

# Psychological & BRAIN SCIENCES

2017 Spring Newsletter



## PBS on Social Media!



**Facebook**



**Twitter**



**Instagram**



**LinkedIn**

PBS has expanded our social media networks, adding mobile phone based photo app **Instagram** and our **LinkedIn** group, UMass Psychological & Brain Sciences.

Click the links above to visit us online!

Subscribe to our pages today to get the latest news, events and activities of our PBS community. We celebrate your successes! If you have news highlighting your work in Psychological and Brain Sciences we want to hear about it. Email photos and summaries to [eyeadon@umass.edu](mailto:eyeadon@umass.edu) or message us on Facebook. We look forward to hearing from you!

## UMassGives Fundraiser for the Keith Rayner Memorial Graduate Student Research Fund

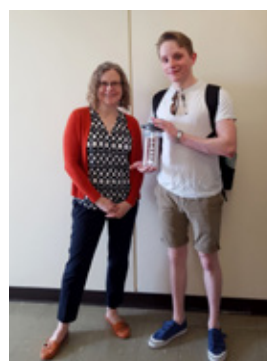
The Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences raised \$1,205 for the Keith Rayner Memorial Graduate Student Research Fund during the annual UMassGives campaign! We are thrilled to see this endowment grow, so that we can support student research for years to come. Because the funding enables award recipients to hire research assistants, our undergraduates are given opportunities for real-world research experience—valuable training for both graduate school admission and future scientific careers. We look forward to an even more successful campaign next year!

### #getPSYCHED to #MeetMeInTobin

We held a student contest to generate hashtags that capture the essence of PBS. Our winners, #getPSYCHED to #MeetMeInTobin, were selected by the popular vote of PBS students. Winning creators of our hashtags received a UMass water bottle and took a photo with Interim Department Chair Caren Rotello. This year, we used the hashtags during UMassGives; next year we will use them again to identify our social media content, making it easy to view our campaign initiatives and progress.



*Interim Department Chair  
Caren Rotello at the  
Founder's Day Picnic*



*Michael MacLean & Caren*



*MK Oakley & Caren*

# Undergraduate Research Symposium

## This Year's Presenters:

Kaitlyn Baron	Samia Habib	Shannon Slater
Cara Bosco	Maya Hareli	Alexa Soares
Emily Breviglia	Owen Henry	Robert Sommer
Andy Bui	Gongrui Li	Natalie Sorial
Erica Burke	Eda Lu	Phung Vuong
Stephanie Choi	Keianna Lopes	Francesca Walsh
Meghan Colpas	Ellen Marshall	Harli Weber
Audrey Davis	Jacob Nadler	
Katherine Davis	Taylor Pestritto	
Ashley Dion	Shirley Plucinski	
Allison Epstein	Helen Root	
Kate Froborg	Kayla Schleicher	



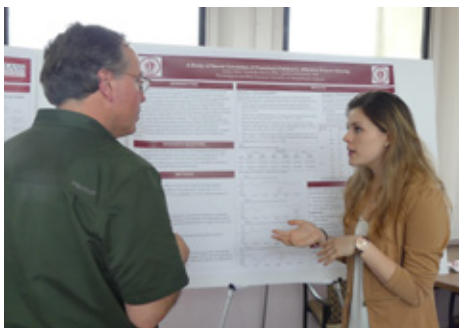
*From left: Andy Bui, Seyed Nima Orazani, Mengyao Li, and Bernhard Leidner*



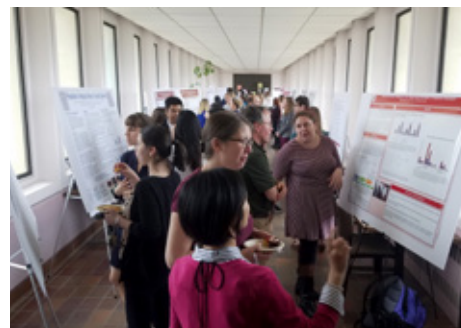
*From left: Ellen Marshall, Shannon Slater, and Allison Epstein*

The Psychological and Brain Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium was held on April 27 in Tobin Hall. Undergraduates shared their research with faculty, graduate students, and peers. The symposium provides a celebration of the vast undergraduate research opportunities in the department. Students presented at the state-wide Massachusetts Undergraduate Research Symposium the following day.

View more photos here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskVL4rr2>



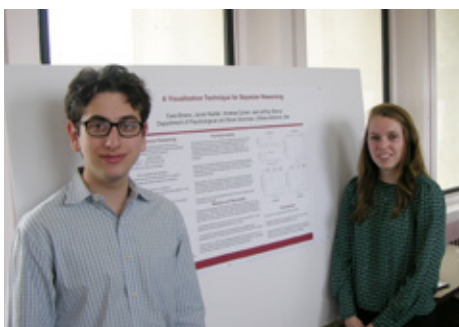
*Matt Davidson and Ashley Dion*



*Presenters and attendees in Tobin Hall*



*Michael Stornanti and Harli Weber*



*Jacob Nadler and Cara Bosco*



*Eda Lu and Alexandra Jesse*



*Joonkoo Park and Samia Habib*

# Congratulations PBS 2017 Senior Award Winners!



*From Left to Right: Senior Award winners Emily Starratt, Melanie Maimon, Ashley Dion, Mike Stornanti, Interim Department Chair Caren Rotello, Audrey Davis, Jay Newman, Alexandra Santiago, Helen Root, Elizabeth Tavares and Maya Herelli.*

Senior Psychological and Brain Sciences majors were honored at the Senior Award Celebration held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Award recipients and their faculty sponsors were in attendance. These students were honored for their academic excellence, contributions to research, and scholarship.

