



department of psychology | NEWSLETTER | spring 2016

from the desk of the chair | CHRISTINE FIORE, PH.D.

Welcome to our Spring Psychology Department Newsletter! This year there is much to be thankful for and there have also been many challenges. We were sad to say goodbye to Teri Lerch, our administrative staff person who passed away unexpectedly last June. Teri had been with us for 19 years and we depended on her strongly. Connected to cuts at the University, we did give up half of her line to contribute to College-wide savings. This was not without ensuring that our staff who picked up more responsibilities were duly compensated, with Adelle Graham and Jennie Mitschke getting promotions and Lorna LaBuff, a raise. So there was good with the bad!

In other good news, The School Psychology Doctoral program has been accredited for five years as of October 2, 2015! Congratulations to Drs. Brown, Goforth and Machek who worked extremely hard on this effort. The department also had a banner year for UM Foundation donors and support of our department. You will see a note about the newly established Crego Scholarship for incoming clinical students interested in community practice. We also have very exciting news about the expansion of the Clinical Psychology Center with the addition of a second floor, allowing us to increase our clinical, research and training activities and ultimately enable us to serve and train more individuals and offer more interdisciplinary treatment services. We have already received the donation needed to do a study and design for a facility and are hoping for additional donors in the next year as the final costs are clarified. We thank those who have contributed to this dream already, including our Dean, Dr. Chris Comer, the UM Foundation staff for the college, Bitty Balducci, and Marci Bozeman, specifically, for getting us in the game!

Finally, our year included many exciting developments for our department. We were able to successfully search for and recruit a new neuroscientist to our faculty, Dr. Nathan Insel, who works with Degu rats studying animal models of human behavior and cognition such as schizophrenia and memory disorders. We solidified a part-time adjunct position for Dr. Laura Kirsch, who has been teaching for us as needed. Dr. Kirsch has developed a highly popular Forensic Psychology course at the undergraduate level. However, in sad news, our highly valued colleague, Dr. Cameo Stanick, has accepted a position in Los Angeles. It's tough to see her go, but we wish her and her family the best in their new adventure. In all, despite the challenges of our University lowering enrollments and budget deficit, it is important to note that Psychology actually is holding its own with little drops in enrollment (despite what newspapers might report). We thank all of you for your continued interest and look forward to your engagement with us from near or far!

Have a great summer,

Chris

Our Faculty

Left to right seated:

Christine Fiore, Yoonhee Jang,
Greg Machek, Rachel Severson,
Bryan Cochran, Jacquie Brown,
Anisa Goforth

Back row standing:

Laura Kirsch, Craig McFarland,
Shannon Houck, Stuart Hall,
David Schuldberg, Daniel Den-
is, Luke Conway, Duncan
Campbell, Cameo Stanick, Paul
Silverman, Allen Szalda-Petree

Not pictured:

Raurie Birch, Nicole McCray,
Lois Muir, Tom Seekins, Gyda
Swaney, Jennifer Waltz



Department of Psychology | Skaggs 143 | Missoula, MT 59812 | P: (406) 243-4521 | F: (406) 243-6366

Email: PsychologyDepartment@umontana.edu | Website: <http://psychweb.psy.umt.edu>

DR. RACHEL SEVERSON | developmental psychology | NEW FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Rachel, tell us about where you came from academically.

Most of my academic experience has come from universities in the Northwest, except for one year spent in Norway. I received a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Washington and went on to the University of Oslo as a Fulbright Fellow. I then returned to the Northwest as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Western Washington University (which is also my undergraduate alma mater!). Prior to joining the faculty at UM, I was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of British Columbia. I am thrilled to continue in my Northwest tradition by joining the faculty at the University of Montana!

What are your current research projects?

My research focuses on children's reasoning about others' internal states – in other words, their understanding that other people have goals, desires, beliefs, emotions, and thoughts, which can differ from their own. I'm interested in how they use this understanding to reason socially (e.g., determining who might be a credible source of information) and morally (e.g., whether one has moral standing or can be held morally accountable). What's particularly fascinating is that children (and adults) also extend minds (and human internal states more generally) to non-human entities, such as inanimate nature and technology—what is often referred to as *anthropomorphism*.

One way I research this is looking at how children understand personified technologies, such as robots. In a typical study, I will have kids interact with a robot and then ask lots of questions about how they think about the robot: Does it think or have emotions? Can it be a friend? Does it deserve to be treated in a moral way? I'm paraphrasing here. We're trying to understand whether kids attribute qualities to a piece of technology that are typically thought to apply only to living beings. It may be that a new category is emerging that straddles the boundary between living and non-living things.

