



Psychology: What's Going On?

The Psychology Department Newsletter *Summer 2022*



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➔ What's NEW?

✓ Outstanding Seniors 2022!

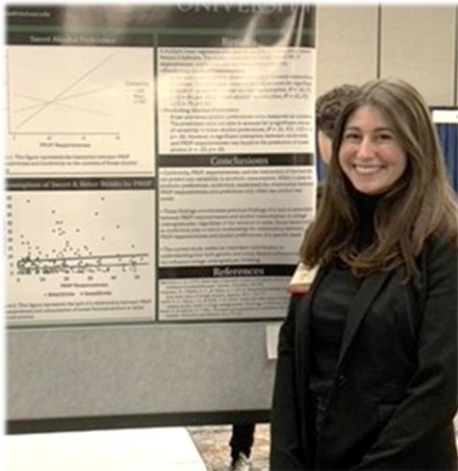
Congratulations to the graduating seniors in Psychology who were recognized for their stellar performance in and out of the classroom!

To read more about them, check out the [CAS Senior Honors website](#).



Peter Johnson | Amy Sheffield | Lucas Surrency |
Olivia Shenkle | Morgan Lipkin

✓ Excellence in Research!



In addition to being selected one of our outstanding graduating seniors, **Morgan Lipkin**, was selected as this year's recipient of the Psychology Department Award for Excellence in Research for her outstanding record of research accomplishments. For three years, she served as a research assistant in Dr. Eskenazi's REAiD Lab where she mastered sophisticated eye-tracking methods to help examine questions like how musicians sight read music, how people process "they/them" pronouns in the singular form, and how much readers are aware of their eye movements during reading, and more.

As a double major in psychology and chemistry, Morgan developed an ambitious interdisciplinary senior research

project, which explored the relationships among taste receptor cell genetics, social conformity, and alcohol consumption. The work, which she presented at the Southeastern Psychology Association (SEPA) meeting in March (*see picture above*), was, according to one professor, “one of the best I have ever seen.” Morgan’s outstanding record here is only just the beginning! Her next step: a career in medicinal chemistry research. Best wishes to her!

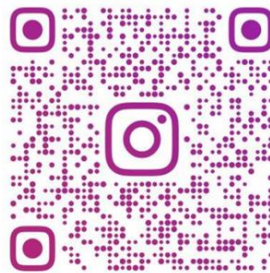
✓ And the Journey Continues...

We extend congratulations to all our graduating seniors! They kept moving forward despite the difficulties of the past few years, and now their journeys continue along varied paths (*See below for some of these paths.*) Please let us know your plans (or any updates!) and we can include them in the first newsletter of the 2022-2023 academic year. Just email Dr. King (cking@stetson.edu) or Ms. Roberts (mvrobert@stetson.edu).



- Abeera Ahmad, '22, Research Assistant, University of Pittsburgh
- Danel Ashirova, '22, MBA program, Concentration: Human Resources, Lynn University
- Allison Chajon-Paz, '22, Commissioned as a Quartermaster Officer, USAR 1181st Deployment and Distribution Support Battalion
- Maria Gaglio, '22, J.D. program, Stetson University School of Law
- Ava Galarraga, '22, Research Assistant, Weight Control & Diabetes Research Center, Brown University
- Peter Johnson, '22, Ph.D. Program, Educational Psychology, Specialization: Quantitative Methods, City University of New York
- Kayla Koski, '22, J.D. program, deciding among Baylor, Vanderbilt, Stetson, UT, FSU, or UGA
- Autumn Madonna, '22, Behavioral Health Technician at SMA Healthcare
- Rose Millson, '22, Preschool teacher, Providence UMC Weekday School
- Makenzie Moffett, '22, M.A. program, Experimental Psychology, Towson University
- Alexandra Monde, '22, M.S. program, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Stetson University
- Sinai Ramos-Planas, '22, Bilingual Psychometrist, Neuropsychological and Psychological Assessment Center, Maitland, FL
- Olivia Shenkle, '22, Research Assistant, Brown University
- Lucas Surrency, '22 M.S program, Clinical Research Methods, Fordham University
- Maxwell Willman, '22, A.D.N. program (nursing), Raleigh, NC

Follow us on Instagram!



