

For Immediate Release

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Massapequa Resident Caitlin Irwin Honored with Student Research Competition Award at Annual Behavior Analyst Conference

BOSTON (October 17, 2017) – Simmons College adjunct professor and Ph. D. candidate, Caitlin Irwin, a resident of Massapequa, New York, was honored at the annual Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy conference recently with the 2017 BF Skinner Foundation Student Research Competition Award for her study of adolescents with autism.

The B.F. Skinner Foundation Student Research Award is given to support and encourage graduate research in the behavior analysis field.

Irwin's work focused on habit reversal therapy for teenagers on the autism spectrum who exhibit stereotypic movements or behaviors that involve repetitive movement that interferes with normal activity. Only five studies to date have examined habit reversal-based therapy for stereotypic movements.

"We are proud that Caitlin Irwin's innovative research was recognized by leaders in the field of behavioral analysis," said Dean Cheryl Parks from the Simmons School of Social Work. "Her contribution to this field of study will ultimately benefit adolescents with autism and their families and improve the treatment that they receive."

Irwin is an adjunct professor in the Simmons School of Social Work and is a behavior analyst in the Newton (MA) Public Schools. She holds a master's degree in behavior analysis from Simmons College SW'13 and a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Allegheny College. She is currently working toward a Ph.D. in philosophy at Simmons, which she expects to complete in 2018.

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