

PSYCH NEWS



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026

EDITED BY
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SYDNEY AUTH (PSC OFFICE MANAGER)

PHOTOS BY
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PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR - DR. ALYCIA M. HUND

Welcome to the 2025-2026 edition of Department of Psychology newsletter. This has been a busy and productive year in our department, marked by excellence in teaching, research, and service. We are proud to serve as the academic home for 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Our undergraduate program is the 4th largest major at ISU, and we consistently graduate the most minors. Our graduate programs are strong and diverse. We seek to focus on student success and to foster collaboration in our work together.

Psychology is fortunate to have an amazing faculty and staff, including 30 tenure-track faculty, 13 part-time and 1 full-time nontenure-track faculty, and 9 staff members. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Alex Tatum and Dr. Kyla Cary as Assistant Professors and Dr. Emily Morrow as Director of the Psychological Services Center in August 2025. We are excited to welcome Dr. Lakhvir Kaur (School Psychology) as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2026. Dr. Jordan Arellanes was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, and Dr. Dan Lannin was promoted to Professor. Dr. Dan Lannin, Dr. Caitlin Mercier, and Dr. Jordan Arellanes received prestigious college and university awards. We celebrated with Dr. Matthew Hesson-McInnis as he retired in December 2025 and with Dr. Tom Critchfield as he retired in June 2026. Our department achieved Green Workplace Certification through ISU's Office of Sustainability. We wrote our first department workload policy. We put forward many new course proposals and revised curriculum offerings to better meet student needs, focusing on AI and Psychology, Cultural Psychology: Asian/Asian American Psychology, Health Psychology, Psycholinguistics, and Psychology Travel Studies. We continued to champion our student food pantry, including expanding to provide toiletry items and meal kits for breaks. Our clinics provided 2,300 hours of direct service and 269 hours of consultation, along with training, screening, diagnostics, and supervision. Our faculty and staff secured \$704,335 in grants and contracts in support of scholarship and service. We held our inaugural Fifth Thursday Colloquium Series, welcoming three guest presenters from diverse fields to share with our students, faculty, and staff.

We have much to look forward to in the year ahead. 2026 marks 60 years since our establishment as a department. Preparations are well underway to celebrate this milestone and to we welcome our new psychology majors and graduate students in the fall, along with Dr. Kaur. We plan to continue our discussion of undergraduate curriculum, providing additional options for students pursuing various career and graduate school paths. We are excited to offer our first study abroad opportunity to Japan. We will join the university and college in updating our ASPT documents. We will lean into the new budget model and think strategically about ways in which psychology can continue to thrive and grow with additional support. And we will continue to celebrate the success of our students, faculty, and staff, along with our alumni and community partners. Thank you for your continued support.





October 19-25, 2026

REDBIRDS REUNITE:
ISU Homecoming
& the Department of Psychology's
60th Anniversary Celebrations

Join our faculty, staff, and students as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Department of Psychology this fall as part of Homecoming Weekend on October 22-24. We are planning many events for our alumni, friends, and families and hope you can join us as we reunite and share memories of Psychology. Events and links are listed below. [Online registration](#) for our Friday night Oct. 23rd Alumni Dinner is required by **October 1st, 2026**.

Thursday Oct. 22

2:00 – 3:00: Alumni Panel Discussion, DEG 551

4:30 – 6:00: Alumni Relations Board Meeting, DEG 407

Friday Oct. 23

8:30 – 9:30: School Psychology Alumni Panel Discussion, DEG 551

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.: Early Career Awardee Colloquium, DEG 551

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.: Homecoming Luncheon (invitation only)

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.: Lifetime Achievement Awardee Colloquium, DEG 551

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.: Alumni Day Award Ceremony, DEG 551

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.: Psychology Student Research Showcase and Happy Hour at Eastland Suites

6:00 – 10:00 p.m.: Psychology Alumni Dinner and 60th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday Oct. 24

9:00 a.m.: ISU Homecoming Parade

10:00 – 2:00: Pregame Psychology Tailgate at Hancock Stadium

2:00 p.m.: Redbird Football Game (vs. Indiana State)

For more Homecoming Weekend information: <https://homecoming.illinoisstate.edu/>

SAVE THE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF
PSYCHOLOGY
Illinois State University

WE'RE TURNING 60!

Please join us for our annual
Homecoming Awards Celebration
Friday October 23rd 2026 at 5:00pm
Eastland Suites Hotel & Conference
Center Bloomington



Website: <https://psychology.illinoisstate.edu>

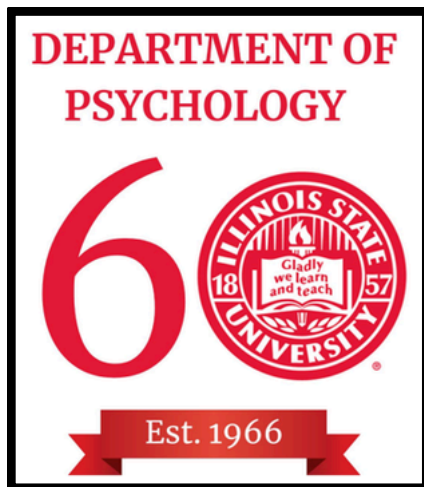


**Registration and Payment for Psychology Alumni Dinner and
60th Anniversary Celebration at Eastland Suites:
Register Online by Oct. 1st, 2026**

Have photos or favorite memories of your time in the
Department of Psychology you'd like to share with us for our
60th Anniversary Celebration? Please email us at
psychology@ilstu.edu



Celebrate the 60th Anniversary In Style!

