

PSY NEWS

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer 2025



EDITORS - DR. ALYCIA HUND (CHAIR) & SYDNEY AUTH (PSC OFFICE MANAGER)
PHOTOGRAPHER/PHOTO EDITOR - ANGI DAVIS (DEPT OFFICE MANAGER)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Notes from the Chair	1-2
• Notes from the Associate Chair	2
• Department & Graduate Program Updates	3-20
◦ New Undergraduate Coordinator	4
◦ New Developmental Graduate Coordinator	4
◦ Developmental Psych Updates	5
◦ Cognitive & Experimental Psych Updates	6
◦ Industrial/Organizational-Social Psych Updates	7
◦ Quantitative Psych Updates	7
◦ Clinical-Counseling Psych Updates	8-10
◦ Graduate Programs in School Psych Updates	11-13
◦ Psychological Services Center (PSC)	14
◦ The Autism Program (TAP)	15
◦ Growth of Undergrad Out of Class Experiences	16
◦ Peer Mentoring Program	17
◦ Dr. Wagman - CAS Distinguished Lecturer	18
◦ Alumni Relations Board	19
◦ Committee News	20
• Meet the Team	21-26
◦ New Faculty & Retirees	22
◦ Graduate Program Coordinators	23
◦ Staff	24-26
• Research	27-37
◦ Fall 2024 Honors Colloquium & Capstone Poster Event	28-29
◦ National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)	30-31
◦ University Research Symposium	32-34
◦ Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA)	35-37

TABLE OF CONTENTS CONT.

• Awards & Recognition	38-51
◦ Alumni Day Honors	39-42
◦ Bone Scholars	43-44
◦ Spring 2025 Honors Colloquium & Awards	45-46
◦ Impact Awards	47
◦ 2025 Social Justice Essay Writing Contest	48
◦ Bird FEEDER Awards	49
◦ Alumni Achievement	50
◦ CAS Emeriti Hall of Fame	51
• Events	52-60
◦ Graduate Student Orientation	53-54
◦ Freshman Orientation	55
◦ Alumni Dinner Celebration	56-57
◦ School Psychology Institute	58
◦ Spring Egg Hunt	59
◦ Senior Send Off	60
• Support	61-66
◦ Birds Give Back	62
◦ Donors	63
◦ Gift Giving Opportunities	64
◦ Save The Date - Alumni Dinner 2025	65
◦ Contact Us	66

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:



Welcome to this year's edition of Department of Psychology newsletter. We are a large and complex department with an important story to tell as we seek to understand people, help others, and change the world. We value our student-centered approach, and we are proud to serve as the academic home for more than 1,000 current students in our five programs: Psychology BA/BS, PhD in School Psychology, Specialist in School Psychology, Master's in Clinical-Counseling Psychology, and Master's in Psychology, with sequences in Cognitive and Experimental Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Industrial/Organizational-Social Psychology, and Quantitative Psychology. We are excited about the continued growth of our undergraduate program (now one of the Top 5 majors at ISU) and the strength and stability of our graduate programs. Together, our students represent 18% of College of Arts and Sciences enrollment and 5% of enrollment university wide. They are busy with coursework; out of class research, teaching, internship, professional practice, and peer mentoring experiences; and community involvement. In Spring 2025, our first group of six peer mentors completed their capstone experience, focusing on a variety of initiatives to strengthen student success.

Peer mentoring is the sixth capstone option available to our undergraduate majors, a point of pride for the department. Our Specialist in School Psychology program received accreditation from the National Association of School Psychologists, and our Clinical-Counseling Psychology program is transitioning to a 60-hour program to align with state licensure requirements.

I began service as the Chair of Psychology on July 1, 2025, after serving as Interim Chair last year. Psychology is fortunate to have an amazing faculty and staff, including 30 tenure-track faculty, 15 nontenure-track faculty, and 9 staff members. We were pleased to welcome Ms. Ally Frizzell as our second undergraduate academic advisor in April 2024 and Ms. Hannah DeLand as our graduate programs office manager in November 2025. We welcomed Dr. Jacqueline Cerda-Smith as an Assistant Professor in January 2025. Dr. Cerda-Smith's research focuses on supporting adolescent well-being in schools using a critical consciousness lens. We are excited to welcome Dr. Alex Tatum (Clinical-Counseling Psychology) and Dr. Kyla Cary (Developmental Psychology) as tenure-track faculty in Fall 2025. We are proud to work with a dedicated group of leaders, including Associate Chair and Graduate Assistantship Coordinator Dr. Kimberly Schneider, incoming Undergraduate Coordinator Dr. Greg Braswell, School Psychology Coordinator Dr. Brea Banks, Clinical-Counseling Psychology Coordinator Dr. Karen Mark, Cognitive and Experimental Psychology Coordinator Dr. Jeff Wagman, incoming Developmental Psychology Coordinator Dr. Laura Finan, Industrial/Organizational-Social Psychology Coordinator Dr. Dan Ispas, and Quantitative Psychology Coordinator Dr. Matthew Hesson-McInnis. Dr. Laura Finan was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Jeff Wagman was recognized as a College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Eric Wesselmann was recognized with the Alumni of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award by the department. We celebrated the legacy of Dr. Jim Johnson, who was inducted (posthumously) into the College of Arts and Sciences Emeriti Hall of Fame. Our faculty and staff are busy with teaching, scholarship, and service that centers social justice, mental health, and student success. We welcome opportunities for collaboration, as gladly we learn and teach together. We are excited to work toward achieving Green Workplace Certification through ISU's Office of Sustainability in the year ahead. Our new Green Team will coordinate these efforts. You are receiving this newsletter in digital format to reduce our carbon footprint. It is available in other formats upon request.

The College of Arts and Sciences' strategic plan (2024-2029) launched recently, following the university strategic plan, Excellence by Design: 2024-2029. The college seeks to champion a liberal arts mission as the foundation for student success, lifelong learning, civic and global engagement, and a commitment to public wellbeing; to advance opportunities for learning and transforming worldviews inside and outside of academic coursework; to support and advance innovation, knowledge, and creativity consistent with institutional excellence; and to strive to build and promote strong, supportive communities and foster equity, diversity, access, and belonging. Our department is well-positioned to reach these goals as we leverage our strengths and live into new possibilities together. We will begin drafting our next department strategic plan soon, along with a new tenure-track workload policy.

We have much to look forward to in the Department of Psychology at ISU. Please stop by to visit us in DeGarmo Hall anytime you are on campus. We invite you to join us for Alumni Day on October 17th, 2025, which is part of ISU's Homecoming celebration. In addition, please enjoy the many stories of excellence in this newsletter. We invite you to visit our website psychology.illinoisstate.edu and to interact with us on social media @ISUPsychDept (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) for more updates about the department. We would appreciate the opportunity to hear from you as we seek to strengthen our work together. Drop us a message on social media or email psychology@ilstu.edu any time. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Alycia M. Hund, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair

NOTES FROM THE ASSOCIATE CHAIR:



Hello to our alumni and friends of Psychology at ISU! I am excited to serve the department as the Associate Chair and to continue working with an impressive group of colleagues, staff, graduate and undergraduate students. Our department is growing, and we continue to have a strong leadership team working under the guidance of our Department Chair, Dr. Alycia Hund. I previously served for several years as the coordinator of our Industrial-Organizational/Social Psychology (I-O/S) graduate program, and I will continue as a faculty member in that area.

The applied focus of my research on employees' satisfaction, engagement, and experiences of workplace conflict has led me to collaborations with local and national organizations on consulting projects related to these issues. Many of these projects included our students and provided them with important applied experiences in the field, so I encourage alumni to contact us to explore any ideas you have for potential collaborations with faculty or students. As you will see in this newsletter, our faculty, staff, and students are engaged in exciting work that has a significant impact in our community and in the field of psychology. We look forward to staying connected and hope to see you at our Homecoming activities this fall or whenever you are on campus.

Kimberly T. Schneider, PhD
Associate Chair and Professor of Psychology



DEPARTMENT & GRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATES

DR. GREG BRASWELL APPOINTED UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATOR

I am excited to serve as the Department of Psychology's Undergraduate Coordinator starting in August 2025. For two decades, I served on the department's curriculum committee, helping to approve new courses, removing some barriers to our statistics courses, and reshaping the minor to be more flexible, among other things. I also served on the department's student success committee, which has helped prepare me for this new role. Last but not least, I have been the graduate coordinator for the Developmental Psychology sequence of the Masters program. Besides ensuring that course scheduling runs smoothly, I hope to help create a major that is more tailored to our growing number of majors who may want careers in helping professions, research, data analysis, and all the other possibilities psychology can afford. Also, I want to continue supporting the inclusion of social justice and content that reflects the wide varieties of human experience throughout curriculum. I look forward to working with our undergraduate majors along with the department staff and my fellow psychology faculty in new ways in the coming year.



DR. LAURA FINAN APPOINTED GRADUATE COORDINATOR OF DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY SEQUENCE

It is my pleasure to serve as the incoming graduate coordinator of the Developmental Psychology sequence of the Masters program starting the Fall 2025 semester. I joined the Department of Psychology at Illinois State University in 2018 after completing a post-doctoral fellowship from University of California, Berkeley and the Prevention Research Center in Prevention Science, a PhD from the University of Delaware in Human Development and Family Science, and a MA from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in Psychological Science. I have enjoyed working with our fantastic faculty, staff, students, and alumni on the Special Events and Research committees over the last seven

years and look forward to the opportunity to work with our developmental graduate students and department in this new role.



DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES

The graduate students and faculty had another exciting, meaningful academic year. Some of the Developmental Psychology sequence's accomplishments included:

- Second-year students Stuart Rand and Lauren Rogers successfully defended their theses.
- Stuart, Lauren and alumna, Suengok Yum, '24, presented posters at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago.
- Some of our alumni were spotted at the 2025 biennial meeting for the Society of Research in Child Development: Travis Hicks, '24, Danieli Mercado Ramos, '22, and Xiaoya Zhang, '17.
- We welcomed Dr. Jackie Cerda-Smith, Assistant Professor, to the sequence in January.
- Dr. Jordan Arellanes was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, accepted the 2025 Alumni of the Year Award from the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver, and received the 2025 Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement by a pre-tenure faculty member.
- Dr. Julie Campbell received an Advancing Research and Creative Scholarship (ARCS) grant, which supports interdisciplinary research, from the university. This will allow her and her colleagues in other departments to study women's decisions to go back to work after giving birth.
- Dr. Jackie Cerda-Smith received a Ready Through Research Grant from the American Psychological Foundation.
- We are pleased to announce that Dr. Kyla Cary will join the developmental faculty in August 2025!



DR. JACKIE CERDA-SMITH



DR. JORDAN ARELLANES



DR. JULIE CAMPBELL

COGNITIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES

CxP student Alison Guthrie recently co-authored two bills that were passed into law by the Arkansas state legislature. Below is a photo of her (right), with Governor Huckabee Sanders (center) and Representative Denise Jones Ennett (left). Both bills are aimed at aiding students receiving accommodation in higher education institutions in Arkansas.

This past academic year CxP students were very busy presenting at national and regional conferences. Arghya Kashyap, Michael Dow, Dante Caruso, and Will Ervin presented work at Psychonomics, and Will Ervin and Dante Caruso presented work at MPA. This summer both Alison Guthrie and Sanako Hishinuma will be presenting their work at the 2025 North American Meeting of the International Society for Ecological Psychology.

Second-year students Will Ervin and Michael Dow successfully defended their theses this year. Arghya Kashyap will do so in Summer 2025 before starting a PhD program in Experimental Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi in Fall 2025.

In Fall 2024, a number of our recent graduates started PhD programs. Maisha Orthy started a PhD program in Cognition and Neural Science at the University of Utah, Ryan Liew started a PhD program in Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience at UC Riverside, and Ece Yuksel started a PhD program in Cognitive Neuroscience and Biopsychology at Virginia Tech University.

CxP was also proud to host two guest speakers this year as part of our Professional Development seminar – David Farrokh from Sheffield Hallam University and Dr. Luis (“Louie”) Favela from Indiana University.

Congratulations to CxP alum Dr. Chris Wahlheim who won the Early Career Alumni Award. We are grateful to CxP alumnae Elizabeth Marsh (currently in PhD program in Psychology at Brandeis University) and Dr. Jen Coane (currently at Professor of Psychology at Colby College) who each made presentations to our faculty and students over Zoom as part of our CxP Professional Development Seminar.



