

# SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

## Fall Award: *Outstanding Research Scholar* Winner: *Sophie Kay*

**Sophie Kay** has demonstrated continued involvement in research with two psychology faculty: Dr. Jason Dahling and Dr. Lisa Grimm. She has spent four semesters working in Dr. Grimm's Motivation, Individual Differences, and Stereotypes in Cognition, or MISC Lab, and 2 semesters in Dr. Dahling's Organizational Psychology Lab. During the fall semester, Sophie conducted an individual study project with Dr. Dahling on goal pursuit among students and is using the daily-diary method to collect data from TCNJ student participants. Sophie also has begun her Psychology Senior Honors Thesis with Dr. Grimm. Her thesis involves regulatory focus and its effects on exercise performance. In addition to her extensive work with Dr. Dahling and Dr. Grimm, Sophie conducted a research project with Dr. Jarret Crawford during the 2013 Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience, or MUSE, at TCNJ. For this project, she used archival data from national survey databases to study psychological predictors of state-by-state electoral outcomes. Finally, Sophie demonstrates exceptional promise for continued research in psychology after she graduates from TCNJ this May. In the fall, she will begin her PhD in industrial/organizational psychology at Georgia Tech and will focus her work on emotions in the workplace. Sophie clearly exemplifies an outstanding research scholar in psychology. On behalf of the entire psychology faculty and staff, we congratulate you, Sophie.



Left: Dr. Martinetti, and Dr. Dahling accompany Sophie Kay for her acceptance of the *Outstanding Research Scholar* award.

Right: Family members of Gordon Sayre proudly display the *Marshall P. Smith Scholarship*



## Spring Award: *The Marshall P. Smith Scholarship* Winner: *Gordon Sayre*

**Gordon Sayre** is a Psychology major who does outstanding academic work and has participated in a number of interesting psychology-related activities. He has been an active member of Dr. Jason Dahling's Organizational Psychology research lab since he was a freshman, when he began as a volunteer in Dr. Dahling's lab. Thereafter, he has now completed several projects with Dr. Dahling, including an Individual Study investigating the effects of individual contingent self-worth on writing quality and quantity. In the fall of 2014, Gordon plans to start on a Psychology Senior Honors Thesis under Dr. Dahling's sponsorship. In addition to his Psychology coursework, Gordon has demonstrated leadership experiences among the campus community. For example, Gordon has served on the Psychology Department Student Advisory Board and the TCNJ Student Finance Board. Gordon's campus activities also include his service as a tutor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. He also completed a legislative internship with New Jersey Senator Jeff Van Drew. Gordon's career plans include pursuing a Ph.D. in Human Factors or Industrial/Organizational Psychology and future work in either an industry or academic setting.

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## Spring Awards: *The Laurie Ann Mandara '07 Scholarship*

### Winners: *Kristen Gasnick and Swet Patel*

**Kristen Gasnick** has an outstanding academic record and has demonstrated significant determination, courage, and commitment to success, despite a severe personal obstacle. Kristen's obstacle required that she defer her first year at TCNJ, but she persevered

and continues to demonstrate resilience and optimism to succeed in her studies. In addition to her Psychology coursework, Kristen serves as a research assistant in Dr. Andy Leynes' Event-Related Potentials Laboratory, where she is studying the neuroscience of memory. She is also a member of the College Honors Program at TCNJ. Outside of TCNJ, Kristen has served as a volunteer teaching assistant at Saddle Brooke Community School for 6 years. She has also volunteered for the NJ Special Olympics and Fernbrook Farms Environmental Educational Center in Bordentown, NJ. Kristen's perseverance and optimism truly embody Laurie's courage and her determination to never give up. We congratulate you, Kristen.



Above: Kristen, Swet, and family members accept their *Laurie Ann Mandara '07 Scholarships*.

**Swet Patel** has an outstanding academic record and demonstrates impressive depth of community service. As a TCNJ Bonner Community Scholar, Swet has a special commitment to community service through the TCNJ Bonner Center. He has also served as

a tutor at the Albert C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility and has recently begun an initiative with the NJ Partnership for Healthy Kids to create recreation opportunities for kids at risk for obesity. Swet described his service at the Reil's Visitation Home for adults with developmental disabilities as

his most personally meaningful service experience. He wrote about how his interactions with the residents remind him not to take anything for granted and to be grateful for the ways in which we can help others. Swet is a research assistant in the Alcohol Lab at TCNJ and is a newly inducted member of Psi Chi. His community service activities clearly embody Laurie's commitment to serving others. We congratulate you, Swet, and wish you all the best.