



Psychology Major Makes BIG Events Happen at Her Second Home

Even though she earned an honors GPA after her first semester of college, Elizabeth Tobin decided she would rather work full time instead of attending college full time, so she left IPFW and found a job. However, after working for two years, she returned to IPFW as a part-time student because she realized what she was doing had no future at all. Tobin decided she wanted big things out of life and she knew she was the only one who could make this happen.

BIG EVENT #1

Something Tobin considers “a big event” in her life happened in her first semester back at IPFW: she took PSY 12000 Elementary Psychology from Daren Kaiser, Ph.D. She immediately fell in love with the subject, which she credits partially to Kaiser, who was passionate about his work, and Tobin changed her major to psychology. After two part-time semesters, she became a full-time student once again. “I fell in love with this campus and even call it ‘my second home.’”

Tobin has definitely made herself at home at IPFW. She has been actively involved in the psychology department as a research assistant for three different faculty members (Michelle Drouin, Ph.D., Daniel Miller, Ph.D., Lesa Rae Vartanian, Ph.D.), and her contributions have led to co-authorships on a publication with Drouin and a conference presentation with Miller. Tobin also has been an undergraduate teaching assistant for Child Psychology and president of Psi Chi (the international honor society in psychology), and she is working on an honors thesis to see whether threats to masculinity can facilitate prosocial behavior in men. Outside of the psychology department, she has been a peer educator, a dean’s diplomat, an AmbassaDON, a member of Phi Eta Sigma, and an employee in Special Events. Quite an impressive list, and yet there are still two other events Tobin considers very big!

BIG EVENT #2

After reading an article that Drouin had submitted for publication regarding sexting, Tobin became curious as to whether sexting occurred in unwanted relationships. “I wanted to look at people who consent but don’t really want to, for example, to make their partner happy.” After reading another article about the link between sexual coercion and physical abuse, and learning that a lot of research says there is



Painting the town blue, Chancellor Vicky Carwein and Elizabeth Tobin participated in IPFW’s The BIG Event on March 23, 2013, at the Fort Wayne Sexual Assault Treatment Center. The BIG Event is one big day of service as a thank you from IPFW to the Fort Wayne community.

a connection, Tobin was curious as to whether coercion of sexting was also related to physical abuse. Thus, a research interest, the link between physical abuse and unwanted yet consensual sexting, was born for Tobin!

Once she had collected data, she began to work on an abstract to submit to the program hosted by Psi Chi at the 2013 annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA). This was a very long process with many revisions; for future submitters, Tobin strongly recommends beginning early and double-checking every detail. In October 2012, Tobin submitted her abstract, “Sexting: A New Route to Sexual Coercion?”, and in January 2013 she found out that not only was it accepted as a poster presentation but it also was one of only 18 chosen to receive a \$300 Psi Chi MPA Research Award. When she found out she had been selected, Tobin says, “I nearly cried and was quite excited.” Tobin credits her success to Drouin’s guidance at every step.

BIG EVENT #3

It was actually in her Child Psychology class where Tobin became hooked on social psychology. “There was a small section about prosocial behavior in Child Psychology. And then in my Social Psychology class, there was a chapter on altruism. It is awesome to think about the good that people have inside of them and how to bring that to light.”

Chair's Comments

In this issue, we feature stories about current and former students who have experienced first-hand the thrill of discovery in psychology. These are students who have conducted their own research projects or assisted on faculty projects while they were undergraduates in our program. As you will see, they found their experiences in the lab to be rewarding on multiple levels. Indeed, students and faculty in psychology programs nationwide perceive that the undergraduate research experience leads to technical skills (e.g., data analysis, questionnaire development, report preparation) as well as interpersonal skills (e.g., teamwork, leadership, time management) that help prepare students for graduate school and bachelor degree-level occupations. There is also the benefit of developing a one-to-one relationship with a professor, which often is not available to students in programs where, unlike our own, undergraduate assistants interact more with graduate supervisors than with faculty.

One of the most exciting aspects of involvement in research is the opportunity for students to present their work in a public setting. We are very proud of the 13 students who presented their research at the IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium in April 2013 and the 25 students who presented their work last year at conferences of regional or national psychological societies.

In addition to their research experiences, some of the featured students also have obtained invaluable experience in service through their involvement with the IPFW chapter of Psi Chi, the undergraduate honor society in psychology. Club members engaged in a remarkable range of activities last year and the club was awarded the IPFW Outstanding Student Organization Award for contributions to the campus and community.

