Publications


Recent Presentations

**Aggarwal, R., Nicholls, E., Brooks-Holliday, S., & Daly, B. P. (2012, August).** *Insufficient sleep, weight perceptions, and unhealthy weight management practices in adolescents.* Poster presented at the 120th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Orlando, FL.


**Criniti, S. M., Bonacquisti, A. & Aaron, E. (2012, October).** *Partner support and stable housing predict contraceptive use in a cohort of women with HIV.* Poster presented at the 2012 North American Forum on Family Planning, Denver, CO.

**Davis, J. P. (2012, August).** *Weighing the evidence: Legal implications of the alleged CSI effect.* Poster presented at the 120th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Orlando, FL.


**Geller, P. A., Patterson, C. A., Bonacquisti, A., Eichenbaum, E., & Khaksari, M. (2012, August).** *Development and pilot test of the “N/IICU Survival Guide” program for parents with infants in the NICU.* In S. Lassen (Chair), Assessment and interventions with family and staff in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Symposium presented at the 120th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Orlando, FL.


Recent Presentations, Continued


Hildenbrand, A. K., Nicholls, E. G., Pfeiffer, B., & Daly, B. P. (2012, October). Sensory Processing Dysfunction in Children with ADHD. Poster presented at the National Conference in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Lawrence, KS.


Nicholls, E., Aggarwal, R., & Daly, B. P. (2012, October). Collaborative teacher training for promoting social, emotional, and behavioral health in urban preschool students. Poster presented at the 17th Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health, Salt Lake City, UT.

Nicholls, E., Aggarwal, R., Brooks-Holliday, S., & Daly, B. P. (2012, August). Relationships between insufficient sleep, intimate partner violence, and rape among a national sample of adolescents. Poster presented at the 120th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association,


**Grants and Awards**

**Arwa Ibrahim** was awarded a Yates Foundation grant totaling $2,000. Funds will go toward her Master’s thesis, entitled “Mixed-Methods Analysis of Iraqi Refugees with Potential Trauma Histories.” Arwa prepared the project under the supervision of her advisor, James Herbert, Ph.D.

**Efrat Eichenbaum** and **Mitra Khaksari** won the 2012 Anne Anastasi Student Poster Award for outstanding student research at the 120th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Society. This award includes a certificate and a $100 monetary component. Their poster was entitled "Examination of African American and White women's religious coping behaviors following pregnancy loss." Efrat and Mitra both work under the mentorship of Pam Geller, Ph.D.

**Mitra Khaksari** was also awarded the La Salle University Student Research Award for her poster presentation titled “Perceived barriers to use of infertility treatment by minority women,” under the supervision of her advisor, Pam Geller, Ph.D.

**Laura Berner** was awarded the highly competitive Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Individual Predoctoral Fellows through the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health. Her project, entitled “Self-regulatory control and eating: A Neuroimaging study of Bulimia Nervosa,” was prepared under the mentorship of Michael R. Lowe, Ph.D., Douglas L. Chute, Ph.D., and Anna Rose Childress, Ph.D. Laura also received an American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award, totaling $1,000, to fund her work using fNIRS to investigate eating disorders. In addition, Laura received a $700 International Travel Fellowship award through Drexel’s Office of International Programs and won first place in the Neurocognitive Therapies/Translational Research Special Interest Group Poster Competition at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

**Casey LaDuke** won the Ted Blau Memorial Award for Best Student Poster Presentation at the 32nd Annual Conference of the National Academy of Neuropsychology. This award also included a $500 prize. Casey works under the mentorship of Dave DeMatteo, Ph.D.

**Chris King** was awarded $750 by the American Psychology-Law Society Student Grants-in-Aid Committee to fund his research project entitled “The Utility of RNR-Based Assessment Feedback and Offender Self-Estimate of Risk.” Chris works under the mentorship of Kirk Heilbrun, Ph.D.
**Professional Service**

- **Kristina Patrick** and Diana D'Argenio work as Trainers for the Drexel Autism Support Program (DASP) which provides peer-mediated autism-specific support services for Drexel students.

- **Stephanie Brooks Holliday** was elected to be a Member-at-Large of the Graduate Student Committee of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI).

- **Chris King** was elected Chair-Elect of American Psychology-Law Society Student Section Committee.

- **Dan Smith** co-mentored two Drexel STAR students through a summer co-op. The goal of the STAR project was to create an electronic and game-like version of a commonly used neuropsychological task (Trail Making Test), designed to assist in administration to so-called "low-functioning" populations.

**Program Milestones**


**Danielle Brinckman** proposed her Master’s thesis, entitled “An fNIRS study of the effects of medication on cognitive functioning and cerebral hemodynamics in adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder,” in September.

**Elizabeth Nicholls** proposed her Master’s thesis, “Psychological functioning in children and adolescents living with Spinal Cord Injury and their caregivers in Colombia, South America” in July.

**Kara Douglas** proposed her dissertation, "Heavy alcohol use in individuals with HIV: An evaluation of cognitive factors," in September. Through a partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), Kara’s project will examine neuropsychological correlates of heavy drinking in a sample of HIV+ individuals. The study is being conducted within a pilot clinical trial of the medication Topiramate to treat alcohol abuse among HIV+ heavy drinkers.

