



BC PSYCHOLOGIST ELIZABETH KENSINGER NAMED SEARLE SCHOLAR, IN RECOGNITION OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (April 2008) -- Boston College Assistant Professor of Psychology Elizabeth Kensinger has been named a 2008 Searle Scholar, an award which provides funding to support the independent research of exceptional creative and productive young faculty in the biomedical sciences and chemistry.

The Searle Scholars Program recognizes individuals who have already done important, innovative research and have the potential for making pivotal contributions to biological research over an extended period of time.

Kensinger is the first from Boston College to receive the award, according to James Russell, professor and chair of BC's department of psychology, and one of only a handful of neuroscientists to have received the award since the onset of the program.



Select universities and research institutions are allowed to nominate 1-2 individuals to the Searle Scholars Program. From this applicant pool, usually of around 200 applicants, the Scientific Advisory Board selects the top 15 to receive funding.

The award consists of a three-year research grant of \$100,000 per year and is among the top monetary awards given in chemistry and the biomedical sciences.

Kensinger's research areas include cognitive and affective neuroscience, notably the effect of emotional content on memory, such as the cognitive and neural mechanisms through which emotion influences the vividness and accuracy of memory, and how these influences change across the adult lifespan. She has received support for her research from National Science Foundation, the American Federation for Aging Research and The Dana Foundation.

The Searle Scholars Program was established at The Chicago Community Trust in 1980. It is funded from the estates of John G. Searle, grandson of the founder of the world-wide pharmaceutical company, G.D. Searle & Company, and his wife.

###