



**MIDDLE TENNESSEE
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION
SPRING MEETING**

April 18, 2009

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Christopher Edwards

Duke University

**Sickle Cell Disease: A Model for
Developing Science in Health Disparities**

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from Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in
Psychology (www.psichi.org)**

POSTER SESSION I 9:15-10:00 Morgan University Center 303-305

1. MURDER VS. MURDER - SENTENCE CONTEXT & THE EFFECT ON MEMORY

Chip Bradley & Dr. Stephen R. Schmidt
Middle Tennessee State University

Will the emotional meaning of a word be better remembered than the non-emotional meaning? We used words with high emotional meaning (kill, murder, abused, etc...) and wrote two lists of 18 sentences underlining the high emotion meaning and low emotion meaning in each sentence. The lists were presented on a computer and the participants were required to rank their emotion level on a scale of 1-7 (1-low emotion, 7-high emotion). The participants then did a five-minute math section to eliminate the recency effect. They were then asked to recall as many of the underlined words as possible. Afterwards, we counted how many high emotion and low emotion words were recalled. We expect to find that the higher emotional meaning of the words will be better remembered and thus recalled more often.

2. ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL CORRELATES OF THE EFFECTS OF TEMPORAL AND METRICAL EXPECTANCIES ON SPOKEN-WORD RECOGNITION

Dayna Alyse Hawk & Cyrille Magne, Ph.D.
Middle Tennessee State University

One of the main differences between written and spoken forms of language is that spoken language conveys prosodic information. Prosody comprises intonation, accentuation and rhythmic patterns that are produced by variations in acoustic parameters such as frequency, intensity, and timing. Studies have suggested that sensitivity to speech rhythm, especially stress patterns (i.e., the relative emphasis that may be given to certain syllables in a word), is an important aspect of language processing from infancy through adulthood. In this study, we propose examining the neural correlates of speech rhythm by comparing the Event-Related brain Potentials (ERPs) elicited by words with an expected stress pattern to that of words with an unexpected stress pattern. Brain electrical activity will be recorded while participants are presented with lists of five bisyllabic words. For half the lists, all the words will have a similar stress pattern (e.g., Body-Level- STUdy-Woman-TAble), while for the other half of the lists, the fifth

word will have a different stress pattern than the previous four (e.g., Body-Level- STUdy-Woman-hoTEL). Following the presentation of each word list, a sixth word will be presented on a computer screen and participants will be asked to determine whether a sixth visually presented word was present in the list or not. Preliminary results will be discussed during the poster presentation.

3. INTERVIEW RACE EFFECTS AND INTERRACIAL DATING

Meredith Jeffers, Danielle Ross, Stephanie Levengood & Dr. Tom Brinthaupt
Middle Tennessee State University

The study was designed to see if attitudes of interviewees on interracial dating are affected by the race and gender of the interviewers. Film, television, and academic research characterize African American females as angry and in contention with interracial relationships (Childs, 2005). An example hypothesis for this study is that Black male participants will report fewer interracial relationships when interviewed by a black female, because articles show that black females are more disapproving and may not welcome honest reports of interracial dating experience. This study included four different types of interviewers, there was a white male, black male, white female, and black female interviewer. Each interviewer interviewed 80 participants evenly divided among target types that included: black males and females, and white females and males. The data will be analyzed to look for differences among answers given by the target type and interviewer type.

4. INFLUENCE OF MOTIVATION REGARDING HEALTH AND WELLNESS ON LEARNING PERFORMANCE OF RELATED MATERIAL

Beth Joynes & Dr. Thomas Brinthaupt
Middle Tennessee State University

Prior research indicates that intrinsic motivation is longer-lasting and more beneficial than extrinsic motivation on learning performance. Thus, students who engage in a learning task for the sheer enjoyment are more likely to succeed in learning than those students who are rewarded for learning. The current study attempts to verify these claims by framing intrinsic and extrinsic motivation before having participants partake in a reading assignment in which they will then be tested. Results are to be determined upon analysis. However, the researcher hypothesizes, in concurrence with prior research, that intrinsically motivated participants will

show more success on the assignment than extrinsically motivated participants. In addition, the researcher presumes to find that participants whose pre-existing motivation is intrinsic in regards to the health and wellness subject matter in the reading assignment will likewise show greater success on the post-reading test than participants with extrinsic pre-existing motivation.