We hope that these stories will help inspire other students to take advantage of the enriching experiences to be had outside of the psychology classroom. These experiences can lead to new skills, personal growth, and contributions to the field, not to mention the motivational "side effects" for the faculty who work with such involved students!



Just Noticeable News is a publication of the Department of Psychology College of Arts and Sciences Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne.

"Just Noticeable" refers to the "just noticeable difference concept" from the early experimental study of perception; the smallest amount of difference between two stimuli that can be detected half of the time.

We'd love to hear from you!
Just Noticeable News
 Department of Psychology
 IPFW
 2101 East Coliseum Boulevard
 Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499

260-481-6403
 petersej@ipfw.edu
ipfw.edu/psychology



Experiencing the Psychology Undergraduate Element to the Extreme

If riding in an airplane is flying, then riding in a boat is swimming. If you want to experience the element, then get out of the vehicle.
 —Author Unknown

The first time Shaquile Coonce (B.A. '13) ever rode in an airplane, she jumped out of it. Coonce is not afraid to get out of the vehicle and experience the element! Coonce proved this as a skydiver in her first airplane ride, and she proved this as an IPFW undergraduate.

Coonce completed a B.A. in psychology in three years—and she packed a lot of experiences into those three years. At IPFW, she was an undergraduate teaching assistant for one semester, research assistant for four semesters with two different professors, and student worker in the psychology department for two semesters. She was a member of Psi Chi and participated in Psychology Club. Coonce also presented research posters in 2012 and 2013 at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association.

During her second year at IPFW, Coonce wanted to gain even more experiences in psychology. So, she stepped out of the vehicle once again, and did a Google search for psychology internships and her research interest of linguistics. She discovered a research assistant opportunity in the psychology department at Carnegie Mellon University during summer 2012. As part of the application process, Coonce had to submit her transcript, SAT scores, two letters of recommendation, résumé, and a statement about why she wanted the position. When she was offered the position, she didn't give it a second thought; she jumped at the opportunity. (It didn't hurt that she received a stipend, housing, food and travel allowances, and a bus pass.)

In June 2012, Coonce packed up her car and left IPFW to experience psychology in Pittsburgh. For two months, her daily routine included attending meetings, running participants, coding data, and attending an occasional seminar.

Her first plane ride ever! Shaquile Coonce (left) looks more than ready to get out of the plane and skydive for the first time. She loved skydiving and "would do it again in a second," but wants to spend time continuing to travel to new places first.

She was typically off at 5 p.m., which left plenty of time to explore the city with the other research assistants.

What did Coonce gain from her time at Carnegie Mellon? "I lived in a beautiful city and obtained experience in my field at a well-known university. There are also a lot of great people who have continued to mentor me even a year after my internship. Plus, I gained lifetime friends from all over the country that I get to visit."

What did Coonce gain from her time at IPFW? "I got to see science first-hand by being involved in the problem-solving process, learning how to use new programs, and analyzing data. I was able to develop my own research ideas. The research experiences at IPFW helped me to grow as a person; I developed leadership and speaking skills, which I will be able to apply to my future career."

Although Coonce ultimately decided that she did not want to pursue the study of linguistics as a career, her varied research experiences have provided her with a unique platform from which to jump off in many career directions. We are eager to see where she will land next!

Students, want to experience the psychology undergraduate element to the extreme? Check out "Opportunities for Students" on the Psychology Department webpage at ipfw.edu/departments/coas/depts/psychology/opportunities

Why shouldn't these students be smiling?



After all, they are all now IPFW alumni! Sherie Noble, Psychology Professor Jeannie DiClementi, Mari Love, Ashley Kaufman, Mary Jackson, Seth Kirby, Heather Hicks, and Crystal Houlton are all lined up and ready to walk for the May 15, 2013 Commencement ceremony. Congrats to each of our 75 graduates from the 2012–13 school year!

Keep in touch!

