Dear Colleagues,

While the 2021 edition of Gilmer Gazette comes at the end of a difficult year in many dimensions, it also gives us a chance to celebrate our community’s and the department’s resilience and accomplishments. Please peruse through our rather indulgent lists of accolades below, and rejoice in the creativity, productivity and success of our graduate students, postdocs and the faculty alike.

During this past year, we celebrated the retirements of Professors Peter Brunjes, Mel Wilson and Fred Smyth, and wished them best of luck. We have seen our newly minted PhDs and +1MAs, embarking on their promising careers. We have welcomed several new members: Teague Henry will officially start his post as the Assistant Professor of Psychology and Data Science in August 2021; Jennifer MacCormack will join us in 2022 as the newest Assistant Professor in Social Psychology area. This fall, we will also welcome Abby Agi within the UVA Rising Scholar program, and our incoming graduate class of twelve PhD students, two +1MA candidates and two Bridge to Doctorate students. We are excited to be welcoming everyone in August.

Enjoy the Gilmer Gazette Summer 2021 Edition. Looking forward to seeing you all this Fall, in person!

Alev Erisir
Professor and Chair of Psychology

Inside this issue:
Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-2021 Colloquium Series was somewhat abbreviated from a typical schedule and all lectures were presented online via Zoom connections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution and Department</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 11, 2020</td>
<td>Jim Coan</td>
<td>University of Virginia, Department of Psychology</td>
<td>“Holding Hands During A Pandemic: A Field Guide”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 18, 2020</td>
<td>Jeanne Tsai</td>
<td>Stanford University, Department of Psychology and Director of the Stanford Culture and Emotion Lab</td>
<td>“How Culture Influences Our Emotions (and Why It Matters)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 25, 2020</td>
<td>Dan Meliza</td>
<td>University of Virginia, Department of Psychology</td>
<td>“Communicating in crowds: how the auditory system adapts to complex acoustic environments”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 9, 2020</td>
<td>Cynthia Tong</td>
<td>University of Virginia, Department of Psychology</td>
<td>“Robust Bayesian Analysis of Longitudinal Data using Conditional Medians”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 23, 2020</td>
<td>Alison Adcock</td>
<td>Duke University, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>“Motivations to Learn: Distinct Neural Contexts for Memory Systems and their Regulation”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 4, 2020</td>
<td>Jennifer MacCormack</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh, Department of Psychology</td>
<td>“The Visceral Mind: the Role of the Body in Affect”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 29, 2021</td>
<td>Graduate Student Flash Talks: Janelle Billingsley, Margot Bjoring, Quinn Hirschi, Gus Sjobeck, Crystal Slane, Sean Womack, Meltem Yucel</td>
<td>Community; Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience; Social; Quantitative; Cognitive; Clinical; Developmental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 19, 2021</td>
<td>Eric Turkheimer</td>
<td>University of Virginia, Department of Psychology</td>
<td>“From Twins to Polygenic Scores: Variance to Biology and Back”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 23, 2021</td>
<td>Elizabeth Phelps</td>
<td>Harvard University, Department of Psychology</td>
<td>“Mechanisms of Threat Control in Humans”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 7, 2021</td>
<td>Cydney Dupree</td>
<td>Yale University, School of Management</td>
<td>“Crossing Status Divides: Stereotypes, Strategies, and Solutions”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Incoming Graduate Students—Fall 2021

Alex Briegel joins the +1 MA in Psychology Research Methods program and will work with Alev Erisir in the Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience area. His research interests include sensory neurobiology and quantitative Psychology. Alex received his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and his hometown is Pittsburgh, PA.

Taylor Byron joins the Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience area to work with Dan Meliza. Broadly, her research interest is in understanding how sensory input is processed at a neural level and then utilized by an organism to orient itself and influence its behavior in a given environment. Recently, that interest has expressed itself in looking at mechanisms of auditory development in various animals, including songbirds and bats. She received her undergraduate degree from Algoma University and her hometown is Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Taylor was a member of her undergraduate school’s varsity curling team, and looks forward to being back on the ice later this year.

Sareena Chadha joins the Social area to work with Adrienne Wood. Her research interests include self-other disagreement, flexibility of social and emotional norms, cultural relativity, social perception and judgments, self-knowledge, and social networks. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and her hometown is Potomac Falls, VA. Sareena loves going to concerts, and she takes her playlist-making process very seriously. When she has the time, she loves reading and will always take book recommendations if you have them. She has lived in Charlottesville for four years and knows a bunch of coffee and food spots; feel free to get in touch if you ever want to explore the city or work from a coffee shop together!

Aaliyah Churchill joins the Community area and will work with Noelle Hurd. She is interested in the risk and protective factors that impact the well-being of Black adolescents and emerging adults. In particular, she is interested in examining how racial discrimination experiences and community violence exposure (witnessed in person and online) influence both the psychosocial and socioemotional outcomes of Black young adults transitioning out of high school and into college or the workforce. Furthermore, she would like to investigate how coping mechanisms (e.g., ethnic racial socialization, natural mentorship, and other strategies) can buffer the effects of negative experiences faced by Black youth. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Louisville and her hometown is Buford, GA. Aaliyah’s favorite hobby is roller skating at the park (her goal this summer is to learn as many fun dance moves on her skates as possible). Additionally, she loves to read, draw, watch new shows and movies, try new vegan restaurants, and spend time with friends.