5. PLAYING DOCTOR: ASSESSING FUTURE PROFESSIONALS ATTITUDES TOWARD CHILD SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Sandra K. Plummer & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

Determining the appropriateness of sexual behavior in children is a difficult task. Research suggests there is no clear line defining what is normal or even acceptable, however age and gender of the child are two of the factors taken into consideration when deciding. I will recruit graduate students from MTSU departments of Psychology, Educational Leadership, Social Work, Education/Special Education, and Nursing. Each participant will anonymously complete a demographic questionnaire, the Child Sexual Behavior Questionnaire/Attitudes (CSBQ-A), and one version of the scenarios of childhood sexual behavior. The CSBQ-A and the scenario will be counterbalanced to control for order effects. I expect that there will be a main effect for age of the child, such that the older the child, the more likely the behavior will be seen as problematic. I expect that there will be an interaction effect between age and gender of the child, and I also expect that there will be an interaction effect between age and emotional expression of the child.

6. ABILITY TO IDENTIFY GENDER WITH KEY FACIAL FEATURES

Amanda Bowers, Whitney Wrenn & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

The question for our experiment is which facial features lead to the identification of males and females. Our hypothesis is participants will have a more difficult time of identifying individuals without key characteristics we use in everyday life (e.g. dress). The process will include taking photographs of two males and two females. Each will have certain facial features revealed, including: full frontal view, eyes only, and lips only. The procedure consists of a series of pictures through power point presentation and a survey to record their answers, including a level of confidence of assessing the right gender.

7. FAMILIAL FACTORS AFFECTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Jeremy Hays, Nikki Manier, Sarah Sterchi & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

What we wanted to know is if family background relates to post-secondary student achievement. The method used was a questionnaire targeted at students of Middle Tennessee State University. The questionnaire focused on four aspects of family background: socioeconomic status, parental background, siblings, and participant background. What we expect to find is a positive relationship between the three aspects of socioeconomic status, parental background, and participant background against participant GPA (achievement). We also expect to find a negative relationship between siblings and participant GPA.

8. HOW WELL DOES AN INDIVIDUAL KNOW THEIR PERSONALITY

Brittany Essary, Brittney Shelton & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

The question for this research was if a person is told that their personality is based on a certain description, will they believe that it is the truth? We surveyed 50 participants using a generic horoscope description of their personality. Half of the participants knew that the horoscope was not really their horoscope. The other half believed that the horoscope was truly their own. After reading the horoscope both groups did a survey on how accurate the horoscope was to their personality. We expect to find that the group that did not know the horoscope was generic will believe that it described their personality.

9. ADDICTION IN A WORLD OF WARCRAFT: ARE MMORPGS A LIFE ALTERING PURSUIT?

Samuel D. Johnson & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

The question for this research project is whether Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing games (specifically, Blizzard Entertainment's World of Warcraft) are addictive to such a degree that out of game behavior and lifestyle is modified to revolve around the game. The method involved in obtaining results will be to submit an anonymous survey to a large population of current and past WoW players via Blizzard entertainment's

official game forums, as well as various forums established by and serving current players of the game. The hypothesized results are that MMRPG's, specifically World of Warcraft, will be associated with modifying one's behavior and real world events around the gaming experience.

10. THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL STANDING OF EYEWITNESSES IN CREDIBILITY

Megan Rawls, Derek Newman, David Dang & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

Our question is: Does the social standing of eyewitnesses in a criminal trial make a difference on a person's decision to issue a guilty or not-guilty verdict? The method which we used to test this was to conduct surveys with three different types of eyewitnesses (neutral eyewitness [treatment], discredited eyewitness [treatment], no eyewitness [control]). We expect our data to return showing that people are more likely to issue guilty verdicts when the social standing of an eyewitness is discredited.

