



**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER





## Chair's Message:

Despite the ready availability of free safe effective vaccines, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a central challenge for our department, ODU, and the nation. The emergence of the Delta variant combined with reluctance to receive the vaccine have set us back in our progression to the post-pandemic normal on campus. We will be returning to masks indoors on Monday August 16 and the implications for classes and research for the fall await further developments. Nationally and locally, we have not found an effective and respectful way to convince our fellow citizens that when they choose not to be vaccinated and/or wear a mask they are choosing to expose everyone around them to the devastation that COVID-19 and Delta can wreak. Stay tuned to your regular communication channels for updates on campus practices regarding the pandemic.

I hope you will take a few minutes to enjoy some of the uplifting stories and images in this issue of our newsletter. The information about Dr. Glenn's work and our department's contributions to the Bar Ilan University road safety conference reminds me that our faculty are literally searching for ways to save lives across medical, transportation, and mental health contexts. I am inspired by the importance of their work. Similarly, the stories about Tiphannie's and Blake's awards highlights the talent dedication and accomplishment of our students, both graduate and undergraduate. I found John's story about not accepting defeat and accepting rejection as part of the journey insightful and it aligns with great psychological research around resilience. Highly successful people take many risks and experience many failures. The key is that they don't give up but learn from the experience. This fall we welcome a new faculty member to our team: Dr. Xiao Yang. Dr. Yang joins our Human Factors area and has specialized expertise in research employing psychophysiological measures. Additionally, Dr. Rachel Phillips is transitioning from a temporary visiting position to a permanent lecturer position.

As we approach the start of an exciting fall here in Norfolk with the return of students to campus in large numbers, the reopening of laboratories that have been shuttered, and the re-engagement of campus life, there is an air of anticipation and some apprehension on campus. We don't know what will happen with vaccine acceptance or mutations of COVID as it continues to circulate in the community. What we do know is that we have a dedicated and talented collection of staff, faculty, and students who found a way through the last 18 months and will find a productive way through this fall. Hopefully that will include a return to a more vibrant on campus life.

