Dr. Andy Walters was appointed as NAU’s sole President’s Distinguished Teaching Fellow and named the SBS Teacher of the Year. For both awards, Dr. Walters was recognized for his tremendous commitment to undergraduate students: his outstanding teaching skills, both within the traditional classroom experience as well as service learning supervision (PSY 408c--Fieldwork), and his work as an exemplary mentor to students. His students have achieved numerous awards and achievements under his supervision. Dr. Walters has been identified by NAU Golden Axe recipients as the faculty member who, “provided the most significant impact on academic success,” eight times in the nine years he has been teaching here at NAU. Dr. Walters is truly a gifted teacher and mentor. Congratulations!!!
In April we celebrated the achievement of our outstanding Junior and Senior Psychology majors. Five students earned the “Outstanding Senior Award”: Kirsten Nicole Frey, Samuel Alexander Hickerson, Derek Michael Sirakis, George Brett Velez and Shannon Kimberly Potts. Four students earned our “Outstanding Junior Award”: Louis Herschel Irving, Lauren Nicole Johnson, Victoria Charlotte Mary-Rose Pocknell, and Kaylynne Gray.

The 2014 Edward C. and Mary E. Mills Award was awarded to Kierra Marshay Begay. Ms. Begay is a Psychology major and Navajo Language minor with a cumulative GPA of 3.6. She is the youngest of six children raised on the Navajo reservation, and the only one of the six to attend college. She hopes to become a clinical psychologist with a specialization in art therapy. The 2014 Virginia Blankenship Undergraduate Research Scholarship was awarded to Zachary Klinefelter. Mr. Klinefelter double-majored in Psychology and Spanish with a 3.5 cumulative GPA. He will be presenting three research projects at the 2014 meeting of the American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C. His primary interests are in the area of Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Mr. Klinefelter has also demonstrated a commitment to service, acting as a missionary for two years in low-income communities in Oregon and California. During this time, he organized food drives and served as an employment counselor. Virginia Blankenship (pictured above, third from right, front row) for whom the award was named, presented Zach with his award! The 2014 Vicki Green Psychology Thesis Award was presented to Joseph Barbour to support his thesis entitled “Predictors of Student Veteran Well-Being and Performance.” His work investigates the role that self-concept plays in the academic performance and well-being of veterans. The 2014 Vicki Green Graduate School Travel Award was presented to Aifrica Standing Bear. Ms. Standing Bear will be attending a Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology at the Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas. She hopes, one day, to go into private practice in counseling, serving a diverse client set within a rural environment.
2014-2015 Hooper Undergraduate Research Award Winners

The intent of the highly competitive Hooper Undergraduate Research Award (HURA) is to encourage greater participation of undergraduate students from all disciplines in research, scholarly, and creative activities supervised by a faculty mentor. In 2013, 28 awards were made: Geology (6), Forestry (5), Biological Sciences (3), Environmental Sciences (3), Psychology (2), Physics & Astronomy (2), Mechanical Engineering (2), Cultural & Comparative Studies (2) Ecological Restoration Institute (1), Communications (1), Physical Therapy & Athletic Training (1), and Mathematics & Statistics (1). In 2012, Psychology students received 3 of the 22 awards received.

For 2014 **SIX** psychology majors were awarded HURA awards. Congratulations to these outstanding students and their faculty mentors!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT WINNER</th>
<th>RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE</th>
<th>FACULTY ADVISOR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dylan Barbera</td>
<td>Event related potential correlates of self/other differences.</td>
<td>Dr. C. Chad Woodruff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Burton</td>
<td>Student-professor rapport, perceived autonomy support, and course outcomes.</td>
<td>Dr. Meliksah Demir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taran DePaola</td>
<td>ERD analysis of mirror neuron data Faculty mentor.</td>
<td>Dr. C. Chad Woodruff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaylynne Gray</td>
<td>Developing positive transgender identity: A qualitative study of identity.</td>
<td>Dr. Andy Walters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josiah Timithe Huggins</td>
<td>Academic dishonesty and anonymity as moderated by ethnic identity and susceptibility to stereotype threat</td>
<td>Dr. Nora Dunbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Pocknell</td>
<td>Priming a Behavioral Freeze Response in Humans</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Alban</td>
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The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences had an impressive presence at the 2014 NAU Undergraduate Research Symposium, with the Department of Psychological Sciences playing a particularly important role in that success. Our Department had 102 posters (57% of the SBS total). The College considered 24 posters for special awards and all three prizes were awarded to Psychological Science students. Each display was judged on the ability of the student to explain their project to the judges, including whether the topic and its significance was communicated appropriately and did the study provide adequate background knowledge to make the presentation understandable and outstanding. Projects were rated on "content", "appearance" and “comprehension of presentation.” First place ($500) went to Sara Tackett (Attention Divided: Texting in Different Situations, Dr. Ann Huffman, faculty mentor); Second place ($300) went to Morgan Wachowski (Effects of Substance User Type, Dr. John Houser, faculty mentor); Third place ($200) went to Alexandra Viachos (Beauty vs. Brawn, Dr. Nicole Bies-Hernandez, faculty mentor).
Research Methods (PSY 302w)  
Research Project Award Winners

Congratulations to the students completing PSY 302w (Research Methods in Psychological Science) who worked diligently on their group research projects and presented them at the NAU Undergraduate Symposium. Thanks to faculty (Michael Alban, Steven Barger, Julia Berry, Dana Donohue, Ann Huffman, Haley Orthel, Chad Woodruff) and graduate student judges (Dave Avram, Joe Barbour & Stevie Hodge).

Best Overall Project: **Evoking Emotions: Does Framing a Crime Scenario Affect the Views of the Participants?** by Michelle Chavez, Alexandra Clitso, Kaitlin Fitzgerald & Jill Griffin (Middle: Dr. John Houser)

Most Creative Non-Experimental Methodology: **Social Influence Correlates with High Alcohol Consumption** by Melissa Loring, Chris Winteres, & Sarah Rule

Most Creative Experimental Methodology: **Lies, Camera, Action: Effects of Camera Presence on Lying** by Teara Bruce, Noah Charles, Victoria Lopez & Jenny Pham

Best Discussion Section: Please "Like This: Effects of Facebook Activity on Self-Esteem" by Alex Castillo, Alexis Ford, Sam Huber, & Connor Lane

Strongest Experimental Design: **The Influence of Music on Reading Comprehension Between Introverts & Extroverts** by Ashley Chaffin, Jessica Pusateri, & Kayla Rine

Strongest Non-Experimental Design: **Whatever Helps you Sleep at Night: A Look at Academics, Sleep & Depression in College** by Colten Blair, Sydney Goodman & Grant Satterthwaite

Best Statistical Analysis: **Work It Out: The Relationship Between Exercise and Academics** by Karlie Henning, Lena Hennings, Jessica Uithoven, & Tabitha Vigen

Most Interesting Research Question: **Gender Variance & Perceived Success** by Eion Cashman, Ian Ross, & Maisie Wilson

Most Creative Title: **Where Should I Study? A Mock-Up of Memorization** by Alison Heaton, Zach Levi, & Matthew Sievert

Best Poster Design: **Effects of Idealized Media Images on Self-Esteem & Body Fixation** by Sara Byerrum, Rebecca Graffstrom, Matthew Moroson, & Alexandra Vlachos
102 Symposia Posters! Here are a few!

More Research Methods (PSY 302w)
Research Project Award Winners

Congratulations to all of our outstanding students!

--Continued on next page--
In April, 2014, Professor Steven Barger presented a paper on social relationships and depression at the 72nd annual meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society in San Francisco, CA. This research was a collaboration with faculty at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at the University of Bern in Switzerland. Their research, Social correlates of major depressive disorder and depressive symptoms in Switzerland: Nationally representative cross sectional study now appears in ABMC Public Health, a BioMed Central Journal. The paper is available here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/14/273 and has received the distinction of “highly accessed” a very distinguished honor for the paper.

Background: Dr. Barger spent part of his sabbatical in Bern where he was introduced to the Swiss National Health Survey. This survey provides information regarding health behavior, health needs and health services use for the Swiss population. Dr. Barger studies social and economic determinants of health using US samples and several features of the Swiss data paralleled his interests. For example, the Swiss Health Survey included a variety of social relationship assessments as well as interview and questionnaire measures of major depression and depressive symptoms, respectively. These data provided a novel opportunity to examine how one’s relationship quality and quantity were related to both clinical depressive disorder (i.e., having a major depressive episode within the last 12 months) and subclinical depressive symptomatology (over the last two weeks) in a large representative sample (> 12,000 participants).

