



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**  
*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*

Summer 2021 Newsletter



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## WELCOME

Welcome to the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma. The University of Oklahoma was founded barely 10 years after Wilhem Wundt established the first formal psychology laboratory in Leipzig, Germany, yet a psychology course appeared in the very first course catalog published at OU in 1892. Since then, psychology has been a vibrant part of this institution.



## WE VALUE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma is committed to diversity and inclusion in our pursuit of excellence in research and teaching. True excellence in research and teaching can only be achieved in environments that affirm the dignity and inherent worth of all individuals.

As a discipline, psychology firmly recognizes the importance of individual differences. We value and seek to better understand individual differences, including but not limited to: race, ethnicity, skin color, national origin, religious and spiritual beliefs, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, size and appearance, as well as veteran and socio-economic status. While we value free expression and the critical examination of ideas, we must also be committed to creating an environment of trust, mutual respect and compassion. We have a shared responsibility to continually foster an environment that supports and benefits all, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral trainees, staff and faculty.

It is important that we all recognize and remind ourselves that feelings of alienation, marginalization, powerlessness and loneliness are detrimental to both physical and mental health. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma that we foster an environment where all individuals feel welcome, valued, competent and empowered.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



I'm Eric Day, professor and outgoing chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma. Welcome to the fifth edition of our department newsletter. I'd like to start by congratulating all of the psychology graduates of the University of Oklahoma, Class of 2021! Very well done! In general, the Department of Psychology—students, faculty and staff alike—demonstrated a great deal of resilience during this very challenging pandemic year. Based on undergraduate majors, the Department of Psychology is now the largest department in the College of Arts and Sciences, and we are now larger than eight of the 12 other colleges on the Norman campus. While credit-hour production was down about 1.7% across campus compared to the previous academic year, our credit-hour production increased by 9.4%. Our faculty and doctoral graduate students produced 63 journal articles, nine book chapters and three books. See pages 15-17 for a few publication highlights. This past spring, we began a speaker series in our celebration of the 50th year anniversary of our doctoral program in quantitative psychology. See pages 7-8 for details. We will

continue this celebratory speaker series in the upcoming fall and spring semesters.

As we look forward to a new academic year, I will be stepping down as the chair of the department, and Jorge Mendoza will be stepping up as interim chair. It has been a privilege and real treat to serve as chair these past four years. Thank you everyone for your support and patience, and thank you, Jorge, for stepping up.

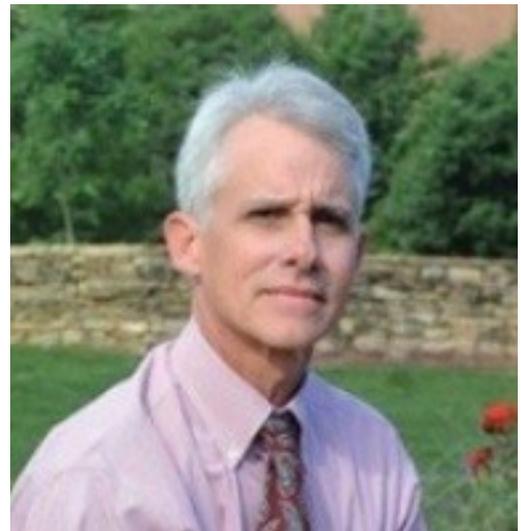
I encourage you and all students and graduates to stay in contact with the Department of Psychology through our social media accounts: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Moreover, please know that your investment in resources for psychology students and faculty provides them with the support they need to further their research and development, putting them in better position to make a difference in the lives of others. In this way, your gift encourages the next generation of practitioners and researchers to realize their potential. I greatly appreciate your thoughtful consideration of giving to the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma.

**GIVE**

In closing, Boomer Sooner, Live on University, and I wish you and your loved ones the very best.

Eric Day



Jorge Mendoza, Professor  
Interim Department Chair



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STAFF



The Department of Psychology is happy to introduce our newest academic advisor, Emma Cockrell!