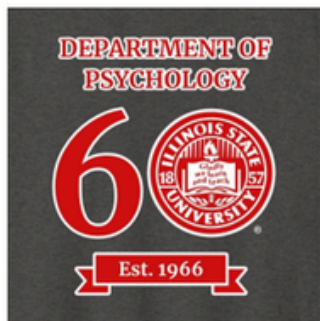


Want to order a commemorative Department of Psychology 60th Anniversary t-shirt or sweatshirt? Proceeds will go to our student travel fund.

T-shirts are unisex, sizes (S-6XL) and cost \$15
Crewnecks are unisex, sizes (S-4XL) and cost \$25
Hoodies are unisex, sizes (S-6XL) and cost \$25

- Accepted Payments:
 - Cash
 - Check
 - Venmo

To place your order, please take this survey.
Order deadline is Friday, September 11th, 2026, to
allow plenty of time for delivery prior to
Homecoming week.



Kelly Harman
@Kelly-Harman-16



Checks made out to:

Department of Psychology
For: 60th Type (quantity, size, & color)
EX: 60th Crewneck 1 2XL Ash

Venmo Kelly Harman:

Kelly-Harman-16

Please enter “60th Anniversary Shirt”
in the memo line.



Payments can be mailed or dropped off at the Psychology
Department Main Office

Attn: 60 Anniversary Shirt
Department of Psychology
Campus Box 4620
Normal, IL 61790

60 YEARS OF PSYCHOLOGY

1966 – Department of Psychology founded as part of the College of Arts and Sciences

1966 – Undergraduate degree in psychology approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE)

1968 – Master's in psychology included concentrations in measurement, counseling, and student personnel; additional concentrations in clinical, experimental, industrial/organizational, and developmental psychology emerged later

1974 – DeGarmo Hall opens and psychology faculty offices move to the 4th floor, with an animal colony, shop, computing, and research spaces in the basement

1976 – The Stanley T. Marzolf Center for the Psychological Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents named, in honor of its first director

1988 & 1991 – Ph.D. Program in School Psychology approved by IBHE in 1988, followed by the Specialist in School Psychology program in 1991

1998 – Ph.D. Program in School Psychology accredited by the American Psychological Association

2000 – Master's in Clinical-Counseling Psychology program approved by IBHE

2000 – Master's in Psychology program reorganized into four sequences: Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences, Developmental, Industrial/Organizational-Social, and Quantitative

2020 – Psychology moved teaching, research, and service provision online during Covid-19

2022 – Psychology fully returned teaching, research, and service provision in person post Covid-19

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS



Dr. Walter Friedhoff serves as the first chairperson, serving from 1966-1976.



Dr. Macon Williams appointed interim chair, serving 1976-1977, followed by a chair appointment, serving from 1977-1983.



Dr. Larry Alferink appointed chair, serving from 1983-1998.



Dr. John Pryor appointed interim chair, serving from 1998-1999.

Dr. David Barone appointed chair, serving from 1999-2007.

Dr. Neil Skaggs appointed interim chair, serving 2007-2008.

Dr. Michael Leippe appointed chair, serving 2008-2009.



Dr. J. Scott Jordan appointed interim chair, serving 2009-2011, followed by a chair appointment, serving from 2011-2024.



Dr. J. Cooper Cutting appointed interim chair during Dr. Jordan's sabbatical, serving during spring 2018.

Dr. Alycia Hund appointed interim chair, serving from 2024-2025, followed by a chair appointment, serving 2025-present.



Faculty & Staff Transitions

Dr. Alex Tatum joined the department as an Assistant Professor in our Clinical-Counseling Psychology program. Dr. Tatum's research focuses on mental health and workplace outcomes for sexual and gender minority people. He is a licensed clinical psychologist and certified sex therapist.

Dr. Kyla Cary joined the department as an Assistant Professor in our Developmental Psychology sequence. Dr. Cary's research takes a developmental approach to understanding gender-based violence, media use, and sexual/reproductive health among adolescents and emerging adults.

Dr. Emily Morrow was hired as the Director of the Psychological Services Center. She also serves as the Associate Coordinator of Clinical Services at The Autism Place (TAP).



Dr. Laura Finan began service as the Coordinator of the Developmental Psychology sequence.

Dr. Jef Kahn began service as the Coordinator of the Quantitative Psychology sequence.

Dr. Adena Meyers served as Interim Coordinator of the Graduate Programs in School Psychology in Fall 2025.

Dr. Matthew Hesson-McInnis retired in December 2025 after 30.5 years of service in the department including serving as Coordinator of the Quantitative Psychology sequence for 25 years and serving as part of more than 122 thesis and dissertation committees.

Dr. Tom Critchfield retired in July 2026 after 29 years of service in the department (and 9 years at Johns Hopkins and Auburn). He is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and Association for Behavior Analysis International with more than 130 publications on basic and applied topics.



Coordinators

Associate Chair & Graduate Assistantships:

Dr. Kim Schneider

Undergraduate Program:

Dr. Greg Braswell

Undergraduate Internships:

Dr. Karen Mark

School Psychology:

Dr. Brea Banks

& Dr. Adena Meyers in Fall 25

Clinical-Counseling Psychology:

Dr. Karen Mark

Cognitive & Experimental Psychology:

Dr. Jeff Wagman

Developmental Psychology:

Dr. Laura Finan

Industrial/Organizational-Social Psychology:

Dr. Dan Ispas

Quantitative Psychology:

Dr. Jef Kahn



Scholarship by the Numbers

- 58 Journal Articles
- 8 Book Chapters
- 1 Book
- 94 Presentations
- 1 Symposium
- 9 Invited Talks
- 11 Internal Grants
- 6 External Grants
- 185 Article Reviews
- 85% of our tenure-track faculty published in 2025.
- Our faculty averaged 2.31 publications & 5.90 scholarly products per tenure-track faculty member.

