

**4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Emerging Adulthood**  
Atlanta, GA – October 29-30, 2009  
**Poster Sessions**

**AL-DABBAGH, Wisam, & PRATT, Michael**

Department of Psychology, Wilfrid Laurier University

**“Just What Were You Expecting From Your Experience Anyway?” University Expectations and Subsequent Adjustment in Visible Minority Students**

Positive expectations predict subsequent positive adjustment among students during the transition to university. The current longitudinal study measured university expectations in August prior to enrollment at 6 different Canadian university sites, with depression and perceived university climate measured 4 times across the university career. Visible minority students reported lower levels of positive social expectations, higher levels of negative social expectations, lower levels of adaptation expectations, lower levels of perceived university climate, and higher levels of depression than the majority population. Student minority status predicted later depression, and this effect was partly mediated by lower expectations and more negative perceptions of university climate in minority students.

**AMES, Megan, & WINTRE, Maxine**

Department of Clinical Developmental Psychology, York University

**Parental Divorce and First-Year Students' Transition to University**

The present research examines parental divorce and first-year students' transition to university. First-year students (N = 2728) from six diverse universities participated in the study in the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 academic years. Questionnaires were completed in August, before university, and in November and March. Results indicated significant gender by group (intact vs. divorced) interactions on measures of adjustment to university, with females from divorced families being most vulnerable to maladjustment. The present findings resolve inconsistencies within past literature by highlighting the importance of including gender within analyses investigating the effects of parental divorce.

**BASTOS, Alice<sup>1</sup>, FARIA, Carla<sup>1</sup>, & SILVA, Carolina<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Education, Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo & Unifai

<sup>2</sup>ICBAS, University of Porto

### **Evolution of Cognitive Development and Relational Self in the College Years: A European Study**

Both progression and retreat in cognitive development and self perception have been reported in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies. Using the *Parker Cognitive Development Inventory* (Parker, 1984) and the *Self Perception Profile for College Students* (Neeman & Harter, 1986) in a cross-sectional study involving 331 college students no differences were observed between the freshmen and the 4th year cohorts. However, using the same instruments in a longitudinal study involving a sample of 58 students, there was an evolution between the 1st and the 4th year of the degree course and a reinforcement of the relationship between the self and cognitive development.

**BENTLEY, Gail<sup>1</sup>, FISCHER, Judith<sup>1</sup>, LEE, KyungHee<sup>1</sup>, FORTHUN, Lary<sup>2</sup>, PIDCOCK, Boyd<sup>3</sup>, & DOWD, Duane<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Texas Tech University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Family, Youth, & Community Sciences, University of Florida

<sup>3</sup>Department of Addiction Studies, Lewis & Clark College

<sup>4</sup>Department of Family & Consumer Sciences, Central Washington University

### **A Cluster Analysis of Campus Culture and Substance Use at Three Universities**

Individuals tend to sort themselves into groups based on preferences, personal characteristics, beliefs, interests, and competencies. This is especially evident in the culture of a college campus. These commonalities provide a context for initiating and experimenting with substance use. This study examines patterns of student beliefs using cluster analysis. Identified campus culture clusters were compared on reported substance use among the students surveyed. There were group differences in the student's responses about their actual substance use behaviors. Beliefs about friends' approval or disapproval of behaviors had the greatest predictive strength for student's choices about their personal use of substances.

**CAMBRON, Janelle<sup>1</sup>, & ACITELLI, Linda<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Texas A&M University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Houston

### **Friendship Contingent Self-Esteem and the Self-Propagating Cycle of Depression: An Experimental Manipulation**

Basing one's self-worth on the quality of one's friendships, termed friendship contingent self-esteem (FCSE), is a risk factor for depressive symptoms. Current research examining depressed individuals supports a self-propagating cycle, in which depressed individuals engage in behavioral and cognitive patterns that have interpersonal consequences and keep them in a state of depression. This study examined the role of FCSE in predicting the self-propagating cycle in an experiment. Individuals high in FCSE who were rejected experienced greater negative affect and a greater desire to seek out reassurance excessively than low FCSE rejected individuals and individuals who were not rejected.

**CHAN, Christian<sup>1</sup>, LOWE, Sarah<sup>1</sup>, SCHWARTZ, Sarah<sup>1</sup>, RHODES, Jean<sup>1</sup>, & DILLON, Colleen<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts – Boston

<sup>2</sup>Department of Family & Child Nursing, University of Washington

### **Community Engagement in Emerging Adulthood: Demographic Variation, Correlates, and Processes**

Three hundred and eighteen college students provided demographic information, and reported their levels of civic engagement, life satisfaction, subjective adult identity status, and positive interpersonal relationships. Results showed that female, 2nd generation immigrant, older, and highly religious participants reported higher levels of civic engagement. Civic engagement was found to be associated with higher levels of subjective adulthood, life satisfaction and positive relations with others. Results of mediation analyses suggested that positive interpersonal relationships and subjective adulthood mediated the relationship between civic engagement, and life satisfaction. Results are discussed in relation to the benefits of promoting civic engagement among emerging adults.

**CHUNG, He Len, PROBERT, Stephanie, & PIERRE, Cynthia**

Department of Psychology, The College of New Jersey

### **Civic Engagement Among African-American Emerging Adults: A Focus on Outcome Expectations**

The current study examined links between outcome expectations and civic engagement among 61 African-American emerging adults, a topic that has received little empirical attention. We focused on volunteerism, civic activity, and political activity, as previous research indicates that

they are distinct types of civic engagement. Results revealed important gender differences in the study of civic engagement. Specifically, women are more likely to participate in civic activities, and increasing outcome expectations may be important for promoting civic engagement among men. Future research should examine how to increase opportunities for emerging adults to engage in civic activities that can support psychological health.

**COPELAND, Cara**

Department of Sociology, Portland State University

### **Emerging Adults and Parent-Child Relationships on a Journey to Adulthood**

Emerging adulthood does not unfold in the same way for every individual. Becoming an adult is a journey affected by a great number of factors. This paper examines the effect one's relationship with parents has on emerging adulthood. Individuals who have differing relationships with their parents have shown to express different outcomes in their transition. Both the parent-child relationship and the attainment of transitional markers of adulthood are influenced by social forces such as race, class and gender. This study uses a variety of models to understand how these multiple variables interact to produce differential transitions into adulthood.

**CUMMINS, Samantha, MILLER, Haley, & GARMON, Lance**

Department of Psychology, Salisbury University

### **Are You What You Watch? Possible Influence of Television Viewing Preferences on Dating Behaviors in College**

The current study examines relationships between exposure to television portrayals of dating behaviors and romantic relationships in emerging adulthood. Undergraduates completed an online survey of dating experience, familiarity with television programs containing various levels of dating activity, and their representation of attachment to romantic partners. Significant findings exist involving attachment to romantic partners and both the number of previous boyfriends/girlfriends and familiarity with the high-dating show *Gossip Girl*. In addition, analysis suggests that the more an emerging adult has watched shows involving dating behaviors, the less likely they are to be in a serious relationship themselves.

**de DIOS, Angela**

Department of Psychology, Clark University

### **Exploring Ethnic Identity in Asian American Emerging Adults**

Emerging adulthood is a period in the life cycle that is characterized as an age of identity exploration, and immigrants have an additional task of establishing their ethnic identity. Thirty Asian Americans were given questionnaires and interviewed. When asked whether they felt more American, more Asian, or both, some felt more American, more Asian, like good mix of both, or didn't identify with either category. There were also cases where there was a change in ethnic identity over time. This study highlights the difficulty of establishing an ethnic identity and draws attention to the differing experiences of immigrant emerging adults.