Emma Cockrell is originally from Houston and graduated from Texas A&M University in the spring of 2019. She and her partner, Hannah, moved to Norman right after graduating to pursue Emma's master's degree in adult and higher education. This May, she graduated from the adult and higher education program. In November of 2019, Emma added a new puppy, Obi-Wan, to her family and they are happy to have made Norman their home.

## NEW AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CHAIR



Congratulations to Jenel Cavazos, associate professor, on being selected to chair the American Psychological Association's Society for Teaching Psychology's Task Force for Resources for "Pivot Teaching". This task force will gather, solicit and publicize resources for "pivot teaching" – e.g., changing modalities mid-semester, accommodating individual students whose situation has changed, and integrating more flexibility into courses generally. The resources might include information on shifting to online, hybrid or HyFlex modalities, for providing online resources for students in a face-to-face course, and for communicating with students in flexible, creative and inclusive ways. The task force will prioritize top-notch, evidence-based, student-centered teaching and learning as modalities and other conditions shift.

## LUNCH BUNCH LECTURE SERIES

Each semester, the Department of Psychology is proud to invite alumni, professionals in their field and scholars alike to give lectures about topics in which they are experts. This spring, we were proud to have featured the below presentations through our lecture series.

### **Gina Ligon** *University of Nebraska at Omaha and Director of National Counterterrorism Innovation Technology and Education Center*

*How an IO Psychology Graduate from OU Won the Largest Counterterrorism Grant from Federal Government in 2020*



In this talk, Gina Ligon, a 2004 graduate from the IO Psychology doctoral program at OU, shared how her university built a 55-member team to generate new knowledge for the academic community and the Homeland Security Enterprise in four areas: 1) the nature of counterterrorism and targeted violence operations, 2) national suspicious activity reporting initiative, 3) terrorism prevention and targeted violence program evaluation, and 4) workforce development for the counterterrorism community. Ligon shared how IO Psychology and collaboration with other STEM researchers are critical parts of this center, as well as what the research priorities of DHS are for counterterrorism in the coming years.



### **Jinan Allan** *University of Oklahoma Graduate Student* *Risk Literacy & Intelligence: Which Matters More for Decision Making?*

In this talk, Jinan Allan, a current sixth-year student in the Cognitive Psychology Program, reported results from one of the most comprehensive studies of cognitive abilities and decision-making skill, including data from 300 participants. Using confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation modeling, Allan presented a new model of general decision-making skill where numeracy mediated the relationship between intelligence and decision making skill. Discussion focused on implications for a refined factor structure of human cognitive abilities and related applications.

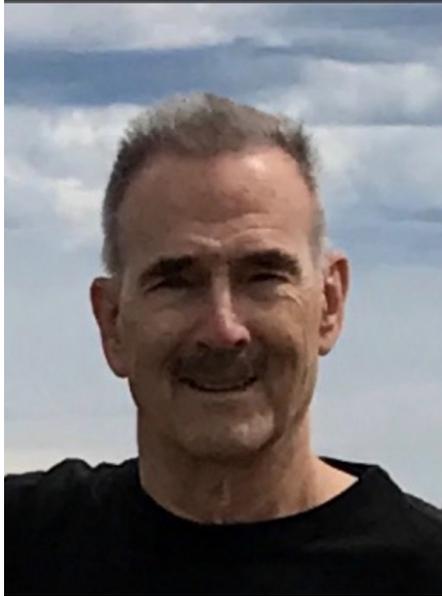


## 50TH QUANT ANNIVERSARY

Part of our Lunch Bunch series this year included special talks to celebrate our 50th anniversary for the Quantative Psychology Program. We had four featured talks this semester and will continue honoring our program with talks next semester.