Jennifer Dueñas joins the Bridge to the Doctorate program and will work with Adrienne Wood in the Social area. She is interested in researching non-verbal behaviors associated with emotion expressions, as well as how we use those cues to infer information about other individuals. She received her undergraduate degree from Yale University and her hometown is Salt Lake City, UT. Jennifer hopes to gain more research experience and eventually apply to graduate programs in psychology. In her free time, she loves making digital art, going on walks, and learning new recipes!
** Incoming Graduate Students—Fall 2021 **

Rachel Edelstein joins the Quantitative area to work with Jack Van Horn. Her research interests include concussions, traumatic brain injuries, neurodegeneration, and large group data. She received her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and her hometown is Dana Point, CA. Rachel is a former college athlete and current soccer coach. She loves all sports but her favorite is soccer! She is a member of the Concussion Legacy Foundation and hopes to go on to be a viable contributor to concussion research in the upcoming years.

Ahmad Elsayed joins the Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience area to work with Dan Meliza. The major areas of research he hopes to explore are sensory processing, neural circuits and behavior. He is interested in these areas as an underlying framework governing attention, deliberate decision making, and split moment reactions. From his findings while doing research in these areas, he wants to contribute to clinical/translational applications. Some areas that are adjacent and symbiotic with neuroscience that he hopes to involve in his research include computer/data science, machine learning, and quantitative methods. He received his undergraduate degree from George Mason University. He has lived many places in his life. He was born in Al Minya, Egypt and spent time living in Blacksburg, VA, Dubai and the DC/Maryland/Virginia area. He has never been sure which one to count as his hometown. He relates to the song “No Roots” by Alice Merton! Ahmad is high in openness to experience, high in conscientiousness, midrange in extraversion, high in agreeableness, and midrange in neuroticism, though social and clinical psych people may appreciate that description more than those in his field. His favorite kind of humor is the silly, stupid, and nonsensical kind, but he also enjoys some witty and some dark humor. He enjoys all kinds of music, but his favorite genres are Rock and Rap. He enjoys creative writing and has written a few rap songs that he performed at talent shows in his old job at Janelia. He was really into graphic design as a kid and has been doing it on and off throughout his life. He spent some time doing both his hobbies of creative writing and graphic design professionally when he worked as a journalist for an independent publisher called Arab American Voice during his undergrad. He tends to pick up new interests very frequently. During the start of the quarantine, he started learning Python programming, which he enjoyed incredibly and consumed most of his time last year.

Mona Farborzi joins the Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience area and will work with Adema Ribic. She is interested in how early life environment/experience shapes maturation of synapses. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Irvine and her hometown is San Diego, CA. Mona enjoys listening to music, playing video games, cooking and gardening.

Taylor Hinton joins the Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience area to work with Jessica Connelly. Her research interests include comparative and behavioral neuroscience, behavior and evolution, behavioral genetics and cognitive psychology. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Central Arkansas and her hometown is Fort Collins, CO. Taylor is a little bit of a hobby jumper, meaning she loves to try new things. She always says she will try just about anything at least once. She draws a little bit, plays the bass and is trying to learn the piano. Her two favorite activities are going to concerts and going hiking or camping. She loves playing video games and reading and learning new things.


**Incoming Graduate Students—Fall 2021**

**Arda Kipcak** joins the Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience area to work with Adema Ribic. He was fortunate enough to work in various projects on oncogenetics, epigenetics, and cognitive sciences. Ultimately, his core interests reside within neuroscience in the form of pursuing the cellular and molecular basis of Neural Correlates of Consciousness. He is also passionate and has been actively studying Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC), primarily focusing on telemetric DNA Damage Repair (DDR). He received his undergraduate degree from the Izmir University of Economics and his hometown is Izmir, Turkey. Apart from research, Arda enjoys playing catch with his dog (Alice) and playing the piano.

**A’zure Latimer** joins the Bridge to the Doctorate program to work with Seanna Leath in the Community area. Her research interests include (anti-)respectability politics; youth agency; Black girl and women resilience strategies; and self-empowerment. She received her undergraduate degree from the Georgia State University and her hometown is Hampton, VA. A’zure enjoys thrifting, attempting vegan recipes, pretending she is an interior designer via Pinterest, and serving in her communities (e.g., neighborhood, church, school, Black community). She delights in drinking tea and having different (cultural) experiences via travel. Currently, she is interested in reading for fun, caring for her (modest) plant collection, and learning more about the tools of expression and financial freedom. A’zure highly values communication, being in community, and utilizing encouragement. She believes respect is given but can be unearned. She also believes we each have inherent dignity. She intends to combat the ideas that say otherwise, as a means to elevate the voice of those who are not currently allowed in the conversations where recognized change occurs.

**Alexis McDonald** joins the Community area to work with Seanna Leath. Her research interests include psychological resilience among underrepresented minority populations, and the influence of mental health promotion among young adults and college students. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her hometown is Dallas, TX. Alexis is very passionate about fitness and health, and worked as a group fitness instructor during the pandemic, and served as a head coach at Orangetheory Fitness. She also has a diabetic Chihuahua that she will be bringing with her to campus. Her name is Primrose, and she is the sweetest.

