

Inside this issue

Greetings from the interim department head	1
Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) Center	2
Recent award winners	2
MIOP	3
Psi Chi	3
GAPS	4
Alumni Advisory Council	4
Faculty news	5
New faculty	9
Alumni news	10
Contact us	11

Greetings from the interim department head



Gary Brase

Things are getting better and better in the Department of Psychological Sciences! It would be great to say things have gone back to normal — and we certainly have moved very much in that direction — but it is becoming clear that life will never truly just go back to normal. The world has changed and people have changed during two years of global pandemic. I'm told that the next step is to move from pandemic to endemic — we will deal with COVID from here on out with the various ways we deal with all the other pathogens that try to make us ill.

In many ways, the department has emerged stronger and is doing better than ever. It is striking that psychological sciences is one of the top four departments in the College of Arts and Sciences

across a wide number of diverse measures. We have the second largest number of undergraduate majors, after biology, and the second largest number of minors, after Spanish. We started offering a psychology minor just two years ago and we now have over 175 minors! We also are one of the top departments in the college in terms of external research funding per tenure-track faculty member.

We welcomed a new Industrial-Organizational faculty member to the department this year, Dr. Tianjun Sun, and this coming year we are excited to be welcoming Drs. Chris Barlett and Natalie Barlett as new Social/Personality Psychology faculty. Some of you will recognize Chris and Natalie as former K-State students! Chris and Natalie began their career journeys as undergraduate researchers in our department, much like over 100 of our current psychology students. Undergrads continue to co-author a majority of our faculty publications and are often first authors. Most of our teaching, research and other daily activities are back to in person, or at least can be if people want them to be. There are still many meetings that are blended — people can attend in person or virtually through Zoom. There also seems to be more interest in online courses, perhaps because so many more people are familiar with them. We continue to move forward and adapt to these new aspects, rather than trying to get back to something that was.

For me, being the interim department head has been like having small children again. No, that is not a reference to any people in the department. Rather, we learned as new parents that no matter how much we thought we were getting done in a normal day, it was always possible to find ways to get more done, be more efficient and juggle more things to do (and be more tired).

This coming year promises to continue the growth and development of the psychological sciences department. K-State has a new university president and we will be working on the selection of a permanent department head. Another big factor for the coming year is that Dr. Kim Kirkpatrick and the rest of the Center for Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) have received COBRE Phase 2 funding from the National Institutes of Health! None of these things would be happening without the support and dedication of our students, staff, faculty and alumni. Having a clear and consistent vision for the department, developed by people in the department itself and led for so many years by an excellent department head, Mike Young, has made everything happening now possible. Thank you all and Go Cats!

— Gary Brase, *Interim Department Head*

Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity (CNAP) Center

The CNAP Center of Biomedical Research Excellence was funded in July of 2017 by a \$10.6 million, five-year Phase I grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. CNAP is housed at Kansas State University (K-State) in the Department of Psychological Sciences. The grant supports junior investigators funded on project and pilot grants and three research cores as well as a host of other activities. We are in our final year of funding. Over the five years, we have contributed over \$3M in infrastructure funding at K-State and funded 17 project and pilot grants to support junior faculty, for a total of nearly \$5M in research funding. We submitted a Phase II renewal application in September 2021 and are pleased to report this application was successful! The renewal is for a further \$11.2M over five years and will start in July

2022. The application includes plans for hiring three tenure-tracking faculty, including a new faculty member in Psychological Sciences. We also are planning further upgrades to the core facilities including adding electrophysiology to the Behavioral Neuroscience core, transcranial magnetic stimulation to the Cognitive Neuroscience core, and machine learning and artificial intelligence modeling capabilities to the Neuroinformatics core. And, of course, will continue to fund lots of exciting research! For more details on CNAP, please visit our website: k-state.edu/cnap.

— Kim Kirkpatrick

Recent Award Winners

The psychological sciences department honored this year's departmental undergraduate and graduate award winners at an event May 9.