Department of Psychology - Alumni Contact Details

Name: _____

Previous Name (if used at IPFW): _____

Degree: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Contact: Email Mail Either

Personal and Professional News *(please print):*

Return to: Department of Psychology
 IPFW
 2101 East Coliseum Boulevard
 Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499

Or Email: petersej@ipfw.edu

News from Our Alumni

Amanda Austin (B.A. '07) completed a Ph.D. in behavior analysis with specializations in behavioral pharmacology and behavioral neuroscience from Western Michigan University in November 2012. Her dissertation topic was *Effects of D-Galactose Treatment and Moderate Exercise on Spatial Memory in Rats*. She credits IPFW psychology faculty members as being an integral part to her success in graduate school.

Tyler Borsa (B.A. '12) began his graduate studies in the marriage and family counselor education program at IPFW in fall 2012. Tyler also has a graduate assistantship with Jeannie DiClementi, Psy.D., in the psychology department. He is co-coordinator of the student task force for Project COMPASS (COMMunity Partners Against Student Suicide), of which DiClementi is principal investigator.

Alyssa Cook (B.A. '13) is thrilled to be working as a pediatric neuropsychology technician with IU Health Physicians at the Neuroscience Center in downtown Indianapolis. She plans to pursue graduate school and is thankful that her direct supervisors are just as excited about her future plans.

Kayla Crance (B.A. '11) has moved to Los Angeles and is focusing on utilizing her other IPFW degree, a B.A. in theatre, to pursue film and television acting. Her most noteworthy appearance so far is as a featured background actress, a flight attendant, in the season 9 premiere of the television show *Grey's Anatomy*. She recently earned her Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) union eligibility and is working on getting her SAG-AFTRA card.

Stephanie Daugherty-Dennis (B.A. '07) completed the master's of social work program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in May 2011. She then relocated to Vermont to work at the White River Junction VA Medical Center, where she is a social worker on the homeless team within the mental health department.

Jennifer Green (B.A. '06) completed the Shenandoah University physician assistant program in December 2012 and was awarded a Master of Science in physician assistant studies. She is currently working as a physician assistant with the Adult Hospitalist program at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Mich.

Stephanie Lochbihler (B.A. '12) has completed her first year as a student in the social psychology Ph.D. program at Indiana University. She was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship, which provides a three-year annual stipend along with cost of education allowance for tuition and fees, and additional monies for travel and research equipment. Her application was based upon her IPFW honor's thesis and follow-up studies she plans to conduct at IU.

Jessica Neuenschwander (B.A. '07) has returned to IPFW and is now employed as the publications assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Jenna (Harmon) Sandlund (B.A. '09) graduated in August 2011 with a Master of Science in Education in school psychology; completed her full-time internship as an intern school psychologist in May 2013; and graduated in June 2013 with an education specialist degree in school psychology from

the University of Dayton. She has accepted a full-time school psychologist position. She and her husband, Tim, have started a social good company, in which purchases of vitamins provide children in third world countries with life-saving nutrients.

Jenifer Schutte (B.A. '03) received a Psy.D. from the Adler School of Professional Psychology in December 2012. She passed the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology in September 2013 and is licensed in the state of Indiana as a psychologist. Schutte is currently accumulating postdoc hours at Georgia State University's Counseling and Testing Center, where she is getting excellent experience with a diverse student body. After she finishes accumulating hours, she will apply for endorsement as a Health Service Provider in Psychology in Indiana in July 2014.

Julie Stills (B.A. '12) began her graduate studies in the school counseling program at IPFW in summer 2013. Julie was a work-study student during 2011–12 for the psychology department and we are excited that she is back working with us again, but this time as our part-time advisor.

Jenna Wilder (B.A. '10) graduated in May with a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling from the University of St. Francis. While attending grad school, she also worked full-time as a probation coordinator at Otis R. Bowen Center.

Curiosity is a Wonderful Thing

Curiosity Results in Student, Alum, and Faculty Collaboration

Curious as to how one of her former teaching assistants was doing in graduate school, Michelle Drouin, associate professor of psychology, sent off an email. Ryan Boyd (B.A. '10), a student in the social/personality psychology Ph.D. program at the University of Texas at Austin, was delighted to hear from Drouin. They continued to keep in correspondence, and as a result, a wonderful thing happened.

In September 2012, Drouin and student research assistant Shaquile Counce were working on research that involved analyzing conversations between two individuals. They needed to manually go into each transcript and parse out the text for separate speakers. Drouin corresponded with Boyd about how extremely time-consuming and laborious it was to prepare text for analysis. Drouin (faculty) then had Counce (student) contact Boyd (alum) to determine if there was a way to decrease the time spent on analyzing text. Boyd was able to deliver a solution the very next day. "I woke up early the next morning and hammered out a little piece of software that could be used to split text files by speaker tags so that each speaker could be analyzed separately." Drouin commented, "Ryan saved us hours and hours of work with his 'little piece of software.' He is a genius who marries his knowledge of programming with his psychological expertise."

