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## Greetings from the department head



Mike Young holding online office hours from home

Greetings from Manhattan! At the time of writing, K-State is still teaching online, faculty are working from home, and most laboratory-based research activity is on hold. I still have my “isolation beard” that I started growing when campus activities were suspended. Campus administration is busily considering a wide array of options for the fall semester, how to reawaken labs that have been hibernated, and planning for a range of financial contingencies in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Needless to say, this has proven to be the most unusual semester in the history of a department that came into existence well after the 1918 Spanish flu and both World Wars.

As a psychologist whose research specialty is judgment and decision-making, it has been interesting to see how my field’s research plays out in the decisions being faced by K-State administrators. The current situation entails what my field calls a “wicked environment” for decision-makers due to the constantly evolving conditions, the uncertainties about the future that are

not computable (unlike rolling dice or drawing cards), and inconsistent and delayed feedback regarding whether our actions are working. Expertise fails us because prior experience provides a poor basis for forecasting in wicked environments. The only effective strategies include preparing for as many contingencies as possible, pivoting when things have clearly changed, and delaying irreversible decisions for as long as possible. Needless to say, wicked environments can create a lot of stress for the decision-makers and frustrations for those subject to those decisions.

The uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 has me thinking broadly about life’s uncertainties. When a student enters college or starts a new job after graduation, there are uncertainties regarding whether the student will like the major, do well at their occupation, find a roommate insufferable, or encounter a family or health emergency that turns their life on its head. The difference between those situations and the current pandemic is that these everyday uncertainties are familiar — if we haven’t experienced it ourselves, we likely know someone who has. The COVID-19 uncertainties entail what Slovic (1987) has called “unknown risk” and “dread risk,” and research has shown that both types of risks can prompt strong behavioral reactions with dread risk having the largest impact.

As I write, I do not know what the fall semester will look like, but by the time you read this we all will know how events unfolded over the summer and early fall. I sometimes wish I had a crystal ball, but research has shown that there are many situations where people would rather not know the future. Our desire for knowledge has limits — we want to know if that knowledge is reassuring or if we can mitigate future risks, although the factors at play can be quite complex and vary from person to person. If while reading this article, you can see that things worked out well or that there are steps I can take today to reduce risks for the fall semester, please send a message into the past and let me know!

No matter what happens, I have seen the hard work of the department’s faculty and staff, the commitment and perseverance demonstrated by our students, and the wisdom exhibited by many of our administrators. As a K-State family, we celebrate together, cry together, suffer together, and succeed together. The stories collected in this PsyTalk continue the tradition of sharing our stories to increase the bonds across the generations of people whose lives have intersected with K-State’s Department of Psychological Sciences.

With K-State Pride,

— Mike Young



# Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) Center

The Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) center is funded by a \$10.6 million, five year grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. CNAP finished a very productive Year 3 at the end of May 2020. As an indicator of our influence on the K-State campus, CNAP was featured in the fall 2019 issue of SEEK magazine. This is the K-State research magazine produced by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Division of Communications and Marketing. You can read more about CNAP research in the cover story on “Minding the Mind: How Scientists Study our Changing Brains.” ([k-state.edu/seek/fall-2019/how-cnape-scientists-study-our-changing-brains/index.html](http://k-state.edu/seek/fall-2019/how-cnape-scientists-study-our-changing-brains/index.html)) We funded four projects, six pilot grants, and two postdoctoral fellowships during Year 3. The center generated quite a few products this year with 63 conference presentations and 19 journal article and conference proceeding publications. We also supported two master’s theses. CNAP supported a total of 45 grant/award applications (\$45.2 million total) of which 14 were funded and generated \$3.4 million in new grant revenue. Our center was a partner on six new center, core facilities, and/or training grants of which two were funded (\$1.5 million). An \$10 grant was funded to build a new rodent imaging facility within the Hoglund Brain Imaging Center at KUMC, one of our Scientific Exchange Network partners. And we received a \$10,000 Core Facilities grant from the Kansas IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence to upgrade the microscope laboratory in the Behavioral Neuroscience Core. A total of 33 grant applications were submitted by junior investigators, for a total of \$13.6 million in proposals with \$1.9 million funded. We met a key milestone with our first graduate from the CNAP pilot grant program – Dr. Yulan Xiang, K-State College of Veterinary Medicine — received a \$1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The last quarter of Year 3 also saw some challenges and changes with the onset of COVID-19. The Electroencephalography, or EEG core, pictured below, had to close its doors to in-person research, along with all individual CNAP laboratories that conduct human research. However, COVID-19 has not been able to keep us down. The EEG core has remained very active in setting up a new mobile EEG system that we aim to debut in the fall. This system will allow researchers to collect EEG data from human participants in their individual laboratories or even off site. And, the EEG core working group has been developing plans for expanding this core for the Phase II renewal application of our grant, which is due in September 2021. The Behavioral Neuroscience core remained open at reduced levels of activity, operating under strict restrictions to promote safety. We were able to continue to support the five laboratories that use that core to finish their mission critical research activities. And, the Neuroinformatics core, which supports data analyses on the Beocat supercomputing facility, continued to support researchers to analyze their data from a distance. Overall, the future of CNAP is looking good, despite the challenges that emerged this year. We are fiercely committed to continuing to support our junior investigators in the months ahead and are developing innovative solutions to support researchers as we move into Year 4.

