

Inside this issue

Greetings from the department head	1
Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) Center	2
Recent award winners	2
MIOP	4
Psi Chi	4
Alumni council	4
Faculty news	5
New faculty	8
GAPS	8
Obituaries	9
Recent retirements	9
Alumni news	10
Contact us	11

Greetings from the department head



Mike Young

What an unusual year for all of us! When I wrote at this time last year (May 2020), uncertainties abounded: no vaccines on the immediate horizon, the nature of teaching for 2020-21 was not yet announced, much of our laboratory research was shut down or greatly diminished, safety protocols were being developed, and we were just learning the term “Zoom fatigue.” Since then, many of us have been vaccinated, teaching became more flexible with a lot of distance/remote teaching and limited in-person instruction with all in masks, students returned to laboratories under strict safety protocols, and Zoom and other forms of video chatting became a daily part of our interactions with students, colleagues and family.

People are adaptable and we have carried on. I have counted my blessings that we encountered the pandemic during a time when technology allowed us to lessen its impact. It is not merely the ability to develop vaccines at a record pace, but also the

ability to teach, hold meetings and conduct — some — research more comfortably at a distance. When I was a student, remote teaching — or correspondence classes — involved receiving materials by post and mailing assignments to the instructor, while attending a meeting remotely involved an audio conference call, which was absent the many nonverbal cues that are critical to communication — not to mention knowing when someone wants to speak (at least Zoom allows me to raise my virtual or physical hand!). Videoconferencing lessened the impact of our distance, survey research is easily conducted through the internet, and even some behavioral research involving people can be adapted — at considerable effort and cost — to delivery on the web. Regardless, I miss seeing my students and colleagues in the hall, spontaneous conversations and being able to shake hands with graduating students as they cross the stage with big smiles on their faces.

I have always relied on the personal touch as I encountered colleagues and students on a regular and casual basis, something that is so much more effortful and rare when we aren't residing in the same physical space. Those informal chats have been central to my success as a department leader because they help me keep my ear to the ground to better address problems while they are still small and to help people experience the concern I have for them. This “managing and teaching while walking around” hasn't occurred this past year, which has resulted in problems becoming larger before they are deliberately brought to my attention. Although videoconferencing and distance education have created new opportunities that will play bigger roles for the foreseeable future, they are a complement to — not a substitute for — the power of personal interaction in our everyday lives. Humans did not evolve to interact at a distance, and current technology still only provides a portion of the rich interaction that occurs when we are physically together. Thus, it should not be surprising that Zoom interactions are more effortful and exhausting even when chatting with friends and family.

I just wrapped up my ninth year here at K-State, all as head of Department of Psychological Sciences. The department has a long list of achievements during that time and I am so proud of our students and my colleagues for those accomplishments. Furthermore, many of our alumni have demonstrated that they do indeed “bleed purple,” and I am so thankful for their support, especially those who are members of our department's Alumni Advisory Council. The past three years have been tough for me, and the “COVID year” has prompted me to take a break. I am handing off the reins to an interim department head this June but may return in a year. With the retirement of Drs. Barnett and Knight in December 2020, yet more reins are being passed to the next generation of Wildcats. Fortunately, I have great faith in the K-State Nation and the continued hard work of our many Kansans, both native and adopted. Go Cats!

— Mike Young

A look at what's happening at CNAP

The CNAP Center of Biomedical Research Excellence was funded in July of 2017 by a \$10.6 million, five-year Phase 1 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. CNAP is housed at Kansas State University in the Department of Psychological Sciences. The grant supports junior investigators funded on project and pilot grants and three research cores as well as a host of other activities. We are transitioning into our fifth and final year of funding. Over the four years of funding so far, we have contributed \$2.8 million in infrastructure funding at K-State that supported the renovation of the Behavioral Neuroscience animal facility on the fifth floor of Bluemont Hall, built a new Electroencephalography human neuroscience facility on the fourth floor of Bluemont Hall, and built a new Neuroinformatics core for big data analysis in the Engineering Complex. We have also funded 14 project and pilot grants to support junior faculty, for a total of \$3.5 million overall in the first four years. One of our big challenges has been dealing with COVID-19, particularly as it has affected research with human participants from high-risk populations, such as older adults. We hired additional technical support staff this year to transform many

of our research programs that involve human participants to operate in a remote testing format. This has been very challenging as many of our cognitive tests are very dynamic and interactive, but we now have several laboratories that are testing participants remotely. And, we've discovered some advantages to the remote testing, such as being able to involve participants nationwide (and even international) and achieve better inclusion of underrepresented groups in our studies. And, we can test cognitive performance in the context of people's everyday lives. Our other program elements have continued to function with some restrictions and adaptations. For example, we adapted our weekly brown bags to a remote format via Zoom and we had great presentations and lively discussions. Overall, we have had a successful year and have been able to rise to the challenges. We are currently working on our Phase 2 application. If successful, this would provide another five years of support in the \$10-\$11 million range. This is due in late September. Wish us luck! For more details on CNAP, please visit our website: k-state.edu/cnap.

