

2017 Alumni News
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PSY NEWS



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES Ψ PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT Ψ WWW.PSY.MIAMI.EDU

Shaping THE NEXT GENERATION OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

Dr. Saneya H. Tawfik, Director of the University of Miami Psychological Services Center (UM-PSC) and Clinical Associate Professor, joined our faculty in 2007. Throughout her 25-year career as a licensed psychologist, she has always been passionate about developing competencies in students.

Dr. Tawfik earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology at Vanderbilt University. She attended the Child-Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Denver (DU), and completed her predoctoral internship and postdoctoral clinical fellowship at Harvard Medical School-Boston Children's Hospital/Judge Baker Children's Center. She also completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at Boston University's School of Public Health and Behavioral Sciences.



Dr. Tawfik is involved in teaching graduate classes and has provided clinical supervision to hundreds of UM Clinical Psychology graduate students, who have seen over 1,000 cases from the tri-county area. She also is Director of the Program for Emotional Problems in Children (UM PEP-C), a culturally-informed community outreach school program for at-risk youth and their families.



Dr. Tawfik and Advanced Practicum Program Graduate Students



The University of Miami
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER (UM-PSC) is an outpatient clinic housed

within the University of Miami's Department of Psychology. Our offices are located on UM's Coral Gables Campus.

UM-PSC provides high quality and cutting edge psychological services that are guided by the latest research and has been recognized as one of the finest in the country. **UM-PSC** testing and psychotherapy sessions are conducted by doctoral students in the Clinical Psychology program who are intensively supervised by UM Faculty and licensed psychologists who are experts in their field. We offer confidential, personalized services with the resources of a leading university. Our services are culturally sensitive, and we value and respect individual diversity.

UM-PSC offers some services on a sliding scale based on your family's income. To schedule a telephone screening, please contact us at 305-284-4265, Ext. 0 or visit us online at www.psy.miami.edu/psc



Message from the Chairwoman

This has been another successful year for the Department of Psychology in which our faculty, graduate students and postdocs produced over 250 scientific publications, which is an all-time high! We continue to grow and, this year, we are pleased to welcome *Dr. Sannisha Dale* from Harvard/Massachusetts General Hospital to our faculty (see Faculty in Focus). We are also excited about our new Master's Degree program in *Applied Behavioral Analysis* (ABA; see p.7). This new program builds upon our successful post-baccalaureate ABA certificate program, and will allow students to gain even more expertise in this important field.

We are proud of our accomplishments, and I hope you enjoy hearing about the department in the pages that follow. 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

WHERE ARE NOW?

Christopher G. Beevers, Ph.D., '02

UM Psychology Department's Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Christopher G. Beevers graduated from the University of Miami in 2002 with a Ph.D. from the Department of Psychology, Adult Division. Dr. Beevers is fondly remembered by many at UM as a relatively quiet and unassuming young man, by Dr. Carver as a good thinker and excellent collaborator, and by Dr. Gillis as the best teaching assistant he ever had. He was widely regarded as a future star, and indeed his academic achievements have been extraordinary.

Dr. Beevers is the recipient of this year's **UM Department of Psychology's Distinguished Alumni Award**.

He became a faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin in 2005 and currently serves as Professor and Director of the Institute for Mental Health Research.

Dr. Beevers' primary research interest focuses on understanding the causes and treatment of depression. His work spans a number of diverse fields including clinical trials, cognitive neuroscience, and genetics. He has published over 100 scientific articles on these topics and his work has received numerous prestigious awards.



He currently has grant funding from the National Institute of Health to: a) develop statistical models that match patients to treatments, b) test a neuroscience-informed treatment designed to reduce negative thinking in depression, and c) determine to

what degree negative thinking is influenced by genetics.

Dr. Beevers is returning to UM as part of the *Psychology Department's 2017-2018 Distinguished Speakers Colloquium Series*. Visit our website in January for details on this series.

 **PSY ALUMNI**

Faculty in Focus

SPOTLIGHT ON



WELCOME

Sannisha Dale, Ph.D. (Health Division) comes to us from Harvard/Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Dale is a licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in conducting research on the

intersection of mental (e.g., PTSD) and physical health (e.g., HIV) and developing interventions. Her primary research interests are (a) enhancing the understanding of the relationships between resilience, trauma, and health outcomes among individuals with HIV and those at risk for HIV, (b) investigating psychosocial (e.g., discrimination) and structural factors (e.g., poverty) that relate to health disparities, (c) developing effective prevention and intervention strategies to promote resilience and good health outcomes, and (d) engaging community members and stakeholders in research. Positive community relationships both ground and inspire her approach to research.

She has been the principal investigator of three NIH-funded grants in the area of HIV: Mentored Career Development Award (K23) from NIMH, F31 award from NIMH, and a scholar award via the Harvard Center for AIDS Research (CFAR).