Faculty & Staff Awards

Dr. Dan Lannin: Outstanding University Researcher Award and Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year, Psi Chi/Student Psychology Association

Dr. Caitlin Mercier: University Teaching Initiative Award

Dr. Jordan Arellanes: College of Arts and Sciences Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement Pre-tenure and Alumni of the Year Award from the University of Colorado Denver School of Education and Human Development

Dr. Brea Banks: American Psychological Association Division 16 Outstanding Contributions to Mentorship Award and Centering Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award from the Center for Civic Engagement

Dr. Jackie Cerda-Smith: Jim Johnson Award, Psi Chi/Student Psychology Association

Dr. Laura Berk, Distinguished Professor Emerita: ATHENA Leadership Award from the McLean County Chamber of Commerce

Curriculum Updates & Plans

Our department has been very busy creating new classes! Courses that have been approved or are in the process of being approved this past year include PSY 270-Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Psychology, PSY 327A04-Cultural Psychology: Asian/Asian American Psychology, PSY 348-Health Psychology, PSY 369-Psycholinguistics, PSY 377-Travel Studies in Psychology, and PSY 449-Advanced Topics in Quantitative Psychology. In addition, the university is rolling out a new General Education program in 2027. This version contains categories that focus on types of skills (like effective communication, thinking quantitatively, and exploring how people function in society) instead of traditional academic disciplines. A few familiar courses like Fundamentals of Psychology, Social Psychology, and Reasoning in Psychology Using Statistics will be joined by one of our new courses, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Psychology, in the upcoming General Education program.

The Department of Psychology also is starting to explore ways to update the undergraduate major. The last time we went through this process was about two decades ago, so we are excited to think what the major could look like in the coming years. One possibility is to offer at least two sequences to provide more flexibility for students who may want to tailor their educational experiences to fit their post-ISU educational and professional goals. We look forward to sharing more details about these changes as they come into focus.

Out of Class Experiences

Through a variety of out-of-class experiences, undergraduate and graduate students gain knowledge and skills while contributing to the mission of community organizations and to faculty members' research and teaching. Over the 2025-26 academic year, undergraduates participated in 2 independent studies, 238 research apprenticeships, 95 teaching apprenticeships, 15 peer mentoring experiences, and 36 professional practice experiences. Graduate students participated in 26 independent study experiences, 19 research apprenticeships, 6 teaching apprenticeships, and 36 professional practice/internship experiences. Undergraduate and graduate students engaged in internships and professional practices at multiple agencies around the Bloomington-Normal and Central Illinois areas.



Internship Sites & Community Partners

- Chestnut Health Systems
- Collaborative Solutions Institute
- DCFS
- Easterseals Central Illinois
- GBC Autism Services
- Good Company Counseling & Coaching
- Great Plains LIFE Foundation
- Heritage Behavioral Health Center
- INteGRity Counseling
- Livingston County Special Services
- McLean County Detention Facility
- McLean County Juvenile Detention Center
- One Hope Project
- PATH Inc
- Peoria Park District
- Pontiac Correctional Center
- Stepping Stones
- The Autism Place
- The Center for Youth & Family Solutions
- Thomas Memory Center
- Thomas Metcalf School

Graduate Program Updates

We are excited to announce that the two Social Psychology faculty – Dr. Kelly Clemens and Dr. Eric Wesselman will be joining the CxP sequence soon. CxP was proud to host a guest speaker as part of our Professional Development Seminar – Dr. Jack Duff from UCLA, hosted by Dr. Allison Nguyen. We are excited to welcome back CxP alumni, Dr. Drew Abney (Associate Professor of Psychology and Associate Head, Behavioral and Brain Sciences Program, University of Georgia) who will be recognized by the Department of Psychology for winning the Early Career Alumni Award. We are also pleased to share that CxP alum Tyler Duffrin has recently completed a Ph.D. in Human Factors Psychology from Clemson University.

Cognitive-Experimental



Developmental



Dr. Laura Finan completed her first year as Coordinator of the Developmental Psychology sequence, and will be taking sabbatical in Fall 2026, with Dr. Greg Braswell serving as coordinator during her leave. We welcomed alumna, Dr. Kyla Cary, back to the Department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Jordan Arellanes and Dr. Jackie Cerda-Smith were both honored with faculty awards. In August, we welcomed three first-year students to the sequence, and our two second-year students graduated in May.

The IOS sequence is grateful to several alumni and guests who shared their time and expertise by talking with our students in person or on Zoom in the past year: Dr. Alex Barelka (ISU-College of Business), Tom Carroll (ISU-Nursing), Kelly Carty (State Farm), Michael Charles (ISU-Psychology), Elizabeth Fenger (Rivian), Amy Huber (Pinsight), Miranda Maher (Warner Bros. Discovery) and Dr. Eric Wesselmann (ISU-Psychology). Special thanks to Josh Rohlfs (State Farm) for his continuous support of our sequence.

Dr. Jef Kahn completed his first year as Coordinator of the Quantitative Psychology sequence. The sequence welcomed one new student and six dual-sequence students from the Industrial/Organizational-Social Psychology and Cognitive and Experimental Psychology sequences.

Industrial/ Organizational-Social & Quantitative



Graduate Program Updates Cont.

