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## Sociology & Anthropology News

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# M.A.S.S. Students Present Research

October 22, 2014



M.A.S.S. graduate students Shanna Felix, Justin Hoyle, and Melanie Hart presented their research at the Southern Criminal Justice Association conference in Clearwater, Florida (September 17-21). Shanna Felix, along with Drs. Christina Policastro, Laura Agnich, and Laurie Gould presented a paper titled, "Sex, sexual orientation, and self control: An examination of psychological victimization and dating violence among university students." The authors found that low self-control, sexual orientation, Greek affiliation, and alcohol use were associated with psychological dating violence.

Justin Hoyle working with Dr. Bryan Miller and Dr. John Stogner of the UNC-Charlotte presented his paper "Synthetic Highs: Exploring Predictors of Synthetic Cannabinoid Use in a College Sample," which looked at competing criminological theories and their ability to predict synthetic marijuana use finding that social learning theory provides a better explanation than strain and low self control.

Finally, Melanie Hart presented her paper, "Mass School Shootings: Predicting the Usage of Firearms in Acts of School Violence," and found that white perpetrators and those who target high schools and colleges are more likely to use firearms to carry out acts of mass violence in schools.

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# M.A.S.S. Student Presents Research

*October 22, 2014*



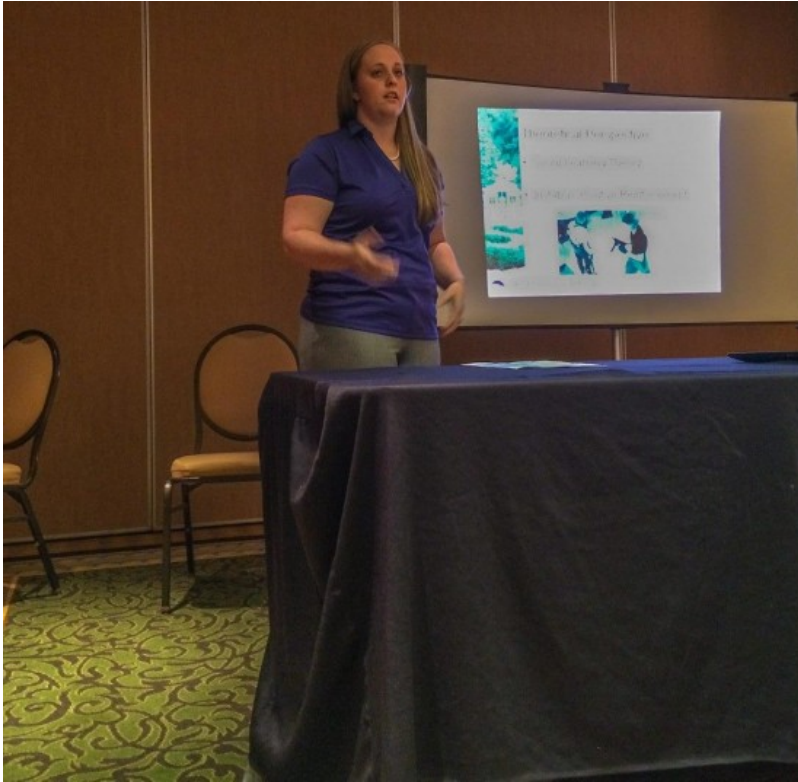
Justin Hoyle, working with Dr. Bryan Miller of Georgia Southern University and Dr. John Stogner of UNC-Charlotte, presented “Synthetic Highs: Exploring Predictors of Synthetic Cannabinoid Use in a College Sample” at the 2014 SCJA conference in Clearwater, FL. This piece examines the ability of competing criminological theories to predict synthetic marijuana use.

During the conference, Hoyle was able to meet experts in his field and establish connections with those who share similar research interests. Hoyle also gained valuable experience presenting this work to criminologists and criminal justice professionals.

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# M.A.S.S. Student Presents Research

October 22, 2014



Last Month Melanie Hart presented her research at the Southern Criminal Justice Association conference.

Upon her return she said of the experience:

*"In September, I attended the Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Conference of 2014 in Clearwater, Florida to present on my thesis paper on the use of Firearms in Mass School Violence Events. As this was my third conference, and second presentation, I enjoyed the experience and chance to further my presentation skills in front of esteemed academics and fellow students. The fellow academics that I met and a chance to expand my knowledge on topics that were presented. I am excited to see how my networking will continue to grow as I further my education and return throughout the years."*

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