



PSYNOPSIS Ψ

FROM THE CHAIR

This is the 13th issue of the Psychology Department newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to improve communication between the current Psychology Department members (faculty, students, staff) and all of the people who have been an important part of the department in one way or another in the past. The global pandemic has presented numerous challenges to our mission, and though our operations have been disrupted, our faculty, staff, and students have adapted, kept one another safe, and modified our approaches to teaching, learning, conducting research, and serving our community and profession. We will highlight some of the things we have been doing as a department over the past year.

We welcome information from you to share. Send your information to psych@unm.edu and indicate that your news is for the Newsletter.

Undergraduate Education: Enrollment throughout UNM continued to decline in Academic Year 2020, however, psychology still had an impressive number of 1269 of undergraduate psychology majors. A total of 388 bachelor's degrees in psychology were awarded. We offered 119 online courses last year!

Graduate Education: We had 71 graduate students in 3 concentrations: Clinical; Cognition, Brain, & Behavior; and Evolutionary/Developmental. The students had 58 peer reviewed publications and 10 chapters this past year. We received 198 applications to our graduate program for AY 2019-2020, and we admitted a class of 10 fall 2019.

Faculty: We hired two new faculty this past year, Margo Hurlocker and Tania Reynolds (appointment began Fall 2020). Our faculty remain impressive! Psychology [faculty published 145 papers](#) this year, many of which are published with graduate student authors. We had a good year as far as grant money: \$1,175,017.12. Including Psychology Department faculty with grants processed through CASAA and the Mind Research Network the total is \$4,685,201.12



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Department Chair: News	2-3
Faculty Promotion	4
Retirement: Harold Delaney	5
Psychology News	6-7
New Faculty	8
Faculty Research Spotlight	9-11
In other News	12-13
Agora	14-15
Programs/Associations	16-17
Awards	18-19
Recognition Dinner	20-21
Psychology Staff	22
Graduation	23-25

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New Department Chair and a special farewell to our outgoing Chair, Dr. Jane Ellen Smith
- Faculty Promotion of Dr. Ben Clark
- New Beginnings: new faculty & faculty retirement
- Faculty Spotlight: Bruce Smith, Kamilla Venner, Steven Verney, Katie Witkiewitz
- Department News! Exciting research, new babies and a pup and engagements!
- Agora turns 50!

NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR: DEREK HAMILTON



[Dr. Derek Hamilton](#) received his doctoral degree in 2003 from the University of New Mexico. He served as a Postdoctoral fellow from 2003-2004 at the Canadian Centre for Behavioral Neuroscience under advisor Bryan Kolb, Ph.D. He returned to UNM as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience in 2004-2005. Hired in a tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Psychology in 2005, he quickly rose the ranks and was promoted to a full professor in 2016.

Dr. Hamilton runs the Neural Plasticity and Adaptive Behavior Laboratory where his current research focuses on identifying treatments for deficits in brain plasticity, learning, and memory associated with developmental alcohol exposure.

He served as Area Head of the Cognition, Brain and Behavior program from 2011-2017. From 2019-2020 he served as the Acting Chair of the department in the Spring 2018 and then served as Assistant Vice President for Research in UNM's Office of Research.

Dr. Hamilton was offered the Psychology Chair position after Dr. Jane Ellen Smith completed her 3rd term as Chair. He says, "It is an incredible honor to continue the excellent trajectory Dr. Smith's hard work put the Department on, and to serve the Department that has been a home to me as a graduate student and faculty member over the past 24 years."

Be sure to visit the Psychology [webpage](#) for the latest [News and Recognitions](#), [Faculty profiles](#), [publications](#) and [research](#).

OUTGOING CHAIR: JANE ELLEN SMITH



[Dr. Jane Ellen Smith](#) stepped down from her 3-term (12 year) position as Chair of the Psychology Department in August and rejoined the other Professors in the department. She is particularly proud of the role she played in several accomplishments during those years, including hiring 12 faculty, and receiving an NIH stimulus grant (in conjunction with Co-PI Turner; Office of Capital Projects) for almost \$5 million that established our Psychology Clinical Neuroscience Center (PCNC) in 2010.

Jane also actively promoted online instruction when it started; back when departments were awarded a large percentage of the tuition it generated. During the 5 years of this arrangement, the department earned over \$2.7 million, which primarily was distributed to faculty and graduate students for research/travel, and was used for remodel projects. In fact, in addition to the 5 faculty labs that were constructed as part of the PCNC, Jane had 6 additional faculty labs remodeled. This money also was used to remodel faculty offices and the Graduate Lounge, and to build our popular glass-walled classroom (room 125). More recently when our department was asked to participate in UNM's fully-online degree program, Jane took charge of establishing this (with the faculty's support) and negotiated several "perks" for doing so, including extra faculty hires and multiple TA/GA raises. Jane was eager to support our graduate students in other ways as well, such as by securing several summer awards, establishing the Annual Recognition of Excellence Event, and starting "Town Halls". Finally, Jane is pleased that she was able to initiate several new departmental committees (e.g., Diversity Committee).

If you ask her why she stayed in the position for so long, Jane readily responds that it was because of the people in the department (faculty, staff, graduate students) and the satisfaction she received in trying to solve problems for everyone. While she thanks all of these people for supporting her, Jane especially wants to single out a few: (1) Barbara McCrady, who was CASAA Director at the time (the "voice of reason" as Jane called her); for always being available to "process" events, particularly when things got a bit dicey, (2) Mark Peceny, the A&S Dean, for being such a pleasure to work with and for his support of the department in general, and (3) Trish Aragon-Mascarenas, Department Administrator, for making Jane's own job much easier due to Trish's wealth of knowledge about the workings of UNM and her herculean efforts to keep the main office up and running.