**Yuhang Shu** joins the Developmental area and will work with Amrisha Vaish. She is wildly interested in the social and moral development of children. Specifically, she is curious about children’s moral judgments and prosocial behaviors in different social contexts by exploring the influence of social interactions, relationships, and stereotypes. She received her undergraduate degree from Beijing Normal University and her hometown is Chongqing, China. During her spare time, she enjoys baking, cooking and fitness.
Lindley Slipetz joins the Quantitative area to work with Teague Henry. Her research background is in network psychopathology, but she hopes to expand to other areas of network analysis during her PhD. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois-Chicago and her hometown is Bartlett, IL (suburb of Chicago). Lindley loves to hike and go camping (she tries to get a hike in every week and a camping trip in once a year). She also tries to set aside a little time every day to read some fiction. She has three wonderful cats: Minnie, Licorice, and Mr. Bojangles. One non-hobby thing to know about Lindley is that she started graduate school in 2011 studying Philosophy, and made the switch to Psychology two years ago.

David Thomas joins the +1 MA in Psychology Research Methods program and will work with Karen Schmidt in the Quantitative area. His research interests include drug abuse/addiction treatment and prevention, positive and negative psychological effects of drug use, and potential clinical applications of illicit drugs. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and his hometown is Gainesville, VA. David is most interested in things like music, football, comedy, and journalism. Some of his everyday hobbies include playing guitar, playing video games, reading the news, and hanging out with his roommates. He also enjoys going on walks, hanging out with friends, watching TV/movies, and going out and enjoying nature, whether it be hiking, stargazing, etc.

Rebecca (Becky) Waugh joins the Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience area to work with Jack Van Horn. She is interested in aging, neurodegeneration and ways that brain networks function, interact, change over time and fail. She has been working at NIH as a neuroimaging analyst on several movement disorder studies, including ALS and functional movement disorder. She is also interested in improving techniques and standards for data science applications in neuroscience and integrating information from multiple sources to build biomarkers and improve the understanding of disease mechanisms. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of St. Andrews and her hometown is Providence, RI. In her free time, Becky enjoys hiking and rock climbing. She is looking forward to exploring the mountains around Charlottesville! She also plays on a very low-key adult softball team and hopes to find a similar group. Her cat, Ivy, supervises her work daily since she has been working from home due to COVID-19.

Robert Williams, Jr. joins the Bridge to the Doctorate program and will work with Adema Ribic in the Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience area. His research interests are in learning and synaptic plasticity. He received his undergraduate degree from Queens University of Charlotte and his hometown is Fuquay Varina, NC. Robert enjoys running, watching classic films (especially anything with Gene Kelly), and martial arts.
## 2021 PhD Graduates and Dissertation Titles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Dissertation Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Claire Bjoring</td>
<td>Chad Meliza</td>
<td>Perception and Neural Representation of Auditory Restoration in the Songbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nazli Meltem Yucel</td>
<td>Amrisha Vaish</td>
<td>&quot;No Fair!&quot;: An Investigation of Children's Development of Fairness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Nicole Albright</td>
<td>Noelle Hurd</td>
<td>Underrepresented College Students and the Trump Presidency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Werntz Czywczynski</td>
<td>Bethany Teachman</td>
<td>Experimental Examination of Message Framing to Increase Dissemination of Evidence-Based Treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Domiteaux</td>
<td>Eric Turkheimer</td>
<td>Marriage Material: Using Machine Learning to Identify the Variables of Importance that Best Predict Marriage in the Add Health Longitudinal Dataset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Gilson Nagel</td>
<td>Joseph Allen</td>
<td>It Made Me Closer to the People in My Group”: A Mixed-Methods, Group-Level Examination of a Social Intervention for Adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dingjing Shi</td>
<td>Cynthia Tong</td>
<td>A Nonparametric Bayesian Approach for Longitudinal Nonnormal and Missing Data in Growth Curve Models</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Ruth Weichart</td>
<td>Per Sederburg</td>
<td>Quantifying and Characterizing Dynamic Mechanisms of Cognitive Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audrey Rae Wittrup</td>
<td>Noelle Hurd</td>
<td>The Role of Trajectories of Stress and Social Support in Underrepresented Students’ Academic Achievement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2021 MA Recipients and Predissertation Titles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Predissertation Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johanna Rebecca Chajes</td>
<td>Amrisha Vaish</td>
<td>Fairness Takes Time: Development of Cooperative Decision-making in Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nava Caluori</td>
<td>Shige Oishi</td>
<td>Globalization Predicts Reduced Religiosity Across Time and Cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Fenton</td>
<td>Per Sederberg</td>
<td>Model-based Analysis of a Novel Variant of the Balloon Analogue Risk Task Improves Sensitivity to Risk-taking Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Nicole Gettleman</td>
<td>Chad Dodson</td>
<td>A Decision Processes Account of the Differences in the Eyewitness Confidence-Accuracy Relationship between Strong and Weak Face Recognizers under Suboptimal Exposure and Delay Conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyshia Henderson</td>
<td>Sophie Trawalter</td>
<td>Confederate Monuments and the History of Lynching in the American South: An Empirical Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Jospeh Lampi</td>
<td>Vikram Jaswal</td>
<td>Parent and Child Reports of Child’s Alexithymia May Not Be Related in Typical Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yanbin Li</td>
<td>Charlotte Patterson</td>
<td>Chinese Culture, American Culture, and Parenting Aspirations Among Chinese International Students of Diverse Sexual Identities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuching Lin</td>
<td>Timothy Wilson</td>
<td>Evaluating Multiple Goals Simultaneously Makes Meaning Easier to Evaluate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Thomas Michaels</td>
<td>Karen Schmidt</td>
<td>Automated Topic and Sentiment Analysis of a Public Online Support Group for Psychosis Spectrum Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Darin Powers</td>
<td>Karen Schmidt</td>
<td>Coverage that Goes the Distance: Extending Distance Metrics and Clustering Methods to Assess Access to HIV Preventative Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariana Rivens</td>
<td>Noelle Hurd</td>
<td>&quot;She’s Not Gonna Judge You for What You’re Saying&quot;: Understanding Factors Associated with Disclosure Between Black Youth and Non-parental Familial Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandra Lee Silverman</td>
<td>Bethany Teachman</td>
<td>The Relationship Between Access to Mental Health Resources and Use of Preferred Effective Mental Health Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexis Grayce Stanton</td>
<td>Noelle Hurd</td>
<td>Examining Black Women’s Intersectional Identity and Mental Health: A Moderated Mediation Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Lawson Thrasher</td>
<td>Toby Grossman</td>
<td>Caregiver Handholding Reduces Social Threat Bias in Preschool Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Isaac Wilkinson</td>
<td>Karen Schmidt</td>
<td>N/A - no thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Leland Williams</td>
<td>Timothy Wilson</td>
<td>Growth Mindset and Belonging: The Importance of Perceived Context</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Friday, April 30, 2020, from 3:30-5 p.m., current and former students and colleagues gathered via Zoom to celebrate the retirement of Professor Mel Wilson. Due to the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to hold an in-person, daylong Festschrift; however, that did not lessen the praise and honor that were expressed for this wonderful mentor and friend who has been a fixture in the UVA Department of Psychology for 42 years. The program included four speakers and then a time of open sharing and a message from Professor Wilson himself.

