

Spring 2018

Department of Psychology Newsletter

Department of Psychology, Old Dominion University

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OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

MICHELLE L. KELLEY, PH.D.

Welcome to the spring 2018 newsletter! We have had another exciting year. We conducted a search for a new faculty hire. I am delighted to say that Dr. Abby Braitman will begin as a new Assistant Professor of Psychology in the fall. Many of you know Abby as she has been with us for a while most recently as a Research Assistant Professor. Abby joins our new faculty trio, Drs. Jing Chen, Alan Meca, and Violet Xu, who began this past fall. These new faculty certainly bring excitement and energy to our already stand-out group. We have also had some changes. Dr. Debra Major is the new Associate Dean in the College of Sciences. Congratulations, Debbie!

As you will soon see, this edition of the newsletter highlights many activities, especially activities by our undergraduate students, taking place in the department. While certainly not an exhaustive list, we are very proud of these students. We hope the education and experiences they obtain at ODU are helpful in the many types of careers that our students accomplish. To illustrate some of the things our former students are doing, please enjoy our new column, Alumni News. In this column we feature a few recent and not-so-recent, undergraduate alumni.

I also invite you to take a look at our website (<https://www.odu.edu/psychology>) and discover the many things that our faculty and students are doing. What you will find is faculty and students conducting cutting-edge research on topics as broad as understanding and preventing substance abuse, understanding mental processes that can be used to help designers develop intuitive interfaces, understanding human-robot interactions, and recognizing how everyday experiences and changes in developing simulations improve healthcare.

As always, thank you for your support and please stay in touch!



Psychology Clubs: PSI CHI/APS

APS President: **K'La Pipkins**

Psi Chi President: **Patricia Mejia**

Treasurer: **Cierah Frederick**

Secretary: **Tetsuya Sato**

APS/Psi Chi Faculty Advisor: **Jennifer Younkin**

Vice President: **Dariel Taylor**

How and Why to Get Involved in Psychology Research?

By: Sidney Scott-Sharoni

It seems as though as time passes, obtaining a bachelor's degree is viewed as an obligation rather than an achievement. As students we are required to do more and more to set ourselves apart from the rest of the crowd. In psychology, one way to distinguish yourself for future jobs and graduate school is to get involved in research. The problem is that many undergrads, me included, have no idea where to start in the research process. Despite being required for graduate school, people do not talk about it with other students. Luckily, for me, my sophomore year I met many older students who taught me how to get involved and I am writing this article to pass that information onto you.

The first step is to email! Email all the psychology professors if you have to, but I stuck with the ones I had previously taken. I included my availability, my informal transcript, and a little bit about my interests. I also noted that I had taken 317 and 318W, but you are not required to have taken these courses to start research. This is so important because I think many students have heard the opposite and thought they were unqualified. Almost all of the professors I emailed responded with an application, or information about other opportunities.

The second step is to apply and interview! Applications can be boring, but they all ask the same types of questions. Be honest but be excited. Professors want to work with students who have an interest in their field of study. If you are unsure about your interests, say that you are open to learning new things. I only filled out two applications and I interviewed with both shortly afterwards.

After deciding to be a part of Dr. Yamani's Human Factors lab, I quickly became involved with his research. I knew Dr. Yamani from taking 317 in the summer of 2017 and I was instantly interested in his research when I heard he was looking for participants in his driving simulation study. It sounded so cool, and was an area of psychology that was unfamiliar to me. In my short time working in the lab so far, I have learned a lot and there is still so much more to come! Do not be afraid to get involved! Professors get as much out of you working in their lab as you give to them. Research has been such a rewarding experience and I encourage everyone to get involved!

The last few months have been very eventful for the undergraduate research assistants in the Applied Cognitive Performance Laboratory (ACP Lab) in the Human Factors Psychology program. Research conducted in the ACP Lab focuses on surface transportation and human-machine interaction using various state-of-the-art technologies including a high-fidelity driving simulator and eye tracker. Dr. Yamani, the director of the ACP Lab, applies an active, hands-on approach when mentoring his students. His methods, along with the help of his graduate students, have given our undergraduate assistants the opportunity to assist on all aspects of research, including literature reviews, data collection and analyses, and manuscript writing.

