PROGRAM

2nd ANNUAL LEWIS COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY

Friday, April 28, 2017

11:00AM-1:00PM

Herman Hall Expo

Sponsored by Psi Chi
Table of Contents

RESEARCH/AUTHOR

1. Effectiveness of Group vs. Individual Weight Loss Programs in the Workplace...4
   By Kristin Hein

2. Gender Differences in Attitudes Toward Intellectual Disability...............4
   By Mehak Hafeez

3. Development and Validation of a Measure of Prior Videogame Experience.....4
   By Rafał Wojtowicz

4. Comparing the Effectiveness of Applicant Tracking Systems with Traditional
   Interviews.................................................................5
   By Shreya Jha

5. A Warmer Chicago...........................................................5
   By Yasmin Ahmed

6. The Effect of Culture on Self-Construal: Replication...............................5
   By Timothy Tully, Natalie Herrmann, and Dennis Tran

7. The Stigma Associated with Suicide Attempt Survivors..........................6
   By Cheryl Li, Nathalie Oxe, Lindsay Sheehan, Silvia Nunez

8. BPNC College Mentor Program.......................................................6
   By Cynthia Chavez

9. Capstone in Human Resources: Recruiting...........................................7
   By Jacqueline Suriano

10. Do You Even Vape? .................................................................7
    By Emma Zachocki

11. In Time.........................................................................................7
    By Dennis Toppel

12. Capstone Internship in I/O Psychology..............................................8
    By Dalia Martinez
13. **Voices of Syrian Students Displaced by the Syrian Civil War**
   By Anoopa Sundararajan

14. **Stories of a Muslim Immigrant: A Contact Intervention**
   By Maya Al-khouja, Nicolas Kertesz, Khalil Rodriguez, Anoopa Sundararajan

15. **The Motivation to Lead: A Literature Review**
   By Melanie P Standish

16. **China, Korea, and Japan: Elements of the East Asian Miracle**
   By Michelle Yang

   By Jigar Dedhia, Yi-Ting Lei, Loretta Sutkus, Pranathi Merneedi

18. **The Relationship between Democracy Degree and Kuznets Curve**
   By Baoshu Feng

19. **The Past, Present and Future of East Asian Political Economy**
   By Chuqiao Xie

20. **Creating an inclusive IIT campus for transgender and gender non-conforming students**
   By Emily Darnell

21. **Facebook and Self-Expression**
   By Sunny Shah, Adeena Ahmed, Aume Waheed, Nadyah Mohiuddin

22. **Everyday Ups and Downs of Greek Life**
   By Sonia Kamdar, Tabitha Anderson, Zofie Mandelski

23. **When people exclude: in-person versus online**
   By Alice Amell

24. **Students study habits and thoughts of the Galvin Library**
   By George Martin

25. **Effects of Included Mindfulness on Financial Generosity: Replication**
   By Sydney Lamerand, Jasmine Duke, and Orlando Ogaza

26. **De-escalating the East: United States Military Removal from South and East China Sea**
   By Orlando Ogaza
1. Effectiveness of Group vs. Individual Weight Loss Programs in the Workplace
Kristie Hein
Weight loss programs are a common feature of workplace wellness programs and have been shown to produce modest results. What is less known is how social support from peers/coworkers may contribute to their success. This systematic review of recent literature (2012-2016) of nine workplace weight loss programs compared the effectiveness of individual employee programs versus group programs. Results were based on change in BMI and weight. Six studies that reported both weight loss and BMI results were compared. Out of those six interventions, the four with group elements produced greater weight loss. Positive secondary behavioral and health outcomes were also found. Weight loss programs in the workplace that focus on social support have a potential to be more effective; however, more research is needed to confirm this. Future research can examine which elements of group programs are most effective and if they encourage more participation in general.

