

Summer/Fall 2018

Psychology Department Newsletter



OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY



Greetings from the Psychology Department

Hello students, alumni, faculty, and friends of the ODU Psychology Department!

Welcome to the fall 2018 newsletter of the Department of Psychology. I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful accomplishments of our faculty and students and learning more about our department and some of our new initiatives.

We offer doctoral training in Health (previously Applied Psychological Sciences), Human Factors, and Industrial/Organizational psychology. We are also a partner in the Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology (VCPCP) along with Norfolk State University and Eastern Virginia Medical School. We also offer a general experimental Master of Science in psychology. Regardless of the area of specialized training in psychology, a distinctive characteristic of our graduate training is exceptional methodological and quantitative expertise for all students. At the undergraduate level, we are committed to excellence in teaching and offer a broad array of courses that are flexible enough to support many career goals. Moreover, we offer the opportunity to explore psychology careers via community internships.

Further, we are especially proud of our many research teams in which undergraduate students work closely with graduate students and faculty to address basic and applied psychological questions. In fact, a recent report revealed over 200 undergraduate psychology students had served as laboratory research assistants since 2014! Many of these students have presented their research at conferences. We also offer the opportunity to graduate with honors in psychology. Finally, we offer the opportunity for undergraduate students to take part psychology clubs which increase awareness of psychology and make a difference in our community.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR— Michelle Kelley, Ph.D.

In closing, we do want to connect with our alumni. I would love to hear from you (mkelley@odu.edu). I am particularly interested in developing internship sites for undergraduate psychology students interested in using their degrees in business settings. If you have a business locally and are interested in a psychology intern, please reach out to me.

Join me in congratulating Dr. Xiaoxiao Hu, who was awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor last spring. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention that Dr. Val Derlega, a long-term faculty member, will be retiring this fall. I would tell Val how much he will be deeply missed, but he assures me he will be around!

Again, please enjoy this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Michelle L. Kelley, Chair

Special Note:

The Psychology Department Newsletter is a collaborative effort by the entire department. Stories and photos are contributed by students, faculty, and staff alike.

Hero Within Award

On March 3, 2018, the ODU Psychology Department was awarded the 2018 Hero Within Award from the Combat Wounded Coalition at their annual Toast to the Hero's Fundraiser at the Portsmouth Renaissance. Each year one organization is selected for this honor. The event was attended by hundreds of people. Many wounded warriors from all over the country and their families, local politicians, and sponsors, were present. The event raised over \$70,000 just in auction items.

The CWC is a national organization whose founder, Jason 'Jay' Redman, a former Navy Seal officer, ODU graduate, and wounded warrior, began in order to support wounded warriors across the country. The award was presented to Dr. Konstantin Cigularov's graduate students Phil Dillulio, Wil Jimenez, Katelyn Reynoldson, and Andrew Collmus, Drs. Konstantin Cigularov and Michelle Kelley for work that Dr. Konstantin Cigularov's Human Resource Development course did as part of their fall 2017 course.

When Konstantin first met Jay, Jay's next goal was to develop "Overcome Academy". Overcome Academy is an intensive 2-week program free to wounded warriors. The first class graduated last spring. The focus is on leadership and helping veterans identify their next 'mission'. Given the extensive physical injuries these veterans have experienced, the program also focuses on mental and emotional issues. Dr. Cigularov's students conducted focus groups with veterans who come in from around the country to attend a fundraiser (i.e., Jumping with a Purpose) in Sept and phone interviews with other wounded warriors to help Jay tailor the Overcome Academy program content. Dr. Cigularov and students are now conducting a program evaluation, that is, veterans complete pre-program materials, post-program and follow-up materials, to better understand the effects of Overcome Academy and how the program can be improved based on graduates' responses.

*Pictured are:
Michelle Kelley,
Phil Dillulio
Konstantin Cigularov
Wil Jimenez
Katelyn Reynoldson*

by:
Dr. Michelle Kelley



Human Factors Faculty Member Studies Cross-Cultural Trust of Robot Peacekeepers

by: Dr. Jim Bliss

Classic Hollywood movies such as Terminator and Robocop have depicted a societal future where advanced robots pose a threat to society and act violently to accomplish their goals. Of course, modern robots



lack the capabilities illustrated in such movies. However, the use of robotic technologies for complex task has evolved. Drs. James Bliss, Yusuke Yamani and Xiaoxiao Hu recently completed a three-year effort to investigate human perceptions of and reactions to simulated robotic peacekeepers. Funded by the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research, their investigation focused on trust of ro-

bots exhibited by American, Chinese, Japanese and Israeli citizens living in their home countries and in the United States.