Currently, the ACP Lab consists of 4 outstanding undergraduate research assistants: **Dakota Palmer**, **Sidney Scott-Sharoni**, **Tetsuya Sato**, and **Veronica Vasquez**. Each member has a background in science-related courses and knowledge that adds diversity and insight to our Human Factors-related research. The assistants are progressing quickly and learning many skills that will complement their graduate school plans. The following paragraphs highlight some of the ACP Lab undergraduates' accomplishments thus far.

Dakota Palmer is our most-senior undergraduate research assistant. This semester, Dakota has been interning at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA. His internship focuses on developing virtual reality and augmented research applications for data visualization and simulation. Dakota is first author on a recent publication that appeared in *i-Perception*. The project, funded by National Institute of Aeronautics, was a collaborative effort between students under the direction of Dr. Yusuke Yamani (Assistant Professor of Psychology) and Dr. Dean Krusienski (Professor of Biomedical Engineering). Dakota is also co-author on a paper recently accepted for publication in Applied Ergonomics and another paper in development for Safety.

Other ACP lab assistants have also been successful. Sidney Scott-Sharoni served as co-author on a paper that will be presented at the *Annual Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Conference* and Veronica Vasquez will be presenting research at the *Southeastern Human Factors Applied Research Conference*. Veronica will also be attending the *Virginia Academy of Science Annual Conference* this semester to present her poster titled: The Effects of Automated Vehicle Control Systems on Simulator Sickness. Finally, a huge congratulations to Dakota and Tetsuya who have both been accepted into graduate programs for fall 2018!

Written by: Nicole Karpinsky-Mosley



“My experience in the lab has been very eye-opening. I came in with little understanding of human factors; however, I have now gained a great appreciation for the discipline. I am enjoying working with and being mentored by everyone in the lab. I am grateful for the many opportunities I have been given and being able to start my future career as a researcher.” -Sidney Scott-Sharoni

Dakota Palmer



Veronica Vasquez



Tetsuya Sato



If you would like to find out more about the ACP Lab or stay up-to-date on our progress, our website is:

<http://yyusuke.faculty.digitalodu.com/>



Photo by Chuck Thomas, Old Dominion University Photographer

The Psychology of Design (PoD) laboratory had two posters accepted for the upcoming *Southeastern Human Factors Applied Research Conference* hosted by Clemson University. Please congratulate **John Hicks, Paige Duplantis, Ayobami Fakulujo**, and Dr. Jeremiah Still on their poster entitled, "Does relative item luminance affect how well e-commerce products are remembered?" And, **John Hicks, Morgan Edwards, Meghan Brayton, Gabrielle Harrell**, and Dr. Jeremiah Still on their poster entitled, "Can the relative luminance of e-commerce products affect how quickly they are found?" It is important for designers to create displays that guide users toward critical information. Designers have attempted to guide user attention by making visual web elements' colors brighter and adding motion. However, past research has shown users find these web elements manipulations annoying, or they ignore them altogether. We suggest designers use more subtle element manipulations.

For example, changing the relative visual salience as revealed by a salience model (Itti, Koch & Niebur, 1998). Recently, it has been shown that salient interface elements can guide attention (Hicks, Cain & Still, 2017) and are found faster than low salient items (Still, Hicks, Cain & Billman, 2017). The present study manipulated relative luminance of targets by creating a subtle, undetectable darkening of all areas on a target display except for the target itself. This is a unique approach because rather than considering individual visual elements the entire display was manipulated. We examined whether items that were higher in relative luminance were remembered better than items with no change in relative luminance. Also, we examined whether there was a difference in how quickly participants could find targets on displays with changes to relative target luminance compared to displays that remained unchanged.

The PoD lab also had a proceeding recently accepted at the *4th International Conference on Human Factors in Cybersecurity*. Please congratulate **Lauren Tiller, Ashley Cain, Lucas Potter**, and Dr. Jeremiah Still on their manuscript entitled, "Graphical authentication schemes: Balancing amount of image distortion." Graphical authentication schemes offer a more memorable alternative to conventional passwords. One common criticism of graphical passcodes is the risk for observability by unauthorized onlookers. This type of threat is referred to as an Over-the-Shoulder Attack (OSA). A strategy to prevent casual OSAs is to distort the images, making them difficult for onlookers to recognize. Critically, the distortion should not harm legitimate users' ability to recognize their passcode images. If designers select the incorrect amount of distortion, the passcode images could become vulnerable to attackers or images could become unrecognizable by users rendering the system useless for authentication. We examined an array of brushstroke sizes to determine the right balance of distortion, which maintains user recognition and decrease casual OSAs. We also mathematically represented the image distortion process to facilitate implementation of this OSA resistant approach.