2. Gender Differences in Attitudes Toward Intellectual Disability
Mehak Hafeez
The aim of this study is to investigate attitudes based on gender towards people with intellectual disability (ID) in a sample of undergraduate students recruited from introductory psychology courses. It is hypothesized that females display more positive attitudes and behaviors towards people with ID. Participates include 227 undergraduate students recruited from two Midwest universities. Independent-samples t tests were conducted to examine gender differences on five measures related to attitudes and behaviors towards people with intellectual disabilities. Measures include: Mental Retardation Attitudes Inventory-Revised (MRAI-R), Interaction with Disabled People Scale (IDPS), Attribution Questionnaire, Social Distance Scale, and a measure assessing willingness to engage with people with ID. Results support the hypothesis stating that females have higher mean scores indicating more positive attitudes on the: MRAI-R, Social Distance Scale and the willingness to engage with people with ID measure. However, there were no significant differences found between males and females’ participants on the IDPS and Attribution Questionnaire. Future research is recommended with an aim to investigate the potential reasons why there is a gender difference in attitudes between men and women towards ID. Future research could potentially focus on discern between age, ethnicity or socioeconomic status to compare the differences in attitudes towards people with ID.

3. Development and Validation of a Measure of Prior Videogame Experience
Rafal Wojtowicz
This research concerns the development and validation of a measure of prior videogame experience (PVGE). Videogames may serve as training media and are becoming a dominant form of recreation, which warrants research into the effects of play. However, there is no standard, validated, holistic measure of PVGE, which prevents effective research. This study aims to develop and validate a measure of PVGE. Following extensive literature review, the
researcher constructed an initial scale of PVGE. In Study 1, data were collected from 27 subject matter experts (SMEs) to assess the content validity of the scale, particularly the definitions of videogame categories. Study 2 will be a criterion validation survey of gamers and non-gamers linking measure items with hypothesized correlates of PVGE and examining differences on scale items between gamers and non-gamers. The Research Day presentation will focus on scale construction, the results of the Study 1 survey, and preliminary findings from Study 2. This research should yield a scale of PVGE, an effective set of game definitions for taxonomical purposes, and uncover aspects of the nomological network of PVGE.

4. Comparing the Effectiveness of Applicant Tracking Systems with Traditional Interviews
Shreya Jha
Applicant tracking systems (ATS) enable electronic handling of recruitment. It is estimated that approximately 50% of all mid-sized companies, and 75% of all organizations rely on ATS. While the intention of ATS is to expedite and simplify the selection process, it often rejects qualified candidates due to incorrect resume formatting and optimization. The goal of this capstone, therefore, is to compare employment decisions made by interviewers during interview processes with those made by applicant tracking software. Scientific research comparing the two methods are extremely limited in nature. The focus will be on understanding the nature of the differences in decisions made between these two hiring tools and to understand applicant reactions to both. Data collection will occur in two steps. In the first step, participants will be asked to submit their resumes to an ATS. The second step involves participants engaging in a traditional, face-to-face interview session in which responses are recorded by an interviewer. The interviewer will maintain a rubric for observation that ensures consistency across interviews for multiple ‘candidates’. It is expected that the hiring decisions made through interviews and automated systems will yield different results. While interviews are limited by biases within the observer, applicant tracking software is limited by the presence of the inconsistent algorithms or the necessity of specific keywords.

5. A Warmer Chicago
Yasmin Ahmed
Located in the state of Illinois and bordering lake Michigan, the city of Chicago is considered to be among the coldest in the world. The weather in Chicago is generally influenced by lake Michigan in all four seasons, but the cold peaks especially in the months of November through March. The homeless in Chicago, especially in the poor neighborhoods, face this cold without shelter, and with the significantly low number of warming centers or homeless shelters in Chicago, this project offers to selectively choose areas that are most in need of these shelters in Chicago to better help the homeless stay warm and safe in the blistering cold. Analysis of data will include looking at the areas most affected by the cold in Chicago, and the number of shelters and warming centers spread out to decide which areas are of most need of these shelters.