Best,  
George



Dr. Xiao Yang



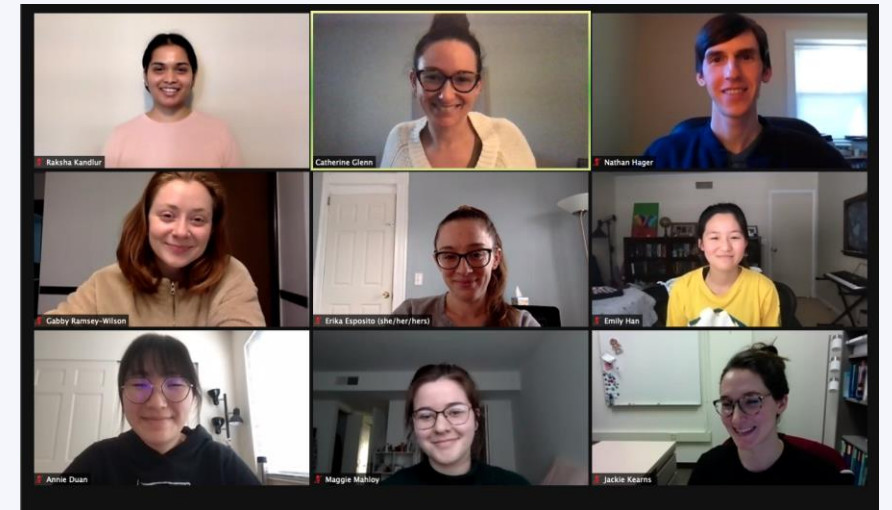
Dr. Rachel Phillips

# Youth Risk and Resilience (YR<sup>2</sup>) Lab - Dr. Cassie Glenn



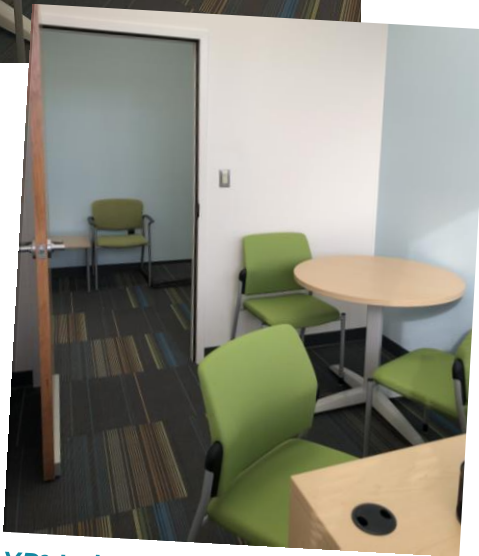
Dr. Cassie Glenn, Clinical Psychology, directs the Youth Risk and Resilience (YR<sup>2</sup>) Lab at ODU ([www.yr2lab.com](http://www.yr2lab.com)). The YR<sup>2</sup> Lab's research focuses on suicidal and nonsuicidal self-injurious behaviors among youth to address three major questions: why do suicidal and nonsuicidal self-injurious behaviors increase significantly during adolescence, what are the mechanisms of risk that can be leveraged to reduce these behaviors in youth, and how can suicide be prevented among youth.

Current YR<sup>2</sup> Lab projects include: (1) a multi-site project examining how interpersonal stress increases short-term risk for suicidal behavior in youth (R01 MH124899; MPIs Glenn [in collaboration with CHKD], Kleiman, Liu), (2) a multi-site clinical trial testing the effectiveness of digital cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia among high-risk suicidal youth (R34 pending, MPIs Glenn [in collaboration with CHKD] and Kleiman), and (3) a collaboration with two teen-to-teen crisis lines in the U.S. (Teen Line and YouthLine) to examine the safety of these programs for their teen volunteers and to identify methods to enhance the effectiveness of crisis line services for the youth who utilize them.

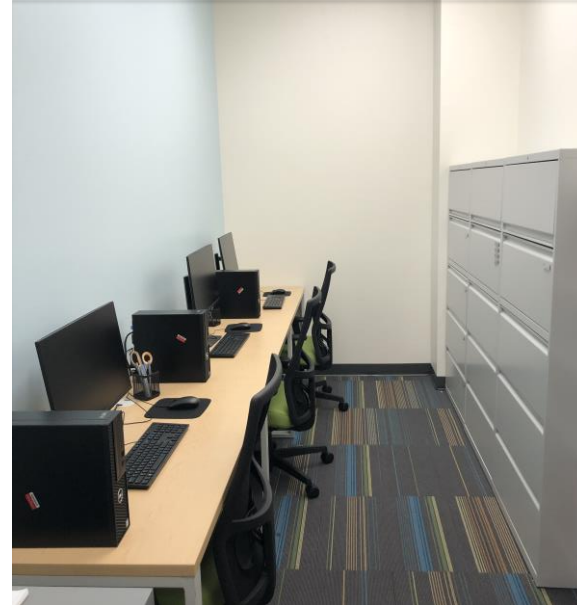




***YR<sup>2</sup> Lab – Waiting Room***



***YR<sup>2</sup> Lab – Interview Rooms/Offices***



***YR<sup>2</sup> Lab – Data Analysis  
Workspace***



The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Research Institute of Human Factors in Road Safety hosted by Bar Ilan Center of Smart Cities and Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel was held virtually on July 8, 2021; and the ODU Psychology Department was well represented as are road safety warriors by Dr. Bryan E. Porter, Dr. Abby L. Braitman, and Dr. Jing Chen.



Dr. Bryan E. Porter

**Dr. Bryan E. Porter** was the Keynote Speaker.

Presentation:  
***"Speeding: Altering a Behavior that Impacts the Commons."***

Co-Authors:  
Thomas D. Berry  
Kristie L. Johnson



Dr. Keli A. Braitman  
Professor and Chair of  
Psychological Science  
at William Jewell  
College in Liberty, MO

Dr. Abby L. Braitman

**Dr. Abby L. Braitman** was co-author with Keli A. Braitman on the presentation:

***"Young Adult Distracted Driving: The who, the why, and how we might prevent it."***



Katherine Garcia



Scott Mishler



Dr. Jing Chen

Graduate students **Katherine Garcia, Scott Mishler, Dr. Jing Chen** were co-authors on the presentation:

***"Design Flood Warning for Drivers."***



# Looking for psychology or engineering research experience? Join ODU's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)

