



PSYCHOLOGY MATTERS



SU Psychology Department Newsletter | Spring 2021

In The Words Of Our Chair

As the new chair of the Psychology Department, I am committed to creating a community that is diverse and inclusive. To that end, we are in the process of updating our curriculum. The changes will include diversity and inclusion content across our courses. In addition, we will be adding a new diversity requirement for all psychology majors that will include courses specifically designed to highlight issues of diversity and inclusion. I also am dedicated to fostering research productivity, including support for student-involved and student-led research opportunities. Our psychology students continue to be actively involved in research activity, even during the pandemic, when many faculty members evolved their current lines of research into studies that their students could conduct remotely or online.

I hope that you and your families have a safe and happy 2021. We would love to hear from you about your accomplishments and successes – please connect with us on Facebook and Instagram!”

– Dr. Meredith Patterson,
Psychology Department Chair



WELCOME TO OUR INAUGURAL ISSUE!

Psychology Matters is your go-to source for news, updates, announcements, accolades, highlights, deadlines and spotlights related to Salisbury University’s Psychology Department and its affiliated programs. We are pleased to have this platform through which we can share with all interested parties the latest and greatest about our students, faculty and staff, programs, and activities. Be sure to check back each semester for a new issue.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Fulbright Semifinalists

Three psychology students recently became semifinalists for academic and research U.S. Fulbright Student awards for the 2021-22 academic year: Briana Branch to England, Abigail Miano-Burkhardt to Taiwan and Jessica Pierce to Norway. To read more about their impressive achievements, see the full article here: www.salisbury.edu/news/article/2021-2-2-15-SU-Students-Named-Fulbright-Semifinalists

Congratulations, You’re Awesome!

- **Mia Dikos**, a psychology major and Clarke Honors College student, received an English Teaching Assistantship to Spain, making her a member of SU’s largest Fulbright Student class to date! Read more here: www.salisbury.edu/news/article/2021-2-17-SU-Again-Named-Among-Nations-Top-Fulbright-Student-Producers
- **Apeksha Ghumatkar**, a biology major who completed her Honors Thesis in Dr. Echo Leaver’s lab, has accepted an offer from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and plans to start her medical studies in August 2021.
- Psychology alum **Jamie Nicholson** co-authored an article in press for publication in the professional peer-reviewed *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Jamie is a December 2020 SU graduate and is mentored by Dr. Suzanne Osman.
- **Ines Tchienga** (Psychology Major and Cognitive Science Minor) has been accepted into Nova Southeastern University’s Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology. Ines has worked in Dr. Echo Leaver’s lab, has published in *Laridae* (SU’s undergraduate research journal) and is an Undergraduate Research Fellow.
- **Alison Weeg**, a senior psychology major, recently was awarded \$4,000 in scholarships from Alpha Sigma Tau organization (the criteria included work ethic, performance or uniqueness as a student in the classroom). This fall, Alison will be working with her mentor, Dr. Jason McCartney, on research involving scholarship of teaching and the effectiveness of seminar classes.

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Conference Presentations

■ Poster Presentations at Annual Meeting of Eastern Psychological Association March 5-6, 2021

- **Regan Benton, Jada Mitchell** and **Abigail Milano-Burkhardt** present “Children’s Memories on Details of How and Where Learning Occurred.” They are mentored by Dr. Rhyannon Bemis.
- **Jamie Nicholson** presents “Predicting Body-Esteem Based on Type of Sexual Victimization Experience,” which she co-authored with her research mentor Dr. Suzanne Osman.
- **Emaline Printz** co-presents “Understanding Motivation and Learning Strategies in Relation to Life Hassles” with her research mentor Dr. Kyoung-Rae Jung.

■ Poster Presentation at Posters on the Bay March 10, 2021

- **Mackenzie Nickle** and **Gwynne Richardson** present to Maryland lawmakers “Attitudes About Trump’s Racist Statements: The Role of Social Media Use.” They are mentored by Dr. Rachel Steele.

■ Poster Presentation at National Conference on Undergraduate Research April 12-14, 2021

- **Abigail Milano-Burkhardt, Regan Benton** and **Jada Mitchell** present “The Role of Memory Binding in Children’s Accurate Recall of Learning Events.” They are mentored by Dr. Rhyannon Bemis.

FALL 2021 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in working independently with one of our faculty mentors while earning credits? Here are some fantastic research opportunities. Please contact the faculty member in the manner expressed here to inquire and/or apply.