View more photos here:

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/pbsumassamherst/2zeU7j>

## **Joanne Daughdrill Memorial Award**

**Ashley Dion**

In recognition of exceptional contributions to the Psychology Department  
Sponsored by the Daughdrill Family in honor and memory of Joanne Daughdrill

## **Richard S. Milstone Scholarship**

**Alexandra Santiago, Elizabeth Tavares, Helen Root**

In recognition of exemplary achievement as a Psychology Major  
Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Milstone in honor and memory of their son

## **Mary Carney Rockwell Award**

**Audrey Davis, Maya Herelli, Mike Stornanti**

In recognition of exemplary achievement as a Psychology Major  
Sponsored by the Rockwell Family in honor and memory of Mary

## **Senior Service Award**

**Jay Newman**

In recognition of exceptional service to the Department

## **Outstanding Honors Thesis Award**

**Robert Sommer**

In recognition of exemplary research and scholarship

## **Senior Research Assistant Award**

**Catherine Gnall**

In recognition of exceptional contributions to research

## **Outstanding Internship Award**

**Emily Starratt**

In recognition of exceptional contributions to an internship

## **Academic Excellence Award**

**Melanie Maimon**

In recognition of exemplary academic achievement



## 2016-17 Faculty Honors and Awards



### Professor Nilanjana Dasgupta Wins Application of Personality and Social Psychology Award

Nilanjana Dasgupta, Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Director of CNS Faculty Equity and Inclusion, won the 2016 Application of Personality and Social Psychology Award from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Dasgupta was recognized for her “groundbreaking research” that examines unconscious or implicit bias, with specific focus on the plasticity of implicit bias, for example, “the ways in which variations in social contexts cast imprints on the mind to influence the self-concept, attitudes, beliefs and behavior toward others.”

UMass Amherst News and Media Relations. (2017, March 7). *Dasgupta Wins Application of Personality and Social Psychology Award*. Retrieved from <http://www.umass.edu/newsoffice/article/dasgupta-wins-application-personality-and>

### Dasgupta Presents Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series

Nilanjana Dasgupta, was selected to present in the 2016-2017 UMass Amherst Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series. Her talk was titled *STEMing the Tide: How Female Professors and Peers Can Encourage Young Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*.

The choice to pursue a given professional path may feel free but is often constrained by subtle social cues about who does and doesn’t “belong there.” This lecture showed how such constraints can be lifted to allow students real freedom to pursue any academic and professional path, especially ones where their group is underrepresented. It reviewed highlights from a decade

of research identifying people and environments in high-achieving academic settings that act as “social vaccines” to inoculate young women’s self-confidence, motivation, and persistence, protecting them against negative stereotypes.

The presentation showcased evidence-based remedies that may be leveraged to recruit and retain more women in STEM courses, majors, and careers, thereby increasing and diversifying the STEM workforce for the 21st century.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Dasgupta was presented with the Chancellor’s Medal, the highest recognition bestowed to faculty by the campus.

Dasgupta has authored or co-authored nearly 50 journal articles and has given invited talks in the U.S. and internationally.

A member of the UMass Amherst faculty since 2003, Dasgupta taught previously at the New School for Social Research in New York. She was promoted to associate professor in 2006 and professor in 2012. Since 2014, she has also served as director of faculty equity and inclusion in the College of Natural Sciences.

Her research has been funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the American Psychological Foundation. She is a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and the Society for Experimental Social Psychology.

Her work has appeared in the New York Times, Boston Globe, London Times, National Public Radio, “PBS News Hour,” BBC Radio, ABC News, Scientific American Mind and Slate.com.

At UMass Amherst, she has received the Distinguished Academic Outreach Award, a Healey Endowment Grant and a Lilly Teaching Fellowship. She was also a Family Research Scholar at the university’s Center for Research on Families.

A graduate of Smith College, Dasgupta earned an M.S. and an M.Phil. in social psychology at Yale University, where she was awarded her Ph.D., also in social psychology.

UMass Amherst News and Media Relations. (2017, April 13). *UMass Amherst Professor Nilanjana Dasgupta to Discuss Strategies for Encouraging Young Women to Pursue Careers in STEM Fields*. Retrieved from <http://www.umass.edu/newsoffice/article/umass-amherst-professor-nilanjana-dasgupta>

## Joseph Bergan Receives Armstrong Fund Award

The Armstrong Fund for Science encourages transformative research on campus that introduces new ways of thinking about pressing scientific or technical challenges.