FACULTY PROMOTION

Dr. Ben Clark was promoted to Associate Professor in summer 2020.



Dr. Ben Clark graduated from Dartmouth College in 2011 and joined the UNM faculty in the Cognition, Brain and Behavior area in the Department of Psychology. His research studies how the mammalian brain contributes to spatial behavior at a neurological level, with particular attention to neurons related to head direction and location within a space. His work also advances the understanding of the multiple networks involved in learning and memory and structural and functional loss after prenatal exposure to alcohol and Alzheimer's disease. His research program has resulted in over 40 publications and has received consistent grant funding from such sources as the National Institutes of Health and the Alzheimer's Association. Ben is the inaugural recipient of the Research and Creative Works Leadership Award at UNM.

Ben and his wife, Crystal (an East Mountain veterinarian), live in Edgewood with their two children Hayden and Sam and their many farm pets including two cows (Marvin and Buford).

JANE ELLEN SMITH-DRIVE-BY PARADE



DR. HAROLD DELANEY RETIREMENT:

Phasing out of the Psychology Department after four decades

Needless to say, after 45 years of teaching in the UNM Psychology Department, not being in the classroom this fall has been different. Nonetheless, I have found plenty to occupy my time, even in these months of social separation.

Most important is that I have been able to spend more time with the love of my life. Nancy and I celebrated our golden anniversary this August, and enjoy being together as much as ever—which is a good thing given that happens about 24/7 these days. We hope some day to go on the river cruise on the Danube that we once had penciled in for fall of 2020.



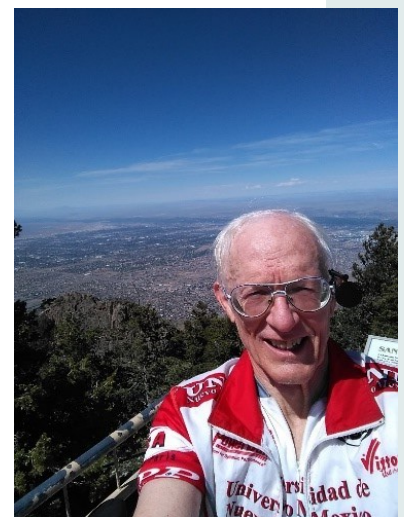
While staying at home this fall, I've found time to carry out some interesting projects. One fun undertaking has been building a small tree house and putting up a "Ninja line" to be used by some of our seven grandchildren when they are able to visit again.

I also spent a number of days thinning some of the hundreds of small trees on our five acres to try and reduce the available fuel near our home in case of a wildfire. Using a chain saw on pinyons and junipers was enjoyable, trying to make the property safer for grandkids by removing multiple ten-foot-tall chollas, not so much.

I've also had time for some more fun ways to exercise. I biked (very slowly) to the top of Sandia Crest in May, and was able to summit my 25th 14er (Mt. Bierstadt, 14,065 feet elevation) in September.

I still enjoy living in the world of ideas part of the time. I continue to teach my "Sigmund Freud Debates C. S. Lewis" course each fall through a university in Budapest, Hungary. Having to transition two courses at UNM this past spring onto Zoom helped prepare me for switching my Hungarian online course to a Zoom format this fall. I also appreciate hearing what former UNM students are up to and vicariously enjoy their many accomplishments. I have time now to take part regularly in three different reading groups (meeting virtually of course).

I continue to be grateful for such a long and rewarding career at UNM and the opportunity to interact with supportive colleagues and outstanding students.



PSYCHOLOGY NEWS

Dr. Kamilla Venner Research Spotlited

[Dr. Kamilla Venner](#) was recently awarded the second annual Dora Goldstein Diversity in Sciences Award for the year 2020. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated excellence and creativity in alcohol research, and a commitment to diversity and mentoring throughout his or her career. [read the full story](#)

Dr. Venner was also recognized by the National Institutes of Health HEAL initiative. Her research explores the integration of medication-based treatment with the healing traditions of American Indian and Alaska Native communities. [Read more](#) on “To Walk in the Beauty Way”: Treating Opioid Use Disorder in Native Communities

Dr. Katie Witkiewitz Research Spotlight

[Dr. Katie Witkiewitz](#) was elected editor of the journal *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. As a clinical psychologist who has been studying the psychological risk and protective factors for addiction for more than 20 years,

Witkiewitz previously worked on the editorial board of PAB as both consulting editor and associate editor. Witkiewitz has also served on the editorial boards of five additional addiction research journals and says all of this experience combined has given her a 10,000-foot view of the field of addictive behaviors and has prepared her to serve as editor. The editorship is effective 2020 – 2026. [read the full story](#)

Graduate Student Honored by Legislature

Monica Goncalves-Garcia, a CBB Doctoral student in our department, was recognized at UNM Day at the State Legislature on January 27, 2020.

She was selected by the provosts office as "an outstanding graduate student following her presentation of research related to the UNM Grand Challenge on substance abuse at the Shared Knowledge Conference." [read more](#)



The Dean of Graduate Studies Julie Conrod, psychology doctoral candidate Monica Goncalves-Garcia, Dean of Population Health Tracie Collins and pharmacy doctoral candidate Miel Johnson were recognized for their contributions to scholarship and research.

PSYCHOLOGY NEWS

Lindsay Britt-Scholarship Recipient



Lindsay Britt, Contract and Grant Administrator in our department, received one of two scholarships from the NCURA Education Scholarship Fund (ESF) award Spring 2020.

