

Inside this issue

Greetings from the department head	1
Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) Center	1
Recent award winners	2
Undergraduate awards	
Graduate awards	
GAPS	4
Alumni Advisory Council	4
Faculty news	5
MIOP	9
Psi Chi	9
Alumni news	10
Contact us	11

Greetings from the department head



David Schmitt

It is an honor to greet all alumni with our fall 2025 newsletter. What a year it's been!

Our department launched several new undergraduate programs at K-State, including a neuroscience minor and a clinical psychology certificate. These have been popular and effective, and we're now revising our curriculum to offer even more. With our new clinical internship program, psychology majors enjoy an expanding variety of pathways to success.

We also deepened our community engagement. NeuroKids brought more Kansas schoolchildren into our facilities to learn about brain health. Drs. Heather Bailey and Natalie Barlett began working with

rural communities to evaluate programs linking schoolchildren with retirement communities, while Drs. Jennifer Smith and Chris Barlett are working with Manhattan schools to assess the effects of classroom cell phone bans. Despite challenges in federal research funding, your support helps us continue work that makes a difference.

We welcomed two new I/O faculty — Drs. Shalene Allen and Naidan Tu — who bring outstanding expertise. We also added a second professional advisor, Karen Paulus, and launched a new Psychology Club to support students from day one. We bid farewell to longtime faculty member Dr. Mike Young, who became a dean of graduate education at another university. We wish him the best and look forward to continued success for K-State psychology students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Go 'Cats!

— David Schmitt, *Department Head*

Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) Center

Founded in 2017 with \$21.7 million in grant funding from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (part of NIH), the Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) Center of Biomedical Research Excellence is a large interdisciplinary center with research activity in four colleges: Arts and Sciences, Health and Human Sciences, Engineering, and Veterinary Medicine. CNAP has contributed over \$4 million in infrastructure funding at K-State and more than \$5.5 million in research grants to junior faculty.

In 2024, CNAP completed the fifth-floor HVAC renovation and reopened Bluemont Hall laboratories comprising its Behavioral Neurosciences Core. We also renovated the Cognitive Neuroscience Core, installing two transcranial magnetic stimulation labs and updating EEG labs. Activity continues to grow in the Neuroinformatics Core, which leverages K-State's Beocat supercomputer. Over the next 18 months, CNAP's Administrative Core will prepare a proposal to extend funding for a third five-year phase. If successful, the center will shift focus toward independence.

Dr. Matt Wisniewski graduated as a project lead after securing his first major grant. Drs. Maria Diehl and Stephanie Hall continue in their roles as project leads. Drs. Thompson and Young are working with NIH on approving new research projects for year nine. NIH delays have postponed our funding announcements.

For more details on CNAP, please visit our website: k-state.edu/cnap.

— Drs. David Thompson and Michael Young

Recent **award winners**

Undergraduate Awards

Natalie Drouchard received the **John C. Peterson Undergraduate Scholarship Prize** for research excellence and potential as an outstanding graduate senior. Drouchard has conducted research with Dr. Gary Brase for two years and has presented her research at several conferences.



Natalie Drouchard, Peterson Prize winner

The **Sewell Undergraduate Research Scholarship** was awarded to **Alexia Bouslog**. This year, the scholarship changed to be a paid summer position in a research lab, which emphasizes research and faculty/graduate student mentoring. Bouslog will be working with Dr. Heather Bailey.



Alexia Bouslog, Sewell Undergraduate Research Fellowship winner

Lujan Lopez Zavala is this year's recipient of the **E. Jerry Phares Undergraduate Research Award**. Lopez Zavala is active in Dr. Saucier and Lee's research labs, a student teaching assistant for Introduction to Psychology, and president of Psi Chi. Lopez Zavala was a previous Shanteau Award winner and her research examines how masculine honor beliefs relate to perceptions of parental leave.



Lujan Lopez Zavala, Phares Award winner

Joy Williams received the **Curtis Lee and JB Gee Psychological Sciences Scholarship**. This award recognizes psychological science majors (juniors or seniors) with high scholastic performance and potential.