### James Steiger *Vanderbilt Professor Emeritus*

#### *Principles vs. Practice in the Global Fit Assessment of Structural Equation Models*



When evaluating a sequence of structural equation models, we face some challenging tradeoffs between complexity, clarity and badness of fit. Reviewing the geometric representation of the relationship between data and models, Steiger identified several key principles to guide us in navigating these tradeoffs. It immediately became clear (1) how the classic RMSEA index was derived from those principles and (2) that no one global fit index will be “best” in all situations. Further consideration of the basic principles showed that (3) much ambitious work in the fit index literature clearly violated basic principles with unfortunate consequences and (4) structural equation modeling practitioners in the 1990s used a fundamentally wrong statistical approach that biostatisticians had discarded two decades before. After discussing how to correct these two mistakes, Steiger dramatized some fascinating continuing challenges in exploratory analysis and model fitting in the context of a classic “simple” problem in correlational analysis.

### Al Nicewander *OU Quant Founding Faculty*

#### *Conditional True-Score Variance: A Useful Concept in IRT and a Missing Link Between Classical and IRT Models for Test Scores*

Nicewander showed that Nicewander’s (2017) estimate of the conditional true variance for test scores (conditional either on latent knowledge ( $\theta$ ) or true scores) allows the computation of conditional reliability coefficients. These coefficients enable the estimation of score reliability for subgroups of individuals or for estimating the reliability of measurement at various cut scores. Nicewander argued that conditional reliability coefficients should replace the current practice of using either: 1) Conditional standard errors of measurement; or 2) Information functions  $[I(\theta, X)]$  as indices of conditional precision of measurement. Finally, Nicewander displayed that conditional true variance allows the derivation of heretofore unknown mathematical relationships among several concepts used in Classical and IRT theories of mental measurement—for example, that the information function of IRT is equal to the Cronbach and Gleser’s (1964) signal/noise ratio used in classical test theory.



## 50TH QUANT ANNIVERSARY

**Pat E. Shrout** *New York University*

*Not just equations: Two stories about Bias*



This talk involved two short stories about bias. The first was about biased interpretations of graphical evidence. When researchers communicate findings, they often use plots and graphs to illustrate their results. In the first story, Shrout presented results of empirical judgments of effect sizes when different plotting conventions are used. Judgements were made both by specialists in quantitative methods as well as by persons with less specialty training. In the second story of this talk Shrout used graphical displays to illustrate a little-known bias in surveys of subjective reports of feelings, such as mood and general health. Across four empirical studies, Shrout showed that the first time a person provides subjective reports, the magnitude of the feeling tends to be overstated. Because many studies only have the first report, this bias is pervasive. Shrout concluded with a short discussion about the need to be aware of statistical bias while harvesting useful information in data with bias.

**Clinton Davis-Stober** *University of Missouri*

*The Paradox of Converging Evidence and Possible Remedies*

Clinton Davis-Stober considered the quantitative consequences of treating a psychological theory as the logical conjunction of all its predictions. Under this lens, even if each prediction from a theory is supported for a majority of individuals, all such predictions may jointly hold for few, or even zero, individuals in the population. Davis-Stober showed that rather than culminating in stronger evidence for a theory, each individual “effect” found by successive studies actually weakens it. Davis-Stober considered this “paradox of converging evidence” from a classical measurement perspective and described it in terms of variance attributable to individual differences. Davis-Stober discussed possible remedies, including improved experimental design, delineating theoretic scope and copula modeling.



## FIRST-YEAR PRESENTATIONS

To conclude our semester of talks at our lunch bunch series, the first-year graduate students in our department gave short research presentations over research projects they worked on over the past year. This spring we had the opportunity to listen to nine first-year presentations from all four areas. Listed over the next two pages are their photos, names, the title of their project and the name of their research advisor. Well done everyone!