6. The Effect of Culture on Self-Construal: Replication
Timothy Tully, Natalie Herrmann, and Dennis Tran
This project is a pre-publication replication of a study designed by Professor Thomas Talhelm at the University of Chicago. The study is largely based on Markus and Kitayama's 1991 paper "Culture and the Self: Implications for Cognition, Emotion, and Motivation " which claims that there is a difference in the way that people from Eastern collectivist cultures define themselves and view the world compared to people from Western individualistic countries. Researchers have had trouble reliably replicating these results (Fiske, 2002) and Talhelm believes that it is due to a flaw in the methodology and that past researchers have incorrectly assumed that individuals from collectivist cultures care more about strangers. In order to test this hypothesis, we gave 135 IIT students a 32 question online survey designed by Talhelm, 102 of these individuals came from a country that is categorized as individualistic and 33 were from a country defined as collectivistic (Hofstede & Minkov, 2010). In accordance with Talhelm's instructions we categorized the results of each question as either supporting or not supporting the hypothesis by comparing the mean scores of each group, and then ran a chi-square test on the number of questions that supported and opposed our results. The chi-squared test yielded only marginally significant results (p=.08).

7. The Stigma Associated with Suicide Attempt Survivors
Cheryl Li, Nathalie Oxe, Lindsay Sheehan, Silvia Nunez
Previous research findings have revealed prevalent stigmatizing attitudes and beliefs toward individuals with severe mental illness. However, the implementation of a psychoeducational intervention has found to increase mental health literacy and decrease stigma in the general population (Corrigan & Penn, 1999). Due to these preconceived notions of mental illness and specifically, suicide, many areas of research have been neglected and avoided. The aims of this study are to analyze the perspectives of suicide attempt survivors that have disclosed in the past. By gaining a more intimate perspective on the risks and benefits of disclosing suicide attempts, we hope to be able to adapt the existing Honest, Open, and Proud Program. 40 individuals were interviewed and ten questions were asked to assess diverse perspectives on the risks and benefits of disclosing suicide. The findings of this study echo the prevalence of stigma and furthermore internalized stigma among suicide attempt survivors.

8. BPNC College Mentor Program
Cynthia Chavez
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council has sponsored 15 mentors to be a part of a collaborative effort to help at-risk 9th and 10th grade students through a mentoring program. Each mentor is given a caseload of 15-20 students to work with for one school year. The primary purpose of this program is to ensure every student is on track for graduation on time (within 4 years). Through the mentoring program students are guided to begin thinking about college, visiting colleges, tutored in classes they struggle with and given the resources they need to better their academic career. Students grades are recorded bi-weekly, and part of this capstone was to analyze the students grades in a span of 2 ½ months. Every student's grades were plotted on a weekly basis for each class in order to identify individual student’s trends of improvement or decline. Additionally, average performance in each class was plotted on a weekly basis to identify course-level trends of improvement or decline. This analysis revealed that students showed
improvement in United States History, however declined in Avid class which is a college preparation course. Additionally, during this project I was able to use scholarly peer-reviewed articles to enhance my understanding of psychological research related to evidence-based mentorship; Relevant research included work on self-determination theory (Ryan & Deci, 2017) and implicit theories of ability (Dweck, 2014)

9. Capstone in Human Resources: Recruiting
Jacqueline Suriano
My poster summarizes the experiences I had during my internship completed with a company in Chicago in the Human Resources Department specializing in Recruiting. The purpose of my poster is to describe my experiences, discuss how my academic training influenced my understanding of various events that occurred during the course of the internship, and to offer some recommendations and guidance for students interested in completing similar capstones. Broadly, my internship allowed me to follow a full cycle recruiting process for open positions within the company. The process included creating a job description through speaking with hiring managers about the requirements of the position and sourcing initial candidates. The sourcing process and initial phone interviews generally narrowed down the candidate pool down to a few candidates that would be presented to the hiring manager. Onsite interviews involved the candidate meeting with varying positions in the department; colleagues, supervisors, and the department head. The final step would be moving forward with an offer and welcoming the new employee to the office. Throughout the internship, there were two times that the team believed no one was a good fit, in which case I had to start the process over. However, throughout my internship I successfully completed the cycle for four candidates. Several topics that were raised during my previous coursework included key qualifications for applicants, job description requirements, selection, and personality fit.

10. Do You Even Vape?
Emma Zachocki
Electronic cigarette sales have exponentially increased in the last five years. This study is analyzing the correlation between positive attitudes on Twitter about e-cigarettes and the annual sales of e-cigarettes.