Lindsay is the Contract and Grant Administrator in the Psychology Department at UNM, and has been a research administrator for nine years and joined NCURA in 2011. She decided to pursue a master's degree in research administration after earning her CPRA in 2015 and realizing that she wanted to learn as much as she could about the profession. With aspirations of being a director of a sponsored projects office, Lindsay told us, "I wanted to show my two small children that we never stop learning and there are always opportunities to better yourself." After securing her master's, Lindsay plans to participate in the LeadMe program as both a mentee and mentor, present at conferences, serve as a traveling faculty member, and volunteer to serve on the Professional Development Committee and the Education Scholarship Fund Select Committee. Lindsay is honored to have been selected to receive this scholarship and looks forward to serving on the committee in the future to give this amazing opportunity to other research administrators.

development Committee and the Education Scholarship Fund Select Committee. Lindsay is honored to have been selected to receive this scholarship and looks forward to serving on the committee in the future to give this amazing opportunity to other research administrators.

Congratulations, Lindsay!

Department News

For more department news, visit our [Department News](https://psych.unm.edu/news-events-jobs/news/index.html) webpage: <https://psych.unm.edu/news-events-jobs/news/index.html>



NEW FACULTY



Dr. Margo C. Hurlocker-PhD University of Southern Mississippi

Research Areas: Clinical Psychology, Health Psychology

[Dr. Hurlocker](#) was hired in August 2020 as an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department. She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi (2017) and completed her postdoctoral work at the UNM Center on Alcohol, Substance Use, and Addictions (CASAA) until July 2020.

Dr. Hurlocker currently leads the Behavioral Health, Implementation, and Prevention (BHIP) Lab, comprising an amazing group of undergraduate and graduate students (Hannah Carlon, Gabriel Peters, Elizabeth Grey, Jacqueline Luchini, and Nicholas Grevas). Her work takes a multi-level, mixed-method approach to help

individuals suffering from a myriad of behavioral health issues and to improve the healthcare delivery system. Her foundational work on the link between health risk behaviors and mental/physical health conditions serves as the impetus for her current programs of research: (a) development and evaluation of prevention interventions to address co-occurring health conditions and (b) collaboration with community-based facilities to develop and test novel strategies to improve how behavioral services are delivered and to increase client success in treatment. Dr. Hurlocker recently received funding to further her research agenda from the UNM Research Allocation Committee and from the UNM Substance Use Disorder Grand Challenge Initiative. In her free time, Dr. Hurlocker enjoys spending time with her spouse (Nathan) whether it is camping/hiking, listening to music, or remodeling their home. She also enjoys countless hours of playing with her two cats (Stewart and Appalachian).

Dr. Tania Reynolds - PhD, Florida State University

Research Area: Evolution and Development



[Tania Reynolds](#) is our newly hired assistant professor in the evolution and development area. She received her PhD in Social Psychology from Florida State University, after working alongside Drs. Jon Maner and Roy F. Baumeister. There, she received the NSF graduate research fellowship to study the hormonal underpinnings of women's interpersonal anxiety. She completed her postdoc at the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University, where she taught classes in gender, health, and sexuality.

Her research examines female same-sex relationships, including both their cooperative and competitive manifestations. She also examines biases in moral judgments, finding that we more readily stereotype men as perpetrators and women as victims of harm. Her work reveals these gender stereotypes undermine concern for male suffering, suggesting a moral blind spot.

As the psychology representative for Heterodox Academy, she is very interested political tolerance and viewpoint diversity. Towards this end, she is currently conducting a project examining whether interpersonal biases underly differences in political ideology. Her work suggests that liberals and conservatives differ in the degree to which they detect connections between people's previous and future life outcomes. Her findings reveal that compared to liberals, conservatives more readily detect patterns across people's life outcomes. These results may suggest conservatives more often see people as the causal agents of their life outcomes, whereas liberals more often see people as the passive recipients of good or bad fortune. She hopes that by understanding the psychological differences between conservatives and liberals, her research will help promote tolerance and compromise across the aisle.

Given her postdoctoral training, she is thoroughly enjoying teaching the human sexuality undergraduate course. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, podcasts, and cooking. As a California native, she is grateful to be out of snowy Indiana and back in the sunshine.

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Bruce Smith Research Spotlight



Free Positive Psychology Workbook to Help Make 2021 a Better Year

[Dr. Bruce W. Smith](#) is making a new positive psychology workbook freely available to everyone as a PDF to help them get through the holidays and make next year a better new year. Positive psychology has been defined as the science of happiness and what makes life worth living. Bruce is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at UNM and has been teaching positive psychology at UNM for the past 15 years to over 4,000 students. Bruce recently published an article showing that students in the positive psychology class had significant increases in happiness and well-being relative to UNM students taking other classes:

Smith, B.W., Ford, C.G., Erickson, K., & Guzman, A. (2020) The Effects of a Character Strength Focused Positive Psychology Course on Undergraduate Happiness and Well-Being. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10902-020-00233-9>

Bruce is also a co-founder of the Center for Applied Positive Psychology (CAPP) in New Mexico, which is a group of community leaders with the mission of making the benefits of positive psychology as widely and freely available as possible. This past fall, Bruce along with the help of CAPP have developed a positive psychology workbook to make the best of his class and positive psychology available to everyone at UNM and beyond. The workbook includes 24 chapters with lessons, access to videos they created to reflect the lessons, and the most beneficial and effective activities for increasing happiness, well-being, and resilience.

Bruce and CAPP have made the 230 page workbook available to everyone to help them get through what will probably be a particularly stressful holiday season because of COVID-19 and to enable them to make 2021 a much better year. If you would like a free PDF copy of the workbook, you can go to the following link at CAPP's webpage to download it as many times as you like for yourself and others:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eVPov4kbw-2WcYHU51Nbv8wi-aCC3y72?usp=sharing>

If you would like a hard copy of the workbook, Bruce and CAPP have made it available on Amazon.com for the minimal no profit to them of about \$6.23. The link where you can find the book on Amazon.com is: https://www.amazon.com/Bruce-W-Smith/e/B078T27V58?ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vu00_io

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Kamilla Venner, Research Spotlight



[Dr. Kamilla Venner](#) has remained busy despite the pandemic and is quite the zoom expert now. She is most excited about submitting her dossier for tenure promotion and giving her promotion talk in early October.

