

# PSYCHOLOGY NEWS

The Florida State University



Winter & Spring 2018

## Message From the Chair



**Dr. Jeanette Taylor**

The Psychology Department had another terrific spring semester. We celebrated student research in our annual Undergraduate Research Day and Graduate Research Day events. Other events included the second Annual Diverse Fest put on by graduate students Erin Harrell and Danielle Krusemark to help prepare minority undergraduates

for graduate school. Mike Bigbie received the Stan and Paula Warmath Distinguished Service Award (see Spotlight on p. 2) for his service to Psychology. Carol Chu (major professor: Thomas Joiner) received the Glee Ross Hollander Dissertation Award (see Spotlight on p. 6) for the best dissertation in 2017. Graduating senior, Dominique Dubon, presented her research at the TEDxFSU event (see Spotlight on p. 1). Many faculty, students, and alumni received grants, awards, jobs, and more. Please continue reading for additional highlights from FSU's Psychology Department.

*Jeanette Taylor*

## In the Spotlight



### Stellar Seminole

**Dominique Dubon** is a graduating senior and Garnet and Gold Scholar. Early in her FSU career, Dominique decided to take advantage of the department's DIS (directed individual study) opportunities bestowed upon her. She first joined Jesse Cogle's lab as a DIS student. Her next DIS experience was with Roy Baumeister's lab.

The DIS projects she participated in helped inform her honor's thesis project under the mentorship of Paul Conway. Her honor's thesis investigated whether the management of cellphone use in a classroom affected student's productivity on given tasks. Dominique was selected to present this research at this spring's TEDxFSU, an event that brings FSU students together to share a TED-like experience. Dominique found that cell phone use doesn't help or hinder in classroom situations. Her research has led her to believe that since technology is not going away, altering teaching methods to include technology, like cell phones, would be beneficial.

Dominique also applied her knowledge of psychology outside of the classroom. In addition to her busy course schedule and multiple research responsibilities, she found time serve as a counselor for RENEW, a campus organization focusing on peer education and mental health advocacy. Dominique also volunteered as a counselor at 2-1-1 Big Bend for 200 hours during her FSU career.

After graduation, Dominique will join Amazon as a Senior Human Resources Assistant. She plans to gain experience in that position and then pursue a PhD in I/O Psychology. She hopes to continue her research on how technology affects student and employee performance.

By: Maria Perez

## By the Numbers

**16** Master's awarded in 2017

**19** Ph.D's awarded in 2017

**17** Awards earned by our faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the past 6 months

**502** Undergraduates enrolled in formative experiences in Spring 2018

**100** No-cost evaluations provided by Michael Kofler's Children's Learning Clinic to local families since 2015

**100%** Match rate for clinical students applying to internships

**\$4.2M** In new grants in the past 6 months

## Alumni Updates

**Mike Anestis** was chosen to receive the Shneidman Award. This was presented at the 51<sup>st</sup> AAS Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The Shneidman Award is presented to a person under forty years of age or a person who is not more than ten years past their highest degree earned. The eligible nominee is a person who has made outstanding contributions in research in the field of suicidology. Mike Anestis received his Ph.D. in 2011 in Clinical Psychology under the guidance of Thomas Joiner.

**Christopher Beck** accepted a faculty position for Fall 2018 at Wingate University. Chris received his Ph.D in 2017 under the guidance of Ashby Plant.

**Joe Breza** was the recipient of a R21 grant from the NIH to pursue his study, "Lightly Salted: An Optogenetic Approach to Uncover the Role of Type I Cells in Salt Taste Transduction. Joe received his Ph.D. in 2011 in Neuroscience under the guidance of Rob Contreras.

**Eric Krause**, now a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Florida, was recently awarded four research grants from the NIH (3 R01s and 1 R21) for his work investigating central mechanisms underlying stress and cardiovascular disease. Eric Krause received his Ph.D. in 2005 in Neuroscience under the guidance of Rob Contreras.

**Tom Mast** was recently promoted to a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Eastern Michigan University. Tom Mast worked with Rob Contreras as a postdoctoral fellow.

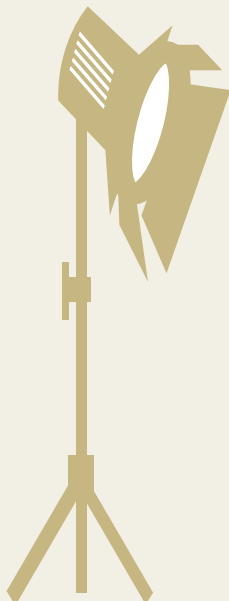


**Jenna McHenry** accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Psychology and Neuroscience program at Duke University. She will be part of the Systems and Integrative Neuroscience (SINS) graduate training program. Jenna McHenry received her Ph.D. in 2013 in Neuroscience under the guidance of Elaine Hull.

