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PRESS RELEASE

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Top student research awards announced at 2011 Conference

On November 20, 2011, over 140 students and faculty researchers from over 20 institutions as far as California and Moscow converged on Touro College's Lander College for Women in Manhattan for the 23rd Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research. This Conference included 41 scientific presentations by 59 researchers, selected by a review committee of faculty from area colleges.

In concert with the APA Board of Educational Affairs and Division of International Psychology, this year's conference offered several international sessions—symposia, workshops, a Skype dialog with Tel Aviv, and three guests of honor from Russia and the United Nations. Thanks to Executive Officer **Alan Kraut** of the Association for Psychological Science, over 40 participants received a complimentary one-year trial membership in APS.

The six distinguished Guests of Honor who joined the gala reception for student researchers were Drs. **Robert V. Levine** of California State University-Fresno, **Evgeny Osin** and **Vladimir Stroh** of the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, author **Dinesh Sharma**, **Patrick L. Sciarrata** of the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, **Richard H. Wexler** of Personnel Systems, Inc.

Since one aim of this conference is to encourage and recognize excellence in behavioral research by students, the conference presents five annual awards to outstanding student researchers. (1) The Conference's 2011 Scarpetta Award for outstanding undergraduate research was presented to **Eric Gottlieb and Ezra Cowan** of Lander College. (2) **Steven Puritinsky** of Teachers College and **Ariel Kor** of The Interdisciplinary Center received the 2011 Toth Award for outstanding research by a graduate student. (3) **Joseph Reich** of Lander College of Arts & Sciences received the 2011 Guzewicz Award for outstanding cross-cultural research. (4) **Steven Pirutinsky** of Teachers College, **David H. Rosmarin** of McLean Hospital, and **Cheryl L. Holt** of the University of Maryland received the 2011 Lander Award for outstanding behavioral research related to Judaism. (5) **Carlos R. Zevallos** of Rochester Medical Center received the Parker Award for outstanding neuropsychology research.

All awards were determined by an independent Awards Committee of seven faculty, chaired by Professor **Arthur P. Sullivan** of Touro College. These five awards are named for five distinguished behavioral scientists: (1) Professor **Olga M. Scarpetta, PhD** (1938-1992), a gifted social scientist and teacher at John Jay College, who co-founded the Greater New York Conference in 1989. (2) **Arpad Vincent Toth, MS** (1948-1995), a beloved scientist at Cornell Medical College, who was widely admired for his mentorship of students. (3) **Tony D. Guzewicz, MA** (1954-2002), a gifted cross-cultural researcher and former U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Japan. (4) **Rolland S. Parker, PhD** (1920-2010), a gifted New York City neuropsychologist, author, and philanthropist. (5) **Rabbi Bernard Lander, PhD** (1915-2010), the legendary founder of Touro College.

ATOP Meaningfulworld interns and officers presented a panel on: International Mentoring, chaired by Dr. Ani Kalayjian, and presenters were: Jennifer De Mucci, VP of ATOP who presented on her experiences of joining the ATOP mission to Armenia, as well as the Youth Empowerment Program, Georgian Sofletea, Intern of ATOP who presented on her experiences from ATOP MW Mission to Romania as well as co-authoring a chapter on a case study of a child soldier in Sierra Leone, and Rebecca Schaffner, ATOP UN intern who presented her experiences of working at the UN, as well as writing press releases, joining high level meetings at the UN.

The Conference Committee for this 23rd Conference was chaired by Dr. **Rivka Bertisch Meir**. It is endorsed by eight professional organizations that promote student research. This year's conference

was hosted by Touro Lander College for Women, with great thanks to its hosts for their gracious efforts: **Dean Louis H. Primavera, Dr. Dominick Fortugno, Karen Magee, and Nahshon.** Images of the conference can be viewed at www.picasaweb.com/takoosh Direct any inquiries to Conference Director Harold Takooshian of Fordham University, 212-636-6393, takoosh@aol.com

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