Awards Banquet



Kourtney Rumback and Dr. Brase

Kourtney Rumback received the John C. Peterson Undergraduate Scholarship Prize for being an outstanding graduating senior. Rumback has been a member of Dr. Kimberly Kirkpatrick's research lab since her freshman year and Sonny Lee's microbiology laboratory since her sophomore year. Rumback's research examines the effects of high-fat diets on gut microbiome composition and impulsivity. Rumback will be starting medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita this summer to become an emergency room doctor and family physician in rural Kansas.



Katie Hutson and Dr. Brase

Katie Hutson is this year's recipient of the E. Jerry Phares Undergraduate Research Award. Hutson's research in Dr. Don Saucier's lab examines prejudicial perceptions of lesbians in the workplace, and research in Dr. Heather Bailey's lab examines fluid intelligence and strategy choice with Raven's advanced progressive matrices. Hutson is the outgoing president of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance, vice president of the College of Arts and Sciences Ambassadors, a Psi Chi member and has completed the University Honors Program. After graduation, Hutson plans to work as a case manager for NorthCare in Oklahoma City.

Haylee Tien is the winner of the Curtis Lee and JB Gee Psychological Sciences Scholarship. Tien is part of the Couples and Family Therapy Club and plans to become a couples and family therapist.

Katie Lochner, Kelly Krehbiel and **Sophie Austin** received the James and Doreen Shanteau Undergraduate Research Award. The award funds research with the students' faculty mentors during the following academic year. Lochner will work with Dr. Saucier on the effects of social vigilantism and source credibility on resistance to persuasion. Krehbiel will work with Dr. Bailey on the relationship between childhood trauma and its effects on memory and inhibition. Austin will also work with Dr. Saucier on how masculine honor beliefs relates to perceptions of intimate partner violence.

Tina Shirley received the Leon Rappoport Psychology Undergraduate Scholarship. This scholarship honors the memory of a faculty member in the department and is awarded to a nontraditional, high-achieving student.



Alexys Anguiano and Dr. Brase

The Sewell Undergraduate Research Scholarship was awarded to **Alexys Anguiano**. This scholarship recognizes undergraduates conducting psychology research with a preference for supporting first-generation and transfer students. Anguiano conducts research on the behavioral and neural processes involved in learning to detect sounds in noise. Anguiano's faculty mentors are Dr. Alexandria Zakrzewski and Dr. Matthew Wisniewski.



Trevor Bell received the Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award. Bell teaches General Psychology, has given teaching discussions and talks for the Teaching and Learning Center, and aims to increase student engagement and inclusion in the classroom. Bell received a monetary award from the Nobuko S. Nicholson Opportunity Fund for Psychological Sciences.

Trevor Bell and Dr. Brase

The Outstanding Graduate Research Award/Harry Helson Memorial Scholarship had two recipients this year: **Brian Howatt** and **Kelsey Panfil**. Howatt studies how people learn when to act impulsively versus when to wait patiently in video-game-based tasks, and strategic decision-making in competitive environments using computational modeling and electroencephalography. Panfil is currently working on sex differences in time-based interventions designed to promote self-control, including both behavioral and neural activity associated with the interventions. Panfil has received grants from Sigma Xi and Psi Chi to begin collecting dissertation data.



Kelsey Panfil, Dr. Brase and Brian Howatt



Lastly, the department presented the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award to **Noah Renken** who was nominated for his work in Dr. Saucier's General Psychology and Advanced Social Psychology courses, particularly relating to his aid in managing HyFlex course modalities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Renken also works in the Teaching and Learning Center and serves as the graduate teaching assistant for Principles of College Teaching and contributes to the scholarship of teaching and learning. This award was funded by

Noah Renken and Dr. Brase

the department's Graduate Teaching Assistant Support Fund, which has been generously supported by alumni.

The faculty in the psychological sciences applaud the many achievements of these outstanding students.

— Gary Brase

MIOP

The Master's in Industrial/Organizational Psychology program enters its 23rd year this summer! After two years of completely online courses, the program is back in person for summer 2022. Director Dr. Sarina Maneotis and program assistant Chi-Leigh Warren are busy planning a warm welcome back experience for students. They have also been busy starting social media accounts for the program to better communicate program updates, help potential applicants learn more, and connect with alumni. You are encouraged to follow their accounts: Twitter, @ksu_miop, and Instagram, ksumiop.

