

2016 Alumni News
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PSY NEWS

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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES Ψ PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN!



*This year we
have revamped
the newsletter*

*to provide you with
departmental news and
information in a streamlined fashion. In
addition to the latest departmental headlines,
we will showcase selected faculty and students,
alumni news, notable accomplishments, as well
as new books and innovative research. We hope
you like the changes and enjoy hearing about the
department.*

*As you know from previous newsletters, our
faculty has been growing strong over the past few
years. This year, we are pleased to welcome
Dr. Sierra Bainter who joins our team
from UNC-Chapel Hill. You can read more
about Dr. Bainter's work on p.2. We also just
launched a very exciting new post-baccalaureate
certification program in applied behavior
analysis which you can learn more about on p.6.*

*Once again, let me thank you for your generous
support of the department and its programs over
the years. I look forward to working with you in
the future.*

Phil McCabe

Phillip McCabe, Ph.D.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research

Neil Schneiderman, Ph.D.

*Neil Schneiderman, Ph.D., a James L. Knight Professor of
Psychology, was awarded the **2016 Lifetime Achievement
Award** from the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research.*

The award recognizes
Dr. Schneiderman's
lifetime of outstanding
contributions to the
integration of behavioral
science and medicine
and his longstanding and
significant impact on
the field of behavioral
medicine.

Dr. Schneiderman joined
the University in 1965
and has published almost
400 journal articles,
books, and chapters
examining biobehavioral
aspects of cardiovascular
disease as well as cancer, diabetes, stroke, and HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Schneiderman was also the recipient of the **University
of Miami's Provost 2016 Funding Award** for his long,
continuous record of extramural research funding.



UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI

FACULTY IN FOCUS

DR. MICHAEL ALESSANDRI AWARDED “VISIONARY LEADER OF THE YEAR”

Dr. Michael Alessandri, Executive Director of UM-NSU CARD (University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities) and clinical professor of psychology was presented with the *Visionary Leader of the Year Award* by the *Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce*. The recognition is awarded to top community leaders for their work in advancing the South Florida community. In his speech at the Salute to Miami Leaders Awards Luncheon, Alessandri used the opportunity to remind attendees that the special needs community needs their assistance in creating sustainable employment opportunities for those adults with developmental disabilities who remain underemployed or unemployed in our community.



IRONSON STUDENT COLLOQUIUM AWARD

Gail H. Ironson, Ph.D., M.D., '86, Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry, (Health Division) made a generous gift to the psychology department creating the **Ironson Student Colloquium Award**.

These funds will be used to provide stipends to graduate student colloquium speakers at the end of each academic year. The recipients for 2016 were *Kayla Gurak*, *Sara Milrad*, and *Lauren Usher*.



DR. DARYL B. GREENFIELD ATTENDS INAUGURAL CHILDHOOD STEM SUMMIT AT THE WHITE HOUSE

In an effort to grow and improve young children's fundamental skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), the White House hosted an inaugural summit on Early Childhood STEM Development, and invited Professor of Psychology **Dr. Daryl Greenfield**

(Child Division) to share his expertise on early science education for children. He is the director of the School Readiness Lab, providing both UM graduate and undergraduate students with opportunities to be directly involved in research conducted in community settings. Dr. Greenfield also heads the UM Early Science Initiative (ESI), a program dedicated to promoting science as a foundational element in early childhood education.

DR. SIERRA BAINTER JOINS THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Sierra Bainter (Adult Division) received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Bainter will be investigating Bayesian estimation as a tool to overcome estimation difficulties in structural equation models. She will also focus on improving the match between statistical models and psychological theory, because mismatch between model and theory can obscure our understanding of psychological processes and influences.



UM-NSU CARD IGNITING A SPARK!

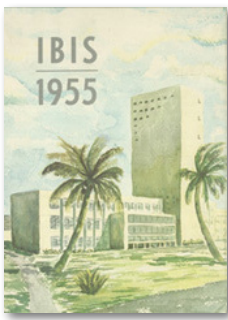
Sponsored by the *Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative* (SFARI), **SPARK** will collect information and DNA for genetic analysis from 50,000 individuals with autism - and their families - to advance our understanding of the causes of this condition and to hasten the discovery of effective supports and treatments.

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities is one of a select group of 21 leading national research institutions chosen to assist with the recruitment.

Dr. Melissa Hale (PI), clinical assistant professor, and her colleagues, **Dr. Anibal Gutierrez** (Co-PI), research associate professor, and **Dr. Michael Alessandri** (Co-PI), clinical professor, are leading the SPARK effort locally.



For more information about SPARK, visit www.sparkforautism.org/card



WHERE ARE U NOW?

GAIL SILVERMAN, PH.D., A.S., '55

A Fulfilled Life

Dr. Gail Silverman reminisces on past accomplishments and how she hopes her gift to the Psychology Department will support students seeking advanced degrees.

