(In the photo above)

“Winners” of the Penny Wars, Wesley Hill and Dr. Marcel Yoder were both recipients of a pie-in-the-face at the Psi Chi and Psychology Club barbecue on April 25. Psi Chi and Psychology Club officers and Psychology Department faculty participated in this fundraising event. The event raised over $200 for the Club and to partially support student presentations at the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) conference.

Newsletter Edited By Dr. Frances Shen
Spring 2013 Psi Chi Inductees & New Psychology Club Members:
Haley Bestudik, Rob Brouse, Tiffany Clow, Jenna Dance, Nathaniel Ed, Carrie Eddings, Keilyn Goatley, Kadylyn Havemeyer, Danielle LaPointe, Breah O’Laughlin, Mikel Ollech, Heather Oltmann, Melody Shelton, & Meghan Weikert

Spring 2013 Psychology Club & Psi Chi Events

- 2/13/2013 & 2/14/2013: Valentine's Day Sale. We sold baked goods, roses, and Valentine’s Day cards.

- 3/20/2013: Induction Dinner at The Olive Garden to celebrate new Psi Chi members!


- 3/18/2013-4/18/2013: Psychology Department Penny War. We raised over $200 for the Club.

- April: Sold "Keep Calm and Psychoanalyze" and Classic UIS Psych Club T-shirt designs created by the students. Very popular items! We raised around $200 for the Club.

- 4/20/2013: Attended the Walk A Mile Benefit for Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault in Springfield IL.

- Week of 4/22/2013: Plastic Bag Drive to Benefit St. John's Breadline (for packaging food and goods to poor and homeless persons).

- 4/25/2013: Pie In the Face End of Semester BBQ.

- 4/30/2013: Volunteering at Hospitality House (a church in downtown Springfield) to serve food to poor and homeless persons.

- 5/2/2013: Bowling Social Event.

- 5/2/2013-5/4/2013: Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) annual meeting in Chicago IL. Several Psi Chi students presented their research at the conference. Wesley Hill received an award at MPA from Psi Chi for his poster presentation. See page 4 of the newsletter for more details!
Student Arts & Research Symposium

Student Arts and Research Symposium (StARS) was held on April 11th and 12th, 2013. This was the second year of the university-wide symposium, which included over 100 students from the Social and Natural Sciences, Art, Music, Theatre, Humanities, and Business. Dr. Ryan Ewing, Assistant Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Alabama, gave the keynote address about his research on exploring the surface of Mars with the NASA Curiosity Team. Author, Mary Jo Bang, also read from several of her published works.

Seven current and former psychology majors participated in the poster presentations (listed below). Wesley Hill and Rachel Tohme won the **Best Social Science Poster Presentation Award** for their presentation titled, *Pass it on? Individual Differences in the Spreading of Urban Legends*. Their faculty mentors were Drs. Carrie Switzer and Marcel Yoder. The Psychology Department faculty members want to congratulate all of the students who participated in the symposium this year. We are all very proud of the hard work each student researcher put into his or her project!

**Andrew Hathaway**  
**Brianna Werner**  
**Brittany Sievers**

**Kadylyn Havemeyer**  
**Robert Torrence**  
**Wesley Hill & Rachel Tohme**
The Impact of Eating Habits on Thinking Skills
Robert Torrence
Dr. Sheryl Reminger, Faculty Sponsor

Patterns in College Students’ Self-Perception and Associations with Behavior Problems
Wesley Hill
Dr. Karen Mooney, Faculty Sponsor

Internalized Homo-Negativity and Traditional Asian Values Moderates Relationship between Parental Attitudes and Well-Being among Asian LGB Persons
Dr. Frances C. Shen, Brianna Werner, Brittany Sievers, Rebecca Goldsborough

In Your Face: Judgments of Attractiveness Depend on Context
Dr. Marcel S.Yoder, Dr. Lara K.Ault, & Kadylyn Havemeyer