Interdisciplinary Research in Behavioral Sciences of Transportation Issues



## About the Program

### What is REU?

- 10-week summer program funded by NSF that provides hands-on learning and research opportunities
- Prepares students for careers in transportation research and industry
- On-on-one mentoring experience

### Why Apply?

- Fully funded –Summer ODU housing and stipend (\$5,000) for 10 weeks included
- Weekly workshops and educational field trips
- Opportunities to present findings in Summer Research Symposium and national conferences

### Learn More?

- Visit our website (scan QR code)
- Email us at: [reu.transportation.odu@gmail.com](mailto:reu.transportation.odu@gmail.com)
- Applications open December 2021



**Check out Summer 2021's  
research projects in MGB 332!**

## Summer 2021

### Research Projects

#### Distracted Pedestrians: Looking Left?

Emma Hood, *Old Dominion University, Norfolk VA*  
Mentor: Bryan E. Porter (*Psychology*)

#### Creating a Driving Workload Model and Identifying Best Practices

Josalin Kumm, *University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison WI*  
Mentors: Holly Handley (*Engineering Management & Systems Engineering*) & Yusuke Yamani (*Psychology*)

#### Adaptive Task Allocation in Automated Vehicles

Skye Taylor, *Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA*  
Mentors: Bin Hu (*Engineering Technology*) & Jing Chen (*Psychology*)

#### Ethics or Self-Preservation? An Online Study Examining Driver Response to On-Road Obstacles During Automated Driving

Helena Kaul, *Wichita State University, Wichita, KS*  
Mentor: Yusuke Yamani (*Psychology*)

#### Strategies Young Adults Use to Curb Distracted Driving

Claire Shroder, *SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY*  
Mentors: Abby L. Braitman & Keli A. Braitman (*Psychology*)

#### How Interesting is This to You: Rating the Interestingness of Auditory Clips

Hanna Zakharenko, *University of Maryland, College Park, MD*  
Mentor: Yusuke Yamani (*Psychology*)

### Virtual Field Trips

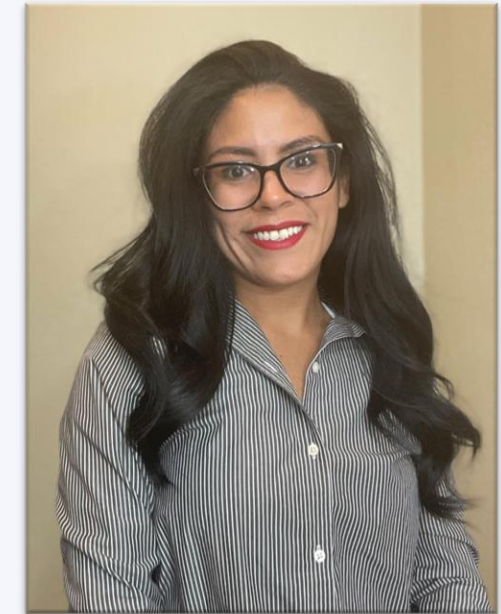


### Skills and Workshops

- Career development
- Grad school workshop
- Qualtrics
- Literature Review 101
- R and Statistics skill development

### Social Events

- Mermaid painting craft
- Trivia night!
- Chrysler Museum artist lecture series



Undergraduate Emma Hood's research poster is one of six others on display in MGB 332.

This work is supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1949760

Tiphanie Sutton was named one of the recipients of the 2021 Graduate Summer Award Program (GSAP).

The GSAP is funded by ODU's Graduate School and Office of Research and is a competitive program that offers support to graduate students across disciplines engaged in original graduate research.

During the program, Tiphanie will be completing her dissertation project and related works.

Her project is titled:

***What We Learn From Each Other:  
Vicarious Posttraumatic Growth Among  
Non-Helping Professionals Following  
Exposure to Others Trauma Experiences***



***Tiphanie Sutton***

*6<sup>th</sup> year Clinical student*

### Project Description

Trauma can result in adverse psychological outcomes from survivors and the helping professionals who support them. Vicarious (or secondary) traumatization is common among helping professionals and can lead to compassion fatigue and burnout. However, empathetic engagement with trauma survivors and their stories has been shown to lead to positive vicarious outcomes, including vicarious posttraumatic growth. Vicarious posttraumatic growth has been linked to personal and professional benefits for helping professionals. However, positive vicarious outcomes after engagement with peer trauma experiences has yet to be explored outside of helping relationships. The present study will seek to explore vicarious posttraumatic growth among non-helping professionals following exposure to peer trauma narratives. Hope, spirituality, and empathy will be examined as predictors of vicarious posttraumatic growth. The study will also examine whether these associations depend on whether or not the trauma narrative concludes in the victim experiencing posttraumatic growth.

# PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT AWARD WINNERS

## **Graduate Student Outstanding GTA award winners:**

Kelsie Allison  
Miranda Maverick

## **Graduate Student Outstanding IOR award winners:**

Lee Golembiewski  
Megan Strowger

## **Graduate Student Service award winners:**

Scott Mishler  
Jennifer Shipley

**Outstanding Teaching:**  
Erin Moore, Ph.D.

**Outstanding Research:**  
Jing Chen, Ph.D.

**Outstanding Service:**  
Cathy Lau-Barraco, Ph.D.



# John Lokke recipient of the Broderick Opportunity Scholarship



John Lokke

My name is John Lokke, I am a Junior at ODU, and I have been blessed to receive the Broderick Opportunity Scholarship. I couldn't have received it without the help of many researchers, mentors, family, and friends, but the two people who have helped me tremendously are Dr. Kelley and Dr. Olenick. Dr. Olenick is a new researcher at ODU, and his lab looks primarily at how teams work together in addition to how employees' intentions to use interventions in the workplace impact employee performance. Dr. Kelley is an Emeritus Scholar at ODU, and her lab looks at how a soldier's experiences in the military affect their morality and psychological wellbeing. I am a Research Assistant (RA) in both of these labs although the BOS is funding my project under the mentorship of Dr. Olenick.

I began my "career" as an RA my Freshman year at ODU, Dr. Kelley was gracious enough to take me into her lab that Fall Semester. My tasks began as primarily attending lab meetings and proofreading and editing all sorts of documents such as surveys, grants, and IRBs - if it's part of the research process, I've proofread it. As I gained more trust and experience with the lab, I helped on poster projects which consisted of writing abstracts, interpreting data, and throwing it all on posters to present them at conferences.

Once I gained traction in Dr. Kelley's lab and stumbled upon my passion residing in IO Psychology, Dr. Kelley recommended I reach out to Dr. Olenick. At the time, he was a brand-new researcher just starting up his lab my Sophomore year of college. I reached out, and Dr. Olenick was gracious enough to take me in and mentor me. Since then, I've worked on a meta-analysis and have even been fortunate enough to start my own project in his lab. The project has consisted of working in Qualtrics and SONA to develop surveys and reviewing a lot of literature. Other future tasks that this project will require would be analyzing and cleaning data along with creating multiple posters and hopefully writing a publication after the whole project is complete. Although this is my project, none of it would be possible without the help of Dr. Olenick and the funding provided by the Broderick Opportunity Scholarship.

You may be wondering how I came to achieve these goals as an RA and BOS recipient. I had no experience prior to becoming an RA. The rule I lived by and continue to live by is this: Ask and you shall receive, or ask until you receive if your goal or dream means that much to you. Prior to becoming an RA, I tried becoming one twelve different times, all ending unsuccessfully. In fact, prior to this Opportunity Scholarship, I was rejected by two other similar opportunities within the span of a month. Rejection is a common part of my life, but that's the baggage that comes with setting out to achieve your goals. So, the next time you knock on opportunity's door, it may not open the first time, the fifth time, or even the twentieth time. If it means that much to you, you'll keep knocking to achieve your greatest goals.

