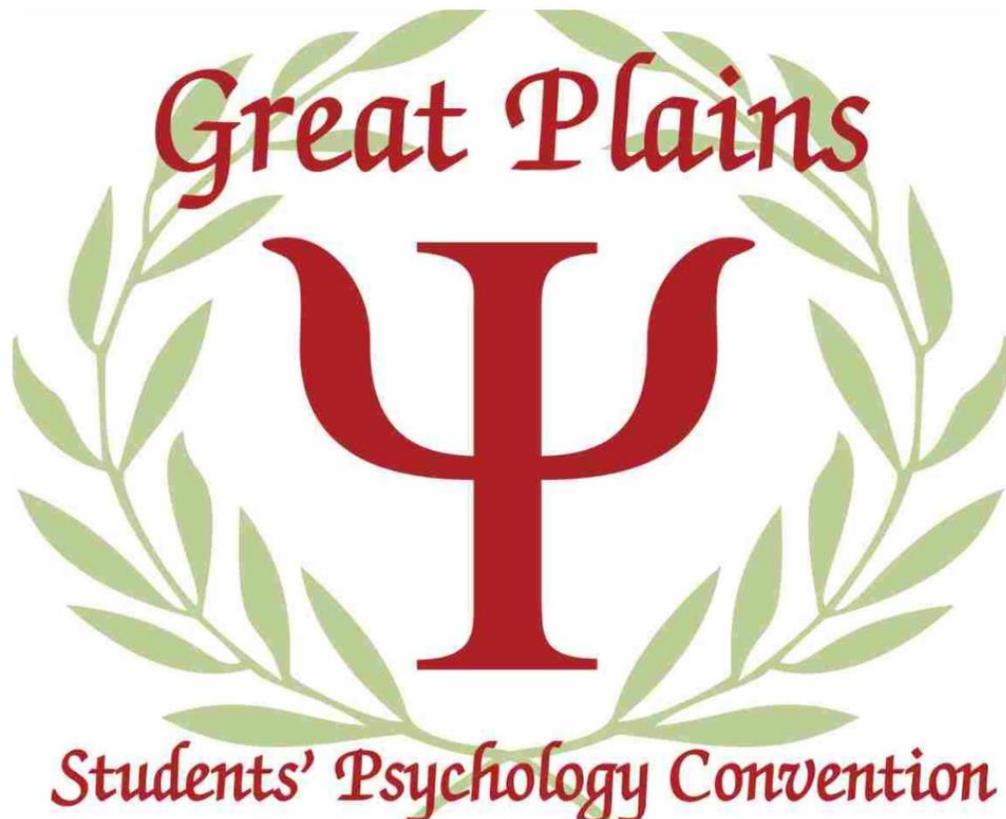


Welcome to the 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
**Great Plains**  
**Students' Psychology Convention**

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March 27-28, 2026  
Hosted by: College of the Ozarks  
100 Opportunity Avenue,  
Point Lookout, MO 65726





# GREAT PLAINS

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## STUDENTS' PSYCHOLOGY CONVENTION

Welcome to College of the Ozarks for the 46th Anniversary of the Great Plains Students' Psychology Convention. We are immensely pleased to have you with us!

In this year's conference, we will enjoy over 70 student presentations, both oral and poster. We have more than 150 Great Plains attendees registered from 19 different institutions. We anticipate a lively and engaging conference!

Registration will begin at 11:00 on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> in the Plaster Business Building entryway (see the map provided below). We will begin Great Plains this year with an address from our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Tim Sisemore, entitled, "Can Religion and Spirituality be Studied Empirically?". Please review this program for more information about parking, room locations, and the conference schedule.

If we can answer any questions or assist you, please stop by the registration desk or ask any of the College of the Ozarks faculty (wearing yellow name badges labeled "faculty") or the student volunteers, who will be available and ready to assist you.

Thank you to our Psi-Chi and Behavioral Science Club students, and other student volunteers, for your help with running the conference. The Great Plains Students' Psychology Convention wishes to thank the College of the Ozarks Associates for their generous gift to help underwrite the conference expenses. Thank you, also, to the Great Plains Behavioral Research Association for providing Friday's refreshments and Saturday's breakfast. Please see the final pages of this program for more information about the Journal of Psychological Inquiry. Thank you to the faculty who have traveled here with students and who sponsor student work. Your investment in these students makes Great Plains possible. *Thank you!*

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Elliot

## PARKING

Parking will be available in the lot indicated on this map on both conference days. The Keynote address will be given in the auditorium of the Plaster Business Building (#40). Afterward, student presentations will begin in the William S. Knight Patriotic Education Center (#45). The Awards Ceremony and lunch buffet will be held in the Keeter Gymnasium (#52).