What do you have planned for your research lab?

I am looking forward to establishing my new research lab. Over the next few years, my lab will focus on three lines of research. One area will look at the nature of anthropomorphism, for example, how children anthropomorphize, how it changes across development and culture, and its relation to other aspects of social cognition (e.g., theory of mind). A second area will focus on potential explanations of anthropomorphisms. For example, it's possible that children are just pretending when they say a robot has feelings, much in the way they do with stuffed animals. The third area of my research will look at what follows from anthropomorphism. So, if children understand an entity such as a robot as having emotions, do they also think it's not alright to hurt the robot's feelings?



An essential part of developing a successful research lab is recruiting talented and motivated undergraduate and graduate students. Undergraduate research assistants are able to apply their knowledge from coursework to real-world research and gain valuable professional experience that transcends the research lab. It really is a win-win situation that provides an opportunity for students to really enhance their university experience!

What courses will you be teaching?

I teach two undergraduate courses: Developmental Psychology, focusing on children's and adolescents' physical, cognitive, and social development, and Psychological Statistics, which introduces students to the statistical approaches commonly used in psychological science. I also teach a graduate course on Developmental Psychology and will occasionally teach a graduate seminar where we'll focus on one area of Developmental Psychology (e.g., social cognition).

Finally, please tell us a little about yourself.

I love spending time in the mountains backcountry skiing and backpacking, so no surprise why I was drawn to Missoula. I also love the ocean, whether sailing or kayaking. One piece of trivia is that, prior to grad school, I spent a few years as a ski bum and as a wrangler in Jackson Hole. I also have sailed about 15,000 miles across the open ocean, crossing both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. I am lucky to share in my adventures with my husband, Karl. Our latest adventure has been as new parents as we welcomed our son this past August – it's been the most meaningful adventure thus far! *Welcome, Dr. Severson!*

DR. BRYAN COCHRAN | faculty lab & research | HIGHLIGHT

What is the general focus of your lab?

We study the relationship between discrimination and victimization (often termed “minority stress”) and mental health symptoms among people who identify as sexual or gender minorities (I’ll use lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender—or LGBT for short—although sexual and gender diversity encompasses other identities, as well). A related interest is how treatment providers’ biases and beliefs might impact the experience of LGBT individuals seeking psychological services.

Specifically, what projects are you currently running?

Right now, my graduate students are running several studies to answer our lab’s questions of interest. One of the newest studies we have underway is Nick Livingston’s dissertation, in which participants are carrying around mobile devices to record experiences of microaggressions (insults or slights based on one’s actual or perceived LGBT status) and mental health symptoms for two-week periods. Katie Oost just finished her thesis study, which involved examining the relationship between gender nonconformity, minority stress, and mental health symptoms among college students. She is planning her dissertation study, which will examine how commonly used psychological tests (including the MMPI-II) may over-pathologize people who are transgender or gender nonconforming. Hillary Gleason is conducting a nationwide study of mental health practitioners’ implicit (hidden, or unconscious) biases regarding transgender individuals, and how this relates to the services they provide. Our newest lab member, Oak Reed, is working on a study collaborating with Health and Human Performance faculty that was a survey of trans-identified people living in Montana. In fact, all four graduate students are working on this interdepartmental study.

The rest of our lab is involved in these projects, as well as collecting data from therapeutic boarding schools regarding their policies and practices in providing services for transgender youth.

How are your projects and studies funded?

Most projects involve relatively low costs (e.g., payments for participants, materials costs), so an impressive amount of data can be collected for relatively little investment. Several of my students have received grants from APA, the Pride Foundation, or other sources, to offset the costs of research. We have previously conducted studies funded by NIDA, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, regarding prescription drug misuse.

How many students currently work in your lab? And what is their level of involvement?

We currently have four graduate students and eight undergraduate students involved in the lab. These students are involved in every step of the research process! For undergraduate students who are just getting started with research, they may do background literature review, some basic data collection, and coding of qualitative data. Advanced students run subjects through studies, do more complex data analysis, and work on publication and presentation of results. The four graduate students in the lab do it all—they’re amazing!