One of only two winners of these two-year awards, Joseph Bergan, Assistant Professor in Psychological and Brain Sciences, will receive \$20,000 the first year and \$10,000 the second year to support his project, "Molecular profiling of intact biological tissues through accelerated antibody staining." He hopes to develop a new strategy for preparing tissue samples with antibodies for microscopy so individual proteins and biomolecules can be studied by microscopy "where they reside," without the need for thin sectioning and time-consuming antibody staining. "Through a series of recent advances in tissue histology and microscopy it is now possible to render large intact tissue samples transparent while preserving the architecture of biomolecules. Thus, fine structures can be precisely imaged deep inside tissue samples without the need for sectioned tissue," he notes.

Bergan adds, "If successful, this technique will have broad implications for fields like neuroscience and cancer research where the function of individual molecules is determined over a wide range (nanometers to centimeters) of scales."

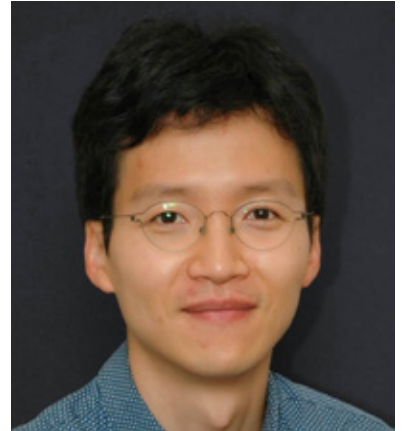
UMass Amherst News and Media Relations. (2017, April 19). *Bergan, Irschick, Grosse, Umberger Receive Armstrong Fund Awards*. Retrieved from <http://www.umass.edu/newsoffice/article/bergan-irschick-grosse-umberger-receive>

## Joonkoo Park Receives CAREER Award to Explore How Our Brains Process Numbers and Magnitude

Assistant Professor and Honors Faculty Joonkoo Park, Psychological and Brain Sciences, received a five-year, \$751,000 NSF faculty early

career development (CAREER) to address basic research questions about how our brains process numbers and magnitude and how such processes give rise to more complex mathematical thinking. He recently co-authored a paper in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that reports where in the brain numerical quantity evaluation is processed.

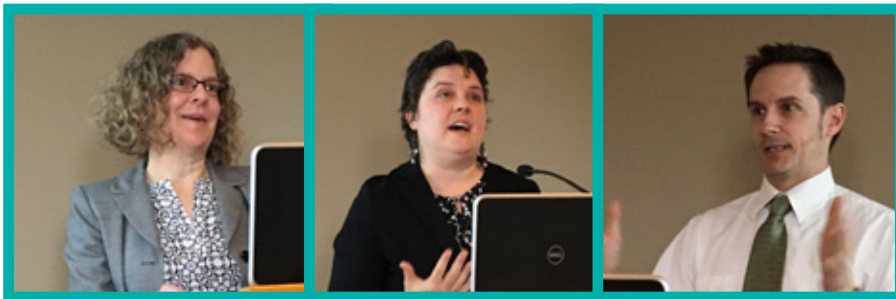
[Science magazine](#), [NewsMedical.net](#), [Science Daily](#), [News Office release](#)



## Joonkoo Park selected as APS Rising Star

Joonkoo Park, Assistant Professor in Developmental Science, has been selected as a 2016 Rising Star in the Association for Psychological Science! [APS Rising Stars](#) reflect the best and brightest of psychological science, and we are very proud to have him on our faculty. Congratulations Joon!

# College of Natural Sciences Faculty/Staff Awards



*From left: Caren Rotello, Christina Metevier, and Michael McDermott*

## College of Natural Sciences Award Ceremony

The College of Natural Sciences Award Ceremony was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Interim Department Chair Caren Rotello introduced Christina Metevier and Michael McDermott, each of whom gave an acceptance speech about their accomplishments within the college. Awardees were presented with a certificate by Steve Goodwin, Dean of the College.



Christina Metevier, Associate Undergraduate Advisor and Lecturer, received the CNS Outstanding Advisor Award for her exceptional contributions to undergraduate advising in PBS. Students who have worked with Professor Metevier in the advising office and the classroom know firsthand that this recognition is very well-deserved given her endless enthusiasm, knowledge, and dedication to student success.



*Former PBS Chair Hal Grotevant and Michael McDermott*

Michael McDermott, Project Manager and Website Administrator, was also presented with the well-deserved CNS Outstanding Staff Award. His recent work includes the development of the new PBS website and the management of clinical data within the department.



## Graduate Student Awards



**Nicholas Morrison**, a 5th year student in the Psychotherapy Research Lab, was recently elected as Chair of the Student Development Committee of the Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy (SAP), a Division (29) of the American Psychological Association (APA). Morrison's term will begin January 2017.



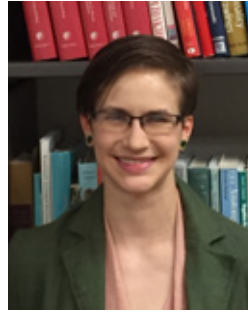
**Alice Coyne**, a 3rd year graduate student in the Psychotherapy Research Lab, was awarded a \$500 Pre-Dissertation Research Grant from the University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School. This grant will partially fund her project, "Determinants of between-therapist differences in alliance quality and the alliance-outcome association."

