



enPSYCHlopedia

A Standard Deviation Above the Mean

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Student Editor: Sarah Lashley

Summer Scholars Program

Sarah Lashley, Senior, Psychology Major, Psi Chi Vice President

Research is a daunting topic you hear upperclassmen talk about when you are a freshman. However, as you become more involved in the psychology department and learn what research entails, you may become enthralled with research, like I have. And when you do, you will take every opportunity to be involved in research. One of the many ways to become involved in research is through Belmont's Summer Scholars Program.

The Summer Scholars Program takes place during the summer terms of the school year and focuses solely on student-led research. Six credit hours are offered at a reduced rate and you are able to work closely in a group consisting of one faculty member and several fellow undergraduate students. You also meet

periodically with students in other fields to discuss research. This is a great way to be able to focus on research and be able to learn how to communicate with other academic areas that also focus on research.

Typically, each research group consists of four to six people working either on individual projects or collaborative experiments. About six times during the summer, the entire scholar community will meet and discuss problems, ideas, and other aspects of research. This past summer's community consisted of two biology groups with individual projects, one psychology group with two projects, and a sociology group with a collaborative project. Past communities have involved history, English, chemistry, physics, as well as a psychology group the

previous summer under the supervision of **Dr. Linda Jones**.



Zebrafish Lab

Sarah Lashley, Rosemary Harris, and Michelle Howell were part of the psychology group in the community who worked with zebrafish behavior under the supervision of **Dr. Lonnie Yandell**. Zebrafish are a relatively new model organism in scientific research. Our initial task was to set up a lab space and an aquatic system to house zebrafish. In addition to establishing a working zebrafish lab and aquatic system, we had two projects on behavior of zebrafish. One group set up a design for testing social preference. The other group worked on designing six behavioral models for studying zebrafish behavior.

Setting up a system for zebrafish was a challenging task. **Dr. Bob Grammer** helped fund the system for zebrafish. As a group, we were ecstatic to finally see water rushing through the tanks. After waiting a couple weeks, we added some fish to the system. The first fish we added, 5 pearl danios, are still alive today. Since the first set of fish survived, we began adding fish at a fairly rapid pace. We then experienced some fish deaths over the remainder of the summer. The deaths of the fish were due to the

May 2007 Graduates:

Carrie Brown
Maggie Cornwall
Chey Korvandi-
Geledar

Hilary Goulart
Barbara Hutchinson
Dannelle Rohrbaugh

Clayton Rothwell
Molly Smith
Kelly Witherbee

August 2007 Graduate:

Emily Kane

Means Award Winner:

The recipient of the 2006-07 Means Award was Kelly Witherbee.

system beginning to regulate its nitrate/nitrite cycle. In order to establish a safe environment to study zebrafish, a system needs to be running for about 6-8 weeks prior to testing.



Zebrafish Testing Station

In addition to successfully establishing a working system for the zebrafish, we were able to establish a set of procedures to test zebrafish behavior. The group that was testing social preference designed a way to test whether a fish would prefer similar phenotypes as themselves, or different phenotypes. Additionally, six behavioral tasks were established. Open field, group preference, mirror/aggression, predator approach, operant, and classical conditioning procedures were all designed.

Overall, this past summer served as a set up for a system and lab procedures in studying zebrafish. This type of research could not have been done without the Summer Scholar's program. By allowing a group of students to spend the summer focused on research, the zebrafish lab could successfully be established. This fall, the six behavioral tasks are being tested on zebrafish by **Sarah Lashley and Luke Lancaster**. Presentations will be made at SURS by Sarah, Michelle, Rose, and Luke. Luke and Sarah have also applied to present at EPA in Boston in the spring.

Dr. Giordano Chosen Tennessee's Professor of the Year -

We all have known he's a great teacher, but now the whole country knows. He was named the Tennessee professor of the year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. These groups select state and national winners each year. He was recognized at a reception in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, November 15, 2007. For more information, go to www.tennessean.com and search for "Giordano".

Psychology Club/Psi Chi Events in Fall 2007 –

by Sarah Lashley, Vice President, Psychology Club

- Major/minor picnic Wednesday, August 29
- 1st member meeting-August 31, 10 am PDB 108
- Carwash Saturday, September 15, 1-4
- Convo on VITA and Purpose Statements by Dr. Giordano-September 28
- Rescue Mission September 29
- Depression Screening October 17 & 18
- Depression Convocation: Dr. Loftin-October 17
- Ghouls at Grassmere-October 20
- Movie Fun Night-November 2
- SOS Picnic November 8
- Special Olympics Fashion Show Fundraiser-November 11
- Bake Sale – November 14-15
- SURP November 19 and 26
- SURS November 29
- Post SURS Party November 30 10 am PDB 108
- Clothes and Backpack Collection December 3-5
- Cotton Candy Day December 3 from 11-3 in the Belmont Cafeteria

Our Alumni -

Scott Bebout ('77) lives in Tupelo, MS where he is the Regional Vice President and Marketing Manager for the Mississippi Radio Group. His daughter Lauren married Anthony Hraygil last December and is living in Wetumpka, AL. Daughter Brittany received her undergraduate degree from Auburn University in the spring and is now working on her Master's in Education degree at Auburn.

Bobbi Hutchinson ('07) has moved to California where she plans to pursue graduate studies.

Maggie (Cornwall) Kuiper ('07) is coaching at St. Celia Academy in Nashville.

Mike Medlin ('96) is working as a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). He's working on a Master

of Arts in Strategic Intelligence with emphasis on Terrorism Studies with the American Military University. He and wife Jennifer have three children: Scott 10, Alec 8, and Alana 5.

Clayton Rothwell ('07) is in graduate school at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY.

Rose (Brummett) Vick ('01) has just finished the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program at Vanderbilt and has accepted a position as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with Norton Healthcare in Louisville, KY. She'll be working with the Louisville Oncology Program seeing cancer patients for their comorbid psychiatric conditions (mainly depression and anxiety).

Tyne Whitten ('05) is living in Nashville and working for Erv Woolsey.

Let Us Hear From You!

If you are an alum reader, please take a moment to fill out the form below and drop us a line. Just mail to the address on the back of the newsletter, or contact us by e-mail at godwinm@mail.belmont.edu. We would love to hear from you and to include your update in the next edition of *enPSYCHlopedia*. If you are ever in the Nashville area, please stop by our office to meet the new faculty and see the exciting things going on here in the Psychology Department. Check out our web pages at <http://www.belmont.edu/psychology>.

<i>Alumni Update</i>	Date _____
Name _____	Graduation Year _____
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
Spouse's name _____	Belmont grad? _____ Year _____
Employment _____	Title _____
Recent promotion, honor, award, etc.? _____	
What else is going on with you (that you'd like to share): _____	

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