Anthony Chambers, a former student, and currently the chief academic officer and a Board Certified Couple and Family Psychologist on staff at The Family Institute at Northwestern University, was the first to share a “Tribute to Mel Wilson” and he began by saying that clinicians use a wealth of knowledge to inform their treatments and he learned the use of a valuable tool, the annotated bibliography, from Professor Wilson. He is grateful that he learned to synthesize the literature and to make a meaningful contribution with his current work.

Shannon Savell, a current graduate student in the Wilson lab, was the second speaker. She has spent six years working with Prof. Wilson, four as a graduate student and stated that he always makes her feel capable. Savell spoke about her work, the “Impact of Experiencing Discrimination on the Family” and explained that the effects of discrimination are more pronounced in children who have a low-quality parent/child relationship.

The third speaker was Meret Hofer, who was also a student under Professor Wilson and is now a Postdoctoral Associate at the Duke University School of Medicine and fellow of the Wilson Center for Science and Justice. She first met Prof. Wilson via an unexpected phone call after she applied to the UVA Department of Psychology. Wilson informed her that the people she wanted to work with were not taking students and asked if she would consider working with him. He was so warm and welcoming that she accepted his offer to work in his flagship Early Steps program. Unfortunately, two years into her program, Hofer’s younger brother, a police officer, was killed in the line of duty. In her grief, she realized her heart was no longer in her work and would have quit her studies, but Mel helped her find firm ground again and was completely steadfast in his support as she switched the focus of her research to “Constructing Officer Perspectives on Service.” Mel gave her a free pass to do whatever she needed to do to heal, and he graciously integrated her work into his lab. His mentorship went well beyond the normal expectation, and she is forever grateful for his help along her life’s path.

The final speaker was Danny Shaw, who shared his reflections on Mel Wilson after 38 years of friendship and collaboration. Shaw said that he made it a priority to be a part of this celebration because of the impact Mel has had on his life and work. In 1988, Dr. Shaw took a faculty position at the University of Pittsburgh where he has been to this day. In the early 1990s, Shaw asked Mel to be a co-investigator on a project studying Black families and in the late 1990s, they began the Early Steps Multisite Study along with Tom Dishion of Arizona State University. This Project is an ongoing, longitudinal study of 731 ethnically-diverse families from urban (Pittsburgh, PA), suburban (Eugene, OR), and rural (Charlottesville, VA) sites. Dishion passed away in 2018 but the work continues, and Shaw hopes that Mel will remain involved despite his retirement.

During the last half hour of the gathering, the microphone was opened to others who wished to share memories of Professor Wilson. It was stated that Mel was the second African American faculty member hired by the UVA Psychology Department when he arrived in 1979. Of the eight faculty members hired by the Department that year, only Mel Wilson and Timothy Wilson remain. Everyone agreed that Mel is ALWAYS the friendliest person around and is amazingly warm and supportive. He was praised for his deep sense of empathy and his ability to set a true tone of collaboration in his lab. Repeatedly, speakers commented that Mel made them feel welcomed and valued. It was observed that he has put many students in academia to carry on his legacy as a teacher and mentor. In addition, Mel is a wonderful clinical psychologist, and the department would not have been able to develop its strong community clinical program without him. This program began in 1981 with just three faculty members, Mary Ainsworth, Bob Emery and Mel Wilson. The closing consensus was that Mel Wilson not only had a lasting positive impact on the lives and work of everyone in attendance, but also made a significant contribution that moved the field of psychology forward.
Wilson Retirement (continued)

Following these comments, Prof. Wilson himself took the podium and said it was wonderful to see everyone and share memories. In his words, his career has been an absolute “joy ride.” He grew up in the projects but said he was never left to his own devices and that nothing bad ever happened to him because all the “aunts, grandmas and mothers” protected each other and all the children. He said that his lab was like that, with everyone supporting each other and pushing each other to move on with life. Mel expressed gratitude for his 42-year career and the great people he always had around him. He stated that he was not going to share his prepared remarks but instead would simply thank everyone for being a part of his life and work.

Bethany Teachman provided closing remarks and asked Mel what he had planned for the future. Mel replied that he hopes to live into his 90s and travel with his partner, Judy. He wants to explore the world, engage people and have fun!