How was Boyd able to create the software so quickly? Besides wanting to help out his former professor, the research topic happened to be something that interested him. "When you get into researching something that really draws you in like a good story or game, you find yourself spending your free time working because you're so interested in the work itself. It's no different than having a hard time putting down a good book or walking away from an engrossing hobby."

Curiosity Keeps Alum Moving at Full Throttle

Due to his curious nature, Boyd, who first developed his interest in research as an undergraduate research assistant with Craig Hill, professor of psychology, finds that it is not easy to walk away from his many interests. He was introduced to the concept of language analysis when he first arrived at North Dakota State University, where he earned an M.S. in social/health psychology. "I really latched onto it and ran with it. Like any type of work, I think that it's important to find the things that you find interesting and really go after it at full throttle."

Boyd describes his primary research interest as "psycholinguistics blended with social personality." As a result of this interest and "just tinkering around" during his free time, he built from scratch his own freely available text analysis software suite, RIOT Scan, because the current software was just not meeting his needs. His software is now being used in more than 20 countries.

It is this blend of curiosity and ambition that has resulted in quite an impressive list of accomplishments for Boyd:

- ▼ Published five articles in peer-reviewed psychological journals, including two for which he was first author on the topics of implicit motives and social personality
- ▼ Authored multiple software tools to aid in various statistical analyses for SAS and R platforms
- ▼ Served as reviewing editor and technical development editor on two books pertaining to learning stats and programming
- ▼ Consulted for two software firms and a multinational law firm

This isn't even a complete list. Plus, he has numerous software and research projects currently underway. Not bad, when you consider that Boyd referred to his decision to become a psychology major as "a bit of throwing a dart at the board." He especially credits the "superb instruction" that he had in his IPFW psychology courses as drawing him even further into the field.

Boyd is only about half-way done with his Ph.D., yet he has already begun to make contributions to the field of psychology. Drouin, who has benefitted from this first-hand, says, "I expect Ryan to be a leader in the field of psychology." We're curious as to what will happen next for Boyd!

Alumni, we're also curious as to what's happening in your life. Let us know, by completing the "Keep in Touch" section on page 3 or email petersej@ipfw.edu.



2012–13 Psychology Awards

Outstanding Senior in Psychology

This award encompasses outstanding academic performance as well as involvement in department/campus/community service and in research or clinical applications.

Amanda Bissell (1) was honored for her roles as a teaching assistant and research assistant. Particularly impressive is the work she has done to develop and conduct an honors thesis on the impact of stereotype threat on gender differences in math performance. She plans to continue her studies in psychology by attending a Ph.D. program in social psychology.



William James Award

This award is given to a graduating senior who has shown special initiative, participation, and/or accomplishments in the classroom, with research, or application. The award is named after the eminent psychologist/philosopher, William James.

Shaquile Coonce (2) demonstrated initiative in the classroom as an exceptional student and in the lab as an excellent researcher. She also participated in an internship in linguistic research at Carnegie Mellon University. (See article on page 2.) She is finishing an independent research project on language style and considering her career options.



Senior Excellence in Psychology

This award honors students who have shown academic excellence as well as involvement in either the campus or the community.

Erin Murphy (3) excelled not only in the classroom and as a research assistant, but also on the basketball court as a student-athlete. She will attend the University of Indianapolis to earn a master's in clinical psychology.

Rhea Proctor (4) was honored for her excellent work in the classroom and in the research lab and also as a student-athlete on the soccer team. She will attend Ohio University to earn a doctorate of physical therapy.

Janae Webb (5) received the Senior Scholarship last year, and her excellent performance is again being recognized. Her contributions as a student and research assistant have been exceptional. She will attend IPFW to earn a master's in marriage and family therapy.

Senior Scholarship

This award is given to psychology majors for use in the senior year. It goes to students who demonstrate both academic excellence and involvement outside the classroom in research or application.

Jennifer Dumford is a double major in English and psychology. She has demonstrated excellence in academics and dedication to her research assistant positions.