— Kim Kirkpatrick



CNAP Brownbag EEG core review by Ali Zakrzewski over Zoom during the pandemic

Recent Award Winners

The Department of Psychological Sciences is pleased to announce this year's departmental award winners. These undergraduate and graduate students were honored at an event on May 3, 2021.

Haley Richards, senior, from Topeka, and **Justine Fiscus**, senior from Olathe, received the John C. Peterson Undergraduate Scholarship Prize as outstanding graduating seniors. Richards was the president of the Psi Chi honorary society this year, conducted research on risk and decision-making in Dr. Gary Brase's lab and was a teaching assistant for the department for a year. She will enter Washburn University's clinical

psychology master's program. Fiscus served as president of Psi Chi during the 2019-2020 school year and as a College of Arts and Sciences Ambassador from 2018-2020. She was a member of Dr. Christopher Lake's lab. Currently, she is working as an HR assistant in Kansas City and plans to start as a doctoral student in industrial/organizational psychology at the University of Nebraska, Omaha this fall.



Peterson award winners: Haley Richards, left, and Justine Fiscus



Moises Alvarez

Moises Alvarez, senior from Liberal, is this year's recipient of the E. Jerry Phares Undergraduate Research Award. His research with Dr. Don Saucier examined racial humor and third-party perceptions. Last year, Alvarez received the department's Shanteau research award, which helped to fund this research. He is in the Developing Scholars Program, a College of Arts

and Sciences Ambassador and a member of Psi Chi honorary society. This fall, he will be enrolled in the University of Nebraska, Omaha's master's program in industrial and organizational psychology.

Katherine Rodriguez, junior from Overland Park, is the winner of the Curtis Lee and JB Gee Psychological Sciences Scholarship. This award is based on a combination of academic achievement and financial need.

Kathryn Hutson, senior from Westmoreland; **Trenton Schneider**, junior from Buhler; and **Alyssa Scott**, senior from Tonganoxie, are this year's recipients of the James and Doreen Shanteau Undergraduate Research Awards. The award funds the students' research with their faculty mentors in the following academic year. Hutson will work with Dr. Don Saucier to examine prejudicial perceptions of lesbians in the workplace. Schneider will work with Dr. Saucier to examine the difference in prejudice expressed against transgender men and women and the influence masculine honor beliefs have on this



Trenton Schneider

difference. Scott will work with Dr. Maria Diehl to study the differences in the neuronal circuitry that underlie social behaviors following a traumatic experience in rats.

Frances Guffy, junior from Dalhart, Texas, received the Dr. Leon Rappoport Psychology Undergraduate Scholarship. This scholarship honors the memory of a faculty member in our department and is targeted at a nontraditional, high-achieving student. Guffy is a first-generation college student, mother of five and secretary of the American Ethnic Studies Multicultural Coalition.

The Sewell Undergraduate Research Scholarship was awarded to **Miki Azuma**, senior from Grafton, Massachusetts. This scholarship recognizes undergraduates conducting research psychology with a preference for supporting first-generation and transfer students. Azuma conducted research in Dr. Jin Lee's lab regarding semi-autonomous vehicles, psychological attitudes and susceptibility to risk-taking behaviors. She is also a part of Dr. Mary Cain's behavioral neuroscience lab researching how differential rearing impacts taste reactivity in rodent models.



Graduate student award winners. Top row, from left: Alisa Pajser, Tiffany Lawless and Tucker Jones; middle row, Taylor Simonson, Leah Klos and Jordann Brandner; bottom row, Mike Young and Chi-Leigh Warren

The Dunlap Fellowship in Industrial Psychology was awarded to **Chi-Leigh Warren**, Shawnee, and **Leah Klos**, Omaha, Nebraska. The fellowship is awarded to second-year students in our industrial/organizational doctoral program who are doing well in assistantships, demonstrating productive research activity and are making strong progress toward their degree.

The Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award was presented to **Tiffany Lawless**, Pickerington, Ohio, and **Taylor Simonson**, Flushing, Ohio. Both received a monetary award thanks to the Nobuko S. Nicholson Opportunity Fund for Psychological Sciences. Lawless taught General Psychology, Experimental Methods Lab, Social Psychology and Psychology of Women. Simonson has taught General Psychology, Experimental Methods Lab and Consumer Psychology.

The Outstanding Graduate Research Award/Harry Helson Memorial Scholarship had three recipients this year: **Jordann Brandner**, Bismarck, North Dakota; **Tucker Jones**, Alamosa, Colorado; and **Alisa Pajser**, Des Moines, Iowa. All have published multiple research papers in their domains of specialization: cognitive and evolutionary psychology, social psychology and behavioral neuroscience, respectively.