11. In Time
Dennis Toppel
“In Time” is an adventure exploration game about a high-school student who deals with being gay. The character’s experience navigating a family and extended community that do not support him in his identity, and as such, the main character struggles to express himself. This game addresses an internal struggle, as he tries to maintain a sense of normalcy while attempting to come out to family and peers, and manage the anxiety of keeping his true feelings hidden inside. The game provides insight into some struggles that some gay young men may face, living in communities that haven’t been as accepting of LGBTQ people. The game cannot speak for every individual experience that the diverse members of the LGBTQ+ community has. However, the goal is to present themes and a story that will relate to some individuals’ experiences, while
providing insight for others who aren’t as aware of some of the emotions and feelings that young gay men may experience. The game is being developed on the RPG Maker engine, and is intended to be played on a PC. User testing has been done as to look at how people feel the subject matter is handled, as well as to fine tune how the game is played based on what players like and dislike about its presentation.

12. Capstone Internship in I/O Psychology
Dalia Martinez
I have completed the capstone project required for IIT for my major in Industrial and organizational psychology under the supervision of Dr. Roya Ayman. My chosen capstone was an internship as a Human Resources Associate during the summer of 2016 in the company where I am currently employed. I work for Pete’s Market a company in the grocery industry. The company started in the early 1970s on the South side of Chicago. Over 40 years of experience Pete’s Market has grown during the years with 12 stores currently open. The position is HR Corporate Liaison, which was a professional opportunity for a full time internship. A Corporate Liaison is the person who takes care of all the human resources part from the store and facilitates the communication process of all employees and their information with headquarters. Therefore, my poster will be presenting my experiences throughout this internship.

13. Voices of Syrian Students Displaced by the Syrian Civil War
Anoopa Sundararajan
Syrian youth experience a myriad of psychological and emotional costs when they flee war and conflict in Syria and when they adapt to new lifestyles in the US. This project seeks to understand the difficulties of living through war and conflict, as well as lasting psychological and emotional consequences of displacement, through in-person interviews with Syrian students at Illinois Institute of Technology. Results showed that fear was overwhelmingly the most prominent theme that emerged during the interviews. A second, less obvious theme was excitement - as the people of Syria were well aware that they were living under a dictatorship, the revolution in 2011 was exciting because it signified change for the better, although not many expected it to escalate into the now-six-year-long civil war, killing millions and displacing millions more. Furthermore, two secondary themes emerged: 1. suppressing the trauma of the war while in Syria and following their move to the US, and 2. disappointment at the lack of knowledge about the war among many in the United States. Trauma suppression was an especially important finding to us, considering that these students continue to shoulder the stresses of their academic and personal lives simultaneously, many worried daily about family members and friends still living in Syria, burdens that could affect their psychological well-being. Implications and future directions of the research are discussed.

14. Stories of a Muslim Immigrant: A Contact Intervention
Maya Al-khouja, Nicolas Kertesz, Khalil Rodriguez, Anoopa Sundararajan
Many Muslim individuals in the United States experience prejudice and discrimination based solely on their religious beliefs. This study used a contact intervention on a sample of the general
US adult population to study changes in prejudiced attitudes. Results revealed important differences between the contact and control conditions.

15. The Motivation to Lead: A Literature Review
Melanie P Standish
Chan & Drasgow (2001) created a “Theory of Leader Development” that was designed to understand the influences of individual differences in leadership. Within this framework is the construct they coined called The Motivation to Lead (MTL) which they developed to define and understand the individual differences in why leaders choose to lead and continue to lead. Over the course of this semester, I conducted a literature review on the research that exists on MTL and its related constructs. My literature review covers the antecedents of MTL and the consequences of individual differences in MTL. After identifying strengths and weaknesses of the existing literature, I brainstormed future directions for MTL research that I plan to pursue in graduate school. Primarily, I hope to look at changes in MTL over time, rather than pursue a one-time correlational design that most of the current literature employs.

16. China, Korea, and Japan: Elements of the East Asian Miracle
Michelle Yang
Since the end of World War II, East Asia has shown remarkable economic growth, often termed the “Asian Economic Miracle”. The understanding of East Asia, particularly China, Korea, and Japan, and the East Asian miracle can help predict the future of other developing countries, such as India, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. I claim that centralized leadership in the past, an effective bureaucracy in the present, and democratization in the future are the critical elements of East Asia’s economic development.