Clinical-Counseling



We were delighted to welcome Dr. Alex Tatum to the CCP program in Fall 2025, when he joined the Department as an Assistant Professor. In Fall 2025, we also welcomed a new cohort of 10 CCP students. Two of those entering students – Ashley Hintz and Mitchell White – each received one of the very competitive ISU Foundation Fellowships, while Melanie Gomez received a Merit Scholarship. Two CCP faculty received University awards: Dr. Dan Lannin (Outstanding Researcher) and Dr. Caitlin Mercier (Teaching Initiative). Dr. Suejung Han has been promoted to Professor effective August 2026.

We were proud to honor Clinical Psychology alum Tom Carroll as the Department recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Alumnus Award, and to present Kim Martin-Corcoran with the CCP Practicum Supervisor Award and Bryan Hinman with an Impact Award. We are grateful to the following agencies for hosting 1st- and 2nd-year practicum students at their sites: Chestnut Health Systems, Heritage Behavioral Health Center, and The Center for Youth and Family Solutions. Many CCP faculty and students presented at the MPA conference in Chicago in April 2026, and Dr. Dan Lannin and 1st-year student Ashley Hintz presented at the European Conference on Positive Psychology in Dublin, Ireland in July 2026. Alum Erik Harris received the Doug Lamb CCP Thesis Award, and Caitlyn Donnelly (2nd-year student) received the Charter Department Graduate Student Excellence Award. Six CCP students graduated in May 2026, while three more are on track to graduate in August 2026. Congratulations to all for their achievements and accomplishments!

In August, we welcomed twelve first-year students (5 Ph.D., 7 SSP) to the School Psychology programs and Dr. Emily Morrow began as the Director of the Psychological Services Center. Dr. Adena Meyers served as Interim Coordinator during the Fall 2026 semester as Dr. Banks was on sabbatical. As part of Homecoming, it was a pleasure to welcome back alumni award winner, Dr. Dan Gadke. We also held an alumni panel and a tailgate as part of Homecoming celebrations. In the spring, we hosted the 29th Annual School Psychology Institute and gathered with students, alumni, and friends at NASP in Chicago, where we presented multiple poster and paper sessions. In May, we celebrated as three Ph.D. students and six Specialist students were recognized at Commencement. We will miss six Ph.D. students and one Specialist student who will be off-campus for internship for the 2026-2027 academic year.

School Psychology



School Psychology Institute

Restorative Culture: Building and Sustaining Communities of Care



Annie Buth

The Department of Psychology and the Graduate Programs in School Psychology hosted the 29th Annual School Psychology Institute on April 17, 2026. The morning workshop offered professional development for area practitioners and our graduate students and faculty. It focused on the development of school-based restorative culture through practices and strategies that foster trust, positive relationships, belonging, and healing. Restorative culture encompasses community building, restorative practices, and relational approaches to addressing harm. Through experiential learning, reflection, and dialogue, participants deepened their understanding of foundational restorative values and skills. The workshop leaders were Annie Buth, Clinical Associate Professor at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law and Co-Director of the Center on Negotiation, Mediation, and Restorative Justice (CNMRJ), and Parrish Brown Jr., an approved Chicago Public Schools vendor and Restorative Organizer with Good Lookin Out LLC. The afternoon colloquium focused on restorative justice praxis and the evolving landscape of school-based restorative justice. Restorative culture offers a framework for nurturing school ecologies grounded in connection and relational engagement. A whole-school model provides opportunities not only for addressing harm but also creating normative change that builds communities of care, accountability, safety, and dignity.



Parrish Brown Jr.

School Psychology Alumni Day Panel

On October 17th, 2025, School Psychology hosted their annual Alumni Day Panel, featuring three graduates from the program, who shared about their career paths and answered questions from current School Psychology students. This year's panelists were Daniel Gadke, Ph.D. from Mississippi State University, Amanda March, Ph.D., NCSP from the University of South Florida & Rise and Align Consulting, and Erica Ranade, SSP, BCBA from the University of Louisville.



Food & Hygiene Product Bank

The Climate & Diversity Committee has been facilitating a student food/hygiene product bank for both graduate and undergraduate students in psychology. This bank is a grassroots effort supplied by personal donations from psychology faculty and staff. This year, committee member Dr. Allison Nguyễn developed a special “meal kit” program for Fall break and Finals Week, providing students with established ingredients and recipes to support students during these transitional and stressful times.



Green Team Certification

Thanks to the efforts of our Workplace Green Leader, Kelly Harman, and the rest of the Psychology Green Team, the Department of Psychology has earned the Green Workplace Certification

The Certification consists of steps that help your campus office assess sustainability initiatives and can further sustainability goals of Illinois State University as well as encourage faculty, staff, and students to continue eco-friendly practices at home, too. The Green Workplace Certification is comprised of 50 “green” tasks within six categories. At least 30 tasks must be completed to achieve the certification. All task items in the Required category must be completed and at least one task for each of the other five categories must be completed.

Remember, we have the power to help reduce the environmental impact our campus has on the planet. Small actions can make a big difference when we work collectively. By becoming Green Workplace Certified, you help our campus achieve goals set out by the Sustainability Strategic Plan and realize the vision and values of our campus strategic plan.





Alumni Relations Board

The Alumni Relations Board held its first full board meeting in October 2025 and a second meeting in April 2025. It includes 24 members who are alumni from each of the graduate programs/sequences and the undergraduate program, current undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff, and friends of the department. Dr. Alycia Hund and Ms. Amanda DeVore serve as co-chairs.