Finally, the department gave the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award to **Ashley Schiffer**, Northville, Michigan. She was nominated for her work in Dr. Don Saucier's Advanced Social Psychology class, particularly for her flexibility and helpfulness during the transition to remote teaching and learning because of the pandemic. Schiffer's award was funded by the department's Graduate Teaching Assistant Support Fund that has been generously supported by many of our alumni.

The faculty in the Department of Psychological Sciences is proud of the many achievements of our outstanding students.

— Mike Young



Department awards banquet

MIOP

The industrial/organizational psychology master's program saw the retirement of one of its founders, Dr. Patrick Knight, this year. Dr. Sarina Maneotis has taken on the role of program director, and Chi-Leigh Warren is the program's new graduate teaching assistant. Both are happy in their new positions.

Our popular in-person summer session was conducted online in 2020 and will be again in 2021. Everyone involved in the program, students especially, have shown great resiliency to the change and we feel confident in our ability to continue to offer a great experience. We do hope to offer our in-person programming once again in 2022. In addition, the pandemic has brought advances in educational technology that the program is utilizing this year. Dr. Maneotis has brought weekly lecture videos to the courses and offers synchronous meetings via Zoom at least once a month.

If you are interested in learning more about the MIOP program, please visit online.k-state.edu/programs/industrial-organizational-psychology-masters or email miopsych@k-state.edu.

— Sarina Maneotis

Psi Chi

Our K State chapter of Psi Chi had an impressive year, despite the pandemic, under the leadership of Haley Richards, president; Natalie Kokjer, vice president; Annie Harper, secretary; Hayden Frederiksen, treasurer; Anna Welsh, ambassador; and Dr. Heather Bailey, faculty advisor. Even though all events were held virtually, the officers and other members remained very active. Some of this year's activities included inducting new members in the fall and spring semesters, a panel on applying and preparing for grad school, a fundraiser for Cats' Cupboard, an event to help students prepare for the GRE, helping with K State's All-University Open House and this year's annual Department of Psychological Sciences Spring Awards Ceremony, which was conducted via Zoom. The incoming officers for 2021-22 are Samantha Schultz, president; Meghan Dillon, vice president; Cheyanne Bruner, secretary; Abby Ruder; treasurer; and Vania Espinoza, ambassador.

— Heather Bailey

Alumni Advisory Council

We had a great online meeting this year! Due to the challenges of the fall semester, the meeting was delayed and shortened relative to our regular conduct. The normal practices of meeting with students, professional presentation by a council member, tours of facilities, meals together and other social events did not occur. After the call to order by Will Conaway, council chair, and the introduction of our newest faculty member, Dr. Sarina Maneotis, Dr. Young presented his annual State of the Department to structure the discussion. The council met for two and one-half hours and, not surprisingly, spent a lot of time discussing the budget. The council provided some sound advice on how to proceed. Members were impressed by the performance of the department's faculty in teaching, research and overall excellence as shared in Dr. Young's report. It was a very encouraging meeting despite the challenging discussions. We have several new members on the council, three of whom attended the fall meeting: Chris Rodeheffer, Mike Murry and Scott Bailey. In all, 18 council members attended. Steve Quackenbush is the 2021-2022 council chair, and Doug Peterson was chosen as chair-elect for 2022-2023.

— Mike Young



Alumni Advisory Council meeting via Zoom



Some past, present and future Psi Chi officers. Top row, from left: Justine Fiscus, last year's president, and Dr. Heather Bailey, Psi Chi advisor. Bottom row: Haley Richards, this year's outgoing president, and Cheyanne Bruner, the incoming secretary

Faculty News

Individual Faculty News

HEATHER BAILEY



From left: Troy, Cole, Heather and Cooper Bailey

Heather Bailey has continued her research on how younger and older adults comprehend and remember everyday activities. Over the past year, her lab has worked to move its research with older adults to an online format until it is safe to bring them back to campus. This has been an interesting year juggling online research, online teaching and remote schooling in the fall with her young sons: Cooper, age 10, and Cole, age 6. She is ready to start face-to-face interactions with the research lab, students in the classroom and colleagues around Blument Hall.

