

## JMU Department of Psychology 2017 Student Award Recipients

### Eileen Nelson Scholarship for Senior Excellence

The Eileen Nelson Scholarship honors the contributions of emeritus faculty member Eileen Nelson, by recognizing a student who has exemplary involvement in the honors thesis program, vigor in research and service, excellence in academic achievement, and the intention to pursue graduate education in psychology. The scholarship provides financial assistance to the award winner during their senior year. This scholarship was made possible by the generous donations of the family and friends of Dr. Eileen Nelson.

#### 2017 Award Recipient



**Daroon Jalil**

- Completing an honors thesis entitled *The Role of Race and Empathy on Contagious Yawning* under the supervision of Dr. Melanie Shoup-Knox.
- Has worked in 3 research labs and presented research at five conferences, both regionally and nationally.
- Served as teaching assistant for Biopsychology.
- Psychology representative on the CHBS Dean's Student Advisory Council.
- Has been awarded the Whitlock Scholarship in the Department of Psychology, been on the President's list (Fall 2013- Spring 2016), and is a Centennial Scholar Recipient.

### LeAnn Whitlock Memorial Scholarship

This award recognizes distinguished academic performance and service to the university by a minority student whose talents skills, and abilities enable them to enrich the JMU community. The scholarship was initiated by the Theta Nu Chapter of the Zeta Pi Beta Sorority, in honor of psychology major LeAnn Whitlock, a student at James Madison University from Roanoke, Virginia who was abducted from the Valley Mall in Harrisonburg and murdered on January 5, 1990. The scholarship has been enabled through generous contributions of LeAnn's family and friends, psychology faculty, several sororities, and matching corporate funding.

#### 2017 Award Recipient



**Zuby Okafor**

- Serves as a research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Jeff Dyche in the Sleep and Actigraphy Lab studying the effects of sleep in decision making.
- He serves as a Psychology Peer Advisor.
- Serves as the Psychology Peer Advising Symposium Coordinator.
- Has assisted with JMU Open Houses and Choices as a representative of the Psychology Department.
- Worked on the Gus Bus and served as an ESL tutor.

## James J. Hart Memorial Scholarship

This award is named after faculty member James J. Hart, and for many years, has honored the outstanding performance among junior students. Donations to the James J. Hart Scholarship fund were sufficient in 2010 to award the first James J. Hart Memorial Scholarship. The recipient of this award is an outstanding Junior Psychology Major who not only has high academic achievement, but also, through their activities and aspirations, demonstrates a commitment to improving the human condition.

### 2017 Award Recipient



**Ashley Rininger**

- Works with Dr. Jessica Irons examining cue-induced nicotine withdrawal in humans, the effects of alcohol priming on substance preferences (coordinates this study), and the effects of rhetoric exposure on health choices.
- Has served as a teaching assistant for Psychological Statistics and Integrated Statistics and Methods under the supervision of Dr. Tracy Zinn.
- Serves as a Psychology Peer Advisor.
- Is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, is a member of Active Minds, has volunteered with Open House, worked as an AVID tutor, and has attended and led Alternative Spring Breaks trips.
- Has been on the President's list since Spring 2015.

## Thomas E. & Sherry Woodroof Rogowski Scholarship

This scholarship recognizes a single student who has a record of exceptional experiences and performance from among her or his peers. The award is made possible by the generous donations of JMU alumni, Thomas E. & Sherry Woodroof Rogowski.

### 2017 Award Recipient



**Kathia Bonilla-Amaya**

- Has served as a research assistant under the Supervision of Dr. Kenneth Critchfield studying Interpersonal Reconstructive Therapy.
- Serves as secretary for the JMU chapter of Psi Chi International Honors Society.
- Completed an internship at the JMU Counseling Center.
- Volunteers at Keister Elementary in a Duo-lingo classroom.
- On-campus coordinator for the Psychology Service Organization.

# Casey Mitschele Dorsey Scholarship

This scholarship recognizes a single student who has a record of exceptional experiences and performance from among her or his peers. The award is made possible by the generous donations of JMU alumni, Casey M. Dorsey and her husband Jeffrey.