**DENHAM, Brittani Ruth, DEMIR, Meliksah, & MATTHEWS, Janelle**

Department of Psychology, Northern Arizona University

### **Predictors of Relationship Discrepancies Among Emerging Adults: Does Your Romantic Partner Reflect Your Ideal Image of a Perfect Soul Mate?**

The present study investigated the predictors of relationship discrepancy among emerging adults who were involved in an exclusive romantic relationship (n=211). Variables (personality, attachment, needs satisfaction, and capitalization) shown to be related to the actual romantic relationship experiences of emerging adults were examined. Analyses revealed that attachment avoidance, relatedness need satisfaction, and capitalization were significant predictors of relationship discrepancy. Findings suggest that emerging adults who are comfortable with intimacy (e.g., sharing feelings) and who are able to receive positive support from their partners upon sharing encouraging events are less likely to experience discrepancies in their romantic relationships.

**ERENTAITE, Rasa, ZUKAUSKIENE, Rita, PILKAUSKAITE VALICKIENE, Rasa, & MALINAUSKIENE, Oksana**

Department of Psychology, Mykolas Romeris University

### **Direct and Mediated Effects of School and Family Contexts on Social Tolerance Among Youth**

This study examined direct and mediated effects of educational and family contexts on social tolerance among youth. Participants of the study (N=719, ages 18-20) completed measures on tolerance, external and internal motivation for responding without prejudice and a number of school and family variables. Hierarchical regression analysis revealed that three out of four school context variables predicted higher social tolerance through increased internal motivation. Three out of five family factors predicted tolerance through internal motivation;

there were also direct effects. Findings indicate that favorable developmental contexts are important for tolerance among youth, especially if they increase internal motivation for tolerance.

**EUM, KoUn, & RICE, Kenneth**

Department of Psychology, University of Florida

### **Personality Traits and Academic Performance Among College Students**

This study examined the relationship between test anxiety, perfectionism, and goal motivation orientation, and their collective and interactive impact on academic performance for 134 college students. Test anxiety was correlated with several goal orientation styles and with maladaptive perfectionism (Discrepancy) but not with High Standards scores. High Standards were positively correlated with positive valence of motivations, whereas Discrepancy was positively correlated with negative valence of motivations. Only perfectionism and performance avoidance motivation were related to grade point average. High Standards scores were positively correlated with GPA and performance avoidance motivation was negatively correlated with GPA; no moderation effects were found.

**FARIA, Carla<sup>1</sup>, SOARES, Isabel<sup>2</sup>, SILVA, Carolina<sup>3</sup>, & BASTOS, Alice<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Fundamentos Gerais da Educação, Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo

<sup>2</sup>Psicologia, Universidade do Minho

<sup>3</sup>ICBAS, Universidade do Porto

### **Attachment Organization and Epistemological Development from Emerging Adulthood to Adulthood**

The development of interpersonal relationships and epistemological development assumes an important role during the years of emerging adulthood and adulthood, placing new challenges to research in psychology. The present study aims to explore the relationship between attachment and epistemological development in 60 emerging adults and adults who are undergraduates and post-graduate students. The epistemological development was measured with the Portuguese version of *Epistemological Reflection Measurement* and attachment organization with the Portuguese version of *Adult Attachment Interview*. The results of this study point towards the existence of a significant relationship between the two variables under study.

**FESTA, Candice<sup>1</sup>, BARRY, Carolyn<sup>2</sup>, SHERMAN, Martin<sup>2</sup>, & GROVER, Rachel<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, Loyola College in Maryland

### **Quality of College Students' Same-Sex Friendships as a Function of Personality and Interpersonal Competence**

The current study examined the relations among personality, interpersonal competence, and friendship quality of college students. Undergraduates (N = 176) from a mid-Atlantic Roman Catholic comprehensive university who identified having a same-sex best friend, completed questionnaires to assess the proposed relations among variables. A hierarchical multiple regression analysis revealed that when controlling for gender, class status, and five personality factors, self-disclosure was a significant predictor of friendship quality. Furthermore, exploratory analyses revealed a significant Class Status X Self-disclosure interaction on friendship quality. The implications of these findings are discussed.

**GOODMAN, Ilana<sup>1</sup>, HENDERSON, Joanna<sup>2</sup>, & PETERSON-BADALI, Michele<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Development and Applied Psychology, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto

<sup>2</sup>Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, University of Toronto

### **The Impact of Role Transitions on Perceptions of Independence and Treatment Motivation in Youth with Substance Use Concerns**

Research reveals that lack of treatment motivation is the most significant barrier to treatment and positive treatment outcomes in youth with substance use concerns. Despite the fundamental shifts that occur in autonomy and decision-making as adolescents emerge into adulthood, the factors affecting treatment motivation during this transition have been largely ignored. In this study, we address two main questions: 1) are specific transitions (e.g. completion of schooling, employment status, financial independence) related to youths' perceived levels of independence and adulthood in youth with substance use concern? and 2) do these specific role transitions affect emerging adults' motivation to change problematic substance use?

**GRAVER, Cleve, & DEMIR, Meliksah**

Department of Psychology, Northern Arizona University

### **I Trust Myself and My Friends, and I'm Doing Great: Identity and Intimacy Among Emerging Adults**

The present study investigated the association between two major developmental tasks and psychosocial well-being among emerging adults. Participants (N = 276) completed a wide

range of questionnaires assessing their friendships and well-being. Analyses revealed that those emerging adults who were successful in establishing identity and intimacy experienced higher levels of psychosocial well-being (e.g., better friendships and happiness) compared to those struggling with these developmental tasks. It seems that successfully resolving these developmental tasks contributes to higher levels of well-being among emerging adults.

**GRIFFIN, Melissa<sup>1</sup>, READ, Jennifer<sup>1</sup>, & WHITE, Jacquelyn<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, University at Buffalo, SUNY

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

### **Non-Consensual Sexual Experiences as a Risk Factor for Alcohol Use and Consequences in Newly Matriculated College Students**

The current study examined two cohorts of newly matriculated college students (N=995). Approximately 5% of students reported having a non-consensual sexual experience (NCSE) since their 18th birthday. As the mean age of this group (NCSE-pos group) was only 18.0, these events were extremely recent. Student alcohol use was assessed at baseline and 5 more times in their first year of college. Repeated measures analyses showed the NCSE-pos group reported significantly higher alcohol use and consequences than other students. This suggests that the risk for alcohol in the NCSE-pos group may be uniquely linked to the transition into college.

**HARPER, Melinda, & ALLEGRETTI, Christine**

Department of Psychology, Queens University of Charlotte

### **The Effect of a Transition to University Program on Emerging Adults' Adjustment and University Fit**

Research indicates that participation in the Transition to University (T2U) program is associated with positive adjustment to university life and increased student retention. This study examined the impact of T2U group dynamics on emerging adults' adjustment and university fit. We proposed that group members who were more connected with their T2U group would report higher overall adjustment and greater satisfaction with the university and fit compared to those who were not as connected. Results of the study indicated support for all hypotheses. Implications of the program related to student retention and outcomes will be discussed.