Coyne was also awarded the North American Society for Psychotherapy Research Laura Rice Memorial Student Travel Award for her forthcoming paper presentation, "The longitudinal association between patient and therapist expectancy and working alliance: An actor partner interdependence model," at the June 2017 meeting of the International Society for Psychotherapy Research.



**Felicia Romano**, a project coordinator in the Psychotherapy Research Lab, was awarded the North American Society for Psychotherapy Research Sol Garfield Memorial Student Travel Award for her forthcoming paper presentation, "Patient interpersonal problems as a mediator of long-term outcome in cognitive-

behavioral therapy integrated with motivational interviewing for generalized anxiety disorder," at the June 2017 meeting of the International Society for Psychotherapy Research.



**Samantha Bernecker**, a 6th year graduate student in the Psychotherapy Research Lab and current predoctoral intern at the University Mississippi Medical Center/VA Jackson, has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship position for fall 2017 at Harvard University. Sam will work with a large, multi-site network of researchers

leading the Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Servicemembers (Army STARRS) and the Military Suicide Research Consortium (MSRC). Army STARRS is focused on identifying risk and protective factors for suicidal behavior and related conditions, and MSRC is focused on developing and testing effective treatments for suicidal behavior.

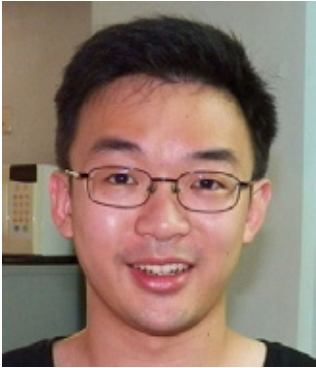
Bernecker was also given the 2018 Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration (SEPI) Dissertation Award. The award comes with \$1,000 to support her project, "Testing a skills training course for use in a peer-delivered mental health intervention."



**Brien Goodwin**, a 3rd year student in the Psychotherapy Research Lab, was recently (and competitively) appointed as the student member of the Publications and Communications Board of the Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy (APA Division 29).

**Genna Santorelli**, a graduate student in the Clinical Program, was awarded a Dissertation Grant from the Graduate School for her project entitled, 'Emotional Response to Negative Mood Induction in Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment.' She also is first author on a paper that was accepted for publication in *Aging and Mental Health*, entitled 'Perceptions of emotion and age among younger, midlife, and older adults.' Molly Mather, a graduate student in the Clinical Program, was a co-author on this paper and data collection for several follow-up studies are underway.





**Lap-Ching Keung**, graduate student in the UMass Eyetracking Lab, was just awarded the Jerrold J. Katz Young Scholar Award at the 2017 CUNY Conference at MIT. The award "recognizes the paper or poster presented at the Annual CUNY Conference on Human

Sentence Processing that best exhibits the qualities of intellectual rigor, creativity, and independence of thought exemplified in Professor Katz's life and work."

Lap received the award for his paper, co-authored with Adrian Staub, Associate Professor in PBS, "Closest conjunct agreement in English: A comparison with number attraction," presented at the 2016 CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing at the University of Florida. The paper presents evidence from both production studies and eyetracking during reading that agreement with a conjoined subject (e.g., The dog and the cat...) is not reliably plural when the second conjunct is singular.



Two CNS graduate students, **Fiona Ge**, Psychological and Brain Sciences, and **Sarah Winokur**, Neuroscience and Behavior Program, have received 2016 Fall Travel Awards from the Center for Research on Families. Ge's research broadly focuses on psychosocial factors that contribute to well-functioning romantic relationship processes. She will attend the 18th Annual Meeting for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference in San Antonio, CA with the help of her travel award. Winokur studies the neurobiology underlying parental behavior across the postpartum period. She will use the award to travel to The Society for Neuroscience Conference in San Diego, California. [CRF News Release](#)

## Undergraduate Student Awards



**Katie Davis**, an undergraduate honors student in the Psychotherapy Research Lab, received a competitively awarded \$900 Commonwealth Honors College Research Grant in support of her thesis research, "The indirect effect of alliance convergence on post treatment outcome through

homework completion in two treatments for generalized anxiety."

**Katherine Gnall**, an undergraduate Research Assistant (RA) in the Psychotherapy Research lab, was selected to receive the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences' 2017 RA Appreciation Award. Katherine has worked on multiple projects over her three semesters in the Lab, demonstrating a rare blend of academic prowess, interpersonal skill, and professional responsibility/productivity.



**Bob Sommer**, an undergraduate honors student conducting his thesis in the Psychotherapy Research lab, received a competitively awarded \$648 Commonwealth Honors College Research Grant in support of his thesis research, "Existential isolation as a risk factor for clinical distress and negative beliefs about psychotherapy."



Sommer was also selected to receive the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences' Outstanding Thesis Award.



# Distinguished Alumni Awards

## Danielle Dean '10



Danielle O'Connor Dean '10 is a Senior Data Scientist Lead at Microsoft Corporation in the Algorithms and Data Science Group within the Cloud and Enterprise Division. She leads an international team of data scientists and engineers working on machine learning solutions, within the field of artificial intelligence, that address a variety of business needs.