— Kim Kirkpatrick



Minding the mind  
How scientists study our changing brains

CNAP EEG core



# Recent Award Winners

The Department of Psychological Sciences announced this year's departmental award winners. These undergraduate and graduate students were honored at a virtual event on May 15.

**Carrie Aponte**, Garden City, received the John C. Peterson Undergraduate Scholarship Prize for outstanding graduating senior. Her research with Dr. Don Saucier examined the influence of masculine honor beliefs, gender and publicity on perceptions of aggression. She received a Shanteau Undergraduate Research Award in 2019, and was an officer of Psi Chi. Aponte works at Big Lakes Developmental Center, supporting adults with disabilities. Following graduation, she plans to work full time in a human services field before pursuing a graduate degree in clinical psychology.

**Emma Brase**, senior, Manhattan, was this year's recipient of the E. Jerry Phares Undergraduate Research Award. She was an Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry student ambassador and member of Psi Chi, received a Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award in 2017, a Shanteau Undergraduate Research Award in 2018, and a K-INBRE Semester Scholar Award in 2019. Her research with Dr. Mary Cain examined the effects of differential rearing and adolescent ethanol exposure on BDNF and CREB protein expression in model systems. Following graduation, Brase will pursue a doctorate in neuroscience at the Medical University of South Carolina.

**Louis Vopata**, Paxico, was the winner of the Curtis Lee and JB Gee Psychological Sciences Scholarship. This award is based on a combination of academic achievement and financial need. He previously received the Neil Atkinson Junior Leadership Scholarship and is serving as president of the Disc Golf Club at K-State. Vopata said he hopes to become a therapist someday after obtaining a master's in social work.

**Justine Fiscus**, Olathe; Haley Richards, Tecumseh; Moises Alvarez, Liberal; Whitney Applegate, Cozad, Nebraska; and Lauren Anglemeyer, Wichita, were this year's recipients of the Doreen Shanteau Undergraduate Research Awards. The award provides funds to enable these students to conduct research with their faculty mentors during the following academic year. Fiscus will examine the impact of gamification on reducing careless responding to surveys; she will work with Dr. Chris Lake. Richards will work with Dr. Gary Brase to investigate how individuals use precautions or mitigation strategies when making decisions about risky sexual behavior. Alvarez will conduct his research with Don Saucier on the effect of the receiver's reaction in response to racial humor on perceptions of that humor. Applegate will work with Heather Bailey and graduate student Destiny Bell to investigate why people may switch from one problem-solving strategy to another based upon the difficulty level of a task. Anglemeyer will investigate the skepticism of potential romantic partner's commitment levels with Dr. Brase and graduate student Jordann Brandner.