Elizabeth Phillips was chosen for this scholarship because of her outstanding classroom work, commitment as a teaching assistant, and strong record of research presentations.

Our Students Rock at Research: Student Poster Presentations during 2012–13

Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience —Oct. 13–17, 2012, New Orleans

Impaired Spatial Learning in Otoconia-Deficient Mice
—**Seth Kirby** and Ryan Yoder

Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association—May 1–3, 2013, Chicago

A Person X Situation Study of Intergroup Aggression
—Jay Jackson, **Lucas Miller**, and **Zachary Roth**

Are Parents' Gender-Related Interests and Attitudes Associated with their Children's Gender-Related Interests?
—Judith E. Owen Blakemore, **Elizabeth Phillips**, **Heather Hicks**, and **Manaal Sajid**

Facebook Friends Lists: Threats to Current Romantic Relationships?
—Michelle Drouin, Daniel Miller, **Michelle Smith**, **Alyssa Wilson**, **Ashley McMahon**, and **Jared Sell**

Head Direction Signal Degradation Contributes to Navigation Impairments
—**Seth Kirby**, **Ryan Harvey**, and Ryan Yoder

IM Me! Convenient, but Constructive?
—**Shaquile Coonce** (Michelle Drouin, faculty sponsor)

Male and Female Mice Show Similar Navigation Performance in Darkness
—**Elizabeth Goebel** and Ryan Yoder

We are so proud of the 13 psychology students who presented their research posters at the 16th Annual IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium on April 12, 2013. Faculty volunteers judged more than 54 participants' posters and awarded prizes. Elizabeth Tobin won third prize for her poster, "Sexting: A New Route to Sexual Coercion?" Participants pictured (from left to right): Tobin, Audrey James, Ashlin Long, Amanda Bissell, Sarah Brockman, Elizabeth Phillips, Zachary Roth, and Lucas Miller. Participants not pictured: Elizabeth Goebel, Ryan Harvey, Heather Hicks, Seth Kirby, and Manaal Sajid.

Sex Differences in Visually-Induced Motion Sickness: Role of Handedness
—Carol Lawton, **Shaquile Coonce**, **Ashlin Long**, **Amanda Bissell**, and **Elizabeth Phillips**

Sexism and Partner Violence: The Role of Attachment and Attitudes
—Jody Ross, **Amanda Zelt**, **Rachel Zachar**, **Kirstie Barbier**, and **Erin Murphy**

Sexting: A New Route to Sexual Coercion?
—**Elizabeth Tobin** (Michelle Drouin, faculty sponsor)

Sexual Motivation and Heterosexual Gender Differences in Category Specific Arousal
—Craig Hill and **Chris Gunderson**

Unwanted but Consensual Sexting: Prevalence and Relations with Attachment
—Michelle Drouin, **Elizabeth Tobin**, **Shaquile Coonce**, **Janae Webb**, and **Kara Wygant**

When Multicultural Activities Backfire: The Case of "Archie Bunker's Neighborhood" and System Justification
—Daniel Miller, **Elizabeth Tobin**, **Zachary Roth**, **Mary Jackson**, and **Sherie Noble**



The Professor and the Research Assistant: A Give and Take Relationship

During the fall and spring semesters of 2012–13, Jay Jackson, Ph.D., conducted four studies on positive and negative intergroup relations in which approximately 800 research subjects participated. That's a lot of research—and a lot of time! However, Jackson did not do it all alone, and admits he couldn't do it without the help from his research assistants (RAs).

"RAs play a critical role in the research process and without their contributions, scientific progress would slow down," states Jackson. Zachary Roth, who was a research assistant for Jackson for several semesters, agrees. "RAs are necessary cogs in the machine that make psychological research possible. There are so many tasks in any research project that it would be nearly impossible for one person to do it all."

So what might these tasks include? According to Jackson, RAs might prepare stimulus materials, build experiments, run sessions, organize forms and surveys, and enter data. Jackson also seeks and values input from his RAs. "RAs often offer suggestions that are helpful or ask thoughtful questions that stimulate previously unaddressed issues." Jackson expects his RAs to be responsible, reliable, diligent, and organized. "They are to go above and beyond the minimal requirements."

