

Melanie Lunsford Hamel

Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Psychology, MS-25
Rice University
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Education

Ph. D., Cognitive Psychology

Rice University, Houston, TX. Expected graduation: May, 2008. Advisor: James L. Dannemiller, Ph. D.

Area of specialization: Vision science

M. A., Psychological Sciences

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. May 2004. Advisor: Sheena Rogers, Ph. D.

B. S., Psychology, Biological Psychology (concentration)

Averett University, Danville, VA. April 2002.

Danville Community College, Danville, VA. Attended 1998-2000.

Honors and Awards

Presidential Management Fellowship nominee, 2008

Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Scholarship, 2003-2004

Virginia Psychological Association Student Presentation Award: Best Poster, 2003

The Elizabeth and James Bustard Distinguished Award, 2002

Awarded to graduating seniors selected by the faculty and Board of Trustees, who excel in high ideals of living, in spiritual qualities and in generous service to others, for use in higher education.

Outstanding Achievement in Psychology Award, 2002

Presented to the senior psychology major that has produced substantive works of the highest quality and evidence of substantial personal and professional growth that will enable them to best pursue their career goals.

Alpha Chi Honor Society, 2002

The National Dean's List, 2001, 2002

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, 2002

Averett University President's List, 2000-2002

Recognition for earning a grade point average of 4.0.

Publications

Dannemiller, J. L., & Hamel, M. L. (manuscript in preparation). Exploring contour integration with response classification and ideal observers.

Lunsford, M. A., & Dannemiller, J. L. (2006). Additive effects in a rod-and-frame illusion estimated by response classification. *Journal of Vision*, 6(4), 366-378.

Proceedings

Rogers, S., Lunsford, M., Strother, L., & Kubovy, M. (2003). The Mona Lisa effect: Perception of gaze direction in real and pictured faces. In S. Rogers & J. Effken (Eds). *Studies in Perception and Action VII* (pp. 19-24). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Published Abstracts

Hamel, M. L., & Dannemiller, J. L. (2007). Element grouping with semicircular contours [Abstract]. *Journal of Vision*, 7(9), 606a, <http://journalofvision.org/7/9/606/>, doi:10.1167/7.9.606. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Sarasota, Florida.

Dannemiller, J. L., & Lunsford, M. A. (2006). Element grouping with parabolic contours [Abstract]. *Journal of Vision*, 6(6), 329a, <http://journalofvision.org/6/6/329/>, doi:10.1167/6.6.329. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society, Sarasota, Florida.

Lunsford, M., Rogers, S., Strother, L., & Kubovy, M. (2004, November). Mona Lisa's eyes: No compensation for perceived gaze direction in pictures. *Abstracts of the Psychonomic Society*, 9, 51. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Farmer, T. A., Lunsford, M. A., Rogers, S., Tobia, M., Daube, J., & West, R. (2003, November). Change deafness rates and working memory span. *Abstracts of the Psychonomic Society*, 8, 64. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Strother, L., Lunsford, M. A., Rogers, S., & Kubovy, M. (2003, November). Apparent gaze direction in pictured faces. *Abstracts of the Psychonomic Society*, 8, 32. Poster presented at Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Presentations and Posters

Hamel, M. L. (2006, November). *Understanding contour integration using response classification and natural image statistics*. Research talk given Cognitive Tea Series at Rice University, Houston, Texas.

Lunsford, M. (2005, October). *Perceived direction of gaze from photographs*. Research talk given Cognitive Tea Series at Rice University, Houston, Texas.

Lunsford, M. (2005, March). *A first step towards using the classification image technique to study contour integration*. Research talk given Cognitive Tea Series at Rice University, Houston, Texas.

Lunsford, M. & Rogers, S. (2004, April). *Effects of slanted picture plane on perceived gaze direction in portraits*. Research talk presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Noll, N. E., Richardson, J., Farmer, T., Lunsford, M. A., Ashcraft, B., Langston, E., Hoffman, N., Sottolano, M., C. Basabe, Whitaker, B., Fries, K., & Rogers, S. J. (2004, April). *Change deafness for conversation partners: Memory or event perception?* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Noll, N. E., Ashcraft, B., Langston, E., Hoffman, N., Lunsford, M. A., & Rogers, S. J. (2004, April). *Who do you think you are talking to? Change deafness for conversation partners*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Virginia Psychological Association, Roanoke, Virginia.

