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NEWS RELEASE
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PORTSMOUTH RESIDENT, SENIOR AT SALVE REGINA COLLEGE SELECTED TO
READ PAPER AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF EASTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Portsmouth resident Fran L. Carrant, a senior at Salve Regina - The Newport College, has co-authored a psychological paper which she will present at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association April 14-17, in Baltimore.

Carrant, a psychology and education major, co-authored the paper with Arthur Frankel, associate professor of psychology at Salve. Frankel assisted Carrant by rewriting the paper in the appropriate psychological format.

Frankel said it was very unusual for an undergraduate's paper to be selected for reading. Most papers selected, he said, are those

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completed by graduate students.

The paper, "Expressive Movement and Personality: Signature Size as an Unobtrusive Measure of Self Esteem," is a basic study of how an individual's success or failure on tests can cause definite fluctuations in his/her signature size.

Currant tested her theory by preparing two types of tests -- one guaranteed to result in success for those taking it, and the other to result in failure. Each test required the individuals' signatures prior to the test's start, and immediately following its completion.

Both tests were made up of anagrams; those individuals selected to succeed were given a very simple list. Those chosen to fail, were given a very difficult list. Since both tests were timed, and each test was either very simple or very difficult, participants knew immediately without being told, how well or poorly they fared. Currant found that 11 of the 14 signatures from the successful group were significantly larger when they signed their names upon completion of the test versus when they signed their names prior to the test's start. With the group designated for failure, just the opposite results were found. As anticipated, the majority of volunteers in this group showed a reduction in signature size from the pre-test signature to the post-test signature.

Currant is presently student teaching in grade two at Portsmouth's Hathaway Elementary School.