17. Replication of: A Bad Taste in the Mouth by Eskine et. al (2011)
Jigar Dedhia, Yi-Ting Lei, Loretta Sutkus, Pranathi Merneedi
We report the results of the replication of the study from Eskine et al. (2011). Participants in this study were asked to drink 5mL of a drink that was randomly assigned to them before answering how morally wrong various moral vignettes were. Eskine et al. predicted that of the three beverage conditions: sweet, bitter, and control (water), those participants in the bitter condition would exhibit greater moral disgust than either the sweet or control group and judge the moral vignettes harsher. They also predicted that participants who considered themselves as conservatives would rate the moral vignettes harsher than participants who considered themselves as liberal. We did not replicate the same effect in the laboratory as Eskine et al. (2011). Political orientation did not have a significant effect on how harsh participants judged the moral vignettes. However, we did replicate that participants in the bitter condition rated the moral vignettes harsher than participants who were in the sweet and control condition combined (N=24). We conclude that there is some evidence showing that gustatory disgust plays a role in moral judgement, but further research with a larger sample size and diverse population must be done for further understanding.
18. The Relationship between Democracy Degree and Kuznets Curve
Baoshu Feng
With the GDP increasing during 60 years of post-war period, the income inequality problem in some countries or regions constitute an anomaly for the inverted U-shaped Kuznets curve hypothesis. The project upon which this paper is that a qualitative and quantitative study of 44 countries and regions, which have been selected to investigate how democracy and income inequality influences the Kuznets Curve. Using the data of total population, GDP (in current dollars), democracy index and Gini index (net), the study results indicate that the different population and different choice of democracy system would have different effect on the change of Gini index with GDP increasing. The study result suggests that Kuznets curve is still available to indicate the relationship between GDP development and Gini index change for most of the countries during 60 years of post –war period. Also, the study results indicate that the index of gap between gini_index and democracy degree is more strongly predicts GDPPC increases than it does in developed countries, which is proved by the case study of China. Therefore, it is probably one of the explanation of the success of China Economic Development in last 30 years.

19. The Past, Present and Future of East Asian Political Economy
Chuqiao Xie
The growth of East Asian economy in the past few decades is impressive, thus it gained the name of “East Asian Miracle”. This project examines the crucial factors for rapid growth of East Asian countries in the past, present, and future. One thing that East Asian countries have in common for the start of economic growth is a centralized leadership, or a state-directed economy. However, Hong Kong is a different case, where trade liberalization was the key point to modern Hong Kong’s economic growth. Although a free market remains in Hong Kong after its handover to China, but the present and prospects of Hong Kong are more closely tied to China ever after. The present and future for economic developments in East Asia will be discussed in relation with China, and the political aspects of certain East Asian countries.

20. Creating an inclusive IIT campus for transgender and gender non-conforming students
Emily Darnell
Transgender and gender non-conforming people have lived across cultures for millennia (Chira, 2017), yet it is only recently that Western institutions such as universities are beginning to recognize and validate their existence (Associated Press, 2016; Wexler, 2016). This validation process can occur through the passage of more inclusive policies regarding gendered spaces such as dorms, locker rooms, and bathrooms, the latter of which has become a controversial political topic in past years (House Bill 2, 2016-3 N.C.) At IIT, student survey data (n = 2,979) reveals that your campus still has a long way to go towards inclusivity for its transgender and gender non-conforming students. Specific recommendations for progress for IIT include: (1) a preferred name policy, (2) a gendered spaces policy (-, i.e., gender neutral bathrooms in every building, and gender neutral housing). This Capstone Project included taking concrete steps to advance this agenda, including: (1) mapping existing gender-neutral bathrooms on campus and posting this information online, (2) developing an organizational manual for the Prism student
organization, (3) initiating dialogue with senior IIT administrators concerning a gendered spaces policy, (4) reviewing and providing feedback on Safe Space Training and syllabi for key undergraduate courses (Social Psychology and Human Sexuality).