Lunsford, M., Detrich, A., Daube, J. B., Strother, L., Rogers, S., & Kubovy, M. (2003, April). *Perception of gaze direction in real and pictured faces*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Virginia Psychological Association, Fairfax, Virginia.

Lunsford, M., Strother, L., Rogers, S., Kubovy, M., Hannemann, B., Detrich, A., & Daube, J. B. (2003, March). *Perception of gaze direction in real and pictured faces*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Baltimore, Maryland.

Lunsford, M. (2003, November). *Can't take my eyes off you: Perception of gaze from portraits*. Research talk given at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Lunsford, M. (2003, November). *Using aperture viewing to investigate differential rotation of gaze in portraits*. Research talk given to the Psychology Department at Averett University, Danville, Virginia.

Lunsford, M. (2003, October). *Using aperture viewing to investigate differential rotation of gaze in portraits*. Research talk given at the Research Roundtable Series at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Lunsford, M., & Carlsen, R. (2002, April). *Attractiveness does not influence one's decision to card for alcohol: What is beautiful is not always good*. Paper presented at the spring meeting of Virginia Psychological Association, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Research Experience

Dissertation research, Rice University, 2007-present

Completed a series of studies that demonstrate the automatic nature of contour integration using response classification, ideal observers, and natural image statistics.

Research Associate, Rice University, 2004-present

Assisted Dr. James L. Dannemiller in Visual Attention and Developmental Laboratory, Department of Psychology

First and second year project, Rice University, 2004-2006

Conducted four experiments using a modified classification image technique to investigate grouping of line elements to form parabolic contours

Thesis project, James Madison University, 2003-2004

Conducted experiments investigating the perception of visual gaze in pictorial space

Research project, James Madison University, 2003-present

Conducted experiment investigating change blindness/deafness during a social interaction

First year research apprenticeship, James Madison University, 2002-2003

Lab manager for visual perception lab with Dr. Sheena Rogers

Junior/Senior Thesis project, Averett University, 2000-2002

Conducted experiment investigating the effects of attractiveness on the susceptibility of being carded for alcohol

Teaching Experience

Laboratory Instructor, Rice University, Fall 2005-present

Instructed two laboratory sections for an undergraduate statistics course

Instructor, Rice University, Summer 2006

Co-taught an Introduction to Psychology course during the Summer School for College Students

Teaching Assistant, Rice University, Spring 2005
Undergraduate Developmental psychology course

Laboratory Instructor, James Madison University, 2003-2004
Instructed two sections of the Psychology Learning Community integrated research methods and statistics laboratory

Teaching Assistant, James Madison University, 2003-2004
Undergraduate general science course: The Science of Vision and Audition

Laboratory Instructor, James Madison University, 2002-2003
Instructed six sections of an undergraduate psychological research methods laboratory

Professional Memberships

Vision Sciences Society, student member, 2005-2007

American Psychological Association, student affiliate, 2003

Eastern Psychological Association, student affiliate, 2002-2004

Psychology Graduate Student Association (JMU), 2002-2004

Virginia Psychological Association, student affiliate, 2000-2004

Service

Member of minority student recruitment initiative committee, 2006
Contributed to the development of a presentation given to undergraduate students at universities with high proportions of African American and Hispanic students

Co-Chair of the Psychology Graduate Student Association, 2003-2004

Graduate Assistant Team Leader, James Madison University, 2003-2004
Coordinated and managed graduate assistants and teaching assistants for the Department of Psychology

Class representative to the program meeting of Psychological Sciences MA program, 2002-2004

Recent graduate representative to the Averett University Alumni Board, 2003-2004

References

James L. Dannemiller, Ph. D.

Lynette S. Autrey Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychology, Rice University,
Houston, TX 77005. Tel: 713.348.5831, Email: dannemil@rice.edu.

James Pomerantz, Ph. D.

Professor and Director of Neuroscience, Department of Psychology, Rice University,
Houston, TX 77005. Tel: 713.348.3419, Email: pomeran@rice.edu.

Sheena Rogers, Ph. D.

Professor and Department Head, Department of Graduate Psychology, James Madison
University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807. Tel: 540.568.7838, Email: rogerssi@jmu.edu.