She is a multiple PI of two National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded grants both focused on learning more about opioid use and treatment with American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people to address the health inequities. One is a large NIDA CTN grant to develop a culturally center medication treatment for opioid use disorder in partnership with AI/AN collaborative board.

Her team is gearing up to test the implementation of this intervention in four programs in Alaska, Washington, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Though only one in-person meeting occurred, virtual meetings have continued, and the work is so meaningful. Unfortunately, AI/AN people have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 with illness and mortality. The other grant aims to improve the accuracy of AI/AN data on rates of opioid overdose in New Mexico. She has a collaborative board for this project as well and learned that fentanyl test strips, which allows people to check their substances for fentanyl, are considered drug paraphernalia in New Mexico. She is committed to making sure fentanyl strips will be available to help save lives.

Dr. Steven Verney, Research Spotlight



[Dr. Steven Verney](#) is one of the four multiple Principle Investigators of the UNM Center for Excellence in Health Disparities, the Transdisciplinary Research, Equity and Engagement (TREE) Center for Advancing Behavioral Health. The overarching goal of the center is to build infrastructure to reduce behavioral health disparities in our state. This center was one of twelve national centers funded by the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities in 2017. The TREE was likely selected out of a pool of about 125 center applications because of its strength and creativity in focusing on community-engaged research, advancing underrepresented minority researchers, and understanding a historical context that has contributed to differences in behavioral health around the state of New Mexico. The Center has three complementary cores (Administrative, Investigator Development, Community Engagement and Dissemination), 2 five-year community-engaged research projects (Native teen suicide and immigrant wellbeing), 3 annual pilot projects and on-going data and evaluation activities to measure outcomes.

The Center's vision is to partner with local, state, tribal and national leaders to create opportunities for transformative impact that: 1) Improves behavioral health equity among diverse communities in New Mexico; 2) Nurtures community and academic ways of knowing; and 3) Prepares the next generation of under-represented minority scholars for conducting transdisciplinary multi-level intervention research. Click on the link to read more about the center: [UNM TREE Center](#).

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Katie Witkiewitz Research Spotlight



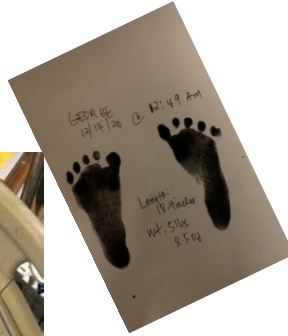
[The Substance Use Disorders Grand Challenge](#) is supported by the University of New Mexico Office of the President, UNM Regents', and the UNM Office of the Vice President of Research, and has been renewed for additional funding. The Substance Use Disorder Grand Challenge team is a large, multidisciplinary group of experts in the field of substance use and addiction. Co-led by [Dr. Katie Witkiewitz](#) (Regents' Professor, Central Campus lead), and Dr. Brandi Fink (Alumni, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Health Sciences Center (HSC), HSC lead). The Grand Challenge team includes psychologists, physicians, nurses, political scientists, economists, communication experts, community members and state policy makers. These individuals work together on novel

approaches to reduce the prevalence and impact of substance use disorders in New Mexico.

In 2020, the Substance Use Disorders Grand Challenge Central campus researchers have submitted at least 40 grant applications requesting more than \$45 million to UNM, and 13 grant applications that have been funded for a total funded amount of \$25,825,628. In addition, the Substance Use Disorders Grand Challenges Team issued a rapid response request for proposals for projects that directly address COVID-19 related research questions. The Central Campus GC funded 2 projects, titled: (1) Substance Use Patterns among College Students Peri- and Post-COVID-19 Shutdown; and (2) Changes in Drinking During the COVID19 Stay at Home Order among a Community Sample of Non-Treatment Seeking Heavy Drinkers in New Mexico. Data collection has been completed and teams are currently in the process of writing up the results of these projects. Preliminary findings have shown increases in drinking and stress during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Most relevant to Psychology, two graduate students from our department, Alexandra Hernandez-Vallant and Brigitte Stevens, have been selected for the newly created Grand Challenge Student Scholars Program. The Grand Challenge Student Scholars Program provides financial support and mentoring to five doctoral students across Central Campus who are doing research that addresses substance use and substance use disorder, and issues of health equity in New Mexico. Congratulations Alexandra and Brigitte!

IN OTHER NEWS

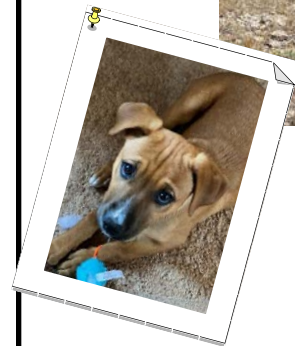


Jeremy and Caroline welcomed George Stephen Hogeveen to the world just after midnight on Dec 14. George decided to arrive 5 weeks early. Baby, mom, and dad are doing well. Jeremy says “In a classic 2020 plot twist, baby George Stephen Hogeveen decided to arrive 5 weeks early in the middle of the night last night. Caroline did an incredible solo delivery while the nurses were angels and helped me feel as close to being there as possible over FaceTime. Mom doing well and George doing great too. Will still be spending some time in the NICU given his early arrival, so warm thoughts and prayers would be appreciated in the coming days/weeks!” Congratulations Jeremy and Caroline! and welcome to George!



Ben Clark: New baby

We had a newborn baby - Samuel Angus Clark born December 23rd 2019. Pictures show his sister, Hayden, holding him a couple days after he was born vs. a year later.



