



Psychology Department Newsletter

Fall 2017



Department of Psychology

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Highlights:

- Staff: Lisa Shaw
- Faculty: Dr. Dorothy Carter
- Graduate Students: Rusty Hale & Catherine Mewborn
- Undergraduate Students: Soundarya Kanthimathinathan & Michael Yang

A word from the Department head



Welcome everyone to the Fall 2017 Psychology Department Newsletter! Lots of exciting things are happening as well as a few changes. As most know, Dr. Keith Campbell has returned to the regular faculty after steering our department so very successfully for the last 8 years! Please be sure to thank Keith when you see him, it was a great deal of work! As our new Head, I hope I can follow in Keith's footsteps and keep the Department going and growing prosperously into the future. Please also take the time to thank those who served us so ably along with Keith – Dr. Janet Frick (Associate Head), Dr. Adam Goodie (Undergraduate Coordinator) Dr. Randy Hammond (Graduate Coordinator) and Dr. Dorothy Frigaszy (BBS Program Chair) for their wonderful service to the department. Welcome Dr. Adam Goodie (Associate Head), Dr. Trina Cyterski (Undergraduate Coordinator), Dr. Anne Shaffer (Graduate Coordinator), and Dr. Jennifer McDowell (BBS Program Chair) for their willingness to provide service to these critical positions as well as the continued service of Dr. Josh Miller (Clinical Program Chair) and Dr. Brian Hoffman (I/O Program Chair). Also please welcome Dr. Allison Howard and Dr. Isha Metzger to the faculty, and please take the time to welcome our new batch of graduate students. Please see inside for all of the newest info about the department! -Steve

Faculty & Graduate Student Recognitions



Nov 2017– Dr. **Josh Miller** was named the incoming editor of the Journal of Research in Personality.

Nov 2017– **Bridget Lynch** and Dr. **Michelle vanDellen** were featured on the UGA main website for their research on how people can feel good about themselves.

Oct 2017- Dr. **Anne Shaffer** was awarded a \$2,500 Innovation in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Multicultural Curriculum Grant, only one of two awards given for the year!

Sept 2017– I/O students **Rachel Williamson**, **Angela Beiler-May**, and Dr. **Malissa Clark** were featured in The Franklin Chronicles for a journal article they published, *Bringing home what I'm hiding at work: The impact of sexual orientation disclosure at work for same-sex couples*. Rachel was also featured in U.S. News & World Report.

Sept 2017- Dr. **Adam Goodie** and Computer Science Professor **Prashant Doshi** were awarded a \$100k+ grant by the NSF for their project *Evacuate or not? Modeling the decision making of individuals in impending disaster areas*.

Sept 2017– I/O student **Jeremiah McMillan** earned a Sunshine ERC grant for his project, *Previous Combat Exposure and Counterproductive Work Behavior: The Role of Post-traumatic Stress and Protective Factors*.

Aug 2017- Our Dr. **Justin Lavner** and Foods & Nutrition Professor Dr. **Leann Birch** were awarded a \$2.7 million grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

June 2017- Dr. **Dorothy Carter** was awarded a \$1 million grant from NASA. Learn more about her research in our faculty highlight.

Faculty & Graduate Student Recognitions



May 2017- Dr. **Keith Campbell** was invited to give a TEDdx Talk on narcissism, we hear he is incredibly proud of himself for this achievement.

May 2017- **Cyd Eaton**, **Ana Gutierrez-Colina**, and **Lauren Quast** won a \$750 Society of Pediatric Psychology travel award. In addition, Lauren Quast was awarded the Adolescent and Young Adult Special Interest Group's Best Poster Award at the same conference.

April 2017- **Alexandra Harris** was awarded a fellowship from the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

April 2017- Dr. **Justin Lavner** was awarded the Hatten Howards III Honors Professor Award from the UGA Honors Program.

Feb 2017- **Catherine Mewborn** was presented with the International Neuropsychological Society's Student Liaison Committee Research Award for her meta-analysis entitled *Cognitive interventions for older adults: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials*.

In addition, **Cutter Lindbergh's** and Catherine Mewborn's paper, *Relationship of lutein and zeaxanthin to levels of neurocognitive functioning: An fMRI study of older adults*, was featured in Science Daily and UGA News. Learn more about Catherine's impressive achievements in our graduate student highlight.

Interested in staying up to date on department news? Check out psychology.uga.edu

Follow the UGA Psychology department on Facebook (@ugapsychology) for social media updates!

Individual labs and programs have their own social media pages as well, ask your graduate students and faculty!

Faculty Highlight: Dorothy Carter

Dr. Dorothy Carter is one of our Industrial-Organizational Psychology faculty. Her research focuses on teamwork in organizations. She is interested in understanding why and how patterns of affective/motivational (e.g., trust, efficacy), behavioral (e.g., leadership processes, communication), and cognitive (e.g., shared understanding) relational states emerge between members of teams and larger systems and the ways that affective, behavioral, and cognitive relational states impact individual and collective outcomes.



What is the best part about being at UGA?

The people! Seriously, the students and faculty here are all awesome - I enjoy coming into the building because I get to see people I like!

Describe one of your favorite experiences since moving to Athens.

I've had a LOT of great experiences since moving to Athens three years ago. One of the best was getting married to Nathan Carter at "The Graduate" hotel in downtown Athens!

What is something we may not know about you?