The Board has several purposes, including assisting the department in achieving its mission, providing input on what employers view as critical skills in graduates, facilitating communication with alumni, serving as guest speakers and mentors, highlighting professional opportunities in psychology and related fields, promoting fundraising, planning and promoting alumni activities during homecoming and throughout the year, and helping to share our psychology stories. Already, the Board has participated in our Alumni Spotlight to help tell our psychology alumni stories and helped expand our participation in our day of giving by serving as ambassadors for Birds Give Back. They will hold two alumni panel discussions next year to interact with current students. Plans also are underway to develop mentoring opportunities and to help with our 60th anniversary celebration. Stay tuned for more details.

2025 Department of Psychology Alumni of the Year Awardees

Alumnus of the Year: Early Career

Daniel L. Gadke

Daniel L. Gadke, Ph.D., is a Professor of School Psychology at Mississippi State University, serving as Department Head of Counseling, Higher Education Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations, and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Education. A licensed psychologist and Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, he co-founded MSU's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic. He earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from Illinois State University and completed his postdoctoral training at Kennedy Krieger Institute.



Alumnus of the Year: Lifetime Achievement

Tom Carroll

Thomas (Tom) Carroll received his B.S. in Psychology at Illinois State University in 1984 and his M.S. in Clinical Psychology at Illinois State University in 1989. While he was an ISU student and after his graduation, Mr. Carroll held clinical positions in the Bloomington-Normal area at both The Baby Fold and BroMenn Healthcare and then from 1995 to 2017, he served in various positions at R.R. Donnelley, a global Fortune 500 company based in Chicago. Since 2018, Mr. Carroll has been serving as an Instructional Assistant Professor in the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. Throughout his career, Mr. Carroll has been actively involved in a wide range of both professional and public service activities and received recognition for numerous achievements and contributions to the fields of clinical psychology, human resources, and nursing in the areas of leadership, training, community/public service, and direct clinical service.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MATT MOLLENHAUER

Matt is the Chief Clinical Officer for Chestnut Health Systems and former Managing Director of Chestnut Global Partners, LLC. He received his B.A. from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, and his M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Illinois State University. He has over 34 years of experience in the human service and employee assistance field. As Chief Clinical Officer, Matt provides clinical leadership and direction to a highly dedicated and mission driven team of individuals who provide services in the areas of: chemical dependency treatment and prevention; behavioral health treatment and housing for persons with mental illness; and primary care treatment, dental and preventative services.



Graduate Alum
mmollen@chestnut.org

What does alumni engagement mean to you?

"I think it's time to share my passion for the field and help students understand how broad the array of opportunities really is with a psych degree."

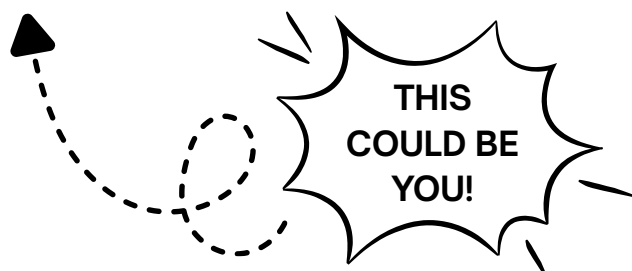
Read more about Matt and other Psych Department Alumni on our website!



WANT TO BE FEATURED?

If you're an alumni from the Psychology Department and would like to share your story, your experiences in the department, or how the department helped prepare you for your career, we would love to hear from you!

Feel free to take [this survey here](#), or email your headshot and short biography to psychology@ilstu.edu and we'll get you featured on our Alumni Profiles page of our website!



Questions to consider:

- Why did you choose ISU? Why psychology?
- How did the psych department prepare you for your career?
- What does alumni engagement mean to you?
- What's your favorite memory from the psych department?

Psychology Events

We enjoy finding ways to connect and learn together throughout the year. Here are some of the events sponsored by the department and ISU.

Transgender Resilience Colloquium

On November 12, 2025, the Department of Psychology and Queer Coalition co-sponsored the Transgender Resilience Colloquium, in which eight speakers from five departments presented on their research and artistic contributions related to transgender individuals' resilience. The event was attended by 41 faculty, staff, students, and community members across 15 departments.

Films and Events at the Normal Theater

This year the Department of Psychology co-sponsored special events and film screenings at The Normal Theater as a way to engage both the University and broader Bloomington-Normal community in shared learning experiences. The Department partnered with the ISU Queer Coalition to sponsor theater-based events such as Queer for Fear Live! (October 2025) which featured film scholar Heather O. Petrocelli and drag legend Peaches Christ (alter ego of filmmaker Joshua Grannell), as well as the Fired Up: The American AIDS Crisis on Film series (February 2026). The Department also co-sponsored a screening and panel discussion of The Harder They Come (March 2026). Faculty member Dr. Eric Wesselmann (BA '03, MA '05,) facilitated panel discussions and provided introductions for several of these events to highlight the social and psychological context for the films. The department co-sponsored the African American Studies Black History Month Film Festival, which included screenings of Becoming Thurgood: America's Social Architect (2025), The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975 (2011), and The First Rainbow Coalition (2019) in February 2026. After each screening, a panel featuring Illinois State faculty engaged attendees in discussion of the film and its connection to the theme of resistance. Dr. Caitlin Mercier served as a panelist for two films. Dr. Brea Banks serves as the Director of the African American Studies program.

To Name a Few...