LAURA BRANNON



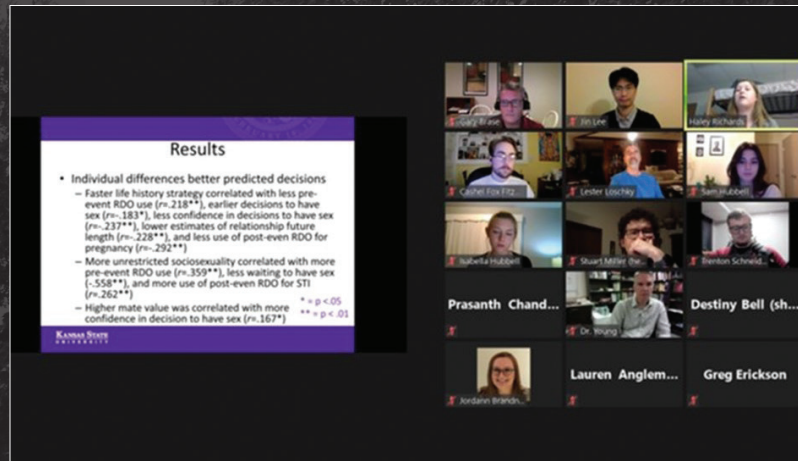
Laura Brannon, on the phone, and her nieces, Lily and Chelsea, play online.

time, she continued improving at playing a wide variety of musical instruments. She was excited to get an amplifier for her electric ukulele because, as she puts it, it sounds like a ukulele on steroids. Brannon also traveled virtually to the suburbs of Chicago daily over the summer to play a variety of online games with her nieces.

Laura Brannon continues her research related to topics designed to improve quality of life — physical and emotional health — including attitudes related to diet, mental illness stigma, responsible use of social media and prosocial communication. Brannon and her family usually travel abroad over the summer, but this was impossible with the pandemic. So, in her spare

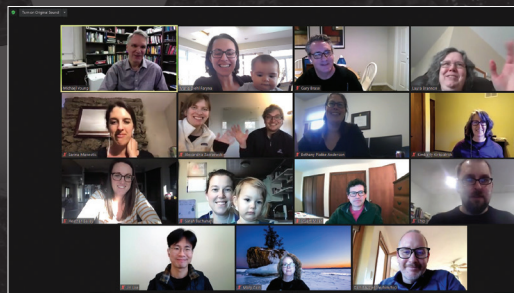
GARY BRASE

Gary Brase is almost done with all possible home improvement projects after working from home for over a year and with both kids now out of the house. The newest member of the family, Olive, keeps things busy, in addition to all the research and other activities, which are updated at k-state.edu/psych/braselab.



Haley Richards, top right, working with Gary Brase, top left, presents at the research convocation

MARY CAIN



Faculty meetings during the pandemic. Mary Cain, bottom center, wasn't having as much fun as it looks like as she was actually in town using a Zoom background

Mary Cain continues to contribute to the department by teaching and research in the area of the neurobiological bases of drug abuse.

MARIA DIEHL



Maria, Ethan and 3-month-old Vincent Diehl enjoying the Pillsbury Crossing wildlife area

Maria Diehl's lab had its first graduate student, Greg Erickson, join the lab in August 2020. Erickson, along with undergraduates Alyssa Scott and Katie Rodriguez and research tech Tessa Maze, have been working hard performing behavioral experiments on fear and avoidance conditioning as models of emotional trauma to understand how these experiences affect subsequent social interactions. Erickson

has also been leading an exciting new project studying how learning active avoidance under various social conditions affects learning. This summer, the lab will ramp up and start setting up optogenetics and single-unit recordings to investigate the neural circuits guiding these

behaviors. Outside the lab, Diehl has been spending the pandemic time with her husband, Ethan, and watching their son, Vincent, grow like a weed! He will be a year old in July.

KIM KIRKPATRICK



Kim Kirkpatrick's newest family member, Pepper

Kim Kirkpatrick continues to keep busy serving as the director of the Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity Center and director of the Reward, Timing, and Decision Laboratory. Although the labs have been operating under COVID restrictions, they've still been very busy. Kelsey Panfil finished her master's thesis in the fall semester and Sarah Stuebing finished her master's thesis in the spring semester. Travis Smith, who had been working on a postdoctoral fellowship, was promoted to

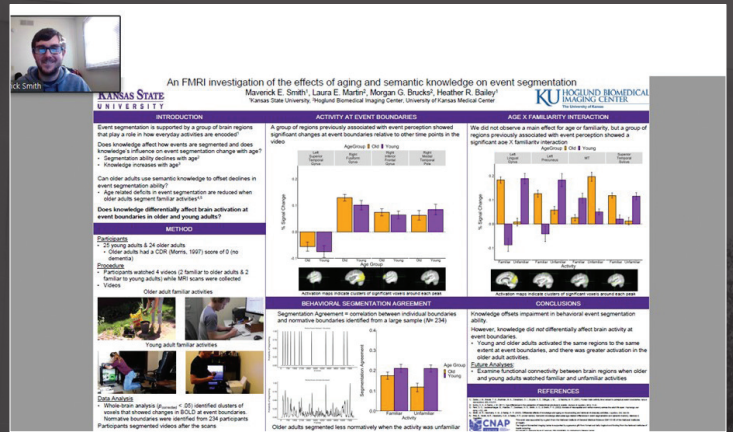
research assistant professor. When she's not busy with work, Kirkpatrick enjoys spending time with her family: husband, Stu, and son, Sam. The family ran its first-ever marathon in April, the Flint Hills 50. Kirkpatrick and her family also had a new addition to their household in the form of a new puppy. Pepper is a mini sheep-a-doodle and is very loving and energetic. They're training her to be a runner, too, although maybe not at the marathon level.

