



Massachusetts Council on
Compulsive Gambling

We understand the problem. We can help.

May 12, 2009

Contact: Margot Cahoon, Council Communications Specialist
617-426-4554, margot@masscompulsivegambling.org

**MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING
STAFF MEMBER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

BOSTON, MA – The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is pleased to announce that staff member Ryan J. Martin, Thomas N. Cummings Postdoctoral Research Fellow, will receive the National Council on Problem Gambling's (NCPG) "2009 Dissertation Award." The annual award was established by the NCPG in 1999 to acknowledge superior research efforts among young scholars in the field.

Dr. Martin will present his dissertation findings at the 23rd National Conference on Problem Gambling, which will take place June 25-27 in Indianapolis, IN. His dissertation entitled "*An Examination of Gambling Behavior Among College Students Using the Theory of Planned Behavior*," was completed as part of the doctoral program in Health Education and Promotion at the University of Alabama. It examined the role of the theory of planned behavior (TPB; i.e., intentions, subjective norms, perceived behavioral control, and attitudes) in predicting gambling frequency among college student gamblers.

Findings suggest that college problem gambling prevention efforts focused toward non-problem gamblers should target misperceptions of approval regarding gambling behavior (i.e., subjective norms), personal approval of gambling behavior (i.e., attitudes), and perceived behavioral control to better manage gambling behavior in various situations. People working to reduce gambling among college students experiencing gambling problems might need to consider and explore these alternative approaches.

Ryan earned his PhD in Health Education and Promotion at the University of Alabama. At the University, Ryan was both an Instructor and a Graduate Research Assistant. Prior to his time at the University of Alabama, he earned his MS in Health Policy and Administration from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Ryan's work has been published in many academic journals including the *American Journal of Health Studies* and the *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*.

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is a private, non-profit health agency dedicated to reducing the social, financial and emotional costs of problem gambling. The Council provides prevention, information, education, advocacy and referral services for problem gamblers, their loved ones, professionals working to treat the disorder, and the greater community.

190 High Street, Suite 5
Boston, MA 02110
617.426.4554
www.masscompulsivegambling.org