**Caroline Silva** was selected for the URM CTSI KL2 award, which is an institutional K-award that provides two years of support for early career development. Caroline received her Ph.D. in 2016 in Clinical Psychology under the guidance of Thomas Joiner.

**Dustin Souders** accepted a postdoctoral position in January 2018 at Purdue University at the Center for Connected and Automated Transportation & Purdue Policy Research Institute. Dustin Souders received his Ph.D. in 2017 in Cognitive Psychology under the guidance of Neil Charness.

## In the Spotlight



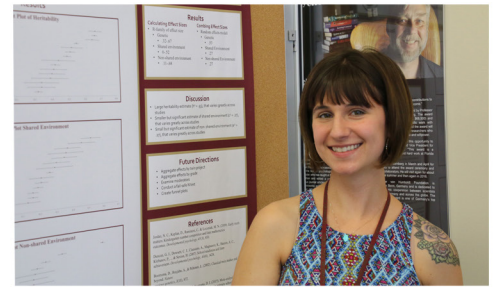
### Distinguished Service Award

*The Stan and Paula Warmath Distinguished Service Award* was established in 2016 by a generous donor, who wished to remain anonymous. The award is given on an annual basis and recognizes a staff member or specialized faculty member for their dedicated service to the Psychology Department.

This year's recipient was **Mike Bigbie**. Mike was selected as the recipient of this award for his exceptional support over the years and his contributions to the service, teaching, and research missions of our department. Mike has always been generous with his time and resources, and has always made himself available to help in any way he can. On a given day, you might find Mike giving a building or lab tour to a job candidate, assisting with a lab or classroom equipment problem, or helping to accommodate a space request. Events ranging from FSU Day at the Capitol, Graduate and Undergraduate Research Day, colloquia, job talks, receptions, and many more, could not happen without Mike working behind the scenes, anticipating our needs, and keeping track of all the important details that determine an event's success. Without Mike Bigbie performing his magic seamlessly, this department would not be what it is today.



## 2018 Graduate Research Day (GRD)



## Graduate Student and Post-Doc News

On April 27<sup>th</sup> the department hosted its annual *Graduate Research Day* (GRD), in which graduate students present research through oral and poster presentations. Following judging by faculty members, the following students were awarded the Eugenia and Russell Morcom GRD Excellence Award for best oral presentations: **Stacey Makhanova** (1<sup>st</sup> place; major professor: Jim McNulty), **Calyn Maske** (2<sup>nd</sup> place; major professor: Diana Williams), **Juliana French** (3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie); major professor: Andrea Meltzer), and **Jamie Spiegel** (3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie); major professor: Chris Lonigan). The award was also presented to one student from each of five programs for their poster presentations: **Ryn Linthicum** (Clinical; major professor: Jessica Ribeiro), **Parker Sorenson** (Cognitive; major professor: Colleen Kelley), **Rachel Waters** (Developmental; major professor: Rick Wagner), **Michael Butler** (Neuroscience; major professor: Lisa Eckel), and **Stephanie Mallinas** (Social; major professor: Ashby Plant).

**Brian Albanese** (major professor: Brad Schmidt) received an F31 grant in the amount of \$109,485 for his study titled "Repeated Traumatic Brain Injuries and Problematic Cannabis Use: An Electrophysiological Investigation of Potential Mechanisms."

**Kristin Austin** accepted a clinical faculty position for Fall 2018 at the University of North Carolina. Kristin works with Michael Kofler as a postdoctoral fellow.

**Carol Chu** (major professor: Thomas Joiner) accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard. The position is jointly sponsored by the Military Suicide Research Consortium (FSU/Denver VA) and the STARRS-LS team (Harvard).

**Mary Duffy** (major professor: Thomas Joiner) received a 2018 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Fellowship in the amount of \$138,000.

**Melanie Hom** (major professor: Thomas Joiner) was selected as the recipient of the 2017-2018 Fall Graduate Research Grants from Psi Chi. Her submitted proposal titled, "Identifying Correlates and Predictors of Help-Seeking and Treatment Engagement Among Undergraduates at Elevated Suicide Risk" earned an award in the amount of \$1,500. Melanie also received the Ermine M. Owenby Travel Award.