We are always searching for the best undergraduate research assistants! If you are interested in joining our team starting next semester, please complete our application found at psychofdesign.com/jointheteam.htm



Meet our students graduating with honors in psychology:

Elizabeth Bauer
Hannah Hamrick
Brooke Puharic

Elizabeth Bauer is a Psychology major who graduated from Old Dominion University in December 2017 with Honors in Psychology. As a student at ODU, Elizabeth became involved in two research labs in addition to completing an undergraduate honors thesis. In Dr. Abby Braitman's College Health Behaviors Lab, Elizabeth gained skills in creating surveys, coding data, creating codebooks, and conducting literature reviews. While working on her honors thesis, Elizabeth also worked as lab manager in Dr. Matt Judah's Emotion Research and Psychophysiology (ERP) Lab, where she developed her passion for EEG research. In the ERP Lab, Elizabeth developed a strong skillset in using EEG equipment, processing EEG data in Matlab/ERPLAB, programming stimuli in Presentation, and an overall understanding of event-related potentials (ERPs). She also trained other research assistants in equipment handling and study protocol. In addition, Elizabeth was involved in numerous poster presentations in the ERP Lab, including four first-author posters at national conferences exploring ERPs and constructs related to anxiety, such as anxiety sensitivity and intolerance of uncertainty.

Elizabeth began work on her honors thesis in January 2017 through Supervised Research with Dr. Braitman. Her thesis focused on the contrast avoidance model of Generalized Anxiety Disorder and the associations between it and college psychosocial factors (i.e., social, financial, and academic stressors and social support). Over the course of a year, Elizabeth successfully proposed her honors thesis to the Honors Thesis Committee, submitted the IRB, collected data, and completed data cleaning and analyses in SPSS using multiple regressions. She also applied for and received a \$500 ESE Grant for Student Research and Undergraduate Honors Theses to recruit and incentivize ODU students outside of SONA. Elizabeth defended her honors thesis in December 2017 and is currently working on a manuscript for publication with multiple faculty members.

Elizabeth recently accepted an offer from Texas A&M University to attend their Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program starting in Fall 2018. In the meantime, she is continuing to work in her research labs at ODU. As a graduate student, Elizabeth will continue researching the development and maintenance of anxiety disorders using ERPs and hopes to ultimately have a career in research as a clinical psychologist. Her best advice for undergraduates considering a career in psychology is to become involved in research early on to develop defined research interests and gain plenty of research experience before it is time to apply to graduate programs.





Meet **Hannah Hamrick**. Hannah served in the U.S. Navy from 2009 to 2015. Shortly after reporting to her first command, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, Hannah volunteered to forward deploy with the USS George H.W. Bush in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this deployment, she was responsible for maintaining and operating two ship's self-defense weapon systems. She also operated the Seasparrow/Stalker long-range sensor system, which she used to provide early detection and classification of potential threats during combat operations. In this capacity, she played an integral role in maintaining the safety of the ship and its 5,000 crew members.

After her deployment, Hannah returned to the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which was in the drydocks at Newport News Shipbuilding for a four-year period of overhaul. Here, she quickly assumed a leadership role in her division, serving as Leading Petty Officer for 26 junior sailors. In recognition of her leadership ability and dedication to duty, she was nominated Command Junior Sailor of the Quarter and Departmental Junior Sailor of the Year. She advanced to Petty Officer First Class (E-6) in an astonishing four and a half years. Hannah ended her enlistment with a one year assignment as Departmental Career Counselor, providing career guidance and services to 210 enlisted service members and supervising 12 junior Career Counselors. Throughout her time onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, she expertly balanced the rigors of military service with her academic goals, completing seven undergraduate courses while on active duty.