In other program news, third-year student Linda Wilson received the Outstanding Professional, Continuing and/or Online Education Student Award from the University Professional and Continuing Education Association at its national conference this spring. Fellow third-year student Christina Boxx, was this year's recipient of K-State Global Campus Extraordinary Student Award. The program is incredibly proud of its amazing students.

If you are interested in learning more about the MIOP program, please visit online.k-state.edu/programs/industrial-organizational-psychology-masters

— Sarina Maneotis

Psi Chi

Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology's K State chapter was very active with the return of students on campus this academic year. This year's officers included Samantha Schultz, president; Meghan Dillon, vice president; Cheyanne Brunner, secretary; Abby Ruder, treasurer, and Vania Espinoza, ambassador. Dr. Heather Bailey continued to serve as faculty advisor. The officers worked diligently to host several activities, including a "going to grad school" panel, a mock GRE event and a hot chocolate fundraiser. They also worked with GAPS to plan the department's annual awards banquet. Psi Chi officers and members also worked with Dr. Chip Pickens to run the department's table for the annual K-State Open House in April. They are excited to announce the incoming officers for 2022-23: Brianna Vargas, president; Claire Weaver, vice president; Laila Haggar, secretary/treasurer; and Sonja Killough, ambassador.

— Heather Bailey



Outgoing Psi Chi officers Abby Ruder, Cheyanne Brunner, Meghan Dillon and Sam Schultz



Incoming Psi Chi officers Laila Haggar and Brianna Vargas

GAPS

The 2021-2022 year was a particularly exciting year for GAPS. Navigating the return to in-person education was interesting, to say the least. We had three goals for GAPS this year: to create social opportunities, build upon previous DEI efforts, and create a safe and inclusive environment for grad students.

For this year, GAPS' primary goal was to rebuild the grad student community that was lost during the pandemic. In a collaborative effort, all GAPS officers worked together to create opportunities for social engagement by organizing over 10 social activities.

An additional goal was to continue shaping the new diversity/equity/inclusion officer position. Trevor Bell, the current DEI officer, promoted DEI within the department by sharing monthly DEI educational opportunities, applied for a grant to fund two DEI guest speakers and facilitated two DEI professional development workshops. While there are always opportunities to improve our DEI initiatives, we are very pleased with how much we accomplished this year.

We wanted to foster an inclusive environment that was focused on student well-being, including mental health awareness. To accommodate post-pandemic needs, all meetings and professional development events were hybrid, with recordings available on Canvas. We also created two anonymous Qualtrics surveys for grad students to voice any concerns. We also hosted a mental health workshop on motivation with Lafene Counseling Services. Lastly, we finished the year with a successful T-shirt fundraiser, raising almost \$400 for GAPS.

We are excited to welcome a group of fantastic new officers: CJ Joyner, president; Lane Banks, vice president; Slava Prokhorets, mentor chair; Robby Southern, treasurer; and Taylor Vargo, DEI officer. Thank you to everyone in the department for your support and involvement and making GAPS possible. The future may be different, but it is bright.

— Chi-Leigh Warren, *GAPS President*



Outgoing GAPS officers. Back row: Greg Erickson, Chi-Leigh Warren and Trevor Bell; front row: CJ Joyner and Chase Herndon



Incoming 2022-23 GAPS officers Taylor Vargo, Slava Prokhorets, CJ Joyner and Lane Banks

