**Name:** Rebecca L. Brown

**Institution:** Ursinus College

**Major**: Psychology

**Minor**: Neuroscience

**Graduation Date**: May 2016

**Research experience**: two semesters 4-credit research with Dr. Cathy Chambliss, presentation at Eastern Psychological Conference (March 2015)

**Affiliations**: President of Psi Chi International Honor Society for Psychology at Ursinus

**Future plans**: graduate school for clinical psychology

Q&A

**How did you get involved in research?**

I got involved in research through a course called Experimental Design and Statistical Methods. Part of this course involved designing and conducting a group research project. After collecting data and obtaining interesting results my group decided to take the project a step further and submit our study for undergraduate publication.

 **What led you to this topic?**

The topic of our study was the result of a collaborative effort from all group members. We were originally interested in studying the self-fulfilling prophecy and effects of priming. Throughout the process of brainstorming we were trying to come up with a way to prime subjects to think about themselves either positively or negatively. We eventually decided to employ zodiac personality descriptions as a prime and observe how this impacted behavior.

 **What has the process of working on this research/paper been like for you?**

This process of working on this research paper has been challenging, but very rewarding. It was so fulfilling to see how our ideas came together when we collected data and even more exciting when we obtained significant results.

 **What advice would you offer to other undergraduates interested in conducting research and publishing their work?**

For undergraduates interested in conducting research and publishing their work, my main advice is to keep an open mind. When we were analyzing our data my group discovered a trend that we had not even anticipated. This allowed us to expand our conclusions beyond our original expectations. Maintaining curiosity and an open mind can take your project to the next level.

**Name:** Moira E. Kisch

**Institution:** Ursinus College

**Major**: Psychology, Spanish

**Graduation Date**: May 2016

**Research experience**: Jennifer Stevenson and Catherine Chambliss

**Affiliations**: Deans List, Member of Psi Chi, Psychology Club Treasurer

**Future plans**: Occupational Therapy

Q&A

**How did you get involved in research?**

I first got involved in research during my Experimental Psychology course, where a group of my peers and I formed and completed a research study.

 **What led you to this topic?**

This topic was our adaptation of previous research, by including our unique idea of using horoscope descriptions to prime participants.

 **What has the process of working on this research/paper been like for you?**

The process of working on this paper and research has been a unique experience. It is wonderful to be able to develop an idea and then follow through and complete a whole research study. Additionally, this process has been much easier due to my diligent co-authors; they have made working in a group absolutely wonderful!

 **What advice would you offer to other undergraduates interested in conducting research and publishing their work?**

I would advise other undergraduates to create a unique experiment that interests them. I think that because the topic of this study was so interesting to me and my group members it gave us a certain passion that drove us to be very dedicated to our research.

**Name:** Maria R. Miller

**Institution:** Ursinus College

**Major**: Psychology and Religious Studies

**Graduation Date**: May 2016

**Research experience**: Research with Jennifer Stevenson and Catherine Chambliss

**Affiliations**: Dean’s List, member of Psi Chi Honor Society, member of the Whitians Honor Society

**Future plans**: I plan to get my PhD. In Clinical Psychology

Q&A

**How did you get involved in research?**

Last semester I took the course Experimental Psychology, which allowed for students to create and run a research study during a semester. This is where I became interested in research because it allows for individuals to be creative and study something of interest.

 **What led you to this topic?**

My group picked this topic because we wanted to conduct a research experiment that was different from our other peers. Additionally, Zodiac descriptions and priming are relevant to the community because many people read their Zodiac descriptions, so we wanted to study something that may possibly influence individuals daily.

 **What has the process of working on this research/paper been like for you?**

The process of working on this research and writing the paper has been a great experience because I am improving my writing abilities as well as learning what it is like to actually conduct research. Additionally, working in a group has also been a great experience because doing research is challenging, so dividing the work makes the process more manageable, especially since my group members are hard working.

 **What advice would you offer to other undergraduates interested in conducting research and publishing their work?**

I would tell other undergraduates interested in conducting research and publishing their work that the process is challenging at times, so designing a study that interests them is the most important thing so that doing the work is fun. Additionally, I would pick group members who are as passionate as you are about the study in order for your group dynamic to flow nicely.

**Name:** Nicole M. Pacera

**Institution:** Ursinus College

**Major**: Psychology

**Minor:** Elementary Education

**Graduation Date**: May 2016

**Research experience**: Psychology 210 and Professor led research by Professor Stevenson

Q&A

**How did you get involved in research?**

I got involved with research by taking Psychology 210 class that gave me an opportunity to create my own research project with group members.

 **What led you to this topic?**

I have always been very adamant about reading horoscopes to tell me about my life. For this reason, I wanted to research if horoscopes are just a means of shaping other’s behaviors, or if they are accurate.

 **What has the process of working on this research/paper been like for you?**

This process has been new and difficult, but enlightening. I have learnt so much from this process and just working on research in general.

 **What advice would you offer to other undergraduates interested in conducting research and publishing their work?**

Research is very time consuming and you should be fully invested into your research. You should be prepared to spend a minimum of 8 hours a week working on your research. Also, do not become frustrated if you do not find exactly what you are looking for because you may just find something new and interesting that you did not expect to find!

**Name:** Rebecca M. Perrottet

**Institution:** Ursinus College

**Major**: Psychology

**Graduation Date**: May 2015

**Research experience**: Previous research on Self-Expanding Experiences and Preference for Novelty with Dr. Brant Mattingly

**Affiliations**: Ursinus Peer Advocates, Women’s Rugby, and GSA

Q&A

**How did you get involved in research?**

In our research methods class we had a semester-long project which was to create our own research and after some brainstorming and many months of work, here we are.

 **What led you to this topic?**

Our group was very interested in the effects of priming and how far the power of priming extends (even in the context of somewhat taboo or not commonly acceptable “sciences” such as astrology).

 **What has the process of working on this research/paper been like for you?**

At times it has been difficult; but overall, it has been amazing to see how far our group has taken this central idea and allowed it to blossom into what we have now. It feels wonderful to be working on a project of your own creation and finding interesting results.

 **What advice would you offer to other undergraduates interested in conducting research and publishing their work?**

With these kinds of projects, it is monumentally important to have a group that plays off of each other’s strengths. We have different personalities in this group, but I really believe that we have worked in a very efficient manner together. Additionally the guidance and help of Professor Stevenson has taken us far further than we could have ever hoped.