Gerald Davison Receives Scientific Contribution in Psychology Award

The California Psychological Association (CPA) selected long-time USC Professor of Psychology and Gerontology, Gerald C. Davison, as the recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Scientific Contribution in Psychology award. This award honors a psychologist who has contributed exceptional research of great impact to the field of psychology. Davison is a leading expert in mental health and cognitive behavior therapy, and in the treatment of anxiety, stress, and depression.

In an academic career that has reached nearly 50 years, Davison is no stranger to being recognized for his work. In 1988 he received an outstanding achievement award from APA's Board of Social and Ethical Responsibility; in 1989 was the recipient of the Albert S. Raubenheimer Distinguished Faculty Award from USC's College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; in 1993 won the USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching, a university-wide prize; in 1995 received the Distinguished Psychologist Award from the Los Angeles County Psychological Association; in 1997 was given the Outstanding Educator Award of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies; in 2003 received the Lifetime Achievement Award from ABCT; and in 2005 was the recipient of the USC Mellon Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

Davison has authored more than 150 publications, been an editorial board member for several professional journals, served as President of the Association for Behavior and Cognitive Therapies, and been on the Executive Committee of the Division of Clinical Psychology, Board of Scientific Affairs, and Committee on Scientific Awards. He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Center for Excellence in Teaching, the Association for Psychological Science, and of the Academy of Cognitive Therapy.

Bosco Tjan Leading Team of Experts to Improve Treatments for Blindness

Dr. Bosco Tjan, Professor of Psychology, is leading a multidisciplinary, collaborative team of USC researchers to investigate how the human brain is affected by blinding eye diseases. The study is titled, "Human Connectomes in Low Vision, Blindness and Sight Restoration." Working off a new $4 million grant from the National Eye Institute (NEI) and utilizing the world's most advanced retinal imaging and comprehensive brain mapping techniques, Tjan and his colleagues from the USC Eye Institute will be working together in an effort to accelerate future treatments and therapies to restore sight.

Alumnus’ High School Ranked in Top 5% Nationally

After graduating from USC with her BA in Psychology in 1996, Dr. Meg Palisoc went straight into a master's degree program at the USC Rossier School of Education (and later received her doctorate there). After obtaining her master's degree, she worked for the USC Viterbi student affairs division. Dr. Palisoc recalls, “I loved working in student affairs, but I also witnessed firsthand that there were not enough students from low income neighborhoods who were getting into prestigious universities, such as USC. As a result, I was inspired to become part of the solution by becoming an inner city elementary school teacher.”

In 2004, in order to make an even greater impact on urban education, Dr. Palisoc started a non-profit organization called Synergy Academies, which operates three free public charter schools in South Los Angeles, near USC. Synergy Quantum Academy was just awarded a Silver Medal by US News & World Report for being ranked in the top 5% of public high schools nationwide! The US News & World Report annually ranks public high schools across the country based on student achievement and college-readiness.
Dr. Jesse Graham, now Associate Professor of Psychology, has been awarded tenure. His research on values, ideology, and morality, along with his natural leadership, mentoring, and teaching abilities, makes Dr. Graham a valued member of our psychology faculty.

Dr. Daphna Oyserman has been awarded two new grants: 2016-2019 A Virtual Learning World for Tweens to Experience Possible Identities (ME GAMES) (Carter, L., Oyserman, D., Schwartz, S. co-PIs). National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, SIBR.


Dr. Darby Saxbe won a USC Mentoring Award for mentoring of graduate students. Her four graduate students (Sarah Stoycos, Geoff Corner, Mona Khaled, and Hannah Lyden) wrote letters of support. They all attended the awards ceremony together on April 6th.

Julia Loup, undergraduate senior honors student, has received a Fulbright Grant in research, study, and teaching for next year in Vienna, Austria. Her collaborative research at USC on exercise self-efficacy in older adults, with Dr. Jo Ann Farver in Psychology and Dr. Elizabeth Zelinski in Gerontology, was awarded the interdisciplinary prize at the annual Undergraduate Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Work.

Alyssa Kennedy, senior honors student, was awarded a travel grant from the Department of Psychology to attend the Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences. Her project focused on culturally sensitive clinical treatments targeted toward ethnic minority clients. The analyses demonstrated what types of cultural adaptations could potentially be harmful when used in treatment. Alyssa will be pursuing her doctorate in Counseling Psychology and the University of Oregon next fall.

Dylan Abrams, senior honors student, was awarded a travel grant from the Department of Psychology to attend the Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Conference. The purpose of his study was to examine the relationship between gang identity, perceptions of law enforcement, and participation in gang-related crime. Dylan has accepted a job as Clinical Research Coordinator at Massachusetts General Hospital and plans to pursue his doctorate in Clinical Psychology in the near future.


