**Author's Bio Statement (includes Q&A)**

Kami Winship received her B.S. in Psychology, with a minor in Sociology, from the University of Texas at Tyler in May 2015. At the University of Texas at Tyler, she worked as a teaching assistant for Dr. Eric Stocks’ Social Psychology class. In addition, she worked as a research assistant in his Social Emotions and Motivation Laboratory, where she conducted experiments, wrote research papers, and presented findings at academic conferences. She plans to attend graduate school in order to conduct more research in the future.

**Q&A**

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

I was a student in an Advanced Research Methods class and I wanted to conduct an experiment. Dr. Stocks mentored me throughout the process and invited me to be a part of his lab. In his lab, I was able to learn a great deal about the research process and help other students conduct their studies. Also, I had the wonderful opportunity to present research at student conferences.

**What led you to this topic?**

Since beginning my undergraduate career, I have had a strong interest in social psychology. In addition, I really enjoyed my personality theories classes at the university. I developed the hypothesis for this study when I was in my advanced research methods class. We were required to write an either an empirical study or a literature review. While researching studies for this class assignment, I became curious if personality would influence how one perceived other people? What social processes would be at play? I researched my questions and found that there were not any studies on my specific inquiry. After discussing it with Dr. Stocks, we decided this would be a great topic for me to research in his lab.

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

The process of working on this research project has been a remarkable experience. I have learned an enormous amount of information about the research process. After the initial survey of students, we expanded the protocol and ended up conducting it three different times through different mediums. I have learned the benefits and drawbacks of conducting research online, in a classroom, and in a lab. I gained experience running participants through research protocol, submitting research proposals to the IRB, and how a project can grow as you investigate results. What started out as a onetime study for a class, has grown into a research I have been working on for over year.

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

The biggest bit of advice I can offer to undergraduates interested in conducting research would be, do not be afraid. I had several classes taught by Dr. Stocks before I finally became brave enough to ask about his research. I could have gained a lot more experience, if I had only asked sooner. As undergraduates, I believe we sometimes feel as though professors do not need us or have any interest in working with us. While that may be true for some professors, it is definitely not true for all. Never be afraid to ask and put yourself out there. The worst that can happen is they say no or that their lab is currently full. At the very least, you took a chance.