## 2017 Award Recipient



**Michael Keiter**

- Works with Dr. Melanie Shoup-Knox conducting research with rats for which he has performed supervised surgery, written an IACUC (ethics board) proposal, engaged in behavioral testing, trained new members of the lab, engaged in administrative duties; he also works with Dr. Kethera Fogler to study perceptions of sexual assault victims.
- Served as a Psychology Peer Advisor and has presented PPA-related work at a regional conference.
- Completed Field Placement at RMH- Behavioral Health Unit
- Has been awarded the Jerry O. Haynes Memorial Award for Outstanding Seniors in the Department of Psychology and is the recipient of LiUNA Union Scholarship and the George Warren Chappelle Jr. Scholarship.

# Jerry O. Haynes Memorial Award for Outstanding Seniors

This award is named after faculty member Jerry O. Haynes, and honors graduating seniors who possess outstanding records of achievement in academics, service, and research.

## 2017 Award Recipient



**Allison Brandmark**

- Has conducted research with Dr. Trevor Stokes Dr. Krisztina Jakobsen and has presented research at local and national conferences.
- Serves as a Student Therapist for the Alvin V. Baird Center and Inter-Professional Autism Clinic.
- Serves as a teaching assistant for Introduction to Psychology under the supervision of Kirsten Ducker.
- Is a member and serves as treasurer of the JMU Chapter of Psi Chi.
- Co-Captain at JMU Psychology Service Org's Day with the Dukes (Volunteer), Member of the Tri-Psyc Relay for Life Team (Volunteer), is Vice President of JMU Best Buddies, and Secretary of Friends of Rachel at JMU, is a tutor for the Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education Program.
- Was awarded the James J. Hart Memorial Scholarship in 2016.

# James O. Benedict Senior Teaching Award

This award is named for faculty member James O. Benedict, and honors a senior who has demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in higher education in the field of Psychology, or who has served as a teaching assistant in Psychology while an undergraduate student. Once endowed, this award will become a scholarship will provide funds annually to a deserving student.

## 2017 Award Recipient



**Rebecca Seymour**

- Works with Dr. Trevor Stokes in the Inter-Professional Autism Clinic conducting research on parent-child interactions and other applications of behavioral principles.
- Has been a teaching assistant for Dr. JoAnne Brewster in Abnormal Psychology and has conducted review sessions and given mini-lectures. She is also the coordinator for Dr. Brewster's tutoring program. In addition, she has been a teaching assistant for Dr. Bryan Saville in Psychology of Learning.
- Has been on the JMU President's List for the last two semesters.
- Has worked with underprivileged children in an after-school community service program.

# Joann H. Grayson Outstanding Field Placement Award

This award is given to students who distinguish themselves on the basis of their commitment, use of psychological theory, and professional performance.

## 2017 Award Recipient



**Madeline Palkovitz**

- Completed a 150+ hour Field Placement experience as a Victim Advocate at the Victim Witness Program in Harrisonburg, VA, a non-profit organization that aims to reduce any trauma or confusion that the victim/witness of a crime may experience while involved in criminal justice proceedings.
- Attended Juvenile and Domestic Relations court and observed first appearances, protective order hearings, and trials.
- Met with victims to ascertain the details of the situation that occurred to make them seek a protective order before they went in front of the judge. Prepared victims for what to expect in court and accompanied victims to court to help alleviate their anxiety.
- Completed a research paper on the multi-faceted impact of domestic violence on a victim and provided recommendations for how to raise awareness and provide education to victims and young women to reduce and avoid victimization.
- Because Young women, such as college students, are frequently targets of intimate partner violence, she raised awareness and aimed to educate members of her sorority through a discussion on Intimate Partner Violence.
- The goals of the discussion were to: 1) target an at-risk population, 2) encourage individuals to be aware that victim-blaming exists and ensure that they do not contribute to it, 3) challenge members of society to be an empathetic support system to victims, 4) create awareness of additional acts of victimization individuals of intimate partner violence experience, and 5) give members of society knowledge to avoid or escape abusive relationships before they get to a point where additional victimization occurs.

# Senior Award for Achievement in Research

This award is given to senior students who have demonstrated significant achievement in undergraduate research projects.

## 2017 Award Recipient



**Melissa Manley**

- Works with Dr. Claire Lyons (and formerly Dr. Vivien Chan) on research related to learning and foreign-accented speech.
- Has presented her work with Psychology Peer Advising at regional and national conferences.
- Served as a teaching assistant for Psychological Statistics under the supervision of Dr. Tracy Zinn.
- Serves as a Psychology Peer Advisor.
- Is a member and vice president of Psi Chi.
- Completed a summer internship in a clinical psychology lab at George Mason University.



