

# GRADUATE TALK SERIES: FEBRUARY

## How Attractive You Are Depends on Who is Standing Next to You: The Influence of Available Mates on Perceptions of Attractiveness

The evaluations we make of others as potential short or long term romantic partners are influenced by a variety of factors, including characteristics of the perceiver, characteristics of the potential partner, and even the characteristics of the surrounding environment. To expand our understanding of this phenomenon, the current study examines how the perception of a potential mate is influenced by the presence of other potential mates. Preliminary results suggest the presence of others produces a confirmatory effect, such that low-value individuals are rated lower, and high-value individuals are rated higher, when presented alongside others.

**Presenter: Jackie McDowell**

**Thesis Chair: Dr. Valerie Starratt**

**Thesis Committee Members: Dr. Jonathan Banks & Dr. Glenn Scheyd**

**When: February 18, 2015**

**12:00pm-1:00pm**

**Parker Building Room 255**

**\*\*PIZZA AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED\*\***