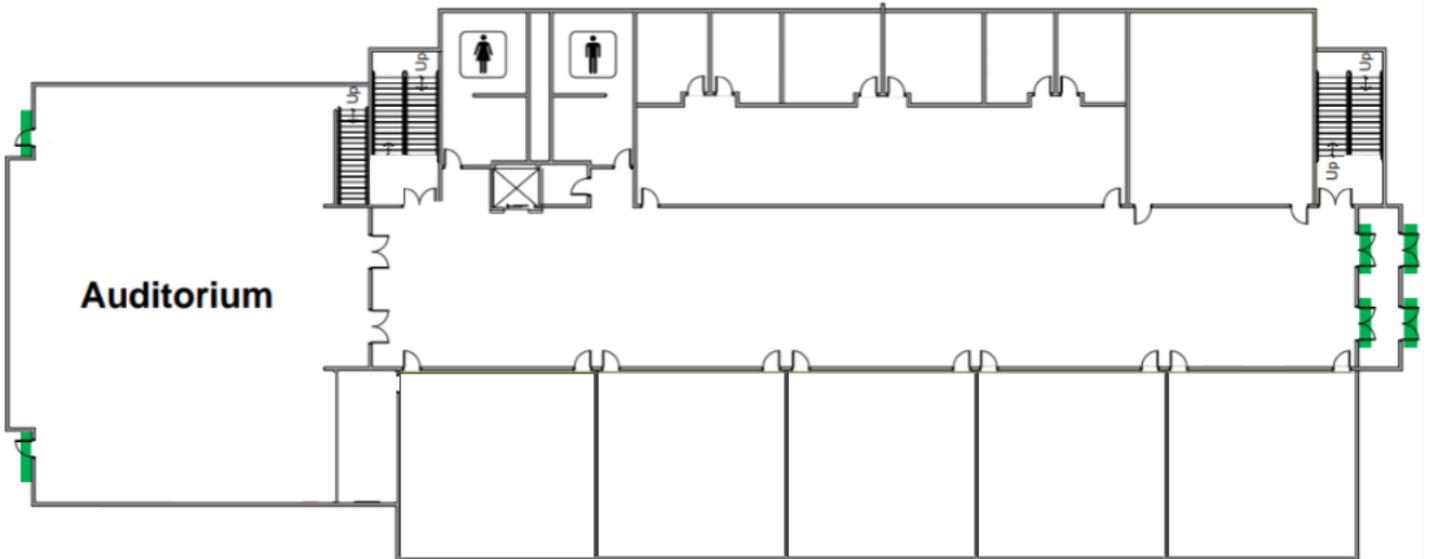
### Campus Buildings

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 13 College Center Cummings Auditorium / HighSchool | 23 Jones Learning Center                        |
| 14 Youngman Agriculture Center/ Elementary School  | 24 Gittinger Christian Ministries               |
| 15 Horticulture Building                           | 25 McDonald Clinic                              |
| 16 Sale Barn                                       | 26 Power Plant                                  |
| 17 Feed Mill                                       | 27 Watson Student Center                        |
| 18 W. Alton Jones Dairy                            | 28 Gittinger Music Center                       |
| 19 Greenhouses                                     | 29 Berger Business Building                     |
| 20 Pfeiffer Science Building                       | 30 McDonald Administration Building             |
| 21 Lyons Memorial Library                          | 31 College Press                                |
| 22 McKibben Center                                 | 32 Post Office                                  |
|  | 33 Fire Department                              |
|  | 34 Hook Activities Center                       |
|  | 35 Hurley Cottage                               |
|  | 36 Dietetics Building                           |
|  | 37 Day Care Center                              |
|  | 38 Smith Cottage                                |
|  | 39 Stained Glass & Candle Shop                  |
|  | 40 Plaster Business Building                    |
|  | 41 Water Treatment Plant                        |
|  | 42 Storage Building                             |
|  | 43 Processing Plant                             |
|  | 44 Construction Building                        |
|  | 45 William S. Knight Patriotic Education Center |
|  | 46 Dee Ann White Engineering Center             |
|  | 47 Transportation Building                      |
|  | 48 Warehouse                                    |
|  | 49 Milo   |
|  | 50 Sheet Metal and Machine Shop                 |
|  | 51 Alumni Laundry                               |
|  | 52 Keeter Athletic Complex                      |
|  | 53 Alumni Center                                |
|  | 54 Doc Good Park and Pavilion                   |
|  | 55 Outdoor Track                                |
|  | 56 Baseball Field                               |
|  | 57 Intramural Field                             |
|  | 58 Storage Building                             |
|  | 59 Paint Shop                                   |
|  | 60 CofO Ministries Activity Center              |
|  | 61 Welcome Center                               |