Dr. Larence Becker – Cognitive; willing to advise on original research topics related to cognition, including any aspects of perception as well as music. Email him if interested: lxbecker@salisbury.edu

Dr. Heidi Fritz – Understanding the so-called “resilience factors” that enable people to cope with stressful life events. Email her for application: hlfritz@salisbury.edu

Dr. Kyoung-Rae Jung – Self-regulation in academic performance or Korean immigrants. Must have psychology GPA of 3.0 or above. Email him if interested: kxjung@salisbury.edu

Dr. Echo Leaver – Cognitive neuroscience/electrophysiology/psychophysiology/EEG/ERP; current lab projects: dental anxiety, cognitive benefits of meditation, sports-induced brain trauma and cognitive health, and socioemotional health in response to COVID-19. Apply here: <https://forms.gle/2eeictxyDMytfXbR7>

Dr. Karl Maier – Range of topics from health psychology and mental health to climate change and environmental issues. Application available here: <http://faculty.salisbury.edu/~kjmaier/Docs/behavioral-medicine-laboratory-student-researcher-application.doc>

Dr. Yuki Okubo – Racism and Coping Lab. **NOTE: Dr. Okubo is on sabbatical in fall 2021, so she is looking for interested students for spring 2022. Email her if interested: yxokubo@salisbury.edu

Dr. Suzanne Osman – Sexual Aggression. Email her for application: slosman@salisbury.edu

Dr. Meredith Patterson – Cognitive Aging Lab, memory changes in older adulthood, memory; psychology of aging; mortality salience/death anxiety. Email her if interested: mmpatterson@salisbury.edu

Dr. Michèle Schlehofer – Analyzing qualitative data on LGBTQ+ people’s response to current events; needs assessment of local community; maybe more? Must be a psychology major. Email her if interested: mmschlehofer@salisbury.edu

Dr. Rachel Steele – Group Relation and Prejudice Lab: causes and outcomes of prejudice; intergroup relations. Email her for application/meeting: rrsteele@salisbury.edu

Dr. Thomas Tomcho – Research interests not easily summarized. Email him to discuss possible involvement: tjtomcho@salisbury.edu

Dr. Mark Walter – Issues of global climate change. Email him for application: miwalter@salisbury.edu

ACCELERATED MENTORING PROGRAM (AMP)

The Accelerated Mentoring Program (AMP) started this academic year, 2020-21.

The AMP, co-directed by Drs. Yuki Okubo and Michèle Schlehofer, began its first year with 10 students. The AMP was developed to better meet the needs of our increasingly racially diverse psychology majors at SU. The existing literature posits that students of Color attending Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs) desire greater cultural fit and training programs that align with their values (Museus, 2008), which are more inclined to be social-justice oriented (Garibay, 2015). The field of psychology also has recognized for a need to diversify student cohorts who move into graduate training (Callahan et al., 2018).

The American Psychological Association (APA) Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs' Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training provided a seed grant along with the Fulton School of Liberal Arts Dean's Office for 2020-21. For the next academic year, 2021-22, the Fulton School of Liberal Arts Dean's Office as well as the Provost's Office have provided funding for the program to continue. AMP is a two-year tailored bridge program for students of Color majoring in psychology. Students who are rising sophomores or juniors; psychology majors; students of Color; and interested in graduate school meet the qualification for the program. For the names and biographies of students enrolled in the program during the 2020-2021 academic year, visit: www.salisbury.edu/academic-offices/liberal-arts/psychology/accelerated-mentor-program.aspx.

Specific goals of AMP are to: (a) Increase interest in obtaining a post-graduate degree in psychology; (b) Solidify career and educational goals;

(c) Increase academic motivation, self-regulation, critical consciousness and career decision-making self-efficacy; (d) Provide the necessary skills and research experiences to make AMP students competitive for psychology graduate school programs; (e) Provide opportunities to connect with racial minority professional mentors and have the opportunity to receive strong letters of recommendation by psychologists affiliated with the program; (f) Increase sense of belonging in the Department of Psychology at SU; (g) Provide opportunities to mentor adolescents in the community, where AMP students can provide an environment where youth develop career and educational goals; and (h) Provide a structure in which adolescent youth are exposed to college student role models, are exposed to basics about psychology and are encouraged to attend college with a clear understanding of what college experience may offer them.

Currently, AMP is structured in such a way that its students take a community-based participatory action research course with professional development activities, along with meeting with community youths from two non-profit organizations, meeting with psychology scholars of Color for mentorship across various psychology subdisciplines, and working on documents such as a CV and personal statement. AMP students have created a total of four community-based participatory action research projects in fall 2020 and submitted a total of four proposals to national conferences, all of which were accepted.

