From the Chair

Greetings from Gettysburg to our many Psychology alumni! I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are catching the first glimmers of fall on our beautiful campus, and if you’re thinking of visiting, now is a lovely time. I was on sabbatical in Copenhagen, Denmark at this time last year, which was wonderful in almost every respect. The weather there, however, leaves much to be desired, and now I find myself keenly appreciative of the sun and blue skies here in Gettysburg at this time of year.

All is well in the Gettysburg College Psychology Department. I’d like to offer my warmest thanks to Becca Fincher-Kiefer, who returned to the chair role for a semester last fall so that I could leave for my sabbatical. The past year was another good one for our department. Our colleague Brian Meier was promoted to the rank of professor this spring, and we’re all very glad to see him recognized for his outstanding work (and as you’ll see below, he has some exciting family news, too). In other news, Kevin Wilson is now chairperson of Interdisciplinary Studies, so he is dividing his time between psychology and the IDS program. Kathy Berenson and Chris Barlett had productive pre-tenure leaves last Spring, and we’re delighted to have them back with us this year. Right now, Dan McCall and Nathalie Goubet are on sabbatical in France. Finally, we are happy to welcome Carlota Batres, Post-doctoral Research Associate, working with Richard Russell.

Our students continue to wow us with their terrific work. Last year, eleven of our students gave presentations (typically as co-authors with faculty) at conferences in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Florida. We also had another good year for graduate school admissions. Eighteen students completed summer internships, and many, many students presented their work on campus at Celebration ’16. We had four students conducting research on campus this past summer, supported by our Shand Summer Research program, as well as several other students working as research assistants with individual faculty. If you’re on campus for Homecoming or otherwise, please stop by the third floor of McCreary and see the students’ research posters. We think you’ll be impressed. As many of you know firsthand, our research-heavy major prepares students for graduate programs, and students’ research experiences also make them very attractive to employers.

Within the past few years, we’ve also been excited to see several of our alums being featured in Gettysburg College main landing page news articles. You may want to scroll down our website news archive (http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/psychology/news/) and read about some of them.

As you’ll see below, our homecoming speaker this year is Shannon Sauer-Zavala ’04. Please join us for her talk if you’re here! We would love to see you. Even if you can’t be here, we’d really like to hear what you’re doing. This is partly because we miss you and want to hear from you, and partly because we want to brag about you. So many prospective students on campus tours stop by and look at our alumni bulletin board, and visiting families always ask what our graduates are doing. Your stories are wonderful, and they really help us to continue to recruit outstanding students. They also help our current students think about career ideas. If you haven’t been in touch with us in a few years – or even if you have – please, please send a message to Carolyn Tuckey (tuckey@gettysburg.edu) and tell her what you’re up to. This goes for recent grads as well as those who graduated years ago.

Please stay in touch with us. You are remembered very fondly here, and your former professors are always interested in hearing what you’re doing. Warmest good wishes to all of you!

Homecoming Colloquium

If you are in the area, we would love to have you join us in welcoming back Shannon Sauer-Zavala, Ph.D. Shannon graduated from Gettysburg College in 2004 and went on to receive her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Kentucky. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Duke University and her postdoctoral fellowship at Boston University. She is a Research Assistant Professor in Boston University’s Psychological and Brain Sciences department and Director of Education and Training for the Unified Protocol.

Shannon’s current research, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, is focused on (1) identifying emotional factors involved in the development and maintenance of a range of mental disorders, (2) designing easily-disseminated interventions that target these maintaining factors, and (3) identifying best practices for disseminating empirically-supported treatments. Shannon will elaborate on her research during her talk “Improving Treatment for Emotional Disorders by Targeting Core Mechanisms,” which will be held Friday, September 30 at 3:30 pm in Bowen Auditorium, McCreary Hall 115. We hope to see you there!
Samuel A. Mudd Psychology Award

Congratulations to Joshua Rubinstein who received the Samuel A. Mudd Psychology Award during Spring Honors Day this past May. This award, established by Paul M. Muchinsky ’69 in honor of his former mentor, Sam Mudd ’57, is presented to a graduating senior psychology major who has demonstrated a high level of personal integrity and outstanding scholarship. Josh was a psychology major with a double minor in chemistry and biology. He graduated cum laude and earned psychology departmental honors.

