

sju Psychology News & Notes

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Saint Joseph's University Department of Psychology

The Chair's Corner



As is frequently the case, several members of the Psychology faculty were recently recognized by the Saint Joseph's community for the excellence of their contributions to the University's mission. Drs. Elizabeth Becker and Clare Conry-Murray both had successful third-year performance evaluations. Drs. Phyllis Anastasio and Jo Shih both were promoted to the rank of full professor. They both received their promotions the very first time that they submitted their dossiers for review. Usually, it takes two or more submissions, with revisions, to clear this hurdle, so you know that Dr. A. and Dr. S. are both good stuff!!

Dr. Matt Anderson recently oversaw the opening of Post Hall's newest facility, an aviary. The aviary will house one of Dr. Anderson's favorite bird species, *Melopsittacus undulates*, the Australian budgerigar, also known as the common parakeet. Stop by Post Hall and see this wonderful facility for yourself!!

I would like to take note of some transitions at Saint Joseph's outside of the Psychology Department that nevertheless are part of the Department's narrative. The president of Saint Joseph's, C. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., is also one of our alumni, class of 1972. Father Gillespie was a Psychology major, who had our own Dr. Cathy Murray as one of his instructors. Father Gillespie has



Dr. Clare Conry-Murray's undergraduate research assistants.
From left to right: Eva Cabanelas, Melissa Trotti, and Megan Burns
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(Chair's Corner, continued)

decided to pursue opportunities elsewhere.

To replace him, Saint Joseph's has hired its first lay president in its 164-year history, Dr. Mark C. Reed.

Some other transitions worth noting: Dr. Amanda Thomas, who served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences during the 2014-2015 academic year, has decided to pursue opportunities elsewhere and will be leaving Saint Joseph's at the end of the academic year. Dr. Thomas is a licensed clinical psychologist, and, when she joined Saint Joseph's, received tenure and the rank of full professor with the Psychology Department. Dr. Nancy Fox, College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean for Social Sciences, has decided to rejoin the faculty in her home department after more than a decade of service in the Deans' Office. Both Amanda and Nancy were supporters of the Psychology Department. I have worked closely with them and I will miss their administrative prowess as well as their collegiality and friendship.

-Donald S. Leitner, Ph.D.

Examining Moral Development

This spring, psychology students working in Dr. Conry-Murray's lab gave up their vacation time to interview children about moral issues at Gesu School in Philadelphia and two West Chester elementary schools. The interviews were for two projects examining moral development. One was a project Dr. Conry-Murray is leading on children's reasoning about the fairness of providing boys and girls with different gender-typed rewards. The other project was Emily Hachey's master's thesis on whether children judge that helping others who are in need is more obligatory when the person in need is their same sex and a potential friend.

The SJU students who gave up several days during spring break were: Emily Hachey, Nicole Gallagher, Eva Cabanelas, Esteban Valencia, Tori Perko and Casey Edmondson. In addition, Megan Burns, Dani London, Christina Rossetti, Emily Hachey, Eva Cabanelas, Melissa Trotti, Esteban Valencia, and Tori Perko also spent several days interviewing the week after finals in May.

In order to interview the children, each student had to complete research ethics training, clearances for working with children and background checks required by the schools. They also trained to conduct one-on-one interviews with children.

The interviews required students to juggle paperwork for assent, answer sheets to record responses and interview materials like pictures, which must match the questions but also must be in a different order for each interview. Interviewers also had to make sure the audio recorder is on and getting everything even quiet children say. A particular challenge came when children were asked to explain their judgments about whether the help others or whether distributions were fair. Younger children sometimes have a hard time saying why something is fair or the right thing to do, and the interviewers had to very carefully ask the children to explain their thinking without leading them to any particular answer.

It took several long days to complete the data collection for about 300 children but the students reported that they found it to be a valuable experience. Dani London said, "I found interviewing the kids to be super interesting because it was the first time I was able to see what I learned in Developmental Psych in action. It was also pretty funny listening to some of the explanations for why certain rewards were OK or not OK; kids really do say the darnest things!"

Students who volunteered did an excellent job and they got some valuable experience. For more information, please contact Dr. Conry-Murray at cconrymu@sju.edu.

Student Updates: Doctoral Program Placements

The following students have been accepted into Doctoral programs:

Charles Ferris (2013, BS; 2014 MS): PhD - Cognition and Development, Emory University

Danielle Zambrano (2014, MS): PhD - Counseling Psychology, Lehigh University

Rachel Butler (2014, BS): PsyD - Clinical Psychology, Widener University

Julie Boyle (2014, BS; 2015 MS): PsyD - Clinical Psychology, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Courtney Alio (2015 MS): PsyD - Clinical Psychology, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Emily Grossner (2015 MS): PhD - Clinical Psychology, Penn State University

Vincent Ybarra (2015 MS): PhD - Cognitive Psychology, University of Oklahoma

Congratulations!!!

Faculty Profile: Dr. Catherine Murray



Dr. Catherine S Murray received her BA in Psychology with honors from Barnard College and, being awarded a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for College Teaching, enrolled in the Ph. D program in Experimental Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. She intended to become a physiological psychologist but, after spending a year trying, unsuccessfully, to knock out the satiety center in desert rats without the help of a brain atlas, she switched her research focus to that of learning. Dr. Murray started teaching at SJU as an ABD (thesis not completed) and returned to Penn to complete it several years later in order to receive tenure.

