Announcements

Many congratulations to our very talented graduate and undergraduate students who earned numerous awards and honors this month! Jennifer Vrabel was selected to attend the Summer Institute for Social and Personality Psychology. Adam Tratner received the OU Graduate Student Research Conference Best Presentation Award. Jordyn Truax Received the Provost’s graduate student research award. Urja Parikh received the Honor’s College Thesis Research Grant and the Provost Undergraduate Student Research Award. Velinka Marton was awarded second place in the Lepkowskí Writing Award competition. Great work to our wonderful students!

The psychology department would like to welcome Jose Martinez who received funding from the Summer Program for Undergraduate Research to spend the summer working in with Dr. Zeigler-Hill.

Oakland University will host the 2019 TriState (Plus) Conference on Animal Learning and Behavior on May 3-4. Proposals for presentations should be submitted to Martha Escobar by April 19.

Please join us as we congratulate Prof. Stewart on his retirement from Oakland University after 40 years of service! April 9 (12-1) in 130 Pryale Hall.

Lisa Welling and Todd Shackelford published: The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology and Behavioral Endocrinology. Great work!

Robby Stewart, Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will retire after 40 years of service to Oakland University. The Department of Psychology thanks Prof. Stewart for his extraordinary contributions to the Department, the College, and the University!

Prof. Stewart received his PhD from The Pennsylvania State University in 1979. His career at Oakland University immediately followed, where he served as Psychology Department Chair (1998-2009), Associate Dean (2009-2019), Faculty Athletic Representative (2006-2015), and interim Athletic Director (2014).

Prof. Stewart’s scholarship at OU examined the role of conceptual perspective-taking in the ontogeny of sibling relationships, sibling relationships across the lifespan, and longitudinal changes in attachment within family systems. Prof. Stewart also applied multidimensional scaling techniques in the study of attitudes regarding attachment relationships, the goals for studying psychology, and the meaning and sources of intimacy across the life-span. His research also tested the effectiveness of interventions to increase happiness, psychological well-being, and satisfaction with life.

Best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement!
Adam Tratner (Left) receives the Best Presenter Award at the OU Graduate Student Research Conference

Publications

Davies, A.P.C., Tratner, A.E., & Shackelford, T.K., & (in press). Not clearly defined, not reliably measured, and not replicable: Revisiting the definition and measurement of human mate poaching. PAID


Chapters & Encyclopedia Entries


Presentations


Rothig, O., & Nicholas, A. (2019, March). Not perfect but so close it’s scary: The impact of achievement in determining psychological outcomes. Poster at the OU Graduate Student Research Conference.


*Mallory Metzer at the Graduate Student Research Conference*
The PSI CHI office is located in Pryale Hall.

PSI CHI is the International Honors Society in Psychology at Oakland University. The purpose of PSI CHI is to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology and to advance the science of psychology.

**PURPOSE**

To encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology, and to advance the science of psychology.

**GOALS**

To provide academic recognition to its inductees. Augment and enhance the regular curriculum.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Faculty Interviews
  - Dr. Mary Lewis
  - Dr. Tina Meyer

- Research Studies
  - Perceived Social Roles and Face Preferences

- Closing Remarks
  - Emanuel Romero
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Faculty Interviews

Mary B. Eberly Lewis, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

While going to school, did you always want to pursue a career in psychology? Was psychology always your major?

**No, I wasn't thinking of psychology when I first started college. In fact, after my Intro Psych course, I "vowed" never to take another psychology class. I was a biochemistry major in the beginning, and I explored other possibilities through career testing in my first year.

What sparked your interest in general psychology? What about your specialization in adolescent prosocial and moral development?

**I was never really interested in general psychology; my interest grew as I started teaching Introductory Psychology and working to find class demonstrations and ways of communicating the basic constructs that contributed to my respect and interest in the many different areas.

My interest in adolescent development arose when I took a class in Adolescent Development at Michigan State University with Dr. John McKinney. He spoke one day about identity development and its’ link to family and peer relationships. After that, I was hooked on normative development. What creates who we are and how we define ourselves. My interest in moral development occurred more happenstance. My adviser asked me if I knew what prosocial behavior was; after responding that I knew what prosocial behavior was; after responding that I knew the definition, he asked me to write a questionnaire for a study he and my academic older brother (Dr. Daniel Flannery) were creating. What was intriguing is that prosocial behavior may or may not be moral and it wasn't being studied as a developmental or relational quality within parent-adolescent relationships. Over the years, I've developed professional friendships with colleagues who study moral development. The more we talk and the more I look at society and the ways in which morality is compartmentalized, the more I find a need for research.

What encouraged you to pursue a PhD rather than a PsyD?

**Thirty years ago, PsyD programs were not in existence. This is a newer degree. I also was more interested in research than in clinical work.

In your opinion, what has been your most interesting/favorite research study that you have conducted and/or helped conduct?

**I'm not sure, as each study prompts questions that lead to the next. I'm actually
excited about two future studies, both of which focus on intrapersonal and contextual factors that are linked to parenting behavior.

Do you have any words of advice for students on track for, or considering, a psychology degree?