JIN LEE

Jin Lee continues his research on occupational safety/health in his Work Systems & Occupational Health Psychology Lab. In collaboration with researchers at Drexel University and Oregon Health and Science University, he has been pursuing a variety of research grant opportunities. Also, he has been leading three research projects regarding the application of a machine-learning approach for personnel selection and occupational health psychology research with his lab members. He also hopes his ongoing collaboration with a researcher from Chung-Nam National University in South Korea will bring opportunities for international research. He is looking forward to working with two new doctoral students, Ashley Sylvara and Moana Sargent, in fall 2021. Lee loves to watch Manhattan sunsets through his window.

LES LOSCHKY

Les Loschky had another busy year. As associate director of the CNAP center, he has enjoyed being faculty advisor for the Electroencephalography Core research facility, which is run by the core director Dr. Ali Zakrzewski and its primary investigator, Dr. Matt Wisniewski. Loschky has also worked closely with his four graduate students: Maverick Smith, who will defend his dissertation this summer before going off for a postdoctoral position at Washington University in St. Louis; Taylor Simonson, who recently defended and deposited her master's thesis; Prasanth Chandran, who is developing his dissertation



Les Loschky's student, doctoral candidate Maverick Smith, presenting his research poster at the 2020 Research Convocation

project; and Kari Payne, who is developing her master's thesis project. Throughout the pandemic, Loschky has put a lot of effort into revising his Sensation & Perception courses and he believes this has greatly improved them. The highlight of each week for Loschky and his wife, Miki, continues to be their Zoom calls with their two daughters, Althea — and son-in-law Chris and granddaughter Amelie, who will soon turn 2, in Boston — and Sophia, in Madison, Wisconsin. The Loschky's plan to visit all of them this summer for the first time in far too long.

SARINA MANEOTIS



Sarina Maneotis and her family getting settled in Manhattan and displaying their K-State pride. In back, from left, are daughter Stella, Maneotis and her husband, Brandon. In front are sons Calvin and Jack

Sarina Maneotis has enjoyed her first year at K-State. Though it has been a strange time to start a new job, she has felt welcomed and is getting comfortable in her role as a teaching assistant professor. Her focus in the past year has been on developing her courses at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels and administering the master's in industrial/organization psychology program. She has also started a research lab. Current projects include the role of prosocial impact in essential worker

well-being, how gender and work absences lead to performance sanctions, and the construct of Zoom fatigue. Her family also has been



Picture of Manhattan sunset taken by Jin Lee

adjusting well to life in Manhattan. Her children, Calvin, 5, Jack, 3, and Stella, 2, love City Park and the many other outdoor areas available. Maneotis and her husband, Brandon, hope to be able to explore the area outside of Manhattan more this summer and are happy to receive any recommendations to nearby eateries or outdoor recreation.

CHIP PICKENS



Auggie and Nate Pickens

Chip Pickens continues contributing to the department with teaching about neuroscience, learning and how drugs affect the brain. He also continues his research program on how drugs of abuse can alter the brain and how the brain may be able to compensate for these alterations by using alternative strategies. He was recently made the Behavioral Neuroscience Core director for the COBRE Center. In his personal life, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Sarah, their two sons, Auggie and Nate, and their dog Falcor.

BETHANY PLAKKE

Bethany Plakke's lab received a K-INBRE grant to investigate an exercise intervention to drive neural plasticity and improve cognitive outcomes in a rodent model of autism. Working from home with a young child, teaching remotely and keeping the lab going with reduced staff was a challenge, but the lab has continued to collect valuable data. Her daughter Natalie even helped with course prep for anatomy (see picture of the sheep brain in hand!)



Natalie Plakke

DON SAUCIER

This year Don Saucier won the College of Arts and Sciences Ronald N. Gaches Lifetime Teaching Award. He again served in a part-time role as the faculty associate director of K-State's Teaching & Learning Center, where he advanced the professional development efforts for faculty and graduate students in teaching. He was recognized for his role in helping K-State pivot to remote teaching during the pandemic by his selection for the 2021 Friend of K-State Global Campus award. Saucier and his students presented their research virtually at the annual conference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, APA Division 8, and its Teaching Pre-Conference.



