



Psychology Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

2015

IMPORTANT DATES

Graduate Research Colloquium — September 11, 2015

Kendon Smith Lecture Series — October 2-3, 2015

Fall Break — October 12-13, 2015

Thanksgiving Break — November 25-27

Last Day of Classes — November 30, 2015

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From Dr. Stuart Marcovitch, Department Head

Greetings from the Psychology Department,

I consider myself very lucky, as I get to be intimately involved in the education of the exceptional minds of the next generation. Further, I get to do this while working with exceptional colleagues who enjoy an international reputation for scholarly excellence, and who generate the cutting edge research that moves the science of Psychology forward. It is truly an exciting time to study Psychological Science at UNCG.

In this newsletter, you will see some of our student and faculty highlights from the past year, and learn about exciting upcoming events. Our department con-

tinues to be very proud of its status as one of the most popular majors on campus, its ability to attract and train highly qualified graduate students, and its community role of offering mental health services and other forms of outreach. I expect that you'll see that our passion makes a difference in the lives of our students, and the lives of our surrounding community.

If you ever want to talk in more detail about the Department and our efforts, please drop me an e-mail at s_marcov@uncg.edu. I wish you a very successful academic year.

Sincerely,

Stuart Marcovitch, Ph.D.

Head,
Department of Psychology



Dr. Stuart Marcovitch

Psychology Space is Family-Friendly

The Department will soon have available a Nursing and Family Needs Space in Eberhart 369A. The room will serve as a quiet and private space for nursing and/or pumping, and for other child care needs for faculty, staff, graduate students, and guests of the department. The room has been freshly painted and will be furnished shortly (complete with glider, fridge, microwave, and white noise machine). We will announce the "official" opening of the room soon.

Thanks to several department faculty, especially Drs. Boseovski and Touron along with other supportive advocates for workplace accommodations in support of families. We also appreciate the assistance of Ray Carney and Melanie Carter, as well as support from the Department Head, Dr. Marcovitch.

Please direct any questions about the space and its use to Dr. Julia Mendez, Associate Head.



Dr. Levi R. Baker

*Welcome Our
Newest Faculty!*

Dr. Levi R. Baker

Dr. Levi Baker received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Marquette University in 2004 and a Master in Science in Clinical Psychology from Marquette University in 2007. After a much too brief stop at the University of Tennessee, where he started working with James McNulty, Levi moved to Tallahassee and completed his Ph.D. in Social Psychology. He has joined the Department this fall as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Baker is directing the Close Relationships Lab at UNCG and his research interests include identifying the specific conditions that lead certain self-beliefs to

benefit or harm close relationships. He is also currently developing a theoretical model that highlights the major stages of relationship problem-solving, identifies specific problem-resolution behaviors that can facilitate or hinder the resolution process, and emphasizes specific contexts in which these behaviors will be effective or ineffective. To more fully understand these processes, he employs multiple research designs (e.g., experimental, longitudinal, observational, diary) and examines multiple relationship types like friendship or marriage.

Dr. Baker enjoys following college basketball and football, exploring our country's fine cities, and spending time with his wife. He also appreciates a few guilty pleasures such as watching embarrassing television shows and playing video games. He is also a huge music fan and loves live shows.

You can learn more about Dr. Baker's work at his website
<http://www.levirbaker.com/>

We are excited to have Levi Baker join our department!

Faculty First Grant Awards

Several exciting new projects are being supported by Faculty First Grants from UNCG. With funds from donors, these researchers will be able to generate new knowledge. Read on about some of the new projects, and congratulations to our faculty first investigators on their success.

Dr. Suzanne Vrshek-Schallhorn's Faculty First project examines why certain risk factors for depression are associated with blunted stress hormone activation in response to stress, when many would instead predict these risk factors would be associated with elevated stress hormone activation. To do this, Dr. Vrshek-Schallhorn's lab is

examining cortisol responses to several different types of standardized lab stress, to test a hypothesis that the nature of the stressor impacts how those at high and low risk for depression respond to stress. Dr. Vrshek-Schallhorn reports that the Faculty First grant provided vital support to complete data collection over Summer 2015.