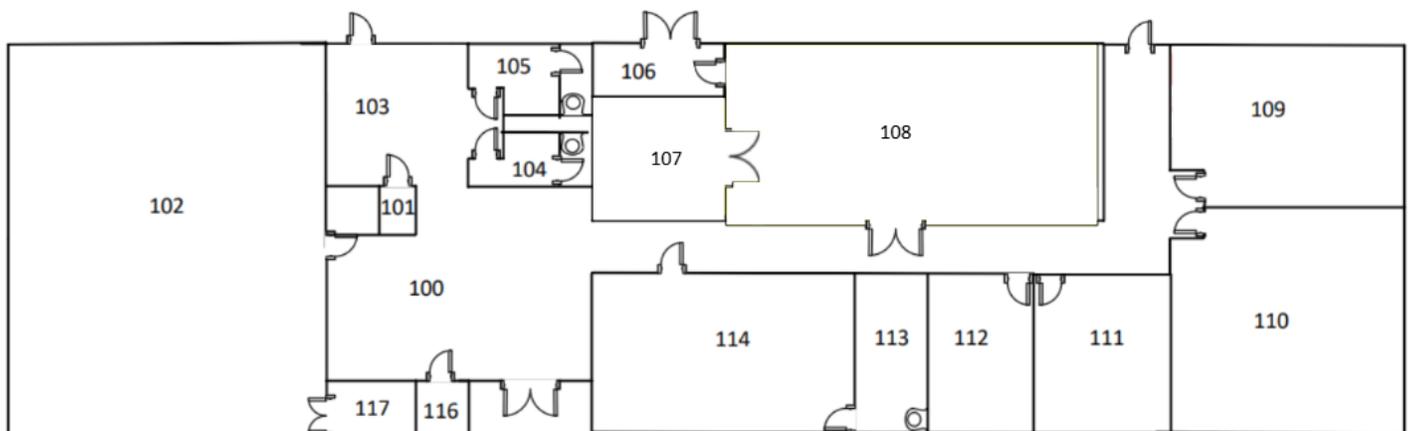


## EVENT LOCATIONS

The Keynote address will be delivered in the Auditorium of the Plaster Business Building. To access the Auditorium, enter the building through the front doors and walk straight forward (pictured below). Registration will also be available just inside the front doors.



Student presentations will be given in the William S. Knight Patriotic Education Center. Oral presentations will be given in rooms 102, 109, and 110. Poster sessions will be in room 108.



## BRIEF CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<b>Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>11:00 – 1:00</b>	Registration for Presenters and Attendees	Main Plaster Foyer
<b>1:30 – 2:30</b>	Keynote Address – Dr. Tim Sisemore	Plaster Auditorium
<b>2:45 – 3:45</b>	Oral Presentations 1-3	Knight Center Room 102, 109, 110
<b>2:45 – 3:45</b>	Poster Sessions A-B	Knight Center Room 108
<b>4:00 – 4:45</b>	Oral Presentations 4-6	Knight Center Room 102, 109, 110
<b>4:00 – 5:00</b>	Poster Session C	Knight Center Room 108
<b>12:00 – 5:00</b>	Graduate Program Booths Available	Knight Center Foyer