When Hannah's contract ended in May 2015, she chose to separate from the military in order to return to school and seek research experience. Additionally, she began to work as a Direct Support Professional at Hope House Foundation, a non-profit agency that provides home- and community-based support services to individuals with a primary diagnosis of intellectual or developmental disability. Here, she quickly advanced from part-time to full-time and currently works as a Community Support Coordinator, providing direct services and facilitating community integration.

In addition to working at Hope House and attending school full time, she is a member of Dr. Kelley's Youth and Family Development lab. Hannah first worked on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. Given her background and interests, Hannah was an initial investigator on Project Call to Duty, an online self-report survey examining combat trauma and mental health outcomes among veterans.

Hannah's honors thesis, for which she won an Honors College Undergraduate Research and Creativity Grant, was proposed in fall 2017. To summarize her thesis work, recent-era service members (i.e., those deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom) report higher rates of suicide compared to previous generations of service members. Recent qualitative literature has proposed associations between suicidality and moral injury, a specific type of combat trauma believed to be associated with exposure to moral transgression (i.e., violating one's personal beliefs). Hannah's honors thesis examines associations between exposure to events that transgress a service member's existing beliefs, the development of moral injury, and suicidality. Her honors thesis is under review in *Military Psychology* with Hannah as lead author. Hannah hopes to add her honors thesis to her growing list of publications—four so far. She will defend her honors thesis this semester and will graduate in May. She plans to pursue her goal of attending graduate school and becoming a clinical psychologist after graduation.



Meet **Brooke Puharic**. Brooke is a junior with a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She is not only an Honors College student and working on her honors in psychology, but she is also involved in many other clubs and organizations on campus. She is an officer for Psi Chi (the international honors society for psychology students), a peer educator, and a member of the NSCS honors society. On the board of the Academic Integrity Council, a facilitator for M-Power, a coordinator for the Global Certificate Program, an officer for club field hockey, a current confirmation student for Catholic Campus Ministries, a local volunteer, and finally, an undergraduate assistant in the Youth and Family Development Lab. I know the question you are asking is when does Brooke sleep?

As a part of the Youth and Family Development Lab, Brooke has learned to clean data, write codebooks, edit pilot studies, been a participant in the Green Dot bystander intervention program, and, most importantly, developed her original honors thesis. Brooke began the honors thesis process through Supervised Research with Dr. Michelle Kelley. Within a semester, she has not only proposed her research to the Department of Psychology Honors Thesis Committee but she is currently collecting data via SONA. Her research will assess whether adverse childhood experiences are associated with bystanders' beliefs about whether they can effectively intervene in potential instances of intimate partner violence (i.e., bystander efficacy), and whether bystander efficacy is associated with willingness to intervene.

In addition, Brooke will examine these associations in instances in which men are the perpetrator of an instance of violence versus situations in which women are the perpetrator of an instance of violence. After receiving a \$2,000 Research and Creativity Grant from the Honors College to support her honors thesis research, Brooke plans to present her thesis findings at the American Psychological Association conference in Chicago in 2019.

In addition to working on her honors thesis, she is currently working on a poster presentation with Sarah Ehlke, a doctoral student in the Applied Psychological Sciences, that is examining childhood physical abuse, drinking motives, and alcohol consequences. Brooke will be presenting this work at the American Psychological Conference this August in San Francisco! In addition, she is also helping Brittany Hollis, also a doctoral student in the Applied Psychological Sciences, with her dissertation, which is evaluating the Green Dot bystander intervention program. Brooke hopes to take on a few more research projects before graduating.

Although it has been challenging to dedicate enough time to her thesis, organizations, work, and schoolwork, Brooke assures us that the payoff is worth it. She will begin applying to graduate schools within the next few months in hopes to continue research and become an expert in health psychology. Her advice to other undergraduates interested in research is to surround yourself with a supportive and strong team, and involve yourself in research and organizations that reflect your interests.

Elizabeth C. Guy
Academic Award-
Brittany Walker

Undergraduate
Award
Winners

Elizabeth C. Guy
Service Award-
Martina Oshana

Undergraduate Award Winners

The Alan Chaiken Outstanding Honors Thesis Award –

Brianna Haislip and Elizabeth Bauer



ALUMNI NEWS

Meet our psychology Undergraduate Alumni:

Katherine Ely

and

Nicole Moore

KATHERINE ELY

B.S. Psychology and Communications
Old Dominion University, Class of 2005
M.S.c Social Policy and International Development
London School of Economics Class of 2009

As an ODU Alum who has since moved overseas, I don't get to visit home very much but I never forget where I came from and how much ODU shaped who I am. I graduated in December 2005 with a B.S. in Psychology and Communications (dual major) and although I've taken many different roads and have changed careers twice, I use the knowledge and skills I learned at ODU every single day!