**Maddison Miles**

- Works with Dr. David Szwedko conducting research on the impact of social relationships on future adjustment to college, has prepared and presented poster presentations at regional and national conferences, mentors other students on statistical analyses and research methodology; she has also worked with Dr. Crichfield examining the effectiveness of long-term Interpersonal Reconstructive Therapy.
- Completed Field Placement and volunteers at Second Home, helping children with homework and math and reading skills.
- Member of Psi Chi and a member of the National Society for Collegiate Scholars, through which she has participated in a Pen Pal program with elementary school children and March to College.
- Has been awarded the John Wayland Scholarship and a JMU grant for funding her research.
- Has been on the President's or Dean's List from Fall 2013 to Fall 2016.

# Joel D. West Senior Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes seniors who reflect commitment to the field of psychology through their service activities.

## 2017 Award Recipient



**Maria Camilla Restrepo Chavez**

- Currently completing an honors thesis on JMU's Centennial Scholars Program under the supervision of Dr. Jaime Kurtz.
- Has presented research on perceptions of student well-being at UVA's L. Starling Reid Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference.
- Was awarded the Rogowski Award in 2016.
- Has served as a teaching assistant for Social Psychology and Honors 100.
- Is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Psi Chi honors societies.
- Has volunteered with SafeRides, the Reading Road Show, Psychology Service Organization, has attended two Alternative Spring Breaks, is a brother of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and has completed a practicum at the counseling center.

# Junior Award for Achievement in Research

This award is given to juniors who have demonstrated significant achievement in undergraduate research projects.

## 2017 Award Recipient



**Briana Craig**

- Works with Dr. Jessica Irons examining cue-induced nicotine withdrawal in humans, the effects of alcohol priming on substance preferences (coordinates this study), and the effects of rhetoric exposure on health choices. She also works with Dr. Kevin Apple conducting research on student engagement in Higher Education.
- Has served as a teaching assistant for Psychological Research Methods under the supervision of Dr. Jessica Irons.
- Serves as a student tutor in the Match and Science Learning Center.
- Has been on the President's list since Spring 2015.

## Junior Award for Distinguished Service

This award is given to juniors who have demonstrated significant achievement in undergraduate service projects.

### 2017 Award Recipient



**Briana Craig**

- Works with Dr. Jessica Irons examining cue-induced nicotine withdrawal in humans, the effects of alcohol priming on substance preferences (coordinates this study), and the effects of rhetoric exposure on health choices. She also works with Dr. Kevin Apple conducting research on student engagement in Higher Education.
- Has served as a teaching assistant for Psychological Research Methods under the supervision of Dr. Jessica Irons.
- Serves as a student tutor in the Match and Science Learning Center.
- Has been on the President's list since Spring 2015.

## Junior Award for Achievement in Teaching

This award is given to juniors who have demonstrated significant achievement serving as an undergraduate teaching assistant.

### 2017 Award Recipient



**Taylor Stanley**

- Works with Dr. Jessica Irons examining cue-induced nicotine withdrawal in humans, the effects of alcohol priming on substance preferences, and the effects of rhetoric exposure on health choices. Has also conducted research on interpersonal reconstructive therapy with Dr. Ken Critchfield.
- Has served as a teaching assistant for Dr. JoAnne Brewster in her abnormal psychology course. In this role, Taylor proctors exams, provides test consultations and individual tutoring, hosts review sessions, and attends weekly meetings. She is also a teaching assistant for Dr. Jessica Irons in Psychological Research Methods.
- Serves as a Psychology Peer Advisor, and she will be assisting with transfer student advising in Summer 2017.
- Has been on the JMU Dean's List.

# Outstanding Achievement in Statistics & Research Methods

This award is given to students who showed significant talent in the methods courses through research creativity and diligence about good research design and data analysis strategies.

## 2017 Award Recipients



**Matthew Best**



**Ashley Runnells**



**Kimberly Bianco**



**Tommy Stewart**

**Alicia Mingione (no photo)**



**Amanda Misak**



**Nicole Zapparrata**