**Graduate Student
Orientation & Lunch**

Academic Showcase

**Festival ISU w/ our RSO &
Peer Mentors**

Department Happy Hours

Cookies & Conversations

Tacos for Transfers

Alumni Homecoming Dinner

Registration Q&A Pizza Events

Capstone Poster Session

Holiday Helper

Image of Research

Honors Colloquia

Social Justice Essay Contest

Spring Egg Hunt

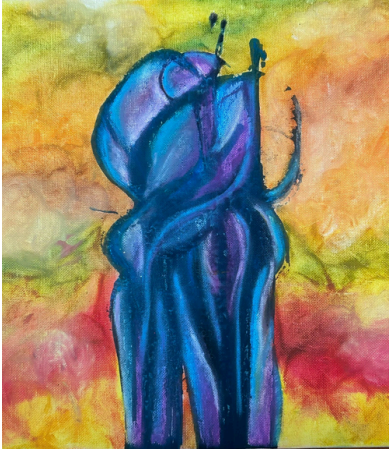
Bowling Night

ISU Research Symposium

Awards Ceremonies

Senior Sendoff

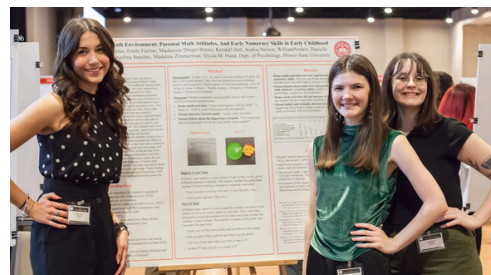
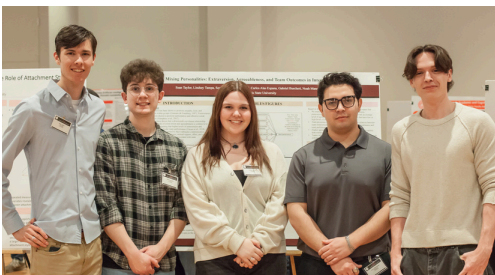
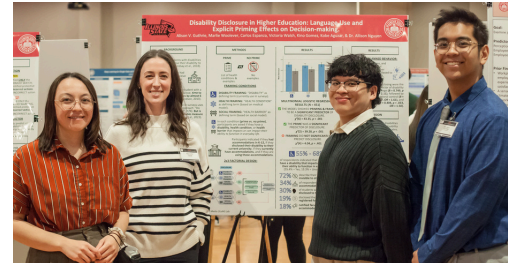
Psychology Events Cont.



Lead staff Kelly Harman's art exhibit titled *Oppression and Resilience* was featured in the Rachel Cooper Art Gallery, hosted by Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The Department of Psychology co-hosted the artist reception for the exhibit held on May 4, 2026. The exhibit will be open from May-September, 2026.

ISU Research Symposium

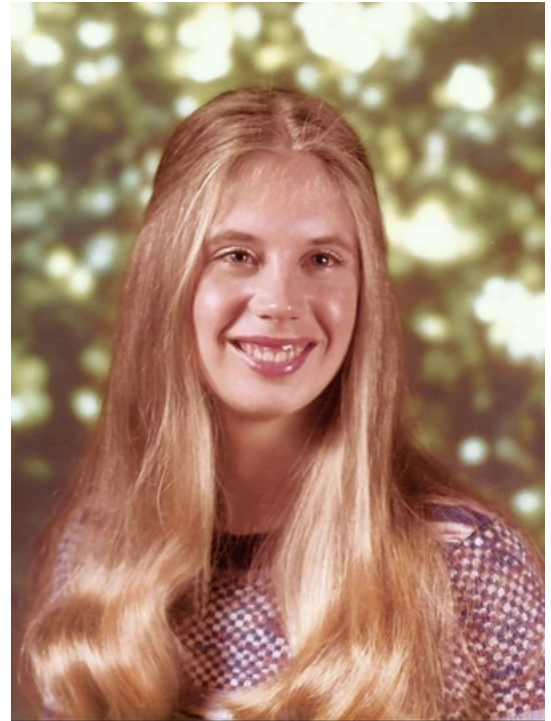
Psychology was well represented at the ISU Research Symposium held April 10, 2026. Many students and faculty also presented their research at regional, national, and international conferences this year. Please see pictures of psychology students and faculty at the symposium below.



Numerous psychology faculty, students, and staff also participated in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Student Research Symposium held on April 24, 2026.

Honoring Carol Rofstad

Illinois State University and the Department of Psychology awarded a posthumous bachelor of science degree in psychology to Carol Rofstad, presenting the diploma to her family in a ceremony on April 13th, 2026. Carol was attacked outside her sorority house and died on December 24, 1975. At the time, she was a senior psychology major at ISU. The case remains unsolved. A bench dedication honoring Carol was held in Redbird Plaza following the degree ceremony. Carol's family chose the location not only due to its proximity to DeGarmo Hall, which houses the Department of Psychology, but also because the area would be perfect for watching college life in a beautiful setting. May this bench be a reminder of Carol's dedication to her studies at Illinois State University and her love for her sorority, Delta Zeta.



Fifth Thursday Colloquium Series

The Department of Psychology held our inaugural Fifth Thursday Colloquium Series during 2025-2026 as a way to bring together faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students to learn about a wide variety of relevant topics. Dr. S. Kristian Hill from Rosalind Franklin University presented, "Is Schizophrenia a Cognitive Illness?" in October. Ms. Danielle Beasley, Associate Director of Student Counseling Services presented, "Mental Health Matters" in January. Dr. Jeff Wagman presented, "Designing with Affordances in Mind: An Ecological Human Factors Study of Doors" in April, drawing on his recent sabbatical work. We plan to continue the series next year, hosting two events in October and April.

