



A message from the Chair

Welcome to the Fall, 2018 edition of the UNLV Department of Psychology newsletter! We remain busy with our 1600 undergraduate majors, 300+ psychology minors, 200+ neuroscience minors, and 70+ doctoral students. Check out our website and find us on Twitter and Facebook at unlvpsychology. We have a new Instagram account as well! Keep in touch with us!

Undergraduate program

We continue to strive to improve our undergraduate program in many ways. We have adopted two new courses that we think will be quite appealing to our students. One is a course on Field Experience in the Teaching of Psychology (PSY 439), which will allow undergraduate students to gain experience as teaching assistants for faculty in their courses. In addition, we adopted a course on Human Neuropsychology (PSY 446) that will also serve as another elective option for our neuroscience minor. We have been working hard to improve our undergraduate student retention and graduation rates, using the procedures mentioned in previous newsletters in addition to asking faculty members to maintain regular contact with our psychology majors and to visit our PSY 101 sections. In addition, we continue to recruit for our Psi Chi chapter, Psychology Club, and Outreach Undergraduate Mentoring Program (OUMP). Our efforts seem to be paying off. Our psychology student retention rate, for example, improved from 69.9% in 2014 to 76.2% in 2017. If you know of a psychology student who is struggling to stay at UNLV or graduate, please let us know how we can be of assistance.



Undergraduate Student Awards Ceremony



Psi Chi

We also began a new tradition to honor undergraduate students in our department who show exemplary effort and accomplishments in various ways. Honors included: Outstanding Researcher (April Contreras), Service Contribution Award (Dana Barakat, Amber Parucha), Non-traditional Path Award (Andrew Cardenas, Ray Lopez, Kymberlie Hurd), and Outstanding Psychology Student (Karolyne Stucki, Beatriz Torres). Our ceremony was held in May and included award winners from Psi Chi and OUMP as well!

Faculty

Several of our faculty members have had notable accomplishments throughout the year. Dr. Mark Ashcraft was elected as 2018 Chair of the Governing Board and President for the Mathematical Cognition and Learning Society. In addition, Dr. Kristen Culbert was awarded the College of Liberal Arts' highest award for research, the William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship. This honor goes to those with highly substantial scholarly accomplishments. Dr. Noelle Lefforge won the 2018 James Makawa Award from the Nevada Psychological Association. This award was presented for her involvement in increasing integrated health care opportunities and clinical training programs in Nevada for future healthcare professionals. The award also recognizes Dr. Lefforge's work on diversity, outcome tracking, and program development.



Dr. Mark Ashcraft



Dr. Kristen Culbert



Dr. Allen

In addition, Dr. Michelle Paul announced that The PRACTICE has received a \$1 million gift from Workday, Inc. This gift will help The PRACTICE expand their mental health and clinical services, assist in cost recovery billing for Medicare and Medicaid patients, and fund a postdoctoral fellow, among other priorities.

Many of our faculty have also been prominently featured in high-profile academic media segments. Examples include Dr. Russ Hurlburt in Aeon, Dr. Rochelle Hines and Dr. Brad Donohue in The Conversation, and Dr. Daniel Allen in the UNLV News Center. These pieces surrounded work on inner experience, seizure activity, mental wellness and college

athletes, and classifying negative symptoms of schizophrenia. Our faculty continue to remain highly visible not just in the media but in many community engagement endeavors as well.

Graduate student awards

Our psychology doctoral students received a substantial number of summer scholarships from the Graduate College this year. Summer Doctoral Research Fellowships (\$7000) were awarded to Ashley Emami, Marina Galante, Krystal Kamekona, Christopher Kiley, Kirsty Kulhanek, Stephanie Molina, Karli Nave, Jessica Nave-Blodgett, Samantha O'Connell, Nina Paul, Sarah Thoman, and Stephanie Verba-Quinones. In addition, several of our students were awarded a \$3000 College of Liberal Arts summer stipend, including Megan Becker, Yen-Ling Chen, Julia Hussey, Samantha Sherwood, Edward Smith, Kindy Insouvanh, Jennifer John, Aileen Lovitt, Laura Werner, and Breanne Yerkes. Finally, Michelle Strong received a McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholarship (\$4000), and Yen-Ling Chen, Alek Krumm, Alicia Nunez, Samantha Sherwood, and Edward Smith received a Summer Session Scholarship (\$2000). Our students work tirelessly on their research 12 months a year, and we are thrilled that so many were able to secure financial support during the summer.

And finally...

We want to know how you are doing as well! Please visit our Department website and find the "Calling All Alumni" section on the right side. You can let us know where you are and what you are doing. After all, once a UNLV Department of Psychology member, always a UNLV Department of Psychology member!