Katie Witkewitz:

I adopted Rosie, a small-medium rescue dog, in March 2020 and we did the 12-mile roundtrip hike to the Sandia Crest trail last month.

IN OTHER NEWS



Karly Edwards & Adam Wilson: Engaged

Adam and I got engaged on June 6th, 2020 while on a backpacking trip in Taos. We plan to get married in a small ceremony this winter. Picture includes our pup, Zig. Karly Edwards



Ryan Harvey & Laura Berkowitz Engaged

Ryan and I are engaged 😊 Getting hitched next summer in Tahoe, California. -Laura Berkowitz



AGORA CRISIS CENTER TURNS 50!

The UNM Psychology Department is home to a unique and historic organization. [Agora](#) is one of the oldest crisis centers in the country, and the only university program of its kind which supports the entire surrounding community and beyond! Since 1970, Agora’s mission has been to provide “free, confidential, compassionate help to anyone in need of emotional support”. Agora’s services include: a phone helpline; online emotional support (chat); information and referrals; volunteer opportunities; and community educational workshops. Anyone can call or chat at Agora, about whatever is on their mind. Some callers are “just having a bad day”, while others are experiencing serious on-going mental health crises and may be considering suicide. The phone and chat helplines are answered by volunteers who go through a 40-hour basic training unlike anything else available in the state. Currently Agora has nearly 150 volunteers, all of whom commit to sit one 4-hour shift per week to help strangers in distress. The pandemic has limited the number of volunteers who can be in our very small center at any one time, but even under these circumstances, over 1200 calls and chats have been answered each month during 2020.

Just as important as the life-saving services provided on our helplines, the training volunteers receive is a vital part of Agora’s mission. Past Agora volunteers frequently write that the experience they received while volunteering helped them not only in their professional lives, but in their personal lives as well. The training focuses on communication skills, crisis intervention, and suicide awareness and prevention.

Finally, Agora is happy to provide informational and educational presentations to any group on campus or in the community. Our most popular workshop topics include “Supportive Listening Skills”, and “Suicide Awareness and Intervention”. Sessions can be tailored to fit the needs of a variety of groups.

Agora is proud to represent the University both in the state of New Mexico and throughout the country as a member of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. Thanks to the foundation laid by Dr. Logan and others in 1970, we continue to provide rich volunteer experiences and help to people who need to connect with a compassionate listener.



PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS/ASSOCIATIONS

Quotes:

“What I learned at Agora provided me with a solid foundation in the skills needed to become an effective Psychologist. I learned not only how to listen without judgment, but how to understand the needs of people in crisis in a way that classroom learning could not provide” – Chloe M.

“Agora has been a huge source of support to me in my work with high-risk youth for many decades. The quality of their work is high and UNM should be commended for providing such an invaluable resource for our community!” – Joann S.

“As a high school student, I didn’t know what to do when a friend told me he was going to kill himself. I called Agora and they helped both of us. I don’t think my friend would be alive today without Agora.” – Jess A.

⇒ **Contact Info:** 505-277-3013 or 855-505-4505 (helpline); www.AgoraCares.org

⇒ **Donate to Agora:** <https://www.unmfund.org/fund/agora-crisis-center/>

Agora Publicity Links:

UNM Newsroom Article - <http://news.unm.edu/news/dedication-and-service-agora-celebrates-50-years-remains-one-of-the-oldest-crisis-centers-in-the-country>

UNM Mirage Article (page 12) - <https://issuu.com/unm-alumni-association/docs/unm-mirage-fall-2019-issuu>

Alibi Article, July 2020 - <https://alibi.com/news/60976/Turning-Away-from-the-Ledge.html>

ABQ Journal – August, 2020 - <https://www.abqjournal.com/1485923/agora-crisis-center-hotline-turns-50.html>



PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS/ASSOCIATIONS

COLLEGIATE RECOVERY CENTER (CRC)



The Psychology Department is proud to announce that the [Collegiate Recovery Center \(CRC\)](#) opened in November 2019! The mission of the CRC is to serve and support students in recovery from addiction, at any point on their journey. The CRC is the only collegiate recovery center in the State of New Mexico and provides services and programming which includes 12-step meetings, All-Recovery, Recovery Dharma, SMART Recovery, as well as treatment referrals and recovery resources. The students love congregating in the CRC space located in Logan Hall, which also provides a kitchen and resource library for their use. This year the CRC staff and interns have created a Student Board and their goals for next year are to create a Peer Mentoring Program and a Recovery Ally Training for students, staff, and faculty across the campus.

Visit the CRC website at: <https://recovery.unm.edu/>

Donate to the CRC at: <https://www.unmfund.org/fund/collegiate-recovery-center/>

For more information, email Marni Goldberg at: recovery@unm.edu

“The opposite of addiction is not sobriety; it’s connection.” – Johann Hari

DIVERSITY ORGANIZATION (DO!)

Activities/Events:

In the past year, the members of the DO! executive leadership team have worked to build community in the department. This initially began with monthly student support groups in Fall 2019. In spring 2020, DO! responded to the pandemic by moving activities and meetings online. In the summer 2020, in response to ongoing stress with the pandemic and the social unrest, DO! opened up monthly student support groups to the department, including faculty and staff. Ongoing efforts also include: providing research consultations to help students diversify their research methods once a semester, monthly student support groups, quarterly full-department community conversations, fundraising, and the end of the year 411 for undergraduate students. The diversifying research consultation this fall included Drs. Venner and Verney answering questions about collecting data on race, ethnicity and other identity variables, interpreting measurement invariance across racial/ethnic groups, and diversifying research design and implementation.

Student members of the DO! executive leadership team include co-chairs, Alexandra Hernandez-Vallant and Juan Pena, as well as Josh Maxwell (vice-chair), Julia Swan (vice-chair), Jalene Herron (co-secretary), Eunice Kim (co-secretary), Isabel Solis (Community Events Coordinator), and Alexis Burks.