Bliss, Yamani and Hu assembled a project team that included Dr. Yiannis Papelis from the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC), Dr. Makoto Itoh from The University of Tsukuba in Japan, Dr. Qin Gao from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, and Dr. Joachim Meyer from Tel Aviv University in Israel. Human Factors graduate students working on the project included Shelby Long and Nicole Karpinsky. Over three years, the team collected data from members of each cultural group as they performed a simulated shopping task in a virtual marketplace. When approached by a robotic peacekeeper, participants indicated whether they intended to comply with robot demands and to what degree they trusted the robot.

The investigators studied robot dialog style, physical appearance, and weapon representation to determine what factors influenced participant obedience. Emotional robot appeals were noted to be effective. Also, differences in trust and compliance occurred across cultures. Currently, Dr. Bliss and two of his students are working on an immersive version of the experiment.



Alumni Spotlight

Robert Milletich, Ph.D.

I am an alumnus (in psychology and mathematics) from Old Dominion University. I received a BS in psychology (2009), MS in experimental psychology (2012), MS in computational and applied mathematics (2015), and PhD in applied psychological sciences (2016). During my time at ODU, I had the pleasure of working with many talented professors (especially with my advisor Dr. Kelley) on applied problems ranging from intimate partner violence and substance use to modeling the 2014 Ebola Virus outbreak. While working on these problems, my interest in statistical theory and analysis grew and my research interests shifted from applied to more theoretical.

After graduating with my math degree in 2015, I began working as a data scientist for a consulting firm and spent the majority of my time developing algorithms to solve prediction problems. My day job eventually influenced my PhD research which focused on solving another prediction problem, specifically that of missing data where I developed a multiple imputation framework based on machine learning and Bayesian analysis. Fast forward to today -- I still have the same job, but my work includes more software development and high performance computing. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my wife Rita and our daughter Isabelle, reading and espresso coffee, exercising, and traveling.



Graduate Students Seterra Burleson and Elena Auer recently conducted an Alumni Spotlight Interview with: Mike Litano, Ph.D.

Alumnus of the Industrial/Organizational program

Where have you worked since you graduated from ODU?

I've worked at Capital One, as a Principal Associate in the People Analytics department for one year since graduating from ODU.



How did your ODU experience shape where you are today?

A lot of what I do involves the design of experiments, improving the measurement of psychological constructs, and trying to be more rigorous in measurement and evaluation. ODU has very rigorous statistics courses, which have helped me succeed in those tasks. At ODU, we also have many opportunities to apply what we've learned to real life projects, whether it's grant-related work or client-facing consulting. So, you really develop the leadership skills you need to be successful, and you learn how to apply them - leading analytical projects and influencing stakeholders with the analyses that you conduct. Having those experiences really allowed me to tell better stories when I started working, which is really important. That's what people really care about. You can run whatever complex analyses you want, but no one is going to listen or value what you are saying if you can't tell an easy-to-understand and applicable story about why it's important. Having those types of experiences, including ownership of projects and having the trust of faculty members, really

played an instrumental role in my confidence and ability. Ultimately, I would say the strong quantitative background that I gained from class and having the opportunity to apply all of those skills alongside our esteemed and talented faculty was really critical to my success.

What career accomplishment have you found most fulfilling or considered your greatest accomplishment?

Since I've only been working at Capital One for about a year, I wouldn't say I have tons of professional accomplishments yet to choose from. However, I work on our enterprise survey team, and I would say the accomplishment I'm most proud of is that I've been able to communicate the importance of people measurement, at least as related to surveys, and have totally redesigned and validated our metrics surrounding leadership and inclusion; and am working on doing the same for engagement. When I first joined the company, we were using a lot of survey questions that weren't really measuring what we intended them to; but there was resistance in moving away from such metrics because we have asked some of the questions for more than 20 years and would lose the ability to show how scores change over time. I'm proud that through strong partnerships with many non-I/O folks throughout the organization, I was able to lead the effort toward improving the leadership and inclusion metrics for a company that has 50,000+ associates. I was able to successfully explain to high-level stakeholders why having the same question year after year isn't as important as measuring the right construct and driving actionable insights.

ODU Modeling and Simulation Graduate Assistantship Program

Until recently, **Dr. Mark Scerbo, Ph.D.** served as the Chair of the M&S program here at Old Dominion University.

The Modeling and Simulation program at Old Dominion University has distinguished itself as a world leader. During the last seven years of the program 156 students have graduated



with doctorate or master's degree, and 128 have received a Modeling and Simulation certificate. Approximately 34 students have become topic experts, M&S professionals, or educators in STEM programs.

Currently the program has 99 students with 15 working on their M&S certificates. The numbers for the degree and certificates have tripled and doubled respectively, with an additional two certificate programs recently added to the program.

Table 1. Number of M&S Graduates and Certificates Granted

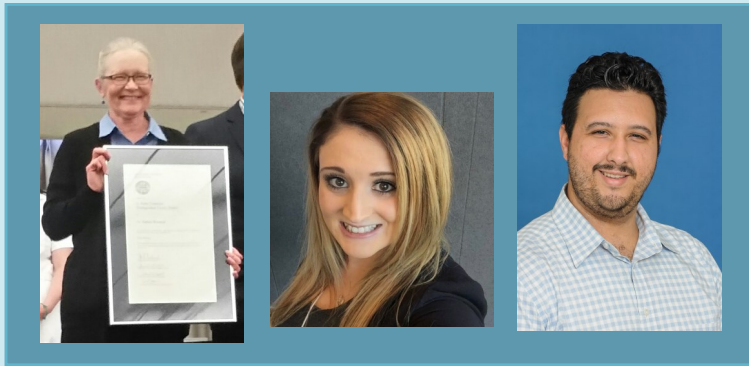
	Graduates	Certificates
MSVE Doctoral Program	109	35
All Other Programs	47	93
Total	156	128

The program has awarded 17 Human Factors M&S certificates to doctoral and master's students in the Psychology department.

Reference: Report of the ODU Modeling & Simulation Steering Committee on the M&S Graduate Assistantship Program—Revised July 2018.

Award Winners

Barbara Winstead
Lauren Tiller
Alan Meca



Barbara Winstead, Ph.D. was officially recognized with the university's highest faculty honor. She was the **A. Rufus Tonelson Faculty Award** winner.

Please congratulate **Lauren Tiller** on receiving the competitive ILR Scholarship! **The Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR)** provides a graduate scholarship to help a student meet their postgraduate degree goals by providing \$8000 of financial support over the course of two years.

The Old Dominion University Office of Research 2018-19 intramural awards for the Junior Faculty Research Mentoring Program (JFRMP).

The 2018-19 Awardees are:
Alan Meca (Psychology) – Mentee
Michelle Kelley (Psychology) – Mentor

Tony Perez (Educational Foundations & Leadership) – Mentee
Debbie Major (Psychology) – Mentor

Amy Stamates

*Awarded 2nd place in the
Division 50, 2018
APA Convention
Student Poster Awards
from the Society of Addiction
Psychology.*

*Poster title:
Initiation of Alcohol, Marijuana,
and Tobacco Use:
A Latent Profile Analysis of Age
of Onset*



Hannah Hamrick

*winner of the 2018
Provost's Outstanding
Undergraduate Research Award*



Michelle Kelley, Ph.D.

*2018 winner of the
College of Sciences
Gene W. Hirschfeld
Faculty Excellence Award
and also the College of Sciences
Nominee for the Excellence in
Graduate Teaching Award*

AWARDS and HONORS

Yusuke Yamani, Ph.D.

*won the first annual
Cheng Fund for Innovative Research
grant competition through the College of Sciences*



Rachel McIntyre

*Selected as the winner of the
College of Sciences
Outstanding Master's Thesis
Award Recipient.*

Jeremiah Still, Ph.D.