Pictured left to right: Hayden Ferguson, Oak Reed, Connor Panian, Hillary Gleason, Nick Livingston, Katie Oost, Bryan Cochran, Katerina Denna

Not Pictured: Megan Biggs, Kenzie Nash, Finn Story

INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS for 2016—2017

Clinical

JULIA HAMMOND —Boise VA Medical Center, Boise, ID

NICK LIVINGSTON — VA Boston Healthcare System, Boston, MA

BILL MEYER — VA Western New York Healthcare System, Buffalo, NY

SARAH SCHWARZ — The University of Tennessee—Knoxville, Knoxville, TN

School

LAURA AMBROSE—Kennedy Krieger Institute at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

ERIN YOSAI — the Illinois School Psychology Internship Consortium: Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) at the University of Illinois and at the Vermillion Association for Special Education, Champagne-Urbana, IL

Crego Scholarship

Marilyn Crego, wife of UM Alumnus Clyde Allen Crego, Jr., has established a scholarship through the UM Foundation in memory of her late husband (June 6, 1936—June 16, 2015). Dr. Crego did his undergraduate work at the University of Montana ('58); he was a retired senior administrator and professor of psychology at the University of Southern California and California State University, Long Beach, known for his mentoring and his role in the success of the Counseling Psychology Program at USC. While long-time residents of Huntington Beach, California, Dr. and Mrs. Crego often returned to Montana "to re-energize and reconnect."

The Crego Scholarship will be awarded to an incoming PhD student in clinical psychology based on the merit of his or her application and used to supplement research or a teaching assistantship. Mrs. Crego's hope is that it will help recruit students with a practice mission wanting to be involved in community treatment or counseling. While she misses her husband terribly, "it feels very good to be doing something to honor his love of his profession, his students over all the years, and the University of Montana," she writes in a note to department chair, Dr. Christine Fiore.

AWARD RECIPIENTS | 2015-2016

UNDERGRADUATE

Mortar Board Outstanding Senior Awards

Megan Burchak—Research

Theo Hanson—General

Brittany Fischer—Psych Club

Kain/McKay Scholarship

Jo Ann Choong

Jamie Pauley

James McFarland

Gavin Ploger

Watkins Scholarship

Elaine Marshall

W.F. Book Award

Megan Burchak

GRADUATE

Bertha Morton Scholarship

Marina Costanzo

Hillary Gleason

Kathryn Oost

Meredith Repke

Greenberger Scholarship

Brook Clark

Graduate Teaching Awards

Benjamin Eisenreich

Excellence in Teaching & Student Mentoring

Kali Strickland

Excellence in Teaching Introduction to

Psychology

Bridges to the Baccalaureate

The Bridges to the Baccalaureate program at the University of Montana began in 1995 with a grant from the National Institute of Health to bridge Indian students from tribal colleges to four-year institutions through summer research experience at UM. Participating tribal colleges include: Salish Kootenai College, Stone Child College, Blackfeet Community College, Chief Dull Knife College, and Southern Alberta, Red Crow Community College.

Recently the Bridges to the Baccalaureate program has resided in the Department of Psychology. The program offers eight weeks of research in the summer. Past research done by Bridges participants has been in the fields of biology, math, psychology, and computer science. Within these areas, for example, students have worked on fetal alcohol syndrome, repatriation, medicinal plants, diabetes, astronomy, and bee research. Every year new and innovative opportunities for research are offered. Instruction in research methods and scientific writing are provided by faculty, and UM researchers volunteer their labs. All believe in the program's mission of encouraging American Indian students to seek Bachelor degrees.

Since 2005, Bridges to the Baccalaureate at the University of Montana has recruited ninety-two American Indian students from tribal colleges. Seventy-two of those recruits transferred to the University of Montana. Forty-seven students graduated with degrees in the biomedical and behavior sciences fields. Thirty-five went on to earn their Masters and two attained their PhDs.

The University of Montana remains committed to attracting and retaining American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) students in undergraduate and graduate programs along with continuing to bridge the biomedical research communities. Thank you, Mentors, for your commitment and leadership and helping to change the lives of American Indian interns.

—Kevin Kicking Woman, Tribal Program Outreach Coordinator, University of Montana

The Bridges to Baccalaureate grant ended March 31, 2016 and will not be in operation for Summer 2016.