<b>Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>7:30 – 8:30</b>	Registration	Knight Center Foyer
<b>8:30 – 9:30</b>	Faculty Meeting	Knight Center Conference Room (Room 111)
<b>10:00 – 11:00</b>	Oral Presentations 7-9	Knight Center Room 102, 109, 110
<b>10:00 – 11:00</b>	Poster Sessions D-E	Knight Center Room 108
<b>11:15 – 12:15</b>	Oral Sessions 10-12	Knight Center Room 102, 109, 110
<b>11:15 – 12:15</b>	Poster Session F	Knight Center Room 108
<b>12:30 – 2:00</b>	Awards Ceremony and Buffet Lunch	The Keeter Gymnasium

## FRIDAY PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

<b>Session 1: Graduate Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 109</b>			
2:45	Samantha Carstens	Missouri State University	Will They Stay or Will They Go? Predicting Retention in First-Year College Students
3:00	Karla G. Ponce-Mérida, Daisy Angel, Keilly G. Ponce-Mérida, Emily K. Robles, and Mahima Saxena	University of Nebraska at Omaha	Exploring the Experiences of Latine First-Generation College Students: A Systematic Review
3:15	Kellen Hendrix	University of Missouri-Columbia	On the Ethics of Inducing False Memories During Research

<b>Session 2: Undergraduate Theoretical Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 102</b>			
2:45	Susie Moran and Kevina King	College of the Ozarks	Sleep Deprivation and Cognitive Function
3:00	Caleb R. Zurbriggen	College of the Ozarks	Sleep, Your Body, and Why You Really Should Get the Recommended Amount of Rest.
3:15	Madeline Keck and Emma Whitlock	College of the Ozarks	The Role of Sleep in Cognitive Function and Behavioral Regulation
3:30	Patrick A. Dunker	College of the Ozarks	Placebo Effect and the Brain

<b>Session 3: Undergraduate Empirical Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 110</b>			
2:45	Couper Kerns	Oklahoma Christian University	The Effects of Partnering Conditions and Perceived Time Constraints on the Purdue Spatial Visualization Test
3:00	Je'Zhon Baker, Sean Madore, and Donald Gerle	Benedictine College	You're Grounded: Does Tactile Grounding Reduce Stress Faster than Other Relaxation Techniques?
3:15	Mariah Farmer and Angela B. Duncan, PhD	Washburn University	College Students' Trust in Nutrition and Scientific Information

<b>Session A: Undergraduate Empirical Posters</b> <b>2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 108</b>			
A	Ava Garaway, Lauren George, Autumn O'Brien, Kylan Stout, and Erica Terrell	Missouri Western State University	Contributions to College Leadership Formation
B	Abegale Denly, Derek Ponce-Gonzalez, and Anika Fairbanks	Southwestern College	Screen Time and How It Influences the Mental Health of Undergraduate Students
C	Brandon Collins and Tori Dahmer	University of Central Missouri	Eye Contact and its Effect on First Impressions
D	Yasmin V. McPoil and Michelle R. P. Durham	Missouri State University	The Effect of Framing on People's Responses to Artificial Intelligence Screeners for Depression
E	Maggie Durham, Myla Cathey, Piper Foreman, Callie Jackson, Reece Troyer, Chris Genseal, Brandon Collins, and Cody Millard	University of Central Missouri	BIOPAC Research Training Experience: Santa Barbara, CA Summer 2025

<b>Session B: Undergraduate Theoretical/Research Proposal Posters</b> <b>2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 108</b>			
F	McKulla Paszkiewicz, Aubrey Agovino, and Adam Runyan	University of Central Missouri	Prayer and Meditation: Differential Impacts on Stress and Stress Recovery?
G	Rachel Deters, Natalie Scott, Noah Carrow, Jayden Echols, Madie Hager, and Dr. Carly Yadon	Missouri State University	It Just Makes Scents: Olfactory Function and Mental Health
H	"Mercedes N. Rodriguez and Hyeyeon Hwang, Ph.D.	University of Central Missouri	Can Traditional Journaling Enhance Your Well-being?
I	Ruby Ochoa and Thomas Skinner	Wichita State University	The Role of Ethnic-Racial Identity and Familial Stigma in the Self-Stigma of Seeking Psychological Help Among Latino Individuals
J	Hadleigh P. Winfrey and Hyeyeon Hwang, Ph.D	University of Central Missouri	Exploring the Impact of Creativeness on Emotional Well-being
K	Arianna Schwellensattl	Lindenwood University	The Relation between Cultural Perspectives and Cognitive Processes