Alumni Advisory Council

The fall 2021 meeting of the Psychological Sciences Alumni Advisory Council was Oct. 29. Council Chair Steve Quackenbush kicked things off. In attendance were Scott Bailey, Susan Burns, Michelle Coker, Bill Deeds, Joel DiGirolamo, Rich Felton, Maggie Gill, Andy Karafa, Marissa Long, Doug Peterson, Jeff Reed, Chris Rodeheffer, DeKeta Schuckman, Kenneth Sewell, Kelley Watson, Abby Werth and Jim Wright — with six of them attending via Zoom. After introductions of council members, the council had a chance to hear from two new faculty — Dr. Sarina Maneotis and Dr. Tianjun Sun — both Industrial/Organizational psychologists. The meeting then transitioned to a series of brief research presentations by faculty in the Behavioral Neurosciences program. Each provided an overview of their current research programs while highlighting student involvement in their laboratories. The council received an update on department fundraising efforts from Jenny Brittan with the KSU Foundation. Dr. Gary Brase, interim department head, shared from his report on the state of the department with discussion interspersed throughout. Maggie Gill was chosen as chair-elect and will serve after Doug Peterson, who became chair upon the close of this meeting. After approval of the minutes and a group photo, the council enjoyed lunch with current faculty and students followed by a career retrospective by longtime council member Bill Deeds, provost emeritus, Morningside University in Iowa. The talk was titled “From hamburgers to higher education: Serendipity, networking and focus throughout the career of one K-State alumnus.” Current students then had the opportunity to receive career advice from council members by attending breakout sessions. The day ended with a tour of the newly launched K-State Sunderland Foundation Innovation Laboratory in Hale Library followed by the council’s evening dinner with faculty and students at the K-State Alumni Center. Some of the council members stayed to watch a 31-12 win by the football team over TCU. Go Cats!

— Mike Young



Advisory Council

Faculty News

Individual Faculty News

HEATHER BAILEY



Heather Bailey with husband, Troy, and sons, Cooper and Cole, posing on the beach in Destin, Florida

Heather Bailey was excited to return to in-person classes this year as she missed interacting with her students. A new graduate student, Younes Elbishari, joined the Bailey lab this fall and has begun to work on research that focuses on how young and older adults comprehend and remember everyday activities. Her husband, Troy, and her two sons, Cooper, 11, and Cole, 7, have had a busy year with school, sports and travel. Last summer they went to Southern California, Colorado and upstate New York. This summer they plan to take a two-week trip to several national parks.

LAURA BRANNON

Laura Brannon continues her research related to topics designed to improve quality of life — physical and emotional health — including attitudes related to climate change, mental illness stigma, responsible use of social media and prosocial communication. Brannon and her family usually travel abroad over the summer. This was impossible with the pandemic. So, in her spare time, she continued improving at playing a wide variety of musical instruments. As she has done throughout the pandemic, Brannon also traveled virtually to the suburbs of Chicago to play a variety of online games with her nieces.



Laura Brannon, on the phone, and her nieces, Lily and Chelsea, play online

GARY BRASE

Gary Brase has spent this year as the interim department head and agreed to continue for this next year while the department advertises for an external hire of a new department head. Sandra and he are looking forward to returning to Orvieto, Italy, this summer, where Brase will teach a course for the K-State Italy education abroad program. Their son, Alex, is now an online content manager for a political action committee in Washington D.C., and their daughter, Emma, is studying neuroscience at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln..

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

Maria Diehl's lab continues to grow. Shannon Ruble will join as the second graduate student in fall 2022, along with the first Diehl Lab graduate student, Greg Erickson, who joined the lab in August 2020. Erickson, along with several undergraduates, have been hard at work understanding the behavioral effects of learning active avoidance under social conditions. The lab recently began investigating whether activity the anterior cingulate cortex is necessary for avoidance behavior under solo vs. social conditions using optogenetic approaches that can transiently silence neuronal activity by illuminating neurons with a specific wavelength of light. This summer, the lab begin setting up experiments for single-unit recordings to examine patterns of neuronal firing in prefrontal cortex during avoidance behaviors. Outside the lab, Diehl enjoys spending time with her husband, Ethan, and watching their son, Vincent, grow like a weed! He will be 2 years old in July.