Two students received the **James and Doreen Shanteau Undergraduate Research Award**. The award funds research with the students' faculty mentor(s) during the following academic year. **Mark Rack** will work with Dr. Natalie Barlett studying the relationship religiosity and flourishing. **Lillian Taylor** will work with Dr. Don Saucier studying the role of masculine honor beliefs on future parenting styles and the intention of having children.



Mark Rack, James and Doreen Shanteau Undergraduate Research Award winner

Graduate Awards



Outstanding Graduate Instructor Ashley Schiffer

Ashley Schiffer received the **Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award**. Schiffer has been the instructor of record for General Psychology and Forensic Psychology (twice). In addition, she has made critical contributions to teaching functioning as the graduate research assistant for the Teaching and Learning Center for the past

four years where she has helped coordinate the center's professional development series and hosted orientations for incoming graduate teaching assistants. She has also co-authored eight papers on teaching-related topics with her advisor, Dr. Don Saucier.



Shannon Ruble and Karissa Payne, Outstanding Graduate Research Award/Harry Helson Memorial Scholarship

Karissa Payne and Shannon Ruble received the **Outstanding Graduate Research Award/Harry Helson Memorial Scholarship**. In Payne's key role for CNAP, her collaborative research has included the labs of psychological sciences faculty Drs. Bailey, Cain, Diehl, Loschky, Plakke, Wisniewski, and Young as well as labs in the

College of Veterinary Medicine, and agronomy, computer science, and biochemistry and molecular biophysics departments. She has three publications (one as senior author) in excellent journals. Ruble's research involves the neuroscience of avoidance using a rat model, and she has published two high-impact publications (one as a senior author) in her three years at K-State.



Robby Southern, Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant

The department presented the **Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award** to **Robby Southern**.

Southern was nominated by Dr. Julio Hernandez-Pavon (Principles of Neuroscience), Dr. Charles Pickens (Principles of Learning), and Dr. Michael Young (Psychological Research Design and Analysis II,

and Mathematical Modeling of Behavior). His availability to students, proactiveness, and examination review sessions were cited as key indicators of his commitment to his students.



Christine Seitz, Chi-Leigh Warren, and Moana Sargent, Dunlap Fellowship winners

Christine Seitz, Moana Sargent, and Chi-Leigh Warren were each awarded a **Dunlap Fellowship**. This award provides a stipend supplement to an industrial/organizational psychology student's teaching or research assistantship.



Ashley Sylvara, Robert G. and Dorothy J. Downey Industrial/Organizational Dissertation Award winner

Ashley Sylvara received the **Robert G. and Dorothy J. Downey Industrial/Organizational Dissertation Award** for her outstanding dissertation. This award is given to the student with a dissertation proposal that shows the greatest promise of making a significant contribution to I/O psychology. Her research centers on improving personnel

selection through personality assessments and the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning. This past year, Sylvara served in a prestigious fellowship for HumRRO.



Payton Livingston, Nicole Mora, and Jacob Wilson, Jerwen and Chain-Hua Jou Psychology Graduate Award winners

Finally, the department awarded its first recipients of the **Jerwen and Chain-Hua Jou Psychology Graduate Award**. This award encourages research and scholarly contributions by graduate students who have financial need. The award was initiated in 2020 by Dr. Jerwen Jou, an alumnus of our doctoral program, and his wife, Chain-Hua Jou.

The students are provided summer research support to accelerate progress toward their degree. The inaugural recipients are **Nicole Mora, Payton Livingston, and Jacob Wilson**. Mora will use transcranial magnetic stimulation, MRI, and EEG to study human brain connectivity. Livingston will be validating his new parental investment scale using a broader population. Wilson will be performing a comprehensive literature review to determine support for life history theory as well as conducting some novel analyses of existing data testing certain implications of this theory.



Graduate Students Moana Sargent, Nora Balboa, and Ashley Schiffer graduated this semester

The faculty in the psychological sciences department applaud the many achievements of these outstanding students.