## Peter Peronas, Ph.D.

Received the 2020-2021

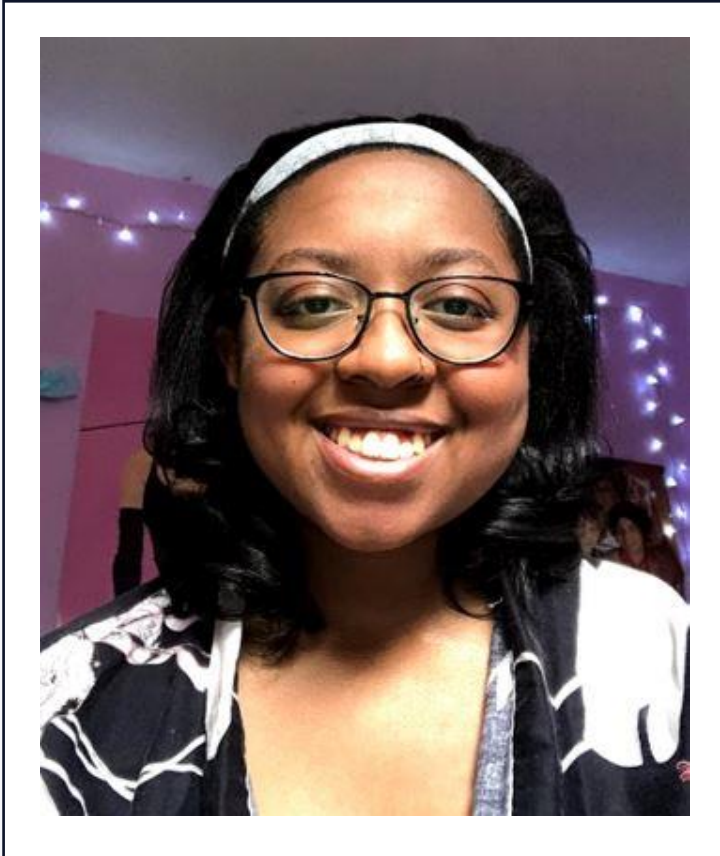
**David L. Pancoast  
Memorial Dissertation Prize**  
for having the most outstanding  
clinical dissertation.





# Blake Smith

Recipient of the 2021-2022 John Evan Cash Memorial Scholarship



“I would just like to say that this scholarship will be incredibly impactful for myself in the future. I plan on completing my masters and doctorate following my undergraduate in child psychology, with the hopes of starting my own child psychology practice one day to cater to a variety of psychological treatment for children. I would also love to implement school psychology programs across the country. But for now, this scholarship will allow me to further my education and decrease my overall loans once I'm finished with school.”

## IN THE NEWS:

**Dr. Yusuke Yamani** was quoted this spring in a Washington Post article by Angela Haupt titled:  
*“Think the pandemic made you forget how to drive and park? Experts explain what’s going on.”*

For the full article go to: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/forgot-how-to-drive-pandemic-/2021/05/16/2ce5cff6-b4ee-11eb-9059-d8176b9e3798\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/forgot-how-to-drive-pandemic-/2021/05/16/2ce5cff6-b4ee-11eb-9059-d8176b9e3798_story.html)

## ALUMNI NEWS:

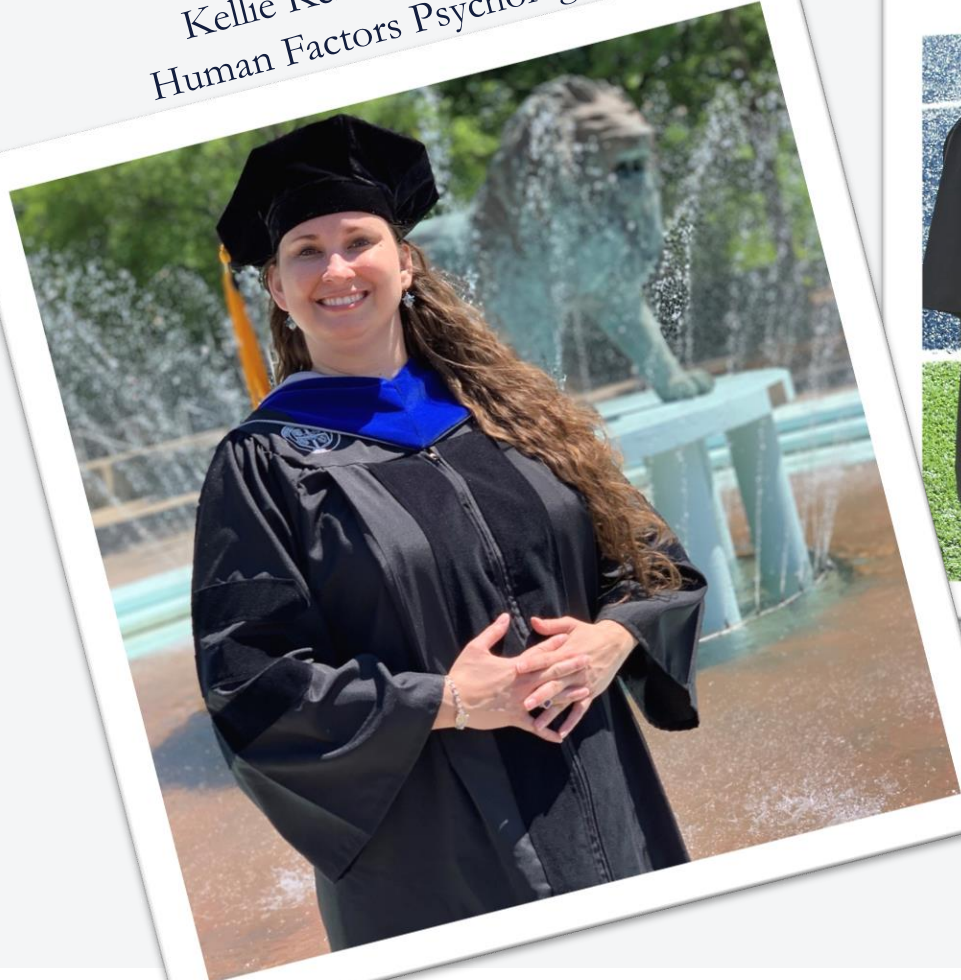
### **TYLER MASON, Ph.D. , EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR**

