

# First Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

## Abstract & Presentation Information:

**ABSTRACTS (ORAL AND POSTER):** Abstracts (200 word limit, MS Word, Times New Roman, 12 pt, single-spaced, justified) should be submitted via email no later than April 11, 2008 to Nicole Lozano ([SHSUSymposium@gmail.com](mailto:SHSUSymposium@gmail.com)).

*All abstracts MUST be in the above format and include the following at the top:*

**Title of Presentation**  
**Name of Scholar and Name and Title (i.e. Ph.D., Ed.D., M.D., etc) of Mentor(s)**  
**Mentor's Department**  
**Institution**  
**City, State**

The Effects of Knowing a Rape Victim on Empathy and  
Reactions to a Victim of Rape or Robbery  
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Receiving non-empathic reactions following rape disclosure, such as being blamed, has been consistently found to be damaging to victims. However, little research has examined why some individuals respond empathically to victims whereas others do not, or if victims of other crimes are equally vulnerable to receiving non-empathic responses. This study will assess if having been disclosed to by a rape victim in the past affects individuals' responses to a crime victim. In addition, whether individuals respond more empathically to victims of crimes other than rape will be evaluated. Finally, the role of general empathy as a predictor of being a recipient of a rape victim's disclosure and disclosure reactions will be evaluated. Female undergraduates will be screened for general empathy and whether they have been the recipient of a rape victim's disclosure. One half of study participants will have received a rape victim's disclosure in the past and one half will have not. Participants will be assigned to listen to an audiotape portraying a hypothetical victim who was raped or robbed and will rate their empathy toward the victim. Preliminary data suggest that non-empathic responses are more common in response to rape victims.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:** The time allotted for each oral presentation is 20 minutes (15-presentation, 5-questions) with 5 minutes between presentations. The following presentation equipment will be provided: screens, LCD projectors, PowerPoint software, and IBM computers. If Apple equipment is needed, you must provide the equipment needed to use our projectors. It is **STRONGLY** advised that all presenters use the equipment provided. Please contact Nicole Lozano ([SHSUSymposium@gmail.com](mailto:SHSUSymposium@gmail.com)) (936)-294-1477 for more information.

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS:** Presentations will take place on Saturday from 11:00p.m. until 1:00pm. Your poster may be displayed all day but must be in place no later than 10:00 a.m. All posters will be displayed on the provided standing cork boards. Push pins will be provided. **Please make sure your poster is no wider than 46 inches and no longer than 44 inches.**