If this sounds like a lot of "give" from the RAs, it is. Yet, Roth believes there is also a lot of "take" from the RAs. "My most rewarding experience at IPFW has been working as an RA. I was able to get hands-on experience in the experimental process and gain a more in-depth understanding of psychological theory." And that is exactly what Jackson tries to "give" to each of his RAs. He wants them to have experience with each stage of the research process: development of theory-driven hypotheses, generation of stimulus materials and measures, drafting of experimental scripts, pilot tests,



A meeting of the minds is a common occurrence in Professor Jay Jackson's Neff 369C lab. (Pictured: 2012–13 Research Assistants Audrey James, Sherie Noble, Zachary Roth, and Lucas Miller with Professor Jay Jackson)

collection of data, analysis of the data, and dissemination of results.

Jackson describes the first project he assigned to Roth as a positive experience. "The first project I asked him to work on was a study of the stereotype consistency effect, which refers to the finding that people tend to remember information that is consistent with a stereotype better than information that is inconsistent. For example, most people will better recall that 'Sue, the librarian, was quiet' than 'Sue, the librarian, was loud.' The project that Zach assisted with looked at whether people would be more likely to remember negative traits associated with a rival outgroup member and positive traits associated with an ingroup member, than to remember positive traits linked to an outgroup member or negative traits to an ingroup member."

After giving Zach the basic idea for the research, he went right to work. On his own initiative Zach developed a computer program that had participants complete a series of tasks that were used to classify the participants into one of two groups: 'synthetic' or 'analytic' perceivers. Then, the participants were asked to learn about the positive and negative traits of a target individual, who belonged either to the same group as themselves (an ingroup member) or to the other group (an outgroup member). "Zach worked hard and the final program was impressive! After we finalized the experiment, he ran pilot tests, tweaked the program, and ran all the actual sessions for the study. Then, we analyzed the data. Unfortunately, the results were inconclusive."

Jackson and Roth modified the procedures and tried again, and finally a third study yielded favorable results. Jackson highly praises Roth for turning his initial disappointment into a learning experience. Roth admits that he was discouraged. "However, after I looked back at the work I had done, I realized that I had learned a lot! I had gained a lot of skills and knowledge about constructing and running an experiment that I wouldn't have otherwise gained." The experience also reinforced Roth's persistence and analysis of unexpected results.

Jackson also "gives" his RAs opportunities to discuss potential career paths. "I want them to be able to make an informed decision as to what career path they want to pursue." Jackson especially believes that being an RA in his lab is excellent preparation for any research-oriented graduate school program. "My RAs will sharpen their critical thinking skills, learn a number of specialized software packages, learn how to think about each step of the research process, and many will co-author a presentation at a local, regional, or national conference."

Roth made other interesting discoveries at IPFW. In addition to his work on the stereotype-consistency effect, he worked with fellow RA Lucas Miller on a set of studies examining the determinants of

The Professor and Assistant - continued from previous page

intergroup aggression. They presented their research poster, *Narcissism Moderates the Relationship between Provocation and Intergroup Aggression*, at the 16th Annual IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium in April 2013. Then in May, they traveled to Chicago to present another poster, *A Person X Situation Study of Intergroup Aggression*, at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association.

Roth took full advantage of this career preparation as an RA for Jackson. In fact, Roth, who graduated with a B.A. in psychology in May 2013, says that it was because of his experience as a research assistant at IPFW that he decided to apply to graduate school. He is now working on an M.S. in general experimental psychology at Western Illinois University. "Being an RA provided me with direct experience in a field that I hope to join. I am interested in a career in research and becoming an RA only strengthened that interest." Jackson agrees. "Zach loves research, is intrinsically interested in social psychological issues, motivated to understand the issues scientifically, and eager to make new discoveries."

The professor admits to one other "take" in his relationship with his RA. "Zach's energy, thoughtfulness, diligence, and positive attitude are contagious and have had a positive effect on me. Not only am I more motivated, but interacting with Zach and my other top RAs gives me great optimism about the future of psychology and society in general."

To find out more about what it takes to be an RA, go to ipfw.edu/psychology and click on *Opportunities For Students* and then *Research Opportunities*

It's never too early to start working on your professional goals!



Sophomore psychology major Rae-lynn Foley participates in a mock job interview with David Young, Ph.D., during one of the three professional goals seminars sponsored by the psychology department and IPFW Career Services during spring 2013. The seminars focused on writing a personal statement and cover letter, preparing a résumé, strengthening skills for the interview, and finding a job with a B.A. in psychology. Young, along with Karen Campbell, assistant director of career development, were the featured speakers.

