

2007-2008
LVC PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT FACULTY
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

(June 1, 2007 - May 31, 2008)

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

- **Dr. Heather H. Mitchell**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was the lead author on a paper titled “The Effect of Context on Humor: A constraint-based model of verbal jokes” with her colleagues Arthur C. Graesser and Max M. Louwerse from The University of Memphis. This article will soon appear in *Discourse Processes: A Multidisciplinary Journal*.
- **Dr. Michelle Niculescu**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology, was the lead author a paper titled “Trk: A Neuromodulator of Age-Specific Behavioral Responses to Cocaine in Mine.” She published this article with her colleagues, Dr. Shane Perrine, Jonathon Miller, and Drs. Michelle Ehrlich and Ellen Unterwald, in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.
- **Dr. Michelle Niculescu**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology, co-authored an article titled “Exposure to Taste of Alcohol Elicits Activation of the Mesocorticolimbic Neurocircuitry” with her colleagues Dr. Francesca Filbey, Eric Clause, Amy Audette, Dr. Marie Banich, Dr. Jody Tanabe, Dr. Yiping Du, and Kent Hutchison in the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*.
- **Dr. Michelle Niculescu**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology, co-authored an article titled “The human GABA (A) receptor alpha2 gene moderates the acute effects of alcohol and brain mRNA expression” with her colleagues Dr. Heather Haughey, Dr. Lara Ray, Patrick Finan, Rex Villaneuva, and Dr. Kent Hutchison in the journal *Genes, Brain, and Behavior*..

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Dr. Michael B. Kitchens**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was the lead author on a conference poster (titled “Reappraising social exclusion moderates subsequent self-regulation impairment”) presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology in Albuquerque, NM. His colleague, Dr. Carol Gohm at the University Mississippi was his co-author.
- **Dr. Michael B. Kitchens**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, co-authored a conference poster (titled “In-group/out-group influence on perceptions of negative and positive events”) presented at the 19th Annual Meeting of the Association for Psychological Science in Washington, D. C. His co-authors were his colleagues Kristen VonWaldner and Dr. Carol Gohm from the University of Mississippi and Dr. Grant Corser from the Southern Utah University.
- **Dr. Lou Laguna**, Associate Professor of Psychology, co-authored a poster (titled “The effects of experience and stress on the development of maladaptive coping styles in police officers”) presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. His co-authors, Rasa E. Rupslaukyte, Kyle C. Ward, Ashley C. Linn are students at LVC and members of his research team.

- **Dr. Lou Laguna**, Associate Professor of Psychology, co-authored a poster (titled “Negative stereotypes of police officers: Contradictory findings”) presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. His co-authors, Ashley C. Linn, Rasa E. Rupslaukyte, Kyle C. Ward were are students at LVC and members of his research team.
- **Dr. Lou Laguna**, Associate Professor of Psychology, along with Kyle Ward, a student at LVC, presented a paper (titled “Police authoritarianism”) at the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators.
- **Dr. Lou Manza**, Associate Professor of Psychology, was the lead author on a conference poster (titled “Determinants of paranormal beliefs: An analysis of demographic and personality variables”) presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Boston, MA. His co-authors, Kathy Davis, Doug Arnold, Danielle DeLellis, Jodi Lehman, Heather Przyhocki, Elise DeVere, and Allison Smith, are students at LVC and members of his research team.
- **Dr. Lou Manza**, Associate Professor of Psychology, co-authored a conference poster (titled “Assessing the relationship between academic performance and pseudoscientific beliefs in an upper-level paranormal phenomena course”) presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Boston, MA. The lead author, Amanda Cole, is an LVC student and member of Dr. Manza’s research team. Laura Spurigo, Courtney Lindgren, Becky Schaffer, Allison Smith, and Coni Russo, students at LVC and members of Dr. Manza’s research team, also contributed to this work.
- **Dr. Heather H. Mitchell**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was the lead author on a conference poster (titled “What’s in a joke? Investigating joke aesthetics”) presented at the 2008 Eastern Psychological Association Conference. Her co-authors, Amanda Cole, Kyle Digris, Melissa Kayes, Amanda Knapp, and Matt Stewart, are students at LVC and members of her research team.
- **Dr. Michelle Niculescu**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology, co-authored a conference poster (titled “The effects of caffeine and caffeine withdrawal on learning and memory in planaria.”) presented at The Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience Meeting. The lead author was Rasa Rupslaukyte, an LVC student and member of Dr. Niculescu’s research team.
- **Dr. Michelle Niculescu**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology, co-authored a conference poster (titled, “The role of the CP1 receptor in behavioral and molecular responses to nicotine”) presented at Honors Research Day, University of Colorado at Boulder with Kirstin Hesterberg and Dr. Kent Hutchison. Kirstin Hesterberg was presenting her honors thesis with her mentors, Drs. Niculescu and Hutchison.
- **Dr. Kerrie Smedley**, Associate Professor of Psychology, co-authored a conference poster (titled “An exploration of sex differences in depression: Is depression a reflection of the extreme female brain?”) presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society in Manchester, NH. Her colleagues, James Henrie and Jennifer Leo, were co-authors.
- **Dr. Kerrie Smedley**, Associate Professor of Psychology, co-authored a conference poster (titled “Digit ratio predicts depression scores for females but not males”) presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Evolutionary Psychology Society in Manchester, NH. Her colleagues, Jennifer Leo and James Henrie, were co-authors.

AWARDS / RECOGNITIONS

- *Dr. Lou Manza*, Associate Professor of Psychology, was recognized amongst the 2008 “Empire Who’s Who in America.”
- *McKenzie Walker*, Adjunct Instructor of Psychology, earned her license as a professional counselor.

GRANTS AWARDED

- *Dr. Michael B. Kitchens*, Assistant Professor of Psychology, was awarded a grant by LVC’s Center for Excellence in Teaching to redesign his course,
- *Dr. Michael B. Kitchens*, Assistant Professor of Psychology, submitted a proposal to LVC’s Pleet Research Grant Initiative to study terrorism and fear with his colleagues, Dr. Chris Dolan (Political Science), Dr. Diane Johnson (Political Science), and Dr. John Hinshaw (History) of LVC.

MASS MEDIA

- *Dr. Lou Manza*, Associate Professor of Psychology, was quoted in the article “Tap others to help you get to the finish line” in *The Hartford Courant*. He discussed how supervisors can motivate employees, with my comments drawing an analogy between the motivation needed to compete in a marathon and the desire to complete work-related tasks in an efficient manner.
- *Dr. Lou Manza’s*, Associate Professor of Psychology, letter to the editor (titled “Ghosts? It’s unlikely, based on evidence”) was published in *The Patriot News*.

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

- *Dr. Heather H. Mitchell*, Assistant Professor of Psychology, presented a talk, titled “Taking Humor Seriously: Investigating 7 Mechanisms of Joke Aesthetics,” as part of LVC’s Faculty Colloquium series.
- *Dr. Wayne Schmoyer*, Adjunct Instructor of Psychology, presented four workshops/lectures titled “Advanced Relaxation Techniques,” “The IMAGE Training: Intercepting and Managing Aggressions, A Guided Experience,” “Positive Reinforcement in Real Time” and “Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury: An Introduction.”