**REPRESENTATIVE DENISE JONES ENNETT,
GOVERNOR HUCKABEE SANDERS, &
ALISON GUTHRIE**



DR. CHRISTOPHER WAHLHEIM

INDUSTRIAL – ORGANIZATIONAL /SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES

- Peyton Anderson, Munkhjin (Maya) Bat-Ireedui, Kassy Diaz, Sarah Jacobsen, and Tori Lomelino are our 2025 graduating class. We wish them good luck in their future careers!
- Our incoming class starting in Fall 2025 consists of Michael Charles (Illinois State University), Rory Kuhn (Illinois State University), Emma Walis (Illinois State University), Katherine Wheeler (Adrian College), and Sarah Williams (Illinois State University). They are joining the second-year students Laura Botros, Kara Cannon, Olivia Earll, and Emily Hubbard.
- Our sequence had strong showings at conferences with numerous posters/papers presented at meetings such as: Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Midwestern Psychological Association, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, and the Illinois State University Research Symposium.
- We continued our excellent record of placing students in PhD programs. In Fall 2024 Taylor Flinn (IO, Auburn University) and Zhi Quan Lim (Social, DePaul University) started their PhD journeys and were joined in Fall 2025 by Munkhjin (Maya) Bat-Ireedui (IO, Auburn University).
- Congratulations to our faculty colleague and IOS alumnus, Dr. Eric Wesselmann, on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Alumni Award from our department in Fall 2024.
- We are grateful to several alumni who shared their time and expertise by talking with our students in person or on Zoom in the past year: Dr. Jessica Chackoria, David Daly, Dr. Leila Zaghloul-Daly, and Kamila Gabka. A special thanks to Josh Rohlf for his continuous support of our sequence. We also welcomed industry and academic speakers: Dr. Rob Stilson (HP), and Dr. Michael Pasek (University of Illinois Chicago).

The IOS sequence consists of six faculty members: Kelly Clemens (Social), Alexandra Ilie (IO), Dan Ispas (IO, Coordinator), Burak Ozkum (IO), Kim Schneider (IO, Associate Chair), and Eric Wesselmann (Social).

We welcome news and updates from our alumni! Please email them to Dr. Dan Ispas (dispas@ilstu.edu).



**DR. KIM SCHNEIDER, KASSY DIAZ, PEYTON ANDERSON,
TORI LOMELINO, MAYA BAT-IREEDUI & DR. BURAK OZKUM**



DR. ERIC WESSELMANN

QUANTITATIVE PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES

The graduate students and faculty in the Quantitative Psychology sequence had another busy and successful year, meeting together in their professional seminar and presenting research locally and nationally. In addition to students who select Quantitative Psychology as their primary sequence of study, many graduate students continue to benefit from completing a dual sequence in Quantitative Psychology.

CLINICAL-COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES

FACULTY UPDATES



DR. DAN LANNIN

- Dr. Dan Lannin has been promoted to Professor effective August 2025. Congratulations to Dr. Lannin for his many scholarly achievements and contributions to the CCP program, Psychology Department, ISU, and the mental health field!
- We are pleased to announce that Dr. Alex Tatum will be joining the Psychology Department and CCP program in Fall 2025!

FACULTY SCHOLARLY PRODUCTIVITY

CCP faculty continue to be very actively engaged in research and contributions to the field! Here are some representative examples of their recent work:

Bergner, R. M. (2024). Establishing correct concept meanings in psychology: Why should we care and how can we do it? *American Psychologist*. Advance online publication.

Han, S. (2024). Mental health: Disordered eating. In H-L Cheng & Y. Tsong (Eds.), *Body Image and the Asian experience: Asians, Asian Americans, and Asian diasporas across the globe*. Elsevier.

Wong, S., Cheng, H-L., & Han, S. (2024). Decolonization of Asian body. In H-L Cheng & Y. Tsong (Eds.), *Body Image and the Asian experience: Asians, Asian Americans, and Asian diasporas across the globe*. Elsevier.

Chall, A. M., & Kahn, J. H. (2025). Awe and Positive Affect: The Role of Self-Transcendence and Self-Focused Attention. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 1–9.

Kahn, J. H., Enevold, K. C., Feltner-Williams, D., & Ladd, K. (2024). Using music to feel better: Are different emotion-regulation strategies truly distinct? *Psychology of Music*.

Lannin, D. G., & Du. Y. (2025). *The art and science of helping: Developing fundamental skills in a multicultural age*. Routledge.

Dr. Dan Lannin - "Psychology Life Lessons: A Podcast" <https://www.psychologylifelessons.com>

Nauta, M. M. (2024). Exploratory actions as mediators of the association between career exploration self-efficacy and decisional outcomes: Does exploration type matter? *Australian Journal of Career Development*, 33(2), 144-153.

Nauta, M. M. (2024, Apr). Trait and situational affect as determinants of academic major satisfaction. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Mercier, C., Bychowski, J**, and Yang, W**. (2025). Skin deep: A relational cultural approach to colorism. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. Advance online publication

Mercier, C. (2024). Centering veg*ns of color: An intersectional imperative to anti-veg*n stigma. *Journal of Health Prevention and Promotion*. Advance online publication.

CLINICAL-COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES CONT.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Effective July 1, 2026, the State of Illinois will change from requiring the completion of 48 hours to instead requiring 60 hours to obtain master's-level counselor licensure. To comply with these new requirements, effective May 2025, the CCP program officially requires the completion of 60 credits in order to graduate from the program. For approximately the past 14 years, through individual advisement, the majority of CCP students have chosen to take extra electives in order to graduate with the completion of 60 hours, thereby enhancing licensure portability for states with varying numbers of hours required for licensure. Therefore, the new CCP program requirements codify what has been in practice for the past 14 years. As new developments in the field evolve, we will continue to explore additional curriculum tweaks to make for our program.

GRADUATES

7 CCP students graduated in May 2025, including Erik Harris, Lilla Kisvari, Trinity Sharp, Sanjana Vasisht, and Peyton Williams - and 3 students are on track to graduate in August 2025. Congratulations to all of the recent graduates for their many accomplishments!

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CCP students published two articles and delivered 13 presentations at campus symposiums and regional conferences.

Congratulations to the following students and alums on their awards and achievements!

- **Matthew Sooby** (Fall 2024 admit) - ISU Foundation Fellowship
- **Britney Ramos** (Fall 2024 admit) - ISU McHenry Fellowship
- **Ema Voksic** (Fall 2024 admit) - ISU Merit Fellowship
- **Sean McDaniel** (Fall 2024 admit) - 1st place in the Psychology Department Social Justice Essay Writing Contest
- **Begüm Orhan** (Fall 2024 admit) - 3rd place in the Psychology Department Social Justice Essay Writing Contest
- **Jessica Wolf** (CCP MS 2014) received the **Practicum Supervisor Award in Clinical-Counseling Psychology**.
- **Estrella Gomez Hernandez** (CCP MS 2024) received the **Doug Lamb Outstanding Graduate Thesis Award in Clinical-Counseling Psychology**.

CLINICAL-COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES CONT.

PRACTICA

- We continue to be grateful for the long-standing, strong partnerships that we maintain with community mental health centers in Central Illinois. All CCP students complete 2nd-year practicum placements and select students complete 1st-year pre-practicum placements. These positions provide valuable support as students deliver essential clinical services at the agencies, and as agency personnel provide expert supervision, training, and mentoring as they guide students through a variety of professional practice activities.
- This past year, 3 CCP students served pre-practicum placements at The Center for Youth and Family Solutions, which also hosted 3 2nd-year CCP practicum students. Additionally, 3 2nd-year students completed their practica at Chestnut Health Systems, and 4 served their 2nd-year practicum placements at Heritage Behavioral Health Center. We are delighted that these agency partnerships are continuing in the 2025-2026 practicum and pre-practicum years.

EXPANDED PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH CHESTNUT HEALTH SYSTEMS

- For many years, Chestnut Health Systems has served as a regular host site for CCP students completing their 2nd-year practica, and they also provided 1st-year pre-practicum placements for several years. Students serving in these positions worked in either the Substance Use Treatment division of the agency or in the Mental Health Care division.
- In 2024-2025, a new 2nd-year practicum placement was established in the Court Services division of Chestnut Health Services. This new enterprise was so successful that it has been renewed for the 2025-2026 practicum year.
- Furthermore, although Chestnut's Court Services division had not previously hosted undergraduate internships, a Psychology major was allowed to complete a capstone internship in that division in 2024. That undertaking was so successful that undergraduate internships for Psychology majors continue to be offered in that division.
- Additionally, the culmination of these separate experiences led to a new 1st-year CCP employment/pre-practicum position being created that provides valuable experience and support for a 1st-year CCP student in 2025-2026.
- We are grateful to Chestnut Health Systems for all of these long-standing partnerships and new professional practice opportunities for our students.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES

- Following a self-study submission and site visit, the Specialist in School Psychology program received notice of NASP accreditation through 2031.
- The Doctoral Program in School Psychology successfully completed APA's Interim 5-year report that is required given our 10-year accreditation status.
- We are proud of our diverse representation of students in our program. During the 2024-2025 academic year, more than half of our students held racially minoritized identities. Many of our students also held minoritized identities relevant to sexuality, gender, language, and ability. Our faculty continues to engage in conversations about our social justice orientation to training, as we strive to ensure our students engage in coursework and practical experiences that have multiculturalism and culturally responsive practice at the forefront.
- We hosted the 25th Annual Intern Supervision Conference where interns, supervisors, and faculty from school psychology programs across the state traveled to ISU for professional development.
- We enjoyed an eventful Homecoming Week. Amanda (Mangian) Seets (2014), Dr. Brooke Ferrero (2013), and Dr. Kimberly Woodman (2005) sat on our annual Alumni Day Panel, and Dr. Ferrero was honored as the School Psychology Supervisor of the Year at the Department Awards Ceremony on Friday. We hosted our inaugural Homecoming Tailgate on Saturday, and it was a time!
- Eight doctoral and six specialist students graduated this year, all of whom have secured employment or post-doctoral fellowships at school districts, private clinics, or hospitals.
- All four of our fourth-year PhD students passed the comprehensive exam and secured internships at APPIC sites. All six of our second-year SSP students secured internships as well.
- Our students published five manuscripts and presented almost 20 posters and talks at conferences this year.
- We had a blast at NASP in Seattle where we re-connected with alum, and we look forward to connecting with more next year in Chicago!

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY UPDATESCONT.

Faculty Highlights:

- Dr. Brea Banks was awarded APA Division 16's Outstanding Contributions to Mentorship Award
- Dr. Gary Cates taught a new course, PSY 439: Application of Theories and Technologies in Learning, for the first time during the Spring 2025 semester that focuses on the application of learning theories in schools with emphasis on assistive technology and instructional programming across a multitiered model of support.
- Dr. Doepke continued her work at The Autism Place, funded by a \$519,940 grant.
- Dr. Adena Meyers enjoyed a yearlong sabbatical where she maintained an active research lab.
- Dr. Swerdlik taught courses and supervised supervision practicum as an adjunct faculty member, and Jeanette Quirk continued her role, providing administrative supervision to SSP interns
- Alum, Drs. Kirstin Johnson (2021), Nicole Moore (2019), Emily Morrow (2020), Kristal Shelvin (2010) served as adjunct faculty/supervisors for content and practicum courses.



**DR. KARLA DOEPKKE, DR. ADENA MEYERS, DR. BREA BANKS,
DR. SHENGTIAN WU, & DR. GARY CATES AT THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY
HOMECOMING TAILGATE**

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY UPDATES CONT.

Many of our students earned awards:

- Alia Coleman (First year PhD): ISU BirdFeeder research award
- Lourdes Concepción Cabán (fourth-year PhD): ISU University Club Scholarship, Department of Psychology Diversity Advocate Award, Department of Psychology Marzolf/French Award for Excellence in Doctoral Studies in School Psychology
- Emily Jasinski (fourth-year PhD): ISU Dissertation Completion Grant
- Farhia Osman (fourth-year PhD): Department of Psychology Charter Department Excellence Award
- Kierra Peterson (third-year PhD): ISU Dissertation Completion Grant, ISU University Club Scholarship, ISU Judy Smith Graduate Scholarship, IBHE Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship, APA D16 Poster Blue Ribbon, ISU Graduate Future Alumni Leader.
- Bianca Sierra (third-year PhD): ISU Dissertation Completion Grant



**LOURDES
CONCEPCIÓN CABÁN**



FARHIA OSMAN



KIERRA PETERSON

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER

In August of 2024, Dr. Brea Banks and Kelly Harman took on the joint roles of Co-Directors of the PSC; with Dr. Banks serving as the Acting Clinical Director, and Kelly serving as the Acting Administrative Director.