— Mike Young on behalf of the Strategic Projects Committee that oversees graduate awards (Don Saucier, Maria Diehl, Gary Brase, and Chip Pickens)

GAPS

The 2024-2025 year was full of new things for both GAPS and the department. GAPS saw the induction of all first-time officers! The previous year's GAPS focused on making our department one where adjusting to graduate school life goes as seamlessly as possible; the 2024-2025 GAPS complemented these efforts by focusing on preparing graduate students for success not just during, but also after graduate school. We hosted six excellent speaker events. The fall's events provided graduate students with guidance on filing a program of study, submitting manuscripts for publication — featuring a live Q&A with editors of established peer-reviewed journals — and converting a CV into a resume for industry jobs. The spring's events covered how graduate students can leverage their imminent Ph.D. and experiences to get started in entrepreneurship endeavors — featuring the creator of the Publish or Perish party game, fresh off their successful Kickstarter campaign — engage in activism in the current political environment, and prepare for success on the job hunt for both the industry and academic job markets.

With this last speaker event, GAPS introduced a guide for graduate students, "Tips for the Job Hunt and What You Can Do Now," a 75-slide resource available as soon as students start their first semester. Included are tips for job searching, creating resumes and cover letters, preparing for interviews, etiquette for following up throughout the process, and building up their network. This guide also highlights several skills in high demand for industry research jobs that aren't typically covered in the current curriculum and showcases free resources for students to begin learning them independently and possibly incorporating those skills into their current projects to demonstrate these skills to future employers.

This wonderful year would not have been possible without Luke Watson, Jordan Scott, Jacob Wilson, and Mohsen Davoudkhani.

After a successful year, GAPS is excited to see what comes next and is happy to introduce a great group of new officers: Theodore Wheeler, Adison Kaiser, Kaitlyn Sievers, Bhavana Sivayokan, and Phoebe Hemmerling.

Best wishes for the coming year!

— Andrew R. Olah, 2023-2024 GAPS president



*Outgoing GAPS officers:
Andrew Olah, Luke Watson,
Jacob Wilson, Jordan Scott,
and Mohsen Davoudkhani*



*Incoming GAPS officers:
Bhavana Sivayokan,
Theodore Wheeler, Adison
Kaiser, and Kaitlyn Sievers*

Alumni Advisory Council

The fall 2024 meeting of the Psychological Sciences Alumni Advisory Council was held Friday, Oct. 25, following a casual social hour the previous evening at the Bluemont Hotel. Council Chair Susan Burns opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. In attendance (in person) were Marissa Long, Sandra McCoy, Kenneth Sewell, Jim Wright, Maggie Gill, Jennifer Bonds-Raacke, John Raacke, Christopher Vowels, Jason Brunner, Jeff Reed, Susan Burns, Andy Karafa, Steve Quackenbush, with Steve Pittenger, Becca Schlegel, Bill Deeds, Amanda Higley, Mitch Brigell, Brian Friel, and Julio Manso joining remotely.

New Advisory Council members were introduced at the start of the meeting, followed by the introduction of new faculty: Dr. Shalene Allen and Dr. Naidan Tu. Natalie Barlett then presented the department's plans for an undergraduate clinical concentration with an internship component and a minor in neuroscience. Discussion followed about the implications of these new programs on department resources and alignment with universitywide academic requirements.

After a short break, Erica Walsh from the KSU Foundation provided an update on department fundraising efforts. Dr. David Schmitt, department head, and Dr. Jennifer Smith then presented the department report, including updates on GTA stipends, building renovations, staff support and strategic planning for future departmental growth.

The council then moved to official business, approving the minutes from the 2023 meeting, electing the chair-elect for 2024–25, and recognizing outgoing members who had completed two full terms.

Following lunch with faculty, graduate students and undergraduate representatives, there was a presentation from Dr. John Raacke (Ph.D., 2005) titled "The Road Less Traveled..." in Bluemont Hall 101.

To conclude the day, students joined alumni in breakout sessions organized by research area: Behavioral Neuroscience/Animal Learning, Cognitive/Human Factors, Industrial/Organizational, and Social/Personality. An undergraduate panel discussion was held concurrently, focusing on career pathways with a psychology degree. The afternoon wrapped up with a tour of the TMS/EEG Lab led by Dr. Julio Hernandez Pavon and a social hour featuring Call Hall ice cream and cookies from Lacy's. The day concluded with dinner at Union Station by JP's, located in the K-State Student Union.