**HURD, Noelle<sup>1</sup>, BAUERMEISTER, Jose<sup>2</sup>, & ZIMMERMAN, Marc<sup>2</sup>**

Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

<sup>2</sup>School of Public Health, University of Michigan

### **Predictors of Occupational Outcomes Among African-American Emerging Adults: An Analysis of Positive Influences**

We employed a positive youth development approach to better understand how adolescents' assets and resources may contribute to occupational outcomes during emerging adulthood. Participants in this study included 266 African American emerging adults. This study was conducted using data collected during the participants' senior year of high school (T1) and data collected 5 years post high school (T2). We found that endorsement of stronger leadership and more favorable school attitudes in 12th grade predicted higher job satisfaction during emerging adulthood and that exposure to positive peer and neighborhood adult influences in 12th grade predicted increased job responsibilities during emerging adulthood.

**HUTCHINSON, Alicia**

Department of Psychology, Queens University of Charlotte

### **Father Absence and Emerging Adults' Well-Being**

This study's purpose was to assess the relationship between father absence and emerging adults' well-being. It was proposed that emerging adults of divorced or separated parents would report lower self-esteem, life satisfaction, father's influence, and feelings about their father compared to those from intact homes. Results indicated that those from intact homes had significantly more positive feelings about their fathers and greater involvement with their father compared to emerging adults from all other groups. Trends indicated that those with divorced parents had lower self-esteem and life satisfaction scales compared to those of married, separated, and never married parents.

**JAMISON, Tyler**

Department of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Missouri

### **"We're Not Living Together": Informal Cohabitation in Emerging Adults**

Social changes have altered the way emerging adults experience romantic relationships in terms of the relational trajectories that lead to marriage and the attitudes emerging adults have about their love lives. In this grounded theory study, 20 undergraduate and graduate students participated in in-depth interviews about informal cohabitation, an arrangement in which unmarried couples maintain a routine of overnight dates while retaining two residences. Results indicated that informal cohabiting relationships were stable, but hinged on future transitions. Couples enjoyed the comfort and convenience of staying together, yet they used

informal cohabitation as a stopgap measure between casual dating and more serious commitment.

**JEFCOAT, Ashley, & KELLY, Melissa**

Department of Psychology, Millsaps College

**Influence of Personal Reading Habits on Measures of Reading Comprehension**

Britton, Stimson, Stennett, and Gulgoz's (1998) process model of textual learning was used to study the impact of frequent voluminous personal reading on measures of reading comprehension. A Reading Inventory was created from a Reading Habits survey that quantified the reading habits of the undergraduates at a small liberal arts college. Students were given a free practice GRE test, and the scores on the practice test were compared with their responses on the Reading Inventory. A strong, positive correlation was found, consistent with the hypothesis and current research on prior exposure and the process model used.

**JENKINS, Dusty, VAZSONYI, Alexander, YOUNG, Maureen, & MILLER, Andrea**

Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Auburn University

**Depression and Self-Esteem Trajectories in Sexual Minority and Majority Young Adults**

The current exploratory study compared initial levels and/or rates of change in depression and self-esteem over a 6-year period (from age 18 to 24) in sexual minority young adults versus heterosexual young adults. Findings indicate that while sexual minorities have different initial levels of depression and self-esteem, both minority and majority young adults experience developmental decreases in depression as well as increases in self-esteem. Thus, young adulthood appears to be a period improving mental health in both groups.

**JONES, Meredith, & FURMAN, Wyndol**

Department of Psychology, University of Denver

**Big Five Personality Traits and Sexual Behavior in Emerging Adulthood**

Associations between the Big Five personality traits and sexual behavior were examined in a community-based sample of 200 emerging adults. Openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness and neuroticism were assessed, as were measures of risky sexual behavior and frequency, rapidity and age of onset of non-genital and genital sexual behavior. Multiple regression analyses showed that extraversion was related to more frequent, faster and more risky sexual behavior. Agreeableness was related to fewer risky sexual behaviors for men. Openness was related to less frequent sexual behavior for men and non-whites. Conscientiousness was related to later age of onset of sexual behavior for non-whites.

**KAPÇI, Emine Gül, & ATAK, Hasan**

Department of Educational Psychology, Ankara University

### **The Turkish Version of the Multi-Measure Agentic Personality Scale**

The term agency has been defined a sense of responsibility for one's life course, the belief that one is in control of one's decisions and is responsible for their outcomes. This means that agency refers to an individual's striving to master the environment, to assert the self, to experience competence, achievement, and power. In this context, it can be said that personal agency and its measure include self-esteem, purpose in life, ego strength, and internal locus of control. In the literature, there is a well known instrument called the *Multi-Measure Agentic Personality Scale* (MAPS; Co<sup>^</sup>te, 1997) which has short and long forms in order to measure agentic personality. The Multi-Measure Agentic Personality Scale contains subscales assessing self-esteem (25 items), purpose in life (12 items), internal locus of control (5 items), and ego strength (26 items). The short form with 20 items has also four subscales. This scale has acceptable validity and reliability. In addition in Turkey, there is no scale that can measure the agentic personality. Therefore, a scale that measures agentic personality have to be developed or adapted to Turkish. This study aims to adapt the short form of Multi-measure Agentic Personality Scale to Turkish. There are 320 expected individuals who are between ages 19-26. Exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis will be used for structure validity. Cronbach alpha, Spearman Brown, test-retest methods will be used for reliability. Data have been collected so the study is in progress.

**KARRE, Jennifer, & MOUNTS, Nina**

Department of Psychology, Northern Illinois University

### **The Interaction of Paternal Parenting Style and Maternal Variables in Males with Nonresident Fathers**

This study investigates how nonresident fathers' parenting style interacts with maternal characteristics to predict sons' antisocial behavior during emerging adulthood. Two hundred forty-six ethnically diverse males participated. Hierarchical regression analyses followed by simple slope analyses found that for the non-authoritative and absent father groups, maternal parenting style, maternal psychological well-being, and maternal aggravation in parenting are related to the amount of antisocial behavior the son reports. For the authoritative father group, maternal characteristics were not associated with antisocial behavior. Results suggest that having at least one authoritative parent, nonresident father or mother, is beneficial to males in emerging adulthood.

**KENRICK, Andreana, CONLEY, Colleen, & KESSELRING Christine (Alyx)**

Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago

### **Academic Performance and Perceptions of Stress: The Impact of Protestant Work Ethic**

As emerging adults, college students' developing belief systems can add to the stress of living up to existing standards. One such ideology that might impact freshmen's experience of stress might be their work ethic; academic success or failure is particularly salient for them. Thirty-four freshmen reported on their Protestant Work Ethic (PWE), GPA, and perceptions of stress. Results suggest that regardless of their GPA, individuals who strongly endorse PWE ideals experience more stress. In contrast, for individuals who are low in PWE ideals, higher GPAs are related to lower stress. Implications for reducing stress during freshmen year are discussed.

**KESSELRING, Christine (Alyx), CONLEY, Colleen, & KENRICK, Andreana**

Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago

### **The Impact of Future Orientation on Academic Adjustment to College**

For many emerging adults, adjustment to college involves adapting to the increased academic demands of the college environment by using future goals to direct current behaviors. Thus, future orientation (taking a planful approach towards future goal achievement) may assist new college students in navigating the academic transition to college. Associations among high school GPA, future orientation, and academic adjustment were tested in a sample of 37 first-year college students. Results indicated that future orientation moderates the relation between high school GPA and academic adjustment, such that higher future orientation predicted better academic adjustment for participants reporting lower high school GPAs.