Dean is recognized for her novel combination of survival analysis and mixture modeling to simultaneously model multiple event processes. She is the lead author of three major publications and co-author of the data science modeling book, *Data Science with Microsoft SQL Server 2016*.

Dean is also dedicated to mentoring young women. She is an active advisor with Girls Who Code, a board member of Microsoft's Women@NERD (New England Research & Development) resource group, and a career advice contributor through Microsoft's Professional Data Science Degree Program.

During her time at UMass Amherst, Dean earned two bachelor's degrees: the first in psychology with a minor in mathematics and statistics, and the second in organizational behavior through statistical analysis through the Bachelor's Degree with Individual Concentration (BDIC) program. She went on to complete her doctorate degree in quantitative psychology with a concentration in biostatistics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she studied the application of multi-level event history models to understand the timing and processes leading to events between dyads within social networks.

Dean has been recognized with multiple awards and honors such as the UMass Amherst 21st Century Leaders Award, Senior Leadership Award, the LeBovidge Research Fellowship, and Psi Chi Regional Research Award.

UMass Amherst Alumni Association. (2017, April). *Distinguished Alumni Awards*. Retrieved from <http://www.umassalumni.com/s/1640/alumni/>

## Michael G. Wessells '73 MA, '74 PhD



Michael Wessells '73 MA, '74 PhD is a Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health in the Program on Forced Migration and Health at Columbia University. His work emphasizes the resilience of children, families, and communities and the impact of distress due to armed conflict, disasters, family separation, and deprivation of basic needs such as food, shelter, and security.

In addition to research and teaching, global humanitarian work is a central life calling for Wessells. For several decades, he has focused on psychosocial and child protection supports for war-affected children primarily in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He has worked to highlight the importance of community mobilization building on existing strengths and resources, including traditional practices and working in a spirit of humility and co-learning.

Believing that psychology has much to contribute to peace and social justice, he helped to establish and served as president of the Division of Peace Psychology in the American Psychological Association. He also served as president of Psychologists for Social Responsibility and chair of the Committee for the Psychological Study of Peace, which develops scholarly symposia worldwide and brings in the voices and work of people in difficult political and economic circumstances.

Along with the World Health Organization, Wessells coordinated the development of the first global guidelines on mental health and psychosocial support in emergency settings. In a deeply polarized field, this work helped to develop a more comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to supporting war-affected people. A legacy of this work is that today, mental health and psychosocial supports are seen not as afterthoughts but as central to humanitarian action.

Wessells earned his master's and doctorate degrees in psychology from UMass Amherst, where his supervisor, John Donahoe, nurtured an enduring interest in science, a keen appreciation of environmental determinants of behavior, and a love of teaching.

UMass Amherst Alumni Association. (2017, April). *Distinguished Alumni Awards*. Retrieved from <http://www.umassalumni.com/s/1640/alumni/>

## In the Media



### **Michael Constantino Interviewed for *Psychotherapy Expert Talks***

Michael Constantino, Director of the [Psychotherapy Research Lab](#) at UMass Amherst, was recently interviewed for the YouTube "[Psychotherapy Expert Talks](#)" series. The interview centers on Constantino's context-responsive psychotherapy integration (CRPI) model and related CPRI research being conducted in his Lab. The impetus for the video was Constantino's article published in *The Integrative Therapist* entitled, "Testing, analyzing, and establishing markers for responsiveness in psychotherapy."

[Psychotherapy Expert Talks. \(2016, November 29\).](#)



### **Robert S. Feldman Comments On Lying in Business**

Robert S. Feldman, Deputy Chancellor and Professor of Psychology, commented in a story about lying in business. He said his years of research show that people lie because it "greases the wheels of social interaction." Feldman also said that it isn't easy to tell from body language whether or not a person is telling the truth.

[Startup Smart. \(2016, December 20\).](#)

Feldman has also commented in a story about why lying is particularly prevalent in the current age of narcissism. Feldman said people lie because that's what others want to hear. He said it is an effective social tactic and notes that people who don't lie are usually seen as rude and blunt. He also said President Trump uses lies because it has apparently been a useful tactic for him in both business and politics.

[Toronto Sun. \(2017, May 6\).](#)

Compiled by UMass Amherst News and Media Relations.



### **Jeffrey Blaustein Featured on National Public Radio**

Jeffrey D. Blaustein, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, was featured on National Public Radio show "The Academic Minute" where he talked about the pros and cons of estrogen blockers for treatment of breast cancer and what women should know about this type of treatment. He said it is important for women to know that estrogens have many effects on the human body, and some of those have a significant impact on quality of life.

[The Academic Minute, Inside Higher Ed. \(2016, December 20\).](#)

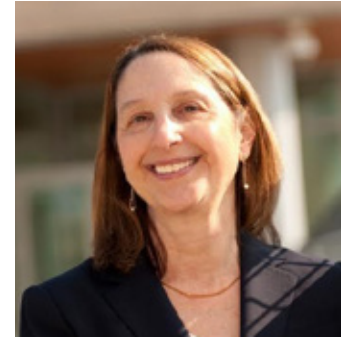
## Faculty Honors

### **Agnes Lacreuse Selected as Section Member at the Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health**



Congratulations to Agnes Lacreuse who has been selected for a 4-year term as a member of the Neuroendocrinology, Neuroimmunology, Rhythms and Sleep Study Section at the Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health! She will be contributing to the national biomedical research effort through grant application reviews, recommendations and status surveys of field research. This honorable position is representative of Lacreuse's accomplishments in her field of study.

