Candace Horne
Can love make your worries disappear?

In any given year approximately 5% of the U.S. population experiences chronic anxiety (Mortazavi, et al., 2014) which, when diagnosed, is known as generalized anxiety disorder. To feel a regular, uncontrollable (Kircanski et al., 2015), overarching sense of fear and concern is often debilitating (Mennin et al., 2015); affecting physical health, relationships, and even work responsibilities (de la Parra, et al., 2014). In fact, Rosner (2014) reports that anxiety disorders cost American society $42 billion a year due to lost work time, seeking medical treatment, and other factors. The current study is designed to explore the relationship between the magnitude and severity of worry an individual experiences as a function of their involvement in a romantic relationship, and other affective experiences. A thorough understanding of emotional interactions could lead to improved pharmacological and therapeutic treatment methods. Participants completed several worry questionnaires and several measures assessing level of romantic involvement in their current relationship. Initial data suggest that the level of worry an individual experiences varies significantly as a function to their current experience of passionate love. Specifically, those individuals in a highly passionate relationship experience more worries that those in a moderately passionate or no relationship.

Auburne Binette
Speech and Language Disorders:
Working Memory and its Influence on Developing Language Skills

In recent years there has been growth in research regarding speech and language disorders. However, due to underlying factors, they have been shown difficult to study (Bishop et al., 2004). Because of this, there are not set definitions of what a speech disorder is, only diagnostic characteristics that may (but not always) be seen. With more research we are coming closer to understanding the differences between speech and language disorders, as well as treatment interventions that will best help the The current research represents an attempt to further examine three categories of speech and language disorders. It will also assess whether increases in working memory are accompanied by increased reading comprehension ability. There are two research studies associated with this project: the first is to measure working memory and reading comprehension to see if there is in fact a positive correlation associated between the two, and the second is to examine the effects of working memory training on both working memory efficiency and reading comprehension. We hypothesize that 1) There will be a positive correlation between both working memory and reading comprehension ability, and 2) Working memory can be trained to work more efficiently, which will increase reading comprehension.

Jake Ombach
Effect of Religious Authority on Acceptance of Evolutionary Theory

Due to the direct conflict with the creation story in the opening chapters of Genesis, the theory of evolution may be especially hard for religious individuals to accept. This study examined changes in acceptance of evolution due to statements declaring religious and evolutionary compatibility by authority individuals who adhere to common religious practices. These authorities include prominent LDS and Protestant scientists, as well as the Pope of the Catholic Church. In this study, participants’ completed the Inventory of Student Evolution Acceptance (I-SEA) (Nadelson, 2012) to assess acceptance of evolution, followed by understanding of natural selection using the Conceptual Inventory of Natural Selection (Anderson, 2002). Subsequently, participants were randomly assigned to conditions where they were given a pro-evolutionary statement from the religious authority figures, or an unrelated article serving as a
control. Following the authority statement, participants were shown either videos explaining the evidence for evolution or an unrelated video as control. Acceptance of evolution was then assessed from the I-SEA to test for changes in acceptance. It is expected that participants will be more accepting of evolution if they receive the pro-evolution statement from the religiously authoritative individuals, regardless of whether or not they receive factual evidence supporting evolution.