Don Saucier's student, Amanda Martens, defends her dissertation

MATT WISNIEWSKI

Matt Wisniewski is continually working on building up his lab and is gradually coming out with publications from data collected at K-State. On the home end, he's getting prepared for the first of the next generation of Wisniewskis — and the first Wisniewski girl in a long time. See family picture with Ali Zakrzewski in her news

MICHAEL YOUNG



Charlie Young picnicking with Raisin' Canes

Mike Young had quite a year. He was honored as a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, received the Joe Brady Award for the second consecutive year for having the most cited paper published in the past three years in the flagship Journal of the Experimental

Analysis of Behavior, and finished his term as board chair for the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology, a national organization for department chairs/heads. On the personal front, his fourth grandchild, Everett, was born, he got a new puppy and he's been spending a lot of time playing with landscaping around the house. He is looking forward to spending more time on his research over the next year and visiting his grandkids after a year's hiatus.

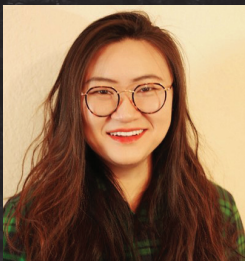
ALI ZAKRZEWSKI

Ali Zakrzewski continues her research on confidence and metacognition using behavioral and EEG methods in the Auditory Learning and Cognition, or ALC, Lab. This year, she is completing her CNAP pilot project and starting some new behavioral experiments that involve betting behavior. She was pleased to work with the ALC Lab's first doctoral student, C.J. Joyner. She continues to direct CNAP's EEG Core, which had a very productive year with several new projects, despite COVID-19 restrictions. 2021 is a special year because she is expecting her first child — a girl — with husband and research collaborator, Matt Wisniewski, in mid-July.



Ali Zakrzewski and Matt Wisniewski with their dogs, Snickers, left, and Rocket

New Faculty



Tianjun Sun

TIANJUN SUN

Originally from Nanjing, China, Dr. Tianjun Sun received her doctorate in industrial-organizational psychology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Before earning her doctorate, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology and statistics, also from Illinois. Sun's current research primarily focuses on the study of individual differences, psychological measurement, and using quantitative methodology and advanced technology to improve personnel selection and solve organizational problems. On the applied side, Sun has had broad experience working in the consulting, testing and tech industries, and in the areas of people analytics, learning and testing, as well as talent assessment. In her free time, she enjoys many hobbies, such as music and movies, going on trips and exploring food. She is very excited to join the Department of Psychological Sciences at K-State and looks forward to working with everyone.

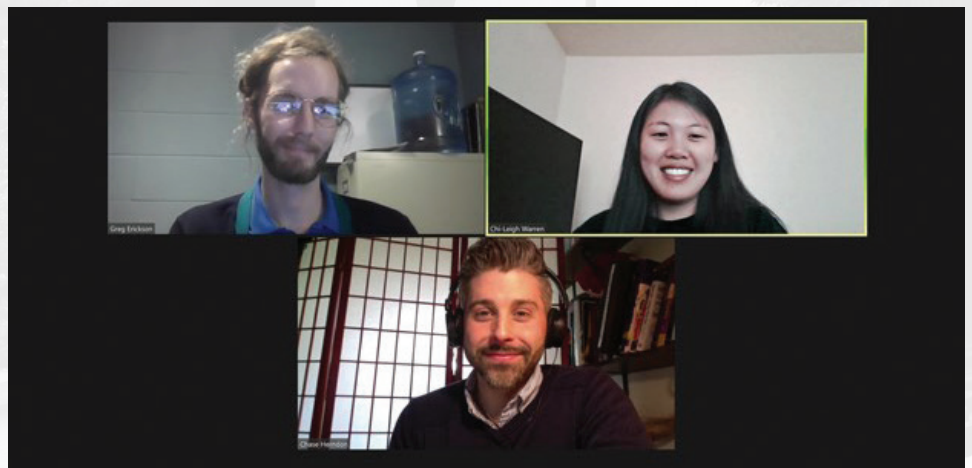
GAPS

The 2020-2021 academic year sure was a strange one for the Graduate Association of Psychology Students, or GAPS, at K-State. COVID-19 measures prevented large in-person gatherings and events that have traditionally taken place throughout the academic year. I applaud our officers and members for their flexibility in adapting to new ways to meet, interact and socialize virtually.

GAPS provided several opportunities for professional development events delivered virtually to members. This allowed members to participate live during these events or watch them later if there were scheduling conflicts. This year, professionals from both within and outside the department were invited to present on topics including effective online teaching, finding jobs outside of academia, success in an academic job, and funding opportunities for traditionally underrepresented groups.

GAPS officers and members are also excited to announce that we have officially added another position in the organization, a diversity, equity and inclusion officer. The first graduate student to fill this role will be Destiny Bell. Congratulations to Destiny and the other officers who will be joining her: Chi-Leigh Warren, president; Chase Herndon, vice president; Greg Erickson, secretary/treasurer; and C.J. Joyner, mentor chair.

