



A message from the Chair

Welcome to the Spring, 2018 edition of the UNLV Department of Psychology newsletter! We are continuing to grow in many areas, including our undergraduate and graduate programs. Please find us on Twitter and Facebook at unlvpsychology. Keep in touch with us!

People

We are thrilled to welcome a new assistant professor to our Department, Dr. Felix Hao Wang. Dr. Wang received his Ph.D. in brain and cognitive science from the University of Southern California in 2016 and has been a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania since that time. His research work focuses on a range of methods and populations to study how one discovers the forms and meanings of language. Dr. Wang's work involves the crucial role of rhythmicity in learning structures from sequences, and the role of underlying conceptual categories in organizing the search for meaning. Dr. Wang is also interested in how these processes are implemented in the brain, and how his findings can be applied to translational work for educational purposes and potential clinical applications. His research thus has both theoretical and translational appeal to a variety of research communities that comprise the cognitive and developmental sciences. Welcome, Felix!

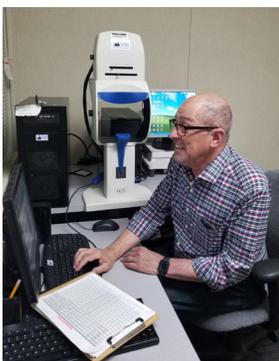


Dr. Felix Hao Wang

We also placed 8 clinical doctoral students in APA-accredited internships and several of our clinical and experimental psychology doctoral students will be graduating this spring. In addition, we are pleased to welcome 8 new clinical doctoral students and 8 new experimental doctoral students to our incoming classes in the fall! Of course, we remain busy as well with our nearly 1600 undergraduate majors and over 400 psychology and neuroscience minors!

Research

Our faculty members conduct cutting-edge research in clinical, cognitive, and developmental psychology as well as neuroscience and quantitative methods. Our research is enhanced by great diversity in our undergraduate student population and in our community in Las Vegas. Several of our faculty have been featured recently in UNLV and other media publications, including Dr. Michelle Paul for receiving the Nevada Regents Academic Advisor Award and Dr. Kristen Culbert for receiving the William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship. In addition, Dr. Mark Ashcraft and Dr. Kim Barchard were selected as Fellows of the American Psychological Society for their sustained outstanding contributions



Dr. Mark Ashcraft



Dr. Kim Barchard



Dr. Michelle Paul

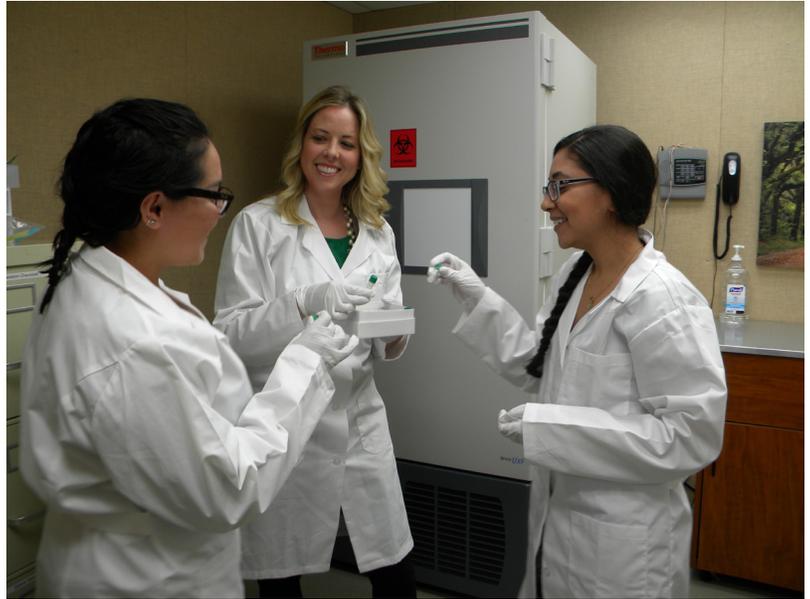
Research continued

to the science of psychology in the areas of research, teaching, service, and/or application.

We continue to have a very productive faculty, with scores of publications from 2017 that can be viewed on various Department faculty websites.

Examples include:

- Dr. Benning's work on reduced positive emotionality and underarousal in subclinical depression symptoms in *Psychophysiology*
- Dr. Culbert's work on the role of adrenarche in genetic influences on disordered eating in males in *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*
- Dr. Donohue's work on the extent to which employment factors are associated with reduced child maltreatment potential and drug use in *Journal of Child and Family Studies*
- Dr. Freeman's work on the accuracy of Achenbach scales in the screening of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in a community mental health clinic in *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*
- Dr. Hannon's work on how infants discriminate between synchronous and asynchronous audiovisual musical displays in *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*
- Dr. Hurlburt's work on whether inner experience can be apprehended in high fidelity in *Frontiers in Psychology*
- Dr. Hyman's work on a novel neural prediction error found in anterior cingulate cortex ensembles in *Neuron*
- Dr. Millar's work on behavioral reactions to emotional and physical infidelity in *Evolutionary Psychological Sciences*.
- Dr. Rennels' work on caregiving experience and its relation to perceptual narrowing of face gender in *Developmental Psychology*
- Dr. Robnett's work on profiles of achievement and efficacy among women in undergraduate STEM majors in *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*
- Dr. Silver's work on legalizing recreational marijuana in *Social Behavior Research and Practice*
- Dr. Snyder's work on the neural underpinnings of auditory scene perception in *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*
- Dr. Wong-Padoongpatt's work on implicit self-esteem and the racial impact of microaggressions among Asian Americans in *Journal of Counseling Psychology*



Dr. Kristen Culbert

Undergraduate program

We have been very active in developing initiatives to boost our student retention, progression, and completion rates. Part of this has involved developing new courses that appeal to our students' interests and help prepare them for the real world. Examples include proposed new courses in internship, teaching assistance, forensic psychology, and human neuropsychology. We remain particularly interested in developing internship placements for our undergraduates. If you are affiliated with an agency that can help us train our undergraduate students in community settings, please let me know!

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!