During his time as a psychology major, Josh served as a research assistant with Dr. Daniel McCall for 2½ years and as a Peer Learning Associate for methods classes during three separate semesters. He was a Kolbe Fellow during the summer of 2015, working under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Siviy, and served as Psi Chi President during his senior year. In addition to his psychology department responsibilities, Josh was a tour guide for 2 years, a member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and volunteered at the Gettysburg Area Senior Center.

Highlights for Josh as a psychology major include the department faculty, presenting a poster at the AChemS (Association for Chemoreception Sciences) conference in Florida this past April with Dr. McCall, Alexandra Casella ’17, and Selah Kwak ’16, and conducting his honors research project under the supervision of Dr. McCall. Also, high on Josh’s list of favorite memories are the delicious home-cooked meals he enjoyed at Dr. McCall and Dr. Goubet’s house with other members of their research teams.

Josh is currently employed as a medical scribe at Hanover Hospital where he works with physicians to improve ER efficiency and thereby enables them to see more patients in a timely manner. Josh will always have fond memories of the psychology department, particularly the faculty and his research experiences, both of which he credits with helping him grow as a person, a student, and a researcher. We wish him all the best for the future!

’16 - Prizes and Awards

Congratulations to Claire Alexander, Samantha Eck, Selah Kwak, Meagan Lupolt, Colin Mancini, Kira Mason, Olga Nynas, Eric Osorio, and Joshua Rubinstein who graduated this past May with Psychology Department Honors. Graduating Phi Beta Kappa were Samantha Eck, Kelly Kalis, Selah Kwak, Meagan Lupolt, Kira Mason, and Olga Nynas. Kira Mason received the Psi Chi Junior Award and was also the Psychology Department banner carrier.

Updates from Alums

Suzanne Pelton Walker ’59 – Retired Coordinator of Technology/Education from Mercer County Community College, Trenton, NJ.

LTC (Ret.) John M. Moltz, Jr. ’60 – Served in the U.S. Military for twenty years, and then, after additional studies, taught in the Copperas Cove Independent School District until his retirement in 2002. He is still active with Boy Scouts of America, the Masons, and the Shriners.


Christianne (Beresford) Gerken ’68 – Earned masters at Indiana University; worked as a crisis counselor and then opened her own practice in family counseling; currently retired.

Marc Richman, PhD ’85 – Chief of the Bureau of Correctional Healthcare Services, Delaware Department of Correction.

Jonathan (Jon) Hart, PhD, ’04 – Director of Human Resources, Marlboro Township Public Schools, Marlboro, NJ. Jon has held several key administrative roles in NJ schools and is passionate about education.

Alison Booth ’05 – Has masters in applied developmental psychology from George Mason University, Board Certification in Behavior Analysis, and is a Licensed Behavior Analyst in the state of Virginia. Has been working for the past 10 years as an Applied Behavior Analysis/Verbal Behavior Consultant and Therapist to special needs children (mostly autism) in the northern VA area.

Anna Jordan ’06 – Earned an MS in Organization Development & Leadership at Shippensburg University. Works in software implementation for courts and justice systems in Plano, TX and Oakland, CA.

Melanie Blount ’06 – Is a private practice clinical psychologist.

Lauren Marsh O’Brien ’06 – Defense Intelligence Analyst, Department of Defense; has a recent masters in US foreign policy from American University.

Rachel Steel ’09 – is an Occupational Therapist.

Jen Christofferson ’10 – Has a masters in clinical psychology; works as a Program Coordinator at Nemours/Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children, Wilmington, DE in the Center for Pediatric Traumatic Stress. This center is part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and was developed to address medical trauma in the lives of children and families.
Chelsea Kasten ’11 – Currently a PhD candidate in the Addiction Neuroscience program at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

Juliann Purcell ’11 – Earned an MSc in clinical neuroscience in 2013 from the University College, London. She is currently conducting research at the University of Pennsylvania in the Neurology Department lab of Dr. Branch Cossett and Dr. Roy Hamilton.