See what we're up to!

STETSON_PSYCHOLOGY

✓ Two Faculty Members Depart...But Will Never Leave

Dr. Laura Crysel came to the department in 2014 from the University of Florida where she had just earned her Ph.D. in Social Psychology. Over her career she has authored or coauthored eight publications. Her research areas include the Dark Triad traits (narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy), Schadenfreude (happiness at another's misfortune), prejudice and pop culture. Her most popular article reflects one of her greatest interests: Harry Potter. (Indeed, she was there for opening day of both of the Universal Harry Potter parks!). The manuscript, "[Harry Potter and the Measures of Personality](#)" was published in the top-tier journal, "Personality and Individual Differences" and earned her media spotlights [locally](#), [nationally](#) and [globally](#). [Buzzfeed](#) even made a quiz based on her paper.



Dr. Crysel regularly taught Social Psychology, Introduction to Psychology, and Great Experiments in Psychology, as well as her popular JSEM (*Look Into the Mirror: Psychological Perspectives of Fairness and Justice*) and FSEM (*Psychology of Popular Culture*). She was the faculty advisor for Nerd Culture Society for several years. Her dedication to her students earned her the Stetson First-Year Advocate Award twice (2017, 2019).

In addition to Harry Potter, Dr. Crysel loves anything in the Marvel Universe! She is proud to say that she hugged Stan Lee, and got his signature saying that she is an X-Man. She is an avid runner, having run three Space Coast Marathons, and is an amazing photographer. She has taken about 8TB of photos –mostly of animals, of which cats (both big and little) are her favorites.

From Dr. Barbara Barzilai

"To my cherished and valued and colleagues and students,



As you know, this is my last semester being a team member of the Stetson University teaching faculty. After being with all of you at Stetson for almost a decade, I am finding this time to be quite bitter-sweet. I am deeply sad to be leaving, while also looking forward to the new experiences and opportunities awaiting me.

I want to express my appreciation for inviting me to have an integral role in navigating our student's journey through many lessons in psychology. Together, with my students we discovered theories, concepts, research studies, principles, personal and academic growth and a deeper understanding of ourselves. My teaching has always been a mutual learning experience, as I learned as much from my students, and they learned from me.

My colleagues have always been a consistent source of encouragement for me, and I am forever thankful for their support. I wish everyone at Stetson continued success. Thank you again, to everyone, for years of opportunity to be part of the Stetson team. With much appreciation and best wishes always, *Barbara Barzilai*"

We wish them all the best as they move onward from Stetson.

➔ Faculty and Student News

✓ Again, Stetson Shines at SEPA

Abeera Ahmad, Ava Galarraga, Julia Gray, Kayla Koski, Ivana Mazariegos, Sinai Ramos Planas, Morgan Lipkin, and Gabi Soto presented their senior research projects at the 68th Southeastern Psychological Association Conference in Hilton Head, SC.



For the fifth year running, several of our students took home awards:

Julia Gray- Regional Research Award
Gabi Soto- 3rd Place- Oral Presentation

✓ Showcase Showdown!

Nearly 200 students from a wide assortment of disciplines exhibited their scholarly and creative work at the 2022 Showcase Symposium in April. Fourteen of those students were Psychology majors who presented their senior research projects. And as usual, several of our students took home awards for their work.

STETSON UNIVERSITY
SHOWCASE
SYMPOSIUM

Morgan Lipkin	Poster
Ava Galarraga	Poster
Abeera Ahmad	Poster
Ivana Mazariegos	Poster
Tahiyya Kahn	Poster
Mackenzie Shaw	Poster
Kayla Koski	Poster
Julia Gray	Poster
Gabi Soto	Poster
Sinia Ramos Planas	Poster
Madison Wilkerson	Spoken
Ellie Post	Spoken
Maria Gaglio	Spoken
Olivia Shenkle	Spoken



Sinai Ramos Planas- Honorable Mention Poster Presentation
Madison Wilkerson- Maris First-Place Oral Presentation
Maria Gaglio- Honorable Mention Oral Presentation

Please help support undergraduate research & conference travel for our Psychology students!

