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PRESS RELEASE

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Top student research awards announced at 2012 Conference

On October 21, 2012, over 140 students and faculty researchers from over 30 institutions as far as Belgrade converged on Fordham University in Manhattan for the 24th Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research. This Conference included 52 scientific presentations by 72 researchers in 15 panels, selected by a review committee of faculty from area colleges. One-third of these 72 presenters were student researchers delivering their first conference presentation.

In concert with several professional groups, this conference offered several international sessions, with a theme of "Promoting social justice around the world." Thanks to Executive Officer **Alan Kraut** of the Association for Psychological Science, over 50 participants received a complimentary one-year trial membership in APS, which marks its 25th year in 2013.

The five distinguished Guests of Honor who joined the gala reception for student researchers were Drs. **Sharon Brennan**, Past-President of the NYS Psychological Association; **Jennifer B. Latham**, Fordham Assistant Vice President for International Programs; **Mercedes A. McCormick**, President-elect, APA Division of International Psychology; **Darryl McLeod**, Fordham Professor of Economics; **Richard S. Velayo**, Past-President, APA Division of International Psychology.

Since one aim of this conference is to encourage excellence in behavioral research by students, the conference presented five annual awards to outstanding student researchers. (1) The Conference's 2012 Scarpetta Award for outstanding undergraduate research was presented to **Michael Feder** of New York University. (2) **Chioma Ajoku** of CUNY John Jay College received the 2012 Toth Award for outstanding research by a graduate student. (3) **Reuben Ng** of Yale University received the 2012 Guzewicz Award for outstanding cross-cultural research. (4) **Shana Cole** and **Emily Balcetis** of New York University received the 2012 Lander Award for outstanding behavioral research related to Jewish issues. (5) **Yael Granot**, **Emily Balcetis** of New York University and **Tom Tyler** of Yale Law School received the Witmer Award for outstanding forensic research.

All awards were determined by an independent Awards Committee of 10 faculty. The awards are named for six 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, known 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. (6) **Lightner Witmer** (1867-1956), a pioneer in forensic psychology.

The Conference Committee for this 24th Conference was chaired by Dr. **Artemis Pipinelli** of Technical Careers Institute. The international Program was arranged by Dean **Elaine Congress** of Fordham. It is endorsed by eight professional organizations that promote student research. This year's conference was hosted by Fordham University, with kind support from several sources--including the Fordham Dean's Challenge Grant, and Graduate School of Social Service. Images of the conference appear at www.picasaweb.com/takoosh Direct any inquiries to Conference Director **Harold Takooshian** of Fordham University, 212-636-6393, takoosh@aol.com