**1. William Curth:** *Comfort Characters: Do Social Daydreams Buffer against Loneliness and Losses to Self-Esteem?*

Faculty Advisor: Jennifer Barnes

**2. Jordan Norris:** *Attentional Bias As a Biomarker for Emotional Processing Capacity*

Faculty Advisor: Lauren Ethridge



**3. Muhammad Asif:** *Effectiveness of Defaults Nudge and Educational Intervention for Do-not-Resuscitate Order (DNR) Decision Making*

Faculty Advisor: Adam Feltz

**4. Ares Boira Lopez:** *How Outstanding Leaders Engage in Collective Leadership Communication: An Examination of Charismatic, Ideological, and Pragmatic Leaders*

Faculty Advisor: Shane Connelly



## FIRST YEAR PRESENTATIONS



5. **Jenna Holt:** *Recycling Plastic: Social-norm Nudge vs. Education Four Group Experiment*  
Faculty Advisor: Adam Feltz



6. **Amanda Butler:** *Latent Profiles of Organizational Citizenship Behavior Motives*  
Faculty Advisor: Rachel Jang



7. **Gwen Hoang:** *Indirect Potable Reuse and Educational Intervention*  
Faculty Advisor: Adam Feltz



8. **Maddison North:** *Affect Variability, Skill Acquisition, and Adaptive Performance: The Role of Off-Task Attention*  
Faculty Advisor: Eric Day



9. **Catherine Bain:** *The Use of Genetic Algorithms in the Derivation of Short Forms: A Monte Carlo Simulation*  
Faculty Advisor: Jordan Loeffelman

## FACULTY GRANTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to (from left) Keri Kornelson (Professor in the Department of Mathematics), Lori Snyder (Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology) and Megan Elwood Madden (Professor in the School of Geosciences) on their recent \$30,000 grant from Howard Hughes Medical Institute for their research project titled “University of Oklahoma: Meaningful evaluation of effective and inclusive teaching”!



Congratulations to (from left) Shane Connelly (Professor in Department of Psychology), Sunny Kyong Lee (Associate Professor in the Department of Communication) and Glenn Leshner (Edward L. and Thelma Gaylord Chair in the Gaylord College) on their recent \$20,000 grant from the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities seed grant program for their research project titled “Promoting Covid-19 Vaccine Confidence through Tailored Health Messaging”!

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the past semester, we had many achievements from our faculty and staff. Great work to our amazing faculty and staff!



1. Congratulations to the Department of Psychology's lead undergraduate advisor Jen DuBois for being awarded the 2021 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Outstanding Academic Advising Award!



2. Congratulations to our own assistant professor Jordan Loeffelman, who is this year's recipient of the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association Outstanding Faculty Award!



3. Congratulations to assistant professor Rachel Jang for being awarded a College of Arts and Sciences Data Scholarship Initiatives and Research Collaborations Summer Research Fellowship for her project titled, "Who are likely to develop heart disease: A prediction of heart disease using machine learning techniques."

## FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

4. Congratulations to associate professor Adam Feltz, who received special recognition from OU's Vice President for Research and Partnerships office on being part of the team on the NSF-funded project "Tuning Catalyst Design to Recycle Mixed Polymer Streams"!



5. Congratulations to professor Shane Connelly on being the inaugural awardee of OU's Vice President for Research and Partnerships Award for Excellence in Research in the Social Sciences!

6. Congratulations to assistant professor Dingjing Shi on receiving a \$9,400 Junior Faculty Fellowship grant from OU's Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships for her project titled, "Developing a Powerful Longitudinal Modeling Framework: A Semiparametric Bayesian Growth Curve Model for Longitudinal Nonnormal and Missing Data". Shi was also awarded an OU Faculty Senate Ed Cline Faculty Development Award. This award will help support Shi's development of a new statistical software package and publish the software under the R statistical programming environment.



## FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

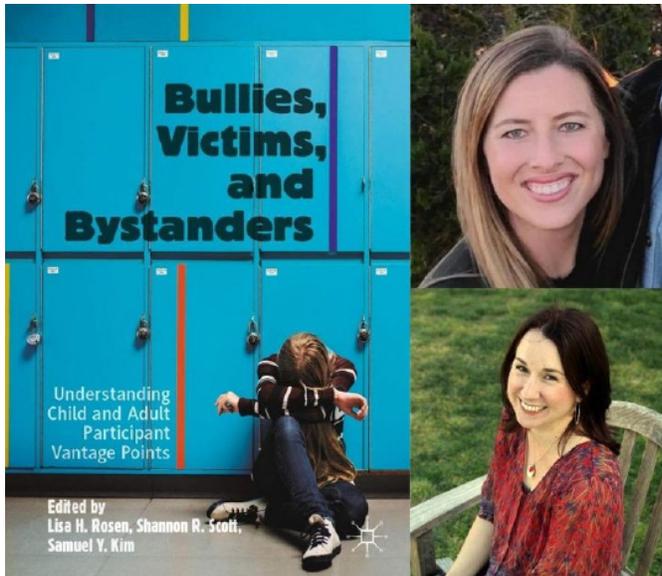


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Congratulations to Kylie Key (top left/Ph.D./alumnus), Ryan McAdoo (top right/Ph.D./alumnus) Stacy Wetmore (bottom left/Ph.D./alumnus), Duncan McCollum (bottom middle/graduate student) and Scott Gronlund (bottom right/professor) on their recent publication “High eyewitness confidence is always compelling: That’s a problem” in the *Journal of Psychology, Crime, and Law*!



## FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



Congratulations to Molly O'Mealey (top/Ph.D./alumna) and Lara Mayeux (bottom/associate professor) on their recently published book chapter in *Bullies, Victims, and Bystanders* titled "The Vantage Point of a Bully"!



Congratulations to Associate Professor Jennifer Kisamore (left) and Organizational Dynamics master's student Andrea Pemberton for their poster, "Assessing Burnout in Diversity and Inclusion Professionals," having won one of the Top 10 Posters at the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology Awards (SIOP) this year!



## FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS



Recent CBN-P Ph.D. graduate Melody Reese (left) and faculty member Lauren Ethridge, assistant professor in collaboration with Tetra Pharmaceuticals, the FRAXA Foundation, and Rush University Medical Center, published a paper in *Nature Medicine* titled “Inhibition of Phosphodiesterase-4D in Adults with Fragile X Syndrome: A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Phase 2 Clinical Trial.” This paper reports on the first drug of its class to show positive behavioral, cognitive and EEG outcomes in Fragile X Syndrome. Results support extending research on this drug to Phase III clinical trials.



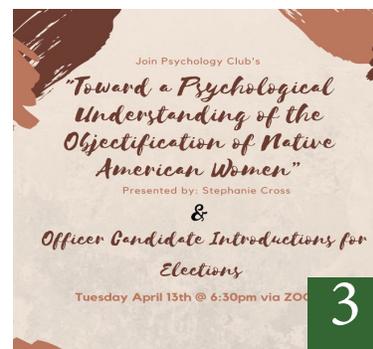
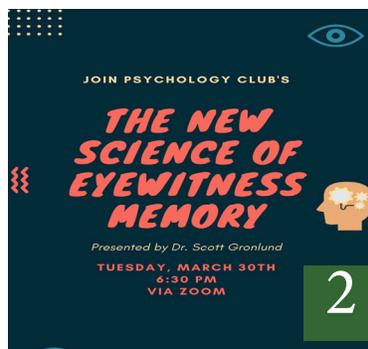
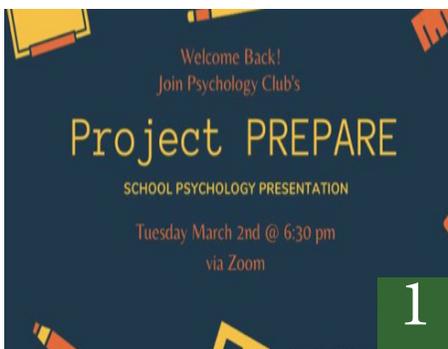
CBN-P graduate student Jordan Norris (left) and collaborators Alayna Tackett, Ph.D. (not pictured) and Theodore Wagener, Ph.D. (not pictured) at the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center had a paper accepted for publication in *Addictive Behaviors* titled “Youth Use of E-Cigarettes: Does Dependence Vary by Device Type?” Congrats, Jordan!