- [DONATE HERE](#) -

✓ Faculty Happenings

Chris Ferguson, Ph.D, and student co-author, Anna Birman, '20, recently had their work, "[Impact of Different Genres of Background Music on a Memory Test](#)" published. Their results suggest that the presence of music during a cognitive task had little tangible effect on memory or anxiety.



In his manuscript, "[An Exploratory Study of Environmental Stress in Four High Violent Crime Cities: What Sets Them Apart?](#)," co-authored by Stetson sociology associate professor, Sven Smith, Ph.D., and Texas Southern professor, Howard Henderson, Ph.D., Dr. Ferguson examined whether disparities in the perpetration of violent crime is due to race. Their results suggest that class and community factors, not race *per se*, are associated with violent crime perpetration. These results can help challenge racial prejudices as well as identify important community factors for prevention efforts across ethnicities.

Can role-playing games contribute to real-life racism? Dr. Ferguson reported in his study, "[Are Orcs Racist? Dungeons and Dragons, Ethnocentrism, Anxiety, and the Depiction of "Evil" Monsters](#)" no significant associations between playing D&D and racist attitudes. Similarly, the majority of respondents, including respondents of color, did not perceive depictions of Orcs as inherently evil as either offensive or racist. These results suggest that social media campaigns leveraging claims of offensiveness or harm regarding media content often reflect minority opinions and should be regarded with more critical thinking than has been the case in recent years.



Michael Eskenazi, Ph.D. and Robert Askew, Ph.D., published their manuscript, "[Precision in the Measurement of Lexical Expertise: the Selection of Optimal Items for a Spelling Assessment](#)" in the journal, *Behavior Research Methods*. Their psychometric study established a set of 20 words that can serve as a more precise measure of spelling skill, which will provide more power to detect moderating effects of lexical expertise on reading processes.

Just for fun!

Why was the psychology major such a good musician?

He was classically conditioned!



→ Alumni News & Updates



✓ Spotlight on... Catherine Rogers

BS, Psychology & BBA, Management, 2019



After graduating from Stetson University as a double major, Catherine went directly into the human resources field. She was a Human Resources Generalist at Collins Aerospace in Foley, AL. and then moved on to serve as a Human Resources Recruiter and Talent Onboarding Specialist with Remedy Staffing Solutions in Jacksonville, FL. Since February 2021, she has held the position of Human Resources Coordinator at Holman Logistics also in Jacksonville, FL. While working full-time she earned her M.A in Human Resources Analytics and Management from American University, graduating with that degree in December 2021.



As part of the **PsycAdvantage Program**, Catherine spoke with Psychology majors in April about how being a Psychology major facilitated her career path. In addition to helping her understand people better and to communicate more effectively, Catherine noted that her statistics courses helped considerably because they augmented her analytical skills. She emphasized that these skills are something employers are looking for because “*the future of the job world is more analytical ... you’ll need to know how to look at data.*” As a last piece of advice, Catherine recommended that students “*make friends with your Stetson professors because they are folks that you can turn to even after you’ve left Stetson. They will always be there to help you.*”

✓ More Alumni News & Updates

- **Sheena Carson, '20** received her M.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of West Florida.
- **Mackenzie Nalven, '20**, received her M.Ed. in Leadership & Organizational Performance from Vanderbilt University and is currently working as an Organizational Development Associate at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL.
- **Isabelle Palmer, '20** is working as an Art Lead and 3D artist for “19 Souls on Board” as she completes her master’s degree in Game & Interactive Media Design from Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy.
- **Kaleigh Fidaleo, '19** received an M.S. in Clinical Research Methodology from Fordham University in 2021 and is working as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Mount Sinai Health System in Brooklyn, NY.
- **Alexandra (Lexi) Rasdal, '17** is working as a Program Coordinator at the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA.
- **Erica Eddy, '17** received her J.D. from Stetson University School of Law in December 2020.
- **Gabrielle Johannessen, '16** (Psych Minor) received her PharmD degree from the University of Florida in 2022.
- **Ellie Maccione, '15**, received an M.S. in Sports Management from the University of Florida in 2018 and has since been working as an Athletic Academic Counselor (Football Program) at Auburn University.
- **Alex Gallimore '14**, received an M.S. in Mental Health Counseling in 2019 from Southern Adventist University and is now an agent for New York Life Insurance Company in Orlando, FL.

