



A message from the Chair

Welcome to the Fall, 2017 edition of the UNLV Department of Psychology newsletter! We are continuing to grow in many areas, including our undergraduate and graduate programs. We now have close to 1600 undergraduate majors, 300 psychology minors, 150 neuroscience minors, and 70 doctoral students. Check out our newly renovated website and find us on Twitter and Facebook at unlvpsychology. Keep in touch with us!

New courses

We have developed new courses recently to address the needs and interests of our undergraduate students. PSY 342 is our new Forensic Psychology course devoted to topics such as perspectives of criminal behavior, law enforcement, eyewitnesses, and the manner in which forensic psychologists are involved in the justice system. In addition, we have recently begun teaching our new capstone course, PSY 490, for senior psychology majors that covers psychological theories, research methods, statistics, ethics, diversity, and communication skills. Also, we recently approved PSY 494, a new Undergraduate Internship course, that will focus on the development of professional skills in a supervised internship setting. This course allows students interested in clinical and applied endeavors to observe and apply psychology in the workplace. As such, we are 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!

Faculty

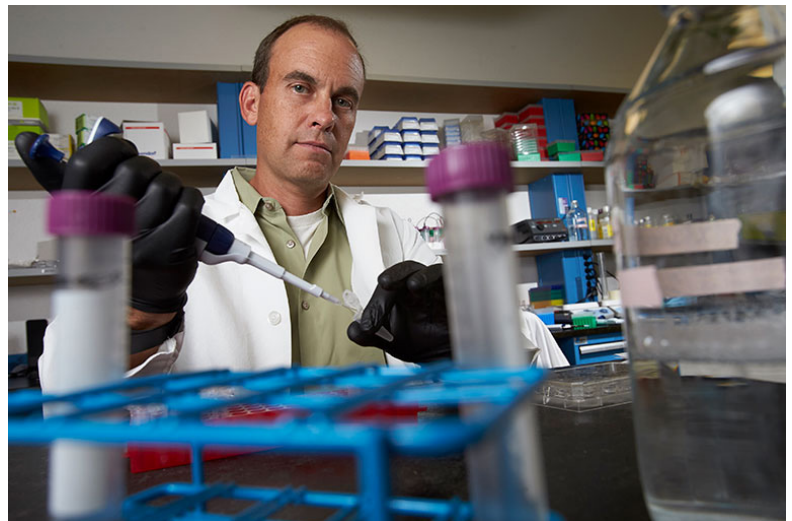
Several of our faculty members have been recognized recently for their outstanding accomplishments.

Dr. Jeff Kinney received one of the inaugural UNLV Top Tier awards, which honors employees for outstanding contributions to UNLV and its mission to be a Top Tier University. **Dr. David Copeland** was named as a



Dr. David Copeland

Teaching Academy Fellow for 2017-2018, an honor given to highly skilled instructors who lend their expertise to various teaching support services on campus. **Drs. Rochelle** and **Dustin Hines** were awarded the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) Director's Faculty Research Mentor Award. This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of UNLV faculty members in support of undergraduate research and professional development.



Dr. Jeff Kinney

Dr. Jennifer Rennels was named a Graduate Faculty Fellow for the 2017-18 academic year. The Graduate Faculty Fellows Program brings faculty expertise and insight into the Graduate College and helps build and sustain close relationships between the college and the departments and programs it serves. In addition, **Dr. Michelle Paul** was selected as the winner of the 2018 UNLV Academic Advisor Award at the graduate level for her outstanding contributions to clinical training for our students. Finally, **Dr. Marta Meana** was awarded the prestigious Masters and Johnson Award for her extraordinary contributions to clinical sexuality and sexuality research.



Dr. Michelle Paul

Faculty continued

Several of our faculty were an important part of the response to the Route 91 massacre as well. For example, **Dr. Michelle Paul** and **Dr. Noelle Lefforge** were instrumental in providing clinical services via the PRACTICE, our on-campus training clinic. In addition, **Dr. Stephen Benning** has been collecting personal accounts from Las Vegas residents and those who were in the city when the shooting took place, whether they were at the concert or simply heard about it on the news. Many of our students were affected by this tragedy, and we continue to work with those in recovery to address their academic as well as their mental health needs.



Dr. Noelle Lefforge

Graduate student awards

Our psychology doctoral students received a substantial number of outstanding fellowships and scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year. These include **Jessica Nave-Blodgett (Dr. Snyder)**, who received the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees Fellowship (\$30,000), **Leisze Lapping-Carr (Dr. Heavey)**, who received the President's UNLV Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$25,000), and **Abigail Mayfield (Dr. Allen)** and **Karli Nave (Dr. Hannon)**, who received the Barrick Graduate Fellowship (\$15,000). In addition, 7 of our doctoral students received the Summer Doctoral Research Fellowship (\$7,000), 2 received the Sterling Scholarship (\$5,000) and 11 received the Patricia Sastaunik Scholarship (\$2,500). Our students conduct cutting-edge research on a year-round basis and continue to be very well-represented among these prestigious awards!



Dr. Stephen Benning

Undergraduate student retention and graduation

We have been working hard to improve our undergraduate student retention and graduation rates. We continue to develop additional courses of interest to our students, contact students who may be at risk for leaving school or who are struggling with grades, link students to academic and mental health resources on campus, advise students with respect to coursework and research work, encourage our students to re-enroll for courses, invite our students to attend research lab open houses, offer in-semester modular courses, report mid-semester grades, conduct surveys of our new and senior students, engage our students with in-class and digital newsletters, participate in student success initiatives, update our website and social media accounts, work closely with the Wilson Advising Center and the College of Liberal Arts, and recruit for Psi Chi, Psychology Club, and our Outreach Undergraduate Mentoring Program. 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.



Dr. Erin Hannon

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!