Featured Events: Diversifying Psychology Visit Day

For the first time ever, the annual Diversifying Psychology Visit Day was held as a virtual event, on October 30, 2020. Noelle Hurd served as the moderator and the entire event was taped and is still available for viewing on our website under the Diversity tab. There were two panels with student presentations and then Q&A sessions at the end of each session. The Program outline is shown below:

Introduction
Dr. Alev Erisir, Department Chair
Alexis Stanton, Graduate Student Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Dr. Noelle Hurd, Faculty Co-director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Panel 1: Overview of the Psychology Graduate Admissions Process
Preparing your CV: Ilana Ladis
Preparing your Personal Statement: Corey Pettit
Soliciting Letters of Recommendation: Zoe Sargent
Garnering Research Experiences: Ariana Rivens
Identifying Programs and Potential Faculty Advisors: Alexandra Silverman
Panel 1 Q&A

Panel 2: Choosing the Right Psychology Graduate Program for You
Student Recruitment Process: Minah Kim
Faculty and Program Selection: Maura Austin
Student Life Part 1: Shannon Savell
Student Life Part 2: Diane-Jo Bart-Plange
Disability and Accessibility Factors: Kayden Stockwell
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives at UVA: Alexis Stanton & Janelle Billingsley
Panel 2 Q&A
## 2020 Grant Recipients

The table below lists the external grants that members of our department received in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT PERIOD</th>
<th>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR</th>
<th>SPONSOR</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/27/20-12/15/20</td>
<td>BOKER, Steve and Golino, Hudson</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
<td>Contract with World Health Organization</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/15/20-8/31/23</td>
<td>Grossmann, Tobias</td>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>The developmental origins of social interaction processing in the human brain</td>
<td>$574,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/1/20-8/31/22</td>
<td>Grossmann, Tobias (Faculty Sponsor)</td>
<td>NIH NRSA</td>
<td>Empathy Development in Infancy and Adolescence: The Role of Attachment</td>
<td>$67,254</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/1/20-8/31/23</td>
<td>Hurd, Noelle</td>
<td>William T. Grant Foundation</td>
<td>Developing an Effective White Bystander Intervention to Reduce Racial Inequality in Higher Education</td>
<td>$446,869</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/1/20-12/31/20</td>
<td>Lillard, Angeline</td>
<td>Combined Donors</td>
<td>Gifts for Montessori Science Center Research and Montessori Education</td>
<td>$295,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/1/20-6/30/22</td>
<td>LONG, Nicole</td>
<td>iTHRIVE flow through from NIH - KL2 Scholar</td>
<td>Mnemonic brain states and selective memory deficits in healthy aging.</td>
<td>$249,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1/20-3/31/25</td>
<td>MELIZA, Dan</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Experience-dependent plasticity of auditory processing for vocal communications</td>
<td>$1,785,549</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/20-1/31/25</td>
<td>MELIZA, Dan</td>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>CAREER: Neural mechanisms of auditory object recognition</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/1/20-10/31/22</td>
<td>Oishi, Shigehiro</td>
<td>John Templeton Foundation (UVA sub with Biola)</td>
<td>The varieties of gratitude to God</td>
<td>$224,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/13/20-4/30/21</td>
<td>TEACHMAN, Bethany</td>
<td>NIH R01 ADMINISTRATIVE Supplement Subaward to Kaiser Perm.</td>
<td>Pilot test of deploying MindTrails interpretation training in existing mental health care pathways</td>
<td>$142,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1/20-4/30/21</td>
<td>TEACHMAN, Bethany</td>
<td>NIH R01 DISPARATIES Administrative Supplement</td>
<td>Effectiveness of interpretation training to reduce anxiety: Evaluating technology-based delivery models and methods to reduce attrition</td>
<td>$116,064</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/1/20-7/31/21</td>
<td>Teachman, Bethany (Faculty Sponsor)</td>
<td>University of Massachusetts-Boston</td>
<td>Using technology to enhance mentors’ support of mentee’s mental health</td>
<td>$70,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1/20-4/30/23</td>
<td>TONG, Xin</td>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>Robust and interpretable bayesian quantile longitudinal analysis in social and behavioral sciences</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6/20-2/28/22</td>
<td>VAISH, Amrisha</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>The impact of inequality on young children's prosocial behavior</td>
<td>$161,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/16/20-8/31/25</td>
<td>Van Horn, John Darrell</td>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>Biomedical Data Science Innovation Labs: An Intensive Research Project Development Program</td>
<td>$485,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/1/20-4/30/21</td>
<td>WILLIAMS, Cedric</td>
<td>Army Research Office</td>
<td>Developing flexible olfactory perception and discrimination learning</td>
<td>$152,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/1/20-8/31/21</td>
<td>Wilson, Melvin</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh/NIH COVID Supplement</td>
<td>Preventing substance use in context of Poverty: Risk and Protection from Early Childhood to early adulthood</td>
<td>$6,361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate Student Awards and Honors