— Kevin L. Kenney,
2020-21 GAPS President



2021 GAPS officers Greg Erickson, Chi-Leigh Warren and Chase Herndon

Obituaries

Ronald Downey



Ronald Downey

Professor Emeritus Ronald Glen Downey, 80, of Davenport, Florida, died Sept. 21, 2020, from a stroke at Winter Haven Hospital in Florida. He was predeceased by his parents, Rex Downey and Katherine Pine, and his first wife, Dorothy. He is survived by his half-sister, Linda Zizzo, of Mesa, Arizona; his two children, Glen Stephen and Cheryl Lynn Downey; his grandchildren, Patterson, Jackson and Charlotte; and his second wife, Irene Ward. He

was a professor of industrial/organizational psychology in the Department of Psychology from 1975 until he retired in 2013.

A memorial for Downey has been established at the Kansas State University Foundation. Contributions may be sent to: KSU Foundation, 1800 Kimball Ave., Ste 200, Manhattan, KS 66502. Please indicate fund M47325. To make a gift online, go to ksufoundation.org/give/memorials.

Recent retirements

Mark Barnett:

Some Reflections About My Time At K-State



Mark Barnett

After earning my doctorate in psychology from Northwestern University, I began my career at K-State in fall 1975. I decided to retire during the pandemic at the end of the fall 2020 semester. Allow me to provide some brief reflections on my wonderful 45½ year journey.

I am grateful that I was able to remain healthy and pursue my love of psychology for so many years.

Outstanding department heads consistently allowed me to teach the courses I requested and gave me the freedom to develop a program of research that reflected my interest in children's social-emotional development and many other topics. I was fortunate to be continually surrounded by colleagues who were collegial, supportive and shared my passion for research and teaching.

Looking back, my fondest memories are reserved for the numerous graduate and undergraduate students I was honored to mentor and teach. I was pleased to serve as the major advisor to a stream of extremely bright, inquisitive and enthusiastic graduate students. One of my greatest joys was helping my graduate students — and talented undergraduate research assistants — develop the critical thinking skills necessary (a) to design and conduct research that addressed interesting questions and (b) to write clear and concise manuscripts that had the potential to contribute to the relevant literatures.

My love of teaching emerged while I was a graduate student at Northwestern and strengthened throughout my years at

K-State. I was proud to serve as co-director of the highly popular Teaching Apprenticeship Program, or TAP. This program attracted graduate students whose enthusiasm for teaching was evident from the start. Their skills as thoughtful and engaging instructors typically showed steady improvement as they taught their first small section of General Psychology under our supervision and participated in our weekly teaching seminar. (If I told you how many individuals enrolled in the TAP over the years have won teaching awards while as graduate students and, later, as faculty members, it might sound like I was bragging about our students and the TAP).

As a final reflection, I would simply like to thank Kansas State University, the Department of Psychological Sciences, my colleagues and my students for enabling me to pursue a career I have cherished for 45½ years and for providing me with countless memories I will treasure forever.

Patrick Knight



Patrick Knight

Patrick Knight received his Bachelor of Science in psychology from Michigan State University and both his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in psychology from Purdue University. He was a member of the American Psychological Association, the Academy of Management, a charter member of the American Psychological Society/Association for Psychological Science, and the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

He joined the faculty of the Department of Psychology at Kansas State University in fall 1980. He was the second faculty member specializing in industrial and organizational psychology hired by the department and was tasked with helping develop a new I/O emphasis in the department's doctoral program. In this capacity, he developed a variety of new graduate courses during his initial years at K-State and helped form the overall I/O curriculum that largely remains in place today.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Knight was instrumental in developing two other on-campus programs focusing on I/O psychology. One was an undergraduate I/O emphasis that included a yearlong lab sequence and an applied field placement. The other was an applied on-campus Master of Science degree separate from the doctoral program.

In 2000, Knight was part of the team that developed what came to be known as the MIOP — Master's in Industrial and Organizational Psychology — Program, which he directed in recent years. This program was the first, and perhaps still the only, blended distance and on-campus graduate degree program in I/O psychology. Targeted at working human resources professionals, this program combines intensive two-week on-campus summer sessions with distance courses during the fall and spring semesters. To date, more than 200 students have received their degrees through the MIOP program.

In the course of his over 40 years at K-State, Knight was major professor for 24 students who earned their doctorates, as well as approximately 125 students who earned their master's degrees in the two Master of Science programs. He co-authored two editions of a popular textbook in I/O psychology, published research in top I/O journals, and presented at numerous national and international conferences.

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.