**KINS, Evie, & BEYERS, Wim**

Department of Developmental Psychology, Ghent University

### **Failure to Launch, Failure to Achieve Criteria for Adulthood?**

In this study the effect of today's trend of delaying home leaving on the achievement of an adult status is investigated. A one-year follow-up study with emerging adults revealed that living independent during emerging adulthood can accelerate the achievement of some criteria for adulthood, whereas continued co-residence with parents can retard the process to adulthood. These results merit further attention, especially since it was also found that succeeding in the transition to adulthood is important for emerging adults' well-being.

**LANDBERG, Monique, HAASE, Claudia, LUDKE, Kirsten, SCHMIDT, Christoph, & SLIBEREISEN, Rainer**

Department of Developmental Psychology and Center for Applied Developmental Science,  
University of Jena

### **Correlates of Early and Late Timing of Sexual Experiences in Emerging Adulthood: Findings from Two Nationally Representative German Studies**

What are implications of early and late sexual experiences? Drawing from two nationally representative German studies launched about one decade apart (1996: N = 1828; 2005: N = 840) we examined correlates of early (<16 years) and late (>18 years) sexual experiences compared to on-time sexual experiences in emerging adulthood. Early and late sexual experiences were associated with lower subjective well-being. An early timing was associated with lower educational attainment whereas a late timing was linked to poorer social relations. These findings show that not only early but also late sexual experiences can be linked to lower adaptation.

**LANZ, Margherita<sup>1</sup>, TAGLIABUE, Semira<sup>1</sup>, LIFRANCHI, Francesca<sup>1</sup>, & WALPER, Sabine<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Catholic University of Milan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich

### **The Interdependence of Close Relationships During Emerging Adulthood: A Comparison Among Italy, Germany, and Sweden**

During the lifespan close relationships provide a significant context for the development of the individual. Each of these relationships is important for the person's well being and they are interdependent, so that interaction in a domain (e.g., in relationships with parents) influences those in other domains (e.g., in relationships with partners). The aim of this study is to assess the interdependence between mother-young adult, father-young adult and partner-young adult relationships and how this affects the young adults' well-being in three different European countries: Italy, Germany and Sweden. Mixed methods were used.

**LATHROP, Rachel, & JOZEFOWICZ-SIMBENI, Debra**

Department of Social Work, Wayne State University

### **The Identification of Strengths and Self-Determination Among Homeless Youth**

Shelter services for homeless youth often focus on deficits rather than strengths (Acosta, & Toro, 2000; Haber & Toro, 2004). Effective service delivery for homeless youth is essential to improving their lives as they grow into adulthood. Research indicates that up to 26% of homeless adults were first homeless as youth (Robertson and Toro, 1998). Researchers know that adolescents who are homeless experience negative outcomes and become adults with

poorer work histories and greater involvement in the justice system (Robertson and Toro, 1998). Thus, it becomes essential to provide adequate services to homeless youth reducing the chances of negative outcomes once they transition to adulthood. Comprehensive services focusing on adolescents' strengths is often non-existent in homeless youth programs, and is ignored in much of the literature (Robertson and Toro, 1998). Since shelters are a primary source of services for homeless youth, they may provide opportunities for positive development and strength-based service delivery (Haber & Toro, 2004). This study identifies personal strengths among youth from six homeless organizations near an urban city, and hopes to contribute to the literature and development of strength-based homeless youth services.

**LATHROP, Rachel, & JOZEFOWICZ-SIMBENI, Debra**

Department of Social Work, Wayne State University

### **The Influences of Job Satisfaction on Worker Perceptions and Relationships with Runaway and Homeless Youth**

An estimated 7% of adolescents in the U.S are homeless and studies identify barriers to youth accessing shelter services including uncaring staff (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2003; Thompson et al., 2006). Further, services often focus on deficits and 'quick-fix' interventions (Acosta, & Toro, 2000; Haber & Toro, 2004). There is no doubt shelter staff play a part in the underutilization and ineffectiveness of some youth homeless shelter programs. This study investigates how the identification of youth homeless shelter staff perceptions and attitudes towards homelessness, youth, and organizational roles can be a first step in identifying associations with the effectiveness and utilization of youth homeless shelters. This research evaluated several youth homeless shelters near a major urban city. The study identifies associations between effective staff attitudes towards homeless youth. It is anticipated that this evaluation contributes to an understanding of staff development within homeless youth shelters. A major goal is to provide valuable information to policymakers, researchers, and community organizations on how homeless shelter staffs influence homeless youth services.

**LAU-BARRACO, Cathy<sup>1</sup>, & GOKEE-LaROSE, Jessica<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Old Dominion University

<sup>2</sup>Weight Control & Diabetes Research Center, Brown Medical School

### **Social Networks and Alcohol Use Among Nonstudent Emerging Adults: A Preliminary Study**

This study examined the social network characteristics and alcohol use of a community-based sample of nonstudent emerging adults (N = 59). Findings showed that the proportion of heavy drinkers in one's network is positively correlated with personal drinking quantity and alcohol-related problems. The proportion of problem and heavy drinkers in the network was associated with perceived approval of drinking. Perceived drinking quantity and frequency of friends was

related to personal drinking quantity, frequency, and alcohol-related consequences. Studying social network and network drinking may be useful in our efforts to better understand the influences of alcohol use among this high-risk group.

**LITTLE, Wendy, & CONGER, Katherine**

Department of Human & Community Development, University of California – Davis

### **Longitudinal Patterns of Parental Behaviors During Emerging Adulthood**

Longitudinal patterns of parental behaviors were examined in a community sample (n=450) of emerging adults (18 - 27 years). Analyses indicate that individuals who begin, but do not complete college report the highest levels of parental control behaviors (e.g., lecturing) and those who complete college (i.e., attain a BA/BS or higher) report the lowest levels. The importance of studying emerging adults both within and outside the college context is discussed. Further, it may be particularly important to consider those individuals that partially participate in higher education as a separate group when examining parent-child relationships during emerging adulthood.

**LITTLE, Wendy, STARR, Adrienne, & CONGER, Katherine**

Department of Human & Community Development, University of California – Davis

### **Contextual and Individual Processes in Emerging Adulthood: A Mixed Method Analysis**

The project examined future aspirations and their influences on trajectories of development during emerging adulthood (EA). Currently, there are discrepant findings in the literature about individual experiences during EA, especially when different methods of investigation are implemented. This project employed both qualitative and quantitative methods of measurement on a prospective longitudinal community sample of individuals aged 18 to 27. A mixed method approach is utilized in order to highlight current understanding of the types of experiences and individual characteristics during EA.

**LIVNE, Ya'ara, BARR, Tamuz, & SHULMAN, Shmuel**

Department of Psychology, Bar Ilan University

### **The Role of Personality and Relational Experiences in Subsequent Quality of Romantic Relationships Among Emerging Adults: Findings of a Six-Year Longitudinal Study**

The study examines the role of personality variables (i.e., self criticism, dependency and self efficacy; Blatt, 2004) in the subsequent quality of romantic relationships (level of intimacy, mental representations) among emerging adults. Findings are based on a four wave longitudinal design in which 175 Israeli emerging adults were assessed with respect to the

quality of their romantic relationships, family and peer relationships, and personality make-up over a period of six years. The fourth wave includes also an in-depth interview on a sub-sample of 100 participants, and highlights the role of personality in the development of distinctive romantic typologies.