*The 2018 intramural award winner
for the Summer Research
Fellowship Program (SRFP) from
Old Dominion University
Office of Research.*

*Title:
Modeling the Influence of
Saliency Within Mobile Displays*



Lindsay Howard

*Won a P.E.O. Scholar Award
to help fund her
dissertation research.*



Sarah Ehlke
Graduate Student Instructor
of Record
Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Michelle Kelley



Brittany Walker
Elizabeth Guy Outstanding
Academic Award
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeremiah Still

Martina Oshana

Elizabeth C. Guy
Outstanding Service Award
Faculty Mentors:
Ms. Jennifer Younkin
Dr. Kristin Heron



Suzanne Morrow
College of Sciences
Outstanding Advisor
of the Year

Dr. Yamani wrote an article
for his hometown newspaper in
Japan.



Phoebe Hitson
Graduate Student Teaching Award
Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Barbara Winstead

Alan C. Chaiken
Undergraduate Honors Thesis
Award

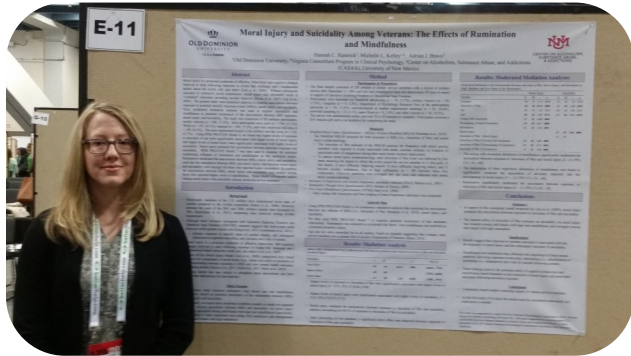
Awardee: **Elizabeth Bauer**
Faculty Mentors:
Dr. Abby Braitman and
Dr. Matt Judah

Awardee: **Brianna Haislip**
Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Kristin Heron

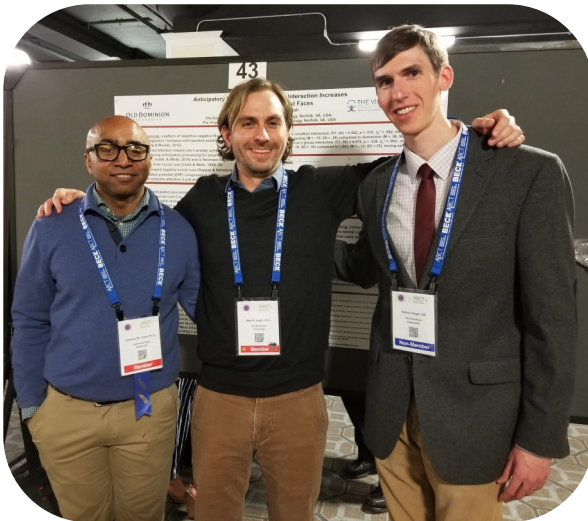


Nicole Karpinsky-Mosley
Graduate Student Service Award
Faculty Mentor:
Dr. Yusuke Yamani

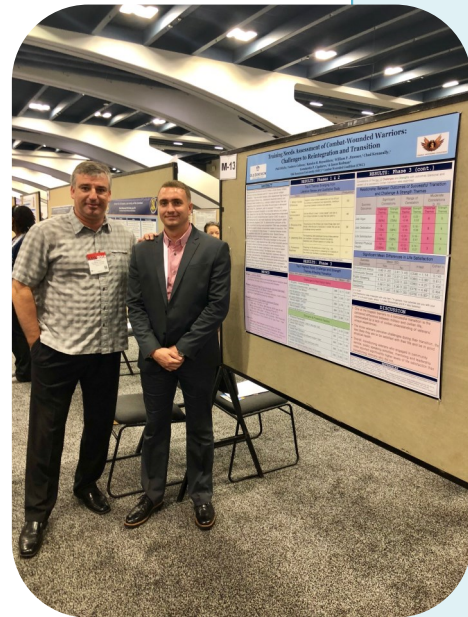
American Psychological Association Conference in San Francisco August 2018



Hannah Hamrick '18
presenting her Honor's
Thesis Research



Dr. Matt Judah (middle) with his PhD advisor,
DeMond Grant from Oklahoma State
University and graduate student **Nathan Hager**
at the ABCT Conference.