**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Annual Sarnoff A. Mednick Memorial Lecture**

**May 20, 2016 at 11am - 12pm in Cammilleri Hall**

**Terrence Sejnowski, Ph.D.**

* Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
* Francis Crick Chair at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies
* Director of Computational Neurobiology Laboratory

"Schizophrenia as failed adaptive capacity in neural circuits"

If you have submissions for the Department of Psychology Newsletter, please email Daniel Paris <dparis@usc.edu>.
Leslie Berntsen, won the 2016 Wilbert J. McKeachie Teaching Excellence Award (Graduate student) given by the Society for the Teaching of Psychology (Division 2 of the American Psychological Association). The award, a plaque, and a check will be presented at the STP's 15th Annual Conference on Teaching (ACT) October 21 & 22, 2016, in Decatur, Georgia.

Justin Hummer completed a clinical externship at the Matrix Institute on Addictions, an intensive outpatient program for the treatment of substance use disorders.

Samantha Waters Wood has been awarded the Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship for the 2016-17 academic year. The purpose of this award is to provide support for advanced graduate students to complete their dissertation and, later, to advance their research after being awarded the PhD.

Larissa Borofsky Del Piero accepted a two-year postdoctoral fellowship (starting next year) in Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Psychology at the Seattle VA.

Carol Iskiwitch received an NSF GRFP Honorable Mention for her research on moral metacognition as well as how moral judgments change, whether over time or by context.

A panel of graduate students from all five areas of study speak to a classroom of undergraduate students who are planning for graduate school. This event is an annual collaboration between the Graduate Association for Students in Psychology (GASP) and the Psi Chi Honors Society.

A couple of graduate students recruiting research assistants for the USC Family Studies Project Lab at the annual Research Opportunities Faire.
The Undergraduate Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Work provides undergraduates with the unique opportunity to exhibit and share examples of their significant research and creativity. All undergraduates at USC are encouraged to participate. After all submissions are judged by a panel of distinguished faculty, an award ceremony recognizing the most outstanding works takes place at the end of the symposium. Psychology students compete in the largest category: Social Sciences.

41 students submitted their research in the Social Sciences this year, with nearly half of these projects completed by students in the Department of Psychology. In the end, we can proudly state that once again, our students made a “clean sweep,” winning all of the prizes available in the Social Sciences category! Congratulations to the 2016 symposium winners, listed below:

Lillie Moffett (Dr. Henrike Moll) won 1st Prize in Social Sciences. In fall, she will begin a Ph.D. program at University of Michigan.

Sarah Weingust (Dr. Nicole Sintov) won 2nd Prize in Social Sciences, photographed here with the department Chair, Dr. Jo Ann Farver.

Jamie Nguyen (Dr. Karen Hennigan) won an honorable mention in the Social Sciences category.

Nicole Tolbert (Dr. Steven Lopez) won an honorable mention in the Social Sciences category. As a Discovery and Global Scholar, Nicole was also one of ten Dornsife students awarded the Dornsife Scholar prize for her research.
Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation’s most widely known academic honors society, with chapters only established at America’s leading universities. Every year, the top 5-10% of upper-division arts and sciences undergraduates are selected for membership.

The psychology student inductees of 2016 are: Fiona Alfait, Christopher Carpenter, Audrey Chai, Huiyi Chen, Nicholyn Chen, Grace Cho, Nicolette Conte, Francesca Conterno, Margarete Dagon, Dilara Duyuran, Ellen Eastaugh, Jared Feldman, Annisah Garrett-Gianardi, Kimberly Goldstein, Nitika Johri, Cody Kaneshiro, Naseoul Lee, Tiffany Lee, Case McMahon, Lillie Moffett, Andrew Morris, Alison Parker, Corey Pettit, Austin Roy, Arvin Sarem, Camille Saucier, Allie Schmiesing, Mercy Sherman, Sharon Su, Brianne Tabios, Xin Gisella Tan, Shreya Tanna, Kelsey Thayer, Erin Wright, Laura Yang, and Jasmine Zahedi.

Psi Chi International Honors Society in Psychology: USC Chapter

The 2015-2016 academic year was very successful for USC Psi Chi. The student organization celebrated its 86th year on campus and had a record breaking number of new members for the third consecutive year. Psi Chi had almost two events per month this year, including topics that range from graduate school, research in psychology, and careers in psychology. Psi Chi also had several social gatherings and charity events. This year, Psi Chi students chose to participate in the 2016 charity walk for NEDA, the National Association for Eating Disorders, raising over one thousand dollars to be donated to treatment for people with eating disorders.