Diehl and her family, Ethan and Vincent, enjoying the views in Guanica, Puerto Rico, in February 2022

KIM KIRKPATRICK

Kim Kirkpatrick is busy as always directing the Cognitive and Neurobiological Approaches to Plasticity Center. She also directs the Reward, Timing, and Decision Laboratory. Her lab received a five-year, \$1.9 million renewal of her NIMH R01 grant to continue to fund her rodent impulsivity research. She also received a collaborative Small Business Innovation Research Grant to fund interventions to promote self-control in opiate use disorder patients. The lab members have also been very busy. Kelsey Panfil completed her preliminary exam and proposed her dissertation and Sarah Stuebing proposed her preliminary exam. Her lab also recruited a new graduate student, Robert Southern, who has a master's degree from Georgia Southern University. The best part of lab this year is that they were able to return

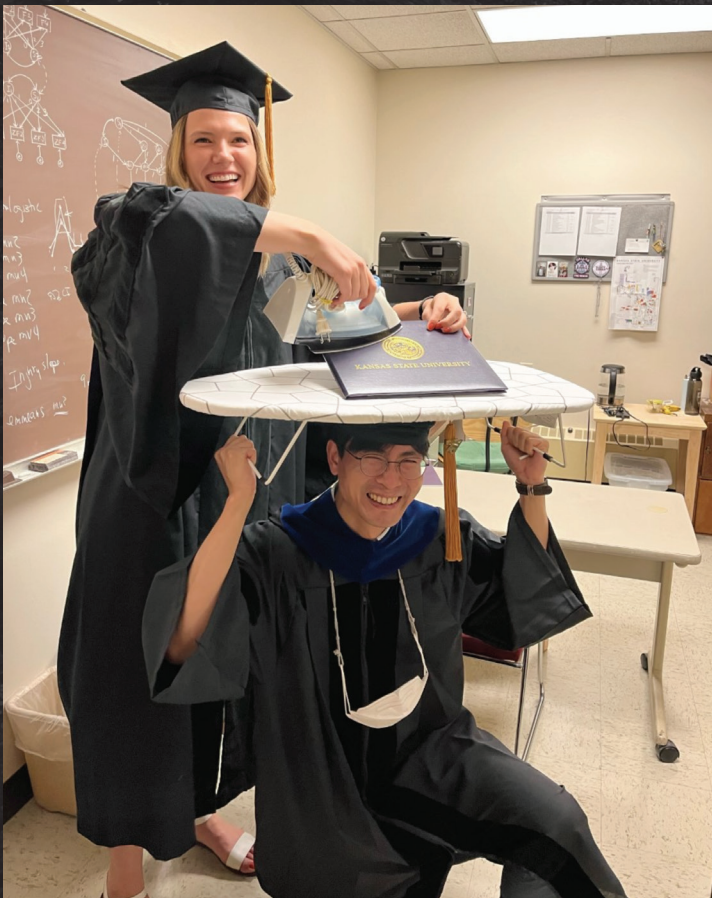
to having lab meetings in person, which has been wonderful! On a personal front, this year saw Kirkpatrick and her husband, Stu, become empty nesters as their son, Sam, flew the coop. They miss him a lot but have been keeping busy with their sheep-a-doodle Pepper. And Pepper will be getting a brother, Bennie, soon! Bennie is also a sheep-a-doodle and will give Pepper a run for her money in the cuteness department. The Kirkpatricks enjoy camping, gardening, hiking, running and spending time with family.



Kirkpatrick and her lab members

JIN LEE

Jin Lee continues his research on occupational safety/health and personnel selection in his Work Systems & Occupational Health Psychology Lab. His collaboration with the fire service safety climate research team at Drexel University will continue for a new grant



Stacey Stoffregen and Jin Lee demonstrate "extreme ironing."

funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Also, in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, he has launched a new research project on ergonomics of work from home, which is funded by Office Ergonomics Research Committee. His students will attend the European Academy of Occupational Health Psychology Conference, which will take place in Bordeaux, France, this summer. Lee received tenure this year and his student, Stacy Stoffregen, successfully defended her dissertation and became the very first Doctor of Philosophy awardee from his lab. Stoffregen's hooding was commemorated in a unique way, which is called "extreme ironing."

