



2018

SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Fall Award: Outstanding Research Scholar

Recipient:
Kelly Bobchin



ABOVE: DR. JOANNA HERRES AND KELLY BOBCHIN

Kelly Bobchin was awarded the psychology department's Outstanding Research Scholar award. This award is granted to students from the department with outstanding research experience and accomplishments as well as a strong academic record.

Kelly has participated in formal research for six semesters in the department of psychology and has a nearly perfect GPA. Kelly has worked in the Reactivity Lab for two semesters. Her work in this lab culminated in a co-authored manuscript currently under review at the Journal of American College Health titled "Campus sexual assault: Prevalence, correlates, and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in a representative sample of liberal arts college students." Kelly will present this research at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies in Chicago this November. She is currently working on her senior honors thesis examining psychosocial outcomes associated with campus sexual assault for LGBTQ students and the effectiveness of on-campus counseling services. Kelly also worked in Dr. Stahl's Cognitive Development Lab for four semesters, where she recruited infant and child participants, conducting research on learning and memory.

Kelly received a Phi Kappa Phi faculty-mentored research award and she is the treasurer of the Psychology Honor Society, Psi Chi. She was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, and is in the Honors Program. Kelly is writing a grant proposal for an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and is applying to Ph.D. programs in Clinical Psychology to continue her important line of research.

Kelly clearly exemplifies an outstanding research scholar for her dedicated research pursuits. On behalf of the entire department, we congratulate you, Kelly!



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**Spring Award:
The Laurie Ann
Mandara '07
Scholarship**

**Recipient:
Sophie Guss**



**ABOVE: SOPHIE GUSS WITH THE MANDARAS
AND THE PAINTING SHE MADE FOR THEM**

Sophie Guss has overcome substantial obstacles, but you would not know it from her community involvement and stellar academic record. In high school, Sophie suffered a traumatic head injury from a car accident, and between surgery and therapy she has had a long physical and emotional recovery. She has learned to manage her disability, and her dedication has clearly paid off: Sophie has a nearly perfect GPA. She also volunteers as a Community Companion for the NJ Morris County Mental Health Association, where, in order to provide support, she is in regular contact with a woman who suffers from mental illness. Prior to transferring to TCNJ, she worked with an organization that helped students with special needs. Sophie dreams of becoming a social worker so that she can help others who also experience obstacles in their lives.

Laurie Ann Mandara was a Psychology major who died from cancer in September 2006, and she was awarded her BA degree with honors, posthumously, in May 2007. Laurie persevered with her education throughout her illness and treatment, demonstrating extraordinary courage and persistence. Everyone who met her was impressed with her dedication to her studies, her optimism, her resilience, and her generous spirit. Laurie was a loving, generous, selfless person, very close to her family and friends, with a strong religious faith. She loved getting an education and had a passion for life. Her friends remember that Laurie could turn ordinary activities into extraordinary moments, and that she taught them to appreciate every day. Laurie's memory lives on in the hearts of those who knew her and in the Laurie Ann Mandara '07 Scholarship. This scholarship supports student accomplishments similar to Laurie's.

In this way, Laurie's memory will live on in the future and in our hearts.

The Department of Psychology honors Sophie Guss as the 2018 recipient of The Laurie Ann Mandara '07 Scholarship. Her perseverance and commitment to helping others are reminiscent of these same extraordinary traits of Laurie's.

We congratulate you, Sophie, and we wish you all the best.



2018 SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT



ABOVE: DR. NANCY BRELAND WITH MAGGIE MCGORRY

Spring Award:
The Marshall P.
Smith Scholarship

Recipient:
Maggie McGorry

Maggie McGorry excels in all of her courses and maintains a nearly perfect GPA. She is a dual major in Psychology and Special Education. Maggie loves working with children, and has completed student teaching assignments in classrooms in Trenton, Ewing

Dr. Marshall Smith organized a group of professors into the department of Psychology in 1957. He was the first chair of this new department. He inspired students and was influential in the lives of faculty members. After Dr. Smith died suddenly in 1978, his family and friends began a scholarship fund in his memory. In 2008, The Nancy Schacht Breland Family Scholarship Fund began endowing The Smith Scholarship, enabling The Smith Scholarship to continue to make awards to outstanding Psychology students.

Dr. Nancy Schacht Breland was a professor in the Psychology Department for 34 years and chairperson of the department for 6 years. Dr. Smith was one of her early and much loved mentors. Dr. Breland's family depended on scholarships to help pay for their higher educations. She hopes that her gifts in their memories will help outstanding TCNJ student to pay for their educations, and their dreams, for years to come.

and Pennington. Despite the commitment required by these demanding teaching assignments, Maggie has also engaged in psychology-related activities outside of the classroom. Maggie was invited to be an Instructional Intern for PSY 299, the most rigorous and challenging course in the Psychology curriculum. She received this opportunity because she excelled in this difficult class, and it was clear she would be an excellent mentor for students embarking on this academic

challenge. In this capacity, Maggie mastered the material, led the class in activities, held office hours, was the lead experimenter for the class's empirical study, and provided meaningful feedback to students in her section.

In addition, Maggie works in the Cognitive Development Lab, in which learning and memory in infants and children is studied. Maggie helps to recruit and run these young participants, giving her a chance to seamlessly integrate her interests in Psychology and Education. Maggie plans to continue to use psychology to inform her future as an educator, and she hopes that after receiving a Masters in Special Education, she can specialize in Applied Behavior Analysis to work closely with students with disabilities to improve their experiences in classroom settings. On behalf of the entire psychology faculty and staff, we congratulate you, Maggie!