I'm currently working as a Global Emergency Specialist for an international non-profit organization. I certainly didn't start off my career even thinking I'd be where I am today. But it's the knowledge of relationships, and the coupling of independent and group research which I learned at ODU which has allowed me to be successful in various fields. I don't believe that we have to stay in one career our entire lives to get the most out of life and I've certainly made my fair share of research, academic, and career shifts! When I was at ODU, I started research with Dr. Porter in the BPRAT team where I went into the field and recorded live data on driving patterns. I enjoyed the experience so much that as I wandered the halls of MGB in the evenings and on weekends, I found my way into the HFES team with Dr. Bliss. My last two years at ODU truly shaped my future and were some of the most enjoyable years I can remember! Teamwork and learning were not only part of my curriculum but we're a major part of my life. And it is because of the excellent staff and colleagues at ODU that I learned that diversity in education and life is important. I learned not to limit myself to one thing because for me my passion is to learn and experience as much as I can absorb. I might not have ended up in the field of psychology, but I use the knowledge I gained from ODU everyday and I'm proud of my alma matar for everything it has also grown to become!

Perhaps if I could give one word of advice to any undergrads wondering if you are on the right track or taking the right courses, it would be to keep pushing yourself to be challenged and learn more. It's easy to take the straight road but much more exciting to take a bus, train, plane, and boat to get there.

NICOLE MOORE



As a special education teacher for SECEP's Autism Spectrum Program and Educational and Behavioral Intervention for Challenging Students, I serve students at the elementary level with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities. My classroom programming incorporates basic Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques and reinforcement procedures.

Along with two amazing teaching assistants, we provide a positive, safe environment that promotes learning. Instruction is based on state standards (Standards of Learning or Adapted Standards of Learning) and differentiated for each student. Additionally, I assess, develop, and implement Individualized Education Programs (IEP) which focuses on each student's strengths and needs in areas such as Communication, Social Skills, Fine Motor Skills, Independent Functioning, Cognitive Functioning and Behavior.

I implement evidence-based practices throughout the school day. My instructional groups and direct instruction (one-on-one instruction, focusing on students' IEP goals) are structured on many of Skinner's behavior principles. We use differential reinforcement to increase desired behaviors. My undergraduate degree in Psychology has proved fundamental in my success as a teacher.



Veronica Vasquez is a graduating senior in Psychology with a minor in Human Service Counseling. She is a member of the Virginia Academy of Science, the Society for Neuroscience, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and Psi Chi. She will be presenting research at the Southeastern Human Factors Applied Research Conference in April in South Carolina. She is also the winner of the first James O'Brien Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) Undergraduate Research Award. This award is accompanied by a generous gift of \$1,000 made possible by Dr. James O'Brien. She will be presenting her research at VAS in May that was conducted as a member of the Applied Cognitive Performance Laboratory (under the direction of Dr. Yusuke Yamani).



The Spring 2018 Mini Involvement Fair was on March 1st. The fair provided students with an opportunity to learn more about the student organizations at Old Dominion University. Additionally, the fair provided student organizations an opportunity to recruit new members, and network with other organizations on campus.