**LONGMIRE-AVITAL, Buffie**

Public Health Solutions at National Development and Research Institutes

**Education and Race: How Collegiate Black Emerging Adults Perceive Socioeconomic Status**

The current research examined the pivotal role parental education plays in determining how Black American emerging adults perceive their family's socioeconomic status. Based on previous research, it was hypothesized that parental education would be a significant contributor to predicting participant scores on the MacArthur Subjective Socioeconomic Status measure. Results support previous findings: parental education ( $B = .30, p = .002$ ) was one of two variables consistently related to subjective socioeconomic status in linear regression analyses. However, the moderate strength of this association suggests the need for further research to uncover other factors that inform the perception of socioeconomic status.

**LOWE, Sarah<sup>1</sup>, LUSTIG, Kara<sup>1</sup>, & DILLON, Colleen<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Massachusetts – Boston

<sup>2</sup>Center on Infant Mental Health and Development, University of Washington

**Sense of Purpose in Emerging Adulthood: Associations with Demographics, Adults Roles, and Outcomes**

A sense of purpose may help youth confront the challenges of emerging adulthood. In this cross-sectional study, we explore demographic variation in purpose and its association with traditional markers of adulthood and psychosocial outcomes in a diverse undergraduate sample ( $N = 287$ ). We find purpose to be positively associated with age, religiosity, multiracial identity, parenthood and marriage. Controlling for demographics and roles, purpose was significantly associated with subjective adult identity, life satisfaction and career optimism, and lower psychological distress, alcohol and drug use. Based on these results, we make suggestions for future research and interventions targeting young adults.

**LOWE, Sarah<sup>1</sup>, ZWIEBACH, Liza<sup>1</sup>, TONER, Deanna<sup>1</sup>, DILLON, Colleen<sup>2</sup>, & RHODES, Jean<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Massachusetts – Boston

<sup>2</sup>Center on Infant Mental Health and Development, University of Washington

### **Defining Adult Experiences: Perspectives of a Diverse Sample of Emerging Adults**

In this study, undergraduates at an urban university (N = 503) described an experience that made them “feel like an adult.” In addition, they provided demographic information, including whether they had achieved traditional adult roles, and completed a measure of subjective adult identity. A variety of content codes, including codes for each adult role endorsed, whether multiple roles were included, and whether experiences occurred independently or within a relationship, will be used to analyze responses. We will present descriptive data, exemplary quotes, and results of analyses examining associations between the contents, demographic variables and subjective adult identity.

**LUSTIG, Kara, GRALING, Kelly, & LIEM, Joan**

Department of Psychology, University of Massachusetts – Boston

### **Depressive Symptoms and Life Satisfaction Among Emerging Adults: A Comparison of High School Dropouts and Graduates**

Using three waves of data (1998, 2000, 2002) on 1325 emerging adults, we examined depressive symptoms and life satisfaction among a diverse group of high school dropouts and graduates. Emerging adults who left school without graduating were significantly more depressed and reported lower life satisfaction than graduates at the time of their expected graduation (T1), but these differences were non-significant four years later (T3). Working within an ecological developmental framework (Bronfenbrenner, 1986), we found that graduating, parental and peer support, and attachment styles protected against adverse mental health consequences at T3.

**LYON, Caitlin<sup>1</sup>, NORRIS, Joan<sup>2</sup>, & TINDALE, Joseph<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Family Relations and Nutrition, University of Guelph

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Graduate Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University

### **Comorbidity During Emerging and Young Adulthood: A Study of the Relation Between Alcohol and Gambling**

This study analyzed the relationship between alcohol consumption and gambling problems. Problem drinkers (N = 39) were more likely than non-problem drinkers (N = 90) to play casino games other than slots, sports betting or games of skill. They gambled for excitement, winning and passing the time. Both groups showed positive gambling attitudes. Eight percent of problem drinkers and 2% of non-problem drinkers scored as problem gamblers. There was no

significant relationship between alcohol risk and gambling risk. While emerging and young adults with alcohol problems play different gambling activities, the frequency of their gambling does not necessarily pose problems.

**MackINNON, Sean, NOSKO, Amanda, & PRATT, Michael**

Department of Psychology, Wilfrid Laurier University

### **Stand By Me: Intimacy in Life Narratives of Romantic Relationships and Friendships Predicts Higher Generativity at Age 26**

A quantitative and qualitative study examined Erikson's ego developmental hypotheses regarding the positive relationship between generativity and intimacy. At age 26, participants told two life stories about "relationship defining moments," one about a romantic partner, and another about a same-sex friend. An interaction was found, whereby participants scored higher on the Loyola Generativity Scale at 26 only when they told stories rated as intimate about both a romantic partner and a friend. "True Love" and "True Friendship" themes arose as prototypical stories in each context. Similarities and differences between the stories told about friends and romantic partners will also be discussed.

**MATTHEWS, Heather, & KREYSZIG, Sheila**

Department of Psychology, University of Saskatchewan

### **The Motivation to Seek Assistance from the *Disability Services for Students Office* Among Undergraduate Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**

The effect of ADHD on academic performance is profound and serves as a barrier for emerging adults at university. Although government legislation mandates accommodations and services for students with disabilities, many students with ADHD do not use these services. The purpose of this study was to explore the motivation and experiences of 4 university students with ADHD to seek the assistance of the disability services using qualitative methods. High levels of frustration related to sustained effort in academic tasks and repeated failure was the greatest motivation to seek the assistance of the Disability Services for Students (DSS).

**MATTHEWS, Janelle, & DEMIR, Meliksah**

Department of Psychology, Northern Arizona University

### **Social Goals, Friendship, and Happiness of Emerging Adults**

Studying best friendships and first-close friendship of emerging adults, the present research tested a model in which friendship quality mediates the relationship between approach-avoidance social goals and happiness. Data were gathered from college students via

questionnaires administered online. Results support the mediational model proposed and debunk the possibility of an alternative model. Findings of this study provide additional support for past research in the social domain. The present research provides an improved understanding and explanation of the relationship between social goals, friendship, and happiness.

**MILLER, Haley, CUMMINS, Samantha, & GARMON, Lance**

Department of Psychology, Salisbury University

### **Television Viewing Experiences and Representation of Parental Attachment in the College Years: Did Zach Morris Even Have Parents?**

Although little research has examined the influence of television viewing for emerging adults, previous studies this influence with adolescents (Rivadeneira & Lebo, 2008; Chandra et al, 2008; Van Den Bulck et al, 2008). Undergraduates completed online questionnaires assessing parental attachment, television viewing behaviors, and familiarity with 21 television shows. Significant findings involving representations of parental attachment include correlations with mother communication and familiarity with 6 different shows exhibiting different degrees of mother presence, suggesting that although mother communication is related to television viewing behavior, this influence may not include the type of mother presence in the shows.

**MORGAN, Ashley, & WINTRE, Maxine**

Department of Psychology, York University

### **A Longitudinal Investigation of the Relation Between Eating-Related Disturbances and Depression in a Canadian Sample of Emerging Adults**

The main objective of the current study was to examine whether eating-related disturbances (e.g., dietary restraint, drive for thinness, body dissatisfaction, bulimia, and perfectionism), which may be especially salient for emerging adults pursuing post-secondary education (see Levitsky, Halbmaier, & Mrdjenovic, 2004), predicted an increase in depressive symptoms across 4 years in a sample of undergraduates ( $n = 1,074$  at the initial data collection in August 2004). Data were collected at seven time points. Multilevel modeling techniques will be used to examine average developmental trajectories of depressive symptoms. Results will be discussed in terms of relevance for prevention initiatives.