**Chris Vitols**, Bradenton, Florida, received the Dr. Leon Rappoport Psychology Undergraduate Scholarship. This scholarship honors the memory of a faculty member in the department and is targeted at a nontraditional, high-achieving student. Vitols has been the president of the K-State Student Veterans Association and is on active duty in the U.S. Army.

The Sewell Undergraduate Research Scholarship was awarded to Sydnee Pachek, Great Falls, Montana, and Moises Alvarez, Liberal. This scholarship was established to recognize undergraduates conducting research in psychology with a preference for supporting first-generation and transfer students. Pachek served as president and vice president of Circle K and conducted research in Dr. Heather Bailey's memory and aging lab. She is currently seeking employment as a social worker or paralegal and considering whether she wants to pursue a graduate degree in a few years. Alvarez is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, a Circle K member, and is an active researcher in Dr. Don Saucier's laboratory.

The Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award was presented to Jordann Brandner, Bismarck, North Dakota, and Evelyn Stratmoen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Brandner has taught General Psychology and Psychology of Sexual Behavior. Stratmoen has taught General Psychology, Gender Issues in the Workplace, and Experimental Methods Lab. They received a monetary award thanks to the Nobuko S. Nicholson Opportunity Fund for Psychological Sciences.

The Outstanding Graduate Research Award/Harry Helson Memorial Scholarship had two recipients this year: Hayley Fisher, Brentwood, Tennessee, and Nathan Voss, Wausau, Wisconsin. Fisher is completing her doctorate this year under the guidance of Charles Pickens and will start a postdoctoral position this fall. Voss is working on his dissertation with his advisor Chris Lake and will be interning at the Rand Corporation this summer. Both students have published multiple research papers in leading psychology journals.

The department also gave the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award to Nora Balboa, Racine, Wisconsin; Kelsey Couture, Great Bend; and Tiffany Lawless, Pickerington, Ohio. These awards were funded by the department's Graduate Teaching Assistant Support Fund that has been generously supported by a number of its alumni.

The faculty in the Department of Psychological Sciences are proud of the many achievements of our outstanding students..

## Mike Young Awarded the Presidential Award for Outstanding Department Head



Mike Young

Mike Young was the recipient of the Presidential Award for Outstanding Department Head. Young joined K-State in 2012 as head of the psychological sciences department. Under his leadership, the department has thrived in teaching, research and more. The department's extramural funding has increased significantly, including landing a \$10.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's COBRE program to establish the Cognitive and Neurological Approaches to Plasticity research center. To encourage teaching and research excellence by the department's graduate students, Young

helped increase stipends for graduate teaching and research assistants, and he helped create new awards to recognize excellence in these areas by graduate students.

Supporting faculty is a big part of Young's job. He helps mentor the department's new tenure-track faculty. Several psychological sciences faculty members have earned major university awards for their work under Young's leadership. Refurbishing the department's classrooms and reception areas also have been a Young priority. Young credits his success as a department head to building trust with faculty, staff and students. "I work hard to be approachable, which helps me to react quickly to issues as they arise," Young said. "I also strive to be fair and supportive. Building on a culture of trust makes it easier to sustain excellent teaching and research activity because the faculty know that my goal is to support their success."

Congratulations, Mike! We are fortunate to have you at the helm.



# MIOP

The MIOP, Master of Science in Psychology with an emphasis in Industrial-Organizational Psychology, program entered its 21st year in July 2020. On the heels of Dr. Clive Fullagar's retirement in 2019, Dr. Patrick Knight is retiring in December 2020. Dr. Knight, along with Dr. Fullagar, was a founding faculty member of the MIOP program and has served as its director for the past six years. The new director of the program, Dr. Sarina Maneotis, joined the faculty this past May. Everyone involved in the MIOP program is happy — and relieved — to have her on board. December will also see the departure of Kelsey Couture, who has served as the MIOP GTA for several years. Kelsey will be graduating with her doctorate. The new MIOP GTA is Chi-Leigh Warren, also a doctoral student in I/O.