Faculty supervisors for the 2024-2025 school year included:

- Dr. Brea Banks
- Dr. Gary Cates
- Dr. Karla Doepke
- Dr. Kirstin Johnson
- Dr. Adena Meyers
- Dr. Mark Swerdlik
- Dr. Shengtian Wu

SERVICES PROVIDED

- **Academic Intervention/Consultation Service (AICS)**
 - Focuses on specific areas of academic struggle and developing skills to improve those areas. Composed of initial parent/child interview and pre-assessment, 16 sessions of intervention, and parent session to discuss progress and give report.
- **Autism Diagnostic Service (ADS)**
 - In depth evaluation for Autism only, will not evaluate for other diagnoses. Primarily uses the ADOS-2 assessment. Composed of 1 or more assessment sessions, and interpretive meeting to discuss results of evaluation and give full report.
- **Child/Adolescent Intervention Service (CAIS)**
 - Focuses on specific areas of social/emotional/behavioral struggle and developing skills to improve those areas (counseling). Primarily from school personnel referrals, services mostly take place on site, during the school day, with partnering schools, though services can be provided at the PSC clinic depending on clinician availability.
- **College Learning Assessment Service (CLAS)**
 - Comprehensive evaluation for psychoeducational, emotional, behavioral disabilities/diagnoses. Composed of 1 or more assessment sessions, and interpretive meeting to discuss results of evaluation and give full report.
- **Psychoeducational Assessment/Intervention Service (PAIS) / Multidisciplinary Committee (MDC)**
 - Comprehensive evaluation for psychoeducational, emotional, behavioral disabilities/diagnoses. Composed of parent interview, school observation (within 75 miles), 3 assessment sessions at PSC, and finally, a parent interpretive meeting to go over results of all findings and give full report.

In fiscal year 2025, Graduate Clinicians saw approximately 56 clients from ages 5-25 across all five services offered at the PSC.

THE AUTISM PROGRAM (TAP)

The Autism Program at Illinois State University (TAP at ISU) began providing services in the spring of 2001 to a handful of clients, while simultaneously providing training opportunities to a few graduate and undergraduate clinicians. Since that time, TAP has grown exponentially, moved off campus and has been able to routinely provide both clinical services to the community and service-learning opportunities to ISU students. TAP at ISU strives to be an autism-friendly, warm and welcoming place. We have worked with other community providers to identify unmet services needs and as a result, our current services include a half-day intensive early childhood program, individual therapy, social skills groups, caregiver education and support groups, consultation services to caregivers and other service providers, and screening and diagnostic services.

This year alone, TAP at ISU was able to provide 1750 hours of individual therapy; 250 group therapy sessions; 300 hours of consultation; and a handful of screenings and diagnostics at no cost to the community. During this same time, service-learning opportunities were provided to 36 graduate clinicians (from the Departments of Psychology and Speech & Communication Sciences) and to 35 undergraduate clinicians. Over 100 formal training programs were provided and over 1700 hours of supervision provided for novice clinicians.

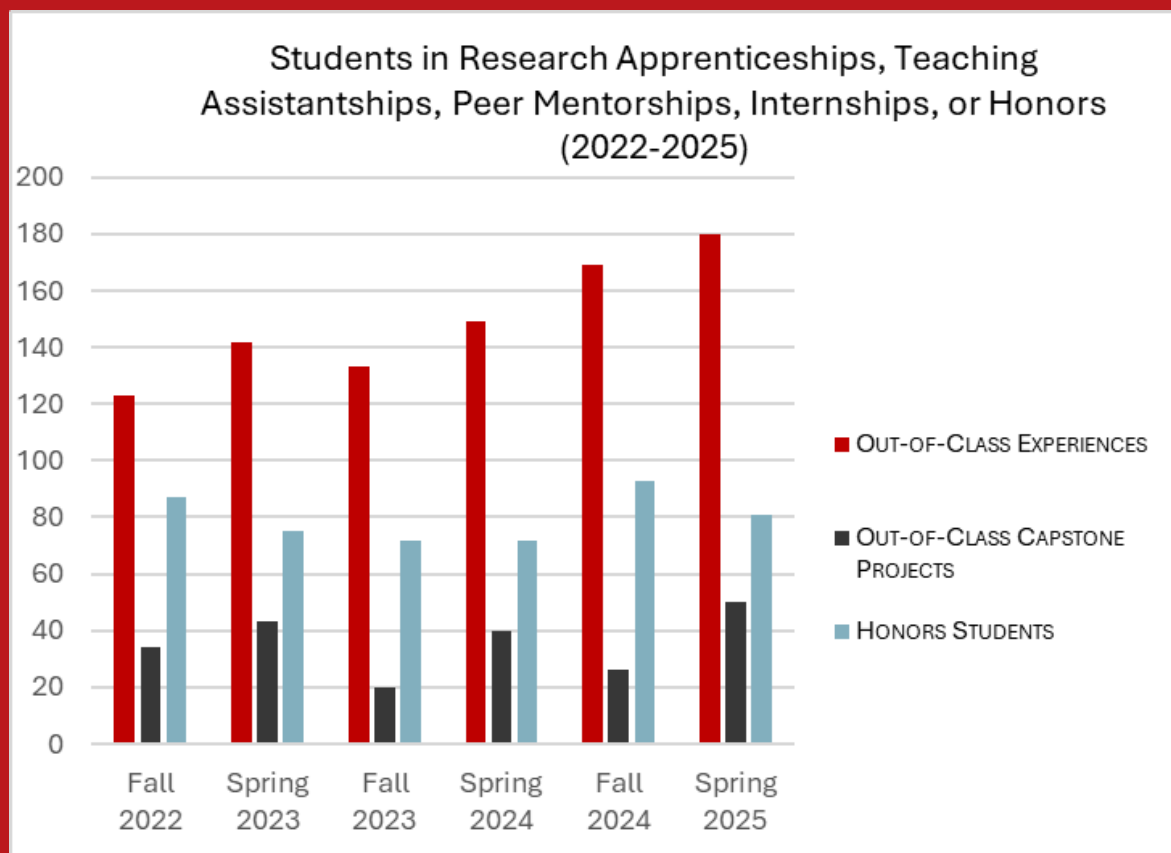
How has TAP be able to grow? Throughout the years, we have received funding through grants from The Autism Program of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Human Services, contracts from various local public schools, generous donations, and continuous support from the Department and University. We are now staffed with a full-time PhD Level Clinical Director; a Post-doctoral Fellow; two ¼ time tenure-track clinical supervisors (from Psychology and Speech & Communication Sciences); and nine paid graduate research assistants. Staff also include the numerous graduate and undergraduate students who complete portions of their coursework at TAP.

TAP at ISU is currently located at 2405 General Electric Road, Suite 1 in Bloomington, Il.



GROWTH OF THE UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY OUT-OF-CLASS EXPERIENCES

Our department is expanding the types of applied opportunities we offer to our undergraduate students, including providing more out-of-class experiences where students can work independently with faculty, their peers, and other psychologists. In the past year, more undergraduate psychology students than ever have gained research, teaching, and internship experiences and we offered our first senior capstone option focused on peer mentoring. These experiences give students a chance to learn new skills, advise other students, and prepare for graduate school or post-graduate work while exploring various career paths. Students can complete an out-of-class senior capstone project by conducting an independent research study, serving as a teaching assistant, completing a local internship, or serving as a peer mentor. We have seen a recent trend of more students choosing out-of-class capstone projects, along with an increased number of honors students in our department:



PEER MENTORING PROGRAM

Our undergraduate peer mentoring program represents our newest out of class experience for psychology majors. Students interested in becoming a peer mentor first complete PSY 282 Peer Mentoring Preparation, a 1-credit course. Then, they enroll in PSY 292 Peer Mentoring in Psychology with a faculty mentor and work as a group to support psychology majors in a variety of ways. Seniors can choose to complete PSY 393 Advanced Peer Mentoring and Student Success Apprenticeship as part of their capstone requirement for the major. Our peer mentors were busy in 2024-2025! They held office hours in the Student Success Center; provided videos and website content to share resources; met with prospective students and families visiting campus for Open House Days and Redbird Days; helped coordinate events such as Cookies for Freshmen, Tacos for Transfers, and Senior Sendoff; visited courses to share expertise about the psychology major and related skills; and helped connect our faculty, staff, and students in ways that facilitated belonging. We were excited to partner with our first class of six senior peer mentors who completed their capstone experience in Spring 2025. These students led programs, expanded web content, and built portfolios that helped promote student success in psychology. We look forward to the continued growth and success of our peer mentoring program.



Izzy Martino, Betse Hauser, Tayler Daker, Cory Tyler, Cade Petrie, Chase Beckley, Kevin Dean, Eli Gutierrez, Karolina Porebea, Rosmery Mendoza

DR. JEFF WAGMAN NAMED COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

The Department of Psychology congratulates Dr. Jeffrey Wagman, who has been named a College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Distinguished Lecturer for the 2024-25 academic year. Wagman gave his talk, "An Ecological Approach to Perception by Touch (from Head to Toe)," at 3:30 p.m. Monday, October 21st, in the Circus Room of the Bone Student Center.

The College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lectureship is one of the highest honors bestowed upon a faculty member by the college and may be awarded only once to any particular person. Recipients are accorded this honor in recognition of the excellence of their professional attainments, exemplifying the values and mission of Illinois State University and the College of Arts and Sciences; in particular, they demonstrate the active pursuit of learning, creative activity, scholarship, and research, as well as their dissemination through publication and teaching. Each year, the College Council selects up to two faculty members as recipients of this award.

Dr. Jeffrey B. Wagman is a professor of psychology who joined the faculty at Illinois State University in 2003 after earning a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. His research focuses on understanding how the perceptual systems support the performance of everyday (and sometimes not-so-everyday) behavior. He was a recipient of the Illinois State University Outstanding University Researcher Award in 2019 and of a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Invitation Fellowship for Research in Japan in 2011. He is the co-author of *Sensing and Perceiving* (forthcoming), *Introduction to Ecological Psychology: A Lawful Approach to Perceiving, Acting, and Cognizing* (2022), and the co-editor of *Perception as Information Detection: Reflections on Gibson's Ecological Approach to Visual Perception* (2019). Together with his students and collaborators, he has published over 125 articles, chapters, book reviews, and conference proceedings, has given over 25 invited lectures at universities around the world, and has made over 130 presentations at local, national, and international conferences. He is an Associate Editor of the journal *Ecological Psychology*, a consulting editor for *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception & Performance*, a co-editor of the *Resources in Ecological Psychology* Book Series, and an elected member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for Ecological Psychology.



DR. JEFF WAGMAN



**DR. JEFF WAGMAN, DR. ALYCIA HUND,
& DR. HEATHER DILLAWAY (CAS DEAN)**



**DR. JEFF WAGMAN GIVING HIS
PRESENTATION**

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY ALUMNI **RELATIONS BOARD**

The department has been working for several years to establish an Alumni Relations Board. We thank Dr. J. Scott Jordan, Dr. Laura Finan, and Ms. Kelly Harman for assistance. In 2024-2025, Dr. Mark Swerdlik, Dr. Marla Reese-Weber, Dr. Kristal Shelvin, and Dr. Greg Robinson drafted the bylaws, which were approved April 21, 2025. The board has several purposes, including assisting the department in achieving its mission, goals, partnerships, and accreditation standards; providing input on what employers and professionals view as desirable critical skills and characteristics in graduates; facilitating communication with alumni; creating professional internship/field experiences, serving as guest speakers and mentors, sharing stories to highlight professional opportunities in psychology and related fields; promoting fundraising for student scholarships, traveling to professional conferences, and purchasing materials; planning and promoting alumni activities during homecoming and throughout the year; and documenting the history of the department over time so we can better share our stories.

The board will include 21 to 35 members: nine alumni from the graduate programs/sequences, two to eight alumni from the undergraduate program, two to four current students, three to seven faculty/staff, the department chair, the chair of the special events committee, the lead staff member, and two to four friends of the department.

The board will meet at least twice each year. The fall meeting will be in person in conjunction with homecoming with a virtual option. The spring meeting will be held virtually. Please contact Kelly Harman if you would like to nominate yourself or someone you know to serve on the board. We look forward to more news and events in the coming years!



DR. MARK SWERDLIK



DR. MARLA REESE-WEBER



DR. KRISTAL SHELVIN



DR. GREG ROBINSON

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Department of Psychology Committees were busy this year, moving forward with a variety of initiatives and projects.