<b>Session 4: Undergraduate Research Proposal Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 110</b>			
4:00	G. Diophante Rives	College of the Ozarks	The Yerkes-Dodson Law as it Relates to College Students
4:15	Emma Willesden	Southwestern College	The Effect of Biopsychological Models on Mock Juror Perceptions of Defendants with Co-Occurring Disorders
4:30	Rorie G. Britton	College of the Ozarks	Independent Versus Interdependent Self-Constraint in Competitive Settings: A Research Proposal
4:45	Mariam Sowers	College of the Ozarks	The Role of Public Self-Perception in Veterans Choosing Whether to Utilize a Service Dogs

<b>Session 5: Undergraduate Theoretical Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 102</b>			
4:00	Brooke Elizabeth Stephens	College of the Ozarks	Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and Eating Disorders
4:15	Zachary M. DeFoe	University of Central Missouri	Beyond Overlap: Unraveling AuDHD
4:30	Makia McRoberts	College of the Ozarks	Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia treatments
4:45	Abigail G. Bull	College of the Ozarks	The Role of Kinesiophobia in Movement Among Older Adults

<b>Session 6: Undergraduate Empirical Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 109</b>			
4:00	Ashley Richardson	Oklahoma Christian University	Teaching Method and Classroom Environment on Learning
4:15	Abigail Skipper and James Knabe	College of the Ozarks	The Effects of Faith-Based Practices on Perceptions of Spiritual Experiences
4:30	Daniela Dixon	Oklahoma Christian University	"The Impact of the Smartphone on Anxiety Levels Among College Students

<b>Session C: Graduate Research Proposal Posters</b> <b>4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 108</b>			
A	Taka Yamaguchi, Juanita Gonzalez, Mariah Harnish, and Tyler Adams	Northeastern State University	Social Categorization and the Composite Face Effect
B	Molly R. Hermann	University of Nebraska at Omaha	Hemispheric Differences in Reading Aloud Monosyllabic Words: A Divided Visual Field Approach to Examining Predictor Effects Across the Left and Right Visual Fields
C	Maya N. Gulliford	Wichita State University	Holding Space in Shifting Times: Assessing Well-being Among BIPOC Emerging Adults in Uncertain Political Context
D	Samuel Paunetto, Ph.D. Student, LMSW, MDiv.	Wichita State University	Flying Blind: The Impact of the Kansas Student Data Privacy Act of 2022 for Youth Behavioral and Prevention Programs
E	Ngoc Vuong, Ruby Ochoa, Lawrence Dao, Daniel Dao, Kelli Tran, Kiara Ochoa, and Rhonda K. Lewis.	Wichita State University	Phone-Free Schools in the Sunflower State: A Quasi-Experiment Assessing Outcomes of Personal Electronic Device Policies

## SATURDAY PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

<b>Session 7: Undergraduate Research Proposal Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 102</b>			
10:00	Adelaide Johnson	College of the Ozarks	The A.I. Generated Cycle of Loneliness
10:15	Angelica Wilson	College of the Ozarks	Why Studying Life Satisfaction in College Students Matters
10:30	Julia Dyck	College of the Ozarks	Dual Attitudes and Their Impact on Marital Satisfaction
10:45	Erin G. Tierney and Emma M. Whitlock	College of the Ozarks	Prizes or Praise? Examining the Overjustification Effect

<b>Session 8: Undergraduate Research Proposal Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 110</b>			
10:15	A. Lynn Cassani	Missouri Western State University	Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and the Professional's Point of View
10:30	Ava Bilton	Lindenwood University	Perceptions of Physical Disabilities and Campus Accessibility: A Research Proposal
10:45	Woody Orr and Cassidy Terry	University of Central Missouri	The Effectiveness of Multimedia Exhibitions on Mental Health Outlooks

<b>Session 9: Undergraduate Empirical Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 109</b>			
10:15	James Knabe and Caelei Stanton	College of the Ozarks	Human Connectivity: Analyzing Social Perception of Personality Through First Impressions
10:30	Ariel Hartshorn, John Paul Bugos, and Christian Lewis	Benedictine College	The Relationship Between Personality Traits and Emotional Response to Inconsistent Feedback
10:45	Rorie G. Britton	College of the Ozarks	The Impact of Personality on Time Allocation in College Students