LES LOSCHKY

Les Loschky continues to contribute to the department through teaching and research in perception, visual cognition, human-computer interaction and comprehension.

SARINA MANEOTIS

Dr. Sarina Maneotis just concluded her second year at K-State. Her primary focus as a teaching assistant professor has been preparing and teaching for the Master's in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, or MIOP, program, and undergraduate, and graduate courses for the department. She only has one more class to prep for fall 2022! This year has brought some changes to her role as director of the MIOP program. Due to changes at K-State Global Campus, she is now more directly involved in marketing and event planning for the program. This has allowed her to meet many new faces across campus, build new relationships and provide new skill development. Maneotis presented her research at Work, Stress & Health and Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology this year. She and her husband, Brandon, and children Calvin, 6, Jack, 4, and Stella, 3, continue to enjoy Manhattan. Over the past year, they've been able to do more around town, like attend K-State basketball and baseball games. They were also able travel, including to Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Kansas City, Missouri. They look forward to more family road trips over the summer — possibly St. Louis.



Maneotis' children Stella, Jack and Calvin attend the Wamego Tulip Festival

CHIP PICKENS

Chip Pickens continues contributing to the department with research and teaching about neuroscience, learning and how drugs affect the brain. In his personal life, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Sarah, and their two sons, Auggie and Nate.



Auggie, left, and Nate Pickens playing together in their back yard

BETHANY PLAKKE

The Plakke lab published its findings indicating reduced volumes of the cerebellum are associated with worse task performance in the autism rodent model. The lab is currently investigating if treadmill exercise can drive recovery of brain volume and cognition in the same model. Alma Romualdo Pahua joined the lab as a graduate student this fall and has been a wonderful addition to the research team. The family continues to enjoy walks at Konza Prairie.



Bethany Plakke's daughter, Natalie, 4, on the Konza Prairie

DON SAUCIER

This year, Dr. Don Saucier again served in a part-time role as the faculty associate director of K-State's Teaching and Learning Center where he advanced the professional development efforts for faculty and graduate students in teaching. He and his students presented their research at the annual conference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (APA Division 8) and its teaching pre-conference.

Saucier also gave a keynote address at the Great Plains Students' Psychology Convention at Emporia State University. He just began serving as K-State's Faculty Senate president.

TIANJUN SUN

Tianjun Sun joined the department this year and has published five peer-reviewed articles, among which three were led by doctoral students she has been working with. She also won this year's Anne Anastasi Dissertation Award from the American Psychological Association (Division 5) for her 2021 dissertation. Sun was a finalist for this year's Ralph Alexander Award at the Academy of Management, Human Resources Division. On the grant front, she was selected to receive an international research grant from the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology to study workplace gossip behaviors cross-culturally. Dr. Sun taught undergraduate Industrial Psychology and doctoral Psychometrics this year, and is looking forward to teaching the doctoral personality seminar this coming fall. She is excited to welcome her first two doctoral students in the fall as well.



K-State Industrial/Organizational Psychology faculty, students and alumni at the Society for Industrial and Organization Psychology Conference in Seattle. From left: Dr. Tianjun Sun; Christine Seitz, an incoming first year doctoral student; Dr. Sarina Maneotis; Justine Fiscus, an alumna and first-year doctoral student at the University of Nebraska, Omaha; Dr. Nathaniel Voss, an alumnus, and his wife, Bethany; Erin Newkirk, an alumna and third-year doctoral student at Florida International University; and Chi-Leigh Warren, a third-year doctoral student

MATT WISNIEWSKI

Matt Wisniewski continues to study auditory learning and cognition. He is doing a lot of learning on his own as a new dad.

MICHAEL YOUNG

Since stepping down as department head, Dr. Michael Young has started teaching his judgment and decision making course again — first time in eight years — and also has been serving part time as a faculty fellow in K-State’s Office for Institutional Research and Assessment. As a fellow, Young leads the office’s efforts on creating training materials for campus administrators to help them more effectively use the institutional data that is available through Power BI. On the personal front, he continues to enjoy landscaping with his wife, Carolyn, and time with his three children and four grandchildren who span the globe from Pennsylvania and Connecticut to the Czech Republic.



