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Psychology Department

Term: Spring | Issue 3 | Date: April 15, 2019

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: MARIA VAZQUEZ

1. What year are you?

I am currently a senior and I will be graduating this upcoming May!

2. What has been your favorite psychology class?

In all honesty, I have enjoyed all my psychology classes even the ones that have been the most challenging for me. However, if I have to choose a favorite, I choose PSYC 397: Service Learning. What I enjoy about this class, aside from the professors and my classmates, is that everything we are learning and researching we are applying it to our service learning sites. It is a lot of work and dedication involved in this class, but it is also very interesting and hands-on. Everyone is very supportive!

3. What are your plans after graduation?

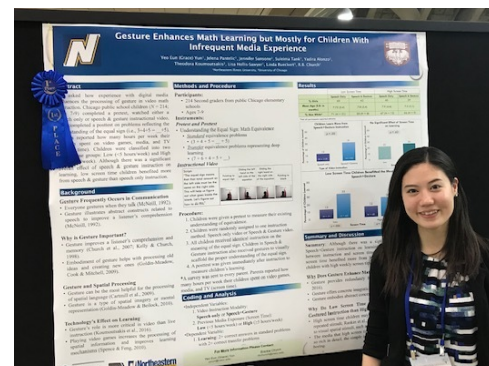
My plans after graduation are to attend graduate school and continue working with adolescents. I might be coming back to NEIU for my MSW.



STUDENT AWARD

Grace Yun received a Student and Early Career Committee award for her poster titled,

“Gesture Enhances Math Learning but Mostly for Children With Infrequent Media Experience” at the Society for Research in Child Development Conference in Baltimore, MD



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NEIU 27th Annual Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium will take place on Friday, April 19th. There will be approximately 12 podium and 15 poster presentations from our department.

JOIN THE PSYCH CLUB!

1. What are some things psych club is involved in?

The Psych club is involved in educating the community, volunteering in community service projects, and hosting social gatherings.

2. What occurs during the weekly meetings?

We discuss, plan, and organize different events on campus such as movie nights, workshops like "CV building" or "getting a letter of recommendation", fundraisers like bake sales, and volunteer experiences.

3. When and where does psych club meet?

We meet every other Thursday from 3-4 pm in BBH 323.

4. What are the benefits of joining the club?

Our purpose is to supply information, opportunities and resources to our members that will enhance their academic career. We work to provide opportunities in volunteer work, research with faculty, informational meetings and discussions and social events. We also encourage students and faculty in the Psychology Department to form connections and provide resources and information for a successful academic career in Psychology.

-Alyssa Mogil (President of Psych Club)

If interested, please contact Alyssa : a-mogil@neiu.edu

MEET THE PSYCHOLOGY TUTOR: GEO SAID

1. What courses do you tutor at NEIU?

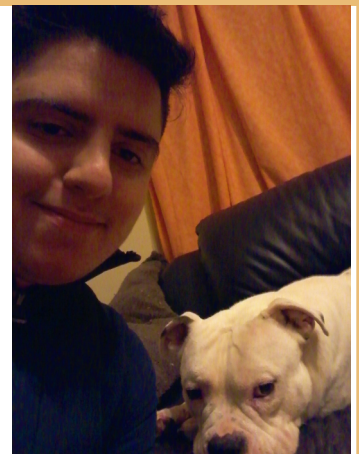
I mainly tutor students taking Survey of Psychology (Psyc 100) and Life Span Development (Psyc 110); however, students of all levels come to work with me from anything on SPSS to study skills and time management. I am also a peer leader for General Psychology (Psyc 200).

2. How long have you been a tutor?

I recently became the department tutor at the beginning of the Spring semester. I have actually been a peer leader for much longer--this will be my second semester as a peer leader.

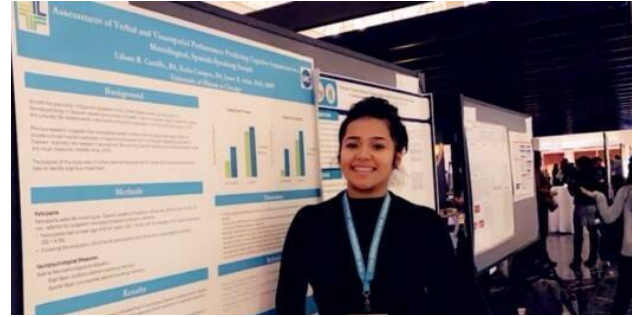
3. What do you enjoy about tutoring students?

I enjoy the fact that I learn from students as much as they learn from me. I love being able to see the look on students faces when they finally understand a concept they have been struggling with all semester long. I also enjoy relating to students on a peer level and reassuring them that the challenges they face as practicing researchers and scholars are valid. Additionally, I like reminding students that their hard work will pay off with both their personal and academic successes. Most of all, I hope that students know that I am willing to go above and beyond as a tutor and mentor, and that they are free to seek out help from me at any time.



PRESENTATIONS

Castillo, L.R.(alumna), Campos, K. (alumna), & Soble, J.R. *Assessment of verbal and visuospatial task performance predicting cognitive impairment in a monolingual, Spanish-Speaking sample*. Poster presentation at the Hispanic Neuropsychology Society in NY,NY.