Fundraising:

Thanks to the generosity of the Psychology Staff and Graduate Students, DO! was able to **raise \$428.48** for Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless (AHCH) between April 30 and May 15. Between May 15 and June 1, Psychology Faculty donated an additional **\$244.40**, totaling our department’s contribution to AHCH at **\$672.68**. AHCH provides healthcare services (including primary care, behavioral health, dental, and harm reduction services) to over 7,000 people a year who are experiencing homelessness.

PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS/ASSOCIATIONS

GRADUATE ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY (GASP)

Our purpose is to maintain a department atmosphere which fosters scholarship among psychology graduate students by ensuring resources that will benefit all students as well as provide a supportive social network.

All enrolled Psychology graduate students are eligible for membership

GASP Officers 2019-2020

President-Josh Maxwell (interim)
Vice President-open
Secretary-Brie Howell
Treasurer-open
Librarian-Marley Russell
GPSA Representative-Trevor Jackson
Snack Person: Open
CBB Representative-Open
Evo/Devo Representative-Open
Clinical Representatives-Elena Stein

GASP Website: <https://psych.unm.edu/graduate/student-resources/gasp.html>

BAC PROGRAM

Basics in Addiction Counseling - An Exciting Opportunity for Psychology Majors



The [BAC](#) is an undergraduate concentration for a select group of students who meet the academic and personal requirements for acceptance. It is a unique program which allows undergraduate students to train in the 12 core functions of the Licensed Substance Abuse Associate/Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor. Participation in the BAC requires a high level of maturity, empathy, and motivation. The program provides academic coursework and applied clinical experience to help prepare students for careers in the addiction counseling field, and emphasizes clinical practice based in scientific knowledge, informed by a commitment to provide services to persons in need, and adherence to the highest of ethical standards.

Every semester the BAC Program hosts a Celebration and Networking Event for graduates, newly admitted BAC students, and BAC alumni. Activities include introductions, updates, presentation of Certificates of Completion to graduates, and LOTS of food and conversation. This event was put on hold this year, but we are looking forward to hosting next year! Marni Goldberg is the BAC Program Specialist and can be reached at mgoldberg@unm.edu.

Did you know we have an [online degree program](#)?

For more information on Psychology Degree programs, visit our webpage: [Undergraduate & Graduate](#)

AWARDS 2019-2020

GRADUATE STUDENTS

FELLOWSHIPS 2019-2020

- ◆ Grice Fellowship (for recruitment):

- ◇ **Ethan Campbell**
- ◇ **Julia Swan**

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS (DEC. 2019)

- ◆ Most 1st Author Publications for 2019: **Victoria Votaw** (mentor: Katie Witkiewitz); 3 articles
- ◆ Most Publications for 2019: **Victoria Votaw** (mentor: Katie Witkiewitz); 6 articles
- ◆ Publications in Highest Impact Journal for 2019 as 1st Author:
 - ◆ **Ryan Harvey** (mentor: Ben Clark); in *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*. [Impact factor: 9.440]
 - ◆ **Ruth Sarafin** (mentor:)_ *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*. [2018 impact factor = 8.002]
- ◆ Publication in Highest Impact Journal for 2019 (any Author): **Laura Berkowitz** (mentor:); *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*. [Impact Factor: 8.002, 5-year Impact Factor: 9.420].
- ◆ Grant Proposal Submitted as PI in 2019: **Graham Ford** (mentor:)
- ◆ Highest Student Ratings for 2019 (small class; 50 or fewer students):
 - ◆ **Marley Russell** (mentor:); PSY 335 Clinical Psychology (*small class*)
 - ◆ **Trevor Jackson** (mentor:) PSYC-2250 Statistical Principles (*large class*)
- ◆ Outstanding Service to the Community: **Joshua Maxwell**

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH DAY AWARDS (APRIL 2020)

- ◆ Barbara Goldman Garland Memorial Scholarship (\$ 1,000): **Isabel Solis** (mentor: Kristina Ciesielski)
- ◆ Rosenblum Award (\$1,000): **Isabel Solis** (mentor: Kristina Ciesielski)
- ◆ The Haight Distinguished Graduate Lecture Award (\$1,000): **Adam Wilson** (mentor: Barbara McCrady/co-mentor Katie Witkiewitz)
- ◆ David J. Smith, Ph.D., Psychology Graduate Student Award (\$1,000): **Elena Stein** (mentor: Katie Witkiewitz)
- ◆ Bertha Melgoza Baker Clinical Psychology Award (\$1,000): **Alexandra Hernandez-Vallant** (mentor: Kamilla Venner)
- ◆ Sandia Casino Responsible Gaming Scholarships (\$2,500 each):
 - ◇ **Elena Stein** (mentor: Katie Witkiewitz)
 - ◇ **Victoria Votaw** (mentor: Katie Witkiewitz)
 - ◇ **Benjamin Gibson** (mentor: Vince Clark)
 - ◇ **Jamie Smith** (mentor: Jane Ellen Smith)
 - ◇ **Kathryn Fokas** (mentor: Barbara McCrady)

AWARDS 2019-2020

- ◆ Benjamin Franklin Haight Memorial Scholarship Award (\$ 3,000 for Summer): **Kathryn Fokas** (mentor: Barbara McCrady)
- ◆ Best Graduate Student Teacher (**\$300**): **Devin Ulrich** (mentor: Kent Kiehl)
- ◆ Student Paper Awards for Best Written Paper by Graduate Students:
 - ◇ Best Clinical Paper: **Victoria Votaw** (mentor: Katie Witkiewitz)
 - ◇ Best Experimental Paper: **Benjamin Gibson** (mentor: Vince Clark)

DEPARTMENT-SPONSORED FACULTY AWARDS

Research Productivity Awards

- ◆ Most Productive Researchers :
 - ◇ Jim Cavanagh
 - ◇ Vince Clark
 - ◇ Barbara McCrady
 - ◇ Derek Hamilton

*Note that Katie Witkiewitz and Kent Kiehl were among the top researchers, but both were ineligible because they had won last year.