11. SENSATION SEEKING IN SCUBA DIVERS AND GENDER DIFFERENCES AMONG SSS-V SUBSCALES

Kelly Kato & Dr. Donald Kendrick
Middle Tennessee State University

Many scholars have found that the sensation seeking personality trait is a strong predictor of involvement in high risk sports (e.g., Brannigan, & McDougall, 1983). Men have also been found to generally score higher on Sensation Seeking Scales than women (Zuckerman, 1994). The present study seeks to explore if there is a difference in sensation seeking levels between scuba divers and non-scuba divers, and to extend the sex difference research to the newer version five of Zuckerman's Sensation Seeking Scale, which incorporates four subscales (adventure seeking, external stimulation, disinhibition, and boredom susceptibility). The results showed that scuba divers and men had a much stronger sensation seeking personality trait than non-divers and women, respectively. It was also found that male and female scuba divers and non-scuba divers had very similar levels in each of the four sensation seeking subscales. The scuba divers and non-scuba divers (groups) differed only in their levels of thrill and adventure seeking, where gender did not seem to have any influence on this difference. Scuba diving seems to satisfy some sensation seekers' need for physical arousal, since it involves extreme conditions in an

environment unusual for humans. Gender differences might be due to socio-cultural influences and some biological factors.

12. EFFECT OF MUSICAL VIDEO GAME'S IMPLICIT MUSICAL TRAINING ON MUSIC AND LANGUAGE PROCESSING

Bryson Brugh Reynolds & Dr. Cyrille Magne
Middle Tennessee State University

Many results in the rapidly evolving field of the neuroscience of music demonstrate that formal music training has important consequences for the anatomo-functional organization of the brain. Moreover, formal music training not only improves performance in music tasks, but also in other cognitive functions such as language. The present project is aimed at testing whether informal musical training via a music video game (Guitar Hero) is sufficient to improve performance in language processing, as previously observed with formal musical training. Brain electrical activity of participants will be recorded in two groups of participants (one group of non-musicians who regularly play Guitar Hero, and one group of non-musicians who don't play Guitar Hero) while they are presented with short sentences and short melodies. The frequency of the final note/word will be manipulated so that this creates a weak or a strong incongruity in relation to the sentence/melodic context. The task of the participant will be to decide whether the sentence/melody sounds correct or not. (Preliminary results will be presented at the poster session.)

13. THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE OXFORD HAPPINESS QUESTIONNAIRE AND MUSICAL PREFERENCE

Mark Himmelreich & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

Are people who listen to a specific type of music happier than people who listen to a different type of music? This study was designed to determine the existence of a correlation between an individual's level of happiness and musical preference. Participants from the Middle Tennessee State University research pool completed the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire and stated their musical preference. Data from the questionnaire were analyzed across participants with regard to each individual's musical preference.

14. DOES PROXIMITY OF A RECYCLING RECEPTACLE INFLUENCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF INDIVIDUALS TO RECYCLE?

Kayla Poe, Carey Wilson, Lindsey Vogel & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

The purpose of this study was to find if there is a correlation between convenience of recycling containers and a person's likelihood to recycle. We placed a trash receptacle and a recycling receptacle in close proximity to one another. Then we observed whether people put recyclables in the trash container even when the recycling container was close by. We hypothesized that people would still trash recyclables even when the recycling container was directly beside the trash container. We observed 75 people walking behind the KUC at Middle Tennessee State University over a period of 3 days.

15. THE DANGERS OF CELL PHONES

Malorie Pitman, Ashley Bush & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

In this research study, we observed students using cell phones and took note of their reactions to a 'hazardous' situation. We gathered this information by placing caution signs in a designated area with a sign to walk on the left side, and recorded compliance among cell phone and non-cell phone users. Our hypothesis was that students using cell phones would ignore cautionary signs and walk into a potentially hazardous situation

16. DOES GREEK AFFILIATION AFFECT GENERAL HEALTH OF COLLEGE STUDENTS?

Dana Parsley, Sarah Stilwell & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

The purpose of this research is compare general health between Greek affiliated college students and non-Greek college students. We surveyed college students through an online research pool using a general health survey that focused on diet, sleep, physical activity and stress. Our

hypothesis was that there would be a relationship between Greek affiliation and poor general health.

17. SUCCESS OF CHILDREN RAISED IN TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL FAMILIES

Mary E. Crowe & Alysia D. Ritter, PhD
Murray State University

The purpose of this study was to determine the perceived effect of family structure and child gender on child success level, as well as if there were any interactions between family structure and child gender. This study was based on information from Barter and Renold (1999), Camilleri and Ryan (2006), Clarke, Kitzinger, and Potter (2004), Demuth and Brown (2004), Mehrabian (2000), Simmons and O'Connell (2003), and Simmons and O'Neill (2001). The participants were 120 (38 male) Murray State University students, who were asked to read 1 of 6 scenarios and complete a 30-item questionnaire, which was measured on a 4-point Likert scale. There was a significant difference, $F(2, 114) = 5.52$ $p < .01$ on the relationship subscale. Specifically, it was found that children raised by a mother and a father were rated significantly more successful in relationships than children raised by homosexual parents.