The Climate and Diversity Committee, led by Dr. Greg Braswell, hosted an essay-writing contest for students to write short essays about social justice and community outreach applications for psychology. Three winning essays were selected in April 2025, and the top essay-writer received a small prize. The winning essays were posted in the Student Success Center and on social media. On behalf of the department, the committee hosted listening sessions for undergraduate and graduate students regarding issues affecting international students (led by Dr. Suejung Han and Dr. Burak Ozkum) and issues affecting students from historically marginalized groups (led by Dr. Caitlin Mercier and Dr. Allison Nguyen) in Spring 2025. The committee created a dry goods food pantry for psychology graduate students in Fall 2024 and expanded the service to undergraduate students in late Spring 2025. Dr. Wesselmann is coordinating the food pantry.

The Research Committee, led by Dr. Jef Kahn, tracked department usage of Sona software for research participant sign up and Gorilla usage for building research studies online. Dr. Jef Kahn and Dr. Laura Finan worked with the University IRB to modify our Department IRB policies permitting the use of pre-screening in Sona. Dr. Dawn McBride helped with streamlining department membership for Gorilla.

The Resources Committee, led by Dr. Suejung Han in fall and Dr. Dan Ispas in spring, explored space utilization in DeGarmo Hall, collected needs assessment data, conducted site visits, and developed specific plans for using room DEG 017. We hope to repurpose DEG 017 as a small computer laboratory for psychology students and a conference room for seminar courses, thesis and dissertation meetings, and committee/group meetings. This space would augment other department spaces available on the 4th floor, including the Student Success Center in DEG 404, the Friedhoff Conference Room (DEG 435F), and the Quad Conference Room (DEG 407).

The Special Events Committee, led by Dr. Laura Finan, helped the department host various Homecoming/Alumni Day celebration events including presentations by Dr. Eric Wesselmann for his Alumnus of the Year: Lifetime Achievement Award and Dr. Christopher Wahlheim for his Alumnus of the Year: Early Career Award; the Alumni Day Awards Ceremony to recognize Alumni, supervisor, and student awardees; and the Homecoming Awards Celebration Dinner at Eastland Suites Hotel & Conference Center, which was attended by 74 people. We also started planning the 2026 Homecoming/Alumni Day celebrations. The committee is working toward centralizing alumni contact information and processes to help us keep in touch.



MEET THE TEAM

NEW FACULTY & RETIREES



**DR. JACKIE
CERDA-SMITH**

We are so excited to welcome Dr. Jackie Cerda-Smith to the Department of Psychology at Illinois State University! Here is a brief Q&A with Dr. Cerda-Smith...

Where are you joining us from?

"North Carolina State University."

What do you study?

"People's understanding of social inequality and their action to dismantle it. I also do community-based work with high school psychology teachers and students."

What are you looking forward to this coming year at ISU?

"I'm so excited to join the Redbird community, teach, and kick-start my research lab...also Pizza Payaa."

Effective at the end of the Summer 2025 term, Dr. Al House will begin his "second retirement" from ISU. Although Dr. House officially retired from ISU in 2014, we are grateful that he has continued to teach CCP and Psychology courses on an ongoing basis since that time in his role as Professor Emeritus. Dr. House's "second retirement" also coincides with the 50th anniversary of his joining ISU. Congratulations to Dr. House as he embarks on the next chapter of his life journey! His favorite memory at ISU is teaching Behavior Modification class, and he said right this moment with you! He said he really liked being at ISU and he liked our program very much.

He suggested that as future therapists, it is good not to specialize in a certain topic or disorder such as borderline personality disorder and be open to working with almost everything.



DR. AL HOUSE



**DR. AL HOUSE WITH HIS FINAL GROUP OF IN-PERSON
GRADUATE STUDENTS AT ISU**

MEET OUR GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATORS

**COGNITIVE & EXPERIMENTAL
PSYCHOLOGY**

DR. JEFFREY WAGMAN



**INDUSTRIAL / ORGANIZATIONAL
- SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

DR. DAN ISPAS



DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

DR. LAURA FINAN



QUANTITATIVE PSYCHOLOGY

DR. MATTHEW HESSON-MCINNIS



CLINICAL COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

DR. KAREN MARK



**SPECIALIST & DOCTORAL IN SCHOOL
PSYCHOLOGY**

DR. BREA M. BANKS



MEET OUR STAFF



DEPARTMENT CHAIR

DR. ALYCIA HUND

Alycia received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Augustana College in 1997 and her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Iowa in 2003, specializing in developmental psychology. She joined the faculty in the Department of Psychology at ISU in 2003 as an Assistant Professor. Over the years she has served many roles, including Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Coordinator for the Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences sequence, and Undergraduate Coordinator. She was appointed Associate Chair in 2023, and Acting Co-Chair in 2024, and Interim Chair in 2024-2025. She began service as the Chair of the Department of Psychology on July 1st, 2025. Her teaching and research focus on cognitive development during childhood,

including spatial cognition, relational language, executive functioning, and school readiness and success, including ways parent-child, teacher-child, and parent-teacher relationships support child development. She values working with graduate and undergraduate students via research and teaching assistantships and peer mentorships.

ASSOCIATE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

DR. KIM SCHNEIDER

Dr. Kimberly Schneider, Professor of Psychology, serves as Associate Chair and Graduate Assistantship Coordinator for the department. She joined the faculty at Illinois State University in 2001, after serving on the faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso from 1995-2000 and working as a Strategic Resources Researcher at State Farm Insurance from 2000-2001. Kim is a faculty member in the Industrial-Organizational/Social Psychology program at ISU and previously served as coordinator of that program from 2007-2022. She also served the university as an ombudsperson from 2016-2022. Kim earned her BA in Psychology from Illinois Wesleyan University (1990) and her MA and PhD in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1994, 1996).



UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATOR

DR. GREG BRASWELL

Gregory Braswell joined the Department of Psychology in August 2002. He is affiliated with the Developmental sequence and served as the sequence coordinator from 2016-2025. Gregory will start a new role as the department's Undergraduate Coordinator in the Fall 2025.



UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR

DR. KAREN MARK

Karen earned her BA in Psychology at Cornell University and her PhD in Clinical Psychology at The University of Texas at Austin. She completed her pre-doctoral clinical internship at ISU's Student Counseling Center (SCC). Since then, she has maintained a full-time position in the Psychology Department, where for many years, she held a quarter-time position as a Staff Psychologist at the SCC. July 1st marks her 20th anniversary of serving as the coordinator of the Clinical-Counseling Psychology program. She continues to teach undergraduate and graduate courses, serves on the Department Council, curriculum, and undergraduate advisement committees, and coordinates internships for Psychology majors. She has maintained a part-time private psychotherapy practice in the community, and she is passionate about supporting students' professional development as they prepare for the next steps after graduation.



MEET OUR STAFF CONT.

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

MOLLY KNAPP

On July 5th, 2017, Molly became the Academic Advisor for the Psychology department. She came to ISU from Illinois Central College where she worked as both an Advisor and a Mental Health Counselor for 8 years. She left ICC as the Coordinator of Advisement, supervising over 20 advisors from different disciplines. Molly also teaches "Careers in Psychology" which is a crucial class to help students get a better idea of what they want to do with their psychology degrees after graduation.



UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

ALLY FRIZZELL

Ally Frizzell joined the Illinois State University Psychology Department after eight years serving as an academic advisor in accountancy at the Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She holds a master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Abilene Christian University and brings over a decade of experience supporting students on college campuses. This fall, Ally will begin working toward her doctorate at Illinois State University, continuing her commitment to student development, academic success, and fostering a sense of belonging among students.

at Illinois State University, continuing her commitment to student development, academic success, and fostering a sense of belonging among students.

LEAD STAFF - DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR

KELLY HARMAN

On May 1st, Kelly Harman celebrated 19 years working for the Psychology Department. Kelly started as the Office Manager of the Psychological Services Center (PSC) in 2006. She served in this role for 14 years before transitioning to the Lead Staff position as Department Administrator in 2020, though she maintained her role at the PSC until 2021 to help during COVID. In 2024, Kelly also took on the role as Acting Administrative Director of the PSC. Kelly will also begin her graduate program in Academic Administration here at ISU starting this fall 2025.



DEPARTMENT OFFICE MANAGER

ANGI DAVIS

Angela "Angi" Davis is a proud Illinois State University Class of '03 alum, who was hired as the office manager for the Department of Psychology in November 2021, during our return to campus after COVID. Prior to her role here, she was both a substitute teacher and professional photographer; however, her greatest achievement and source of pride in her life was being a SAHM for her children, and the youngest will become an ISU Redbird this fall. GO BIRDS!

MEET OUR STAFF CONT.**GRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFICE MANAGER****HANNAH DELAND**

Hannah joined the Psychology Department in 2024 as the Graduate Programs Office Manager. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Risk Management and Insurance from Illinois State University's College of Business in 2019. Currently, she is pursuing her Master of Business Administration (MBA) at ISU's College of Business.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER (PSC)
OFFICE MANAGER****SYDNEY AUTH**

After graduating from ISU with her Bachelors in Psychology in 2022, Sydney joined the Psychology Department as the Office Support Specialist for the Psychological Services Center. In 2025, Sydney was upgraded to Office Manager, and she will begin her Masters in Psychology in the Developmental sequence this fall at ISU.

**COORDINATOR OF CLINICAL SERVICES
THE AUTISM PLACE (TAP)****DR. NICOLE MOORE**

Nicole is a proud alumna of Illinois State University, where she earned her undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees. Following her academic training, she completed her doctoral internship at Kennedy Krieger Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She then pursued her postdoctoral fellowship at The Autism Place, where she has spent the past six years of her career. Nicole provides diagnostic and intervention services to the Bloomington-Normal community, teaches practicum courses, trains both graduate and undergraduate clinicians, coordinates clinical operations, and supervises staff.

**ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR OF CLINICAL SERVICES
THE AUTISM PLACE (TAP)****DR. EMILY MORROW**

After earning her degree in school psychology at ISU, Emily began her career working in the local public schools. She later returned to Illinois State University for post-doctoral training at The Autism Place (TAP). For the past three years, she has continued her work at TAP, focusing on early intervention services, training new clinicians, and conducting diagnostic assessments.

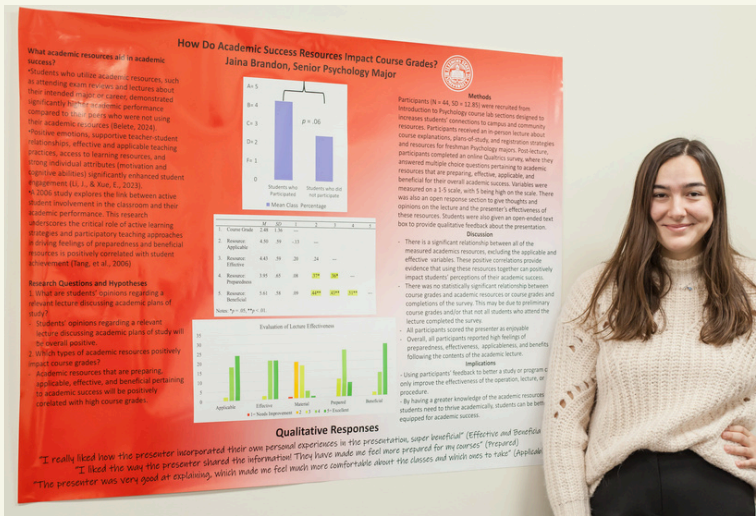
**IT SUPPORT ASSOCIATE****JASON MCCRONE**

While Jason may not officially be staff for the Psychology Department, he is much appreciated for all the work he does to support our faculty, student, and staff's technological needs. Jason began working for ISU in 2000, and celebrated 25 years with the University in February 2025.