By Deserae E. del Campo

It's a memory Dr. Gail Silverman will never forget.

In 1950, when Silverman was 15 years old - a recent arrival to Miami Beach from Long Island - she was riding through Bal Harbour in the family car when she saw a sign that said, "No Jews or Dogs Allowed."

"I was horrified," recalls Silverman. "It was at that moment that I thought, 'I am going to do something about social discrimination.' That sign pushed me to work in women's rights and civil rights initiatives. It also motivated me to gather the strength I needed to change situations in my own life."

A snowbird who travels from Massachusetts to Miami Beach, Silverman can truly say she's lived a blessed and fulfilled life. "I'm very grateful for the opportunities that have come my way," she said.

Now Silverman wants to make sure UM psychology graduate students have opportunities to excel in their academic careers, too. She and her wonderful husband, Leonard, have made a generous gift in their estate to create **The Gail and Leonard Silverman Endowed Graduate Fellowship Fund** in the Department of Psychology.

Increasing the number of graduate students is a strategic priority for UM; endowed graduate fellowships allow the department to make significant contributions to the field and enhance its reputation as a top program nationally.

"In today's world, unlike the 1960s and 1970s, you really need advanced

education to do breakthrough work," said Silverman. "I want to make it easier for someone who needs help to get their advanced degrees and develop a professional career in the field of psychology."

Silverman's academic career began in 1952 when she enrolled at the University of Miami. Three years later, she earned a B.A. in psychology, married, and moved to Germany with her husband where she lived for two years. Upon her return to the U.S., she was eager to return to school but found it difficult trying to balance work life and professional life.

"I attended Florida Atlantic University to get my master's degree because the school offered night courses for adults, and I always intended to get a Ph.D. It's something I always wanted to do," said Silverman. "Honestly, I wanted to do it all. I wanted a family and a profession."

Regardless of the hurdles, Silverman later received her Ph.D. from Union Graduate School in Ohio - all while raising three children.

From her position as Assistant Director of the Greater Miami Chapter of the American Jewish Committee to her instructor position at Miami-Dade Community College's North Campus, Silverman attained a vigorous professional career and fondly remembers her time as the Director of the Adult Study Discussion Program at UM's Division of Continuous Learning.

"We had courses on everything from world politics to art and government," said Silverman. "My



job was to recruit discussion leaders and I found the busiest people I knew, like Bob Graham who later became Florida's governor."

Silverman conducted workshops and consulted locally and nationally on human relations and organization development. In 1980, Silverman opened a private counseling practice in Miami Beach, until her retirement, where she counseled individuals, families, and terminally ill patients.

When asked what advice she would give to today's psychology graduates, Silverman said, "If advancing your education is possible, you need to go for it. Psychology and well-being are so integrated, which is why behavioral medicine is so important especially in today's world where a human connection is vital to being a better counselor."

"I wanted to contribute to helping attract the best and brightest students to UM and maintaining the top standing of the Psychology Department," she adds, "and the best way to do this was by endowing graduate fellowships."

PSY NEWS FACULTY

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS



Ψ TENURE AND PROMOTION

Congratulations to **Dr. Kiara Timpano** (Adult Division) and **Dr. Lucina Uddin** (Health Division) both of whom earned tenure and promotion this year.

Ψ HONORS AND AWARDS

Dr. Marc Gellman (Health Division) received the **2016 International Society of Behavioral Medicine Distinguished Career Contribution Award** in recognition of his longtime scholarly and international organizational contributions including being Editor-in-Chief of the *Encyclopedia of Behavioral Medicine* (Springer).

Dr. Jennifer Britton (Child Division) received the **2016 University of Miami MUSE Award in Psychology**. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the Undergraduate Program in Psychology.

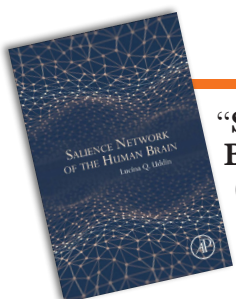
Dr. Amanda Jensen-Doss (Child Division) was re-elected as **Member at Large for Science & Practice** for APA's Division 53.

Ψ RISING STARS

Kudos to Assistant Professors **Aaron Heller** (Adult Division) and **Elizabeth A. Simpson** (Child Division) on being named **Rising Stars** by the *Association of Psychological Sciences (APS)*. The Rising Star designation recognizes outstanding psychological scientists in the earliest stages of their research career post-Ph.D. whose innovative work has already advanced the field and signals great potential for their continued contributions.

Ψ GOOD READS

"Salience Network of the Human Brain," a book by **Dr. Lucina Uddin** (Health Division), was published by Elsevier. Her grant on **"Cognitive and Neural Flexibility in Autism"** was also funded by the NIH.



