**Getting to know: *Thomas Schleicher***

Biography

Thomas Schleicher is an undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Berk- ley-Patton at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is expecting to graduate with honors in May of 2013 with a double major in Psychology and Philosophy. After graduation, he hopes to pursue a doctorate in Psychology.

Q&A

*What sparked your interest in psychology?*

Even as a child I have always been interested in psychology, but what truly sparked my interest was what I learned in the psychology course I took with Professor Steve Schuetz back at the University of Central Missouri.

*What led you to this topic?*

While entering data for Dr. Berley-Patton’s survey, I wondered whether those who were giving wrong answers for the HIV knowledge questions were the same people that had high sigma towards those with HIV. I asked Erin Moore some of these questions, and she suggested that I write a paper about it.

*Did you have a mentor and how did you get involved with him/her?*

In addition to Dr. Berley-Patton’s patronage, Erin has been a huge influence on me. Without her invaluable sup- port and assistance with this project, I never could have completed it.

*How long have you been working on this paper? What has the process been like for you?*

I’ve been working on this paper for over a year now, and it’s been quite the experience. I’ve certainly had to learn some patience in the intervening year.

*What was it like to be an undergraduate student completing your own research project?*

It was very exciting. Before I started working on this project, I had been dreading the research that would be involved with graduate school. Thanks to this project, I learned how much I enjoy working on research.