**MUSANTE, Danila, & GROTEVANT, Harold**

Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

### **Longitudinal Relationship Patterns as Predictors of Negative Instability in Adopted Emerging Adults**

Family relationship patterns were examined in a sample of 169 adopted emerging adults (ages 20-30). Specifically, longitudinal patterns of attachment to each adoptive parent and affect about adoption at adolescence and emerging adulthood were examined as predictors of negative instability in emerging adulthood. Correlational analyses confirmed relationships between these constructs. Results also revealed that participants who were highly attached to either parent at adolescence and emerging adulthood had significantly lower rates of negative instability in emerging adulthood than those who had low attachment at both time points. A similar pattern was found for affect about adoption.

**OLIVER, Jennifer**

Department of Psychology, Rockhurst University

### **An Investigation of Undergraduate Students' Identity and Spirituality**

This study examined: What is the relationship between spirituality and identity status in college undergraduates? Are different types of campus involvement (activities and coursework) related to spirituality development? Participants were 295 college undergraduates (64 males, 231 females) at a Midwestern Catholic university. Participants completed the Ego Identity Process Questionnaire and the Spirituality Scale. Preliminary analyses reveal significant identity status differences on all measures of spirituality. Individuals in the achieved status scored higher and individuals in the diffused status generally scored the lowest on all spirituality measures. The results suggest that both processes of exploration and commitment are important to spirituality.

**OZEN, Ayca<sup>1</sup>, SUMER, Nebi<sup>1</sup>, DEMIR, Meliksah<sup>2</sup> & KRINGS, Zachary<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Middle East Technical University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, Northern Arizona University

### **Parental Attachment, Social Skills, and Friendship Quality Among Emerging Adults in Turkey and the U.S.A.**

Theory and empirical research suggest that parental attachment is positively related to the social skills and friendship experiences of emerging adults. The present study investigated social skills as the mediator of the relationship between parental attachment and friendship quality among emerging adults in Turkey (n= 428) and the USA (n=250). Path analyses revealed that

social skills partially explain why parental attachment influences friendship quality in both cultures. Implications of the findings for theory and cross-cultural research are discussed.

**PALMER, Debbie, TABAKA, Katara, ARVES, Melissa, PEIFFER, Andrea, & SIMMERMAN, Debbie**  
Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

### **College Students' Perspectives on Parental Involvement in their Academic Activities**

Two studies of college students' perspectives on parental involvement in their academics were conducted. In the first study participants appraised their academic activities in relation to their parents and reported on conflict about, and satisfaction with, such involvement. Most perceived their academic activities were shared with their parents; few reported conflict. In the second study participants' definitions of parental involvement in academics and the perceived and actual connections between involvement experienced, exam performance, and other types of functioning (depression, family cohesion and adaptability) were explored. Definitions of parental involvement were multifaceted and not perceived as connecting negatively to academic performance.

**PILKAUSKAITE VALICKIENE, Rasa, ZUKAUSKIENE, Rita, & RAIZIENE, Saule**  
Department of Psychology, Mykolas Romeris University

### **Voting for the First Time: What are the Personal Characteristics of Young Voters and Non-Voters?**

The main purpose of this research was to examine if Lithuanian first time voters and non-voters were differing in various personal characteristics such as personality traits, self-esteem, satisfaction with life, personal values. This study was performed two weeks after the municipal election on voluntary recruited undergraduate students (n=516, ages 18-21) in 2007. The Eysenck Personality Inventory, The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, Satisfaction with Life Scale (Diener et al.,1985), and Portrait Values Questionnaire (Schwartz,1992) were used. The differences were found in self-esteem, life satisfaction, and extraversion between first time voters and non-voters. No differences were found in personal values between the groups.

**PURTELL, Kelly, & WOOD, Dana**  
Department of Psychology, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

### **Unrealized College Expectations and Mental Health During the Transition to Adulthood**

This longitudinal study examines the mental health consequences of expecting to go to college during adolescence, but not being enrolled in early adulthood among a sample of racially and socioeconomically diverse American youth. Findings suggest that these unrealized expectations are predictive of higher levels of depressive symptoms and lower self-esteem among young

adults. Furthermore, interaction analyses reveal that the impact of unrealized expectations is most detrimental to the mental health of low-income youth. These findings highlight the psychological challenges associated with making an unexpected transition during early adulthood.

**RAAG, Tarja<sup>1</sup>, TUMILTY, Meredith<sup>1</sup>, MANEY, Carolin<sup>1</sup>, DESROCHERS, Stephan<sup>1</sup>, & FELDMAN, Rebecca<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Colby College

<sup>2</sup>University of Massachusetts Medical School

### **Mindfulness in College Students: Relations to Social- and Self-Satisfaction**

The psychological construct of mindful acceptance is associated with positive outcomes in college populations. In study one, undergraduates' spontaneously-reported reactions to typical college stressors were assessed along with social satisfaction and use of meditation/yoga. Mindful Acceptance (and not other facets of mindfulness) predicted social satisfaction but was not linked to amount of meditation and yoga experience. Thus, in study two, a more detailed questionnaire focusing only on acceptance (and including acceptance of life's positives, not typically studied) was developed and is being validated to see whether participants' spontaneous use of acceptance (of positive and negative life events) predicts social- and self-satisfaction in college. Discussion focuses on how acceptance of self and others may enhance social relationships and allow for better academic focus for college students.

**RING, Chandra, & DENIOUS, Jean**

OMNI Institute

### **Youth in the Workplace**

Results are presented from evaluation of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) model workplace prevention program Team Awareness (TA) adapted for use with the specific, high need population of young adult workers (18-25 years of age) employed by Youth and Conservation Corps. Analyses of baseline and 6-month follow-up data from 418 randomly assigned participants employed by a statewide conservation corps indicate exposure to the TA intervention significantly increased awareness and utilization of the workplace's Employee Assistance Program. Implications of findings for workplace prevention programs targeting emerging adults are discussed.

**ROLNIK, Ashley, & CONLEY, Colleen**

Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago

### **The Effect of Emotion Regulation and Cognitive Processes on Body Image Disturbance in Emerging Adults**

Body image disturbance may be particularly prominent during the first year of college, which coincides with the beginning of emerging adulthood. This research investigated the effect of emotional and cognitive processes on body image in first-year college students. Results suggest that body satisfaction is positively correlated with cognitive reappraisal and negatively correlated with emotional suppression, two emotion regulation strategies. Furthermore, body satisfaction is positively correlated with positive thinking, which is qualified by an interaction with dysfunctional thinking. These findings imply that emotion regulation and cognitive styles affect emerging adults' body image and are important in the formation of body dissatisfaction.

**RYMER, Kathryn**

Department of Psychology, Queens University of Charlotte

### **Relationship Differences Between Emerging Adults' Long-Distance and Close-Distance Romantic Relationships**

The purpose of this study was to assess the differences between emerging adults' long-distance and close-distance romantic relationships in regards to relationship satisfaction, communication satisfaction, and depressive symptoms. It was hypothesized that there would be lower levels of relationship and communication satisfaction for partners involved in a long-distance romantic relationship compared to those in a close-distance relationship. It was also hypothesized that partners involved in a long-distance relationship would report more depressive symptoms compared to partners in a close-distance relationship. Results indicated that couples in a long-distance relationship reported less relationship and communication satisfaction compared to those in a close-distance relationship. No differences were found among the couples for depressive symptoms. Future directions and implications will be discussed.

