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Undergraduate Students Highlight Fieldwork Experiences
by Heidi Wayment, Department Chair

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending the annual Fieldwork Luncheon, hosted by Dr. Lesley Lutes (pictured fourth from left, kneeling). The lunch is the culminating event for psychology majors who have completed their fieldwork experiences. As part of their course requirements students complete a journal and make a presentation at the end of the semester. Students’ power point presentations highlighted their fieldwork projects and described some of their daily activities at the various fieldwork sites. Each of the students told poignant stories of the events that affected them the most, and thanked their supervisors and Dr. Lutes for the wonderful opportunities. What made the luncheon very special was the fact that the different fieldwork site mentors were there, and were quite proud of the students they worked with this past semester. The sites ranged from working with pre-elementary children, to working at a home for abused women to working at NAU in the Counseling and Testing Center. I was especially impressed with the students! They gave professional presentations and told wonderful stories about their fieldwork experiences. A common thread that ran through all of the presentations was the heartfelt appreciation the students had for their mentors and Dr. Lutes for making the fieldwork experience possible. In addition, students appeared to have gained valuable insights into their own possible future contributions to others—made possible by further study in psychology. It was clear that the students learned a great deal about the importance of psychology in real-life settings, about themselves and their future interests, and about the value of helping others. Congratulations to Dr. Lutes and to a fine group of psychology majors and their hard-working mentors!
Dr. Walters and Students Present Research at Sexuality Conference

Dr. Andy Walters and several of his students (one graduate student Desi Sharpe, and three undergraduate students, M.P. Demars-Rote, H. M. Marcy, and B.D. Burger) traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada in mid-November to present three posters at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Society of the Scientific Study of Sexuality. Dr. Walters and his students have worked for many months on analyzing the data and getting it ready for the premier sexuality conference in the country. The studies presented by Dr. Walters and his students included an investigation of on-line cheating and infidelity, water and women’s sexual pleasure, and attitudes about relational infidelity. All of Dr. Walters’ students had a very positive and rewarding experience at the conference. In addition to gaining valuable experience presenting their research, they were able to meet faculty from other universities that could be very helpful as they look forward to post-graduate study.


PSY 302w Students Present Their Research

Once again, at the end of the semester, Dr. Derrick Wirtz (pictured below, far left) gave us all an opportunity to see what his PSY 302w students have been up to all semester. Dr. Wirtz taught two sections of PSY 302w this past semester and had students team up to design original research projects, secure IRB approval, collect data in-house from other PSY 302w students, analyze, write up their results, and at the end of the semester, report the results to the public via a poster-presentation session. There were two poster sessions and each night the sessions were very well attended by faculty, graduate students, and fellow undergraduate students. Faculty enjoyed asking the students questions about their projects and students were well-prepared to answer the questions! Students were enthusiastic about their projects and it showed! All in all, a very impressive display of the knowledge they acquired during their semester with Dr. Wirtz and his graduate teaching assistants.

Pictured below are Nicole Grimmett, Kendra Marum, and Cassie Taylor who presented their work on the “Big Five” personality traits. This team of students investigated the relationship between these traits and current GPA. They found that students who were higher in conscientiousness reported higher GPAs.
Psychology Majors in PSY 302w Surveyed
by Heidi A. Wayment

In our last newsletter I shared information from students in PSY 230. This issue I present results from students enrolled in PSY 302w.

Who is Taking PSY 302w? Eighty-eight students completed the survey this semester: 74% were female and 26% male. In contrast to the data from PSY 230 (Psychological Statistics), where about half were majors, 83% (n = 73) of those taking PSY 302w were psychology majors (1 double major).

PSY 302w should be taken, ideally, during one’s third year or earlier, since this course is an important pre-requisite for other 300- and 400-level courses. Of our majors enrolled in PSY 302w, seven (9%) were in their second year, 43 (59%) in their third year, 20 (27%) in their fourth year, and four (5%) in their fifth or sixth year. Thus, about 68% of those surveyed were taking the course at what we would consider an appropriate (or earlier) time in their program of study. About 32% of our majors were taking this course very late in their program of study.

Transfer Students: About 44% of the students taking PSY 302w this past semester are transfer students (n = 39). This percentage was constant with respect to majors (32/73 were transfer students). The number of credits transfer students were bringing with them ranged from 16 to 80.

Minors: Eleven students (13%) were minors. In contrast to the percentage reported in PSY 230 (28%), only three students were neither majors or minors and these students were taking PSY 302w in their fourth or fifth year of study.

Planning and Advising: About 73% of the majors queried said they had a “tentative plan for the courses you will need to take in order to achieve your graduation date.” Seventy-eight percent (n = 57) said they had advising help in understanding their plan of study, nearly identical to the numbers we saw last semester. About half of the majors (n = 41) said they received help from the SBS Advising Center. Four students (5%) said they received help from the Gateway Center and six students (8%) said they received help from SBS and the Gateway Center. Overall, about 70% of our majors taking PSY 302w said they received advising help from the SBS and Gateway Centers.

