

PSYCHOLOGY

Section Moderator: Dr. Linda Jones

Room: Massey Business Center 414

Time: 7:00 – 8:45 PM

7:00 – 7:15

“The Effect of Commercials on Women’s Dietary Restraint”

Ashlee Page

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie Yandell

Women seem to be the target of the media’s obsession with obtaining the “perfect body.” Numerous women are affected daily by commercials which impacts both the way they see themselves and their dietary restraint, as revealed by multiple researchers. However, little research shows the impact of women viewing plus size models in commercials on short-term body image perception. This study examines the impact of three types of commercials with thin models, neutral commercials (no models), and plus sized models. Thirty Belmont students from an introduction to psychology course will randomly be assigned to one of three conditions. Each student will view either neutral commercials, commercials featuring thin models, or commercials featuring plus-size models. After viewing the commercial, they will fill out a survey for an seemingly unrelated study to rate four different types of food and will be told they can eat however much they want. The purpose is to see if viewing different size models affects how much they eat afterwards. There will be three to four trials each lasting 25 minutes and results will be based on weighing each of the four bowls containing either popcorn, baked cheese snack, wheat thins, or pretzels before the session and afterwards. Thus, the purpose of this study is to examine the short-term effect of both thin and plus sized models on women’s eating behaviors.

7:15 – 7:30

“Investigating the effects of Emotion and Arousal on Memory and Recall”

Ken Parrish & Lesley Paul

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie Yandell

The present study explored the effects of positive and negative images in stressful and non stressful conditions on short term memory and recall. Eighty college students (students enrolled in an introductory psychology class) as part of a 2-by-2 between groups design were randomly assigned to one of four conditions: negative images and recall with stress, negative images and recall without stress, positive images and recall with stress and positive images without stress. Participants viewed ten pictures and memorized four words for each picture for twenty-five seconds, during an encoding session. During a retrieval session, the participants were asked to recall the four words, after a distraction test, for each corresponding picture previously viewed during in the encoding session, under stress (time limit to memorize word groups from each picture) and no stress (no time limit). The goal of this study is to gain a better understanding of how memory recall is affected by negative and positive induced emotions under a stressful condition (time limit for cued recall). Findings from this study will provide information that could be used for creating new mnemonic techniques and the development of new teaching methods.

7:30 – 7:45

“Women in Psychology: Past, Present, and Future”

Shandus B. Valentine

Faculty Advisor: Dr. William Bailey

Men seem to dominate the field of psychology, but many of important contributions to the science were made by women. This paper explores the unique contributions made by women such as Margaret Washburn, who was the first woman to receive a PhD in psychology and served as one of the first woman president of the American Psychological Association. Women psychologists of the past paved the way for modern women to have a strong presence in the field. This paper also explores the vision of the future for women in psychology.

7:45 – 8:00

“Social Integration and Attachment Style Differences between Commuter Students and Residential Students”

Whitney W. Davis

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie Yandell

The current study investigated the differences in social integration in residential students and commuter students at Belmont University. It is hypothesized that commuter students will be less socially integrated on campus when compared to residential students. Social integration was defined by the number of extracurricular activities a student is involved in and how comfortable the subject feels on Belmont’s campus. The participants were asked to complete two surveys. The first survey asked for information on age, gender, marital status, classification, residential status, the number of extracurricular activities involved in (associated with Belmont University), and the level of social acceptance on campus. Once the first survey was completed, a thirty six question survey was completed. This survey concentrated on how each participant generally feels in emotionally intimate relationships. Each question was rated on a seven point scale, ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. If commuter students show to be less socially integrated at Belmont University, the administration and staff could then concentrate on integrating these students more successfully.

8:00 – 8:15

“Accuracy of Identifying Criminal Mug Shots in Relation to Conscientiousness”

Jamie L. Vickstrom

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lonnie Yandell

Previous research has noted that there are many inconsistencies when identifying criminal mug shots. These inconsistencies have been attributed to numerous aspects, but little information is available about the effects of personality or more specifically, conscientiousness. This study examines the accuracy of correctly identifying criminal mug shots in relation to high and low scores of conscientiousness. Participants watched a 40 second video of a misdemeanor crime and were then given an inventory measuring conscientiousness (<http://ipip.ori.org>). Afterwards, participants were given 6 mug shots and a rating scale from which to identify the correct criminal previously seen in the video and to rate their level of confidence. The results of this study provide a further explanation for criminal identification inconsistencies and may advise the criminal justice system of an additional caution.

8:15 – 8:45

Honors Presentation - Psychology

“Common Spaces and Sense of Community in Residence Halls”

Shandus B. Valentine

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Peter J. Giordano

As university enrollment levels continue to increase, so will the need for more university housing. Administrators concerned with students' needs should consider a residence hall intentionally designed to foster personal, social, and academic growth. A current trend is to build residence halls with multiple common spaces (e.g. lobbies, study areas, recreational areas, and kitchens). This study compares residents of two residence halls on Belmont's campus to explore whether common spaces play a role in the development of a strong sense of community. The study employs traditional quantitative methods as well as interviews and a focus group. Suggestions for increasing student community and implications for future construction of residence halls are discussed