

UNCG's Zell: Young adults less conservative than they think

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Young adults tend to be more liberal than they think they are, according to a new study by a UNCG researcher that's getting national attention.

Ethan Zell, a psychologist at UNCG, co-authored the study with Michael Bernstein, a psychologist at Pennsylvania State University - Abington. Zell and Bernstein based their results on three separate surveys of college students and other adults under 30, and published the study in the journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science*.

Across the board, subjects underestimated their liberal leanings with the exception of those who considered themselves liberal Democrats. The gap between self-perception and reality was more pronounced among those who considered themselves conservative.

While Zell can't be certain of why this trend exists, he and Bernstein speculate that there may be a difference in psychology among conservative and liberal thinkers.

"Conservatives may value loyalty more than liberals, including loyalty to a political party," he says. "They may want to see



themselves as fitting into a particular group more than they really do. We're not trying to make either group look better or worse, or to make any judgments."

Zell, whose research focuses on self-knowledge, is also a self-described PBS News Hour fan. When he took an online quiz on 12 major political issues — including gay marriage, health care, abortion, welfare and the environment — designed for News Hour by the Pew Research Center, he began to wonder how accurately people can predict their own political leanings.

Zell and Bernstein used the Pew Quiz

to gauge students at their respective universities and also recruited young adults online through Amazon's Mechanical Turk to round out their sampling. Altogether, about 700 young adults were sampled in three surveys.

The researchers plan to continue their research with a sample of older adults, but the initial study, which has been picked up by Salon.com and Pacific Standard, has important implications for young voters.

"If their perception of themselves is wrong, they may be voting for the wrong person, or at least voting for people who don't match their views," Zell says.

Help Wanted



Crisis Control Photo

Crisis Control Ministry is slated to announce its Hope for Tomorrow capital campaign Friday at its Winston-Salem headquarters, 200 E. 10th St. The campaign aims to generate funds so that the agency can expand the pharmacy and add a food warehouse at the 10th Street site. Officials say that Crisis Control has served hundreds of thousands of clients at its current facility for the past 28 years, while making only minor capital improvements. The current high unemployment rate has significantly increased the agency's client list. The capital improvements are expected to help Crisis Control cope with the increased demand for help. Learn more about how to contribute at www.crisiscontrol.org.



Photos by Layla Garms

Amritha and Prashanth Kankera (second and third from left) pose with family and friends (from left) Rajshri Venkatesan, Sriviasan Venkatesan, Mary Olzer, Dale Olzer and (front row) Jamithra Venkatesan, Sabda Kankera and Visnu Venkatesan.



Mamuna Koroma (center) poses with her husband Bassie Koroma, sons Ibrahim and Alusine and granddaughter Mamuna Koroma, 4.

Citizens

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bration nationwide.

"This is really fitting that Salem Square be the place and specifically Fourth of July be the day that we welcome these folks as new citizens," declared Ragan Folan, Old Salem's president and CEO. "...It's a great day to be in this great town of Old Salem and a great day to be in America."

Luis Lobo, executive vice president and multi-cultural banking manager for BB&T, served as keynote speaker. Lobo, who celebrated his own naturalization in Norfolk, Va. on Sept. 11, 2002, reminded the new Americans that citizenship is both a privilege and a responsibility.

"We chose to call America home; we chose to become Americans," said the Costa Rica native. "It is our responsibility to become good citizens and good neighbors by giving back to our country with our time and talent."

In addition to lending their unique attributes to the nation, Lobo told the new citizens they must also make their voices and opinions heard.

"Voting is your most significant responsibility as a new American — do not let anyone deter you from it," he said. "We should never take for granted the right to work legally, to vote bravely and to live freely."

Acknowledging the recession and troubling unemployment rates, Lobo said the United States is still a great nation to belong to.

"We have been able to overcome great struggles and difficulties since the founding of the republic," he declared. "America is



New citizens recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



Luis Lobo speaks.

still the Land of Opportunity for those who have an open heart and a willing soul to work hard enough and strive long enough."

Opportunity was what inspired Mamuna Koroma to come to the United States from her native Sierra Leone 20 years ago, and she said opportunity is what she and her family have found. All three of her children have received their college degrees, to the delight of Koroma, an LPN, and her husband, Bassie.

Koroma, who said she was "relieved, excited and blessed" to finally

become a U.S. citizen, added that the immigration reform bill that passed with a strong majority in the U.S. Senate late last month is the right choice for America.

"I think it's a good step," remarked Koroma, who was joined by her husband, granddaughter and two sons at the ceremony. "It's going to expand the economy, and they need more people to work."

The Senate bill, which has the backing of the White House, allows for a 13-year path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million immigrants already living in this country illegally. The U.S. House of Representatives is now considering the bill.

Husband and wife Prashanth and Amritha Kankera were beaming after taking the Oath of Allegiance last Thursday. The Bombay, India natives were newly married when they emigrated to the U.S. 15 years ago.

"Ever since we came here, we didn't want to go back," Prashanth Kankera said with a broad smile. "This is a great country."

Though the couple have family members in the U.S., they say making the decision to permanently call America home wasn't easy. But, they said, it was the right choice for them and their 15-year-old daughter,

Sabda. Amritha Kankera, a technical architect for AT&T, said she and her husband couldn't have picked a better moment to become citizens.

"It was a very proud moment, a very emotional moment," she related.



Ragan Folan greets attendees.

"To take the oath on July Fourth was very beautiful. We were told by others that this would be a beautiful ceremony, and it has exceeded our expectations in every way. It's a big moment in our life that we will remember forever."

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