Future Plans: When asked what their thoughts were about what they thought they would like to do after graduation, 74% (n = 54) said they planned to attend graduate school in some form or other whereas 26% said they wanted to seek employment. Twenty-nine percent (n = 18) of our majors (and a similar percentage of minors: 3/11) said they were aware of PSY 485 (Undergraduate Research Experience) as important for graduate school and gave an approximation of when they would like to enroll in this research experience.

How Are We Doing? At the time of the survey we had only sent one announcement to Psychology Majors about our newsletter, and almost half (n = 48, 66%) said they had received an email about the Departmental Newsletter. About 15 majors (20%) majors said they had visited our updated website. In recent months we have added information to our website to address student requests for information about a four-year plan, capstone offerings, and information about graduate school. As indicated last issue, our goals include continuing to find out what kinds of information students would like to have on our website and getting the word out that the information is there! Spread the word!

Departmental Speaker Series Concludes

In November, our Departmental Speakers Series hosted Dr. Nancy Eisenberg (ASU) who shared with us results from many longitudinal studies on emotional regulation in children. In addition, NAU faculty member Dr. Ann Huffman presented her research about the work-life interface. All in all the series was a success and we will organize another for Fall 07 semester. In the meantime, the department will be hosting six job candidates for three new assistant professor positions. Keep an eye out for these presentations which will all take place in January 2007. Students are encouraged to attend these job talks.

Spotlight on Alumni Tammy Schuler

Tammy Schuler, a graduate of both NAU’s undergraduate and graduate programs (2003, 2006, respectively) has just begun a Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology at the Ohio State University. She successfully defended her thesis in August 2006 and worked with Dr. Larry Stevens. Tammy (pictured below, back left) has “hit the ground running” at OSU where several of her NAU graduate courses have transferred which has put her “ahead of the game” as Tammy reported. Tammy is part of the Stress and Immunity Breast Cancer Project. This photo pictures Tammy (far left, back row) at an annual event held for the research participants and their significant others. Some of those research participants have been with the project for 12-13 years. Congratulations to Tammy for all of her hard work while at NAU!
Ph.D. in Experimental/Social Psychology at the University of Tennessee. Erin worked with Dr. Heidi Wayment while at NAU and continues her collaboration with her.

Erin is now working with Dr. Lowell Gaertner and Dr. Daniel Batson and she has been busy with coursework, research, and teaching (which she loves!). She was recently selected as one of 40 graduate students (out of 256 applications) for an SPSP (Society of Personality and Social Psychology) travel award. Erin will have two opportunities to present her research at the upcoming SPSP conference in January: a poster presentation (for which she won the award) and a symposium that she is co-chairing and delivering a talk. Erin has also had a stellar first year at the University of Tennessee. Congratulations Erin and we wish you all the best!


Symposium Co-Chair with James K. McNulty.

Published Articles


Research Presentations


Presentations at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality

mensionalizing cheating in the age of MySpace and text messaging.


Presentations at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology


Presentations at the 2006 Arizona Psi Chi Conference


Berry, J., & Huffman, A. Role Expectations as a Mediator: Why Personality Affects Work-Life Conflict.


Larsen, B., & Wirtz, D. The Prevailing Perceptions of the Perpetrators of Genocide.


Presentations at the 2006 Rocky Mountain Psychological Association

Tyrell, F.A., & Blankenship, V. The Relationship between Psychological Birth Order and Attachment Styles while controlling for Negative Affect.

Henderson, M., & Blankenship, V. Using the Rasch Model of Analysis to Increase Reliability of Likert-type Scales

Senter, R., & Blankenship, V. Alcohol use or Abstinence, Expectancies, and Emotional Intelligence

Craig, J., Jensen, A., Royal, J., Hauck, C., LUTES, L., & DAISS, S. Problem-Solving Therapy, Weight Loss, and Depression: Results at 6-Month Follow-up

Funk, S. Mate preferences: Evolution has its limits.

Presentations at the 2006 Western Psychological Association

Kountz, T.L., & Till, R. Psychology Major’s Course Work Related to Major Field Test Scores


Presentations at the 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting and Workshops of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis

Greene, M. & Stevens, L. Nineteen Channel EEG and Simulated MRI Correlates of Clinical Hypnosis.

Cahill, L., & Stevens, L. Hypnotic Analgesia and the Physiological Processing of Painful Stimuli in High and Low Hypnotizable Individuals.

Montopoli, M., & Stevens, L. Trances Better Than Chocolate: The Effects of Consuming Chocolate or Cacao Nibs on EEG Recordings and on Potential Depth of Trance.

Presentations at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback

Greene, M., & Stevens, L. EEG Power and LORETA Analyses of Clinical Hypnosis.