See more Graduate News on p. 4



## Brain Fair

On April 28th, the Psychology Department hosted its 7th annual Brain Fair. This free and family-friendly event aims to increase awareness of neuroscience in the community. Graduate and undergraduate students from Psychology, Biology, and Biomedical Sciences had over 20 displays, interactive activities, and demonstrations of basic neuroscience. A free bike helmet giveaway also occurred at the event and was made possible thanks to the Simpkins family. This year's Brain Fair theme was "Brain-bow Road", based on Mario Kart's Rainbow Road. Neuroscience graduate students **Eileen Chun** (major professor: Zuoxin Wang), Rachel Hedinger (major professor: Jian Feng), and **Christine Simmons** (major professor: Aaron Wilber) coordinated this year's Brain Fair.



## Graduate News Con't

**Irene Huang** (major professor: Joe Franklin) received the Early Graduate Student Researcher Award from the APA. This award recognizes students for conducting outstanding research within the first two years of doctoral study.

**Richard Macatee** (major professor: Jesse Cogle) recently accepted a tenure track position in the psychology department at Auburn University.

**Heather Maranges** (major professor: Roy Baumeister) was the recipient of the FSU 2018 Graduate Student Leadership Award. This award recognizes outstanding graduate student leaders who are making a positive difference in their scholarly/creative work, campus, and wider communities.

**Mary Oglesby** (major professor: Brad Schmidt) received an award in the amount of \$71,702 from the NIH to begin her F31 project titled "Efficacy of an Intolerance of Uncertainty (IU) Intervention on Self-report and Biomarkers of IU."

**Megan Rogers** (major professor: Thomas Joiner) and **Melanie Hom** (major professor: Thomas Joiner) both received the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O) Scholar Award. This is a merit-based award for women who are pursuing a doctoral level degree at an accredited college or university.

**Erica Wells** (major professor: Michael Kofler) was selected to participate in the Florida Gubernatorial Fellows Program. This program immerses participants in key areas of state government. Fellows receive advanced on-the-job training as well as an invaluable front-line view of the inner workings of government.

Thirteen psychology Teaching Assistants were nominated for an FSU Outstanding Teaching Award. They were **David Brown** (major professor: Rick Hyson), **Mia Daucourt** (major professor: Sara Hart), **Michael Dieciuc** (major professor: Wally Boot), **Juliana French** (major professor: Andrea Meltzer), **Maria Greenwood** (major professor: Liz Hammock), **Rasheda Haughbrook** (major professor: Sara Hart), **Melanie Hom** (major professor: Thomas Joiner), **Amanda Kowalsky** (major professor: Mike Kaschak), **Anastasia Makhanova** (major professor: Jim McNulty), **Emily Perkins** (major professor: Chris Patrick), **Derrick Shaughnessy** (major professor: Frank Johnson), **Bo Winegard** (major professor: Roy Baumeister), and **Angele Yazbec** (major professor: Mike Kaschak). **Melanie Hom** received the 2017-2018 Outstanding Teaching Award.

## Staff News

The advising office welcomed **Sona Antonyan** and **Kelley Duda**, as academic advisors, and **Jen Harshner**, as Career Center Liaison.

**Lauren Dimmer** received the 2017-2018 University Undergraduate Advising Award. This award recognizes outstanding undergraduate advising.

**Lynda Gibson** was nominated for FSU's 2018 Jeffrey A. Gabor Superior Accomplishment Award. This award recognizes superior contributions to FSU's efficiency and effectiveness.

**Lily Wells** joined the grants team as a Grants Specialist.





## Undergraduate News and Events

The second Annual Diverse Fest was held on March 24, 2018. Twenty-seven undergraduate students attended this one-day conference geared towards helping minority students prepare for graduate school. Undergraduate students attended this one-day conference geared towards helping minority students prepare for graduate school. The event was organized by **Erin Harrell** (major professor: Wally Boot) and **Danielle Krusemark** (major professor: Ashby Plant). **Tiffany Hardy-Williams** was one of several speakers at the conference.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the department and local chapter of the Psi Chi National Honor Society hosted the annual Undergraduate Research Day in which undergraduate students present and discuss their research. The morning began with a poster session, followed by a brunch at which the Howard D. Baker Research Talks were presented and an awards ceremony was held. The Howard Baker Award is given to the research project submissions that are judged to be the most meritorious. The awards were presented to **Kirsten Christensen** (1st place; advised by Thomas Joiner), **Brandon Kmetz** (2nd place (tie); advised by Wally Boot), and **Jackie Rodriguez** (2nd place (tie); advised by Jim McNulty). The Psi Chi Best Poster Award was presented to **Courtney Shorter** (advised by Colleen Ganley).