Dr. Janet Boseovski will be working on a community-based research project in partnership with the Greensboro Science Center (GSC). The project examines how 4- to 10-year-old children learn and remember information about animals from various "informants" while at the GSC, including educators,

their parents or caregivers, and technology resources (e.g., iPads). The ultimate goal of this research is to inform educational interventions that are aimed at improving learning, memory, and critical thinking in early to late childhood.

Dr. Thanujeni Pathman reports that the FFA award allowed her lab to use functional and structural magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to examine the development of the brain structures involved in episodic memory, and examine how these brain changes correspond to changes in memory behavior in middle to late childhood.

Faculty First Grants: 2015-2016

Dr. Janet Boseovski
Dr. Thanujeni Pathman
Dr. Suzanne Schallhorn
Dr. Blair Wisco

Kendon Smith 2015 Lecture Series: Gene-Environment Interactions in Psychopathology

This year's Kendon Smith Lecture Series is shaping up to be an exciting and memorable event!

The Department of Psychology is proud to announce the Kendon Smith Lecture Series: Gene-Environment Interactions in Psychopathology and Beyond

This signature event of the Psychology Department will feature internationally recognized experts in this area including:

Dr. Avshalom Caspi
Duke University

Dr. Danielle M. Dick
Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. Ahmad Hariri
Duke University

Dr. Stephen B. Manuck
University of Pittsburgh



Dr. Kendon Smith

History of the Lecture Series

The Kendon Smith Lecture Series is an endowed annual lecture series that brings international experts to UNCG to discuss a topic related to mind and behavior that is of general interest to both the academic community and the public. The lectures are hosted by the Department of Psychology at UNCG. They usually occur on the UNCG campus over a two-day period, and they are open to the public free of charge.

The Kendon Smith Lectures are named in honor and memory of Dr. Kendon Smith, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, UNCG. Professor Smith was a former Head of the Psychology Department and had served the University and the Department for many years as a respected scientist, scholar, teacher and friend. The first lectures were held in 1994 and have continued annually.

Talks will be held from 1:30pm-4:30pm on Thursday, October 1 and 9:00am-12:15pm on Friday, October 2. Locations and details will be announced on the department monitors and with flyers available in the department. Lecture attendance is free and we encourage those in the general public and those within our local campus community to attend.

Organizer

This year's series is being organized by Dr. Suzanne Vrshek-Schallhorn, who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Schallhorn directs the Genes, Environment, and Emotions (GENE lab). Her program of research examines the roles of genetic polymorphisms and several types of life stress, working alone and in interaction, on depression and related outcomes such as affective information processing measures.

Please plan to join us on October 1-2, 2015.

For more information and directions to campus, please see our website

<http://psy.uncg.edu/>



Dr. Suzanne Schallhorn

Community Engagement in Psychology

Psychology faculty and students are busy in the community integrating research, service and teaching.



Dr. Gabriela Stein has been leading a team of graduate and undergraduate students in the Caminos lab to explore how middle school and family environments impact the lives of young, Latino adolescents living in Asheboro, NC. Dr. Stein mentors first year graduate student, Yesinia Mejia (pictured left).



Dr. Mendez and her students in the Parenting and School Readiness lab have been offering monthly parenting programs at Charles McCrary Elementary school in Asheboro, NC to enhance children's academic and skills and promote parent involvement. Dr. Mendez leads a group activity with parents on team-building (pictured above).



Drs. Keane and Nelson-Gray directed the Dream Camp program to enhance social skills and friendships for children ages 8-18, including but not limited to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Congratulations to the faculty and graduate students on offering a successful day camp experience to the 2015 Summer Campers.