CONGRATULATIONS

Michael E. McCullough, Ph.D. (Adult Division) who joined our faculty in 2002, was recently honored with the UM Provost's Award for Scholarly Activities. Dr. McCullough (Ph.D. 1995 Virginia Commonwealth University, Doctor Honoris Causa 2015 Université Catholique de Louvain) is a Professor of Psychology and the Director of the Evolution and Human Behavior Laboratory in the Psychology Department. Dr. McCullough's research focuses on the evolutionary, physiological, and cognitive underpinnings of human sociality and decision-making.



Jennifer C. Britton, Ph.D.

(Child Division) Assistant Professor, joined our faculty in 2012, after completing a very prestigious postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Mental Health.

Dr. Britton's research focuses on understanding the behavioral and neural symptoms underlying anxiety disorders among children and adults in order to identify better ways to prevent and treat them. Dr. Britton is a skilled teacher and a highly productive researcher who has published over 60 articles and book chapters. Her productivity is especially impressive given her pivotal role in getting our Magnetic Resonance Imaging Facility up and running during her two years as director.

In the past year, Dr. Britton has published a review paper on approaches to develop new training programs that target anxiety-related dysfunction (Britton, Dellarco, & Evans, 2017) and co-authored several other manuscripts examining topics such as changes in the brains of anxious youth during treatment (White et al., 2017). This past summer, her research achievements were recognized internationally through her selection as a keynote speaker at the European Human Fear Conditioning conference.

In October 2017, Dr. Britton received news that her R21 grant would be funded. This project evaluates the efficiency to switch between negative and positive emotions (i.e., valence flexibility), which may be crucial for socio-emotional development. This neuroimaging study aims to characterize how valence flexibility develops in healthy 9-20 year olds. Future studies will examine how the development of this emotional flexibility contributes to the onset of mental health problems like anxiety and depression.

Dr. McCullough has authored more than 150 scientific papers, many of which have appeared in the best journals within both Psychology (*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology-General*, *Psychological Bulletin*) and general science (*Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society-Biological Sciences*). He has also written and edited several books. Dr. McCullough's books and articles have been cited more than 34,000 times, placing him among the most widely cited academic psychologists in the country.

PSYCHOLOGY

News & Notes

ADULT DIVISION

Drs. Charles Carver and **Kiara Timpano** (along with **Drs. Maria Llabre** and **Lucina Uddin**) were awarded a research grant by NIMH to study the role of approach and self-control in diverse problem behaviors. This project is being conducted jointly with a research team at the University of California, headed by former UM faculty member **Dr. Sheri Johnson**.

The 8th Edition of **Dr. Carver's** textbook *Perspectives on Personality*, was also published this year.

Dr. Aaron Heller's presentation at the Society for Research in Psychopathology was named a 2017 “**Faces of the Future**” presentation.

Dr. Amy Weisman de Mamani (together with Graduate Student **Kayla Gurak** and **Dr. Gail Ironson**) published an article in the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, which addresses the role of clients' religiosity in determining how likely they were to remain in treatment for schizophrenia. She is using these results to plan a revised treatment in which religious components are integrated earlier in the treatment process.

Dr. Debra Lieberman made a presentation in June at the *Theo*



Murphy Scientific Meeting at Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom, an event that was funded by the Royal Society.

Drs. Kiara Timpano and **Sierra Bainter** were awarded a research grant by the International OCD Foundation to study sleep disturbances as a risk factor for OCD and hoarding.

Dr. Bainter is also a collaborator with **Dr. Steve Safren** on a grant addressing psychosocial comorbidities in HIV treatment. **Dr. Bainter** made a presentation to the *International Meeting of the Psychometric Society* in Zurich in July.

CHILD DIVISION

Congratulations to **Dr. Amanda Jensen-Doss** who has been named Director of the Child Division.

Dr. Annette LaGreca is a co-investigator on a new grant from the National Institute of Mental Health designed to understand children's post-traumatic stress symptom trajectories after disasters. The Principle Investigator on the grant, **Dr. Betty Lai**, is a graduate of our Ph.D. program.

Dr. Daryl B. Greenfield also received a four-year grant from the National Science Foundation aimed at refining and testing curricular approaches to Head Start.

Drs. Rebecca Shearer and **Jill Ehrenreich-May** were awarded a new four-year grant through The Children's Trust that is being conducted in partnership with the Department of Early Childhood Programs in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and Miami Children's Initiative. The project will focus on implementation supports for the Teaching Pyramid Model, such as professional learning communities, practice based coaching, and parent-school engagement to foster the social-emotional and academic school readiness of preschool children in 10 Liberty City schools.

Assistant Professor **Dr. Elizabeth Simpson** was awarded a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER Award in which she will study early markers of healthy infant social development from birth through the first year of life. Her accomplishments were also recognized by the College of Arts and Sciences through its *Scholarly and Creative Activities Recognition Award*.

