



SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

Fall Award: *Outstanding Research Scholar* Winner: *Heather Bruett*

Heather Bruett is a member of the College Honors Program as a Psychology major with a specialization in Biopsychology in accompaniment with a Biology minor. Heather has extensive research experience with both Dr. Leynes's Event-Related Potentials Lab, where she conducted her Psychology Senior Honors Thesis as a junior, as well as with Dr. Grimm's Motivation, Individual Differences, and Stereotypes in Cognition Lab. Heather has made contributions at multiple stages towards her research projects. As a member of Dr. Leynes's lab, Heather performed study conception and design, data collection and analysis, and manuscript preparation and dissemination. Her Senior Honors Thesis examined recognition of pre-experimentally familiar (i.e., name-brand) products and off-brand products that have no pre-experimental familiarity. Her *first-author* manuscript was accepted for publication in *Neuropsychologia*, a top-tier international journal. In addition, Heather was also involved as an active participant in Dr. Grimm's lab. She engaged herself with study conception and design, data coding and management, and the use of multiple software platforms for data collection. As a testament, Dr. Grimm said that "Heather has become someone that I trust to provide intelligent feedback and feels much more like a collaborator than a student." This past summer, Heather participated in the international Amgen Scholars Program at MIT, an extremely competitive program (only 7% of 5000 students were accepted), where she examined the neural underpinnings of acuity loss in amblyopia (lazy eye) using ERP measures. Overall, Heather demonstrates exceptional promise for continued research as she will be attending the University of Pittsburgh for a Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience.



Left: Dr. Martinetti, Dr. Leynes, and Dr. Grimm accompany Heather Bruett for her acceptance of the *Outstanding Research Scholar* award.



Right: Dr. Martinetti and Dr. Barnack-Talvaris accompany Noelle Skrobola for her acceptance of the *Outstanding Research Scholar* award.

Fall Award: *Outstanding Research Scholar* Winner: *Noelle Skrobola*

Noelle Skrobola is currently completing her Psychology major in addition to her minor in Spanish. As a fifth-semester member in Dr. Barnack-Talvaris's Reproductive and Sexual Health Lab at TCNJ, Noelle has finished her Psychology Senior Honors Thesis. This past summer, she also completed a MUSE project and prior to that has worked with Dr. Borders in the Clinical Outcomes and Processes Lab. Noelle's research integrates health psychology and social psychology. Her MUSE project was entitled, "The Psychological Predictors of Health Disparities Awareness" and her Senior Honors Thesis examined the effects of health disparities information on behavioral intentions. Noelle has made substantial contributions to several research projects at multiple stages. She has participated in study conception and design, data collection and analysis (quantitative and qualitative), conference presentations, and manuscript preparation. Noelle has already made four scholarly presentations at professional conferences and she has submitted an abstract for a presentation at the Association for Women in Psychology meeting this spring. Outside of TCNJ, Noelle served as a volunteer research assistant for the University Medical Center of Princeton's Eating Disorders Clinic for 5 months. Noelle demonstrates exceptional promise for continued research in psychology after she graduates from TCNJ and will apply to Ph.D. programs in social psychology this fall.

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Spring Award: *The Marshall P. Smith Scholarship* Winner: *Shirley Wang*

Shirley Wang is a Psychology major who does outstanding academic work, demonstrates exceptional commitment to psychology, and has participated in several psychology-related activities beyond the classroom. Shirley has involved herself in extensive research with four faculty members in the psychology department: Dr. Borders, Dr. Ruscio, Dr. Leynes, and Dr. Wiley. As a junior, Shirley is completing her third semester of research in Dr. Borders' Clinical Outcomes and Processes Lab and is finishing her Psychology Senior Honors Thesis which examined the differential effects of angry and depressive rumination on eating disorder behaviors. She will be presenting her results at the International Conference on Eating Disorders in May and the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in August. Outside of TCNJ, Shirley is a principal investigator on a project investigating the differential effects of angry and depressive rumination on eating disorder behaviors in patients who have been admitted to inpatient and partial hospitalization programs at the Center for Eating Disorders Care at the University Medical Center of Princeton. This summer, Shirley will complete a research internship at the Yale University School of Medicine's program for Obesity, Weight, and Eating Research. Shirley has also demonstrated significant leadership through her many on-campus activities. She is soon to assume the role of President of the TCNJ Chapter of Psi Chi, and she serves as Chaplain of the TCNJ Chapter of Theta Phi Alpha. Shirley's early fascination with operational definitions of psychological constructs, her delight in the endless



Right: Dr. Nancy Breland with Shirley Wang

Left: Daniela Gillen with members of the Mandara family



Spring Award: *The Laurie Ann Mandara '07* Winner: *Daniela Gillen*

Daniela Gillen has demonstrated determination, courage, and an increasingly strong academic record, despite several significant personal obstacles which have affected her and her family. Daniela was accepted for early decision at TCNJ and began her studies with credit for three AP courses she took in high school. She was determined to succeed in her undergraduate work despite her personal circumstances. As a result, she earned a place on the Dean's List this past fall. Psychology faculty remarked on Daniela's understated manner, conscientiousness, motivation and perseverance. Her personal experiences have inspired her to give back to others through community service. At TCNJ, Daniela is a member of the Women's Club Soccer team. She and her team have actively participated in Relay for Life, which has raised thousands of dollars to support the American Cancer Society. Daniela also is a member of Sigma Kappa sorority and has volunteered at her church. The Psychology Department is happy to help Daniela achieve her goals in the psychology major and beyond, as she pursues her dream of working in a clinical setting as a physician's assistant. Daniela's perseverance and optimism truly embody Laurie's courage throughout her illness and her determination to never give up.