1986

Pat Tetreault (Ph.D.), founding director of the LGBTQA+ Resource Center (2007) and director of the Women's Center since 2019, has worked at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in student affairs for 28 years. Tetreault served as the sexuality education coordinator, University Health Center when the program was ranked eighth in the nation in 2007. She has been recognized for her work with awards that include ACPA's Coalition for Sexuality and Gender Identities Research Recognition Award in 2018; the LGBT Public Service Award in 2016; and the Chancellor's Awards for Fulfilling the Dream in 2013, Outstanding Contributions to the Status of Women in 1999 and 2005, Outstanding Contributions to the GLBT Community in 2002 and the Sue Tidball Award for Creative Humanity in 1999. The LGBTQA+ Center received ACPA's Commitment to Social Justice Education Award in 2017. Tetreault graduated from K-State with a doctorate in social psychology and was recognized as a distinguished LGBT alum at K-State's Lavender Graduation in 2017.

1993

Stephanie Sortland Perich (M.S.) is a stay-at-home parent and independent author of non-fiction and poetry. She has self-published two eBooks: "Travel Observations and Revelations" and "Sum of Experiences: A Book of Poetry." She recently launched the blog series "In the Open" for a local organization called Alliance for Healthy Communities. The series features thoughts and reflections on keeping kids safe and healthy from a parent's perspective. She lives in Chesterfield, Missouri, with her husband, Paul, and pre-teen son, Blake.

2002



Susan Burns

Susan Burns (Ph.D.) has been named the sixth president of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale (the Bronx), New York.

2003

Brian Johnson (M.S.) was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. Johnson is currently the deputy director for the Center for Military Science and Neuroscience at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

2013

Stephen Nettelhorst (Ph.D.) is an associate professor at Woodbury University in Burbank, California.

2016

Andrew Marshall (Ph.D.) is a postdoctoral fellow at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and works in Dr. Elizabeth Sewell's laboratory.

Whitney Jeter Whitaker (Ph.D.) was promoted to associate professor with tenure at Fort Hays State University.

2019

Catherine Steele (Ph.D.) is a tenure-track assistant professor at Texas A&M International University.

2020

Lindsay Chassay (B.S.) is a first-year student in the master's in clinical counseling psychology program at Illinois State University and was a recipient of a McNair Book Scholarship.

Ellen Kenworthy (B.S.) spent the summer after graduating working as a day camp counselor at Youthfront Camp in La Cygne, Kansas, and then began work on her master's degree and educational doctorate in school psychology at Emporia State University. Aside from getting a COVID nasal swab during orientation — not recommended — and consistently reminding kids to wear their masks indoors, she is glad to say camp went smoothly. She is also excited to serve as a National Association of School Psychologists student delegate for ESU this year. She misses working with Dr. Young and fellow students in the Dynamic Decision-Making Lab and hopes to visit Bluemont Hall in the future.



Ellen Kenworthy, front row, far left, with the Youthfront Day Camp Staff

Zoom Group Chat
wonderful job folks!!!

From Evelyn Stratmoen to Everyone: Excellent job!!

From Maria Diehl Faryna to Everyone: great job everyone!

From Nick Gallivan (He/Him) to Everyone: yay second years!

From Destiny Bell (She/Her) to Everyone: Great job!!! You all did fabulous

From Kelsey Couture to Everyone: Great job!

From Mike Young to Everyone: I continue to be so impressed our students - great jobs students AND their advisors and lab mates!

From Stacy Stoffregen to Everyone: Well done everyone!

From Angela Rose to Everyone: you were all wonderful!!!

From Lester Loschky to Everyone: Congratulations, everybody!!!! :)

From Maverick Smith to Everyone: Good job everyone

From Tiffany Lawless to Everyone: Y'all are doing interesting and relevant work, and your presentation skills are inspiring!



First-year presentations during the pandemic



Laura Brannon's graduate course during the pandemic



Advisor Sarah Buchanan taking a break from meeting with students over Zoom to enjoy some family time at Tuttle Creek State Park. From left are Bryce, Sarah, Braelynn, Aedyn and Laekyn Buchanan

Contact Us

Psytalk editor: Laura Brannon

To add your email 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 write, email — lbrannon@k-state.edu — or fax 785-532-5401 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 alums. You may also send photos, preferably digital, for possible use.

This newsletter is also distributed to potential undergraduate and graduate students in order to show them what is going on in the department. 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.

Name _____

Graduation year and degree _____

Address _____

Email _____

Would you like us to print your email address in next year's newsletter?

Yes No _____

News from you:

Send to: Psytalk Newsletter
 Laura Brannon
 Department of Psychology
 Kansas State University, 492 Bluemont Hall
 1114 Mid-Campus Drive, North
 Manhattan KS 66506-5302 USA
 Fax: 785-532-5401
 Email: lbrannon@k-state.edu

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

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