. According to studies run by Burris et al. (2011) and Brelsford et al. (2011), students who are more religious have protective factors that can aid in positive adjustment. In contrast, Hotzman et al. (2010), explain that narcissistic personality traits may lead to negative adjustment. College adjustment, narcissism, and religiosity were assessed using three different surveys. We hypothesized that there would be a strong, negative relationship between

the traits of narcissistic and religious students and that religious traits would be a better predictor of adjustment in college students. The analysis revealed a moderate, positive correlation between Institutional Attachment of the SACQ and the Self Sufficiency subscale of the NPI. Attachment was also positively correlated with Authority. Upon running a stepwise regression three significant models for Attachment and NPI subscales were found. Authority was the only significant individual pred av w rtoof

bystander behavior and group norms on electronic aggression is valuable, and further work is warranted.

3. **Factors Related to Gains from a Parent-Child Shared Reading Program**

Samantha Jemiolo (Andrea Zevenbergen), State University of New York at Fredonia

The goal of our study was to examine the relationships between various independent variables and gains in child vocabulary after participation in a dialogic reading program. During dialogic reading, parents encourage children to become the teller of the story. We looked at the relationships between child's re5(i)(d)5(r)3(p5vb7rD((005 Tc((en)16(j'P)6()-1(dm3(rt)-(d)-1(e)-5(a)-3(l)8(0(u)r-3(b)-1(a-1(i)-3(l-1(s)-4(ig,')p(o)-10(

for some groups, such as dancers, this expectation has been reinforced more frequently. Serious dancers are under constant pressure to maintain a certain aesthetic. The present study aims to reveal a difference between how dancers view their bodies versus how non-dancers view their bodies. 160 participants were pooled, ranging in age from 14-34. Participants comprising the dancer group were selected from prestigious dance schools in Erie. Individuals were presented with questionnaires, and asked to select images based on various aspects of body satisfaction. Their height and weight were measured, and their BMI's calculated. Results are expected to show that dancers are less accurate when asked to select the image that most accurately represents them. Dancers are also predicted to show discrepancies between their self-selected image, and their feel image, and are predicted to be less satisfied with their current weight. The expected results may have implications in revised teaching methods for dance educators.

Group 10 Motivation/Emotion Ruter Hall 203

Session Chair: Lydia Jackson

1. **Impulsivity and Credit Card Debt in College Students**

Jordan Kist (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University

This study examined the associations between impulsivity and credit card debt in college students. Impulsive individuals seem to engage in more risky behaviors including impulsive spending. An

motivated in classes specific to their major, and more motivated to be creative in these classes than their general education classes.

3. **Effects of Required Participation**

Christofer Kessler (Matthew Weaver), Mercyhurst University

This study was meant to look at the concept of requiring participation in a college classroom and assess the potential negative effects it has. Past research has looked at participation by itself and concluded that not only is it important, but it is important to increase it in classrooms of all ages to help foster increased learning. However, it is often used as a way to increase participation but the negative side effects are often disregarded. The negative side effects are what were looked at, those being potential dissatisfaction with the class, no grade change or worsening of grade, and a minimum amount of participation. This study was meant to address these side effects. Three groups of participants were used, a group in which participation is required and they are informed of it, a group in which they are not informed of the requirements, and a group in which the participation was not required. They then answered questions about the satisfaction of the lecture as well as completed a quiz on the information learned. It is hypothesized that students with required participation will produce little to no grade change, low class satisfaction, and minimal amounts of participation.

4. **Effects of Anger, Happiness, and Sadness on Risky Decision Making**

Naomi Brown (San(e)-6(a)-1(u)-an-7(a)-8 0 5 0 T003 Tc0.003 Tw 23.51 0 T6Tj-2(r)-8V(ec(u)15((u)2(d)2-7(s))7(,)-3(Ws)-7(s1((u)2(d)

Because of this a follow up study was done on the 6 facets of conscientiousness. The 351 participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire with 60 questions measuring Self-Efficacy, Orderliness, Dutifulness, Achievement-Striving, Self-Discipline, and Cautiousness. It was hypothesized all would be correlated with GPA. The results showed that Self-Efficacy, Dutifulness, Achievement-Striving, and Cautiousness were associated with college GPA. These results have significant real world implications that will be discussed.

Group 11 Physiological /Neuroscience Schultz East Alcove

Session Chair: Joshua Searle-White

1. **Blueberry Extract and Cabergoline Paired Treatment of Parkinson's Disease**

3. **Effects of Cabergoline and Venlafaxine on a Behavioral Measure of Impulsivity in a Rat Model of Major Depressive Disorder**

Jenna Rimko (Robin McGovern), Westminster College

This study was designed to examine effects of cabergoline and venlafaxine on impulsive behavior in an established rodent model of major depressive disorder (MDD). It was hypothesized that concomitant venlafaxine and cabergoline injections would increase response accuracy in the differential reinforcement of low rate response (DRL) task, which is a measure of impulsive behavior in rodents. The subjects were Long Evan's male rats that underwent olfactory bulbectomy surgeries to model MDD symptoms. The rats were injected with one of four treatments, venlafaxine (20mg/kg) or cabergoline (0.5mg/kg) separate or combined, or saline. The rats were trained to perform the DRL task and then tested on the task after two trials of saline injection and two trials of drug injections. The results showed that concomitant venlafaxine and cabergoline injections significantly reduced impulsive behavior in the rats compared to the saline injections. These findings potentially give insight into the effects of combined medications to help enhance pharmacotherapy efficacy and redu17 Td[(t)- bche11(t(Th006 Tw 13.141 0 Td[(s)7

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