— Jin Lee

Faculty news

SHALENE ALLEN

Shalene Allen has enjoyed her first year contributing to furthering scholarly work and education in I-O psychology at K-State. She has focused on getting several papers under review and wrapping up previous projects. She also had an exciting spring term collecting data focusing on intimate partner violence and workplace support. She is excited to establish her research lab and explore the surrounding area.



Shalene Allen's mom comes to visit her at K-State

HEATHER BAILEY

Heather Bailey continues her research on age-related changes in memory for everyday events, with recent work focusing on how memory and other cognitive processes are affected by conditions such as Fragile X-associated tremor/ataxia syndrome (FXTAS) and mild cognitive impairment. In the coming year, she plans to develop the department's first faculty-led study abroad program, exploring Blue Zones and the factors that contribute to longevity.

Her family (husband Troy; sons Cooper age 14; Cole age 10) frequently travels for both sports or leisure. This past summer they visited two Hawaiian islands: Kauai and Oahu.



Bailey family chilling out in Hawaii



Chris and Natalie Barlett celebrate his promotion and other accomplishments in Las Vegas

CHRISTOPHER BARLETT

Christopher "Chris" Barlett had a very productive year full of professional accomplishments. He earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor, was named an SPSP fellow, and his total number of publications across his career surpassed the 100-publication threshold — currently at 104. To celebrate, Chris and Natalie took a trip to Las Vegas for a long weekend (see picture of Chris and Natalie in the Venetian). His research

continues to focus on the predictors and outcomes of aggression — including cyberbullying — and he is looking forward to adding his second graduate student to the lab in fall 2025. Personally, his three sons — Eric, Jace and Andrew — continue to thrive at school and their extracurriculars, and Natalie continues to keep everyone busy with trips and activities.

NATALIE BARLETT

This year's teaching theme for Natalie Barlett has been "Happiness!" In the fall she taught her first graduate seminar on the Psychology of Happiness and then in the spring, co-created and taught the new Practicing Happiness undergraduate course — infusing psychological research and leadership studies into an applied experience. Her research lab continues to investigate flourishing in emerging adulthood with presentations at national, regional and local conferences. In addition, Barlett is part of an interdisciplinary team at K-State investigating the effects of intergenerational programming at the new LIFE Center in Logan, Kansas. The boys — Eric, Jace and Andrew — loved their first K-State basketball game, and for spring break the family enjoyed their first trip to Branson! Now they are looking forward to a laid-back summer!



Eric (12), Jace (9), Natalie, Andrew (5), and Chris Barlett

LAURA BRANNON

Laura Brannon continues research related to topics designed to improve quality of life (physical and emotional health), including attitudes related to climate change, mental illness stigma, responsible use of social media, and prosocial communication/openness to counterattitudinal information. She is also enjoying her service on the Dean's Advisory Committee. She celebrated her student Lane Banks graduating with his Ph.D.



Laura Brannon celebrates Lane Banks' doctoral graduation with his son, Carson, and wife, Janeill

GARY BRASE



Gnocchi, the newest member of the Brase family

Gary Brase wrote a book this year during his sabbatical, "Integrating Converging Evidence in Behavioral Sciences: How to Incite a Scientific Revolution," and visited with a number of colleagues to get feedback as part of that process. Those travels also took him and Sandra to visit their son, Alex, who now works for the Governor of California in Sacramento, and then up to Oregon where they picked up a puppy. His daughter, Emma, received her master's

degree in psychology this past December at the University of Nebraska, and she will be coming to visit for a couple weeks this summer as Brase once again teaches a course as part of the K-State in Italy study abroad program.

MARY CAIN

Mary Cain continues to contribute to the department by teaching and research in the area of the neurobiological bases of drug abuse. She continues her work as the associate dean for research and graduate studies.