Dr. Saneya Tawfik, Director of the Psychological Services Center, was promoted to the rank of Clinical Associate Professor.

Dr. Michael Alessandri was the 2017 recipient of the *Fostering Inclusion and Diversity Award* from the Dade County Bar Association. He and his colleagues

at the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) are also integral parts of two NIH R01 grants. First, Drs. Alessandri and **Jennifer Durocher** have joined a multisite study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to examine the effectiveness of an intervention to improve family engagement in the screening and identification of autism.

Dr. Durocher was also the recipient of the **CARD Community Leadership Award** at this year's Tropical Nights Gala.

Drs. Alessandri and **Anibal Gutierrez** are part of a multisite National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Autism Centers of Excellence network grant that will test a two part parent intervention designed to empower parents of children with autism.

Drs. Anibal Gutierrez and **Melissa Hale** were instrumental in designing the department's new **Master's Program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)** and shepherding it through UM's approval process for new graduate programs, more about it on p.7.

HEALTH DIVISION

The University of Miami, College of Arts and Sciences has named **Dr. Gail Ironson** as a *Cooper Fellow*. The fellowship is a three-year appointment including an annual research fund of \$15,000. Cooper Fellows are chosen based on excellence in contributing to our core missions of scholarship, teaching, and service.

Sannisha K. Dale, Ph.D., Ed.M. is the recipient of an **NIMH Early Career Development**

Award aimed at conducting an intervention to improve medication adherence for Black women with HIV.

Dr. Elizabeth Losin edited a special issue of *Culture and Brain* on Culture, Brain, and Health that was published in April. **Dr. Lucina Uddin** published an article on data-driven extraction of a nested structure of human cognition in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Dr. Amishi Jha (together with Graduate Student Joshua Rooks) published an article on mindfulness vs. relaxation training in athletes in the *Journal of Cognitive Enhancement*, while **Dr. Steve Safren** and colleagues published an article in *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy* on adherence and depression in patients with HIV in *Lancet HIV*.

Among the new grants in the division, Dr. Safren received an R01 grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) that combines behavioral activation with HIV risk reduction counseling in men who have sex with men at high risk for HIV who abuse stimulant drugs.

Dr. Marc Gellman continues as Editor-in-Chief of the *Encyclopedia of Behavioral Medicine*; **Dr. Michael Antoni** as Associate Editor of *Psychology and Health* and of the *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*; and **Dr. Youngmee Kim** as Associate Editor of *Translational Behavioral Medicine*.

Dr. Pat Saab is Chair of the Education and Training Council of APA's Society for Health Psychology and **Dr. Maria Llabre** recently chaired the APA Guidelines Panel on the behavioral treatment of overweight and obese in children and adolescents.



CLINICAL PROGRAM

This past year, the Clinical Program was highly successful in placing 100% of our students in high-quality APA-accredited internships.

The list of students and their placements appears below.

Congratulations to these fine students for securing these first-rate internship placements.

ADULT

Julia Carbonella
VA Denver

Marissa Krinsky
VA Miami

Marc Weintraub
UCLA, Semel Institute

CHILD

Casey Burrows
Duke University

Mike Hoffman
Dupont Hospital for Children

Ashley Marchante
Dupont Hospital for Children

Brian Richter
Nationwide Children's Hospital

HEALTH

Calvin Fitch
Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital

Karin Garcia
Jackson Memorial/University of Miami

Aurelie Lucette
University of California, San Diego

Josh Rooks
VA Los Angeles

Ni Sun-Suslow
University of California, San Diego

PSYCHOLOGY ANNUAL AWARDS



GRADUATE STUDENTS



BERTHA WEBER AWARD

BreAnne Danzi (pictured) & **Michael Hoffman**, Child Division
In appreciation of service to the department.

DEAN'S DISSERTATION AWARD

BreAnne Danzi, Child Division

ROD GILLIS AWARD

Ruth Bernstein, Child Division
Marisa Perera, Health Division
For excellence in undergraduate teaching.

DR. CAROL ALSON FINEMAN AWARD

Ashley Marchante

In support of research dealing with children who have been abused or who present with emotional disturbances.



OUTSTANDING TEACHING ASSISTANT AWARD

Daniel Forster, Health Division

ST CALVIN AWARD

Caitlin Brown, Adult Division



DR. KEITH G. SCOTT CARD GRADUATE AWARD (Developmental)

Dina Dajani, Health Division
For the graduate student who demonstrated excellence in developmental research in autism.

DR. PETER MUNDY CARD GRADUATE AWARD (Clinical)

Jamie Mash & Brian Richter, Child Division
For the graduate students who demonstrated excellence in clinical research or treatment in autism.