FIRST EVER!

✓ Psychology Alumni Homecoming Reunion

The *first ever* homecoming reunion for Psychology alumni is in the works! Please mark your calendars for this inaugural event: Friday, October 28, from 4-6 pm (*tentative*) in Flagler Hall, Room 334. We will be sending more details for our event in August to you via email. We are hoping for the return of some faculty favorites from years gone by to stop in. For general information on Stetson's Homecoming, go [here](#).

*"Stay Psyched"
with Us!*

➔ Psi Chi News



The newest members of Psi Chi were inducted into the chapter at the Induction Ceremony and Banquet held in March. Psi Chi members were treated to an Italian dinner, followed by their formal induction into the organization.

The new inductees from both fall 2021 and spring 2022 are: Emma Flynn, Deandra Blue Lazos, Amanda Maidlow, Alyssa (Lou) Pavek, Anamaria Alvarez Bautista, Alexis J. Garas, Grace Herzog, Madison Long, Rose Millson, Lauren Radesi, Catherine Remy, Dalton Sapien, Alyssa Trapp.



Members new and old at the Induction Ceremony & Banquet—having fun and staying safe!

We extend our sincere appreciation to the outgoing executive board for their leadership this year & welcome in the new board!

Executive Committee (2021-22)

President: Morgan Lipkin
Vice President: Maria Gaglio
Secretary: Jordan Ogg
Treasurer: Alyssa (Lou) Pavek
Communications/PR: Alex Monde



Executive Committee (2022-23)

President: Lou Pavek
Secretary: Deandra Lazos
Further elections to be held in fall!

→ Events & Activities

✓ Unsafe Spaces - Collegial Conversations on Controversial Topics

The spring semester's "Unsafe Spaces" event, sponsored by the Psychology Department, centered on the application of international sanctions, boycotts, divestments and more. The conversation focused on how sanctions, boycotts, and other political actions are used on countries like Russia, China, Cuba, Israel, and others, and included a panel of two professors (Dr. William Andrews, Associate Professor of Management and Dr. Martin Blackwell, Visiting Professor of History) and two psychology majors (Lou Pavek & Lucas Surrency).

Unsafe Spaces: Sanctions & Boycotts

✓ What *does* the science say?

Implicit Bias, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: What does the science say?

In recent years, the utility of the concept of implicit biases has come under question. Dr. Chris Ferguson, Professor of Psychology, gave a presentation on the history and status of implicit bias testing and training in April. Much of the science on the Implicit Associations Tests indicates that they are poor predictors of real-life behaviors. He noted that what we need is better research on what works. But, he pointed out that affective diversity training should focus on the

positive, bringing people together and informing them how they can be part of long-term goals that will benefit everyone.

✓ Looking forward to studying abroad!

Forensic Psychology in London

Dr. Chris Ferguson will be taking a group of 12 students to explore the darker side of London in this study abroad class. Jack the Ripper, trying our hands at mock crime scenes, dining with prisoners in a functioning Her Majesty's Prison Service prison, the Tower of London...what's not to love? Hopefully most of the students will make it back...

The Emergence of Psychology in Germany & Austria

Dr. Michael Eskenazi & Dr. Camille Tessitore King will be traveling with 14 Stetson students for a two-week study-abroad course on the History of the Emergence of Psychology and Its Ethical Beginnings. Cities included in the trip Berlin, Leipzig, Nuremberg, Munich, and Vienna!

→ A Focus on Assessment

By the time psychology majors complete their degrees, they should be able to:



1. Describe major concepts, principles, and findings from psychology's content domains and apply them to explain behavior;
2. Speak and write clearly and concisely in a manner consistent with current disciplinary standards;
3. Critically evaluate sources of psychological information and integrate evidence from multiple sources to draw conclusions;
4. Design an empirical research study, analyze data, and draw evidence-based conclusions; and
5. Identify ethical problems and apply ethical standards to the conduct of psychological learning and practice.

Each year, we assess one of these learning outcomes by collecting and analyzing artifacts of students' work or tests. PLO #5 data are currently being analyzed and the results will be published in the fall newsletter.