If you are interested in learning more about the MIOP program, please visit [global.k-state.edu/artsci/miop](http://global.k-state.edu/artsci/miop) or email [miopsych@k-state.edu](mailto:miopsych@k-state.edu)

— Patrick Knight

# Psi Chi

The K State chapter of Psi Chi had another productive year despite the recent circumstances. This year officers included **Justine Fiscus** (president), **Lindsay Chassay** (vice president), **Carrie Aponte** (secretary), **Sarah Harrod** (treasurer), **Katherine Kolze** (social media voice), and **Haley Richards** (ambassador) and **Dr. Heather Bailey** as faculty advisor. Some of this year's activities included a panel on applying for grad school, a hot chocolate fundraiser, and a new member initiation event in the fall and spring semesters. This year the officers and a committee of members organized our chapter's first ever "How to Study for the GRE" lecture hosted by **Jared Meitler** followed by a Mock GRE exam. Both events were well attended and the officers plan to host this event again next year! We are excited about our incoming officers for 2020-21: **Haley Richards** (president), **Natalie Kokjer** (vice president), **Annie Harper** (secretary), **Hayden Frederiksen** (treasurer), and **Anna Welsh** (ambassador/social media voice).

— Heather Bailey

# Alumni Advisory Council

The 13th annual meeting of the Alumni Advisory Council was Oct. 25, 2019. The members present were Mr. William Conaway, Dr. Michelle Coker, Mr. Richard Felton, Dr. Maggie Gill, Dr. Andy Karafa, Mr. Julio Manso, Dr. Sandi McCoy, Dr. Desirae McKenzie Moreno, Dr. Doug Peterson, Dr. Steve Quackenbush, Dr. Kenneth Sewell, Ms. Rebecca Suroff and Dr. Rick Thomas.

New faculty member Dr. Maria Diehl was introduced. Tracy Robinson, from the KSU Foundation, then provided an update on the university and department fundraising successes, as well as ways to further support the university and psychology department. Dr. Patrick Knight, Dr. Christopher Lake and Dr. Jin Lee also updated the council on the Industrial/Organizational program.

Department head Dr. Young provided an update on departmental activities, successes and challenges. This included staffing updates, infrastructure upgrades, changes in program sizes, and grants and awards received by faculty, students and staff. Resource challenges were also discussed in light of budget cuts. Dr. Young closed with an update on department 2020 goals, noting that 10 of 11 have been met.

During the afternoon, council member William Conaway presented "Success Doesn't Happen in a Day...It Happens Each Day." After this presentation, council members took part in events allowing them to mingle and provide advice to K-State psychology students, both undergraduate and graduate. Council members were also invited to tour research labs.

Anyone interested in becoming a council member in the future should contact Dr. Michael Young at [785-532-0602](tel:785-532-0602) or [michaelyoung@k-state.edu](mailto:michaelyoung@k-state.edu). Provide a brief statement of interest and your current occupation/employer. A list of current council members can be found at [k-state.edu/psych/alumni/advisorycouncil](http://k-state.edu/psych/alumni/advisorycouncil).

— Desirae McKenzie Moreno  
Council Chair



Alumni Advisory Council Meeting.



# Faculty News

## New Faculty



Dr. Sarina Maneotis

### SARINA MANEOTIS

Sarina Maneotis joined the Department of Psychological Sciences after eight years as an applied researcher. Her prior work as a practitioner included the areas of safety, well-being, leadership, human resources (selection, performance appraisal, training) and data analytics. Her favorite projects included designing and implementing safety and occupational health data collection and reporting software, creating and

administering a multiyear employee satisfaction survey, designing a 360 degree-leadership evaluation program, and developing a measure to determine an organization's climate for employee well-being. Her overarching research goal is to understand the factors that contribute to employee performance and wellbeing and how balance can be achieved to prevent personnel burnout and/or injury while maintaining organizational effectiveness. Sarina completed her doctorate in industrial/organizational psychology from Pennsylvania State University and her Bachelor of Science in psychology from Colorado State University. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, running, home improvement, genealogy and spending time with her husband, Brandon, and children, Calvin, Jack, and Stella.

On a personal note, the Bailey family has been trying to creatively pass the time in quarantine. They have been discovering new hiking trails in the area, have planted a flower and vegetable garden, and enjoyed the tulips in Wamego!