Submitted by Darieel Taylor

APS President: K. La Pipkins

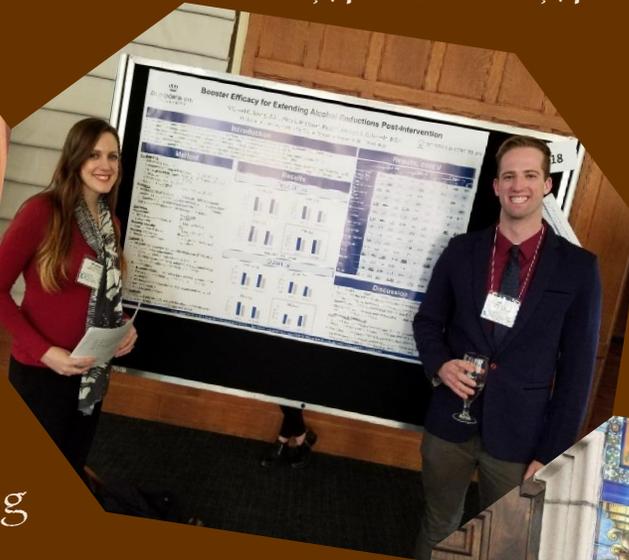


Brooke Puharic

Dr. Abby Braitman being presented with the Early Career Travel Award



Melissa and Mike at their poster



Abby Presenting

Representing ODU -
Abby, Sarah Ehlke, Melissa
Colangelo, and Mike Young

Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference (Division 50 of APA)



Abby Braitman and the Brown University Research Group she has been collaborating with on research

Sidney Scott-Sharoni and Dr. Greenspan, taking a selfie! "I really enjoyed meeting him, his wife, and his staff during my time in Oxford."



*Suzanne Morrow
and
Courtney Nischnick*

*Suzanne was Courtney's mentor for the
Monarch Lead program.
Courtney graduated in December 2017.*

Graduate Program News:

According to Dr. Robin Lewis, Clinical Ph.D. Students: **Kelsey Ellis** and **Alex Shappie** were recently notified that their ODU Graduate School Summer Research and Creativity Grant proposals were selected for funding. Across the whole university only 6 proposals were selected from 43 submissions, and Consortium students received 2! As Dr. Lewis said, “That is awesome!”

Kelsey and Alex will each receive summer funding to work on their proposed research.



Kelsey's proposal is entitled:

Examining the Role of ADHD Symptomatology in Harsh Parenting Preferences: An Analog Study



Alex's proposal is entitled:

The Feasibility of Recruiting a Nationally Representative Sample of Sexual Minority Men via Facebook Advertising:
A Study of Demographic Characteristics and Health Variables

Congratulations to Kelsey and Alex on this noteworthy accomplishment. Good luck with your summer research projects!

Project Title:

Examining the Role of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Symptomatology in Harsh Parenting Preferences: An Analog Study

Graduate Student: **Kelsey Ellis**, second-year clinical doctoral student

Research Mentor: Dr. James Paulson

Project Description:

According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, the number and rate of child abuse victims increased 3.8 percent from 2011 to 2015, highlighting the urgent need for greater understanding of the determinants of child abuse, specifically harsh parenting. Harsh parenting is defined as psychological (verbal) and/or physical (nonverbal) parenting practices that are carried out to inflict pain or discomfort for the purposes of correcting a child's behavior. Despite vast research on distal factors (i.e., developmental histories) of harsh parenting, there remains limited research addressing proximal factors (i.e., psychological resources in the immediate context). Although proximal processes such as emotion regulation and negative affect have been associated with harsher parenting preferences, limited research explores the role of cognitive processes. Furthermore, substantially less is known of proximal determinants of parent decision-making among individuals with mild impairments in cognition, such as those with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Understanding the proximal factors specifically related to ADHD symptoms in novice parents could have broad implications for preventive interventions for harsh parenting.

Although infant crying has been associated with impaired cognitive processes (e.g., poor concentration) in parents, the role of infant crying on harsh parenting behaviors remains unclear, with reports of both increased and decreased harsh parenting responses. Kelsey's preliminary research, done in Dr. Paulson's Early Family Studies Laboratory, has begun to characterize the general dysregulating role that infant crying produces in young adults. The present study aims to further explore this system by examining how ADHD symptomatology may make an individual more susceptible to harsh parenting preferences under a condition of simulated parental stress (i.e., infant crying noise).



Project Title:

The Feasibility of Recruiting a Nationally Representative Sample of Sexual Minority Men via Facebook Advertising: A Study of Demographic Characteristics and Health Variables

Graduate Student: **Alex Shappie**, fourth-year clinical Ph.D. student

Research Mentor: Dr. Robin Lewis

The National Institutes of Health established the Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office in 2015 and recognized sexual and gender minorities (i.e., individuals who do not identify as heterosexual and/or cisgender) as a health disparity population in 2016. However, one of the ongoing challenges to conducting research about sexual minority health is recruitment of diverse samples, both in terms of race/ethnicity and sexual identity. Individuals who hold multiple minority identities, such as a minority sexual identity and a minority racial/ethnic identity are thought to face increased risk for negative mental and physical health outcomes. Nevertheless, researchers oftentimes have difficulty recruiting individuals who hold both a sexual and racial/ethnic minority identity. This limitation frequently leads to the recruitment of samples that are predominantly white, which may contribute to conclusions that are biased or not representative of sexual minority people of color. Thus, it is imperative that researchers develop ways of accessing these traditionally hard to reach populations.