MARIA DIEHL

Maria Diehl continues her research on the neural mechanisms of active avoidance as well as collaborations with researchers at the University of Kansas Medical Center studying neuroplasticity after cortical injury in a rat model. Her son Vincent has been keeping her busy outside of the lab with riding his bike, soccer practice, swim lessons and gymnastics, and will try T-ball for the first time this summer. Her family also visited Panama last summer while Diehl presented her research at the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society.



Maria (center) with Vincent (left) and Ethan (right) enjoying a tour of the Old Town in Panama City, Panama

JULIO C. HERNANDEZ PAVON

Julio C. Hernandez-Pavon is completing his second year as an assistant professor at K-State. Time is flying, and the lab and the kids are growing; it is hard to believe. Julian is now 4, and Christopher is 1. There hasn't been time yet to start dancing and practicing yoga, but hopefully soon. Hernandez Pavon is excited to continue teaching graduate and undergraduate students, as well as conducting cool research in the upcoming academic year.



Pavon family

CARRIE LANE



Ellie and Zander Lane at the park

Carrie Lane is still living the dream as a K-State assistant teaching professor in her second year. She spent the fall semester expanding the successful mindfulness techniques into all three of her courses. She presented SOTL research on the student perceptions of the mindfulness techniques at the MPA conference and at K-State Teaching and Learning Center's SOTL showcase. Lane also added a community well-being project to her positive psychology course and that project blossomed

into a connection with the university's Morrison Family Center for Student Well-being. Together the class and center put together a very successful Health-Promoting University Wellness Week. Lane's small research lab also took two research projects on hug identity and affection deprivation and embodiment to MPA this past April. Lane is really excited to start the summer by becoming a Wakonse Fellow and attending the Conference for Inspired College Teaching. Her family life is full, Nate is still a rock star partner. Ellie is completing third grade and turning 9. She loves cats. Zander is turning 3 and loves cars. Their favorite places to spend time as a family are the park, zoo and the lake.

JIN LEE

Spring 2025 has been a busy and productive season for Jin Lee. His students have presented over 10 research projects at major conferences, including the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP), the Work, Stress, and Health (WSH) Conference, and the Academy of Management (AOM) Annual Meeting. Their hard work and commitment to scholarly excellence have truly paid off. In addition, he is thrilled to congratulate two of his Ph.D. students, Leah Klos (Stuckey) and Ashley Sylvara. Leah will continue her important work as a prestigious ORISE fellow at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, while Ashley will begin a postdoctoral position at the Warrington School of Business at the University of Florida starting this summer. Lee couldn't be prouder of their achievements and looks forward to seeing the impact they will make in their respective fields.



As part of a fun tradition, Jin Lee takes photos with his students who earned their Ph.D. posing with the quirky, fictional sport known as "extreme ironing"

LES LOSCHKY

Les Loschky continues to contribute to the department by teaching and research in the area of perception and visual cognition.

SARINA MANEOTIS

Sarina Maneotis continues to enjoy her role as the director of the MIOP program and teaching assistant professor. Her teaching spans undergraduate and graduate classes and she instructs both in person and online. This year, she continued to expand her work into applied partnerships by facilitating a selection review and training with K-State's Housing and Dining Services and by moving toward developing a well-being needs assessment with K-State Extension. She is also actively developing an I/O internship program for undergraduates. Though teaching and MIOP keep her busy, she maintains a small research lab. In April, she traveled to Denver to facilitate a panel on the need for more education in research on the topic of compensation and in July she will travel to Seattle to present a study on the role of speaker gender and providing a warning on the influence of Zoom interruptions on effectiveness perceptions. She also has had her work published in an article on teaching approaches and presented at the K-State Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) conference this year.



Sarina Maneotis and her children (from left), Jack, Calvin, and Stella, visit the Willis tower on a family vacation

CHIP PICKENS

Chip Pickens has been conducting research on effects of drugs of abuse on the brain and decision-making, mentoring a new graduate student (Shallom Imuzei), working on his NIH R03 grant, and acting as the animal facility director. He enjoys spending time with his wife Sarah and his sons Auggie and Nate.