Senator Tester meets with Montana Psychological Association leadership in Washington, DC to discuss improving mental health care access



From left: Dr. Rita Billow, Eureka (UM Alumna); Dr. Karen Kietzman, Billings; Dr. Michael Bütz, Billings; Senator Jon Tester; Dr. George Watson, Bozeman; Dr. Robyn Hardie, Glasgow; Dr. Michele McKinnie, Bozeman; Dr. Duncan Campbell, Missoula

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- Baby news abounds: Dr. Rachel Severson welcomed a son, Espen; Dr. Cameo Stanick welcomed a son, Oliver; Dr. Nicole McCray welcomed a daughter, Lucy; and clinical doctoral student Lindsey Grove welcomed a daughter, Emma. All were born in August, September and October of 2015.
- The School Psychology PhD program was approved for accreditation for five years as of October 2, 2015.
- Fall of 2015, the department, along with the InPsych Program hosted Dr. Walter Lonner, UM Alumni and founder of the Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology and long-time faculty member of Western Washington University for a series of talks for faculty and graduate students.
- Clinical Psychology Center Director, Dr. Jennifer Robohm, resigned her position as of January 2016 to concentrate fulltime on her role with the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana. She will be developing a behavioral science curriculum. She hopes that the residency will offer a behavioral science rotation that includes psychology students in the future.
- CPC administrative assistant Shaunagh McGoldrick accepted a permanent position at the Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) as an advocate and counselor. Shaunagh will be graduating from UM with her Masters in Social Work in spring 2016.
- Raurie Birch, PsyD, was hired as the new Director of the Clinical Psychology Center.
- Dr. Laura Kirsch joins the department as a half-time Adjunct Faculty member. Dr. Kirsch's specialty is Forensic Psychology.
- The department began a Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience faculty search and we will welcome Dr. Nathan Insel in August 2016.
- Drs. Duncan Campbell and Gyda Swaney were both awarded sabbaticals for the 2016-17 academic year.
- Drs. Bryan Cochran and Luke Conway were both promoted to Full Professor in spring 2016.
- Dr. Greg Machek received a Merit in spring 2016.
- Third year clinical doctoral student, Marina Costanzo, MA, received honorable mention for the Janet Hyde Graduate Student Research Grant in support for outstanding proposal for feminist research.
- Recent Experimental program graduate, Benjamin Eisenreich, PhD (2016), accepted a post-doctoral position as a Research Associate in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.
- Faculty Adjunct and Experimental program graduate, Shannon Houck, PhD (2015), accepted a faculty position at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.
- Dr. Cameo Stanick is leaving UM for a new opportunity as Assistant Vice President of Clinical Training and Evidence-Based Practices at Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services in Pasadena, CA as of June 2016.

In grant news,

- Drs. Fiore, Robohm, and Schuldberg received a Montana Health Care Foundation grant, funding and supporting a Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Consultation course which will be a look into, and experience of, the future of mental health care delivery. It will address how to make IBH training relevant to rural Montana and Montana workforce needs through a mix of classroom and in-the-field "lab" experiences.
- Dr. Yoonhee Jang was awarded a NIH sub-award CTR-IN grant for "Understanding Memory and Metacognition after Traumatic Brain Injury."
- Dr. Craig McFarland was awarded a NIH sub-award CTR-IN grant for "Using Memory and Imagination to Combat Depression."
- Dr. Greg Machek's "Practicum and Internship Supervision Grant for School Psychologists" was renewed by OPI for the 5th consecutive year.

In Alumni news,

- Dr. Jennifer Gottlieb (PhD Clinical Psychology, 2005), has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in Spain for six months to do a pilot project with a university and community mental health center related to the CBT for PTSD intervention developed specifically for people who have serious mental illness. Dr. Gottlieb is a Research Assistant Professor at Boston University, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation.

Finally, in the saddest of news,

Dr. Sandy MacIntosh (PhD Clinical Psychology, 1998), passed away May 1, 2016 in Colorado where she lived with husband, Paul Zohn (PhD Clinical Psychology, 2001).

We also lost longtime department office manager, Teri Lerch, who passed away unexpectedly in the summer of 2015. She is greatly missed.

Are you a UM Psychology Graduate living in Seattle?

A few of us have been gathering every few months for a casual Friday happy hour. We would love to know and meet other psychology grads in the area and invite you to join us! Please contact Jayde Pryzgod at jaydepryzgoda@gmail.com and we will send you an invite to our next happy hour. Cheers!

ALUMNI, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to email us with your news:

PsychologyDepartment@umontana.edu

If you would like to SUPPORT the PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT, please send a check or money order to:

The University of Montana Foundation | PO Box 7159 | Missoula, MT 59807-7159 with a note in the memo line designating it for the Psychology Department | Contributions are also accepted [ONLINE](#)