**Be sure to understand what the job you are searching for entails. Psychology is the topic of interest, but the job/career itself may have demands and requirements that were not thought about. Frankly, I'm a professor with an interest in the topic of psychology. The job is that of a professor and developmental scientist. I have no training in therapeutic intervention or counseling. So think down the road about the career and the job(s) that are afforded by that career choice. Does it match with who you are -- your strengths, your weaknesses, and your interests?

What career do you think you would have/would want if it was not in psychology?

**I have no idea. I've thought about physical therapy as I was very athletically inclined when I was younger and I am curious about the way the muscular-skeletal system works. I also wondered had I started in microbiology, would I have stayed in that major and found a career within that area.

If you had the chance to sit down and talk to any psychologist, past or present, who would it be and why?

**Again, I'm afraid, I do not know. Perhaps Professor Hinde and his wife Dr. Stevenson-Hinde. They are theorists who looked into the dynamics of understanding relationships from a developmental point of view.
While going to school, did you always want to pursue a career in psychology? Was psychology always your major?

**When I was really young, I wanted to be a teacher. I always loved school and learning, and I remember torturing my cousins on holidays by making them play school when they would come over. I had a good idea in high school that I wanted to be a psychologist, so once I started college, I declared a psychology major almost right away. My initial interest was child psychology, but it didn't take long for me to realize that was not my true calling. Early on, the thought of combining my interest in teaching with my interest in psychology never occurred to me. In high school, I didn't realize the various opportunities for a psychologist beyond psychotherapist!**

What sparked your interest in general psychology?

**This question is a little harder. I remember always being really interested in emotions & how people relate to one another. I also was fascinated with the brain and how it functions, as well as how it functions differently for different people. This always intrigued me as an older kid--individual differences--and how they come about and play out in people's lives.**

During my undergrad years, I worked in a health psychology lab, which really honed my interest in the integration of psychology and physical health. I worked in a hospital setting for several years, and this underscored the need for more healthcare practitioners taking a more integrative approach to patient care. I prided myself in doing my best to focus not only on the medical needs of patients with whom I worked, but also on the individual psychological qualities they brought to the table, which might impact their adjustment, quality of life, medical adherence, or any other aspect of their treatment. In the end, I earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, with a Health specialization.

What encouraged you to pursue a PhD rather than a PsyD?

**My undergraduate mentor really encouraged me to pursue a Ph.D. I developed a good foundation in research during my undergraduate career, and I really loved the process of lit reviews, formulating hypotheses, critically evaluating methodology, data collection and analysis. I loved meeting & working with research participants. I appreciated the challenge of applying science to human behavior, and I enjoyed presenting research at professional conferences. A PsyD was never really an option for me. Although I expected that I would work in a clinical realm in some capacity in the future, in my heart, I was a
science-practitioner from very early on. And, I really appreciated the greater breadth of career opportunities afforded to a Ph.D. grad. I could do clinical work, research, teaching, or any combination of the three, and I was well-trained in all of them.

In your opinion, what has been your most interesting/favorite research study that you have conducted and/or helped conduct?

**I would say my doctoral dissertation, because you have to find a great degree of love for it to see it to completion! My dissertation was part of a larger scale study on the effects of emotional disclosure on pain and functioning in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. It allowed me to combine my interests in health populations, physical and emotional functioning, and investigating ways to help people feel better.

What career do you think you would have/would want if it was not in psychology?

**My words of advice--Before choosing a degree in psychology, have a good idea of what you want to use it for, and then research your options. Can you achieve your goals with a Master's degree, or do you need shoot for a Ph.D. or a PsyD? What other academic opportunities might help you reach that same goal? For example, some people get an undergrad degree in Psychology, then pursue a social work degree because it allows them to work with people in a different capacity. Personally, I think a background in psychology (major or minor) is a useful tool for anyone, but especially for people with the goal of working in the healthcare field. A little knowledge and empathy goes a long way. It's recognized and appreciated by patients, it makes for a stronger patient-practitioner relationship, and this has the potential to impact outcomes in a number of ways.

If you've decided to pursue a Master's or Ph.D., my advice is always to seek out learning opportunities before your graduate school applications are due. Work in a research lab, do some volunteer hours with children with special needs or at a homeless shelter or with at-risk teens, gain experience in psychological testing...all of this looks great on your application, gives you something to talk about in your interviews, makes your application stand out to the admissions committee, and gets your feet wet in the field. You can get a sense for what you enjoy more and where you might want to focus your attentions in grad school.

Also, develop a relationship with a faculty member by working in their lab or as a teaching assistant. This faculty member can be a good resource for guidance about graduate school, as well as source for a really strong letter of recommendation.

What career do you think you would have/would want if it was not in psychology?

**Hmmm. I know what I would choose now, but I don't know what I would have chosen back then if I didn't choose psychology. I suppose I may have gone into teaching, but the idea of working with children wasn't really my passion. I think I may have pursued a medical degree and specialized in ophthalmology. I have pretty poor eyesight and started wearing glasses when I was 5, so this was another fascination of mine.
Now, however, my sights are set a little differently. It's probably because I do have the degree and I'm able to use it, but now I think about how I can use my time and possibly do work related to one of my hobbies. I'm a volunteer mountain biking coach and think this would be a really fun way to spend work hours. I sometimes daydream about how to mountain bike or travel for a living...or both! I also think it would be amazing to own and work in my own little bakery, or as a personal chef. Maybe some combination of these will be the highlight of my retirement years!