Rebecca Kauten ’11 – Receiving her PhD in clinical psychology in 2016 from the University of Southern Mississippi; her pre-doctoral internship is at Spring Grove Hospital-Center, Catonsville, MD.

Rachael Ward ’12 – Spent two years in Teach for America and two years as a teacher at Codman Academy, a charter school in Boston; is entering a masters program in public policy (with a focus on education policy) at Georgetown University.

Elizabeth (Liz) Royer ’12 – User Experience Designer/Research, Deloitte Digital, making computer tools more accessible for users; e.g., in one project she helped adjust a tablet platform used by senior citizens with dementia, nursing home staff, therapists, and families to coordinate activities and assist with communication.

Maggie (Tosten) Ryder ’13 – Second grade teacher, Franklin Township Elementary School, Gettysburg Area School District.

Cara Dochat ’13 – Research Coordinator, Laboratory of Health Related Behavior Change, Drexel University.

Malcolm Perry ’14 – Has a masters in sport psychology and kinesiology from California State Fullerton; is also beginning a career as a rap artist and has released several songs.

Kyle Akeley ’14 – Assistant Director of Admissions, Darrow School, New Lebanon, NY.

Alexandra Feuer ’14 – Pursuing an MSW at the University of Pennsylvania

Sarah Cucchiara ’14 – Currently enrolled in the Columbia School of Social Work

Amanda Miller ’15 – Full-time Neuropsychology Testing Technician, Johns Hopkins University Bloomsburg School of Public Health, Hagerstown, MD

Rebecca Divas ’15 – Pursuing a masters of science in general/experimental psychology, Villanova University.

Kelly Westerman ’15 – An 8th and 9th grade history teacher at Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale, NY

Aimee Becker ’15 – Pursuing a masters of education in educational leadership with a concentration in college student affairs, Bloomsburg University.

Hannah Oliphant ’15 – Pursuing a masters in education (elementary and moderate disabilities licenses), Simmons College.

Monica Doring ’15 – Project Manager in the Medical Affairs Department, Johnson & Johnson.

Grace Van Scoky ’15 – Teaching English at a technical school, Brest, Bretagne, France.

Elise Sondheim ’15 – CRM Coordinator in the Marketing Department, Vineyard Vines.

Class of 2016:

Samantha Eck – Temple University, PhD in Brain and Cognitive Sciences program

Kyra McFadden – M.Ed. program in Human and Counseling Service, Lehigh University

Olga Nynas – Masters in Mental Health Studies program, Kings College, London

Michelle Fox – Recruiter at Park Hudson, New York City

Kira Mason – Yoga Teaching Certification, Yoga Vida, NYC; Summer internship at Northeastern University with Dr. David Lewkowicz

Kelsey Poholsky – Higher Education Admissions Counselor

Anne Schoenfeld – Marketing position with Tuckernuck, online clothing company

Colin Mancini – PhD in Applied Social Psychology program, University of Windsor

Emily Lunardi – Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with specialization in Drama Therapy, Lesley University

Rebecca Johnson – Masters in Counseling Services (school counseling concentration), Rider University

Joshua Rubinstein – Medical Scribe for PhysAssist Scribes, Hanover, PA

Madelaine Trotter – Marketing Intern, Salvatore Ferragamo, NYC

Lauren Schapiro – Working at Child Mind Institute, NYC

Hannah Collins – Working at the US Geological Survey Research Facility, Wellsboro, PA

Kelly Kalis – Third grade Co-Teacher for Uncommon Schools (North Star Academy), Liberty Elementary School, Newark NJ

Additionally, you can read what some of our alums are doing with their degree in Psychology in this Gettysburg College feature article:http://www.gettysburg.edu/news_events/press_release_detail.dot?id=6b10863f-d6a1-48cb-a608-c4b7c7cda780&pageTitle=What+can+you+do+with+a+Psychology+degree%3F

Finally, we have several more updates on our Alumni Profile page: http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/psychology/alumni/alumni-profiles.dot. If you are interested in adding your information to the Alumni Profile page, please email Carolyn Tuckey (ctuckey@gettysburg.edu) to request a form.
Faculty News

There is a new face in the department! Dr. Carlota Batres has begun a postdoctoral fellowship working with Richard Russell on studies of face perception. Carlota comes to us from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where she completed her PhD in comparative and evolutionary psychology earlier this year.