### **Paula Pietromonaco is the Incoming Editor-in-Chief of *Emotion***



Paula Pietromonaco, Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, is the Incoming Editor-in-Chief of *Emotion*, a prestigious peer reviewed scientific journal published by the American Psychological Association. *Emotion* showcases significant theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of emotional processes. Research published in the journal cuts across multiple areas within psychology (e.g., social, developmental, personality, clinical, cognitive, health) as well as other disciplines (e.g., neuroscience, physiology, economics, business, anthropology).

For an interview spotlighting the newly appointed editor, see <http://www.apa.org/pubs/highlights/editor-spotlight/emo-pietromonaco.aspx>

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## Research Scholars

### **Jeff Starns selected as CRF Family Research Scholar**



Jeff Starns, Associate Professor in Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience, has been selected as a 2017-18 Center for Research on Families (CRF) Family Research Scholar. Jeff will develop a grant proposal on Bayesian reasoning as a life skill. Congratulations Jeff!

### **Joseph Bergan selected as ISSR scholar**



Joseph Bergan, Assistant Professor in Behavioral Neuroscience, has been selected as an Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) scholar for the 2017-18 academic year. During this time, he will develop a research proposal on synaptic foundations of sexually dimorphic circuit architecture. Congratulations Joe!



# PBS Welcomes New Faculty and Staff



**Adam Grabbell**

**Assistant Professor** (Fall 2017)

Clinical Psychology

**Area of Study:**

Neural correlates of emotion regulation



**Bruna Martins**

**Assistant Professor** (Fall 2018)

Clinical Psychology

**Area of Study:**

Emotion, cognition, aging



**Tara Mandalaywala**

**Assistant Professor** (Fall 2018)

Developmental Sciences

**Area of Study:**

Comparative psych; children's understanding of race



**Evan Yeadon**

**Communications Administrator**

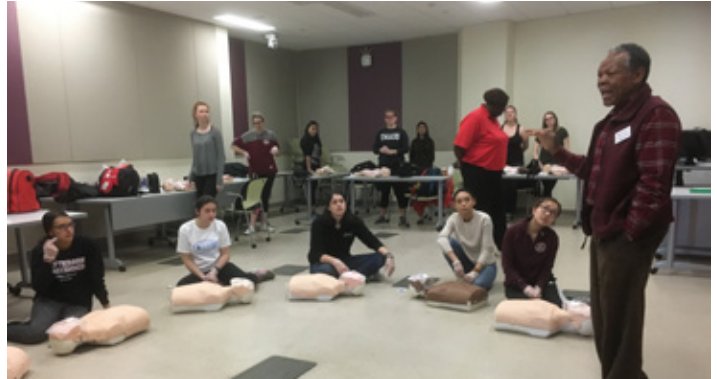
PBS is pleased to introduce Evan Yeadon as Communications Administrator. Evan will be promoting the department's activities throughout the university and to the general public. His experience in graphic and web design will be put to great use as he creates new digital communications for PBS. Evan will act as liaison with the Office of News and Media Relations, Alumni Relations, the Development Office and the College of Natural Sciences. He will be working to expand alumni connections and broaden the PBS social and scientific community. Establishing opportunities for alumni, graduates and undergraduates to create professional relationships will also be his focus.

Evan holds a B.F.A. in Industrial Design and a Certificate in Web Development. He is a native of Conway, MA, enjoying every opportunity to pursue outdoor adventures.

## Respite Care Training

On Sunday, April 9th from 9am to 5pm, UMass Students and community members attended the first annual respite care training offered by the Developmental Disabilities and Human Services Program (Program Director: **Ashley Woodman**, Lecturer in Psychological and Brain Sciences). Participants were given basic training on supporting children, adolescents and adults with disabilities at home and in the community, providing temporary relief to their caregivers. Participants completed CPR training with the American Red Cross and met with professionals and parents in the community.

Website: <http://blogs.umass.edu/ddhs/respite/>



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## Diversity Event: Being an Effective Ally

The PBS Diversity Committee sponsored an event on April 21st entitled "Being an Effective Ally: Understanding Ally Development and Selecting Allied Action". About 30 graduate students, staff, and faculty had the opportunity to learn about research and theory on ally development. Given recent increases in targeting of marginalized groups, there has been an accompanying increase in motivation to be effective allies to members of these groups. However, becoming an effective ally can be a daunting and intimidating task. Alissa Hochman and LG Rollins, from UMass Boston, discussed what it means to be an ally from both a research and practical perspective. The presenters provided practical guidance on concrete actions that those interested in allyship can take. All attendees had lively smaller group discussions about becoming an effective ally.