**Juan Barco, Brianna Griffin, Isabella De Leon, Edda Rodriguez, Carina Gobes, Nadia Bortolin, and Jackelynn Mendoza** were inducted into the Garnet & Gold Scholar Society. The Garnet & Gold Scholar Society facilitates student involvement and recognizes undergraduate students who excel within and beyond the classroom in at least three of five areas: international experience, internship, leadership, research, and service.

**Olivia Bockler** was selected to receive the Spring 2018 Phi Beta Kappa Chapter of Florida, Marion Jewell Hay Award. This award recognizes the top student graduating the current term at FSU as determined by the Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

**Julia Gorday** was a recipient of the 2017-2018 Spring Undergraduate Research Grant for her proposal,

“Evaluating worry controllability, physiological arousal, and working memory through a worry induction task” in the amount of \$1,500. Julia was mentored by graduate student Megan Rogers in the Joiner Lab.

The Mark A. Berkley Research Fellowship supports undergraduate research projects in psychology. Awards are given annually to the top research proposals submitted to a faculty selection committee. This year’s recipients were **Evan Albury** (advisor: Thomas Joiner), **Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood** (advisor: Paul Conway), and **Julia Gorday** (advisor: Thomas Joiner).

The Mae Hampton Watt Presidential Scholarship in Psychology provides support to undergraduate students majoring in psychology. Scholarships were given to students for excellence in research, writing, and service. The recipients were: **Olivia Bockler** (advisor: Wen Li) for Research, **Jacob Goldstein-Greenwood** for Writing, and **Laura Mesa** for Leadership and Service.



# Faculty Awards & Honors



Dr. Sara Hart

Dr. Zuoxin Wang

Dr. Andrea Meltzer

Dr. Jessica Ribeiro

Dr. Jesse Cogle

Dr. Pam Keel

**Jesse Cogle** received the FSU Graduate Faculty Mentor Award. This award recognizes faculty whose commitment to excellence in graduate education and mentoring have made a significant contribution to the quality of life and professional development of graduate students at FSU.

**Sara Hart** received the FSU Developing Scholar Award. This award helps identify and honor FSU's future academic leaders.

**Pam Keel** received the FSU Distinguished Research Professor Award. This award recognizes outstanding research and/or creative activity by full professors at FSU.

**Andrea Meltzer** was named a Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science. This designation is presented to outstanding psychological scientists in the earliest stages of their post-PhD research careers. Andrea was also selected as the 2018-2019 Stephen Risely Family Fellow of FSU's College of Arts & Sciences.

**Jessica Ribeiro** was named a Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science. This designation is presented to outstanding psychological scientists in

the earliest stages of their post-PhD research careers. Jessica also received the First Year Assistant Professor Award from the FSU Council on Research and Creativity.

**Zuoxin Wang** was selected as a Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

## Faculty Grants

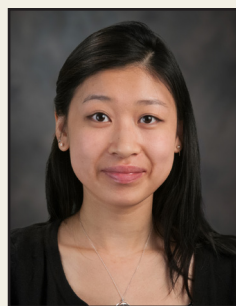
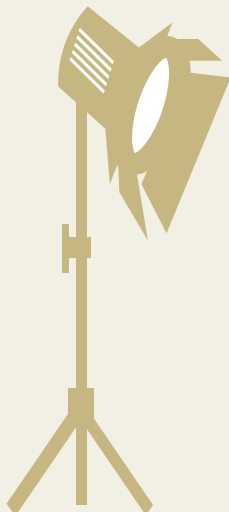
**Ed Hansen** received a \$1,000 grant through the FSU Library to create an alternate (open-source) textbook for a department course offered through the department's study abroad program.

**Liz Hammock** received a \$1.88 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for her work on "Neural Mechanisms of Infant Attachment."

**Michael Kofler** received a \$2 million grant from the National Institute of Health to test nonmedication treatment for ADHD.



## In the Spotlight



### Glee Ross Hollander Award

The *Glee Ross Hollander Dissertation Award* was established in 2016 through a monetary gift to the department in memory of Dr. Glee Ross Hollander, an alumna of our clinical psychology program.

The \$2,000 award is given to a psychology doctoral student who, in the previous calendar year, defended a dissertation that is judged to be the best of those nominated by department faculty.

This year's recipient is **Carol Chu** (major professor: Thomas Joiner). Her dissertation is entitled "The Role of Oxytocin in Social Exclusion and Suicidal Behavior". Carol is currently completing her internship at McLean Hospital/ Harvard Medical School, and will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University this summer.