18. SOCIAL INFLUENCE ON PARANORMAL BELIEFS

Megan Childers, Jonathan Schultz & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

This study looked at how verbal suggestion from a peer influences paranormal belief in a pseudo-psychic demonstration. Two groups witnessed two separate videos in which a psychic bent a key. The experimental group watched a video in which they heard a verbal suggestion, "It's still bending" after the psychic had placed the bent key on a table. The control group watched a video, which had no verbal suggestion. Afterward, belief in the paranormal was measured by the Belief in the Paranormal Questionnaire. The hypothesis for this study was that the group that experienced verbal suggestion in a pseudo-psychic demonstration will have a higher belief in the paranormal than the group that did not experience verbal suggestion.

19. GENDER AND DOOR HOLDING BEHAVIOR

Virginia R Garrison, Christina Gillis & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

The purpose of this experiment was to see if gender would have an effect on door holding behavior. On the MTSU campus we watched people for situations of door holding behavior. By observing different door holding behaviors we were able to detect differences in gender and the occurrence of door holding.

20. YAWNING AND THE IDEOMOTOR EFFECT

Aaron Clements, Tracie Parra Flores, Ami Patel & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

The purpose of this study was to find a relationship between yawning and the ideomotor effect. We tested 42 participants for this study by having them read texts. One was related to yawning and the other was not related to yawning. Our hypothesis was that the participants who read the yawning text would demonstrate the ideomotor effect of yawning.

21. RESEARCH DESIGN FOR EVALUATING DOG TRAINING AND SOCIALIZATION PRISON PROGRAMS ON INMATES FRUSTRATION TOLERANCE AND ANGER MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Diana Partington & Dr. William Langston
Middle Tennessee State University

Dog Socialization and Training programs have become increasingly popular in prison's across the country. Anecdotal evidence claims that these programs are an effective form of rehabilitation. We have designed a thorough experiment intended to assess the claim that these programs teach frustration tolerance and anger management skills, by comparing the skill levels with three control groups. This presentation will cover our literature review and the comprehensive design of our project that will be completed during the summer of 2009.

22. BILINGUALISM, EXECUTIVE FUNCTION ENHANCEMENT: A NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO ANALYZING THE EXISTENCE OF STRONGER EXECUTIVE FUNCTION DEVELOPMENT AS A RESULT OF A MULTI-LEXICAL SYSTEM.

Michael D. Soward, Randall Boen & Dr. Paul Nicodemus

Austin Peay State University

The present study seeks to compare bilingual individuals' executive function capabilities to monolingual individuals and their executive function cognitive capabilities. For the purpose of this study, bilingualism is defined as individual who can 1) fluently speak Spanish/English and 2) has been speaking each language since the age of four. Participants will be given a battery neuropsychological assessments consisting of a Go/No-go Association Task, the Trails Making Test, the Wisconsin Card Sorting Test, a Tower of Hanoi task, the Stroop Test, and a Controlled Oral Word Association Test (COWAT). Time reaction results from each assessment/test will be analyzed and compared to the corresponding sample group. The present study seeks to find significant differences between sample groups when goal switching becomes a priority to complete the given assessment. In addition, this study will explore the differences, which may occur when the given assessments focus on organization and forethought. The findings of this will help support as well as offer additional data helping to explain that the development of a multi-lexical system may contribute to certain executive functions developing stronger than those executive functions of mono-lexical system.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 10:10-11:10
Morgan University Center 307

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Christopher Edwards

Duke University

**Sickle Cell Disease: A Model for
Developing Science in Health Disparities**

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is the most common genetic disease of the blood. When both parents have sickle cell trait, there is a 25% chance with each pregnancy that a child will have sickle cell anemia. SCD affects 1 in 375 African Americans in the United States as well as individuals of Hispanic, Native American, East Indian, Greek, Italian and Eastern Asian ancestry. The current presentation will discuss recent developments in the science of psychosocial factors that influence SCD. We will posit this research as a model of the conversion of clinical and environmental observations in science for developing researchers and students.

Coffee, Drinks and Food provided with funds generously donated by
Mark Francisco and CENGAGE Learning (www.cengage.com/highered)