Dr. Murray's research interests have varied over the number of years she has taught at Saint Joseph's from an interest in children to that of older adults. The latter resulted in her proposing the University offer a Master's Degree in Gerontological Services that was approved. Dr. Murray has served as Director of that program since its inception in 1985. Having come of age during second wave Feminism, her teaching and research have been heavily influenced by an attempt to understand the role gender plays in the lives of men and women. Her current research interests include studies on sexual compliance and coercion in sexual encounters (hooking up) and romantic relationships, reactions of men and women to sexual and emotional infidelity, gender differences in attachment style and attachment hierarchies in emerging adults and expectations of college men and women concerning work-family roles and relationships.

Psi Chi Inductees

Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology. It was founded in 1929 with the hope of engaging students in the field of psychology, fostering academic excellence and advancing the science of psychology.

The name, Psi Chi, represents the Greek words *Psyche* and *Cheires*. *Psyche*, which symbolizes the mind, suggests scholarship and enrichment of our minds. *Cheires*, which symbolizes hands, stands for fellowship and research. Both of these symbols are placed at the center of the Psi Chi seal, which indicates that scholarship and fellowship are at the center of the Psi Chi mission.

The Saint Joseph's chapter of Psi Chi seeks to uphold the mission of the greater society by hosting various events that will educate students, provide students with resources and will unite those with a strong interest in the field of psychology. We are happy to announce the following undergraduate and graduate students were inducted this year:

Juniors

Victoria Perkoa
Danielle London
Alexis Homa
Meghan Grubb
Emily Houston
Alexandra Morris
Lauren Hollenbach

Seniors

Jordan Martin
McHale Perkins
Gianna Sarantos
Ashley Karkenny
Emily Grace
Kaitlin Licciardone

Graduate Students

Mike Stephenson
Daniel Buckley
Dayna Kahl

The Faculty of the Psychology Department offer their congratulations to these students as well as their families!

Alumni Notes:

Brandon Perelman (MS '12) completed his Ph.D. in Applied Cognitive Science and Human Factors at Michigan Technical University, and has accepted a postdoctoral position at the Army Research Labs in Aberdeen MD.

Gerard Holmes (MS '09) has been appointed as a Clinical Care Manager on the Community Based Children and Family Services Team of Community Behavioral Health in Philadelphia.

Elizabeth Villanyi (BS '15) was accepted into the Master's Program in Speech-Language Pathology at University of Maryland.

Shaun Scholl (BS '15) was accepted into the Master's program in Social Work at Fordham University.

Are you a graduate of the SJU Psychology BS or MS programs? We would love to hear from you and share your news with others in Alumni Notes. Please direct your news and updates to Dr. Matthew Anderson at mander06@sju.edu. Be sure to indicate the year you graduated and which program you were enrolled in. If you would like to prepare a longer 'Alum Profile' we would be happy to consider it for inclusion as well.

Psychology Seen & Heard:

- Dr. Jodi Mindell appeared in USA Today, Huffington Post, Fox News, and Parents magazine.



Post Hall, Home of the SJU Department

Recent Publications:

- Anderson, M. J., & Laughlin, C. P. (2014). Investigating laterality, social behavior, and temperature effects in captive Chilean flamingos, *Phoenicopterus Chilensis*. *Avian Ecology and Behaviour*, 25, 3-19.
- Becker EA, Marler CA. (2015). Postcontest blockade of dopamine receptors inhibits development of the Winner Effect in the California Mouse (*Peromyscus Californicus*). *Behav Neurosci*, 129(2), 205-213.
- Chary MC, Cruz JP, Bardi M & Becker EA. (In press.) Paternal retrievals increase testosterone levels in both male and female California mouse (*Peromyscus californicus*) offspring. *Hormones and Behavior*.
- Conry-Murray C. (2015). Boys get the math games and girls get the reading games: Children's reasoning about distributive justice and gender. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, 61 (3).
- Conry-Murray, C., Kim, J.M., & Turiel, E. (2015). Judgments of gender norm violations in children from the United States and Korea. *Cognitive Development* 35, 122-136.
- Iverson GL, Schatz P. (2015). Advanced topics in neuropsychological assessment following sport-related concussion. *Brain Injury*, 29, 263-275
- Mindell JA, Cook RA & Nikolovski J. (2015). Sleep patterns and sleep disturbances across pregnancy. *Sleep Medicine*, 16, 483-488.
- Mindell JA, Li AM, Sadeh A, Kwon R & Goh DYT. (in press). Bedtime routines for young children: A dose-dependent association with sleep outcomes. *Sleep*.
- Puzino KM, Mindell JA. (2015). Sleep disturbances in pediatric pain patients: The role of cognitions. *Translational Issues in Psychol Science*, 1, 6-15.
- Schatz P, Ybarra V, Leitner D. (in press). Validating the accuracy of reaction time assessment on computer-based tablet devices. *Assessment*.
- Schatz P, Robertshaw S. (2014). Comparing post-concussive neurocognitive test data to normative data presents risks for "above average" athletes. *Arch Clin Neuropsychol*, 29, 625-632.
- Stroud, C.B., Sheets, E.S., Shih, J.H., Schofield, C.A., & Friedman-Wheeler, D.G. (in press). SIG Spotlight: Clinical Psychology at Liberal Arts Colleges. *The Behavioral Therapist*.

Got News or Suggestions?

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