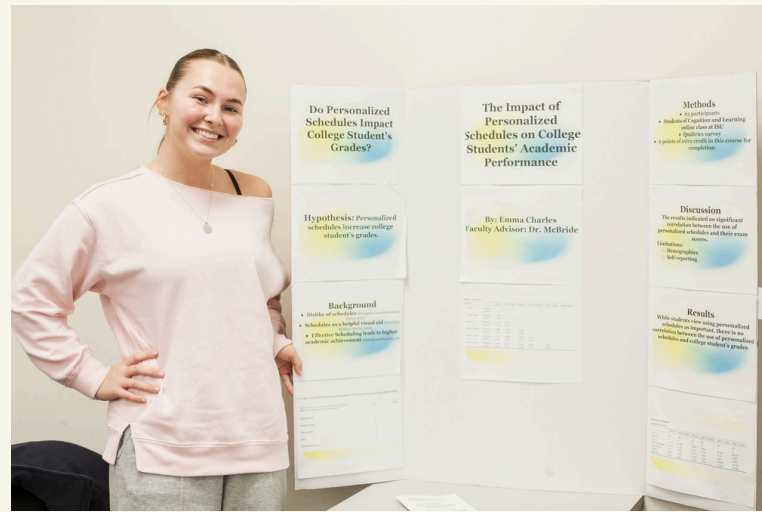


RESEARCH

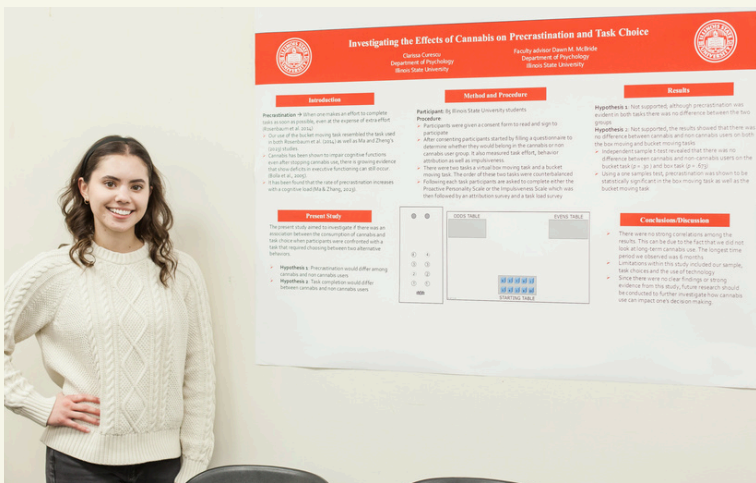
FALL 2024 HONORS COLLOQUIUM & CAPSTONE POSTER EVENT



JAINA BRANDON



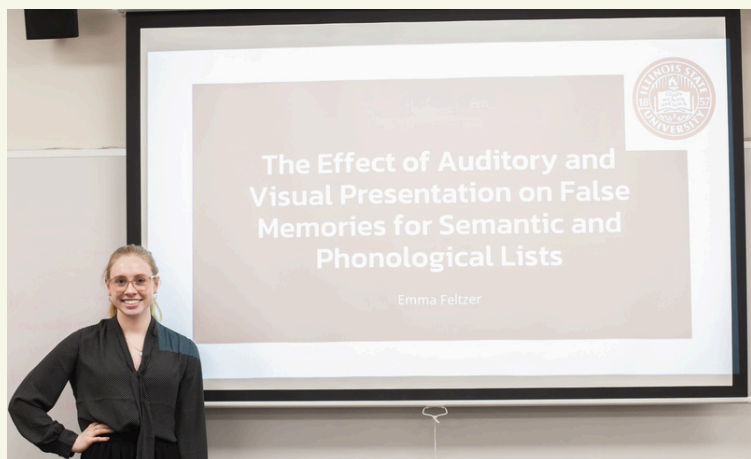
EMMA CHARLES



CLARISSA CURESCU



EMMA ETHERIDGE



EMMA FELTZER, HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY

NOT PICTURED: JAINA BRANDON, HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY

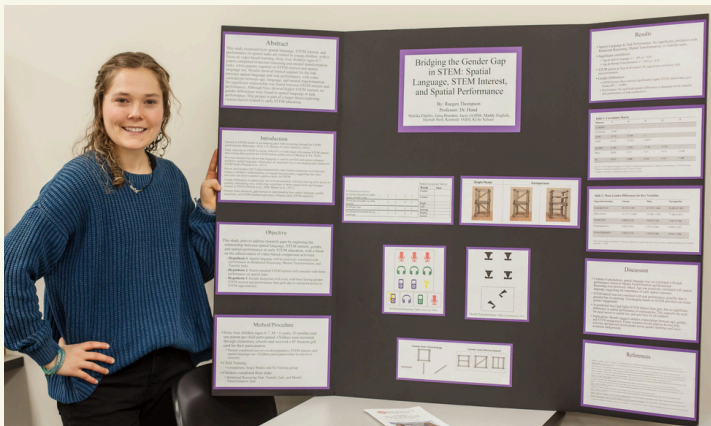
FALL 2024 HONORS COLLOQUIUM & CAPSTONE POSTER EVENT



RORY KUHN



ANTHONY PACIONE



RAEGEN THOMPSON



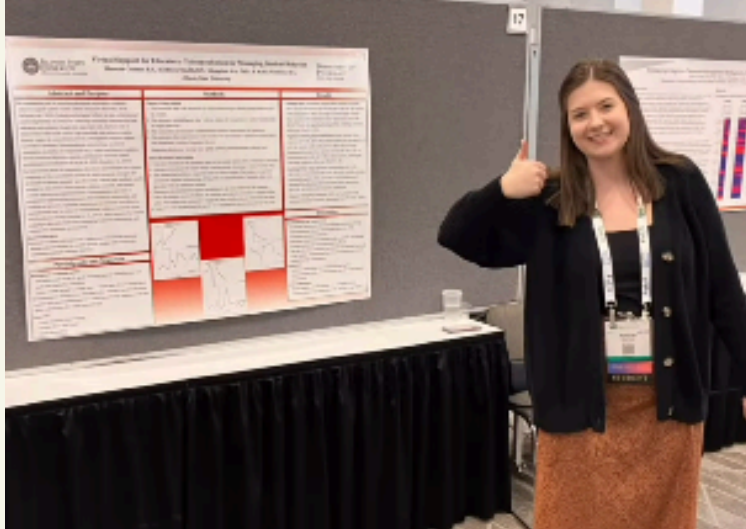
ISABELLA TONDREAU



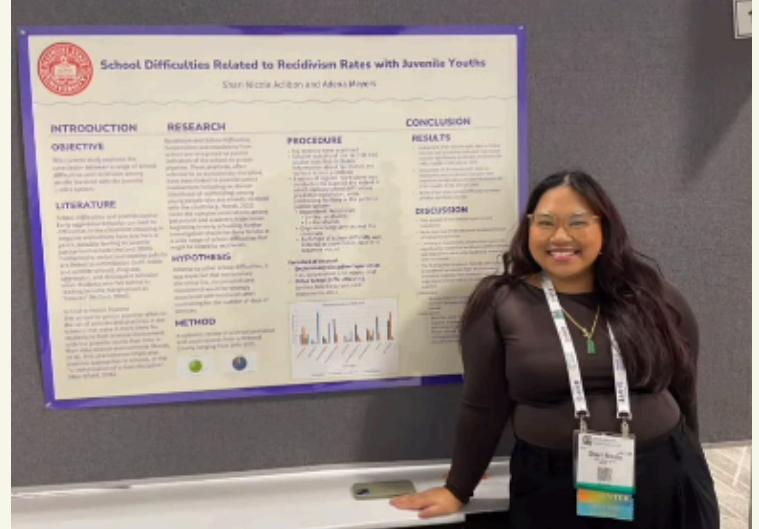
EMMA WALIS, HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS (NASP) 2025

The NASP Conference was held in Seattle, WA from February 18th - 21st in 2025. The Psychology Department had many School Psychology students, faculty members, and Alumni attend to present their research.



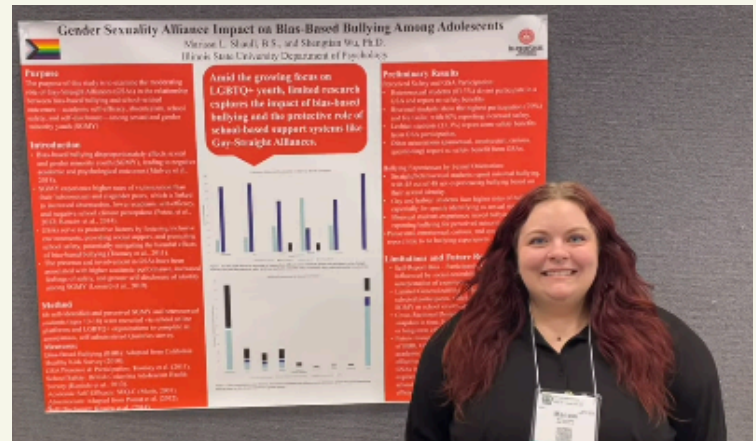
HANNAH CREMER



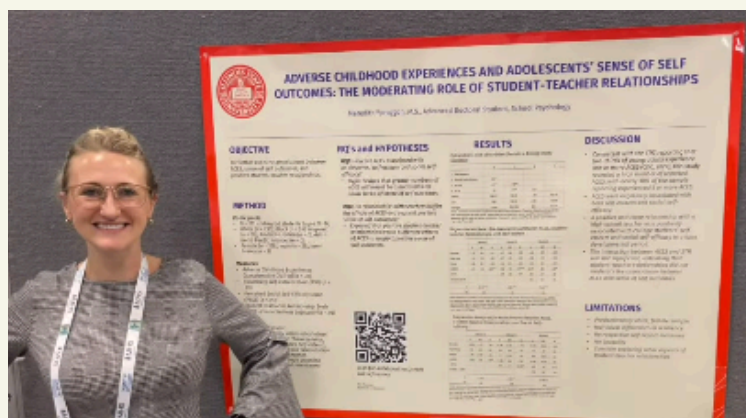
SHARI ACLIBON



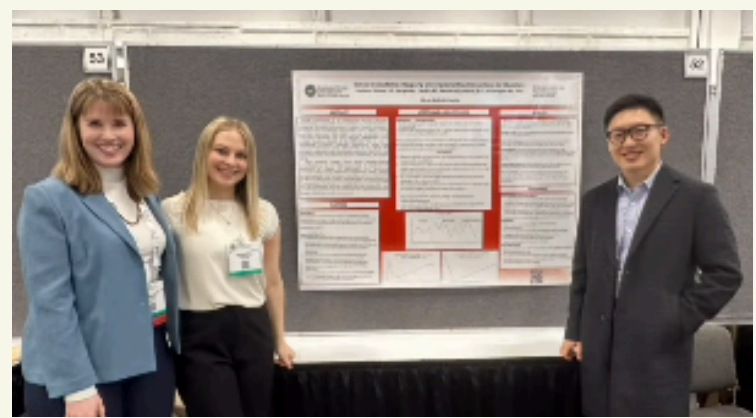
BIANCA SIERRA



DR. MARISSA SHAULL (ALUM)



MEREDITH SPRAGGON



**KATIE SHIELDS, JACKIE KASALKSO
& DR. SHENGTIAN WU**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS (NASP) 2025 CONT.



DR. JESSICA MCKINLEY (ALUM)



DR. KEELEY HYNES (LEFT) (ALUM)



**DR. MARK SWERDLIK,
DR. ADENA MEYERS &
DR. BREA BANKS**

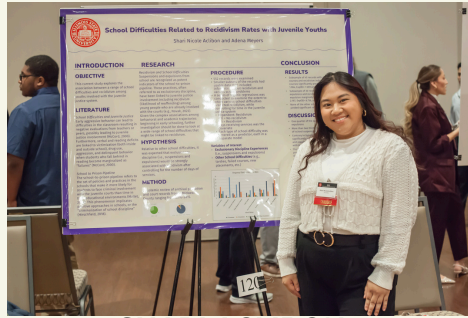


**DR. HEATHER LACEY, DR. BREA BANKS, DR. ADENA
MEYERS, DR. KEELEY HYNES, DR. KIRSTIN
JOHNSON, DR. MARK SWERDLIK, BIANCA SIERRA,
SHARI ACLIBON, & DR. JULIE HERBSTRITH**

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2025



BRANDON ABBS



SHARI ACLIBON



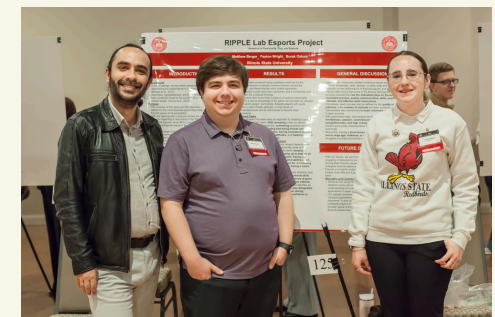
PEYTON ANDERSON



ISABELLE ARQUILLA, VANESSA JODLOWSKI, & DR. DAWN MCBRIDE



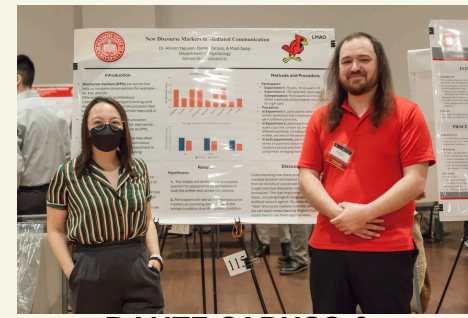
MAYA BAT-IREEDUI, & EMMA GRASHOFF



MATTHEW BERGER, PAYTON WRIGHT, & DR. BURAK OZKUM



NICOLE CARLOS



DANTE CARUSO & DR. ALLISON NGUYEN



DANTE CARUSO & SIERRA GARNER



MICHAEL CHARLES



HANNAH CREMER & KATIE SHIELDS



CAITLYN DONNELLY



WILL ERVIN & DR. ALLISON NGUYEN



EMMA ETHERIDGE



KELLY FLETCHER & ALEXANDRIA HERNANDEZ

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2025 CONT.