- Albert Bandura Graduate Research Award 2020 — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- American Montessori Society Thesis Award, First Place — Ian Becker
- American Psychological Association (APA) Virtual Convention Grant — Ariana Rivens, Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Americas Center/Centro de las Americas Graduate Fellowship ($5,000), University of Virginia — Andrea Negrete
- APA Dissertation Research Award — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- APS Student Grant Competition ($500 - 100 IP+EF participants will be paid using the funds) — Johanna Chajes
- Arts & Sciences Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant-$2,500 — Zoe Sargent
- Association for Psychological Science/Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- American Psychological Association (APA) and APAGS Virtual Convention Grant ($125) — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- American Psychological Association Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs Diversity Programs Professional Development Award ($1,000), University of Virginia — Ariana Rivens
- Becky Boone Award — Katharine Daniel
- Brain Awareness Week Outreach Grants Program through the Dana Foundation (1,500) — Johanna Chajes
- CDPSI Funding for Week-Long Training in Bethesda, MD for July — Meghan Costello
- Clinical Internship 21-22 — Miranda Beltzer (Cornell University), Sarah Coe-Odess (Harvard Medical School), Nauder Namaky (Brown University)
- Co-Instructor of Record, Psychology of Inequality, University of Virginia, Department of Psychology with Co-Instructor: Jazmin Brown-Iannuzzi, Ph.D. — Stephanie McKee
- Confrontation Goals (PIV grant) — Hyeonjin Bak
- Cornell University, Cornell Center for Social Sciences Grant ($12,000) — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Council for Ethnic, Racial, and Cultural Affairs grant from the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) — Taina Quiles and Dr. Seanna Leath, project titled, "Hope, resilience, and action: A qualitative exploration of critical consciousness and sociopolitical development among Black and Latinx adolescent girls."
- Cultural Humility Study Grant — Jaclyn Lisnek
- DDI Fellowship (Psychology Department Fall 2020) — Alexis Stanton
- Dean’s MS-PhD Data Science Fellowship. The project is titled: “Extensions and Application of the Robust Shared Response Model to Electroencephalography Data for Enhancing Brain-Computer Interface Systems.” — Andrew Graves
- Distinguished Teaching Fellowship (Department of Psychology, UVA) — Ian Becker, Shannon Savell
- Double Hoo Award — Diane-Jo Bart-Plange, Jessica Gettleman, Jaclyn Lisnek, Isabelle Moore, Kyshia Henderson
- EXPAND National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT)-1 year of funding AY 2021-2022 — Andrew Graves
- Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship — Janelle Billingsley, Taina Quiles
- Ford Foundation 2021 Predoctoral Fellowship Competition, Honorable Mention — Ariana Rivens
- Graduate Student Excellence in Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Award, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia 2021 — Janelle Billingsley
- Graduate Teaching Award — Shannon Savell, Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Graduate Student Travel Award from the Motivation in Education Special Interest Group in the American Educational Research Association to attend the organization’s 2021 conference. — Christopher Williams
- GSAS Council Grant for HRV analysis software — Ian Becker
- GSAS Dean’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2020-2021 — Hyeonjin Bak, Miranda Beltzer, Crystal Slane
- GSASC Research Grant — Ian Becker, Katie Daniel, Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood
- Guest Lecture for Prof. Avery in Psych of Women on Women & Mental and Physical Health “Women & Health” April 12, 2021 — Shannon Savell
- Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition Honorarium — Maria Larrazabal Carrillo, Cabell Williams
Graduate Student Awards and Honors (cont.)

- Inaugural Institute on Writing Instruction Award ($825) — Meghan Costello
- INSAR Student and Trainee Award — Zoe Sargent
- International Studies Office Graduation Award for Graduate Academic Excellence! — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Jefferson Research Award — Elena Martynova
- Jefferson Scholars Fellowship — Katie Daniel, Jessica Gettleman, Meghan Costello, Evan Giangrande
- Jefferson Trust — Jaclyn Lisnek
- Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Associate Virginia Washington Metro Regional Conference Finalist 2020 — Minah Kim
- Maury Pathfinder Graduate Prize — Meghan Costello
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship — Ilana Ladis
- NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA predoctoral fellowship (2 years) — Catherine (Cat) Thrasher
- P.E.O. Scholar Award ($15,000) — Miranda Beltzer
- Pont Foundation Semi Finalist, $1,000 Grant — Lamont Bryant
- Power, Violence, and Inequality Collective and partially by the Clara Mayo funded project, "The Colorism in Context" — Diane-Jo Bart-Plange
- Presidential Fellowship in Neuroscience (UVA Brain Institute, renewal from last year) Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Welcome Initiative Award — Joshua Danoff
- Professional Development Award through UVA’s Graduate & Postdoctoral Diversity Programs — Andrea Negrete
- Psychology Graduate Student Excellence In Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Award 2021 — Janelle Billingsley
- Raven Fellowship — Corey Pettit, Andrea Negrete, Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Raven Honor Society Inductee — Diane-Jo Bart-Plange, Kyshia Henderson, Ariana Rivens, Shannon Savell, Alexis Stanton
- Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science (SIPS), Commendation — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Student and Early Career Council (SECC) Poster Competition Finalist and Strategic Plan Poster Winner — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- SPSP Annual Convention 5K Run/Walk Social Media Winner — Quinn Hirschi
- SPSP Climate Impact Small Research Grant — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Strategic Poster special designation from the Society for Research in Child Development for their poster, Childhood Roots of “Being Green”: Moral Judgments of Environmental Actions in Children and Adults — Jessica Stern, Meltem Yucel, Tobias Grossmann, and Amrisha Vaish
- Student Affiliate to UNC-Chapel Hill’s Center for the Science of Moral Understanding, directed by Kurt Gray — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Student and Early Career Council representative to the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT) — First Place and The People’s Choice Awards — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
- Underrepresented Student Workshop Travel Award, The Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology — Janelle Billingsley
- UVA Brain Camp–Jefferson Trust — Amalia McDonald
- UVA President and Provost’s Fund for Institutionally Related Research — Quinn Hirschi
- Virginia Education Science Training (VEST), University of Virginia’s School of Education and Human Development, funded by the Institute of Education Sciences in the US Department of Education — Christopher Williams
- Website Psych Research List–Commendation from the Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science (SIPS) — Nazli (Meltem) Yucel
Faculty and Postdoc Awards and Recognition