21. Facebook and Self-Expression
Sunny Shah, Adeena Ahmed, Aume Waheed, Nadyah Mohiuddin
Many people have turned to the ever growing social media website, Facebook, to potentially fulfill desires to share their thoughts and feelings with others. This study replicates an original study on how people with low self-esteem use Facebook for self-disclosure. The original study found that people with low self-esteem did use Facebook in order to self-disclose, however, they did not reap positive benefits from doing so. We sought to dive deeper into this issue by analyzing how gender plays a part in this study. Our results showed that men and women do differ in how they use Facebook and perceive the benefits from self-disclosing online.

22. Everyday Ups and Downs of Greek Life
Sonia Kamdar, Tabitha Anderson, Zofie Mandelski
The purpose of this research is to examine how daily social interactions within sororities and fraternities impact students’ daily wellness and feelings of belongingness. The research also observed whether these effects were the same for students of racial, gender, or sexual orientation minorities, as well as commuter students. The research consisted of an initial survey, followed by a diary survey at the end of each day for five days that examined wellness and interpersonal outcomes. Overall, we found support for the idea that both ostracizing others and being ostracized correlates negatively to well-being. Living in the chapter house, versus commuting does not relate to sense of belongingness to the chapter, but living in the house does correlate with higher rates of hurting and being hurt by others. Being a gender and sexuality minority does not relate to sense of belongingness within a chapter, though it does correlate negatively with well-being. Being a racial minority does not relate to feelings of belongingness to the chapter, but it does relate to feelings of competence and autonomy within the chapter. Implications for improving wellness outcomes within Greek Life will be discussed.

23. When people exclude: in-person versus online
Alice Amell
Many differences exist between online and in-person behavior and we wanted to explore the differences of when people exclude others. We compared exclusion rates from four in-person conditions with analogous online conditions. Participants took a survey before and after a ball-tossing game which they believed was with other participants. Results indicate that, except when given instructions to exclude, participants excluded differently in-person versus online in the three remaining conditions.

24. Students study habits and thoughts of the Galvin Library
George Martin
The purpose of this research was to find out about student's use and perceptions of the Galvin T. Library. I conducted fifty interviews with students asking about their use of the library and its
resources, study habits, and ideas they have for improving the library. Half of these interviews were conducted with participants who were studying in the library, and the other half were conducted with participants who were studying in other facilities on campus. I coded the results into similar categories and created two types of charts from this data; pie charts to see the percentage of students that had similar responses, and bar graphs for the questions that had multiple responses from each participant. The overall goal is to call attention to resources that the library can make available to students to help further their career goals.

25. Effects of Included Mindfulness on Financial Generosity: Replication Study
Sydney Lamerand, Jasmine Duke, and Orlando Ogaza
Replication of a study not yet published on the effects of an induced mindfulness condition on financial generosity. The differences between being in a mind wandering (control) vs mindfulness condition on how $120 was split between a personal account and a future donation account with interest, were measured. The hypothesis was that the mindfulness conditions would cause an increased financial generosity. Upon analysis of results, there was no difference in condition on financial generosity. People were generally allocating more to personal accounts than to donation accounts. Woman significantly gave more to themselves while men did not. Men in the mindfulness condition gave more to themselves then in mind wandering which was unexpected but women in mindfulness allocated more to donation compared to women in mind wandering as expected. Results are likely due to poor sampling and lack of control over the environment the survey was taken in. Although the findings did not confirm the original hypothesis, data will help the original researchers with their study.

26. De-escalating the East: United States Military Removal from South and East China Sea
Orlando Ogaza
This paper was written to outline a defense policy with regards to the United States and North Korea. In the paper, I am advocating for the removal or reduction of American military presence in the South and East China Sea in exchange for nonproliferation agreements with North Korea through the Chinese government. The state of the status quo has shown North Korea as an abrasive and threatening force that we must be vigilant about. Recent news has even dawned North Korea as a nation that will push America into a conflict if tensions arise. The main points in the paper will be discussing the current situation with North Korea as well as the economic and political analysis that will put the alternative options into play. Altogether, the purpose of the proposal is to help stabilize conditions in East Asia. This is a critical time for international relations, and a conflict with North Korea is something that should be avoided at all costs.

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