### MARK BARNETT



Barnett grandkids, (from left to right in photo: Leah Brennan, Roark Brennan, and Jocee Robb)

Mark Barnett, the most senior faculty member in the department, continues to be active in research, teaching and co-directing, with Don Saucier, the highly successful Teaching Apprenticeship Program for graduate students. Mark's wife, Valerie, continues to work as an Instructor in the Department of Management in the College of Business Administration at K-State. Mark's son, Neil, is a partner and account executive for Elliot Group-Tru Insurance Solutions in Overland Park,

Kansas. Mark's daughter, Megan Brennan, is the labor and employment counsel for Residio Corporation, and his son-in-law, John Brennan, is senior vice president, Legal and Accounting, for Walser Automotive Group. Megan and John live in Wayzata, Minnesota, with their daughter and son. Mark and Valerie treasure the time they get to spend with their rapidly growing grandchildren.

## Individual Faculty News

### HEATHER BAILEY



Heather, Troy, Cooper, Cole and Ahsoka (pup) hiking the Republican River Trail in Junction City

Heather Bailey has continued her research on how young and older adults comprehend and remember everyday activities. Over the past year, she has been busy writing grants, taking on more service in the department and has had fun developing a new undergraduate course called Controversial Issues in Psychology. Heather works with a fantastic team of graduate and undergraduate researchers, and this year a new lab manager, Carmel Powers, joined the lab.

### LAURA BRANNON



Laura Brannon and her nieces at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Laura Brannon continues her research related to topics designed to improve quality of life (physical and emotional health), including attitudes related to diet, mental illness stigma, responsible use of social media, and prosocial communication. Last summer (pre-pandemic), she and her family explored some major U.S. sites in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, New York City and Washington, D.C. On the lighter side, she saw "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" on Broadway and "Hamilton" live in Chicago. She

also had a drink at the original "Cheers" bar in Boston and mounted the "Rocky" steps in Philadelphia. More seriously, she was moved by the 9/11 Memorial in New York City and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and the Holocaust Museum as well as the other memorials in Washington, D.C.



## GARY BRASE



*The latest addition to the Brase family, Olive*

Gary Brase continued doing research and serving as the graduate program director. His lab webpage, as always, has periodic updates ([k-state.edu/psych/braselab](http://k-state.edu/psych/braselab)). Both kids will be moving this summer (once the COVID-19 restrictions allow); Alex to D.C. for his job with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and Emma to Charleston to begin graduate school at the Medical University

of South Carolina. In the meantime, they are both still here and helping to take care of the Brase's newest family member, Olive (her Instagram is [OliveDoodleMHK](#)).

## MARY CAIN

Mary Cain continues to contribute to the department by teaching and research in the area of the neurobiological bases of drug abuse.

## MARIA DIEHL



*Introducing Vincent Atlas Farnya*

Maria Diehl began setting up her research lab last fall and currently has four undergraduates who have joined her lab since then. Her students have learned to perform behavioral studies in rats on fear and avoidance learning and how these experiences affect social interactions. Dr. Diehl is expecting her first graduate student, Greg Erickson, to join the lab this fall. Greg will be learning single unit recordings and optogenetic techniques to study the neural circuits of fear and avoidance and their role in promoting behavioral resilience. Outside the lab, Dr. Diehl and her husband, Ethan, recently bought their first home and welcomed their first son, Vincent Atlas Farnya, into the world on July 25, weighing 8 lbs, 4oz.

## KIM KIRKPATRICK

Kim Kirkpatrick continues to keep busy serving as the director of the Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity Center, or CNAP, director of the behavioral neuroscience research core, and director of the Reward, Timing, and Decision Laboratory. This year saw successes, transitions and interesting challenges both for the center and her lab. Dr. Catherine Steele, who graduated in December 2020, accepted a tenure-track position at Texas A&M University International. Sarah Stuebing, who is working on a D.V.M./Ph.D. dual degree, graduated with her veterinary degree in May 2020 and will return to finish her doctorate soon. When she's not busy looking after the CNAP center and her lab, Kim enjoys gardening, cooking, camping, trail running, and spending time with her family — husband Stu and son Sam — and her two labradoodles, Bear and Ollie.