**Dan Smith** proposed his Master’s thesis in May. The primary goals of the thesis are to create normative measures of implicit learning ability and examine the relationship of those measures to IQ and language processing ability. In addition, Dan will be collecting some pilot data of these tasks in a population of children with an autism spectrum disorder, a disorder potentially characterized in part by implicit learning impairments.
Alexa Bonacquisti was engaged to marry Zach Powers in August 2012. Alexa and Zach met at Drexel as undergraduate students!

Lauren Bradley was engaged to marry Joshua Popejoy in November!

Heidi Strohmaier was engaged to marry Aldis Kurmis in November!

**SPOTLIGHT: First-Year Drexel Psychology Ph.D. Students**

**Leah Brogan** graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and has joined Dr. Naomi Goldstein’s lab. Her research interests include assessing factors influencing risk taking behaviors of juvenile delinquents, intervention strategies for justice-involved youth, and juveniles’ and adults’ legal abilities and competencies.

**Sarah Filone** received a BA (with Honors) from Lafayette College and an MA in Clinical Psychology from Columbia University. For the last 2 years, Sarah has worked at Drexel coordinating the Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence and the Statewide Forensic Peer Support Program. As a member of Dr. Dave DeMatteo’s lab, her interests include psychopathy, forensic assessment, capital sentencing, and rehabilitation.

**Aimee Hildenbrand** completed her undergraduate studies at Drexel University and is a member of Dr. Brian Daly’s lab. Her research interests include psychosocial and neurocognitive sequelae of pediatric chronic illness and acute medical trauma, as well as the development and evaluation of preventative and early interventions for pediatric medical conditions and underserved youth.

**Peter Hitchcock** is a first-year doctoral student in the Forman and Herbert lab. His interests include hemispheric lateralization in anxiety and depression, and applications of mindfulness training to clinical treatments.

**Stephanie Kerrigan** graduated from Rowan University. She has joined Dr. Meghan Butryn’s lab. Her research interests include novel treatments for eating disorders and obesity and technology-based dissemination.

**Stephanie Manasse** graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and is working with Dr. Evan Forman. Her research interests include the neurocognition of maladaptive eating behavior and the development of novel treatments for eating and weight disorders.

**Caterina Mosti** graduated from the University of Florida and is currently a member of Dr. Mary Spiers’ and Dr. Jackie Kloss’ lab. Her research interests include sleep and neuropsychology, specifically changes in sleep and sleep disturbance following traumatic brain injury.
Spotlight: First-Year Drexel Psychology Ph. D. Students, Continued

Jessica Stern graduated from New York University and currently works in the lab of Drs. Art and Chris Nezu. Her research and clinical interests include CBT and other therapy based treatments for people with mood and anxiety disorders, particularly in chronic illness and military/veteran populations.

Elizabeth Whipple is a first-year doctoral student in the Neuropsychology Concentration with Maria Schultheis’s lab. Her main research interests include neuropsychological evaluation and rehabilitation, particularly in veterans with brain injury and PTSD.

First-Year Applied Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences Students

Brian Erickson holds BS and MS degrees from Drexel, in Mechanical and Neuroengineering, respectively. He is working in the lab of Dr. John Kounios examining resting state data of insightful vs. analytic problem solvers for network differences via AR modeling, coherence and Granger causality analysis. He intends to specialize in non-invasive neural stimulation techniques for cognitive enhancement (i.e., tDCS for enhancement of creativity.)

David Rosen received an M.S. in Teaching and Instruction from Drexel University and a B.A in Psychology from Emory University. He has joined Dr. Youngmoo Kim’s Music and Entertainment Technology Lab (MetLab), where he is researching the impact of technology on musical creativity.

Samantha Winter, BA. & B.M. graduated from the University of Michigan and is a first year student in Drexel’s ACBS program. She is a member of Dr. Michael Lowe’s lab, where she is interested in examining the neural correlates of obesity and eating disorders through neuroimaging. She hopes to specifically assess comorbidity of eating disorders and other psychological or biological disorders.

First-Year JD/Ph.D. Students

Jaymes Fairfax-Colombo is a 2010 graduate of Swarthmore College, where he majored in Psychology and Political Science. His major interests in Clinical-Forensic Psychology are recidivism reduction, re-entry planning, and diversionary courts; he also has an interest in high-profile offenders. Away from school, Jaymes likes socializing, music, sports, long walks on the beach, and making really corny jokes.

Suraji Wagage
First-Year Drexel Psychology M.S. Students

**Caroline Grady** graduated from Johns Hopkins University. She is a member of Dr. Pam Geller's lab. Her clinical and research interests include health psychology regarding women's health and chronic illnesses.

**Dayonna Park** currently works for Dr. Thomas Hewett in the Cognitive psychology lab and also conducts research at the AJ Drexel Plasma Institute. She received her B. A. in 2008 from West Chester University in Psychology. Dayonna's goal is to find an interdisciplinary connection between psychology, neuroscience, and plasma (the fourth state of matter).

**Ana Prelic** graduated from Drexel University. She is a member of Dr. Goldstein's lab. Her research and clinical interests include forensic psychology and particularly juvenile probation.

**Joseph Hengoed** graduated from Hiram College and is a member of Dr. Kirk Heilbrun's lab. His clinical and research interests include the neuroscience underlying forensic psychology.

**Julia Grayer** graduated from Haverford College and is a member of Dr. Felicia Hurewitz's lab. Her clinical and research interests include autism spectrum disorders.

Ephania Agordo  
Diana D’Argenio  
Leah Schumacher  
Sarka Turecka

Wishing all of you a wonderful Holiday season with family and friends, and a Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays!