



Mills Godwin Building, Room 250 - Norfolk, VA 23529-0267

Old Dominion University



PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The much hoped for more vibrant campus life and departmental life has in fact come to pass this fall. Students are back on campus, they are attending face-to-face classes, and they are working with faculty members in laboratories. Masks are still the order of the day inside buildings, but the energy and vibrance on campus is dramatically improved over last year.

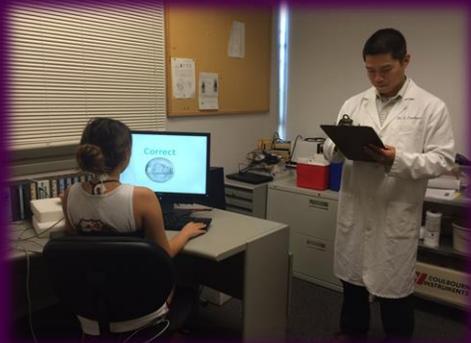
In this edition of our newsletter, we highlight the work of our tireless advising team. Psychology at ODU is an enormous major populated by a diverse array of students. Many of our students are first generation college attenders, are members of historically underrepresented groups, are transfer students, are non-traditional students, or represent the intersection of more than one of these elements. First generation college attenders and transfer students often need more support and guidance in selecting classes, exploring career/life goals, and managing the many demands of higher education. I hope from the short stories about our advising team that you get some sense of what a compassionate supportive group they are. Our students are extra-ordinarily lucky to have our advising team lead by our Chief Departmental Advisor Suzanne Morrow.

We are excited to have Dr. Yang settling into our department. I hope as you read the brief information about the start up of his lab you recognized the incredible diversity of the kinds of problems that scholars in the Department of Psychology at ODU are working on. As is our tradition our faculty and students continue to receive important professional recognitions based on the quality of their scholarship.

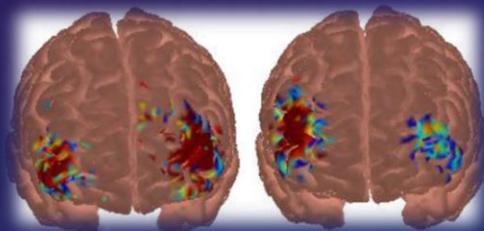
Briefly, I would like to draw your attention to the photograph of the Research Experience for Undergraduates poster session at ODU's Department of Psychology. This initiative funded by the National Science Foundation and lead in our Department by Dr. Yusuke Yamani. Five ODU psychologists joined by colleagues from engineering and another university worked with students from ODU and other universities over the summer conducting original research focused on transportation. This type of high-level interdisciplinary research is nurturing the next generation of scientists here at ODU. The application period for this program is open now if you know of any undergraduate students at ODU or elsewhere who are interested in transportation science: <https://sites.google.com/odu.edu/odu-reu-transportation/home>

I hope that each of you finds many moments of joy, repose, and fellowship in this holiday season.

Best wishes for a bright New Year,
George



Xiao Yang, Ph.D., joined Human Factors Psychology Program at ODU as an Assistant Professor in July 2021, and is also an affiliated faculty member in ODU Biomedical Engineering Institute. Xiao is always fascinated with the interaction of body, mind, and technology, and established the Applied & Translational Psychophysiology (ATP) Lab. The ATP Lab's research uses multimodal electrophysiological and neuroimaging techniques to study physiological indicators of workload, identify "noncognitive factors" that influence cognitive processes, and develop training programs to reduce human error. Moreover, Xiao also mentors and works with PhD students and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses. In his spare time, Xiao enjoys spending time with his family, and playing tennis, basketball and soccer.



MEET YOUR PROFESSOR

Xiao Yang, Ph.D.

Meet the Psychology Department Advising Staff:

Chief Departmental Advisor: Suzanne Morrow

Shelly Kapetanakis

Krystall Dunaway

Erin Moore

Jason Parker

Will Johnson



Chief Departmental Advisor: Suzanne Morrow



Hi! My name is Suzanne Morrow. I am the Chief Departmental Advisor (CDA) in Psychology. I have been advising since 2013, but have only recently taken over as CDA. I'm genuinely excited to spend my day advising. Degree planning is like solving a puzzle. You have several pieces that have fit together in the certain way to correctly solve the puzzle. And correctly solving the puzzle is extremely important because this involves students' lives. Advising can be the difference between student success and failure. Plus, we're talking about a student's time and money here! Additionally, advising allows me to interact

with students on a one-on-one basis which fulfills need to be a positive influence on someone's life. Advising also allows me to help students problem-solve. An important advising goal using a learning-based approach is to help students learn to solve their own problems. Instead of solving student's problems for them, I like to help them learn how to solve their own problems. I'm very excited that doing these things has helped me to achieve the position of CDA.

Advising is just one of my many professional roles. I also teach and have had many jobs outside of academia. I have developed programs to help victims of domestic violence regain their independence. I have led a national research project who's goal was to reduce infant mortality among minority populations. And I have worked in a position where I tracked clinical outcomes for residentially based children and teens with behavioral health problems. These experiences have contributed to my ability to be an excellent advisor. My teaching practices often inform my advising practices and helps me to understand my advisees as students. And having experiences outside of academia helps me to provide real-world career advice to students; especially those looking for a career without an advanced degree.

On the personal side, I'm married with one daughter. She's on the college hunt, so my advising experience is definitely helping at home too. For hobbies, I enjoy all things triathlon. Getting outside to swim, bike, and run is a great way to relieve stress and be able to face each day anew.

Shelly Kapetanakis



Hello! My name is Shelly Kapetanakis and I am one of the newest members of the advising team working as the office specialist/ advising assistant! As a first-generation college student who graduated with my bachelor's in psychology in 2013, I can relate to and am passionate about helping students navigate their own path to graduation. I have over 8 years of experience working an assistant registrar and an academic advisor, which means that I have a good understanding of all the steps it takes to enroll a student from an administrative standpoint as well as all the challenges and experiences students face once they begin their journey. I find great satisfaction in helping students reach their academic as well as their personal goals, and I'm excited to get to know the psychology students here at ODU! In my free time, I enjoy being outdoors, traveling, and spending time with my husband and our 2 fur babies, Zeke & Zara.

Jason Parker



Jason Parker, PhD, has worked in the field of education for over 35 years. He taught psychology at Virginia Tech and is currently serving as a senior lecturer of psychology for Old Dominion University. Dr. Parker is a former research fellow at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he investigated the effects of stress on cancer and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Parker began teaching here at ODU in 2004, focusing on Teaching and Student Advising. He also regularly works with students interested in learning teaching techniques and becoming an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant. Dr. Parker also serves as an Advisor to the ODU Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega.

Krystall Dunaway

Krystall joined the Psychology faculty as a Senior Lecturer in July 2019. Prior to coming to ODU, she was an Associate Professor and Program Director of Psychology at South University Virginia Beach, a role that included personally advising each of the 60+ Psychology undergraduate students each quarter. This invaluable experience taught Krystall the importance of establishing rapport and forming genuine relationships with students both outside as well as inside the classroom. She has carried this knowledge into her role as departmental advisor at ODU.

Before entering the wonderful world of academia in 2012, Krystall had 'industry' positions including Program Evaluation Specialist in the Department of Educational Leadership and Assessment for Virginia Beach City Public Schools and Research Assistant Professor at the Division of Community Health and Research at Eastern Virginia Medical School. She completed her Ph.D. in Applied Experimental Psychology in 2009 and continues to engage in issues related to her graduate school research topics of cultural competence and student sense of belonging and retention.

In her spare time, Krystall enjoys listening to the same music she's been listening to for the last 20 years while jogging anywhere that's not a treadmill, drinking coffee, learning more about cultural competence/diversity issues/anti-racism, napping, watching horror movies, and spending time with her husband Eric and their two cats, Cricket (age 18) and Poe (age 9).



Erin Moore



I have been teaching and advising full time since 2013. I started working at ODU in 2019, primarily teaching courses related to statistics and research methods but also sometimes a course I developed about how human beings might prevent a zombie apocalypse from happening (and how we might behave during one). A critical part of being an advisor is making students aware of the resources that are available to help them figure out a career path; it's not easy to figure out what you want to do when you finish your degree as there are so many options! When I'm not working, I'm usually at home reading books (fiction and nonfiction) or watching movies with my dog and my partner.

Will Johnson

"I enjoy helping students achieve their goals at ODU; not just graduating but finding courses and paths that interest and excite them. This is my first year as an advisor at ODU, but I have advised psychology students for years at a professor at Widener University. In addition to advising, I teach Intro Psychology, Adulthood and Aging, Adolescent Psychology, Personality Psychology and Social Psychology. Outside of work, I play and watch basketball, compete in a trivia league and spend time with my wife and one-year-old daughter Nora."





Eminent Scholar and Professor of Psychology
Dr. Michelle Kelley

was one of two recipients from the College of Sciences to receive the **University 2021 Faculty Research, Scholarship, and Creative Achievement Award**

Dr. Kelley has demonstrated continual excellence in her research and has attained national prominence.



Lecturer, Dr. Beverly A. George
was recently awarded the
Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Education
from her alma mater Worcester State University

Beverly joined Old Dominion University as an adjunct psychology instructor in 2007. In her fourteen years here at ODU, she has been promoted to Lecturer, and awarded multiple Shining Star Awards from ODU's Division of Student Affairs. In 2013, Beverly received the Distinguished Teaching Award for Adjunct Instructor ODU's College of Sciences.

A video of her virtual acceptance speech of gratitude can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZCdV1xHH2I>

Congratulations to Katie Garcia and Alicia Milam as finalists in the 5th Annual Three Minute Thesis Competition, and Jeremiah Ammons for first place in the overall competition.

Finalist 2 – **Katie Garcia**

Ph.D. Psychology - Human Factors

“Drive and drown: A thesis on driving through flooded roadways”

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jing Chen

Finalist 5 – **Alicia Milam**

Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

“There’s a snake in my booth! Emotional and cognitive mechanisms of distress tolerance”

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Michelle Kelley and Dr. Matt Judah

Finalist 8 – **Jeremiah Ammons**

M.S. Psychology

“Sit up and pay attention! A study on automated driving”

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jing Chen

To read more about the competition, go to:
https://www.odu.edu/news/2021/12/2021_3mt_competitio#



Clinical psychology doctoral student, **Nathan Hager** recently published a first author paper in *Psychophysiology* (IF=4.016)

Hager, N. M., Judah, M. R., & Rawls, E. (2021). Win, lose, or draw: Examining salience, reward memory, and depression with the reward positivity. *Psychophysiology*, 59(1), e13953.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/psyp.13953>



Clinical psychology doctoral student, **Raksha Kandlur, M.A.**, was awarded a prestigious 3-year fellowship from the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program! This competitive fellowship is awarded to underrepresented students based on a proven record of research accomplishments, honors, and service, and who have great potential to pursue an academic career.



Dr. Cassie Glenn and collaborator, Dr. Evan Kleiman at Rutgers, were recently awarded a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to test a digital sleep intervention for youth at high risk for suicide (R34MH123590; MPIs Glenn and Kleiman; Digital Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (dCBT-I) to Reduce Suicide Risk among Youth Following Discharge from Acute Hospitalization).

This project is in collaboration with Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters.



Research Experience for Undergraduates
Old Dominion University



Stop by and see **The Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)** poster exhibit in MGB 332, which has been on display this semester and will continue throughout Spring 2022.