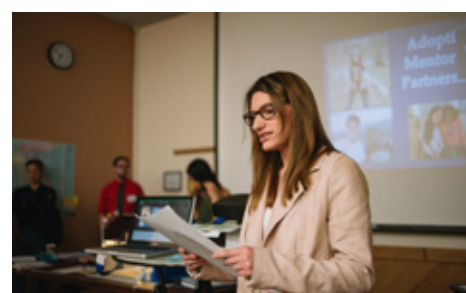




# *We Celebrate Adoption*



We Celebrate Adoption was an event hosted by students in the UMass Student Adoption Advisory Board (USAAB) and the Adoption Mentoring Partnership (AMP) on the evening of April 27, 2017 in the UMass Campus Center. The goal of the event was to educate the college and local community about adoption related topics such as adoption identity, policies and laws, foster care, race and ethnicity to name a few. Each team of two or three students researched the topic of their choice and presented the information on a trifold poster board. The students fielded questions and shared hand-outs with event attendees looking to broaden their understanding of people's experiences with adoption. Attendees also had access to a printed program, learning valuable information about each group's topic. This was an event that was voluntary on the part of the student sponsors. It was not associated with any class and there was no credit involved, it was all above and beyond their normal workload. Even some students who are not adopted assisted with the event! It was a great turnout and we are very thankful for everyone's participation.





## Retirements



### Susan Whitbourne

Susan has had a remarkable tenure in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and at UMass. She has been a member of three divisions within the department: Social and Personality, Clinical, and Developmental Science, has graduated 15

Ph.D. students, and authored over 160 scholarly articles, chapters, and books.

She has been a remarkably energetic and effective classroom teacher, teaching thousands of our students over the course of her tenure in our department, and winning numerous teaching and mentoring awards. Susan was UMass' advisor to Psi Chi for 25 years, receiving UMass awards for this service, as well as the National Psi Chi Advisor and Eastern Regional Psi Chi Advisor awards. She has also served as Director of the UMass Office of National Scholarship Advisement for 19 years. Scores of UMass students have benefited from her efforts to help them secure prestigious awards, including the Marshall, Truman, Fulbright and Goldwater Fellowships. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the American Psychological Association, receiving the APA Presidential Citation.

Among dozens of national professional service positions, Susan served as President of the Division 20 in the American Psychological Association and President of the Society for the Study of Human Development, and is President of the Eastern Psychological Association. She serves on numerous boards of national organizations and editorial boards of scholarly journals, and has been highly involved throughout her career in communicating psychological science to the public through popular writing and media interviews.



### Neil Berthier

Neil Berthier has been a valued member of the UMass psychology community since 1975 when he began here as a graduate student (advised by John Moore). After receiving his Ph.D. in 1981, he briefly left for

UCLA, returned in 1983, and has remained here the 33 years since, where he became a leader in the field of perceptual and motor development in human infants. His widely-cited work has been funded by NSF and NICHD and published in the field's top journals (e.g., *Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *Developmental Psychology*, and *Developmental Science*). He was the Associate Editor of *Child Development* and *Developmental Psychology*, and served our department and university in numerous capacities throughout his time here. His leadership has been invaluable; his wisdom, generous spirit, and good nature will be sorely missed.



### Jeff Blaustein

Jeff Blaustein is retiring after nearly four decades of dedicated and distinguished service at UMass and the UMass Center for Neuroendocrine Studies. Together the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences will celebrate

this occasion at the 16th Symposium on Reproductive Neuroendocrinology (aka 'JeffFest') on May 19 with colleagues, family and friends. A retirement reception will be held from 5-6 pm in Old Chapel.

For more information, please see: <https://umass.irisregistration.com/Home/Site?code=Neuroendocrinology>

## Marian MacDonald

As she completes her 39<sup>th</sup> year on the Psychology faculty, Professor Marian MacDonald will be retiring. In 1979 Professor MacDonald joined the department where she established a reputation as a respected scholar, devoted citizen, and exceptional educator. In the realm of scholarship, Professor MacDonald published more than 50 peer reviewed articles and book chapters as well as two books: *Behavioral Approaches to Community Psychology* and *Statistics for Social Work and the Human Services*.

Professor MacDonald's list of service contributions is extensive and includes her roles as a reviewer for a dozen professional journals, an accreditation site visitor for the American Psychological Association, a coordinator for various programs of the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy, and a contributor to several initiatives in the local community. Especially noteworthy is Professor MacDonald's distinction as a highly respected educator at the University. She developed several clinically related courses which were eagerly sought out by more students than space could accommodate.

For example, in her Laboratory Course in Clinical Psychology students were given the opportunity to provide direct services under supervision in two clinical settings (Hampshire County Jail & House of Corrections, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center) while they were being trained as Certified Decisional Trainers. In her course, Case Studies in Helping, students conducted in-depth analyses of the clinically related work they were doing in community settings.

Professor MacDonald will be sorely missed by her students and her colleagues who are tremendously grateful for her dedication, collegiality, and kindness over the past four decades.