Castillo, L.R.(alumna), Campos, K. (alumna), & Soble, J.R. *Accuracy of the Test of Memory Malingering in First Generation Spanish-Speaking Latinos*. Poster presentation at the Hispanic Neuropsychology Society in NY,NY.

STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT: MAC NOWLIN

1. What research are you involved in at NEIU?

I am currently conducting a study about the impact of music on an individual's selective attention during cognitive tasks. I'm also preparing to aid Dr. Saszik in her research over the summer.

2. How long have you been involved in research?

I've only been actively involved in research for about two months now.

3. What aspects of conducting research do you enjoy?

I find the pursuit of new knowledge to be thrilling. I also really enjoy the statistical calculations after data collection.

4. What aspects do you find difficult?

The most difficult part of research is learning to be patient. Trial and error requires a lot of patience which is something that I've never been very good at.



EVENTS : GRADUATE FAIR AND ALUMNI MINGLE



The psychology department hosted both the graduate fair and alumni mingle on April 1, 2019. The graduate fair allows for students to learn more about various graduate programs and speak to representatives from Chicago-land universities. The alumni mingle allowed for current students to speak with alumni who are currently in employed and/or in graduate programs.

NEW ADDITION TO THE DEPARTMENT!

We are excited to introduce you all to the newest addition to the department, baby Asher! Instructor Pagel had a healthy and adorable son on March 5th.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ROBERT SZAREK

1. What year did you graduate?

I graduated NEIU with my Psychology degree in 2009.

2. What graduate program are you attending?

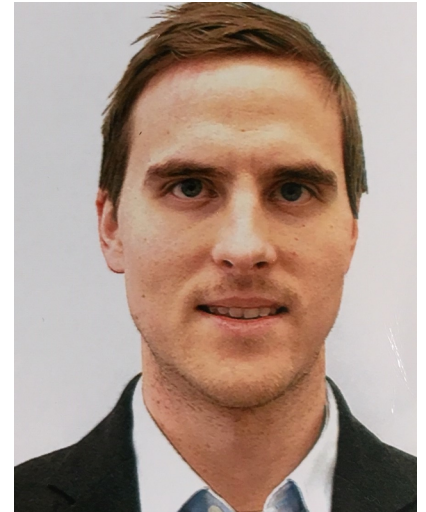
My Master's Degree is in Industrial/Organizational Psychology which I obtained from Elmhurst College in 2012.

3. How did NEIU prepare you for graduate school and/or work?

NEIU provided me with a strong foundation for skills that are still relevant in my job today. For example, I learned how to properly run statistical analyses in SPSS, which I still perform on a daily basis at my job. Additionally, NEIU taught me everything there is to know about performing research, from formulating hypotheses through gathering data and finally presenting the results in APA standard. None of this would have been as successful or memorable to me without the support and dedication of the teachers and administration from whom I had the privilege to learn from.

4. What advice would you give undergraduate students?

I'd encourage students to explore and take risks, which will help you learn as much as possible from the coursework. In many cases, obtaining a college degree serves as your last opportunity to master the material before going out into the working world and putting those concepts to use. Making mistakes and learning from them early on is critical towards shaping your own education and ultimately your own success, so don't be afraid to push the limits of your own knowledge. Finally, ask questions and utilize the teachers to help you along the way, they want to see you grow and master the material as well!



FACULTY AWARD



Congratulations to Dr. Church for being the recipient of this year's Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor Award. This award is given annually to a tenured faculty member who demonstrates excellence in research. Dr.

Church's current research focuses on gesture and its effects on learning in classrooms. Dr. Church will give a presentation on her research during the Fall 2019 semester.



FIELD EXPERIENCE: STACI ROOT

1. What agency are you doing your field experience at?

Institute for Health Research and Policy | University of Illinois at Chicago

2. What is the agency's mission statement?

The institute aims to stimulate and support high-quality campus research aimed at improving health practices and policies through a multidisciplinary perspective. IHRP brings together faculty researchers from more than 8 colleges and 30 departments to: Address complex population health issues, including obesity, tobacco use, diabetes, cancer and an aging society; Examine behavioral, policy and socioeconomic influences on health; and Develop and test interventions to resolve health challenges. In all its work, IHRP research aims to understand and reduce racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in the prevalence and burdens of the top causes of death and disability in the United States.



3. What are your responsibilities?

I work as a research assistant on a study regarding effects of community-based mentoring. The study works with fifteen 'Big Brothers Big Sisters' agencies around the nation. I work alongside the study coordinator, principal investigators and other research assistants. My duties vary greatly due to the study's immediate needs, but the bulk of my work includes: creating procedural documents/logs for training purposes; creating quality assurance processes; producing and shipping study materials to agencies; processing and archiving return study documents (surveys, consent forms, payment receipts, contact forms, etc.); updates to IRB documentation; outreach to agency research liaisons; drafting specific slides for monthly calls with research liaisons; attending and recording meeting notes for our weekly team meeting; and some light graphic design work (creating quarterly newsletters for the study and designing holiday/birthday/thank you cards for participants).

TALENT SHOW

Congratulations to Gabriela Chavez for winning the NEIU Talent Show that took place on April 8th, 2019. Gabriela sang and played the song "Sunday Morning" by Maroon 5 on the ukulele.