<b>Session D: Undergraduate Empirical Posters</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 108</b>			
A	Addison Huber and Hyeyeon Hwang, Ph. D.	University of Central Missouri	Know Better, Do Better: A study of Mental Health Literacy
B	Rebecca Tumusifu and David Kreiner, Ph.D.	University of Central Missouri	Memes and Optimal Study Methods
C	Grant P. Howison and Michelle R. P. Durham	Missouri State University	The Effect of Short Form Content on Negative Cognitive Bias
D	Lauren Lynch, Alyssa Cage, Salem Atkinson, Tobias Cervantes, Gabriela Cinelli Da Silva, Dr. Amy Underwood Barton, and Elizabeth Dimmitt	Northwest Missouri State University	The Effect of Art Interventions on Self-Reported Emotional Wellness
E	Kathryn Wilson	Emporia State University	The Role of Coloring on Stress

<b>Session E: Undergraduate Research Proposal Posters</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 108</b>			
F	Sarah B. Elias	Northeastern State University	Gendered Responses to Sadness: How Helpers Choose Autonomy Versus Dependency Support
G	Katelina Harris and Hyeyeon Hwang, Ph. D.	University of Central Missouri	Mindset Over Matter: How Motivation Messaging Shapes Student Learning Outcomes
H	Iteara Christian	University of Central Missouri	Differences in Autobiographical Memory Accuracy and Suggestibility Between Juveniles and Adults
I	Susannah L. A. Ehlert and Avery E. White	University of Central Missouri	"Binge Scrolling: Does it Impact Mood, Executive Function, and Time Perception?"
J	Madyson Wheatley and Hyeyeon Hwang, Ph.D.	University of Central Missouri	Sniffing Out the Answers: Can Scent Improve Test Scores?

<b>Session 10: Undergraduate Research Proposal Oral Presentations</b> <b>William S. Knight Center Room 110</b>			
11:15	Katie Majors, Abigail Winter, and Brooke Rowley	Central Methodist University	The Relationship Between Caffeine Intake, Sleep Quality, and Mental Focus
11:30	Zachary M. DeFoe	University of Central Missouri	A Move to Remember: How Self-Regulatory Movement Shapes Cognitive Control
11:45	Leyton Kelso and Brock Jenkins	Central Methodist University	Seeing Red - Lighting and Its Effect on Performance and Mood

**Session 11: Undergraduate Theoretical Oral Presentations**  
**William S. Knight Center Room 102**

11:15	Grace Bredbenner	College of the Ozarks	Hormone Effects in Fathers
11:30	Emily Blake	College of the Ozarks	How Traumatic Brain Injuries Affect Behavior and Crime
11:45	Harley A. Ferralez	College of the Ozarks	Behind the Scenes: A Literature Review on the Neuroscience and Biological Systems of PTSD
12:00	Cole Gimlin and Bella Kennon	College of the Ozarks	Inside the Criminal Mind: Psychological Criminal Profiling

**Session 12: Undergraduate Empirical Oral Presentations**  
**William S. Knight Center Room 109**

11:15	Alia Lopez, Kennedy Wallin, and Trey Osbon	College of the Ozarks	Differences in Stress And Coping Mechanisms Between Sexes And Across College Experiences
11:30	Javad Dehghan	University of Evansville	Psychological Stress and Anxiety During Adolescence: The Impact of Puberty on Emotional and Behavioral Development in Early Adolescents
11:45	Myla Cathey and Maggie Durham	University of Central Missouri	Self-Regulation and Stress: Correlation between Regulation and Skin Conductance Reactivity

**Session F: Graduate Empirical Posters**  
**11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**  
**William S. Knight Center Room 108**

A	Emma R. Rieser*, Michael J. Cortese*, and Maya M. Khanna^	*University of Nebraska at Omaha, ^Creighton University	Cognitive Predictors of Academic Performance in an Advanced Introduction to Psychology Course
B	Caleb Holcomb, Grace Frey, Brayden Vickers, and Bogdan Kostic	Missouri State University	Introducing Centerlines to Two Bike Paths on a University Campus
C	McKenzie James, Sarah Krogman, Carolyn R. Ahlers-Schmidt, and Kari Harris	Wichita State University	Understanding Practice Intentions and Barriers Following Pediatric Mental Health ECHO Participation
D	Sierra Hecktor and Dr. Joo Young Yang	University of Nebraska at Omaha	Parental and Peer Racial Socialization as Predictors of Color-Blind Racial Attitudes Among White College Students