Pass It On? Individual Differences in the Spread of Urban Legends
Wesley Hill & Rachel Tohme
Drs. Carrie Switzer & Marcel Yoder, Faculty Sponsors
My internship at **Mt. Gilead Shelter Care** has complemented my coursework in ways I could not have imagined. As an inpatient facility for adults who have a variety of mental illnesses, it has provided limitless learning opportunities. I work directly under the Activity Director, engaging the residents in activities that accommodate the residents’ wide range of skill sets and abilities. I also participated in the local health fair to combat stigma surrounding mental illness with brochures and posters. Living in a small community, it is important that discrimination is broken down. Each resident brings their own unique personality to light in combination with their mental illness.

Although I am far from, but still aspiring to be, a trained clinician, I have begun to recognize the characteristics of mental illnesses we explored in Abnormal Psychology. After being at my placement for several months, I have been able to see the highs and lows of Schizoaffective Disorder. I can recognize the alterations in behavior due to medication. This on a more abstract level relates back to Biopsychology.

From Clinical Psychology, I have applied the knowledge that sitting in certain ways allows individuals to speak more openly. The activities I plan and test must be enjoyed by a variety of individuals, some of whom cannot walk, may not speak much, cannot concentrate, and have multiple levels of attained education.

From Cognitive Psychology, the core concepts can be exemplified in unique ways. From awareness to complex cognitive processing, the residents vary greatly. The facility houses men and women, up to around 30 individuals, and rooms are shared. The complicated situations created by these living arrangements are to be expected but also allow for different characteristics of multiple mental illnesses to interact.

From Social Psychology, the concepts surrounding groups come into play. Relationships are formed and conflicts arise. As an intern, I am still an authority figure to the residents. I must diffuse situations and facilitate resolutions. The residents connect with me as an individual they can speak with in a low pressure situation. They talk about their past, their struggles with their mental illness, and what they would like to discuss at their next doctor’s appointment. I have become the facility confidant.

In the end though, the residents have taught me much more than they will ever know. They exemplify that mental illness is a part of a person, but does not define a person.
Dr. Michele Miller will be starting her study on Early Social-Emotional Development & School Readiness this summer. Katie Woelfel, Samantha Schackmann, Nathaniel Ed, and Alex Fruth will be helping Dr. Miller get this project underway. The purpose of this study is to examine the associations of early social emotional development, cognitive development, and parent and teacher-rated components of early school readiness in three-year-old children who attend a local preschool program. Dr. Miller has applied for the Summer Scholarly Research Grant to support the initial work on this project, and plans to begin data collection with her research assistants this summer.

This semester, Andrew Hathaway worked with Dr. Karen Reinke on a research project entitled, Neural Processing of Male and Female Fearful Faces in a Spatial Attention Modulation Task. For this study, he examined how the sex of the participants as well as the sex of the stimuli affected attention to emotional stimuli using behavioral techniques and electroencephalography. Andrew and Dr. Reinke presented their findings at the 2013 UIS Student Arts & Research Symposium (StARS) and the Cognitive Neuroscience Society conference in San Francisco, CA. This research project was also supported by the CLAS Student Faculty Creative Activities award that they received last year.

Robert Torrence is conducting two research studies under the supervision of Dr. Sheryl Reminger. The first study is exploring if mice that consume a high-fat, animal-based diet will show poorer memory than mice that consume a low-fat, plant-based diet. The second study has investigated the impact of a vegetarian versus an omnivorous diet on cognitive function in a human population. Bob recently presented the results of this study at the UIS StARS and the 2013 Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) conference. Cassandra David is also conducting a research study under the supervision of Dr. Reminger to examine the coping strategies of commuting versus non-commuting student athletes. Cassandra has administered surveys to student athletes this semester, and plans to conduct her data analysis over the summer.
**Student & Faculty Research**