DEAN'S SUMMER AWARD

Dina Dajani, Carlton Patrick & Joanna Witkin, Health Division
Travis Evans, Adult Division



IRONSON STUDENT COLLOQUIUM AWARD

Calvin Fitch, Health Division
Marc Weintraub, Adult Division
Lisa White, Child Division
Stipends to graduate student colloquium speakers at the end of each academic year.



KIRK R. DANHOUR MEMORIAL AWARD

Alexandra Alexander, Child Division
Jessica Maura, Adult Division
Josh Rooks, Health Division

The Kirk R. Danhour Memorial Award is awarded each spring to one fourth year graduate student from each of the department's three divisions.

Students are selected by the faculty based on outstanding academic performance, progress and quality of research, leadership, social integration, involvement in departmental activities, and development of clinical skills (if applicable).



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

National Student Employment Week

was April 10th - 14th, and, in addition to recognizing all of UM's outstanding student workforce

throughout the week, two students in particular (nominated by a supervisor) were chosen to receive the **STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD** and the **MIAMI COMMITMENT SENIOR AWARD**.



This year, the Department of Psychology's very own **Robbie Diaz**, '17 received the Miami Commitment Senior Award and **Kyla Leonard**, '18 received the Student Employee of the Year. **CONGRATULATIONS, KAYLA AND ROBBIE!**

Congratulations to our psychology and neuroscience Research and Creativity Innovation Forum winners and to all students who participated in this event:

SOCIAL SCIENCES

1st Place - **Kyla Leonard, Daniel Urkov, & Roberto Lazo**

2nd Place - **Christopher Albright (tie)**

3rd Place - **Shivani Hanchate, Ariel Paz, & Jessica Garcia (tie)**

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

3rd Place - **Lee Kissel**

HUMANITIES

1st Place - **Nidhi Patel**

2nd Place - **Meghana Shownkeen**

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

3rd Place - **Yujia Zhou**



GRADUATION AWARDS:

Outstanding Psychology Major - **Roxanne Lawrence**

Ed Green Outstanding Neuroscience Major - **Sydney Feldman**

Eber Award - **Elana Schettini**

Psi Chi Award - **Tina de Zarraga**

Nu Rho Psi Award - **Andrew Mudreac**



NEW Master of Science with a specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis

This fall the Psychology Department launched the new **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Master's Program**, a full-time graduate program geared for students seeking further training and/or professional certification in ABA. The 36-credit program begins each fall and is designed to be completed in 4 consecutive semesters (fall/spring/summer/fall).

Students who complete the certificate program will meet all the university instructional coursework and experiential (practicum) requirements necessary to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

The new ABA Master's program will prepare students to become certified behavior analysts and enter the fast-growing field of behavior analysis. The BCBA certification has grown nationally and internationally over the last decade and demand for certified behavior analysts is at an all-time high.

The program is unique in South Florida because it allows students to complete all practicum requirements on-campus at the **Intensive Behavior**

Intervention Services (IBIS) Clinic, which serves individuals with autism and developmental delays. IBIS is a university-based clinic that provides students with the opportunity to work hands-on with children and adults under the supervision of UM faculty and staff. The clinic provides early intervention services for young children as well as severe behavior services to address the behavioral needs of individuals in the community.

For more information about the program please visit www.psy.miami.edu/aba



July 1, 1993,
an amazing idea took flight.
UM-NSU CARD
was launched!



THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.
At the University of Miami **WE ARE CHANGING THAT.**

Working out of a dorm room on the UM campus, **Dr. Diane Adreon**, traveled between Key West and Jupiter, FL to meet families and clients and introduce them to a new program that would change their lives. Today UM-NSU CARD has developed into a team of nearly 40 staff members who operate out of five offices across South Florida.
UM-NSU CARD sure has grown!

At the close of our first full year of operation, 88 families were served. As of June 30 2017, nearly 11,000 families were registered in our program and that number continues to grow. UM-NSU CARD serves all individuals with autism and related disabilities (all ages and functioning levels) throughout the State of Florida at no direct cost to the client.

Seven major universities are part of the network, each with its own geographic region. All 67 counties in Florida are associated with a CARD Center. UM-NSU CARD, serves Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. The Center supports clients, families, professionals, and the broader community in assisting individuals with autism and related disabilities through client and family support services, programmatic assistance, public education and awareness, and training.

UM-NSU CARD is one of the multiple projects under the U | Autism Programs at the University of Miami Department of Psychology.

For more information our programs, please visit us at www.psy.miami.edu/community-outreach/uautism/

*Join us April 28, 2018
at our annual
Tropical Nights
Celebrating 25 years
of service to
South Florida.*





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

Once a Cane, Always a Cane

Support your department and together we will keep the

Momentum Going!

Contribute today by visiting

WWW.PSY.MIAMI.EDU/GIVETOPSYCHOLOGY

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



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

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