News from Our Faculty

Elaine Blakemore, Ph.D., was selected as a 2013 IPFW Featured Faculty member in recognition of her leadership in research. She presented a talk to the campus community in February 2013 on her research, "If I saw a boy playing with dolls, I would punch him in the nose and call the police": What Children Know and Think About Gender Norms."

Kenneth Bordens, Ph.D., is starting partial retirement this year. He will teach in fall semesters and enjoy time off in the spring.

Jay Jackson, Ph.D., was named an associate editor of the journal *Group Dynamics*. This role involves finding reviewers for manuscripts, considering their feedback, and writing decision letters. Jackson also received a 2013 IPFW Senior Faculty Summer Research Grant for his work on laboratory studies of intergroup aggression.

Ryan Yoder, Ph.D., was awarded a research grant from the Indiana Space Grant Consortium/NASA (\$15,000) for the 2013–14 academic year to model the effects of weightlessness on cognitive functions. This project examines navigation and spatial learning in mice that are unable to detect gravity, and it supports student training in neuroscience techniques.

In addition, the following faculty published or presented their work in 2012: Elaine Blakemore, Ph.D., Kenneth Bordens, Ph.D., Michelle Drouin, Ph.D., Josh Gerow, Ph.D., Jay Jackson, Ph.D., Daren Kaiser, Ph.D., Carol Lawton, Ph.D., Brenda Lundy Jackson, Ph.D., Daniel Miller, Ph.D., Jody Ross, Ph.D., Lesa Rae Vartanian, Ph.D., and Ryan Yoder, Ph.D.

The Professor and Assistant - continued on next page

Psi Chi Outstanding Achievements Recognized in 2012–13: Outstanding Opportunities to Continue in 2013–14

Manaal Sajid became a member of Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology, on April 26, 2012, and wasted no time reaching for opportunities with gusto. In May she was elected secretary and has been working hard ever since, along with President Elizabeth Tobin, Vice President Elizabeth Goebel, and Treasurer Seth Kirby, to make this one of the best student organizations at IPFW. Their efforts resulted in receiving the 2012–13 *IPFW Outstanding Student Organization of the Year Award*.

Carol Lawton, department chair, stated, "Psi Chi has done an outstanding job this past year and their activities have benefited not only the department, but also other organizations on campus and in the community. We are very proud of all of their achievements!" (For a complete list, see *2012–13 Psi Chi Achievements* box.)

Sajid, a senior psychology major, is proud of the achievements too. She credits Psi Chi's success to all of the other officers. "I learned that it is crucial to have positive and upbeat leaders who want to actually make an impact and see change, and that is what Psi Chi had this past year."

Sajid returns as secretary for 2013–14, and is back with almost the same officer team, except Ryan Harvey is now treasurer. Appreciative of the leadership, communication, and teamwork skills she has gained as an officer, Sajid is looking forward to another year of opportunity. She



Manaal Sajid gathers leaves during "Rent a Psi Chi Member" at Professor Ken Bordens' home. During this Psi Chi fundraiser, students provide services at the homes of IPFW faculty and staff in exchange for a donation to the club. Sajid ranks this as one of her favorite Psi Chi activities because it "helped me come out of my shell and be part of something worthwhile." "Rent a Psi Chi Member" will be offered again during 2013–14.

believes that the participation of members and faculty had a huge role in building the momentum of Psi Chi last year, and she wants to see it continue. "Participation of students is key, so we hope to have more people be a part of all the activities. It is the support we need."

Students do not have to be a Psi Chi member to participate in the activities. For more information, "like" IPFW Psi Chi on Facebook or email jenkem01@students.ipfw.edu.