**SCHLISSLER, Aaron, & GARMON, Lance**

Department of Psychology, Salisbury University

### **Private vs. Public School Experiences: Examining Possible Interactions Involving Parenting Style and Risky Behaviors in College Students**

To examine potential interactions among parenting styles, secondary education (i.e. public or private schools), and risky behaviors, responses from 186 undergraduates from a Midwestern university were examined in a secondary data analysis. While preliminary analysis suggests that

the type of secondary school attended does not appear to influence risky substance behaviors as expected, analyses involving parenting style variables suggest that students with permissive fathers were more likely to attend private school. Discussion issues include suggestions for future research, including the need to consider geographical differences as 8% of the original sample attended private school.

**SLOMINSKI, Lisa<sup>1</sup>, SAMEROFF, Arnold<sup>1</sup>, ROSENBLUM, Katherine<sup>1</sup>, & KASSER, Tim<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, Knox College

### **The Effects of Maternal Mental Illness on Children: Pathways to Risk and Resilience from Infancy to Emerging Adulthood**

A number of variables and processes throughout infancy, childhood, and adolescence were examined as predictors of risk and resilience in emerging adulthood among offspring of mentally ill mothers. Participants were followed over the course of 30 years. Offspring's adaptive functioning in emerging adulthood was measured by their occupation, education, relationship status, and mental health. ANOVAs were used to examine variables that differentiated between offspring of mentally ill mothers with better and worse adaptive functioning in emerging adulthood. As predicted, these groups differed on a number of important variables. These results have implications for the development of intervention and prevention programs.

**STANSLEY, Branden, HARPER, Melinda, & ALLEGRETTI, Christine**

Department of Psychology, Queens University of Charlotte

### **The Impact of Perceptions and Expectations of Emerging Adults on University Adjustment**

The transition to university is considered a significant experience for emerging adults. This study focused on examining the association between university expectations and perceptions of transition to university and student outcomes. We proposed that emerging adults with more positive university expectations and perceptions would report greater adjustment to university compared to those with lower expectations and perceptions. Preliminary results indicated that emerging adults with more positive university expectations and perceptions reported significantly greater overall adjustment, higher levels of social support, self-efficacy, self-esteem, and lower levels of depression and loneliness. Implications for student preparation prior to college matriculation will be discussed.

**STAPLEY, Janice, WOLFF, George, & NOONAN, Jennifer**

Department of Psychology, Monmouth University

### **Students' Coping Advice as a Predictor of College Adjustment**

Volunteers completed the SACQ and a questionnaire about coping created for the study. Among a sample of 74 undergraduates (18 males, 56 females, age  $M=20.8$  years) there was a relationship between their SACQ scores and advice they would offer an upset sibling ( $p = .055$ ) and an angry parent ( $p = .02$ ), but not advice they would give a peer. These preliminary data suggest that students' reports of the advice they would give family members may be a marker for their adjustment and coping strategies. Findings are consistent with a model of emotion regulation as developed through family modeling.

**STEY, Paul<sup>1</sup>, BALAKRISHNAN, Vishalache<sup>2</sup>, FELDER, Shanelle<sup>1</sup>, & HILL, Patrick<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Notre Dame

<sup>2</sup>Department of Education, University of Malaya

### **Cultural Differences in Risk Perceptions Among Emerging Adults**

The current study examined cultural differences in risk perceptions among American and Malaysian samples. Undergraduates were asked to list up to 15 different risks confronting emerging adults, and whether these risks were more relevant to themselves, others, or both. The listed risks were coded according to five categories: recreational, drug, health, social, and ethical. Results indicated a significant culture by risk category interaction. Follow-up tests indicate that Americans were more likely to nominate drug risks, while Malaysians listed more social and ethical risks. In addition, Malaysians were more likely to view risks as relevant for themselves than American students.

**STONE, H. Marissa**

Department of Child and Family Development, University of Georgia

### **The Reaching New Parents Project: Educating Emerging Parents at a Teachable Moment**

This poster presents findings on the impact a new parent educational resource distributed to new mothers through hospitals has on improving parenting knowledge and promoting awareness of Family and Consumer Sciences Extension. Preliminary findings from the Reaching New Parents Project show that parent educational materials designed in an "easy-to-read" format and delivered at a "teachable moment" pertinent to the child's age effectively produce parents who report feeling more knowledgeable & confident in the parental role. Further after receiving this publication mothers reported they were more likely to contact FACS Extension offices for more information on family education. A description of the implementation and evaluation process, as well as implications for future programming will be shared.

**SYLVESTRE, John, BAIRD, Amanda, & THOMAS, Stephanie**

Department of Psychology, University of Ottawa

### **Family Relationships and Psychosis: The Effects of a First Episode of Psychosis on Parent/Child Relationships**

Psychosis is a psychological condition that develops primarily in youth between the ages of 15 to 25 and coincides with a developmental stage known as emerging adulthood (Alloy et al., 2005). The goal of this exploratory research was to develop an understanding of how family relationships are affected by a young person's first episode of psychosis. This study analyzes data from qualitative semi-structured interviews with 10 parents and 8 youth who have experienced a first episode of psychosis. Through this exploratory research, a new model of family relationships and psychosis was developed.

**TABOR, McKenzie<sup>1</sup>, FISCHER, Judith<sup>2</sup>, SHARP, Elizabeth<sup>2</sup>, TREJOS, Elizabeth<sup>2</sup>, FORTHUN, Larry<sup>3</sup>, PIDCOCK, Boyd<sup>4</sup>, & DOWD, Duane<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, Texas Tech University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Texas Tech University

<sup>3</sup>Department of Human Development, University of Florida

<sup>4</sup>Department of Counseling Psychology, Lewis & Clark College

<sup>5</sup>Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Central Washington University

### **Parental and Personal Correlates of Disordered Eating Among College Women**

The present study examined the extent of mediating effects of emotional regulation and autonomy on the relationship between parental negativity and disordered eating thoughts and behaviors among college-aged women. Examining eating disorders as a family problem offers a broadened view encompassing the family system and emotional vulnerabilities of individuals involved. Overall, difficulties with parents were associated with less healthy development and greater risk of disordered eating. In conclusion, the present study contributed to the literature through testing a model of disordered eating that included family and individual variables.

**TAYLOR, Julie<sup>1</sup>, BARRETT, Karen<sup>1</sup>, YOUNGBLADE, Lise<sup>1</sup>, & GRABER, Julia<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Colorado State University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Florida

### **Positive Emotional Experience and Romantic Relationship Status During Emerging Adulthood**

The goal of the current study was to investigate whether romantic relationship status (RRS) predicts emerging adults' positive emotional experience. Romantic relationships generally are perceived to be positive aspects of people's lives. A plethora of research has established a

positive association between marital status and happiness as well as other aspects of well-being (e.g., Diener & McGavran, 2008; Lucas & Dyrenforth, 2006), especially among males.

**THOMAS, Alvin<sup>1</sup>, & KOHN-WOOD, Laura<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Educational and Psychological Studies, University of Miami

### **Beyond Caricatures of Pathology: African American Men, Identity, and Coping**

There is a well-established link between rumination and depression among women, particularly during adolescence and the transition to adulthood when women's risk for depression peaks. However, the link between coping, masculinity and depression has been less examined, especially with regard to ethnocultural populations. In this study cluster analyses yielded profiles of 128 young African American men. Relative variation exists in how gender and race are linked. Identity profiles differentially relate to depressive symptoms and aggressive ideation, and a significant cluster by coping interaction indicated that distractive coping serves as a buffer for young men who report particular identity profiles.