For more information on these projects, please contact faculty members or explore personal webpages found at psy.uncg.edu

Undergraduate Research and Creativity Awards

Attention Undergraduates! Did you know that you can apply for funds to support an independent research project and obtain close mentorship from a faculty member in the Psychology Department? Undergraduate Research and Creativity Awards (URCA) are available for this purpose. Check out this list of impressive past and current winners. Congratulations to these students and their faculty mentors. Ask your professors today if you are interested in a URCA opportunity.

2014-2015

Annie (Laura) Benson-Greer, "Processes and Benefits of Friendship for Boys Aged 8-12 with Autism Spectrum Disorders." Mentor: Rosemary Nelson-Gray

Amber Borczyk, "The Role of Dampening in Anxiety and Depressive Symptoms Among Student and Community Populations." Mentor: Blair Wisco

Piers Burkhart, "Does Ambiguity Cause Greater Forgetting?" Mentor: Lili Sahakyan.

Kelly Clifton, "Emotion Regulation and School Functioning in the Context of Teacher-Child Relationships." Mentor: Susan Keane

Angela Dyson, "The Role of Moral Explanations in Children's Processing of Evaluative Information." Mentor: Janet Boseovski

Laurel Everett, "Examining the Development of Memory for Temporal Context with an Event-Related Potential Paradigm." Mentor: Thanujeni Pathman

Leah Kouchel, "The Role of Internal Context in Memory for Word Pairs." Mentor: Lili Sahakyan.

Markeela Lipscomb, "Working Memory as a Moderator of Schizotypy and Creativity." Mentor: Thomas Kwapil

Gabriel McNair, "Examining Individual Differences in Response to Bias in Recognition Memory." Mentor: Peter Delaney

Alyssa Mielock, "Assessment of Psychotic-Like Experiences in Daily Life." Mentor: Thomas Kwapil

Summer 2015

Fizah Zafar, "Examining the role of stereotype threat in older adults' avoidance of memory strategies." Mentor: Dayna Tournon

Amanda Baeten, "How does Rumination affect Negative Emotions?" Mentor: Blair Wisco

2015-2016

Aaron Frazier, "Analysis of self-reference word usage of individuals with depression pre- versus post-treatment." Mentor: Kari Eddington

Devin Tilley, "Working Memory Capacity, Attention-control, and Mind Wandering as Predictors of Schizotypal Ambivalence" Mentor: Michael Kane.

Domonique Edwards, "Teacher-child Relationships and Academic Performance in Low-income African American Children" Mentor: Julia Mendez

Zuzana Mironovova, "Mental Effort During Tasks With Unstable Difficulty." Mentor: Paul Silvia

Graduate Student Success!

Congratulations to the outgoing clinical interns for 2015-2016! We will miss your presence on campus and know that you will represent UNCG well in your future endeavors. Despite significant competition for placements, the clinical program at UNCG again placed 100% of students who applied for a doctoral internship.

This year's class includes:

Nadia Huq (Advisor: Dr. Gabriela Stein) —Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.
Catherine Majestic (Advisor: Dr. Kari Eddington) — VA Medical Center in Durham, NC
Jenna Mendelson (Advisor: Dr. Rosemary Nelson-Gray) — Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta, GA

Congratulations to Dr. David Frank who earned his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology and accepted a post-doc at Case Western Reserve.

Welcome to Dr. Alyson Cavanaugh, who earned her Ph.D. from Human Development and Family Studies from UNCG and is now completing a post-doc with the Caminos lab under the direction of Dr. Gabriela Stein.



Alumni Stories



Did you know?

Keeping track of our alumni is important to maintaining the department's high level of success. When we connect with our alumni, we increase our understanding of how to best prepare our students for their next steps, whether it is graduate school, the first job, or for success in life. We would like to keep in better touch with our alumni and share news with you, about the people who matter to you—your classmates and former professors! We have a growing Facebook community and would like you to become members. Please send us photos, stories, or updates about things that are happening in your lives. You may also email the editor at jlmenendez@uncg.edu

Also, visit the Alumni Association of UNCG for information and gatherings at <http://www.alumni.uncg.edu>

Homecoming Weekend is October 14-18, 2015!



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