University Impact Awardees

Undergraduate and graduate students at Illinois State University nominated faculty, staff, and student leaders for 2026 Impact Awards. Recipients were nominated for showing exemplary support, care, and encouragement to their students, and a celebration was held in the Brown Ballroom of the Bone Student Center, when University College and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost recognized and congratulated these individuals for their outstanding contributions to student success and first-year retention.

Please join us in congratulating the awardees from the ISU Department of Psychology for their significant contributions to our students:

Dr. Brea Banks

Mallory Bopp, Doctoral Candidate

Dr. Julie Campbell

Dr. Jackie Cerda-Smith

Dr. Kelly Clemens

Dr. Tom Critchfield

Dr. Laura Finan

Jacey Griffith, Graduate Student

Dr. Suejung Han

Dr. Byron Heidenreich

Dr. Jef Kahn

Molly Knapp, Academic Advisor

Dr. Dan Lannin

Dr. Karen Mark

Dr. Caitlin Mercier

Dr. Allison Nguyen

Kierra Peterson, Doctoral Candidate

Nicholas Schmitt, Instructor

Brenden Troiden, Graduate Student

Dr. Jeff Wagman



Inaugural Psychology Impact Awardees 2025



To demonstrate appreciation to those who provide mentorship and support for our students, The Department of Psychology presented our first Psychology Impact Awards at the 2025 Alumni Day Award Ceremony. Awardees were nominated by our graduate program and sequence faculty and coordinators.

Clinical-Counseling Psychology: Bryan Hinman, Associate Director of Court Treatment Programs at Chestnut Health Systems. Bryan was honored for establishing valuable new 1st- and 2nd-year Clinical-Counseling practicum positions and undergraduate PSY internships.



Developmental Psychology: David Schel, Activist, Author, and Founder of 'Kids Against Divorce'. David is the author of "Without a Chair", a fictional book about an adolescent experiencing his parents' divorce. He generously provided free copies of the book and spoke with students in our Adolescent Development course. (not pictured)



Industrial/Organizational-Social Psychology: Josh Rohlfs, Principal Statistician, State Farm Insurance Companies. Josh is a frequent guest speaker in two of our I/O Psychology courses, sharing examples of applications of psychology to work settings.



School Psychology: Dr. Kristal Shelvin, Executive Director of Student Support, McLean County Unit 5 School District. Dr. Shelvin has been an outstanding contributor to the graduate programs in School Psychology, serving as dissertation committee member, research collaborator, and workshop presenter. She has also served as an adjunct instructor and currently serves on our Alumni Relations Board.

Undergraduate Program in Psychology: Cheryl Gaines, Collaborative Solutions Institute. Cheryl was honored for her years of providing valuable undergraduate internships and excellent professional development opportunities at CSI.

Student Awards

Merit Scholarships

- Gillian Humphreys – Specialist in School Psychology (not pictured)
- Angel Lee – Ph.D Program in School Psychology
- Sarah Williams – Industrial/Organizational-Social Psychology
- Emery Bosela – Quantitative Psychology
- Erika Krause – Cognitive and Experimental Psychology (not pictured)
- Melanie Gomez – Clinical-Counseling Psychology (not pictured)

The Larry A. Alferink Graduate Doctoral Scholarship in School Psychology

Angel Lee

Audrey J. Grupe Fellowship in School Psychology

Mahika Charles

Swerdlik Graduate Student in School Psychology Recruitment Scholarship

Orion Tucker

Developmental Psychology Graduate Teaching Fellowship

Sydney Auth Pourchot

Doug Lamb Outstanding Graduate Thesis Award In Clinical-Counseling Psychology

Erik Harris

Walter Vernon Scholarship in Psychology

Sophia Nelson

Edwin A. Payne Memorial Award

Camila Fontes Fialho



Student Awards Cont.

Laura Berk Undergraduate Writing Award
Anna Walker

John Pryor & Glenn Reeder Social Psychology Graduate Student Research Award

- Emma Walis
- Alison Guthrie
- Emery Bosela *declined award

Graduate Diversity Advocacy Award
Michael Charles

Undergraduate Diversity Advocacy Award
Samantha Trujillo

Charter Department Graduate Student Excellence Award
Caitlyn Donnelly

Stanley Marzolf/Joe French Award for Excellence in Doctoral Studies in School Psychology
Hannah Cremer

Graduate Assistant of the Year
Mallory Bopp



Student Highlights & Other Awards

Laura Botros won the ISU Three-minute Thesis Competition. She is an IOS graduate student mentored by Dr. Laura Finan and Dr. Jordan Arellanes. The title of her presentation was, “First- and Second-Generation Immigrant Emerging Adults’ Career Aspirations.”

Tori Lomelino received the James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Award for her thesis titled, “Supervisor Support and Job Satisfaction: The Mediating Roles of Work-Life Balance and Perceived Employability with Gender as a Moderator.” Dr. Kim Schneider was her thesis chair.

Katie Hindman, senior psychology major, was named a Bone Scholar.

Kruz Barrera, senior psychology major, was named a Bone Scholar. He also was named a Lincoln Laureate, representing ISU. He received the Psychology Student Award from the Council for Undergraduate Education.