Dr. Konstantin Cigularov and
graduate student **Phil Dillulio**



Faculty and graduate students,
enjoying dinner.



A little bit of
Goat Yoga!

Around the Department in Photos

2017 and 2018 Graduates



Rachel Callan, Ph.D.
Industrial/Organizational Psychology
August 14, 2017



Nathan H. Bjornberg, Ph.D.
October 27, 2017
Industrial/Organizational Psychology



Katelyn Cavanaugh, Ph.D.
Industrial/Organizational Psychology
December 6, 2017



Michael B. Armstrong, Ph.D.
Industrial/Organizational Psychology
June 21, 2018



Dante Myers, Ph.D.
Industrial/Organizational Psychology
October 31, 2018



Brittany Hollis, Ph.D.
Applied Psychological Sciences
October 31, 2018

Lantern Asia

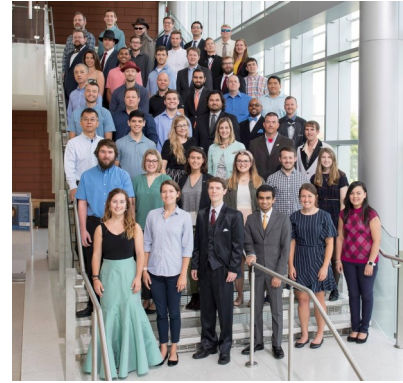


Photos shared by Alex Proops doctoral student in Human Factors as she toured the Norfolk Botanical Gardens this fall.





Brandon Fluegel
with NASA's Space
Mission Analysis
Branch



Lindsay Howard in the clinical program won the Hampton Roads 3.0 Mens Tennis league this summer.

The Hampton Roads 3.0 Mens Tennis league is a community tennis league. Matches are played at public courts around the local area. This year there were 15 men and 3 women in the league. By winning the league, she is eligible to compete in the national tournament, which will be held the weekend of November 30th in Key Biscayne, FL.

Just for fun photos that missed previous editions:



Clinical students and Mary Boswell waiting on Kaufman Mall for the Solar Eclipse last year.

Alumni News

James S. Herndon, Ph.D., Ed.D. (1986) - Is proud to announce that he has been selected to be the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*.



PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

Alumni News can be e-mailed to pkinard@odu.edu:

Share your news with the department. Let us know what you have been up to since graduation.

Did you go on to graduate school, get a new job; did you get married or have a new baby? When writing please do not forget to include your name and graduation date.



What doors were opened for you because of your ODU experience? Would you like to support current and future ODU students to have similar opportunities as you? If you wish to strengthen academic and research initiatives, or are interested in a particular program and want to see it grow and succeed, please contact Denise Milisitz. She is the new Development Officer for the College of Sciences and would be happy to assist you in creating a legacy and inspiring others at ODU.

Denise Milisitz
Old Dominion University
Development Officer
College of Sciences
Office: (757) 683-4784
Email: amilisit@odu.edu



THANK YOU for your continuing interest in the Psychology Department. Your contributions to the Psychology Department go to support research and teaching activities.

The Psychology Department has several funds for student awards, scholarships and general purposes. These include:

Alan L. Chaikin Psychology Honors Thesis Award is given to the undergraduate student with the most outstanding honors thesis.

Elizabeth C. Guy Outstanding Psychology Student Awards are given to the graduating senior with the most outstanding service to the department and the most outstanding academic accomplishments.

David L. Pancoast Memorial Dissertation Prize is given to the clinical Ph.D. student with the most outstanding dissertation.

Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award recognizes a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Psychology who has demonstrated exceptional instructional quality as evidenced by students and faculty.

Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor of Record Award recognizes a graduate student instructor of record in the Department of Psychology who has demonstrated exceptional instructional quality as evidenced by students and faculty.

Your contribution can support any of these awards or the General Gift Fund that is used where the need is greatest: YOUR GIFT: \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ other \$ _____

GIFT DESIGNATION:

- _____ Psychology General Gift Fund
- _____ Chaikin Psychology Honors Thesis Award
- _____ Guy Outstanding Psychology Student Award
- _____ Pancoast Memorial Dissertation Prize
- _____ Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
- _____ Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor of Record Award

Please make checks payable to ODU Education Foundation, and mail to:

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