*Stu, Sam and Kim hiking in the Eureka Springs, Arkansas area in early January.*

## PATRICK KNIGHT

Patrick Knight will be retiring in December, 2020, having been at K-State for 40 and a half years. He will leave having graduated 24 doctoral students and well over 100 master's students. He plans to spend his retirement playing more saxophone, taking more photographs, and visiting his grandkids until they are sick of him.

## CHRIS LAKE

Chris Lake continues to pursue research on workplace satisfaction, commitment and decision-making. Recently published studies have focused on the use of personality assessments in the workplace, development of situational judgment tests, and how to best convey scientific validity evidence to business managers. After attending a conference in Montreal, Quebec, he was made very aware of how little he retained from his high school French class. When not at work, Chris continues to explore hiking opportunities across Kansas and neighboring states. Au revoir!

Dr. Lake resigned this summer to take a position at the University of Alaska.



*The official Canadian spokes-moose welcomes Chris to Montreal for his conference*



## JIN LEE

Jin Lee continues his research on occupational safety/health in his Work Systems & Occupational Health Psychology Lab. He is in the process of wrapping up two federally funded (through the Drexel University, PI: Dr. Jennifer Taylor) safety climate projects for firefighters and EMTs. His collaboration with the fire service safety climate research team will continue as he has been working with the team for two more grants. In the past years, he has expanded his program of research by 1) conducting a new project regarding the road safety and autonomous vehicle along with an undergraduate student Miki Azuma as well as his graduate students; 2) preparing a grant proposal focusing on group/team safety behavior among temporary workers in the Midwest with his graduate students, Leah Klos, Frank Giordano and Stacy Stoffregen; and 3) pursuing a project regarding the application of machine learning approach for personnel selection based on data simulation and experimental approaches with Dr. Chris Lake and a group of I/O graduate students.

## LES LOSCHKY



*Les and Miki Loschky's daughters love cats. And now their granddaughter Amelie seems to be following in her mommy's footsteps! (Or should we say, paw prints?)*

Les has had a busy year. As associate director of the CNAP Center, he has enjoyed being faculty advisor for the newly created Electroencephalography, or EEG, Core research facility, which is run by the Core director Dr. Ali Zakrzewski and the core's primary investigator Dr. Matt Wisniewski. Les also published his first major paper on the Scene Perception & Event Comprehension Theory, or SPECT, which he has been developing with his grad students and colleagues over the last eight years. Les has also worked closely with his four graduate students, Maverick Smith and Taylor Simonson (working on their dissertation proposal and M.S. thesis, respectively), and Karissa Payne and Prasanth Chandran (both working on their first-year projects). With the onset of remote teaching due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Les put far more effort into preparing prerecorded lectures for his Sensation & Perception course than he typically did when preparing to give in-person lectures. Les believes this greatly improved his lectures, and he was able to understand his students' better by adding weekly discussion boards with his lectures. The highlight of each week for Les and his wife Miki have been their Zoom calls with their two daughters Althea in Boston, Massachusetts, and Sophia in Madison, Wisconsin, and their granddaughter, Amelie, Althea's daughter, who just recently turned 10 months old and is "a real character"!

## CHIP PICKENS

Chip Pickens had a good year. He published several journal articles and was promoted to associate professor, effective in July 2020. One of his graduate students earned her master's degree and another student successfully completed her preliminary exam. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Sarah, and his two sons, Auggie and Nate.



*Auggie and Nate Pickens*

## BETHANY PLAKKE

Bethany Plakke's lab is growing and several students presented research at the Society for Neuroscience meeting this year. The lab's pilot grant has discovered decreased brain volumes occur in the rat model of autism, which suggests some of the cognitive deficits observed could be due to these alterations. Her daughter Natalie loves walking at the prairie and finding meadowlarks!



*Bethany and Natalie Plakke*



# GAPS

The 2019-2020 academic year was a great one for the Graduate Association of Psychology Students at K-State. Our members continue their commitment to the success of our department and their fellow graduate students.