Auggie and Nate Pickens with Auggie's leopard gecko "Leppie"

BETHANY PLAKKE

Bethany Plakke's lab takes a lifespan approach to understanding how aging can alter cognitive performance in the Fmr1 knock out animals (model for Fragile X syndrome) and her graduate student Bhavana Sivayokan presented research at multiple conferences this year. They are very excited to begin a collaboration with Dr. Hernandez Pavon to study how transcranial magnetic stimulation can improve cognition and improve brain plasticity mechanisms in the Fmr1 animals. Plakke was thrilled to receive tenure and over spring break, and her family enjoyed hiking in New Mexico!



Bethany Plakke family

DON SAUCIER

This year, Don Saucier continued his role as the faculty associate director of K-State's Teaching and Learning Center where he leads professional development efforts for faculty and graduate students in teaching. After his mandatory year out of Faculty Senate after serving two consecutive terms, Saucier was elected back and is excited to again represent the department and the College of Arts and Sciences. Saucier and his students conducted a lot of research, presenting at the annual conference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) (APA Division 8) and its Teaching Pre-Conference.

DAVID SCHMITT



Dave and Ann Schmitt at Stratata Underground Salt Museum

David Schmitt enjoyed his second year as department head of psychological sciences. He continued his research into variations of gender and sexuality across cultures and served his final year as past president of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society. He also continued to consult with the women's health company, Dionysus Digital Health, and was editor-in-chief of Culture and Evolution. Schmitt and his wife Ann have enjoyed building a garden in their new home near

campus. Pictured is their visit last year to the Stratata Kansas Underground Salt Museum. Go 'Cats!

JENNIFER SMITH

This year has been a busy one for Jennifer Smith. In addition to teaching four fall and spring classes and an intercession course, she has been engaging with the community to grow the internship program! This summer, there will be 20 interns working in the community. She also worked with three students, assessing anxiety and FOMO in students who use TikTok, even amid all the legal ups and downs! Personally, her youngest will be graduating from high school and attending K-State on a drama and voice scholarship this fall. Eventually, all four members of her family will (or have) received some form of Wildcat degree!

NAIDAN TU

Naidan Tu has just completed her first year as an assistant professor at K-State. It has been a relatively smooth transition. She continues to conduct research on psychological measurement and has applied for a couple of grants to seek support for her work. She has also enjoyed her first year of teaching at K-State. Now she is traveling back to China to visit family and friends.

MATT WISNIEWSKI

Matt Wisniewski is working hard on his first NSF grant, lots of yard work at home, and playing music in his spare time. His wife (Ali) and daughters (Nadia and Monika) are helping with all of it!



Ali, Monika, Nadia, and Matt playing

MICHAEL YOUNG

Mike Young announced in May that he is departing Kansas State University to be the dean of the Graduate School and vice provost of graduate education at Baylor University. He and his wife, Carolyn, are excited about the move, but will miss the wonderful colleagues, students, and alumni that they have gotten to know during their 13 years in Manhattan. This fall, they hope to celebrate their 40th anniversary with a trip to Hawaii, but the move to Waco may complicate those plans! They also welcomed the arrival of their fifth grandchild, Oliver, this past year.



Oliver Young

MIOP

The Master's in Industrial and Organizational Psychology Program, or MIOP, will begin its 26th year this summer! Program director, Sarina Maneotis, and program assistant, Chi-Leigh Warren, remain busy not only delivering classes, but supporting students, promoting I/O at events like Women in Business, and helping make thoughtful decisions for the benefit of our students and the program. We look to have a bigger cohort this year than previous summers and are excited for our in-person classes, as always.

Please look for MIOP on Instagram (@sumiop), LinkedIn, or visit our website: online.k-state.edu/programs/industrial-organizational-psychology-masters



Chi-Leigh, current MIOP student, Vicki Webster, and Sarina at SIOP in Denver, CO.