E	Aceyeah (AJ) Bates	Emporia State University	Influence of Parenting Style Education on Future Parenting Intentions
F	Oluwatamilore Favour Abiri	Emporia State University	Genres of Music and Their Effects on the Stress Levels of College Students

## The Journal of Psychological Inquiry: An undergraduate Research Journal

<https://www.psychinquiry.org/>

The *Journal of Psychological Inquiry* accepts submissions for review on a rolling basis; after writing a manuscript, submit it to JPI by navigating to our online submission portal: [www.editorialmanager.com/jpi](http://www.editorialmanager.com/jpi).

Consider the following when you begin to write your manuscript.

- Manuscripts must have an undergraduate student as the primary author. Manuscripts written by anyone who has already graduated from college will be accepted if the work was completed while the primary author was still an undergraduate student. Graduate students or faculty may be co-authors, if their role was one of teacher or mentor versus equal collaborator.
- Include a sponsoring statement from a faculty supervisor. Faculty sponsors should confirm that they inspected the paper's content, method, adherence to APA style and ethics, grammar, and overall presentation. This sponsoring statement should be uploaded with the manuscript.
- For a manuscript to be considered for publication in JPI, the first author must meet one of the following conditions: a) the primary author has paid a one-time \$30 processing fee, or b) the primary author is or was a student at an institution that has paid an annual \$80 processing fee for unlimited submissions from students who attend that institution.
  - To submit the processing fee, either submit a payment on Venmo.com, or send a check.
    - Venmo payment: submit to @psychinquiry
    - Check: make it payable to the **Great Plains Behavioral Research Association**, and send to the address below:

Ken Sobel  
Department of Psychology and Counseling  
University of Central Arkansas  
201 Donaghey Ave.  
Conway, AR. 72035

- Submit original manuscripts only. Do not submit manuscripts that have been accepted for publication or have been published elsewhere.
- All manuscripts should be formatted in accordance with the latest edition of the APA Publication Manual.
- The reviewing process should normally require 60 days between submitting a manuscript and receiving a reply from the action editor.
- If a manuscript requires revisions, the author or authors are responsible for making the necessary changes and resubmitting the manuscript to the journal. Manuscripts may need to be revised more than once before being accepted for publication.

The *Journal of Psychological Inquiry* publishes each of the following kinds of articles.

- Empirical studies
- Literature reviews
- Historical articles
- Special features I: Evaluating controversial issues.
  - Two students work together on different facets of the same issue.
  - Select a controversial issue relevant to an area of psychology.
  - Examples:
    - Developmental psychology: Does violence in the media have harmful effects on children?
    - Human sexuality: Are sex and gender categorical or continuous variables?
    - Cognitive psychology: Are repressed memories real?
  - Each student addresses the current empirical research and makes a persuasive case for one side of the argument.
- Special features II: Conducting psychological analyses – Dramatic
  - This type of article is a psychological analysis of a television program or movie.
    - Select an episode from a popular, 30-60 minute television program, or a well-known feature-length film (typically between 90 and 120 minutes long).
      - Describe the salient behaviors, activities, and / or interactions of the main characters, and interpret them using psychological concepts and principles.
      - Use appropriate concepts and principles from the research literature.
      - The manuscript should identify the title of the show or film, and for television shows, the name of network and episode.
      - See the APA style guide to find out how to appropriately reference an episode of a television show or movie.
- Special features III: Conducting psychological analyses – Current events
  - This type of article analyzes a current event.
    - Select an event that has garnered widespread coverage in the national media.
    - Analyze the event from one or more areas of psychology.
    - Pay close attention to the people at the center of the event, and to the people who were affected, directly or indirectly, by the event.
      - What were their motivations, expectations, and reactions to the event?
- Special features IV: Teaching techniques
  - The student and faculty mentor should select a teaching technique used by the faculty member that the student found to be particularly helpful in promoting learning.
  - Describe the technique in sufficient detail so other faculty members can replicate the technique in their own teaching.
  - Provide reasons why the student thought the technique worked so well.
  - The faculty member should explain why they developed the technique, and what they hoped to accomplish in terms of learning outcomes.