INNOVATIONS IN SCIENCE

Psychology faculty have once again been very successful in securing grant funds to support

innovative research. Included among the many faculty receiving grants this past year are the following:

Dr. Steven Safren (Health Division) is the recipient of several notable grants including one entitled **"Addressing Psychosocial Comorbidities in HIV Treatment and Prevention"** from the National Institute of Drug Abuse. This grant provides mentorship to early career investigators in behavioral intervention related to HIV treatment and prevention.

Dr. Brian Doss (Child Division) was awarded a grant entitled **"Web-based Marriage Preparation, Enrichment, and Divorce Prevention for Low-Income Couples"** which provides web-based relationship programs to low income couples. Dr. Doss was also appointed the Associate Editor of the *Journal of Family Psychology* this year.

Drs. Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer and **Daniel Messinger** (Child Division), along with colleagues at UM and FAU, were awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation entitled, **"IBSS-L: Continuous Measurement of Children's Behavior and the Development of Social Dynamics."** This collaborative project will examine the formation of children's social networks by tracking children's movements in real-time.

Dr. Lynne F. Katz, Director of the Linda Ray Intervention Center (LRIC) is Co-PI, along with Dr. Beth Harry (PI) of the School of Education and Human Development, of a grant from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). This grant, entitled **"Opening Doors for Leaders in Early Childhood Special Education"** provides tuition support for graduate students enrolled in the Master's in Early Childhood Special Education program.

Canes making their mark!

UNDERGRADUATES IN ACTION

Sarah

Bennison, '17, a star psychology major, plans to pursue her Ph.D. in neuropharmacology upon graduation. Sarah has been an undergraduate research assistant for several years in the labs of several prominent UM faculty including **Dr. Amanda Jensen-Doss**, Dr. Zane Zeier, and Dr. Claes Wahlestedt. Sarah is also active UM citizen who is involved in a variety of campus-based organizations.



Robbie

Diaz, '17, a standout neuroscience student, is the president of The Undergraduate Neuroscience Society (TUMS) and is spearheading the opening of a chapter of the neuroscience honor society, Nu Rho Psi. He works with Dr. Vance Lemmon during the school year as an undergraduate research assistant and has participated in several summer research programs at other institutions.



Graduate Student HIGHLIGHTS



Marissa Alert

from the Health Division was inducted into the Bouchet Graduate Honor

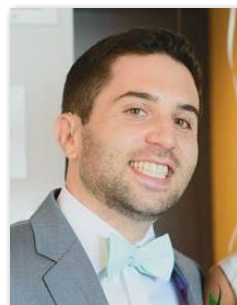
Society at Yale. Marissa is currently interning at Alpert Medical School of Brown University.



Emily Georgia

from the Adult Division received a dissertation award from the Association for

Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Emily is currently interning at the West Palm Beach VA.



Michael Hoffman

from the Child Division received a National Research Service Award predoctoral fellowship for

his dissertation on the development of health-related quality of life measures for children with cochlear implants and their parents.

Michael also received the *Dean's Summer Research Fellowship* and the *Dr. Carol Alson-Fineman Award for Excellence in Research*.



CLINICAL PROGRAM UPDATE

This past year, the Clinical Program was highly successful in placing all our student applicants in high-quality APA-accredited internships. The list of students and their placements appears below.

ADULT

Demet Cek - Sharp Healthcare
Emily Georgia - West Palm Beach VA
Kayla Gurak - VA Boston Healthcare System
Ashley Shaw - Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital

CHILD

Caroline Ehrlich - Mailman Center for Child Development/University of Miami
Sarah Kennedy - University of California - San Diego - Consortium/VA
Hoa Lam Schneider - University of Florida Health Science Center
Ashley Smith - Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital

HEALTH

Marissa Alert - Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Laura Bouchard - Rush University Medical Center
Devika Jutagir - Yale University - Psychiatry



It is more than just watching
the football games,
remembering your time on campus,
or being an Alumnus.

YOU are a Cane!



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and together we will keep the

MOMENTUM going!

Contribute today by visiting

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For information about making a gift
or a multi-year pledge to the
Department of Psychology,
please contact Dr. Michael Alessandri
malessandri@miami.edu
(305) 284-6558

UM DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

offers new

Certification Program in Applied Behavior Analysis

Led by *Melissa Hale, Ph.D., BCBA-D*,
and *Anibal Gutierrez, Ph.D., BCBA-D*,
the department of psychology is excited to
offer a post-baccalaureate training program
in behavior analysis.

**The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**
is a full-time graduate program providing
training necessary for certification to
students who have earned a bachelor's
degree in psychology or a related field.
This uniquely designed program provides
both onsite coursework and practica in
ABA at the Intensive Behavior Intervention
Services (IBIS) Clinic.

For more information or
how to apply visit

www.psy.miami.edu/aba



*Thank you to all those
faculty, staff, and students
who contributed to this
edition of PSY News.*

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Vivian M. Perez, Layout and Design

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