Supervisor Awards



**Practicum Supervisor
Award in
Clinical-Counseling
Psychology**

**Kim
Martin-Corcoran**



**Practicum Supervisor
Award in
School Psychology**

Dr. Kim Harmon



Department Honors

The following students graduated with Department Honors:

Kruz Barrera

“Cultural Stress and Coping Under Immigration Enforcement Policies”, faculty mentor: Dr. Daniel Lannin

Madison Battey

“Effects of Environmental Enrichment on Norepinephrine Neurons in the Locus Coeruleus”, faculty mentor: Dr. Byron Heidenreich

Kwesi Blankson (Not pictured)

“Investigating The Functional Relationship Between Dopamine And Serotonin in The Substantia Nigra With Relevance to Atypical Antipsychotics”, faculty mentor: Dr. Byron Heidenreich

Lauren Dinnsen

“Comparing the Well-Being of Elementary School and Secondary School Teachers”, faculty mentor: Dr. Adena Meyers

Marisol Faudoa

“Effect of Repeated Administration of the SSRI Antidepressant Citalopram on Serotonin Reuptake Transporter Density in the Rat Brain”, faculty mentor: Dr. Byron Heidenreich

Camila Fontes Fiahlo

“Sexual Pain and Pleasure in College Students’ Sexual Experiences”, faculty mentor: Dr. Kelly Clemens

Katherine Hindman (not pictured)

“Predicting Job Satisfaction: The Role of Work Environment, Social Belonging, and Change Readiness”, faculty mentor: Dr. Kimberly Schneider

Lauren Gross

“Ghosting in College: Frequency and Time on Adjustment”, faculty mentor: Dr. Laura Finan

Morgan Sizemore

“Understanding Teacher Well-Being Through Survey Responses: The Impact of School Culture”, faculty mentor: Dr. Adena Meyers

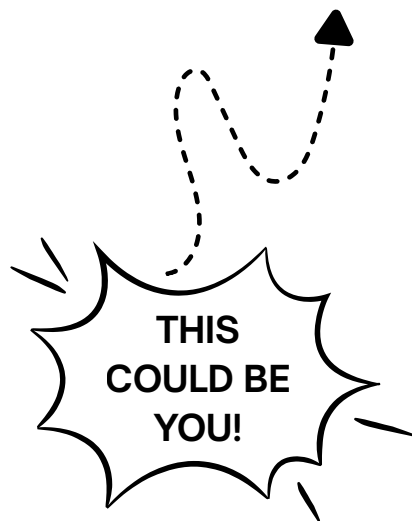
Ariadna Ugalde-Rivero (not pictured)

“The Choice Process of a Higher Education: Latine College Women and the Effects of Marianismo”, faculty mentor: Dr. Jordan Arellanes

Jennifer Yates

“Precoastination in Academic Settings”, faculty mentor: Dr. Dawn McBride

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



[LINK TO SURVEY](#)

SHARE YOUR STORY: BE FEATURED IN A PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT!

Open to all undergraduate and graduate ISU Psychology students. Every psychology student has a unique story. We would love to help tell yours!

The Illinois State University Department of Psychology is launching a new Psychology Student Spotlight series to celebrate the incredible students who make up our community. Students have the chance to nominate themselves to be featured on our Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, website, and/or other department communications. We want to highlight your journey, accomplishments, interests, career goals, and the experiences that make you proud to be a Redbird and uniquely you.

Whether you've been involved in research, an internship, a student organization, leadership, volunteer work, or simply have a story you're proud to share, we encourage you to submit!

Scan the QR code to complete the ISU Psychology Student Spotlight survey and tell us your story. We can't wait to celebrate you!

Registered Student Organizations



PsiChi & SPA



BSPA



GASP

The Department of Psychology is proud to partner with our Registered Student Organizations, including the Student Psychology Association; Psi Chi, the International Honors Society in Psychology; Black Student Psychology Association; Graduate Association of School Psychology, and Psyched for Success.

PEER MENTORS

Our peer mentors continued to host office hours and meet with students in our Student Success Center, plan and host events to build a sense of belonging, and help with department events such as Open House Days, Redbird Days, Festival ISU, Cookies and Conversations, and Senior Sendoff.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Congratulations, Graduates! We are Redbird Proud of our December 2025, May 2026, and August 2026 graduates from the Department of Psychology. Please check out a few pictures below.



BIRDS GIVE BACK

ISU's Birds Give Back Day of Giving on Feb. 26, 2026 was a success for the Department of Psychology and we sincerely thank everyone who donated to one of our projects this year!

This year, we raised funds for the Psychological Services Center, The Autism Project, and to support student travel to conferences. Across all three projects, we received \$4,500 from 54 generous donors. Your contributions will have an important impact on our students, faculty, and the community throughout this upcoming year.

Please look for Birds Give Back 2027 information in your email inbox early next year and consider supporting our graduate and undergraduate programs. Thank you!



WANT TO GIVE?

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**PSYCH
SERVICES
CENTER**



**THE
AUTISM
PLACE**



Psychology Donors 2025

On behalf of the Psychology Department, we would like to thank all of our generous donors for their contributions this year.

Anna Adamik	Curtis Haussmann	Julie Pavon
Tonya Alberico	Aubrey Henson	Sherri Petralia
Jim Antos	Matthew Hesson-McInnis	Robert Pinchott
Janet Bailey	Mike Hoag	Rocio Rivadeneyra
Brea Banks	Andrew Hoffman	Linda Saterfield
Thomas Berhausen	Danielle Hoppes	Donna Schlatter
Mary Kay Berjohn	Henry Hummert	Tom Schumacher
Laura Berk	Alycia Hund	Kristal Shelvin
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Lisa Evoy Goodman	Jessica McKinley	Susan Wesselmann
Laura Finan	Adena Meyers	Donna Wilmarth
Jennifer Fulkerson	Ellen Miller-Germaine	Cheri Wolf
Audrey Grupe	Rachel Minelli	Shengtian Wu
John Hamilton	Randy Olley	Danielle Zaiya
Kelly Harman		

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