## Aggie Mitchkoski

Aggie joined the department in 2001 and, over the next 16 years, she took what was originally a simple typist position and, though her own initiative, transformed it into the central hub of the department. Aggie was, among many things, the creative force behind the designing of the department intranet and produced the department electronic newsletter. She worked with the Human Subject Committee on grant protocols and also created a system to help maintain the large number of PBS members on their grant compliance and active status within the department. To recognize her efforts, in 2009 the department nominated, and she was awarded, the Chancellor's Citation award. This award is given to someone who has demonstrated outstanding performance or exceptional contribution of their time and/or skills to help the university achieve its goals and objectives.

Aggie was also involved with many activities outside of the department. She was a member of the Executive Board of the University Staff Association. She helped to change the union's paper newsletter to an online publication and redesigned its website. She served as a district and Chief Steward and represented the USA union at a PHENOM campus council as well as the statewide council. She also co-taught a class on conflict resolution, classism and stress reduction through the Labor Management Workplace Educational Program.

Aggie Mitchkoski retired on January 27, 2017. We will miss her dearly, but wish her well in all of her new adventures.





### Aline Sayer

Professor Aline Sayer, who directs The Center for Research on Families' Methodology Program, will be retiring this spring after 14 years of service to CRF, the department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and the UMass community. Sayer is a developmental psychologist trained at Harvard University with an extensive background in both child development and quantitative methodology. She brings rare expertise in family research methods to the CRF family research scholars and students, providing insight into issues of nested models, dependent data and longitudinal methods.

She also specializes in new statistical strategies for studying the longitudinal development of individuals over time, including hierarchical linear models and structural equation models. Her courses on these topics are highly sought after and always over-enrolled. Sayer has written broadly about these methods over the years in journal publications and book chapters and serves as a consultant on numerous grants.

She always has an open door to provide support and guidance to faculty and students on countless research projects. Her contributions to the Center for Research on Families have been instrumental in building our national reputation as a center that specializes in family research methods and statistics. We are so grateful for her leadership and proud of her tremendous accomplishments in family research.

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## Publication Highlights

### Professor Emeritus Jerrold Meyer proposes less invasive diagnostic test for Cushing's Syndrome



Neuroscientist **Jerrold Meyer**, Psychological and Brain Sciences, is co-author of a recent paper in *Endocrine: International Journal of Basic and Clinical Endocrinology* that describes a promising new noninvasive method – measuring levels of the hormone cortisol in hair samples – of testing for Cushing's syndrome, a disorder of excessive cortisol secretion. Meyer, whose lab conducted all cortisol measurements

used in the study, collaborated with endocrinologists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Though other researchers have explored using cortisol in hair samples to study patients with Cushing's syndrome, the authors believe theirs is the first study to correlate serum and urinary cortisol levels with the hair assay to validate it as a new diagnostic tool. [News Office release](#)



### Clinical Psychology

**Tessa Lundquist** (pictured left), a graduate of the Clinical Psychology program, and **Genna Santorelli** had a paper published in *Prevention and Health Promotion: Research, Social Action, Practice and Training*, entitled 'Measurement of anxiety about Alzheimer's disease in midlife and older adults.'



## Graduate Plans and New Positions



**Rosanna Breaux**, Clinical Psychology, will be graduating and earning her PhD this year. She will be starting a postdoctoral fellowship in School-Based Intervention Development and Evaluation Research at Virginia Commonwealth University with Dr. Joshua Langberg. [PBS Profile](#)



**Amanda Krentzel**, Neuroscience and Behavior Program, is defending her doctoral thesis in a public presentation on May 25th. She will be attending North Carolina State University as a postdoc. [PBS Profile](#)



**Prerana Bharadwaj**, Social Psychology, will be graduating and earning her PhD this year. She has just accepted a postdoctoral position at Harvard as a teaching fellow! [PBS Profile](#)



**Rebecca Ametrano**, former graduate student in the Psychotherapy Research Lab, has accepted a position as a Health Behavior Coordinator in the Office of Patient Centered Care at the VA Boston Healthcare System.



**Katherine Hanson**, Developmental Science, will be receiving her PhD this year. Her dissertation was entitled "The influence of early media exposure on children's development and learning". [PBS Profile](#)



**Amy Ryan** will receive her PhD this month from the Neuroscience and Behavior program. Her dissertation was titled "The effects of predictability on stereotypic behavior in nonclinical adult humans (Homo sapiens) and rhesus macaques (Macaca mulatta)". [PBS Profile](#)



**Gabrielle St Pierre** worked with Assistant Professor Alexandra Jesse on her Honors thesis entitled "How listeners adjust phonetic category boundaries to an unfamiliar speaker". Speakers vary in how they produce the speech sounds of their native language. In her research, Gabrielle St Pierre has focused on how listeners obtain critical information from seeing a speaker talk (i.e., information from lipreading) to adapt to the speaker's idiosyncratic pronunciations of speech sounds. Gabrielle is graduating this semester with a B.A in Linguistics. After graduation, she plans to pursue a graduate level degree in Linguistics.

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We would love to hear about your endeavors in **Psychological and Brain Sciences**. Tell us about the outstanding work you are doing for your organization and the greater community!

Email photos and summaries to [eyeadon@umass.edu](mailto:eyeadon@umass.edu) or message us through Facebook.

**Lookout for a newsletter in Fall 2017!**