ANYA GONZALEZ & DR. CAITLIN MERCIER



EMMA GRASHOFF



ALISON GUTHRIE & DR. JEFF WAGMAN



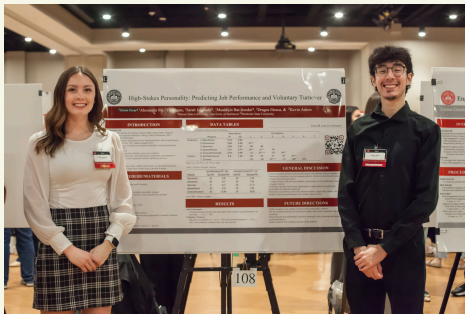
KATIE HINDMAN



SANAKO HISHINUMA



VIOLETA IVANOVA & MICHAEL DOW



SARAH JACOBSEN & ZENON TOVAR



ALEX KAPRAK



DEAN MCDANIEL, CAITLYN DONNELLY, & DR. LAURA FINAN



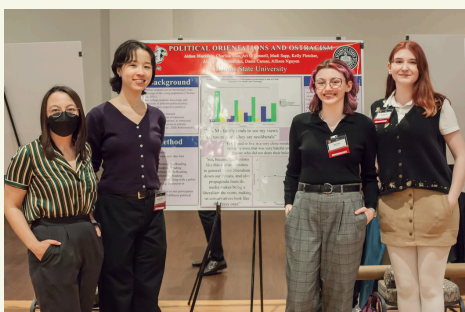
KAILEY MCELMURY



DASHA NEVINGER, ALEX LITTLE, & MAYA BAT-IREEDUI



ARI O'CONNELL & DR. ALLISON NGUYEN



ANGELINA OWENS, MADI SAPP, ARI O'CONNELL & DR. ALLISON NGUYEN



ASHLEY OROS



EMMANUEL OWUSU

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2025 CONT.



BRITNEY RAMOS



GISELLE RIVERA



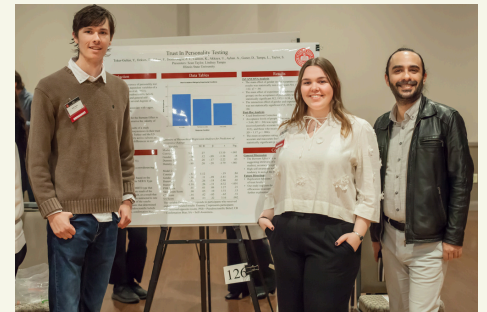
KATIE SHIELDS & JACKIE KASALKO



**MEREDITH SPRAGGON &
DR. LAURA FINAN**



SADIE SZKAPIAK



**SEAN TAYLOR, LINDSEY TAMPA,
& DR. BURAK OZKUM**



**DAISY TORRES, MADDY ENGLISH,
JACEY GRIFFITHS, & DR. ALCIA HUND**



CAILEIGH TUMA

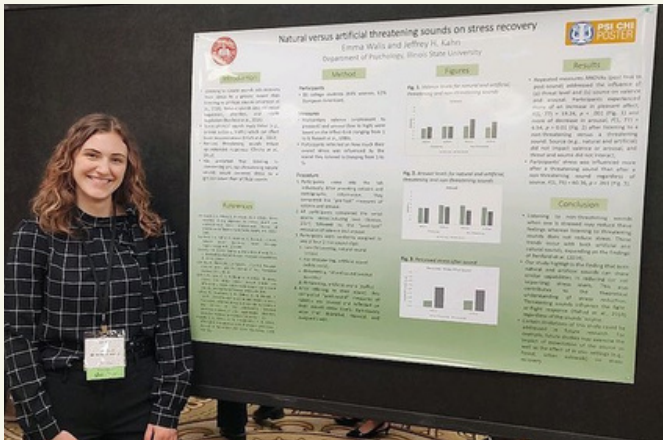


**CORY TYLER &
DR. MARGARET NAUTA**

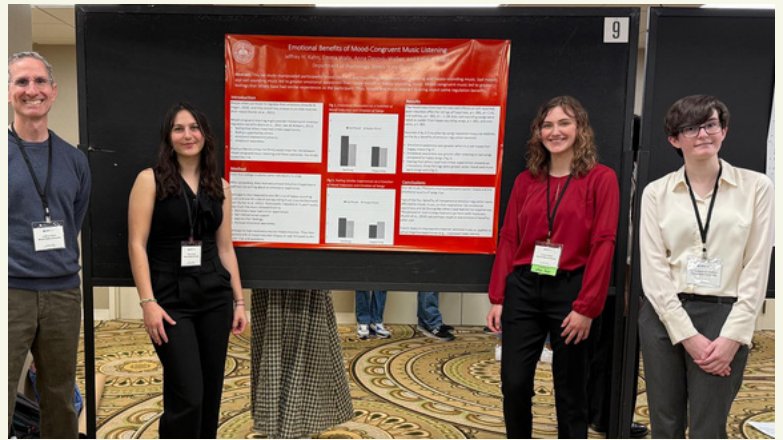


MIDWESTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (MPA) 2025

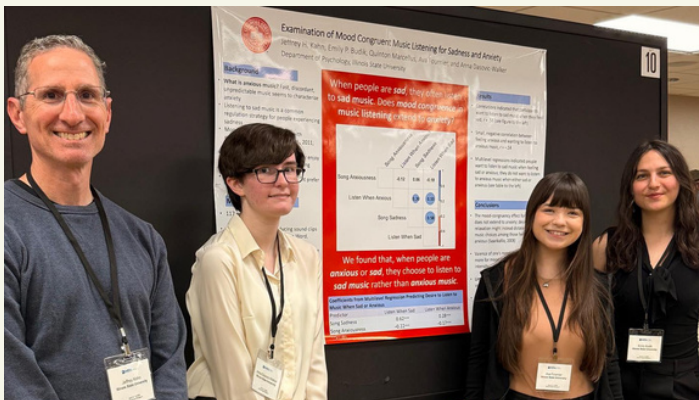
The MPA Conference was held in Chicago, IL from April 10th-12th in 2025. The Psychology Department had many students and faculty members attend to present their research.



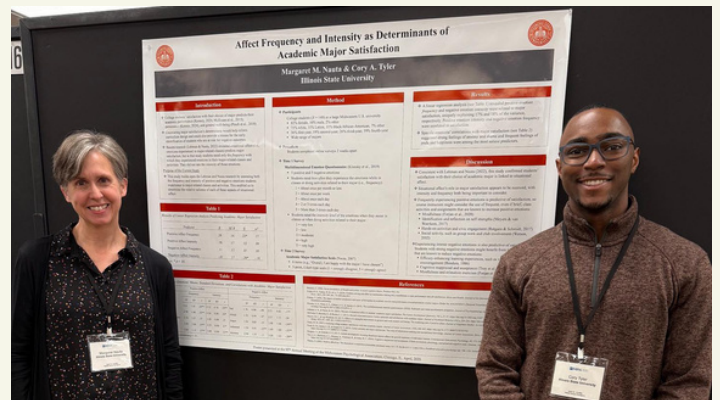
EMMA WALIS



DR. JEF KAHN, EMILY BUDIK, EMMA WALIS, & ANNA DASOVIC-WALKER



DR. JEF KAHN, ANNA DASOVIC-WALKER, AVA FOURNIER, & EMILY BUDIK



DR. MARGARET NAUTA & CORY TYLER

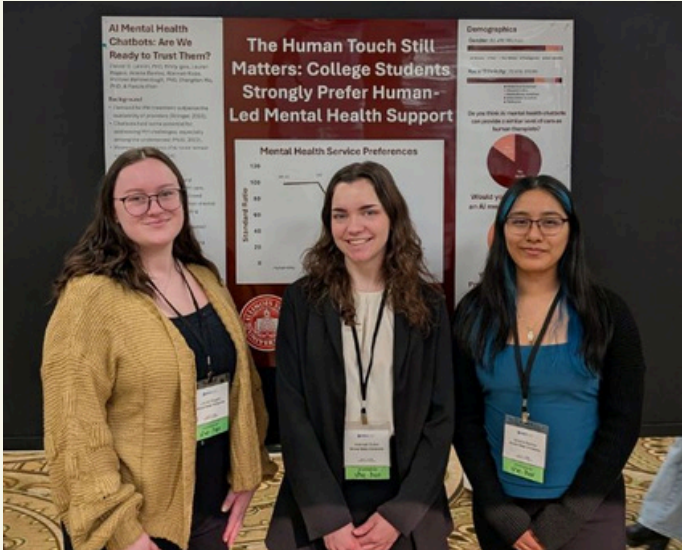


KAYDEN WHITEHEAD, LAURA DINNSEN, MACKENZIE CARTER, MORGAN SIZEMORE, & DR. SHENGTIAN WU



SARAH WILLIAMS, RORY KUHN, & DR. KIM SCHNEIDER

MIDWESTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (MPA) 2025 CONT.



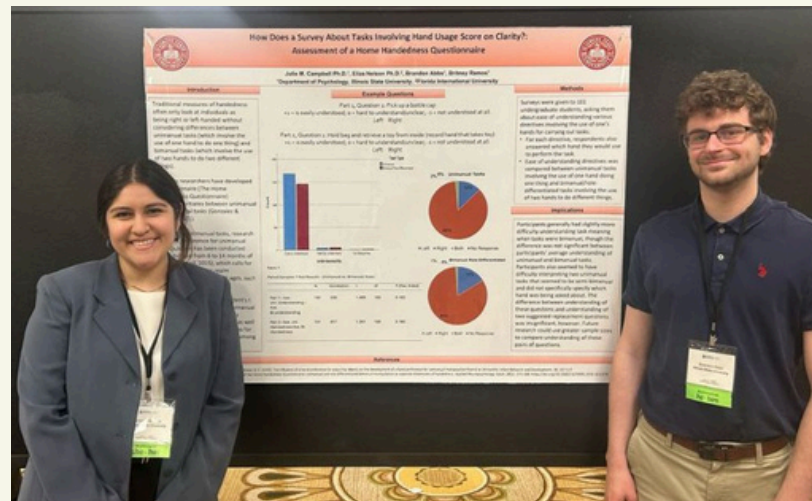
**LAUREN ROGERS, ALANNAH KOLZE, &
JERANIA BARRIOS**



STUART RAND



MATTHEW SOOBY



BRITNEY RAMOS & BRANDON ABBS



**JAKE HERRMANN, SARAH WILLIAMS, ELISE
ADLEMAN & ASHLEY HINTZ**



TORI LOMELINO & TONY LIM

MIDWESTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (MPA) 2025 CONT.