Social media advertising offers researchers the opportunity to recruit participants across a wide range of geographic and demographic characteristics, including sexual and racial minority identity, which may assist researchers recruit populations that have historically been difficult to access. Building upon previous research regarding using social media for social science research recruitment, Alex's work will examine the feasibility of recruiting a racially diverse, nationally representative sample of sexual minority men (SMM) via Facebook Advertisements. This project builds upon previous research conducted by Alex and his research mentor, Dr. Robin Lewis, which demonstrated the feasibility of recruiting a racially diverse, nationally representative sample of sexual minority women (SMW) via Facebook Advertisements. Alex's project aims to extend these findings to SMM while also generating a robust dataset of SMM recruited via social media to be used for further comparisons and analyses. This project is supported by a Summer Research and Creativity Grant awarded to Alex by the ODU Graduate School.



Faculty News:

Dr. Richard N. Landers was recently interviewed by Kim Cung, Channel 3 WTKR News, about increasing consumer concerns that Facebook is 'spying' on them. To watch this fascinating interview, please visit:

<http://wtkr.com/2018/02/02/is-facebook-spying-on-you/>

Graduate Alumni News:

Christopher Rotolo, Ph.D. (1997) and **Alexis Fink, Ph.D. (2000)** won distinguished SIOB Awards.

Johanna Merritt WU, Ph.D. (1997) - Practitioner route as an IO PSYCH PHD <https://johannawu.wordpress.com> – Talk to an alumna about how to consider a practitioner oriented use of their PhD.

Around the Department in Photos:

A few in the department joined in the spirit of Halloween this past fall.

Happy Halloween!

Please vote for the best costume, and return your vote to Peggy by 8:00 am Wednesday morning.



Witch



Freudian Slip



Biker Chick



Ravenclaw



Gryffindor

Winners were:

First Place: Visual Search Task and N2pc –

Drs. Yusuke Yamani & Matt Judah

2nd Place Biker – Peggy

3rd Place Freudian Slip - Danyel



Visual Search Task and N2pc



Thing 2



Harley Quinn

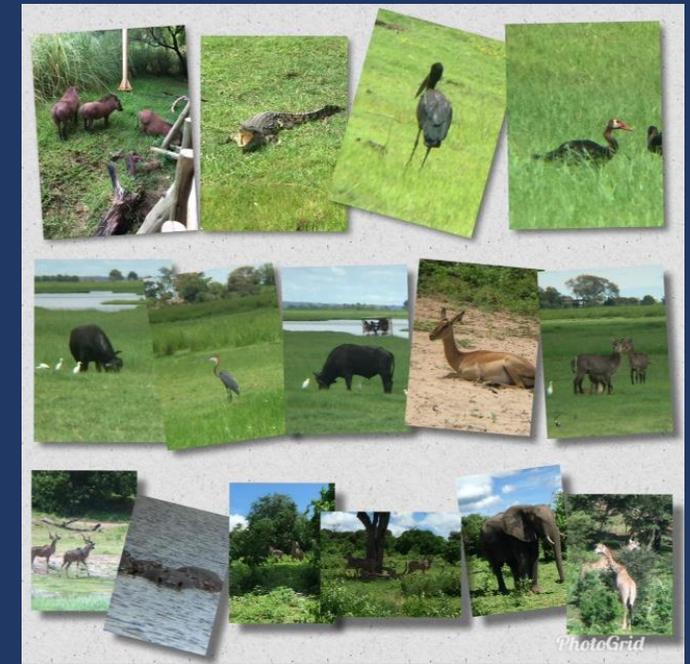


Dr. Phil Langlais is enjoying his retirement, and sent us a few photos from Africa.