## Psychology Club

The Psychology Club is an organization for students interested in learning more about psychology and meeting with other students and faculty interested in the field. The club is led by undergraduate officers, along with graduate and faculty liaisons.

The Psychology Club has biweekly meetings throughout each semester. They come together to learn about psychology and related areas. Meetings are open to everyone and publicized as widely as possible. Their goal is for people who are interested in psychology to meet one another and learn about various psychology topics. This past semester, they had three meetings, all through Zoom.

Below are the names of the presenters, titles of their talks, and a short synopsis about their talk.



### 1. Project Prepare: School Psychology

In partnership with Oklahoma State University (OSU) and the Oklahoma School Psychological Association (OSPA), Osage County Interlocal Cooperative (OCIC) has received the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant from the USDE Office of Safe and Supportive Schools to assist with the recruitment of mental health professionals in the schools. Their specific program, Project PREPARE, is focused on building the workforce of school psychologists in the state of Oklahoma. As part of this project, they presented to undergraduate students on the roles of school psychologists, as well as training and working options available in the state of Oklahoma.

### 2. Scott Gronlund: The New Science of Eyewitness Memory

Kevin Keith was convicted and sentenced to die by the state of Ohio in 1994. Twelve days before his execution, the governor commuted Keith's sentence to life-without-parole, where it still stands today. Professor Gronlund discussed Keith's case, and what his case, and others like it, tells us about how eyewitness evidence can be better utilized in the criminal justice system.

### 3. Stephanie Cross: Toward a Psychological Understanding of the Objectification of Native American Women

The historical degradation of Native American women, largely through the propagation of harmful stereotypes, can be traced back to 1492 and continues to the present. Despite overwhelming evidence that Native American women experience dangerously high rates of sexual violence, when compared to non-Native women, psychology research has yet to explore the extent to which Native American women experience objectification at the interpersonal level. In her research, graduate student Stephanie Cross seeks to explore whether Native American women are objectified to a greater degree than white women and determine possible outcomes that may result from this objectification.

## Undergraduate Research Awards

### Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program:



Undergraduate students Clarissa Ashton (left) and Zach Little from the Brain and Biomarker Lab helped represent their home states of Oklahoma and California as participants in the virtual 2021 National Fragile X Foundation Advocacy Day. This event is a day-long meeting of self-advocates, families and other supporters with their Congress members to educate and advocate for Fragile X research funding, policies that facilitate drug and treatment development, and policies that create opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead better lives. Thank you for lending your voice to amplify others, Clarissa and Zach!



### Undergraduate TOPS (The Outstanding Psychology Student) Awards

Congratulations to the following undergraduate students for being awarded the department TOPS award. These three students demonstrated a superior record of degree-related scholarship and achievement during the 2020-2021 school year. Way to go!



From left: Haley Brown, Summer Anwar, Krishna Gandhi

## Undergraduate Honors Theses



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**1. Austin Satrio:** *False Confessions*

Faculty Advisor: Scott Gronlund

**2. Danna Nemri:** *Overlap between Spectrum Characteristics of Misophonia and ASD*

Faculty Advisor: Lauren Ethridge; Graduate Student Mentor: Jordan Norris

**3. Clarissa Ashton:** *Why is it so Difficult to Talk about Autism: Biological Complexity, Ethical Reporting and Controversy*

Faculty Advisor: Lauren Ethridge; Graduate Student Mentor: Nick Woodruff

**4. Haley Brown:** *Positive Affective Flux and Subjective Well-Being in Collegiate Dancers*

Faculty Advisor: Eric Day; Graduate Student Mentor: Kelsey Richels

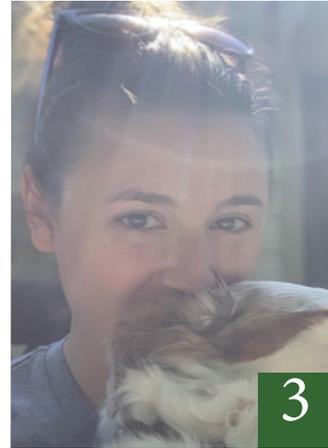
**5. Summer Anwar (left), Daniel Jackson, and Adam Maestas (not pictured):** *Interactions between Serotonin and Dopamine Neurotransmitters: A Systematic Review*