MATTHEW SOOBY, JAKE HERRMANN, SARAH WILLIAMS, ASHLEY HINTS, ELIZE ADLEMAN, LAUREN ROGERS, JERANIA BARRIOS, & ALANNAH KOLZE



KARA CANNON, EMILY BUDIK, DR. BURAK OZKUM, SARAH JACOBSEN, TORI LOMELINO, TAYLOR FLINN, DR. KIM SCHNEIDER & MAYA BAT-IREEDUI



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

ALUMNI DAY 2024 HONORS



JACEY GRIFFITH WAS PRESENTED WITH THE DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

Jacey Griffith, Dr. Alycia Hund, & Dr. Greg Braswell



ALIA COLEMAN WAS PRESENTED WITH THE SWERDLIK GRADUATE STUDENT IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Alia Coleman, Dr. Brea Banks, & Dr. Mark Swerdlik



ESTRELLA GOMEZ HERNANDEZ WAS PRESENTED WITH THE DOUG LAMB OUTSTANDING GRADUATE THESIS AWARD IN CLINICAL-COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Estrella Gomez Hernandez, Dr. Doug Lamb & Dr. Karen Mark



DR. BROOKE FERRERO WAS PRESENTED WITH THE PRACTICUM SUPERVISOR AWARD IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY
Dr. Brooke Ferrero & Dr. Brea Banks



JESSICA WOLF WAS PRESENTED WITH THE PRACTICUM SUPERVISOR AWARD IN CLINICAL-COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY
Jessica Wolf



DR. J. SCOTT JORDAN WAS HONORED FOR HIS SERVICE AS THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY CHAIRPERSON FROM 2009-2024

Dr. J. Scott Jordan, Dr. Kim Schneider & Dr. Alycia Hund

ALUMNI DAY 2024 HONORS CONT.



DR. ERIC WESSELMANN WAS PRESENTED WITH THE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Eric Wesselmann, Dr. John B. Pryor, & Dr. Glenn Reeder

A graduate of the I/O-Social Psychology master's program at Illinois State, Wesselmann went on to complete a Ph.D. in psychology in 2011 from Purdue University in Indiana and found his professional home back here at his alma mater in the Department of Psychology. His B.A. was also here at ISU in psychology with a minor in film studies in 2003.

Eric publishes research on social inclusion and exclusion, sexual harassment, social stigma, and the psychology of religion and spirituality. He has published in various psychology and interdisciplinary journals, including *Aggressive Behavior*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, and *Psychological Science*. Eric has co-edited special issues in the *Journal of Social Psychology*, *Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community*, and *Self & Identity*. His research has been recognized both nationally and internationally by academics, practitioners, and popular press. The Association for Psychological Science recognized him with a Rising Star designation in 2015, and he has served as a grant reviewer for the U.S. National Science Foundation, as well as for funding organizations in Canada, England, Germany, and Poland. His research has been cited in public policy documents both in the U.S. and across the globe, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Turkey, and the United Nations. He has been interviewed by media outlets in the U.S. as well as Canada, England, and France.

Dr. Wesselmann also has research interests on the interface of psychology, fandom, and popular culture, having published related work in the journals *Psychology of Popular Media*, *Teaching of Psychology*, and *Journal of Fandom Studies*. He has contributed chapters to ten volumes of the *Popular Culture Psychology* series (e.g., *Spider-Man Psychology*, *Stranger Things Psychology*, *Wonder Woman Psychology*). Eric regularly discusses the overlap between psychology and popular culture topics at conventions locally and nationally. Eric has contributed to several podcasts for WGLT Psych Geeks, co-curates an ongoing film series for The Normal Theater called FilmCULTure, and has a YouTube channel (Digital Golgotha Productions) where he hosts discussions on the dynamics of popular culture and psychology with scholars, creators, and actors.

ALUMNI DAY 2024 HONORS CONT.



DR. CHRISTOPHER WAHLHEIM WAS PRESENTED WITH THE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR EARLY-CAREER AWARD

Dr. Christopher Wahlheim & Dr. Dawn McBride

An associate professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Wahlheim is a graduate of the experimental psychology master's program at Illinois State University. Wahlheim began his academic career as a first-gen college student with an A.A. degree from Black Hawk College ('02) in Moline, Illinois, and his B.S. at Illinois State in 2004. He then went on to complete his Ph.D. in cognitive psychology ('11) and two post-doctoral fellowships ('16) at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Wahlheim is an associate professor of psychology and the director of the Memory and Cognition Lab at University of North Carolina Greensboro. His primary research interests are in memory, misinformation, beliefs, cognitive aging, and metacognition.

ALUMNI DAY 2024 HONORS CONT.



RECIPIENTS OF THE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Vanessa Jodlowski (CxP), Emily Budik (QUA), Kara Cannon (I/O-S), Ema Voksic (CCP), Tasfia Hossain (DEV), Jessica Aguilar (SSP), Alia Coleman (SP PhD)



CAITLIN BEARD WAS PRESENTED WITH THE LARRY A. ALFERINK DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Caitlin Beard, Dr. Brea Banks, & Dr. Larry Alferink



CHELSEA SANCHEZ WAS PRESENTED WITH THE AUDREY J. GRUPE FELLOWSHIP IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Chelsea Sanchez, Dr. Alycia Hund & Dr. Brea Banks

BONE SCHOLAR 2024-2025



SARAH WILLIAMS

Being designated a Bone Scholar is the highest honor an Illinois State University undergraduate student can receive. Bone Scholars receive a scholarship, commemorative medallion, and are recognized in a display in the Bone Student Center. Scholars are also formally recognized at a luncheon and at Commencement. Bone Scholars are students who combine broad and excellent academic achievement with campus and community engagement. They are expected to have shown outstanding qualities of character and leadership.

Sarah Williams was awarded the Bone Scholar Award for the Psychology Department on October 6th, 2024.

Dr. Sara Harris—Licensed School Psychologist, Former PSC Director, and Former ISPIC Training Director—had this to say about Sarah Williams when writing a letter for her:

“Sarah is currently a junior psychology major, with a minor in sociology. Sarah has an exemplary academic background and holds a 4.0 GPA, is a member of the Honor’s Program, has made the Dean’s List each semester at ISU, and is a Presidential Scholar. She is also a teaching assistant, a research assistant, and is the Education and Outreach Coordinator for SWAT, a student wellness organization that strives to promote campus-wide wellness through facilitation of workshops and various training activities. Sarah currently works at the Psychological Services Center (PSC) at ISU, and she is the 2024 recipient of the Laura Berk Undergraduate Writing Award.”



**SARAH WILLIAMS &
DR. ALYCIA HUND**

Sarah graduated from the Psychology Department in May of 2025, and will begin her Master’s in Psychology in the Industrial/Organizational-Social sequence in the fall! She will also maintain her role as student worker at the Psychological Services Center at Fairchild Hall.

BONE SCHOLARS 2025-2026

Being designated a Bone Scholar is the highest honor an Illinois State University undergraduate student can receive. Bone Scholars are students who combine broad and excellent academic achievement with campus and community engagement. They are expected to have shown outstanding qualities of character and leadership.

In 2025, the Psychology Department had two students receive the Bone Scholar Award; Katie Hindman, and Kruz Barerra. They will receive their awards at the Bone Scholar Luncheon in the fall semester of 2025



KATIE HINDMAN

Dr. Julie Campbell, Department of Psychology Associate Professor and Psi Chi/SPA Faculty Advisor, had this to say about Katie:

“Katie Hindman, who has been named as a Bone Scholar, is a psychology major with a stellar academic record. Katie is passionate about her studies and has many accomplishments during her time at ISU. As an honors student, she completed a project in which she highlighted the development of cognitive abilities of adolescents. Using interviews that she conducted with adolescents of different ages, Katie created a video that teaches others about the developmental stages of adolescent thinking. It is evident that Katie has an inquisitive and curious nature about psychology and academics in general. She is eager to speak up and participate in conversations that require critical thinking and open-mindedness. Katie’s forthright communication skills and her

organizational abilities served her well as she worked as a teaching assistant for an upper-level lifespan development course. This position required her to balance many challenges at the same time while also communicating with and guiding students who were taking the course. Katie is an exemplary student and studious scholar. She thrives in challenging environments that demand hard work and the honor of being named a Bone Scholar is well deserved!”

His Department of Psychology letter writer had this to say about Kruz:

“Kruz Barerra is a Psychology major with a minor in Sociology and a first-generation college student. He is member of the Honors Program and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. He has participated in the ISU chapter of Psi Chi/SPA and recently, he created an RSO called Psyched for Success! which is designed to support psychology majors and help foster belonging among students. Outside of the Department of Psychology, Kruz works in the Department of Mathematics by helping the main office staff with emails, phone calls, and administering make-up exams. He also served as a tutor for the Julia Visor Center. Kruz will begin his senior year in the fall 2025 semester.”



KRUZ BARERRA

SPRING 2025 HONORS COLLOQUIUM & AWARDS CEREMONY



**CARTER WATERKOTTE
WAS PRESENTED WITH THE
WALTER VERNON SCHOLARSHIP
IN PSYCHOLOGY**

Carter Waterkotte , Dr. Alycia Hund, Dr. Jeff
Wagman & Miranda Lanza



**EMMA GRASHOFF
WAS PRESENTED WITH THE
EDWIN A. PAYNE MEMORIAL AWARD**

Emma Grashoff &
Dr. Byron Heidenreich



**EMMA WALIS
WAS PRESENTED WITH THE
LAURA BERK UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT
WRITING AWARD**

Emma Walis & Dr. Jef Kahn



**LOURDES CONCEPCIÓN CABÁN
WAS PRESENTED WITH THE
GRADUATE DIVERSITY ADVOCACY AWARD**

Lourdes Concepción Cabán &
Dr. Brea Banks



**EVA REYES WAS PRESENTED WITH THE
UNDERGRADUATE DIVERSITY ADVOCACY AWARD**

Eva Reyes , Dr. Alycia Hund &
Dr. Jeff Wagman



**FARHIA OSMAN
WAS PRESENTED WITH THE
CHARTER DEPARTMENT GRADUATE
STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Farhia Osman & Dr. Brea Banks

SPRING 2025 HONORS COLLOQUIUM & AWARDS CEREMONY



SARAH JACOBSEN WAS PRESENTED WITH THE GRADUATE ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Sarah Jacobsen & Dr. Kim Schneider



LOURDES CONCEPCIÓN CABÁN WAS PRESENTED WITH THE STANLEY MARZOLF/JOE FRENCH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DOCTORAL STUDIES IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY
Lourdes Concepción Cabán & Dr. Brea Banks



DR. CAITLIN MERCIER WAS PRESENTED WITH THE JIM JOHNSON AWARD, & DR. DAWN MCBRIDE WAS PRESENTED WITH THE OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Janedis C. , Laykin W., Dr. Caitlin Mercier & Dr. Dawn McBride.



2025 HONORS COLLOQUIUM SPEAKERS

Mahika Charles, Ariadna Ugalde-Rivero, Kayden Whitehead, Sadie Szkapiak, Alannah Kolze, and Nicole Carlos.

IMPACT AWARD WINNERS 2025

The Impact Award at Illinois State University recognizes members of the campus community who help any student succeed. Nominees and recipients are motivating, inspiring, and supportive. Their individual contributions impact students' overall success, retention, and ultimately graduation.

In 2025, the Psychology Department had multiple recipients of the Impact Award for their support of and dedication to our students.

Congratulations to :

- Dr. Alycia Hund, Department Chair
- Dr. Jordan Arellanes, Assistant Professor
- Dr. Karla Doepke-Critchfield, Professor
- Dr. Allison Nguyen, Associate Professor
- Angi Davis, Department Office Manager
- Taylor Daker, Psi Chi President



DR. ALYCIA HUND



DR. JORDAN ARELLANES



DR. KARLA DOEPKE-CRITCHFIELD



DR. ALLISON NGUYEN



ANGI DAVIS



TAYLOR DAKER

2025 SOCIAL JUSTICE ESSAY WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

On behalf of the Department of Psychology, the Climate and Diversity Committee congratulates the winners of the 2025 Social Justice Essay Writing Contest! Students answered the following question: What is something you learned in a psychology class or out-of-class experience (e.g., research apprenticeship, teaching assistantship, peer mentorship) in ISU's Department of Psychology that you think focuses on a current social issue or could be used to promote social justice? Way to go Sean McDaniel (CCP), Allison Guthrie (CxP), and Begüm Orhan (CCP)!



1st place:
Sean
McDaniel

"In PSY 438: Techniques of Objective Psychological Assessments, we have discussed the historical overpathologizing of marginalized populations...Understanding how diagnostic labels can stigmatize rather than support has strengthened my commitment to promoting social justice in mental health."



2nd place:
Allison
Guthrie

"Being a TA for research methods and taking Experimental Design helped me to apply better metrics for capturing the data on students with disabilities with the legislation I authored...I identified gaps in existing data and was able to propose more inclusive metrics that reflect the experiences of students with disabilities."



3rd place:
Begüm
Orhan

I was introduced to "Feminist Therapy" in the Theories & Techniques of Counseling-Adults class (PSY 464)...Bringing a systemic perspective is a crucial step in fully understanding mental health and developing equity-focused interventions that serve diverse communities and promote social justice.

