

## FACULTY-MENTORED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE A SENIOR to talk with us about research. Sooner is much better than later!

There are many ways to get involved in research. Some faculty members will take volunteers on teams to contribute to their ongoing projects, some will run a mentored PSYC 494 course to structure the work around course credit, some will occasionally have paid research assistant positions to offer, and there may even be other options. If you are interested in gaining additional research experience beyond the required lab courses, talk with your faculty members about your curiosities! This is important for anyone planning to pursue graduate school, especially in psychology and in other social sciences at the doctoral level.

The following brief descriptions of our research interests are provided to give you an idea of our primary topic areas, but many of us will also explore other subjects. If something sounds fascinating, come ask us about it!

### **MARGARET BORKOWSKI (989-964-2131; B151; [mmb@svsu.edu](mailto:mmb@svsu.edu))**

My primary research interests are in the areas of health, behavioral, and developmental psychology. Many of my projects explore sleep and circadian rhythms from developmental, physiological, behavioral, and cultural perspectives. I'm also interested in studying health related behaviors such as diet, exercise, sleep, and stress.

### **MARIE CASSAR (989-964-4779; B156; [mtcassar@svsu.edu](mailto:mtcassar@svsu.edu))**

My interests are in the areas of perception and cognitive psychology. I am interested in questions related to human performance, awareness, attention, decision making and problem solving. These topics are related to basic research questions in cognitive psychology and applied issues related to education and human factors research. I welcome interested students to join my on-going research. I also work with students on their original research projects.

### **LOU COHEN (989-964-4309; B158; [cohen@svsu.edu](mailto:cohen@svsu.edu))**

My major research interests include physiological psychology, Sensation & Perception, and Learning. I am currently working on a research project designed to investigate the effects of color on tactile perception (Dermal Optical Perception) using human subjects. I am also conducting an on-going pioneer study involving unusual optical phenomena.

### **RANJANA DUTTA (989-964-7043; B165; [rdutta@svsu.edu](mailto:rdutta@svsu.edu))**

I am a lifespan developmental and cultural psychologist. I am interested in research pertaining to delay, procrastination, and self-regulation of motivation in young adults and how prior parenting may be related to them. Procrastination is an area of research that is of relevance to many fields of psychology, such as developmental, personality, social, clinical, industrial-organization, school, and educational psychology. My most recent project involved surveys in the U.S. and China. These data are available to develop skills in statistics and quantitative analyses. These are highly valued skills in graduate school as well as in industry. My prior students have gone on to graduate school as well as to work at companies like Quicken Loans and Sears. If you are interested in those topical areas, see me! I am always open to new research ideas. I encourage students to apply the skills learned in labs to research questions that pertain to how young adults prioritize their time to accomplish social, family, academic, and career goals.

### **LARRY HATCHER (989-964-7341; B161; [hatcher@svsu.edu](mailto:hatcher@svsu.edu))**

I am happy to supervise students for senior research in a variety of ways. First, I am happy to help all students with the statistical analysis of their projects, regardless of who is the "official" faculty supervisor of their research. Students are encouraged to discuss their projects with me prior to keying the data (and preferably, prior to running subjects). If you want me to officially supervise you on a research project, I am especially interested in research on attitudes, beliefs, values, and interests.

**JULIE LYNCH (989-964-4351; B157; [jslynch@svsu.edu](mailto:jslynch@svsu.edu))**

My research interests encompass the areas of developmental, cognitive and educational psychology. Generally, my research explores the complex mental processes involved in producing and comprehending language as well as how this knowledge can be applied effectively to educational settings. I am currently conducting research on the cognitive processes involved in writing and the development of college students' writing abilities. Students are welcome to join me in collecting and analyzing data for this project. Students may also have opportunities to ask and answer their own research questions in this area. I also have ongoing research on the development of young children's reading abilities. Students in my lab have been authors of presentations at national and international conferences.

**JEANNE MALMBERG (989-964-2136; B166; [jmalmbe@svsu.edu](mailto:jmalmbe@svsu.edu))**

My research interests are in the fields of cognition, cognitive development, and psycholinguistics. My primary research projects are concerned with language acquisition. I use artificial language and verbal and non-verbal stimuli to examine whether adults, children, and pre-linguistic infants (7 and 8 months) are able to recognize sound patterns when the type of sound has been changed. I am also interested in familiarity/novelty preferences during infancy. Other research I've done concerns children's learning of patterns involving multiple types (actions, objects, and places) of stimuli. Although I have no current projects in intelligence, I am also interested in intelligence, intelligence testing, and the way society has used and misused scientific research in this area. I am willing to work with any student who wants to do research in psycholinguistics, memory and problem solving (particularly developmental aspects) or intelligence.

**TRAVIS PASHAK (989-964-2696; B153; [tjpashak@svsu.edu](mailto:tjpashak@svsu.edu))**

I am generally interested in core topics of clinical psychology, including mental health, assessment, diagnostics, and treatment. Recently, some specific examples of my research topics have included existential concerns (e.g., death anxiety, terror management theory, religiosity/spirituality), resilience/prevention (e.g., positive youth development, developmental assets theory, trauma resilience), and emerging adulthood (e.g., young adulthood transitions, college experiences, risk behaviors). I am also broadly interested in psychotherapy/counseling, structures of psychopathology and distress, survey design, and psychometrics. I lead a small team of students in ongoing research and will routinely seek new members when there are openings. I aim to help students gain experience with the whole research process, including study design, data collection, statistical analyses, and dissemination of findings through conferences and publications. If you're interested, please come chat with me!

**DEBORAH WARD (989-964-4635; B160; [deward@svsu.edu](mailto:deward@svsu.edu))**

My interests are primarily in the fields of social and personality psychology. Broadly, my research program centers on identity-threat, or when a person receives negative feedback related to important aspects of the self (e.g., competence, appearance). In particular, I seek to understand (a) the role of self-esteem in identity-threat and, (b) how aspects of a specific environment may exacerbate or mitigate the effects of identity-threats. I've also conducted research related to romantic relationships, economic inequality, self-regulation, cultural norms, and coping with stressors. I'm always happy to help students become more engaged in research, whether you're looking to assist with an ongoing project or design your own study!

**JOSEPH WEAVER (989-964-2481; B162; [jweaver@svsu.edu](mailto:jweaver@svsu.edu))**

I am currently interested in researching (1) individual differences in emotion regulation, (2) how emotional and cognitive factors influence decision making, and (3) psychosocial factors influencing student performance. My research interests are broader and I enjoy working with students to explore their research interests.