GAPS hosted several professional development events during the fall semester and beginning of spring semester. We brought in individuals from both within and outside our own department to discuss topics such as time management tips and tricks, what to really expect in the beginning of a tenure track position, CV building and salary negotiation, and power dynamics in academia and beyond. We had plans to have an equally great spring semester with topics such as journal reviewing for graduate students and how to stay productive when opening and setting up a lab, but COVID-19 had other plans for us.

Additionally, GAPS designed and sold T-shirts to promote departmental spirit, helped obtain Datacamp access for the department to help improve and/or develop our programming skills, and organized and hosted a research fair to help introduce undergraduates to the opportunities in the department. We also hosted and sponsored many fun department activities, including welcome week, a Halloween party, and a chili cook-off.

We look forward to seeing a whole new group of excellent officers next year including Kevin Kenney (president), Troy Fort (vice president), Chi-Leigh Warren (treasurer), and Cassie Chlevin-Theile (mentor chair). We are excited for next year and thank the department for all their support and efforts to make these events possible.

— Tiffany Lawless, GAPS president

## DON SAUCIER

This year Don Saucier, in addition to his role in the Psych Sciences Department, served in a half-time role as the faculty associate director of K-State's Teaching & Learning Center where he advanced the professional development efforts for faculty and graduate students in teaching. Don and his students presented their research at the annual conference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, SPS, APA Division 8, and he also gave a special presentation on teaching at the 2020 conference for the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology, or NTOP, as a representative for SPSP.

## MATT WISNIEWSKI

Matt Wisniewski very much enjoyed his second year at K-State and is loving his new Kansas life. A lot of progress has been made in the Auditory Learning and Cognition, or ACI, Lab. The first published data from the lab came out at the end of 2019 (Wisniewski et al., 2019 — Psychonomic Bulletin & Review), two other manuscripts are at or near the submission stage, two CNAP pilot grants were funded, and the lab's first graduate student is due to start in the fall. Outside of school life, Matt is slowly checking off the list of home improvement projects with his wife Ali Zakrzewski. If you visit, look closely and you can see the tell-tale signs of "fine" Wisniewski craftsmanship — Matt's new to power tools.



*Ali and Matt with Matt's mom and brothers at a K-State football game*

## MICHAEL YOUNG

In February, Mike took on a major responsibility as the chair of the board of directors for the national organization, the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology. The board's major responsibility is the organization of the annual meeting of graduate psychology department leaders across the country in February 2021. This has proven to be a challenging time to assume such a role — at the time of writing, it is unclear whether he will need to organize a virtual conference for the first time in the organization's history! In the meantime, he's enjoying working on landscaping with his wife and joining her for long walks in the neighborhood.



*Gregory, Mike's youngest grandchild (of three with one more on the way!), enjoys rearranging the pantry.*

## ALI ZAKRZEWSKI

Ali Zakrzewski has enjoyed a second year in her new hometown, Manhattan, Kansas. Recently, she's focused on computational analyses to explore the neural correlates of metacognition (part of her CNAP Pilot Grant, awarded last year). She has also enjoyed her first year directing CNAP's new EEG Core, which has undergone upgrades and increased usage, with the help of many people in the department. At home, Ali has been painting the house with her spouse and colleague, Matt Wisniewski. She has also reignited her passion for animal cognition, testing her dog's memory for household items and toys.



# Obituaries

Jeff Bartel (2006, Ph.D.) passed away Dec. 3, 2019 at the age of 47 after battling cancer for several years. He was a professor at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife Tracy, son Nickolas, and daughter Julie of suburban Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.

# Alumni News

The news below comes from numerous alumni from our undergraduate and graduate programs across several decades. It is always so interesting and gratifying to hear that majoring in psychology can prepare students for an extremely wide variety of careers. While some of our graduates are actively pursuing careers doing exactly what they prepared for at K-State, many others are using their psychology in ways they probably never dreamed of when they were here. Please continue to send news and pictures for future newsletters to [lbrannon@K-State.edu](mailto:lbrannon@K-State.edu).