Faculty Advisor: Michael Wenger; Graduate Student Mentor: Laili Boozary

**6. Trinity Pruitt (pictured), Maddie Cupp (not pictured), and Hudia Jamshead (not pictured):** *The relationship between Dopamine and the Pattern Electroretinogram: A Systematic Review*

Faculty Advisor: Michael Wenger

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



1. Congratulations to Jinan Allan on being awarded this year's Chuck Gettys Award for Outstanding Research in Graduate School. This award recognizes outstanding quality and quantity of research efforts completed by a doctoral student while enrolled in the graduate program in the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma. Well done, Jinan!
2. Congratulations to Dexin Shi, Ph.D., who was selected as a 2021 Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science. APS Rising Stars reflect the best and brightest in psychology. Per APS, “This designation recognizes researchers whose innovative work has already advanced the field and signals great potential for their continued contributions.” Way to go!
3. Congratulations to graduate student Kelsey Richels, who was nominated for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Excellence in Teaching award! Each university can only nominate one doctoral-level graduate student to be up for this award—meaning that Kelsey was representing all of the University of Oklahoma in being named for this honor!



## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Outstanding Teaching Awards:



#### Helen Riddle Award

Congratulations to graduate student Keith Strasbaugh for receiving the Department of Psychology 2020-2021 Helen Riddle Award for Teaching Excellence! Strasbaugh was awarded \$750 and a certificate of recognition.

In addition to the Helen Riddle Award, the Department of Psychology offers up to three Outstanding Graduate Teaching Awards each year. Each winner received a certificate of recognition and a monetary award of \$250.



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Congratulations to graduate students (from left) Kevin Bell, Ph.D., Duncan McCollum and Molly O'Mealey, Ph.D. on receiving the Department of Psychology 2020-2021 Outstanding Teaching Awards!

## GRADUATE DISSERTATIONS

Congratulations to these graduate students on completing their dissertations in the spring of 2021!



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1. **Robert Martin:** *Forecasting Errors in Creative Problem-Solving: Deliberating about the Future*
2. **Keegan McMillin:** *Conceptualizing Social Power in Adolescence*
3. **Molly O'Mealey:** *Friendship Dissolutions and Relational Aggression in Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: The Mediating Role of Friendship Jealousy*
4. **Aaron Pomerantz:** *Honor Ideology and Perceptions of Coerced False Confessions*
5. **Kevin Bell:** *Who am I to Judge? Intellectual Humility and Dispositional Attributions*
6. **Sam Elliott:** *The Impact of Attentional Interruptions on Creative Problem Solving*
7. **Ally Finken:** *Leadership self-efficacy in Native American students: Examining the impact of collective racial esteem, environmental experiences, and resilience.*

# GRADUATION

Congratulations to these graduate students on being hooded at the 2021 graduation ceremony. Please enjoy some pictures of our graduates from 2020 and 2021!



From left in all pictures:

1. Alise Dabdoub, Ally Finken, Lori Snyder, Jessica Franklin 2. Chanda Sanders, Michelle Todd, Shane Connelly 3. Molly O'Mealey, Keegan McMillian, Lara Mayeux 4. Stephanie Cross, Mauricio Carvalho, Kevin Bell 5. Ashley Jorgensen, Eric Day 6. Michelle Todd, Michael Mumford, Cory Higgs

Stay up-to-date on the latest news and events by following us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram!

**[GIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT](#)**



**University of Oklahoma**

**[DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY](#)**  
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

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**Summer 2021**

455 W. LINDSEY ST.  
DALE HALL TOWER RM 705

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