My lab and I are working with NASA to help develop training and other proactive and reactive "countermeasures" that the teams on Earth and in outer space can use when we send a team of astronauts to Mars.

For those students starting their Psychology Ph.D. or considering it, what kind of advice would you give them?

Read a lot! First year students can sometimes feel pressured to have everything "figured out" right away (e.g., what is your research interest? are you going applied or academic? what will your dissertation be about? etc.), but most of us can't answer those questions until we've learned more. So, my suggestion starting out is to explore ideas and read a lot of papers.

Dr. Carter runs the Leadership Innovation Networks and Collaboration (LINC) Lab, find out how to apply by looking her up on the Psychology main website!

Interested in learning more about Industrial-Organizational Psychology? Consider taking taking a seminar offered by one their faculty or Psychology of Work or Psychology Testing.



Staff Highlight: Lisa Shaw

Anyone passing by the front office on the second floor will have noticed **Lisa Shaw** working away on something which benefits the department. She has been with the Psychology department and UGA for year now! We asked Mrs. Shaw about herself so we could get to know her a little better:

What do you enjoy about your position?

I really enjoy my job and the diverse tasks involved. Also I am a “people” person and my position allows for interactions with a variety of people. My job is not boring and it seems as though each day brings something different. I absolutely love interacting with the students.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Our family loves to camp and attend sporting events. Reading, I could not survive without something to read. However, there is nothing better than visiting, spoiling and playing with my grandchildren, and then giving them back to their parents.

Do you volunteer at all?

In the past, I have been very involved with my children’s school and their activities, However, I have greatly scaled down my volunteer work the last few years. Before returning to work with UGA I was simultaneously the PTO secretary, treasurer for both my son’s boy scout troop and my neighborhood HOA, and always a chaperone for something!

Any interesting story or stories about working here?

Hmmm, actually quite a few. Think I’ll keep them under my hat for now.

Every Spring we have a Staff Appreciation Day to thank all our wonderful staff for the hard work they do in the Psychology department.



Graduate Student Highlights: Ralph Hale & Catherine Mewborn

Ralph Hale, who also goes by Rusty, is a 6th year in the BBS program under the direction of Dr. James Brown in the Visual Perception Laboratory. He is a “Triple Dawg”, someone who is going to achieve three degrees at the University of Georgia! Rusty plans to pursue a career in academia with a primary focus on teaching and undergraduate mentoring. In addition to teaching and mentoring, Rusty enjoys being a tap dance instructor and choreographer at the same studio he grew up in!

Rusty believes that studying sensory systems is foundational to psychology. Furthermore, it is integral to understanding the human experience. His research interests relate broadly to visual perception and visual memory. Most recently he has focused on aspects of color vision perception as it relates to normal ecological experiences such as canonical object hue, surface completion, and illumination. In terms of recent awards or recognitions, Rusty has received a CIRTL research grant for a teaching-related study he is conducting this semester. While the specifics of the study cannot be divulged until later, he can disclose that it pertains to the mandatory introductory TA training seminar he is teaching this semester.

Catherine Mewborn is a 5th year in the clinical psychology program, whose specialty is neuropsychology. She chose this route to better understand the neural aspects of behavior and cognition. In particular, she loves learning about how brain injuries and disorders (e.g., stroke, dementia) contribute to the clinical presentations of patients. She mostly does cognitive aging research with an emphasis on how aspects of health and lifestyle impact the maintenance of brain functioning in old age.



The majority of her graduate school research has been a collaboration with Randy Hammond and Lisa Renzi-Hammond on a nutritional intervention for older adults. Her dissertation is focused on the structural brain outcomes of our large, randomized-controlled trial, and she hopes to show that supplementation of two nutrients, lutein and zeaxanthin, can be used to prevent atrophy and white matter deterioration in older adulthood.

Catherine chose to attend UGA in large part because of the ongoing nutritional intervention research that her mentor, Steve Miller, was doing. She also loved the collegial and collaborative atmosphere between graduate students in this department. Next year she plans to complete her clinical internship and then move to a postdoctoral fellowship in adult neuropsychology.

Undergraduate Student Highlights: Soundarya Kanthimathinathan & Michael Yang



Soundarya is a Psych major with minors in both Spanish and Statistics. She is interested in I-O Psychology and is planning to apply to graduate school in Psych this semester. She is well-involved in I-O research labs, such as being a undergrad manager for the LPD Lab. In the long-run sees herself as a leadership coach. Both undergraduates were asked the following question, “*What advice do you have to other undergrads starting their Psych degree?*”

“My main piece of advice for Psychology newbies is to try to learn early on which field of Psychology they are interested in. I’d recommend beginning by researching online and asking professors or graduate students (they are an easy starting point and would be happy to meet with you) to select a field you’d like to specialize in. From there, labs are a great exposure to the field, which will eventually lead you to be prepared for graduate school in a field you (hopefully) love.



Michael is both a Psych and Biology major who, although plans to seek a future in dentistry, is also the undergraduate president of Psi Chi. If he were to be persuaded to pursue Psychology as a career, Michael said he would explore comparative Psychology after taking Dr. Howard’s Comparative and Biological Psychology class.

When asked what advice he would give to undergrads starting their Psych degree, Michael answered with: “Join Psi Chi! It’s never too early to make connections with peers and pick up information about grad school. Also, although I have not conducted any research myself, it’s wise to do research so you get an understanding of which field you want to study.”

Published by



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Comments, questions, or suggestions?

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