**TYRLIK, Moimir**

Department of Psychology, Masaryk University Brno

### **Changing Responsibility and Justice in Minds of Young Adults Within Ten Years**

Life-span development depends on not only the normative development of psychological functions but also on the temporary environmental and social background. The communications of shared experiences establish a common understanding of life-situations within a group. We explored the change of the understanding of responsibility and justice within ten years. We compared the thematic grasp of dilemmatic events addressing responsibility in focus groups consisting of young adults in 1998 and 2008. Results show a shift in opinions from a counterbalance of the good and evil aspect of an event to more pragmatic aspects of the particular situation and its solution.

**VARGAS LASCANO, Dayuma, GALAMBOS, Nancy, & BROWN, Norman**

Department of Psychology, University of Alberta

### **How Old Do I Feel? Emerging Adults Explore Subjective Age**

At some point during emerging adulthood individuals go from feeling older to feeling younger than they actually are. The reason for this shift in "subjective age" likely involves changes in how emerging adults think about age. To gain some insight, we asked 40 emerging adults to think aloud while they considered the answer to 5 subjective age questions (e.g., look age, feel

age). Analyses show (1) that subjective age estimates are based on numerous sources of information (e.g., external feedback), and (2) the source used depends on the specific question (e.g. look age is most often based on feedback from others).

**WIERSMA, Jacquelyn<sup>1,2</sup>, BRAY, Bethany<sup>1</sup>, & FISCHER, Judith<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Methodology Center, The Pennsylvania State University

<sup>2</sup>Prevention Center, The Pennsylvania State University

<sup>3</sup>Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Texas Tech University

### **Identifying Types of Young Adult Drinking Partnerships by Relationship Status Using Latent Class Analysis**

Paired romantic partners (n=960), between the ages of 18-26, from The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Wave I, II, and the Romantic Pairs subsample of Wave III), provided 339 dating (35%), 319 cohabiting (33%), and 302 married (31%) couples. Based on Roberts and Leonard's (1998) work on drinking partnerships, latent class analysis identified five types of drinking partnerships: (a) Congruent Nondrinkers, (b) Discrepant Male Heavy/Female Social, (c) Discrepant Male Social, (e) Discrepant Female Social, and (f) Congruent Heavy. Latent class membership was predicted by several correlates including parental drinking, peer drinking in young adulthood, sensation seeking, and college enrollment.

**WILSON, Susan**

Department of Psychology, Northern Illinois University

### **Gender and Ethnic Differences in Quality of Same- and Cross-Ethnic Peer Relationships**

This study examined gender and ethnic group differences in relationship quality among same- and cross-ethnic relationships. Results indicate gender differences in friendship quality regardless of whether they are same- or cross-ethnic friendships. There appear to be some gender differences in romantic relationship quality but only among same-ethnic relationships. Results do not indicate ethnic group differences in friendship quality for same- or cross-ethnic relationships. There do appear to be ethnic group differences in romantic relationship quality but only among same-ethnic relationships.

**WOOD, Dana, OKEKE, Ndidi, & UPTON, Rachel**

Department of Psychology, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

### **The Influence of Racial Identity on College Choice and Social Adjustment Among African American Men**

The purpose of this study was to examine how racial identity influences decisions to enroll in a Historically Black College/University or Predominantly White Institution and to assess the moderating role of college type on the relation between racial identity and social adjustment outcomes. Ninety African American males were assessed in 11th grade and again 1 year after high school. Results revealed that racial identity was marginally related to college choice. Additionally, college type moderated the relation between racial identity and social adjustment outcomes. Findings suggest that racial identity differentially impacts social adjustment outcomes depending on college type.

**WRAY-LAKE, Laura<sup>1</sup>, SYVERTSEN, Amy<sup>1</sup>, OSGOOD, Wayne<sup>2</sup>, BRIDDELL, Laine<sup>2</sup>, FLANAGAN, Constance<sup>3</sup>, BACHMAN, Jerald<sup>4</sup>, JOHNSTON, Lloyd<sup>4</sup>, O'MALLEY, Patrick<sup>4</sup>, & SCHULENBERG, John<sup>4,5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Human Development and Family Studies, The Pennsylvania State University

<sup>2</sup>Department of Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

<sup>3</sup>Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, The Pennsylvania State University

<sup>4</sup>Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

<sup>5</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Michigan

### **Young Adults' Social Responsibility Values: Investigating Stability Between-Persons, Within-Person, and Across Historical Time**

We examine young adults' social responsibility values, addressing questions of stability between and within individuals and across historical time. Data come from *Monitoring the Future* surveys of high school seniors from 1976 through 2004 across ages 19 to 28. Social responsibility values were moderately stable within-persons and on average across young adulthood, yet between-person differences were substantial. Social responsibility declined with age, increased for successive cohorts, and increased across years yet dipped in the early 2000s. Increases in social responsibility values across historical time may reflect social change via increasing priorities for societal and community commitments and social equality.

**YOUNG, Maureen, VAZSONYI, Alexander, JENKINS, Dusty, & MILLER, Andrea**  
Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Auburn University

### **The Application of Problem Behavior Theory During Emerging Adulthood**

The current study seeks to extend Problem Behavior Theory, which has been used to explain a number of problematic outcomes in adolescence, to emerging adults. Specifically, the study aimed to determine whether problem behavior syndrome persists into young adulthood, and whether risk and protective factors assessed during adolescence predict later problem behaviors. Data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health were used in the current study. Risk and protective factors were assessed when participants were 12-21 years old while problem behaviors (delinquency, drug, and alcohol use) were measured when participants were 18-27 years old.

**ZHONG, Juan, & ARNETT, Jeffrey**  
Department of Psychology, Clark University

### **Family Relationships in Asian-American Emerging Adults**

Family relationships among Asian-American emerging adults were examined from the cultural theory of broad and narrow socialization. Twenty-eight Asian-American emerging adults (age 20 to 28 years old) from California were interviewed regarding parent-child relationship, sibling relationship and future parenting. It showed that there was a mismatch between first-generation parents and second-generation children in terms of parenting. When they were growing up, Asian-American emerging adults perceived their parents' control as too strict and emotionally-distant, while they preferred more autonomy and emotional demonstration. However, their relationships with parents improved greatly in emerging adulthood due to the changes from both ends. Although their relationships with siblings were ambivalent growing up, they did have much caring responsibility for their younger brothers and sisters. More than four-fifths of emerging adults said they would adopt a varying degree of different parenting toward their own children with more personal freedom and self-expression. Findings are discussed in light of how broad and narrow socialization simultaneously affects the development of Asian-American emerging adults, which are also reflected in their views about future parenting.

**ZUKAUSKIENE, Rita, ERENTAITE, Rasa, PILKAUSKAITE VALICKIENE, Rasa, & MALINAUSKIENE, Oksana**  
Department of Psychology, Mykolas Romeris University

### **The Effects of Personality Traits and Values on Emerging Adults' Community-Based Activities**

This study examined what distinguishes emerging adults (N=490) who are active in community life from those who are not. In an attempt to answer this question, emerging adults (ages 18-

19) completed a measure of community activities, along with measures of personality traits and values. Cluster analysis of activities reported in the questionnaire identified 5 distinct groupings of emerging adults with different levels of involvement. Very involved and Involved were characterized by more pronounced traits in Extraversion, Openness to Experience and Agreeableness, when Conscientiousness was higher only in the Very involved cluster. Emerging adults more engaged in different community-based activities were characterized with higher levels of basic personal values except hedonism. Results are discussed with regard to the role that personality traits and personal values may play in fostering community-based commitments.