- ◆ Most Improved Researchers:
 - ◇ Eric Ruthruff
 - ◇ Steve Verney

Grice Research Enhancement for Faculty Projects:

Spring 2020: Ben Clark – \$3,000 and Terri Moyers - \$2994

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE: OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD (DEC 2020)

Marni Goldberg

Marni is our Program Specialist for the (BAC) -Basics in Addictions Counseling program. According to her BAC students, she is extremely supportive as a supervisor and mentor, and shows a genuine interest for their personal development and educational growth -- and path. Her leadership skills and “open door” policy has made a positive impact on their educational experiences at UNM. She is a respected individual who truly cares about their journey.

Marni also worked part-time for the Women’s Resource Center this past year, as well as, establishing and developing the Collegiate Recovery Center to serve and support students in recovery from addiction. She has dedicated so much time and effort into developing and creating a beautiful, safe space in Logan Hall for students challenged with addiction. This tremendous resource not only benefits the lives the students, but it reflects on the University as a whole - with higher GPAs and increased graduation rates.

Marni also received a P.A.W.S. (People Appreciate Wonderful Staff) Award by the UNM *Staff Council Rewards and Recognition Committee* for her exceptional service to the UNM community. This individual consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, fierce dedication -- mixed with a great sense of humor and unfailing compassion for our UNM community. Marni Goldberg is a valued, shining light within our department.

THE HOLIDAY RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE DINNER

Recognition of Excellence

Embassy Suites

December 2019



Clockwise from top left corner

Graduate Students; Angela & Jake Boggus; Victoria Votaw & Jane Ellen Smith; Jim Cavanagh & daughter; Jane Ellen Smith & Trevor Jackson; Angela Boggus & spouse, Patrick Cruz, Rikk Murphy, Trish Aragon-Mascarenas, & Robert: Grad students; Bruno Gagnon & spouse



THE HOLIDAY RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE DINNER



Clockwise from top left corner

Azure and Jaylen, Marco Del Giudice and daughter , Terri Moyers & Kamilla Venner, Mary Jane & Joe Lueras, Marco Del Giudice, Claudia Tesche, Barbara McCrady & Spouse, Vince Clark, Jeremy, Caroline & Tillie Hogeveen, Jane Ellen Smith & Josh Maxwell, Marni Goldberg, daughter, and Jane Ellen Smith



PSYCHOLOGY STAFF

STAFF RETIREMENTS

After over 30 years of service at the University of New Mexico, Psychology Clinic staff: Dan, Melissa, and Wanda have retired.

Thank you and we wish you the Best!

- ◆ Dr. Dan Matthews, Psychology Clinic Director (December 2019) 32 years
- ◆ Melissa Behrens-Blake, Psych Clinic Diagnostician (December 2019) 33 years
- ◆ Wanda Sharts, Psych Clinic Administrative Assistant (December 2019) 32 years



NEW PSYCHOLOGY CLINIC STAFF

- ◆ [Dr. Lynette Abrams-Silva](#), Psychology Clinic Director (Spring 2020)
- ◆ Lori Chavez-Morris, Psychology Clinic, Administrative Assistant (Spring 2020)

NEW PSYCHOLOGY MAIN OFFICE STAFF

- ◆ Patrick Cruz, Administrative Assistant - Psychology Main office (Fall 2019)
- ◆ Mary Jane Lueras: Interim Scheduling Coordinator (Fall 2019)



PSYCHOLOGY HONORS

THE 55TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY HONOR SYMPOSIUM

The 55th Annual Department of Psychology Honor Symposium was held on May 8, 2020 via Zoom. Opening remarks were given by Jane Ellen Smith, Professor and Chair of Psychology, and Harold Delany, Professor Emeritus. All the Senior Honors students presented the results of their research projects in formal talks, and this was followed by the presentation of awards by Theresa Moyers, Associate Professor.

Awards

- ◆ Outstanding Thesis Award recipient: **Karaya Morris** (mentor: Geoffrey F. Miller, Ph.D.)
- ◆ Rachel Dowler Outstanding Student Award: **Jacob Spinks** (mentor: Vince Clark, Ph.D)

The Honors Program involves a total of 12 semester hours distributed over the junior and senior years. It is completed by a small number of qualified psychology majors. In the senior year each student works with an individual faculty advisor to design and complete an individual research project. Upon completion of the program and with the recommendation by the Psychology Faculty, students graduate with Honors in Psychology. [View Virtual Brochure](#)

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Name	Thesis Title	Mentor
Leslie Bauchman	<i>“Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation-Mediated Working Memory Training to Improve Delay Discounting”</i>	Vince Clark, Ph. D.
Kevin Diegel	<i>“Age-related Empathy in Brain-Injured and non-Brain-Injured Vietnam Veterans”</i>	Jeremy Hogeveen, Ph.D.
Anthony Lisignoli	<i>“Alzheimer’s Disease and Hippocampal Expression of Corticotropin Releasing Factor”</i>	Nathan Pentkowski, Ph.D..
Karaya Morris	<i>“Anti-Polyamory Prejudice: A Comprehensive Scale & Analysis of Predictive Beliefs”</i>	Geoffrey F. Miller, Ph.D.
Nicole Reyna	<i>“Social Reward-Conditioned Place Preference: Interaction Between Methamphetamine and Social Reward in Adolescent Rats”</i>	Nathan Pentkowski, Ph.D.
Jacob Spinks	<i>“Characteristics Associated with More or Less Choice Blindness”</i>	Vince Clark, Ph..D.
Timothy Vandiver	<i>“Comparison of Vipassana Meditation with Other Mindfulness Traditions in the Response to Experimentally Induced Pain”</i>	Claudia Teshe, Ph.D.