Psi Chi

Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology, dedicated to encouraging, stimulating and maintaining excellence in scholarship and advancing the science of psychology. The K-State chapter of Psi Chi was led by Lujan Lopez Zavala, Finn Wilson, Tristan Polton, Kutina Cabrera, Max Eber, and Dr. Heather Bailey, faculty advisor. We welcomed more than 30 new members in the 2024-25 academic year. Psi Chi was active on campus this year, hosting events, such as a graduate school panel, a personal statement workshop, a hot chocolate fundraiser that raised more than \$300 for the local crisis shelter and Open House. The officers also organized monthly member meetings that involved social activities as well as professional development activities, such as presentations on research within various labs in the department. The incoming officers for the 2024-25 academic year are Katelyn Frier, Marian Hernandez, and BaiLe Dreyfuss.



Outgoing and incoming Psi Chi officers with Heather Bailey, Lujan Lopez Zavala; Kutina Cabrera; BaiLe Dreyfuss



Graduating Psi Chi members with Heather Bailey, Ryann Phillips; Hannah Burns; Kutina Cabrera; Carlie Johansen; Lujan Lopez Zavala; Olivia Edwards

Alumni news

The news below comes from numerous alumni from our undergraduate and graduate programs across several decades. It is always so interesting and gratifying to hear that majoring in psychology can prepare students for an extremely wide variety of careers. While some of our graduates are actively pursuing careers doing exactly what they prepared for at K-State, many others are using their psychology in ways they probably never dreamed of when they were here. Please continue to send news and pictures for future newsletters to lbrannon@k-state.edu.

2014/2015

Megan Strain (Ph.D. '14) and **Chris Waples** (Ph.D. '15) are beginning their 12th and 11th years (respectively) as psychology faculty at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and are doing so as just-promoted full professors. Megan has enjoyed serving as the psych department's faculty senate representative for several years, and will begin her third year on the senate's executive committee. This will be Chris' second year as a part-time administrator, serving as director of Research Integrity and Compliance. Their off-campus hours are spent as taxi drivers and cheerleaders for Maddy (9) and Owen (7) during all the sports and school activities, and they wouldn't have it any other way.



Waples, Strain, and family

2019

Conor O'Dea (Ph.D.) is in his second year at Butler University as a tenure-track assistant professor. He has enjoyed continuing to do research with students and had a great group of 10 students going to two conferences this year. A couple of his students earned first author on peer reviewed publications. His daughters, Clara (5) and Phoebe (1) are hilarious and enjoy dancing, gymnastics and tee ball. His wife Jill is working as a special education teacher in the Perry Township School district serving K-12 students.



O'Dea family

2023

Tiffany Lawless (Ph.D.) is a statistician and research associate in the U.S. Department of Defense. Though her specialty is social media and internet behavior, she has worked on a variety of projects including: military training program development, election administration, combating online disinformation, cyberbullying, social media law, and studying/training AI models. She currently lives in Knoxville, TN with her adorable dog, Coco.



Marion Schweitzer (advisor) with Psychology Club officers: Lex Bouslog, Meredith Caudill and Dalton Green



Teaching assistant professors Carrie Lane, Sarina Maneotis, Natalie Barlett, and Jennifer Smith celebrating a successful year



The first group to collect data at the Logan LIFE Center!



Chris Barlett was the proud winner of the department chili cook-off

Contact us

Psytalk editor: Laura Brannon

To add your e-mail address to the rapid news notification list, send your address to psych@k-state.edu.

To send us news for inclusion in next year's newsletter, please email (lbrannon@k-state.edu) us and tell us what you are doing. Feel free to include professional and/or personal information, whatever you think would be of interest to fellow alumni. You may also send photos for possible use. Please include your KSU graduation year and degree with your news.

This newsletter is also distributed to potential undergraduate and graduate students in order to show them what is going on in the department. So, please continue to send us information about what you are currently doing even if the update doesn't indicate a change from your previous status. The ongoing successes of our graduates are one of the biggest selling/bragging points for the department.

To donate directly to Psychological Sciences, empowering groundbreaking research, hands-on learning and student success on campus and beyond, please go here: ksufoundation.org/give/psychologydepartment



Department of
Psychological Sciences

492 Bluemont Hall
1114 Mid-Campus Drive, North
Manhattan, KS 66506-5302

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit #525
Manhattan, KS 66502