Tyler, class of 2015 was this year’s Society of Behavioral Medicine achievement award winner for Early Career Investigator at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of Scientific Sessions Virtual Conference held April 12 – 16, 2021.



# COMMENCEMENT MAY 2021

Kellie Kennedy, Ph.D.  
Human Factors Psychology



Joseph Carter  
Isis Cowan (Psychology),  
Jade Smith  
Jordan Ortman (Psychology)

(Isis, Jade, and Jordan are M-MARC scholars)  
(Isis - Distinguished Graduate in Psychology)

Janine Mator  
Masters in Psychology







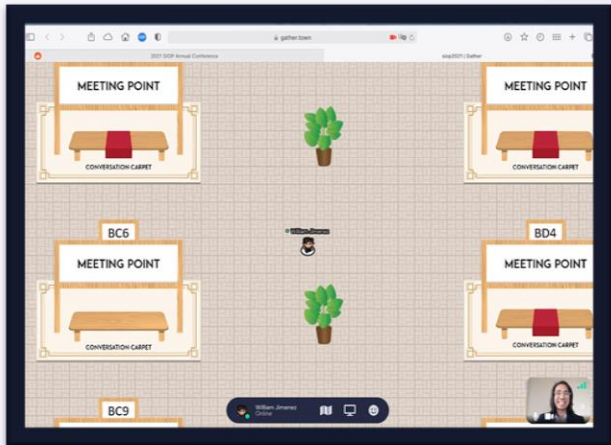
Megan Strowger participated in the Uncorked Half Marathon at the New Kent Winery, finishing in just under two hours!



# AROUND THE DEPARTMENT IN PHOTOS



A few faculty members out for a stroll at Mount Trashmore in Virginia Beach.



“SIOP: Video Game Edition”

“SIOP was supposed to be in New Orleans this year, but they decided to go virtual.

The next best thing:

Ordering takeout from Lil Bit Nola Ghent! Laissez les bons temps rouler!” - Wil Jimenz







# The Michael Greenspan Study Abroad Scholarship Award

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

If interested contact the ODU Study Abroad Office

<https://www.odu.edu/academics/international-learning-opportunities/study-abroad>





# Your contribution can support any of these awards for our students:

## **Elizabeth C. Guy Outstanding Psychology Student Awards**

the first is given to the graduating senior with the most outstanding academic accomplishments.

## **Elizabeth C. Guy Outstanding Psychology Student Awards**

the second is given to the graduating senior with the most outstanding service to the department.

## **Alan L. Chaikin Psychology Honors Thesis Award**

is given to the undergraduate student with the most outstanding honors thesis.

## **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.

## **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.

## **David L. Pancoast Memorial Dissertation Prize**

is given to the clinical Ph.D. student with the most outstanding dissertation.

# THANK YOU !

Please go to:  
<https://www.odu.edu/psychology>  
and click on **Donate Now**