GRADUATION

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

GRADUATION

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 graduation ceremonies at UNM were held virtually.

The psychology spring 2020 graduates were featured on our website:

<https://psych.unm.edu/news-events-jobs/news/item/2020-spring-convocation.html>

- ♦ [2020 Undergraduate Students](#)
- ♦ [2020 Graduate Students](#)

MASTERS DEGREES AWARDED

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020

STUDENT NAME	TITLE OF THESIS	FACULTY ADVISOR
Jalene Herron, MS	“Cultural Factors and Alcohol Use in American Indian Adults: Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial of Contingency Management.”	Kamilla Venner, Ph.D.
John Madden, MS	“Antagonizing Serotonin 2A (5-HT _{2A}) Receptors Attenuates”	Nathan Pentkowski, Ph.D.
David Forman, MS	<i>“How Do Trainers in Empirically Supported Treatments Decide What to Train?: An Investigation of the Trainer’s Role in the Science-to-Service Pathway”</i>	Theresa Moyers, Ph.D.
Suzanne Vaccaro, MS	<i>“The Influence of Infant Temperament on Maternal Sensitivity in Preterm Infants”</i>	Sarah Erickson, Ph.D.
Nickolas Mertens, MS	<i>“Effects of Anodal tDCS on Neural Correlates of Cognitive Control in Mild-to-Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury”</i>	Claudia Tesche, Ph.D.

DOCTORAL DEGREES AWARDED**ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020**

STUDENT NAME	TITLE OF DISSERTATION	FACULTY ADVISOR
Justina F. Avila, Ph.D.	“Intersectionality Between Sex/Gender and Race/Ethnicity on Cognitive Trajectories and Development of Alzheimer’s Disease”	Steven P. Verney, Ph.D.
Rebecca Avila-Rieger, Ph.D.	“Socioeconomic and Neuroanatomic Contributions to Language Performance in Children born Very Preterm at Preschool and School Age”	Ron Yeo, Ph.D.
Adrienne Borders, Ph.D.	<i>“Substance Use Treatment Accessibility for Pregnant and Postpartum Women”</i>	Barbara McCrady, Ph.D.
Jalene Herron, Ph.D.	“Cultural Factors and Alcohol Use in American Indian Adults: Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial of Contingency Management”	Kamilla Venner, Ph.D.
Eric Kruger, Ph.D.	“Addressing Content, Convergent and Predictive Validity of Implicit Pain-Related Fear in Chronic Low Back Pain”	Kevin Vowles, Ph.D.
Gabriela Lopez Ph.D.	“Sexual Victimization, Mental Health, and Protective Factors among Women with Multiple Marginalized Statuses .”	Elizabeth Yeater, Ph.D.
John F. L. Pinner, Ph.D.	“The Relationships Between Brain Function, Brain Structure, and Behavior in Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder .”	James F. Cavanagh, Ph.D.
Ruth Sarafin, Ph.D.	“Manipulation of human behavior by sexually transmitted organisms: STO infection status as a predictor of later sexual behavior .”	Geoffrey Miller, Ph.D.
Brandi Shannon Seaman, Ph.D.	“Subjective Cognitive Complaints, Affective Distress, and Objective Cognitive Performance in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury .”	Ron Yeo, Ph.D.

You Can Help!

Private support makes the difference between an ordinary department and an extraordinary department. The State of New Mexico provides the Department's basic budget, but grants and generous donations from people like you allow the Department to provide the best equipment and additional research opportunities (e.g., conferred travel) for faculty and graduate students. These opportunities are invaluable to their experience.

To make a donation to the Department of Psychology:

Please visit the [UNM College of Arts & Sciences](#) foundation website or contact Yolanda Dominguez, Senior Director of Development at yolanda.dominguez@unmfund.org, 505-277-3194, or Jennifer Benitez, Administrative Assistant, at jmbenitez@unm.edu or at 505-277-3841.

You can also visit the [University of New Mexico Foundation](#) website.

To make a donation to the Psychology Department, select Psychology from the find fund drop down menu, or search by Department, and then further specify that the donation should be made to the **Psychology Chair's Fund**. This will ensure that the Department receives your donation.

Please contact the UNM Foundation for details or if you have questions about the site.

Department of Psychology
1 University of New Mexico
MSC03 2220
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Phone: 550-277-4121
Fax: 505-277-1394
E-mail: psych@unm.edu



 DEPARTMENT OF
PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology Department Social Media Accounts:



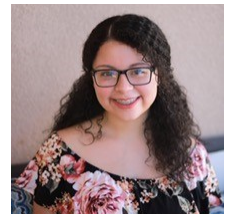
Twitter: [@psychdeptunm](#)



Instagram: [@unmpsychdept](#)



Facebook: [@unmpsychologydept](#)



Hello, my name is Shyanne Martinez, and I currently run the social media for the Department of Psychology. If you or your Psychology-related organization would like to submit an advertising request, please email me at psych@unm.edu. All submissions are subject to getting approved by the Chair of the department, Dr. Derek Hamilton. Submissions may include your own graphic, otherwise, one will be created for you. Requests to post to the psychology social media, will be completed within a few business days. Questions or further conversation should be sent in an email!

Please follow us on social media for updates on the UNM Psychology Department and associated organizations!

Psynopsis Ψ

The Psynopsis is an annual newsletter published by the Department of Psychology at the University of New Mexico for the benefit of alumni, faculty, students, staff, and friends. If you are interested in contributing newsworthy items to this publication, please contact us at psych@unm.edu