Wyckoff, S., & Stevens, L. A Normative Database Analysis of EEG Effects of Clinical Hypnosis

Lavin, S., & Stevens, L. An EEG and LORETA Analysis of Hypnotic Analgesia Compared to Distraction Compared to Resting Control as a Function of Hypnotizability.

Wu, J., & Stevens, L. The EEG and LORETA Effects of Consuming Processed Chocolate versus Cacao Nibs: Implications for Hypnosis and Neurotherapy.

Presentations at the 2006 Healthy Lifestyles Conference

Hauck, C., & Lutes, L., & Daiss, S. Study comparing CancerFit (an 8-week treatment program for patients with cancer) to a non-treatment control group on physical functioning, quality of life, and fatigue.

Read, M., Royal, J., Lutes, L., & Daiss, S. Findings from a pilot study comparing two groups of women who completed the 10-week NAU Behavioral Choice Therapy Weight Loss Program.

Pell, K., Riner, B., Baxani, M. Douville, J., Plunske, J., Lutes, L., & Daiss, S. Findings on a music and priming manipulation study completed with 117 undergraduate students.

Presentations at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine

Royal, J., Craig, J., Hauck, C., Jenson, A., Lutes, L., & Daiss, S. Findings from a pilot study were completing with 15 women examining the impact of phone-based problem-solving therapy on long-term weight loss in a group of women who completed the 10-week Behavioral Choice Therapy program at NAU.

Pell, K., Riner, B., Baxani, M., Lutes, L., & Daiss, S. Presented another set of their findings on the music and priming study.
Grants


Lutes, L., Daiss, S., & Barger, S. TRIF grant. Using technology to deal with the Diabetes epidemic: The effect of palm pilots vs. pager-pencil food records to promote increased adherence, weight loss, and glycemic control in individuals at risk for Diabetes.


Hooper Scholarships

Michelle Kenyon, Jen Veins, and Heidi Kiminski were awarded a Hooper Scholarship for the 2007-2008 academic year on ethnic differences on aspects of Dr. Lutes’ Get Active NAU IGP grant.

Julia Berry won the Hooper scholarship for the research project, “Positive Psychology at Work: Developing an Understanding of Work-Family Facilitation” with Dr. Ann Huffman.

Looking Forward to Spring 2007!

Candidate Job Talks

In January 2007 our department will be hosting six job candidates as we seek to fill three tenure-track positions: Statistics and Measurement, Physiological Psychology, and Adult Development and Aging. Be sure to check the bulletin boards for announcements of the candidates and their presentation titles. We hope that you will come and hear these wonderful candidates!

Positive Psychology

In March 2007 we will be hosting Dr. Shane Lopez, a noted expert in the field of “Positive Psychology.” We will announce his talk well in advance, but it should be during the week just prior to spring break. If you would like to learn more about this growing and exciting new discipline within psychology, check out this link:

http://www.ppc.sas.upenn.edu/

While our department does not yet have a course devoted completely to Positive Psychology, one is in the works for 2007-2008.

Arizona Psi Chi Conference Coming to NAU

Our NAU Psi Chi chapter is busy planning for the 2nd annual Arizona Psi Chi Conference. We will bring you much more information in the coming months.

Capstone Changes Coming!

Over the past several years the Department of Psychology’s capstone requirement consisted of taking one of three courses (PSY 450c, PSY 460c, PSY 480c) as well as a one-unit capstone course (PSY 490c). Be sure and look for important changes to our capstone requirement beginning in Fall 2007. We are proposing to eliminate the one-unit course in favor of adding a three unit topics capstone course as well as having other 400-level courses count as capstone (PSY 405, PSY 408) and adding an advanced research course (PSY 486c). It is also our hope that by offering more capstone choices you can tailor your decision to your future goals and interests in psychology. Stay tuned!

Plan Ahead: Undergraduate Research Experience for Fall 2007

If you are a major and have completed PSY 101, 230, and 302w and think you are interested in graduate work, be sure and read about PSY 485 opportunities for Fall 2007. You can find this information on our website and on the bulletin board across from the Psychology Office. Read about faculty projects and pick up an application form. Deadline for the applications will be in early March. If you have questions, ask ANY faculty member. Don’t wait until you are a senior! PSY 485 is most beneficial if you can begin sometime during your junior year.

In this newsletter you have read a great deal about the many projects in which NAU Psychology Majors have been involved. Maybe you would like to get involved too?

Although the NAU Psychology Department provides many wonderful research and fieldwork opportunities for our majors, we are limited financially in the support we can actually provide (e.g., funds to offset traveling costs, conference registration, etc.). If you would like to support our students in these endeavors, please visit the NAU alumni web page and go to the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. When you make a contribution, click the “other” box and make sure to designate your gift to the “Department of Psychology.” Your gift will be much appreciated.

www.nualumni.com/giving/sbs