**Dr. Frances Shen** is conducting focus group research on body image issues among Asian men and women. **Brittany Sievers** and **Brianna Werner** have been assisting Dr. Shen with this study. Preliminary results have been presented at the 2013 StARS, MAUPRC, and APA conferences. Brittany and Brianna are also assisting Dr. Shen on a study examining the cultural factors that impact internalized homophobia and psychological well-being among Asian American LGB. Results have been presented at the 2013 MPA, Association for Psychological Sciences (APS), and APA conferences. Finally, Brittany and Brianna are both conducting their own independent research projects. Brittany is studying the role of religion and spirituality on college students and Brianna is studying perceptions and experiences of veteran college students.

**Dr. Carrie Switzer** is conducting a study that examines differences between traditional and nontraditional aged college students in their motivation to go to college, perceived barriers to attending college, academic self-efficacy in college, and vocational outcome expectations. **Rachel Tohme** and **Stacey Windisch**, graduate students in the Human Development Counseling program, are currently working on an additional phase of the study with Drs. Switzer and Shen that focuses on collecting information on the same variables from students in underrepresented groups. Drs. Switzer and Shen will be presenting results from this study at the APS conference in May 2013 and the APA conference in August 2013. Finally, Drs. Switzer and Yoder supervised **Wesley Hill** and **Rachel Tohme's** research project on *Pass it On? Individual Differences in the Spread of Urban Legends*.

**Dr. Marcel Yoder** is conducting a study to investigate the effect of interaction on person perception. The study purpose is to determine what similarities and differences there are between our impressions depending on whether we interact with another, see a short video of that person, versus merely a photo. **Kady Havemeyer** and **Kayla Weitekamp** are currently assisting Dr. Yoder on this project. Initial results demonstrate that when judging others' facial attractiveness, these judges are related but different. Attractive persons are seen as attractive regardless of how other interact with them, but at the same time, persons are seen as more attractive when viewed face to face than when view on video or photo. Results were presented at the 2013 StARS, MPA, and APS conferences.
Every year, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences hosts their annual awards ceremony for its graduating seniors. The Psychology Department selected psychology students for three awards this year: Graduation Marshal, Outstanding Student Scholar, and Outstanding Service to the Department. Award winners will be introduced at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences awards ceremony on Friday, May 10th from 4:00 to 5:00pm in Brooken’s Auditorium. Students will receive a certificate on stage as a short biography of them is read.

**Robert Torrence** was selected as the **Graduation Marshal**. The marshal is the student who “best exemplifies the spirit and goals of the program,” and will lead their classmates in the procession at graduation. Robert was chosen based on his overall academic achievement, research with Dr. Sheryl Reminger, and leadership in Psi Chi and Psychology Club.

**Andrew Hathaway** was selected for the **Outstanding Student Scholar** award. Andrew was chosen based on his overall academic achievement, but especially for his research with Dr. Karen Reinke.

**Hannah Mock** was selected for the **Outstanding Service to the Department** award. Hannah was chosen based on her overall academic achievement, but especially for her service as the department student representative, a member of the faculty search committee, and leadership in Psi Chi and Psychology Club.

**Congratulations to the student award winners!** We are very proud of your achievements in the UIS Psychology Department. Congratulations on graduation, and we wish you the best in all of your future educational and career pursuits!

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**Where are they headed?**

Gerald Everette – Master’s Program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Shippensburg University  
Andrew Hathaway – Doctoral Program in Quantitative Psychology at University of Missouri-Columbia  
Niveesha Hill – Master’s program in Management & Organizational Behavior at Benedictine University  
Sarah Leverentz – Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology at Argosy University in Schaumburg  
Stephanie Snead – Master’s program in Marriage & Family Therapy at University of Illinois Springfield  
Robert Torrence – Master’s Program in Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience at Northern Michigan University  
Katie Woefel – Master’s program in Human Services at University of Illinois Springfield