2012-13 Psi Chi Achievements

- ▼ Participated in Walk a Mile in Her Shoes at Headwaters Park to raise funds for the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau rape awareness program
- ▼ Volunteered at IPFW Mental Health Day
- ▼ Participated in the Dance Marathon to raise funds for Stop Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN)
- ▼ Partnered with IPFW OUTspoken by contributing funds to host IPFW Valentine's Day Dance
- ▼ Visited Washington Elementary School to talk to students about going to college and majoring in psychology
- ▼ Presented at IPFW Visit Day for dual-credit psychology students in area high schools
- ▼ Participated in The BIG Event for IPFW
- ▼ Assisted at IPFW Health Fair
- ▼ Obtained funding from IPSPA for travel to the Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting for 22 psychology majors who were co-authors on conference presentations
- ▼ Began Rent a Psi Chi Member fundraiser that performs services at homes of faculty and staff for a donation to the club
- ▼ Assisted with the COMPASS suicide prevention program, collected data on depression assessment, and participated in training for suicide screening
- ▼ Conducted an interests roundtable for psychology students to talk about their psychology-related interests
- ▼ Surveyed psychology professors about their research and provided the findings to Psi Chi members to foster connections between faculty and students
- ▼ Conducted monthly GRE study groups

Big Events Happen at Her Second Home - continued from front page

Tobin decided to do more than just read about prosocial behavior and altruism in her textbooks. In 2012, she made it part of her life by volunteering as a leader for IPFW's The BIG Event, in which she participated in personal development training and then acted as a liaison between the local nonprofit agency, Friends of the Poor, and the event volunteers and committee. As a result of this involvement, she received the Chancellor's Student Community Engagement Award, which annually recognizes a student who best connects the university to the community. "It was an honor to be recognized and I am quite proud of that distinction." Yet, Tobin was very torn about whether or not to apply for The BIG Event again in 2013 since her schedule was already packed. "However, I also felt that I should do it because I loved it so much and learned more about myself in that venture than just about anything else I have done at IPFW. I ended up applying again,

and I am so glad I did since I have learned even more new things about myself!"

Reflecting upon her years at IPFW, Tobin summarizes, "In the six-going-on-seven years that I have been at IPFW, I have grown exponentially. When I was a freshman, honestly I was a mess, but I grew into my own here. I learned that I love to learn. I learned that there were people on this campus that would do anything for me and that I really did have a second home. Our professors genuinely care for the students they teach. They are here because they want to teach students and watch them grow." And how Tobin has grown...and she's not even done yet! She has one more semester at her second home before she plans to go to graduate school, where we're sure she'll keep making big events happen!

Psi Chi Adds 39 New Members

The IPFW Chapter of Psi Chi welcomed 39 new members at the induction ceremony held on April 25, 2013. Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology, selects psychology majors and minors who have met the following minimum criteria:

- ▼ 3.0 cumulative GPA
- ▼ 3.0 psychology GPA
- ▼ 42 credit hours
- ▼ 9 credit hours of psychology courses

Kyle Ackerman	Theresa McHugh
Samantha Balash	Samantha Montgomery
Shelly Balzer	Brandie Morrow
Holly Barnett	Sara Neal
Laura Beckley	Derek Proffit
Shannon Bell	Anna Reese
Tyler Bender	Heather Rosbrugh
Lyla Dean	Zachary C. Roth
Alyssa Eichhorn	Nina Shuler
Stephanie Faor	Natalie Singleton
Gracee Fyfe	Noelle Snyder
Reagan Gonzalez	Sandra Stengel
Danae Gruber	Osmaan Syed
Chris Gunderson	Alexandria Wagner
Allison Haag	Janae Webb
Tabitha Huff	Malcolm White
Audrey James	Alyssa Wilson
Julie Jeszenszky	Rosa Yanez
Shannon Kinsella	Rachel Zachar
Griffin Lee	



Psi Chi President Elizabeth Tobin welcomes senior psychology major Chris Gunderson to Psi Chi.



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

INDIANA UNIVERSITY—PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE
2101 East Coliseum Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805-1499

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT WAYNE, IN
PERMIT NO. 92



Follow the Psychology Department on Twitter @IPFWPsychDept and “like” our page on Facebook, IPFW Psychology Department.



Pizza, Cookies, and Psychology—Ah, Life is Good!

IPFW Collegiate Connection™ and the psychology department, along with program moderator Joshua Gerow, Ph.D., hosted the *Inside Psychology* conference at IPFW on March 20, 2013. More than 200 high school students attended six faculty presentations on the following topics: prejudice and stereotyping (Dan Miller, Ph.D.), lifespan development (Lesa Vartanian, Ph.D.), social psychology (Ken Bordens, Ph.D., pictured), clinical psychology (David Young, Ph.D.), neuroscience (Katie Malanson, Ph.D.), and cognitive psychology (Michael Bendele, Ph.D.). Next, the students interacted with faculty and Psi Chi members during lunch, and then finished the morning off with a campus tour.