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An interview with student author Claire Edgington

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An interview with student author Claire Edgington

Nicole Callahan

What did your involvement with GREAT Day mean to you?

To me it was a way of representing my research lab and just showing the work that we do that no one sees and the research that's pretty much in the background. To be able to show that off is cool, and it feels grown up, it's like, "Oh this is a real thing."

What do you think GREAT Day adds to the Geneseo community?

I think it's a way to show off your work, and it's our way of getting together and being able to explore the other departments that I wouldn't normally even think about.

What inspired you to conduct the research you did?

We collaborated as a group on the research project. We focused on bystander response which is kind of cool because when you think about it all of us our bystanders, and to really analyze that data is important. While conducting the research you think, "Well, what would I do?" I didn't come up with the idea for it, but it was really cool to be involved.

What were your goals when you set out in doing this research?

This specific project was to bring to light that there is not a lot of research about bystander response, actually a lot of it is done by Dr. Katz, and so it was interesting for us to see the difference between sexual assault and physical assault because they're so different. One is recognized a lot more and the other is more ambiguous, but it's still important to address it.

What did conducting your research teach you about your discipline?

Being part of research is cool because psychology is so broad. Research is one path that you can do. I won't be going into research, but it shows all the parts from beginning to end, from coming up with the paper and editing and editing and editing, taking the surveys, putting in the data, coding the data. To see each part of it is important in understanding it because it's a big part of psychology.

Are you currently writing or researching topics relating to what you wrote about in that paper?

I am on a project right now where we're looking at female bystander response to women of different race with the implication of sexual assault.

Are you planning to continue to present for the next GREAT Day?

Yeah, I will be. I was going to step down because I've been doing it since my sophomore year, but I have to do it for my Women and Gender Studies minor. It's not a bad thing. GREAT Day is fun, and it's interesting to do, so it'll be cool to kind of show off one of our projects.

How did you feel when you presented your work at GREAT Day?

My sophomore year when I presented, I had just joined the lab and it wasn't my project, so this past year when I presented and I had been a part of every aspect of it, it was a better experience because you know exactly what you're talking about. It's really cool when you have people who want to come up who are just genuinely interested. You get a lot of people looking for the extra credit, but when people actually ask questions and are interested it is validating to the work you've done.