If you had the chance to sit down and talk to any psychologist, past or present, who would it be and why?

**I admire and respect so many of the contributions made to our field. It's hard to choose just one. I'm a big fan of creating positive change, so Carol Dweck is one of my current favorites. I think her work on motivation and growth mindset is very inspiring.

> “Test scores and measures of achievement tell you where a student is, but they don’t tell you where a student could end up”

- Carol Dweck
Perceived Social Roles and Face Preferences

This purpose of this study is to investigate the preferences for different types of faces. After completion of the experiment, more information is revealed about the aims to participants.

The experiment includes images of both male and female faces, in which participants will rate based on level of attractiveness. Additionally, participants will answer questions about themselves and partner (if applicable), and complete a conformity questionnaire.

Participants must be 18 years or older and participation is anonymous. Participants can withdraw from this experiment at any time, if they wish to.

Any questions about this experiment, you may contact those involved:

Dr. Robert Burris
Robert.burris@northumbria.ac.uk

Dr. Lisa Welling
Welling@oakland.edu

Closing Remarks
Emanuel Romero, PSI CHI President

Hello everybody! As we wrap up another school year, I would like to thank the faculty, graduate students, guest speakers, the PSI CHI team, and fellow students for coming out to PSI CHI hosted events! It has been a great year with some very successful turnouts, which we love to see. Getting to meet new people, listening to some very good talks, and getting great advice has been amazing this year.

Next year, we are looking to continue to host helpful workshops and bringing in some more guest speakers for our student body. We are going to continue to encourage psychology students to become PSI CHI members and connect with others on campus. We will also continue out effort to reach out to as many psychology students as possible and share what we are doing. We are already working on some interesting projects and events for next fall and winter.

I would also like to say congratulations to our new PSI CHI members and to our graduating seniors! GO GRIZZLIES!
Brooke Silverson, *PsychMatters Editor*

I wanted to take a quick moment and say that being the *PsychMatters* Editor was a great opportunity for me to be involved more within my major, meet other students, and learn more about the research being done by OU faculty and/or graduate students. I have really enjoyed researching and creating these newsletter issues and I hope you all have, too!

However, I will be graduating in April, so my position is now available to anyone who is interested. In addition to this position, PSI CHI is looking for enthusiastic, committed officers for two other positions: Research Colloquia and Philanthropy. For more information on what these positions entail, or any questions/concerns, feel free to email Ashley or Emanuel at:

- [amharris@oakland.edu](mailto:amharris@oakland.edu)
- [emanuelromero@oakland.edu](mailto:emanuelromero@oakland.edu)

Congratulations to all the new members being inducted on April 3, 2019! 🎉

To end, I wanted to take a moment to talk about the benefits of being a member of PSI CHI. Members, whether it be undergraduate or graduate students, there are research grants and awards for them. There are also opportunities to participate in crowdsourcing research, along with opportunities to submit research to *Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*.

Lastly, I also wanted to mention that the 2019 Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) convention is April 11-13, 2019. This convention is held at Palmer House Hilton in Chicago, IL. More information can be found here:

[https://www.psichi.org/page/reg_midwest_conv#.XJo- C2ZN0s](https://www.psichi.org/page/reg_midwest_conv#.XJo- C2ZN0s)
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Advisors</td>
<td>Dr. Cynthia Sifonis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sifonis@oakland.edu">sifonis@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Lakshmi Raman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:raman@oakland.edu">raman@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Emanuel Romero</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emanuelromero@oakland.edu">emanuelromero@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Megan Cash</td>
<td><a href="mailto:megancash@oakland.edu">megancash@oakland.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Brooklin Adams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bmadams234@oakland.edu">bmadams234@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ashley Harris</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amharris@oakland.edu">amharris@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer of Major Workshops</td>
<td>Urja Parikh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:uparikh@oakland.edu">uparikh@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer of Minor Workshops</td>
<td>Ray Noell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:renoell@oakland.edu">renoell@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer of Research Colloquia</td>
<td>Travis Achterhof</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tjachterhof@oakland.edu">tjachterhof@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer of Philanthropy</td>
<td>Rachel Lai</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rnlai@oakland.edu">rnlai@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer of Communications</td>
<td>Sarah Mayville</td>
<td><a href="mailto:samayville@oakland.edu">samayville@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer of Liaisons</td>
<td>Adam Conigliaro</td>
<td><a href="mailto:conigliaro@oakland.edu">conigliaro@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer of Publicity</td>
<td>Esther Lee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elee3@oakland.edu">elee3@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer of Web-management</td>
<td>AnneJoleen Elum</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elum@oakland.edu">elum@oakland.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsychMatters Editor</td>
<td>Brooke Silverson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:basilverson@oakland.edu">basilverson@oakland.edu</a></td>
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