As AMP students continue to work on their research projects with youths, they have been preparing for their conference presentations. Three presentations are at the 38th Annual Winter Roundtable Conference

at Teachers College, Columbia University on February 26, 2021. They include roundtable discussions titled "Struggles and Strategies in Working with Community Youth Over Zoom" (Jak'Quan Jackson, Allyson Rivera, Soleil Darbouze and Gisselle Canales), "Experiences of Undergraduate Students of Color in the Accelerated Mentoring Program" (Sebastian Mantilla, Isaiah Myers, JaNya Odom and Dr. Yuki Okubo) and "Giving Back, Bringing Up: Impact of Mentors of Color on Students of Color (Blessing Ajayi, Breland Daye, Romona Harden and Dr. Michèle Schlehofer). At the Association for Women in Psychology Conference, Blessing Ajayi, Soleil Darbouze, Romona Harden, Schlehofer and Okubo are presenting a structured discussion on "CPAR Collaborations with Community Youths During Pandemic: Perspectives of Undergraduate Students of Color" on March 7, 2021.

To find out more about AMP students and their activities, please follow its Facebook page @AcceleratedMentoringProgram. For any questions or interests, please contact AMP Co-Directors Okubo at yxokubo@salisbury.edu or Schlehofer at mmschlehofer@salisbury.edu. We are currently recruiting for AMP for the 2021-2022 and eligible students are encouraged to apply.

Psychology graduates have gone on to careers in:

- Customer Relations
- Case Worker
- Employment Counselor
- Personnel Analyst
- Advertising Sales
- Staff Training and Development
- Program Manager
- Social Services Director
- Residential Youth Counselor

AMP SENIORS SPOTLIGHT



Blessing Ajayi is a senior majoring in psychology and minoring in history. After finishing her degree, she wants to pursue a career as a marriage/family therapist. She is originally from Prince George's County and is CPR/First Aid certified. Blessing is presenting at the Winter Roundtable Conference and the Association for Women in Psychology Conference.



Jak'Quan Jackson is majoring in psychology and minoring in business administration. Originally from Washington, D.C., he is currently involved in the Vanity club and the Resident Hall Association on campus. Jak'Quan is interested in learning more about the field of clinical psychology and has research interests related to the impact of historical trauma on people of Color. Jak'Quan is presenting at the Winter Roundtable Conference.



Breland Daye is a senior psychology major. She is a huge supporter in being involved with the community and a national member of NAACP, NCNW, the Black Student Union's treasurer and Psychology Club's Student Government Association representative. After graduation, she plans to take an investment year to build more experience for the field of community and counseling psychology, which she wants to pursue in graduate school. Ultimately, she wants to work as a psychologist in a prison and wants to be an advocate for prison reform. Bre is presenting at the Winter Roundtable Conference.



JaNya Odom is the current president for the on-campus organization Mental Health Advocates, which is dedicated to creating a safe space for students to come together to discuss their mental health and to share support, motivation and useful tactics with one another. Mental Health Advocates also perform activities outside and around the community to promote wellness. JaNya is presenting at the Winter Roundtable Conference.



Allyson Rivera is a senior majoring in psychology. After graduating from Salisbury University, she plans on getting a master's degree in counseling to become either a high school guidance counselor or mental health counselor. Allyson is also a member of the school's Psychology Club. She has a cat named Pineapple. Allyson is presenting at the Winter Roundtable Conference as well as at the Eastern Psychological Association.

“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.”

– B. F. Skinner

SEMESTER DATES

Summer 5-Week Session I:

June 2-July 7, 2021

Summer 5-Week Session II:

July 12-August 13, 2021

Fall Regular Semester:

August 30-December 17, 2021

Winter Session:

January 3-21, 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

Psych Forum on Internships:

Tuesday, March 2 • 5:30-6:30 pm.

Facilitator: Dr. Charisse Chappell

Psych Forum on Graduate School:

Monday, March 8 • 6 p.m.

Facilitator: Dr. Rhyannon Bemis

Psi Chi Honor Society Informational Meeting:

Wednesday, March 10 • 6 p.m.

The Social Dilemma Watch Party & Panel Discussion:

Tuesday, April 6 • 7-9:30 p.m.

Psych Forum on School Psychology:

Tuesday, April 13 • 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Facilitators: Dr. Lance Garmon & Psychology Department Alum Briana Jordan

Psych Forum on Racial Socialization:

Tuesday, April 27 • 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Facilitators: Dr. Rachel Steele & Dr. Michèle Schlehofer

Antiracism Workshop:

April Date/Time TBD

To be conducted by students in Dr. Yuki Okubo's Racism & Coping Research Lab

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SU is an Equal Opportunity/AA/Title IX university and provides reasonable accommodation given sufficient notice to the University office or staff sponsoring the event or program. For more information regarding SU's policies and procedures, please visit www.salisbury.edu/equity.