Young and his family vacationing in the hills of Pennsylvania

ALI ZAKRZEWSKI

Ali Zakrzewski continues her research on metacognition and confidence and recently began a new project examining uncertainty using electroencephalography, or EEG. She enjoyed in-person lab meetings this semester with the Auditory Learning and Cognition Lab, which has made progress on several projects investigating training-related improvements in auditory detection. Zakrzewski continues to serve as CNAP’s EEG core director, working closely with Trevor Bell, a graduate research assistant, and Alexys Anguiano, a post-baccalaureate research assistant who just accepted a new position in behavioral therapy to prepare for graduate school. This year, Zakrzewski is also learning the ropes of parenthood as a new mom to her daughter, Nadia, who turns 1 in July. Currently, Zakrzewski and husband/colleague, Dr. Matt Wisniewski, predict Nadia’s future is in percussion music as she enjoys treating all objects as drums.



Ali Zakrzewski, Dr. Matt Wisniewski and daughter, Nadia, in April



New Faculty



Chris Barlett

CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" P. BARLETT

Chris Barlett received his bachelor's in 2004 and master's in 2007 from the Department of Psychological Sciences at Kansas State University before receiving his doctorate in experimental social psychology from Iowa State University in 2012. He then spent 10 years as a professor in the Department of Psychology at Gettysburg College, a small liberal arts college in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Currently, his research focuses on understanding the antecedents and consequences of aggressive behavior, including (a) mitigating provocations through excuses, (b) heat and aggression, (c) violence escalation, and, most importantly, (d) cyberbullying perpetration. In his spare time, Dr. Barlett enjoys playing soccer, building Legos with his three sons, and traveling with his wife, Dr. Natalie Barlett. Overall, Dr. Barlett is very excited to work in the Department of Psychological Sciences — the department that started his journey to understanding and predicting human behavior.

NATALIE D. BARLETT

Natalie Barlett earned her master's and doctorate, with a focus on social-emotional development, from the Department of Psychological Sciences at Kansas State University. Her love of teaching began during graduate school while completing the teaching apprenticeship program offered by the department. That love has grown over the last 10 years as she took on various roles as adjunct and visiting assistant professor at Gettysburg College. In addition to teaching at Gettysburg College, Dr. Barlett has taught classes in person and virtually for colleges and universities throughout Pennsylvania, Kansas, New York and South Dakota. Her teaching focus has been on developmental courses, social psychology, happiness, psychology of gender, and introduction to psychology. Beyond teaching, her research interests lie in exploring the factors related to and the developmental process experienced with Emerging Adulthood. She is thrilled to return to the Department of Psychological Sciences and have her three children get to grow up in Manhattan.



Natalie Barlett



Natalie and Chris Barlett with sons Eric, 9, Jace, 6, and Andrew, 3

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.

2014/2015

Megan Strain (Ph.D. 2014) and **Chris Waples** (Ph.D. 2015) are tenured associate professors at the University of Nebraska Kearney, continuing their teaching and research with students while simultaneously juggling raising little, awesome humans. Madelyn will start first grade in the fall, and Owen will be in pre-K, while Chris just earned tenure, and Megan recently won the Faculty Mentoring of Undergraduate Student Research Award in the College of Arts and Sciences — with the help of former UNK student and current K-State grad student, Noah Renken).



The Waples family on a hiking trail at Cottonmill Park in Kearney

2018

John Hutson (Ph.D.) is an impact research scientist at Educational Testing Service. He works remotely from Winchester, Virginia.

Elena Knyshev (Ph.D.) is currently working as a contract installation manager for the Transition Assistance Program at Fort Irwin and the Presidio of Monterey. Currently, her family is stationed in the middle of the Mojave Desert in California. Their daughter is finishing up fifth grade and going to middle school

next year, and their son is almost done with his freshman year in high school. Anna is also wrapping up her first gymnastics competition season and she made it to California Regionals and U.S. Nationals this year.



