Thanks to the overwhelming kindness and generosity of Dr. David Campbell and Dr. Fred Borgen, I had the opportunity to attend the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists (SASP) Summer School in February, 2012. The summer school is an intensive six-day program held every two years. This year, it was held at the Moreton Bay Research Station of the University of Queensland on Stradbroke Island, Australia.

The primary goal of the Campbell/Borgen Award is to provide unique opportunities for professional development through international travel. This allows those honored with the award to gain valuable experience beyond what may be obtained while studying within the United States, including working with international scholars and attending international conferences and workshops. These goals fit well with those of the SASP summer school. The primary motivation of the summer school is to enrich the experience of graduate students in social psychology by increasing their knowledge of the field, while at the same time developing research projects and forming collaborations between students and faculty at other universities with similar research interests.

At the summer school, students are divided into one of three research streams which are led by academics who specialize in those areas. I was honored to be part of the Social Justice stream, led by Dr. Kelly Fielding from the University of Queensland and Dr. Heather Smith from Sonoma State University. The major task assigned to each student was to work with fellow students in designing a research project. To help us prepare for this project we were assigned a list of articles and chapters to review before the summer school. Each student then led a discussion on one of the articles, allowing us to get reactions to the current work in the field from students studying a wide variety of topics. This was exceptionally useful because it helped us see areas where integration across research domains could help further our understanding of social justice related issues and use this when developing our research projects.

During the day we spent the majority of our time discussing current research in the area, drawing upon the knowledge of both the faculty and fellow students in order to develop research ideas that had yet to be addressed within the field. We spent much of our evenings discussing and fine-tuning these ideas into research proposals that we presented to the entire summer school on the last day. I worked with two other students to develop a research project that would allow us to examine how differing levels of involvement for perpetrators and victims influences perceptions of the justice system. We are currently working on the developing the materials and writing in the IRB proposal for this study, and hope to run it in the near future.

In addition to attending the summer school, I was invited to give a guest lecture at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. This was an amazing opportunity and the first time giving a talk outside of ISU. I presented some of the research I have been working on with both Dr. Zlatan Krizan and Dr. Kevin Blankenship, where we are examining links between personality and individual differences in motivated cognition. This experience allowed me to get valuable feedback on our research and to gain insight into how people from other areas of social psychology respond to the work.

Not only was this an amazing experience from an academic standpoint, but it was also my first time traveling internationally. What motivated me to apply for the award was hearing previous
winners discuss their experiences. Hearing them talk about the opportunities they received and how much they learned from their travels was inspiring and made me realize the benefits of learning from, and collaborating with, people across the world. Thanks to the support and generosity of Dr. Campbell and Dr. Borgen, I can now look forward to sharing my experience with others and hopefully encouraging them to seek out similar opportunities.

I am grateful beyond words for this unique opportunity.

Sincerely,
Renee Murray