Dr. Barger, and his colleagues Jürgen Barth and Nadine Messerli-Bürgy, found that participants who reported being sometimes or very often lonely had a much higher incidence of a recent major depressive episode. In addition, participants perceiving that their support needs were not being met and those who were not living with a romantic partner were also at higher risk. Other social relationship resources, such as having a confidant, seeing friends or family regularly and/or someone to help with daily activities (tangible support) were unrelated to major depression.

In contrast, all of the social relationship characteristics examined, with the exception of living with a romantic partner, were associated with depressive symptoms. That is, people who lacked a confidant, perceived their social support needs were unmet, lacked tangible support and regular contact with friends and family were more likely to have depressive symptoms. Thus, a broader range of social relationship elements were related to depressive symptoms as compared to major depression.

Overall loneliness was the strongest predictor of major depression and depressive symptoms in Switzerland, replicating associations found in nationally representative studies from the US and Australia. In addition, a broad set of markers for relationship quality and quantity were associated with subclinical depression. Thus, when characterizing the types of social relationships that are associated with mental health, it is important to: 1) evaluate a number of social relationship domains; and 2) distinguish between clinical versus subclinical depression.
Participants in the Spring 2014 PSY 408c Fieldwork Experience capstone course and their supervisors/mentors came together for the final event of the semester: The Fieldwork Luncheon. Students gave presentations about their fieldwork site, the work they performed as interns, and memorable aspects of their fieldwork experiences. Dr. Andy Walters is the Fieldwork coordinator. The Department offers its heartfelt congratulations to these students for their outstanding work this semester!


Psychology graduate Daniel F. Enriquez received the Gabriela Mistral Award at the 2014 Hispanic Convocation. As part of his baccalaureate program, Daniel completed an internship (Psychology 408c) with Northland Family Help Center’s Youth Shelter. He was then offered a job as a Family Support Specialist at the Arizona Children’s Association in Yuma, Arizona. Daniel is shown here with Professor Andy Walters, who nominated him for the Mistral Award.
Desiree Sharpe, who received B.S. and M.A. degrees from the Department of Psychology at NAU, has received a Ph.D. from the program in Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Georgia. Dr. Sharpe’s dissertation, “Cognitive Consequences of Maternal Maltreatment in Juvenile Rhesus Monkeys” was completed at Yerkes National Primate Center. Dr. Sharpe’s dissertation research focused on mistreated juvenile monkeys (analogous to 7-8 year old humans) and prefrontal cortex-mediated cognition such as impulsivity, cognitive flexibility, and working memory. Her research indicates that animals who had been neglected were more likely to “give” up on cognitive tasks and animals who had been abused were more likely to make mistakes on a working memory task. Throughout her doctoral program, Desi taught classes in Physiological and Comparative Psychology, Brain, Intelligence, and Creativity (Duke University’s Talent Identification Program), and Research Methods. Desi was supervised in her dissertation work by Irwin Bernstein, Ph.D., and Mar Sanchez, Ph.D. (Emory University and Yerkes National Primate Center). While at NAU, Desiree Sharp worked primarily with Dr. Andy Walters and was also a key student organizer of the Quiet Ego conference in 2005 with Dr. Heidi Wayment.

NAU Department of Psychological Sciences Instructors Julia Berry (left) and Haley Orthel (right) serving as judges at the Undergraduate Symposium. Both are graduates of our masters’ program in General Psychology. Prior to coming to NAU as a full-time instructor, Julia Berry was a tenure-track faculty member at Big Bend Community College. Missing Arizona, she returned to a part-time instructor position at Chandler-Gilbert Community College prior to becoming a full-time instructor at NAU. Julia participated in our exchange program with University of Groningen, Netherlands while a student and worked with Dr. Huffman.

While a graduate student, Haley Orthel worked with Dr. Meliksah Demir on friendship research and has continued that work while serving as an instructor in our department. She’ll be leaving NAU and Flagstaff for a new tenure-track position at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada. We wish her the very best!