USC Psi Chi Chapter Annual Spring Banquet Party

Senior Class of 2016 to Graduate School

The Department of Psychology is not only a place for those who want to pursue a career in psychology, but is also the most popular major at USC for students interested in Occupational Therapy, Education, and Social Work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Deagon</td>
<td>Seoul, South Korea</td>
<td>Fulbright Grant</td>
<td>Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Loup</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
<td>Fulbright Grant</td>
<td>Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Brunvard</td>
<td>Boston University</td>
<td>Master of Arts</td>
<td>Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Cannan</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>Master of Arts</td>
<td>Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Bethel</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>Master of Arts</td>
<td>Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliana Ferguson</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>Master of Social Work</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey Christian</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>Master of Social Work</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillie Moffett</td>
<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>Education and Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriella Maestas</td>
<td>Brown University</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
<td>Public Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Agazaryan</td>
<td>CSU Northridge</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
<td>Health Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivian Rotenstein</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>Human Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Su</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
<td>Counseling &amp; Mental Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#1 Ranked USC Master of Arts in Occupational Therapy Program:

Brianne Tabios, Kimberly Goldstein, Natasha Strickland, Sharon Sin, Grace Cho, Amanda Allen
Undergraduate Program

Featuring the Senior Class of 2016

As you’ve seen throughout this newsletter, our Psychology students go on to thrive in numerous fields and career paths. Many of our alumni go on to become Doctors, Lawyers, Educators, Research Analysts, Social Workers, Sales Representatives, Occupational Scientists, and much more. In fact, Psychology is one of the most common majors today for students on pre-health and pre-law tracks. As the study of human behavior, our students also use their transferable skills to break into areas of marketing, human resources, management, and other business related fields where client interaction and understanding consumer behavior is vital to a company’s success. Take a look at some of our featured seniors below, and congratulations to the entire class of 2016!

Shirley Chung (left) is graduating from the Department of Psychology along with a second degree in Computer Science. Shirley was an active member and leader of Women in Computer Science during her four years at USC. She was also a teaching assistant for CSCI 103, the introductory computer science course, and for ITP 168, the introductory MATLAB course. Additionally, Shirley participated in a number of programs offered by Asian Pacific American Student Services (APASS). She was a mentor in the PEER mentoring program, and a teaching assistant for CIRCLE, a leadership development program that offers participants a space to discuss a number of issues such as race, class, and gender. Starting this summer, Shirley will be working full time as a Software Engineer for Google.

Jennifer Bailey (left) is graduating from the Department of Psychology with minors in Spanish and Healthcare Studies. While at USC, she was a member of the USC Helenes, Undergraduate Student Government Judicial Council, Residential Student Government, Alpha Epsilon Delta (Premedical Honor Society), and Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish Honor Society). She also studied abroad in the Fall 2014 term in the USC Madrid Option II program and again in Summer 2015 term in Guatemala through the Problems Without Passports program. This year, she was selected as a Discovery Scholar, Renaissance Scholar, Global Scholar, and Dornsife Scholar. Starting this fall, Jennifer will be attending the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in the MD/MPH program and plans to practice family medicine in underserved urban areas.

Patrick Brown (left) is graduating from the Department of Psychology this spring. In addition to being a stellar student, he has been a member of the USC Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club as well as the USC Triathlon Team. He serves on the Executive Board as the Social Chair of Zeta Beta Tau, is the Assistant Director of the Trojan CEO Network, and a member of Psi Chi. Starting this summer, Patrick has accepted a position at Accenture PLC as a Management Consultant. Management consulting is the practice of helping organizations to improve their performance, operating primarily through the analysis of existing organizational problems and the development of plans for improvement. Accenture PLC is a multinational management consulting services company. It is the world's largest consulting firm as measured by revenues, and is a Fortune Global 500 company.

Veronica Gempis (left) will be graduating from the Department of Psychology with a Gerontology minor in Individuals, Societies, and Aging. Academically, she has completed the Psychology Honors Program and has been working on research for the Neuroendocrinology of Social Ties Lab for the past three years. Aside from working close to full time in administrative and human resources internships since sophomore year, she has also been heavily involved in leadership positions on campus as an executive board member of the Psi Chi Honors Society (including serving as President this past year), as an orientation advisor for the Department of Psychology, and as the Delta Experience Coordinator for the Alpha Gamma Delta, Delta Alpha Chapter. Starting this summer, Veronica has accepted a position as a Human Resources Executive at the Corporate CPK office.