## 1970

**William N. Washington** (B.S., M.S. from Trinity University) is a retired executive management consultant/program manager. His doctoral studies were in measurement, evaluation and research design at Michigan State University. He is a graduate of the Army Acquisition Corps Senior Service College (1995), and the Advanced Program Management Course (96-2). He has received the Secretary of the Army's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Material Acquisition (1994), four Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management & Comptroller) Author of the Year Awards (1997, 1998, 1999 and 2002), a DA Commander's Award for Civilian Service (2000), two DA Achievement Medal's for Civilian Service (1998 and 2002), and the Army Material Command's Cost Analysis Award for Modeling (1988). Over the past several years, he has authored 22 programs, contracting issues, cost savings and management considerations. He is also the recipient of the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award (2017) from Marquis's Who's Who.

## 2005



Chelsea Bartel

**Chelsea Bartel** (B.A.) is a licensed psychologist living in Durham, North Carolina with her partner Jonathan (B.S. in engineering, 2007) and their two children, Evelyn, 10, and Gideon, 8. After completing her M.A. in clinical psychology at Washburn University in 2008, Chelsea attended North Carolina State University where she completed her doctorate in school psychology in 2012. Chelsea works full-time in K-8 schools providing psychoeducational evaluations and consultation

services, and she maintains a solo clinical therapy practice in Durham. When she's not working, you can find Chelsea at her daughter's Irish dance competitions, canvassing for her favorite political candidates, cheering on her son's baseball team, or making a quick getaway to the mountains or the beach — both an easy drive away. While at K-State, Chelsea enjoyed participating in the undergrad teaching program led by Dr. Richard Harris, training rats through backward chaining with Psi Chi, and making posters the old-school way with spray glue and mat board with Jenn and John Raacke!

## 2013

**W. Trey Hill** (Ph.D.) took a new position as assistant dean at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

## 2015

**Lora Adair** (Ph.D.) took a new position as a lecturer (similar to assistant professor) at Brunel University London, in the Centre for Culture and Evolution

Tony McCoy (M.S.), data scientist with the Ford Motor Co., moved into a new role in analytics governance. He is spearheading Ford's analytics industrialization efforts on the dashboarding side.

## 2016

**Whitney (Jeter) Whitaker** (Ph.D) won the Fort Hays State University Outstanding Teaching Award for the spring 2020 semester. Each semester, all FHSU faculty members have the opportunity to be nominated by their colleagues for the award. Whitney has been an assistant professor at FHSU for four years and credits this teaching recognition to the mentorship received working with Dr. Laura Brannon and completing the teaching apprenticeship program at K-State.



First year presenters from left: Nora Balboa, Zach McKinnell, Troy Fort, Brian Howatt, Slava Prokhorets and Destiny Bell





*Will Conaway alumni council talk*



*Alumni Council discussions with undergraduates*



*A Halloween-themed research lab meeting with Chris Lake (squirrel), Nathan Voss (Spock), Cassie Chlevin-Thiele (a Ghibli anime superfan), Chi-Leigh Warren and Courtney Matthews.*



*When members of the Pickens Lab found out Chip got tenure, they sang "Happy Birthday" to the tune of happy birthday and made him a cake*



*Familiar faces at wedding of Kim Newberry and John Hutson, August 10, 2019*



*Aedyn and Sarah Buchanan at Freddy's*



*Alumni Council undergraduate panel*





## Contact Us

Psytalk editor: Laura Brannon

To add your email address to the rapid news notification list, send your address to [psych@k-state.edu](mailto:psych@k-state.edu).

To send us news for inclusion in next year's newsletter, please write, email — [lbrannon@k-state.edu](mailto:lbrannon@k-state.edu) — or fax 785-532-5401 us and tell us what you are doing. Feel free to include professional and/or personal information, whatever you think would be of interest to fellow alums. You may also send photos, preferably digital, for possible use.

This newsletter is also distributed to potential undergraduate and graduate students in order to show them what is going on in the department. Please continue to send us information about what you are currently doing even if the update doesn't indicate a change from your previous status. The ongoing successes of our graduates are one of the biggest selling/bragging points for the department.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation year and degree \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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