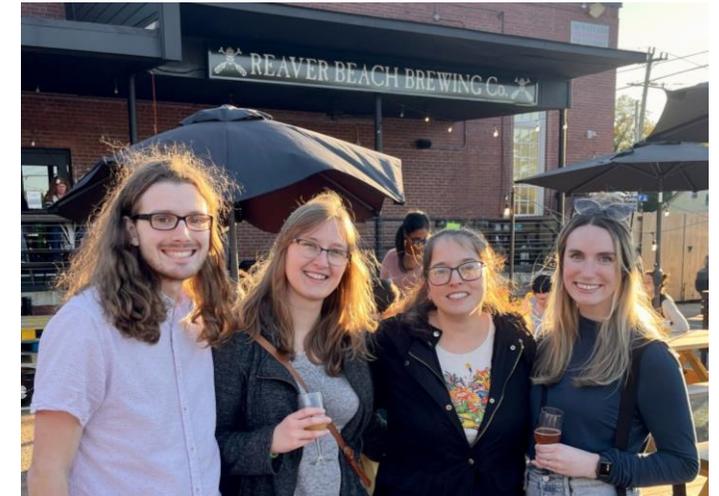
DECEMBER GRADUATES 2021



Arianna White

MASTER'S

Douglas Glenn
Alicia Milam
Emily Junkin
Laura Kenneally

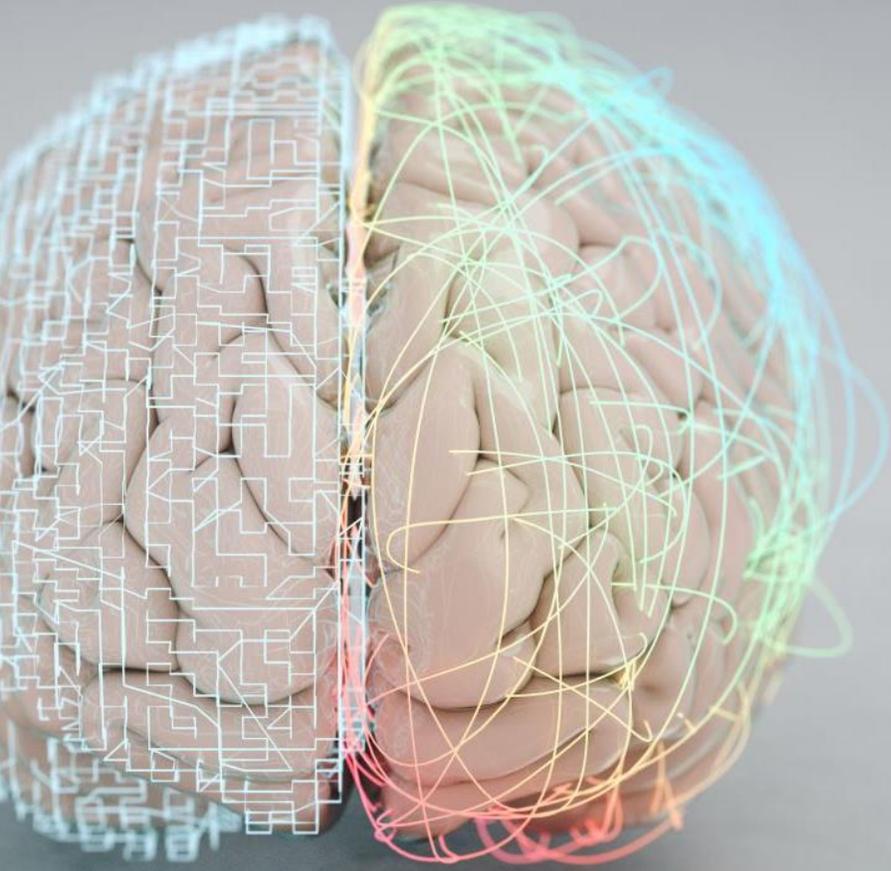




Study Abroad in
the United Kingdom with the
**Michael Greenspan Study
Abroad Scholarship Award**

Given each year for an undergraduate Psychology Major to study at one of ODU's partner institutions in the United Kingdom for a semester.

Contact the Study Abroad office for more information or visit the website at:
<https://www.odu.edu/academics/international-learning-opportunities/study-abroad>



Thank you for your continued support

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 and scholarships. These include:

Alan L. Chaikin Psychology Honors Thesis Award

Elizabeth C. Guy Outstanding Psychology Student Awards

David L. Pancoast Memorial Dissertation Prize

Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

Department of Psychology Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor of Record Award

Your contribution can support any of these awards or the General Gift Fund that is used where the need is greatest.

Please go to:

<https://www.odu.edu/psychology>

and click on **Donate Now**