This past April, Kathy Berenson presented research with Wesley Gregory ’15, Sarah Van De Weert ’16, Jessica Johnson, ‘16 and Olga Nynas ’16, at conferences of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America and the North American Association for the Study of Personality Disorders. A paper on personality disorders that Wesley co-authored was also published in Cognitive Therapy and Research.

Brian Meier and his wife Courtney welcomed a new addition to their lives. Calia (Cali) Meier was born on February 26th, 2016. Brian and Courtney have not slept for 6.5 months, but they say her smile is worth it!

Chris Barlett continued his work looking at the psychological predictors of aggression and cyberbullying behavior. Last spring, he traveled to Iowa to spend a portion of his pre-tenure leave conducting research with several colleagues. Chris published several papers in high quality journals and presented his research at the Society of Research on Adolescence (SRA) conference with three undergraduate students (Kira Mason, Kristina Chamberlin, and Miranda Fennel). The past two summers, he has also mentored a Shand summer student.

Kathy Cain spent the Fall 2015 semester as a visiting faculty member in the Child Development and Diversity program at DISAbroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. This program is well-known to our psychology majors; in most years, it’s our students’ most popular choice for study abroad. Kathy taught a new class called “Muslim Youth in the West: Identity and Development” at DIS, and she also began a research project with a DIS colleague. The photo on the left shows Kathy with her DIS students at a mosque in Copenhagen. This spring and summer, she gave presentations co-authored with students at the Society for Research on Adolescence and at the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development.

Sahana Mukherjee had a busy summer! As part of the scholars network of the National Center for Institutional Diversity, she was invited to participate in a conference/workshop focusing on the ‘Future of Diversity Research’ in early summer. Soon after, she participated in a faculty development trip at the Balkans with five other faculty members from Gettysburg College. As part of this trip, she travelled to Belgrade, Serbia and participated in seminars focusing on conflict, memory, and identity. She looks forward to incorporating what she learned from this trip into her cultural psychology courses! Next, she presented her research on memory and identity at the Biennial conference held by the Society for Psychological Study of Social Issue at Minnesota, after which she traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania with Kathy Cain to present their research at the conference hosted by the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development. They had a lovely time exploring Vilnius and brainstorming future research projects! She then travelled to Nagoya, Japan to present her research at the conference hosted by the International Association of Cross Cultural Psychology. She now looks forward to integrating all her travel experiences into her courses and research.

Nathalie Goubet and Dan McCall are on sabbatical leave this fall, and are studying at the Center for Neuroscience Research at the University Claude Bernard in Lyon, France. One focus of the lab is on eating disorders, and Dan and Nathalie are conducting research on the effects of hunger state on body image, food preferences, and visual attention. They are also using physiological measures like ECG, galvanic skin response, and eye tracking as techniques to measure participants’ responses to food images and odors. In April, the Gettysburg Odor and Flavor Lab group (Lexi Casella ’17, Alexa Kowker ’16, Selah Kwak ’16, Kira Mason ’16, Olga Nynas ’16, and Josh Rubinstein ’16) presented two studies on cross-modal odor associations at the Association for Chemoreception Sciences conference in Bonita Springs, Florida.

Supporting Psychology

Thanks for reading, everyone! We’re so proud of the department and all that both the faculty and the students are accomplishing – we hope you can now understand why! If you are interested in supporting the department, gifts that are made through the Gettysburg Fund support the work we do indirectly as those funds are used across the college. If your desire is to support the department directly, remember to note “Psychology Special Gifts Fund” when you give. We are so grateful for your support!