“We had a fabulous holiday in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The pics inadequately capture the beauty and diversity of the wildlife we saw, sometimes quite "up close and personal." Vervet monkeys, warthogs, steenbok, Impala, Egyptian geese, and other beautiful animals roamed freely on the golf course, some left 'presents' on the greens making putting an adventure. We are back in Cape Town enjoying beautiful weather.” Phil Langlais.



Gathering for a little holiday lunch, and pretending to be in a winter wonderland.

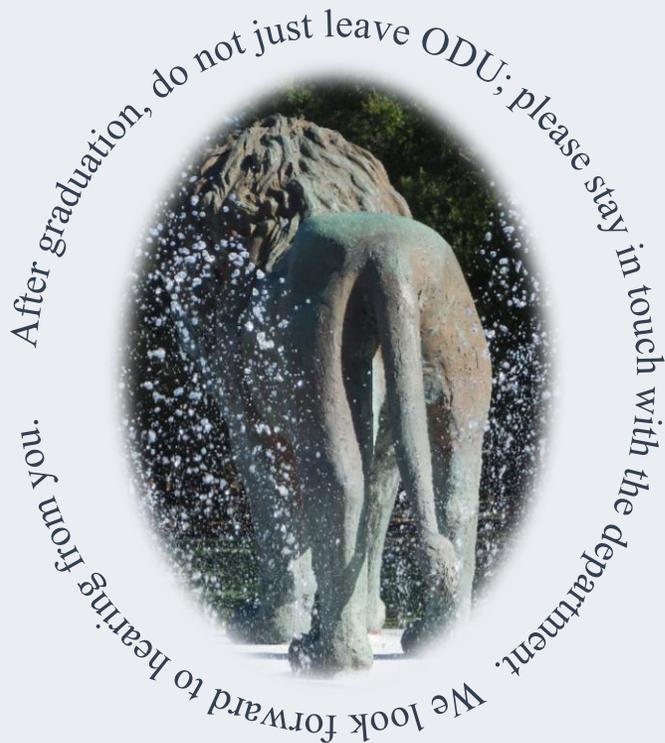


Alumni News can be

e-mailed to pkinard@odu.edu:

Share your news with the department. Let us know what you have been up to since graduation.

Did you go on to graduate school, get a new job; did you get married or have a new baby? When writing do not forget to include the following information: Name and Graduation Date.



*W*hat doors were opened for you because of your ODU experience? Would you like to support current and future ODU students to have similar opportunities as you? If you wish to strengthen academic and research initiatives, or are interested in a particular program and want to see it grow and succeed, please contact Denise Milisitz. She is the new Development Officer for the College of Sciences and would be happy to assist you in creating a legacy and inspiring others at ODU.

Denise Milisitz
Old Dominion University
Development Officer
College of Sciences
Office: (757) 683-4784
Email: amilisit@odu.edu

THANK YOU for your continuing interest in the Psychology Department. Your contributions to the Psychology Department go to support research and teaching activities.

The Psychology Department has several funds for student awards, scholarships and general purposes. These include:

Alan L. Chaikin Psychology Honors Thesis Award is given to the undergraduate student with the most outstanding honors thesis.

Elizabeth C. Guy Outstanding Psychology Student Awards are given to the graduating senior with the most outstanding service to the department and the most outstanding academic accomplishments.

David L. Pancoast Memorial Dissertation Prize is given to the clinical Ph.D. student with the most outstanding dissertation.

Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award recognizes a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Psychology who has demonstrated exceptional instructional quality as evidenced by students and faculty.

Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor of Record Award recognizes a graduate student instructor of record in the Department of Psychology who has demonstrated exceptional instructional quality as evidenced by students and faculty.

Your contribution can support any of these awards or the General Gift Fund that is used where the need is greatest:

YOUR GIFT: \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ other \$ _____

GIFT DESIGNATION:

_____ Psychology General Gift Fund _____ Chaikin Psychology Honors Thesis Award _____ Guy Outstanding Psychology Student Award
_____ Pancoast Memorial Dissertation Prize _____ Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
_____ Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor of Record Award

Please make checks payable to Old Dominion University and mail to the Psychology Department at: Psychology Department, MGB 250
Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529-0267

Contact Information: (757) 683-4439 Main Number or pkinard@odu.edu
Visit us on the web at <http://www.odu.edu/psychology/>
Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ODUPSYCHOLOGY