- **Steven M. Boker** received the Doktor der Philosophie ehrenhalber (Dr. phil. honoris causa) (2020) Universitat der Budeswehr Munchen.
- **Jess Connelly and Katie Krol** have received a Supporting Transformative Autism Research (STAR) Pilot Award for a project entitled "Nurturing the Epigenetic Architecture Underlying Social Development."
- **Toby Grossmann** received the Research Collaboration Award, University of Virginia from VPR for the collaborative work with Jessica Connelly and Jamie Morris.
- **Noelle Hurd** was selected for the 2021 Psychology Faculty Excellence in Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Award.
- **Seanna Leath** and Taina Hairston were awarded a grant from the Council for Ethnic, Racial, and Cultural Affairs at the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA). The project title is: Hope, resilience, and action: A qualitative exploration of critical consciousness and sociopolitical development among Black and Latinx adolescent girls.
- **Seanna Leath** and Taina Quiles were awarded the APA Division 56 CHANGE Grant for their project: A Mixed Methods Examination of Sociopolitical Development and Academic Goal Development among Black and Latinx Adolescent Girls.
- **Seanna Leath** was also awarded a grant through the Stanford Innovators Program as a co-investigator. Amy Alexander, M.D. (PI), Yasmine Owusu, M.D.; Seanna Leath, Ph.D.; Eyuel Terefe, PGY-4. Racial discrimination in medicine: understanding individual and institutional factors that affect perceived discrimination.
- **Angeline Lillard** was elected Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2020.
- **Angeline Lillard** published an article in the Dallas Morning News, titled "Freedom to Choose Montessori" (8 Nov. 2020). Dr. Lillard was also interviewed on a podcast by Jesse McCarthy for MontessoriEducation.com.
- **Xiaorong Liu** received a 2019–2020: Mead Honored Faculty Award, University of Virginia (UVa).
- **Chad Meliza** was awarded an NSF CAREER grant (2/2020-1/2025), the agency's most prestigious award recognizing the research and educational accomplishments of early-career faculty.
- **Michael (Joey) Meyer** was a co-recipient of UVa Learning Technology Incubator Grant (with Karen Schmidt and Cynthia Tong), Proposal Title: Empowerment through Engagement: A Fresh and Interactive Approach for Teaching Applied Statistical Courses in Psychology (initially awarded Spring 2019, renewed Fall 2020).
- **Jamie Morris** received a University of Virginia Research Achievement Award, Research Collaboration.
- **Brian Nosek** received a 2020 SIPS Commendation for the Attitudes, Identities, and Individual Differences Study, 2014-2020 Highly Cited Researchers, Thomson Reuters, 7 times.
  - Also, the Project Implicit Awards, 2020 SPSP Service to the Field Award — given to the organization
  - Center for Open Science Awards, 2020 Council of Science Editors, Meritorious Achievement Award — given to the organization.
- **Shige Oishi** was selected as "Admired Scholar" by the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
- **Shige Oishi** et al. (2020, Affective Science) made the Top 10 insights in 2020 by UC Berkeley's Center
Faculty and Postdoc Awards and Recognition

for Good: The Top 10 Insights from the “Science of a... (berkeley.edu).

- **Charlotte Patterson** was recognized as a Fellow in the Association for Psychological Science, and a Fellow, American Psychological Association (APA) and each of the following divisions: Division 1: Society for General Psychology; Division 7: Developmental Psychology; Division 9: Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues; Division 35: Society for the Psychology of Women; Division 43: Family Psychology; Division 44: Society for Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Issues

- **Bethany Teachman** was the inaugural winner of the Psychology Department's Excellence in Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Award.

- **Mariana Teles Santos Golino**’s work, Introduction to Cognition and Cognitive Biases was one of the courses selected among approximately 90 proposals to be offered in the Signature J-Term/2021.

- **Eric Turkheimer** was selected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

- **Jessica Stern,** Meltem Yucel, **Tobias Grossmann,** and **Amrisha Vaish** received a Strategic Poster special designation from the Society for Research in Child Development for their poster, Childhood Roots of “Being Green”: Moral Judgments of Environmental Actions in Children and Adults.

- **John Van Horn** was named to the inaugural class of Fellows of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping (OHBM) which honors outstanding active members who have demonstrated academic and intellectual leadership in the disciplines represented by the Society over an extended period of time.

- **Dan Willingham** was ranked 18th in the Edu-Scholar list, which ranks the 200 academics with the most public influence.

- **Tim Wilson** was elected to the National Academy of Sciences (April 2020) and inducted into the Virginia Academy of Sciences (December 2020).

- **Jessica Stern** and Meltem Yucel won the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Climate Impact Small Research Grant.

- **Rachel Keen** was awarded a Fellow Ribbon from the American Academy for the Advancement of Science.

- **Jessica Stern** received a postdoctoral Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award! Her project is co-sponsored by Tobias Grossman, Amrisha Vaish, and Joe Allen.


