

LOSING BALANCE: Summary of Sheldon/Krieger studies
(all noted results statistically significant)

FIRST STUDY: (see 22 *Behav. Sci. and Law* 261, 2004)

Entering students at two law schools (2000/2001):

- **Well-being* (life satisfaction and positive affect – negative affect): better than advanced undergraduate sample
- **Motivation* for school goals: more healthy/intrinsic than comp. undergrads
- **Values*: more healthy/intrinsic than comp. undergrads

Changes during law school:

- **Well-being* (all measures) decreased during first year, continued through 3rd year
- **Motivation* for first job: negative/extrinsic compared to incoming school motivation
- **Values*: after early shift to extrinsic values, valuing of all kinds decreased.
- *Effects were *unrelated to age, gender, life experience, loan balances*, or other demographic variables.

SECOND STUDY:

Entering students at two law schools (2001/2002):

- *Students in both samples had equivalent LSAT scores, undergrad. gpa, well-being, motivation for school, and need satisfaction. School 2 students were slightly older on average, including some part-time students.

Shared results – common effects of both schools:

- *Students in both schools experienced decreased well-being and need satisfaction.

Differing effects between the schools:

- *School 2 students experienced smaller decrease in well-being
- *School 2 students experienced smaller loss of need satisfaction
- *School 2 students had higher gpa, controlled for LSAT/u.g. gpa. School 2 graduates scored better on multistate bar exam.

Predictive Factor:

- *School 2 students experienced more autonomy support from faculty/institution in second and third year. Human Thriving Model confirmed:

Perceived Autonomy Support >>> Basic Need Satisfaction >>> Outcomes (Subj. & Obj.)

Proposed Causal Factors:

- *School 2 appears more focused on student needs/preferences. More emphasis on teaching skill (vs. scholarship), faculty lawyering experience; many more practical/skills courses and faculty focused on those offerings