Elena Knyshev and family

2019

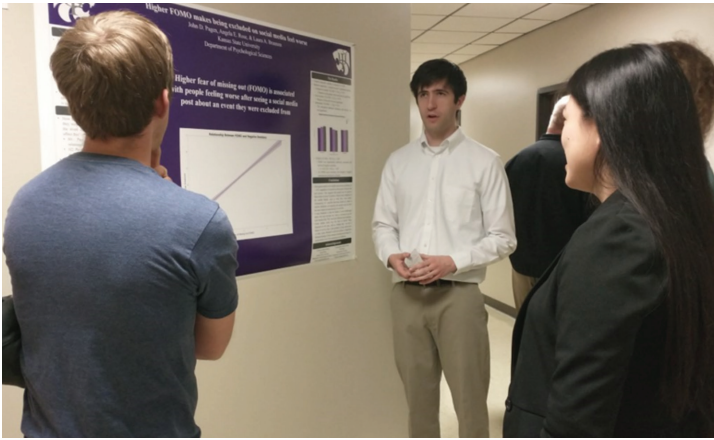
Lisa Vangsness (Ph.D.) is leaving her position as an assistant professor at Wichita State University to take a new position at an R1 institution, the University of Alabama, Huntsville, where she will continue her research and teaching in the area of human factors.

2020

Kimberly Newberry (Ph.D.) is a tenure-track assistant professor at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

2021

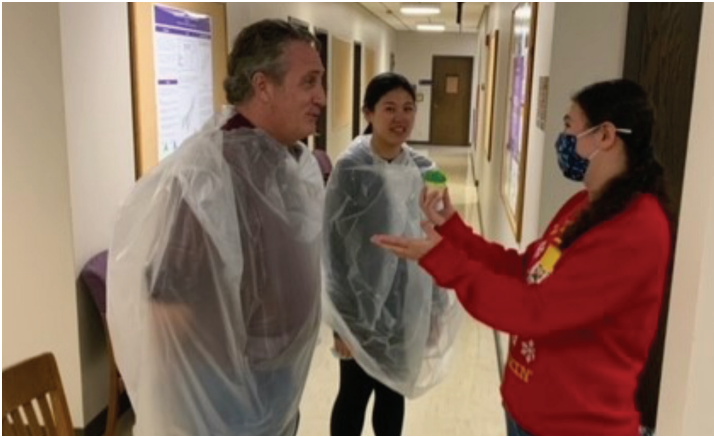
Tucker Jones (Ph.D.) is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Washburn University.



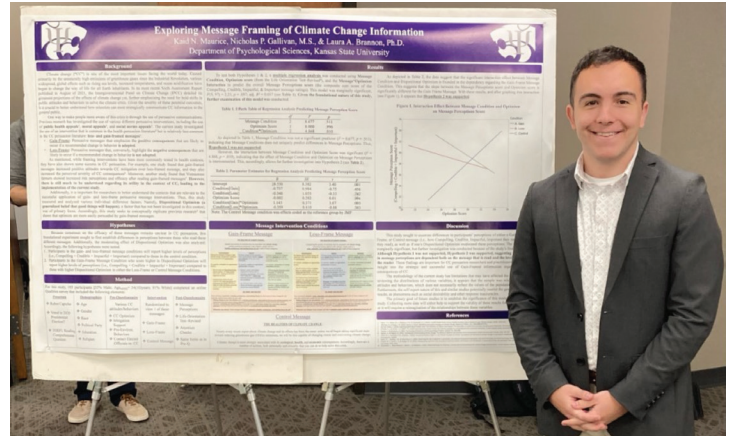
Undergraduate Research Convocation



GAPS Halloween party



K-State psychology graduate students who achieved their professional goals for the semester got to "cupcake" Interim Department Head Dr. Gary Brase and GAPS President Chi-Leigh Warren.



Kaid Maurice wins Outstanding Undergraduate Poster at Great Plains Student Psychology Conference

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.

To send us news for inclusion in next year's newsletter, please write, email — 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 _____

Address _____

Email _____

Would you like us to print your email address in next year's newsletter?

Yes No _____

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