- **Bethany Teachman** received a 2020 Diversity and Inclusion Award.
In Memoriam — Ed Diener (1946-2021)

Remembering Ed Diener — by Shige Oishi

Ed Diener retired from the University of Illinois in 2008, where he had held the Joseph R. Smiley Professorship. In the summer of 2013, Jerry Clore and I received an e-mail from Ed. To our surprise, Ed wanted to come out of his retirement and teach at UVa! We were all excited but weren’t quite sure how this would work out. Thankfully, the Provost office was very accommodating, and Ed became Professor of Psychology at UVa in 2015. He taught a popular undergraduate course on subjective well-being, a graduate-level course on research methods and subjective well-being. Below is a shortened version of the obituary that Robert Biswas-Diener (Ed’s son) and I wrote for American Psychologist.

Ed Diener passed away at his home in Salt Lake City, on April 27, 2021. At the time of his death, he had more than 350 publications, and more than 260,000 citations. Ed was the recipient of APA’s award for Distinguished Scientific Contribution and the William James Fellow Award from the Association for Psychological Science.

Born in Glendale, California, in 1946, Ed was raised on a farm outside Fresno. He became very curious about the quality of life of the farmworkers, many of whom were migrant workers from Mexico. Ed wanted to write his senior thesis at California State University—Fresno on the happiness of farm workers but was dissuaded by his academic advisor. Ironically, he wrote a paper on conformity instead.

Ed shelved his interest in happiness and continued to pursue the study of social influence while a graduate student at the University of Washington. He focused on de-individuation. Using Halloween costumes as a proxy for deindividuation, Ed was able to investigate honesty-behaviors in children who were anonymous or identified. His expertise on the loss of inhibition while in crowd settings ultimately took Ed to South Africa, where he testified in a crowd-violence trial on the behalf of a juvenile who was saved from the death penalty.

After graduate school, Ed accepted a position at the University of Illinois. Ed spent his first sabbatical year in the Virgin Islands, where he spent his days on the beach reading a wide range of philosophy and psychology. During this time, he sent 3 letters to his graduate student, Randy Larsen. The first letter revealed Ed’s desire to delve into political psychology. The second letter dismissed this idea in favor of an interest in evolutionary psychology. The final letter arrived with the cryptic message: “I think I have found a thing I want to do for the rest of my life. I will tell you when I get back.” When Ed returned to Illinois, he declared that he would study happiness.

With capable graduate students, including Randy Larsen and Bob Emmons, the Diener lab was extremely productive. Ed published the Psychological Bulletin article entitled “Subjective well-being” in 1984, launching subjective well-being (SWB) research. From 1984 to 1986, Ed published 9 articles in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

In addition to establishing the scientific study of happiness, Ed also contributed to the highly contentious person-situation debate. In a typical “Ed fashion” (i.e., non-confrontational), he concluded that “person consistency varies greatly, depending on the response domain, the situations being considered, and the particular persons involved. Given this complexity, it seems advisable to quit debating whether person consistency exists, and to begin exploring the factors that control consistency” (Diener & Larsen, 1984, p. 882). The field listened.
Once the science of happiness was firmly established, Ed started asking broader questions. The first question is concerned with generalizability: “Who is happy in the world?” With his daughter, Marissa, and wife, Carol, Ed explored this question using national probability samples from 55 countries (Diener, Diener, & Diener, 1995). In the late 1990s, Ed had a poster on his office door that said “The globe is our laboratory!” and encouraged his students to go out and collect data in the real world. He was fully aware of the WEIRD problems before WEIRD became widely known.

As the science of happiness matured, Ed began advocating the establishment of national accounts of well-being to supplement more established economic accounts such as GDP (Diener, Oishi, & Lucas, 2015). Ed presented on well-being policy to the United Nation’s General Assembly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the New Zealand Parliament, among others to help implement happiness as a national policy. Ed will be remembered as a pioneering researcher who tackled big questions with curiosity, openness, and methodological sophistication.

**New Addition**

Jazmin Brown-Iannuzzi welcomed a son, Zea Rean Iannuzzi on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 7:17 pm!
Publications: January – December 2020


Publications: January — December 2020


32. BA Converse, PI Hancock, LE Klotz, AF Clarens, GS Adams 2020 If humans design the planet: A call for psychological science. Cognitive Development. 2020 Aug 17; doi: 10.1080/0361684320948539


57. Leath, S., Marchand, A., Halawah, A., Harrison, A., & Rowley,


67. Chen AN, and Quaggin S.E. (2020) Angiopoietin-1 knockout mice as a genetic model of open angle glaucoma Translational Vision Science and Technology Vol.9, 16. doi: https://doi.org/10.1167/tvst.9.4.16


Publications: January — December 2020


125. Yucel, M., Hepach, R., & Vaish, A. (2020). Young children and
Publications: January — December 2020


The Gilmer Gazette started as an Alumni Newsletter in the Clinical Program over ten years ago. In 2017, it was morphed into the Department-Wide “Gilmer Gazette,” and four previous editions have been released since then. The first was distributed in December 2017, at the end of the fall semester and the second came out at the end of the 2018 spring semester. For 2019, there was just one issue at the end of the academic year. Then, in the spring of 2020, as UVA’s annual evaluation cycle changed, it was decided that this newsletter would be published annually, at the end of the spring semester, to track the accomplishments, publications, and events of the UVA Psychology Department during the previous calendar year, rather than academic year. You can access the previous editions of Gilmer Gazette at our Department Website: https://psychology.as.virginia.edu/gilmer-gazette

We are looking forward to featuring your professional and personal updates in the Gilmer Gazette. If you have publications, photos, announcements, life events, or any items that you would like to see featured in next year’s edition, please send appropriate details to Cindy Grotz at clg5z@virginia.edu throughout the year and she will see that they are included.

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