BIRD FEEDER AWARDS SUMMER 2025

The Office of Student Research (OSR) at Illinois State University has announced the winners of the Summer 2025 FIREBird and BirdFEEDER research grants. These grants provide funding to support student research, scholarly inquiry, and innovation at Illinois State.

The FIREbird Awards provide undergraduate students with funds for Faculty-mentored Independent Research Experiences (FIREbird). Up to \$1500 may be used for student hourly wages, research incentives, supplies, or travel. The BirdFEEDER Awards (Fund for Experimentation, Enquiry and the Development of Student Research) provide graduate and undergraduate students with up to \$500 to use for research supplies, materials, or travel to conduct research.



CALVIN PUTTERLIK

The Summer 2025 FIREBird Grant recipient from the Department of Psychology is: Calvin Putterlik, Department of Psychology, “The Intersection of Socioeconomic Status and Attribution Biases: Unpacking How Systemic Inequality Shapes Perceptions of Behavior.” Faculty Mentor: Kelly Clemens

The Summer 2025 BirdFEEDER Grant recipient from the Department of Psychology is: Alia Coleman, Department of Psychology, “Racial Socialization’s Impact on Perceptions of Microaggressions and the Role of Theory of Mind.” Faculty Mentor: Brea Banks



ALIA COLEMAN

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Each year, Illinois State University's Alumni Association recognizes alumni for their outstanding contributions to their fields, their impact on society, and their passion for Illinois State through the Alumni Awards program. Department of Psychology alum, Jyl Madlem (B.S. '95) is among the 2025 awardees. She is a Technical consultant at Abbott Rapid Diagnostics and holds a Master of Science in management from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Illinois State University. At Illinois State, she was vice president of the Golden Key National Honor Society chapter, a member of Psi Chi honor society, and on the dean's list. She is a certified lean practitioner and holds six sigma green and yellow belt certifications.



DR. KIM SCHNEIDER & JYL MADLEM

CAS EMERITI HALL OF FAME

Designation as a CAS Emeriti Hall of Fame inductee is an honor bestowed on retired tenure-track faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences. The Emeriti Hall of Fame honor is reserved for faculty who promoted the mission and values of ISU through their passion for their work and their lives. Induction is reserved for faculty who were inspirational mentors for students through curricular and co-curricular engagement, who had advanced knowledge in their discipline, and for those who contributed to the advancement of society through service, citizenship, and leadership.

On September 16th, 2024, Dr. Jim Johnson was posthumously inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Emeriti Hall of Fame. This award was presented to Dr. Johnson's wife, Pat, by Dr. Heather Dillaway, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. James J. "Jim" Johnson earned his master's in psychology at ISU and later returned in 1966 to become a respected professor of psychology. "Dr. J." was devoted to his students both in and out of the classroom. His dedication to Redbird Athletics helped countless student-athletes excel in school as well as on the playing field. Johnson received numerous awards during his tenure, but two of the honors that meant the most to him both came in 2006: the Campbell "Stretch" Miller award for meritorious service to Redbird athletics and the ISU Department of Psychology's Alumnus of the Year award. During his decades-long career at ISU, Johnson taught literally thousands of undergraduates in General Psychology and graduate students through his teaching of required graduate courses. For many years, he also served as an advisor in the Psychology Department where he coordinated the honors program from 1988-2000 and coordinated the graduate studies program from 1996-2000. After more than 30 years as a professor of psychology at Illinois State, he retired from teaching in December of

2002 and joined the staff of the Karin L. Bone Athletics Study Center as a volunteer in 2003, while continuing to teach one course each semester. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1962-67. He was an avid reader, fisherman, and tennis player. He enjoyed playing noon hour basketball and cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals. Johnson and his wife, Pat, were married for over 50 years, and he was very proud of their children, Amy and Erik, as well as four grandchildren. Johnson passed away on October 21st, 2013. He is deeply missed, and he is remembered with admiration and respect by family, friends, colleagues, and former students.



**DR. MARK SWERDLIK, PAT JOHNSON
& DR. HEATHER DILLAWAY**



EVENTS

GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION LUNCHEON 2024



1ST YEAR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

Christina Cheeseboro, Alia Coleman, Imran Akhtar, Caitlin Beard, Courtney Kowalski, Chelsea Sanchez, Reagen Miles, Grace Kellie, Hannah Baldwin, Jessica Aguilar (Missing: Kendell Kelly)



1ST YEAR CLINICAL-COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

Begum Orhan, Jonah Blohowiak, Brandon Abbs, Matthew Sooby, Sean McDaniel, Gwendolyn Bowman, Britney Ramos, Caitlyn Donnelly, Ema Voksic, & Bridget Mwaura

GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION LUNCHEON 2024 CONT.



1ST YEAR INDUSTRIAL/ORGANIZATION-SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

Emily Hubbard, Kara Cannon, Olivia Earll, Emily Budik (also QUA), & Laura Botros



1ST YEAR COGNITIVE-EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

Allison Guthrie, Vanessa Jodlowski, &
Sanako Hishinuma



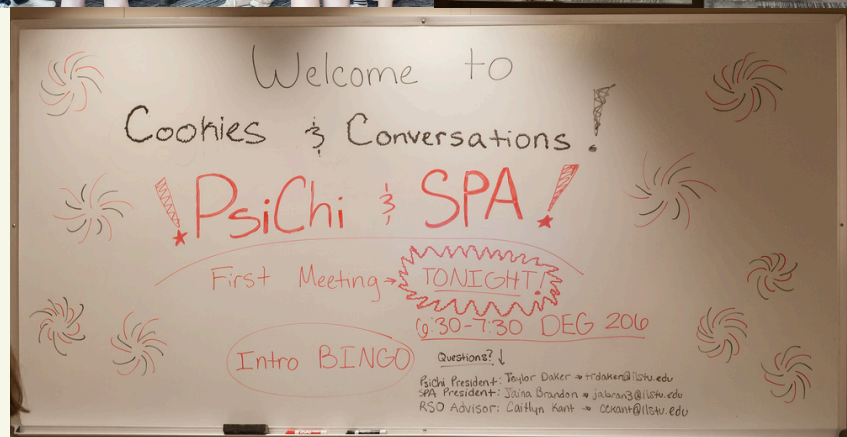
1ST YEAR DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

Jacey Griffiths & Tasfia Hossain

NOT PICTURED: EMMANUEL OWUSU, 1ST YEAR QUANTITATIVE PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT

FRESHMAN MEET & GREET 2024

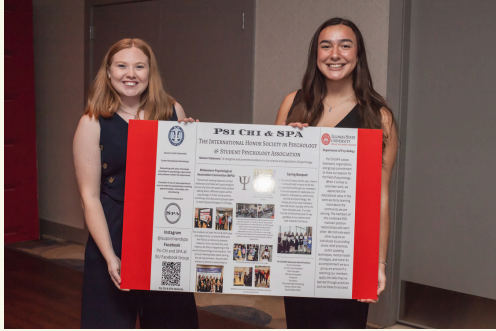
"COOKIES & CONVERSATIONS"



ALUMNI DINNER CELEBRATION 2024



ALUMNI DINNER CELEBRATION 2024 CONT.



SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY INSTITUTE

The Graduate Programs in School Psychology and the Department of Psychology sponsor the School Psychology Institute. The Institute presenters are national leaders in school psychology and related areas who impact the practices of school psychologists. The Institute includes a skill-based workshop in the morning for community mental health professionals, graduate trainees, and interested faculty. In the afternoon, the speaker presents a research colloquium that is open to the public. After the colloquium, an informal meeting is held with the speaker and current school psychology doctoral trainees to further discuss the speaker's research and other professional issues that impact the field of school psychology.

On April 18th, 2025, ISU was pleased to welcome Dr. Dan Florell from Eastern Kentucky University to present his talk "Applying AI Ethically into School Psychology Practice".



SPRING EGG HUNT 2025



SENIOR SEND-OFF 2025





SUPPORT

BIRDS GIVE BACK 2025

PSYCHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS CAMPAIGN

In February, we participated in the Birds Give Back campaign to generate funding for psychology scholarships to benefit our graduate and undergraduate students. In 2023, we provided over \$28,000 in funding to our students. This year, we focused on raising funds for two of our merit and diversity-related fellowships:

Graduate Student Merit Fellowships help provide financial support to allow students to focus on their first year of coursework while they gain research and field experience. Each fellowship provides \$2,500 of support during the student's first year in each of our programs. Our 2024 Merit Fellows were: Jessica Aguilar (School Psychology Specialist), Emily Budik (Quantitative), Kara Cannon (I/O-Social), Alia Coleman (School Psychology PhD), Tasfia Hossain (Developmental), Vanessa Jodlowski (Cognitive-Experimental), and Ema Voksic (Clinical-Counseling).

Diversity Advocate Awards are given to both undergraduate and graduate students who exemplify the department's mission to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students. These \$500 awards can help students offset the costs of conducting a research study or traveling to a national conference to present the results of their diversity-related research. The 2024 Diversity Advocate Awardees were Eva Reyes (undergraduate) and Lourdes Concepción Cabán (graduate).

We send our appreciation to those who donated to any of our fundraising campaigns in 2024. Your generosity is very much appreciated by our faculty, staff, and students as it enriches the experiences of everyone in our department. Thank you!

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER CAMPAIGN

The Department of Psychology also earned a top spot with an increase in the number of gifts supporting their featured cause, the Psychological Services Center (PSC), which serves students and families throughout Central Illinois.

"Graduate clinicians at the PSC provide mental health and academic services to children and families in Central Illinois and to ISU students. Efforts like Birds Give Back and our recent Hatch campaign help to ensure that we can keep our fees low and affordable, as the same services in the community are often costly and not accessible to all who need them," said Dr. Brea Banks, licensed clinical psychologist and associate professor in the Department of Psychology.

This year, we raised \$2,370 to put towards purchasing assessment materials to conduct services at our clinic, and to help train our Graduate Student Clinicians.

The Department of Psychology received \$500 for earning third place among departments receiving the biggest boost in the number of gifts this year relative to last year. The PSC received \$1,000 for earning second place among campaigns receiving the biggest boost in the number of gifts received in 2025. We are grateful for increased participation and look forward to additional growth next year!

PSYCHOLOGY DONORS 2024

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

PsycholAbbvie Your Cause, LLC

Anna Adamik

Larry Alferink

Jim Antos

Janet Bailey

Thomas Berghausen

Mary Kay Berjohn

Laura Berk

Kathy Bieschke

Dani Brink

Vince Brolley

Margaret Brooks

Craig Cartland

Kate Childs

Robert Close

Scott Curtis

Peter Delzell

Amanda DeVore

Fred & Mary Dornback

Lynne Ekdale

Lisa Evoy Goodman

Linda Fay

Fidelity Invest Charitable Gift Fund

John Hamilton

Curtis Haussmann

Matthew Hesson-McInnis

Becky Hoag

Andrew Hoffman

Jessica Holmes

Max Honn

Henry Hummert

Patricia Johnson

J. Scott Jordan

Don & Marilyn Kammler

Edward Kowalczyk

Matthew Kundrat

Michael Lesslie

Symone Luckett

Eileen Matluck

Kelly Maxwell

Miranda Morales

Emma Nelson

Ruth Norris

Randy Olley

Archana Ramanathan

Jyoti Rao

Ellen Rawlings

Cayden Reigle

Rocio Rivadeneyra

Greg Robinson

Linda Saterfield

Ann Schelle

Donna Schlatter

Jon Siman

Doug Smith

Steven Stabley

Brenda Stone

Kathleen Stuhr

Kent Terry

Transformers (Rebound)

Amanda Trefzger

Chuck Van Hecke

Eric Wesselmann

Down Williams

Suzanne Woodward

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE A GIFT TO THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT GENERAL FUND

<https://giving.illinoisstate.edu/fund/psychology-department-general-fund/>



PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER FUND

<https://giving.illinoisstate.edu/fund/psychological-service-center/>



AUTISM PROGRAM FUND

<https://giving.illinoisstate.edu/fund/autism-program-fund/>



SAVE THE DATE!

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ALUMNI DAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 2025



**TO REGISTER FOR THE ALUMNI DINNER, PLEASE USE THIS LINK
HERE:**

[https://secure.touchnet.com/C20868_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?
STOREID=48&SINGLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C20868_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=48&SINGLESTORE=true)



CONTACT US

Department of Psychology

DeGarmo 435

Campus Box 4620

Normal, IL 61790-4620

309-438-8651

Website: psychology@illinoisstate.edu

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

CLICK HERE!



Department of Psychology
at Illinois State

@isuppsychdept

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY