



UIS Psychology Department
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EYE on PSY

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Message from the Chair

By: Dr. Sheryl Reminger

Congratulations to everyone who made 2018-2019 a successful and fulfilling school year! The Psychology faculty know that Psychology students work incredibly hard to not only do well in their classes, but also to make the world a better place. I am always excited and proud to see Psychology

students at charitable and extracurricular events on campus and in the community. Your kindness and compassion is extraordinary. Thank you so much for all the time and effort that you are giving to help others. I have no doubt that you will use your Psychology degree wisely and constructively. For those of you who are not yet graduating, remember that the Psychology

department faculty, advisors, and staff are here to assist you as you continue your education and explore your future career plans. And for those of you who are graduating this year, congratulations! We wish you long-lasting joy as you move into the next stage of your career. Please keep in touch and let us know about your future accomplishments!

Welcome our Newest Addition!



Dr. Diana Zaleski

Dr. Diana Zaleski joined the Psychology Department as a Part-Time Instructor in fall 2013, and will be transitioning to Full-Time Instructor in fall 2019. Dr. Zaleski holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, a M.S. in Educational Research and Evaluation, a M.S.Ed. in Educational Psychology, and a Certificate of Graduate Study in Advanced Quantitative Methodology in Education from Northern Illinois University. She also holds a Certificate of Graduate Study in Restorative Practices from the International Institute for Restorative Practices. Dr. Zaleski specializes in online learning, educational policy, assessment, and data analysis, as well as multilevel modeling of hierarchical and longitudinal data.

Psi Chi & Psychology Club

Psychology Club is open to all students at UIS. The mission of the club is to advance students' professional development through research, fundraising, and volunteering with others on campus and in the community. Many students in Psychology Club are also members of Psi Chi, an international honors society in psychology, as a result of their high academic achievements. Under the guidance of their faculty advisor, Dr. Michele Miller, this student group has recently participated in the following community fund-

raising events: The Autism Awareness Walk, the Out of the Darkness Walk for suicide prevention, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes to benefit the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault, and Trick or Treat for

Canned Goods. This year the club donated over \$100 to the UIS Dance Marathon to benefit the Children's Miracle Network of HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. Additionally, the club routinely hosts social events, such as the DIY Ornament and Ugly Sweater Contest organized to promote interpersonal connections between the students and alleviate the stress of finals at the end of the fall 2018 semester.



Psi Chi Honors Society Inductees



Fall 2018

William Acton
Kristie Bushnell
Alice Caceres-Turcios
Marsha Darlington
Royce Hill
Laura Kuehnel
Brandy Lee
Kami Lynch

Kelsey Marucco
Maureen McCue
Benjamin Schulte
Kathryn Simpson
Aubrey Vickers
Gabriella Weybright
Nicholette Wright



Spring 2019

Areli Calderon
Brianna Campbell
Karen Contreras
Sasha Glickfield
Paloma Guijarro
Hayle Johnson

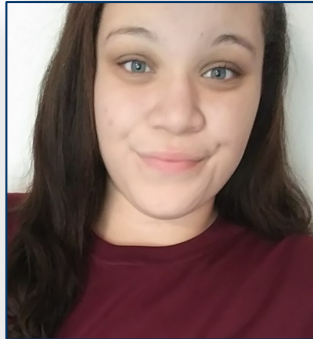
Kyrianna Johnston
Julia Mayes
Elise Simmons
Brandy Wilkinson
Cherell Wilson
Madison Wiseman

Introducing:



Office Support Specialist:
Mary Ellen Gass

Mrs. Gass retired as bookkeeper at Mt. Pulaski School District in 2017. She was employed at Sangamon Valley School District for 14 years and spent 15 years in customer service at Borden Chemical Company in Illiopolis. She has two children and two grandchildren. Mrs. Gass loves the beach, gardening, antiques and is an avid walker.



Psych Student Representative:
Isabel Lozoya

Isabel is a senior studying clinical/counseling psychology and hopes to become a mental health counselor. She is involved in Gamma Phi Omega International, Inc., Psychology Club, and Organization of Latin American Students.



Graduate Teaching Assistant:
Renae Calder

Renae is in her first year of graduate school in the Human Development Counseling Program and is specializing in clinical mental health. She plans on her future practice focusing on children and youth, especially in the area of trauma. She loves reading, painting, and spending time outdoors.

Psychology Department Student Graduation Awards

Psychology Undergraduate Marshal: **Marsha Darlington**

Outstanding Student Scholar: **Hannah Nordby**

Outstanding Online Student: **Ethan Biegeleisen**

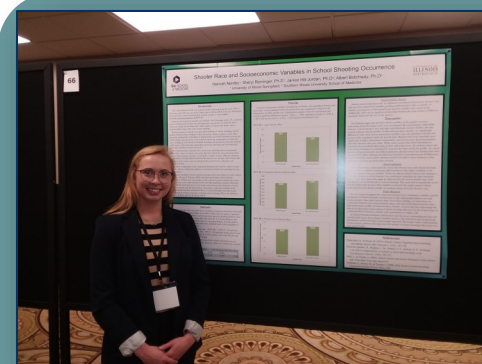
Faculty & Student Research

Dr. Sheryl Reminger

Dr. Sheryl Reminger has been working in collaboration with Dr. Janice Hill-Jordan of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine on a research project titled "School Shootings and Mental Illness: A Study of Offender and Incident Characteristics" that was funded by the Caryl Towsley Moy, Ph.D. Endowed Fund for Collaborative Research. Two students have been assisting Dr. Reminger and Dr. Hill-Jordan with the study, and have been conducting their own independent research in association with this project. **Shavondra Britton's** research project is titled "Suicides in Schools: Variables Predicting Violence Towards Others". Shavondra's findings showed that individuals who demonstrated violent behavior toward others in the course of a suicidal act showed systematic differences when compared to individuals who engaged in a single suicidal act. **Hannah Nordby's** research project is titled "Shooter Race and Socioeconomic Variables in School Shooting Occurrence". Her results provided evidence that factors such as poverty and population density may play an important role in the occurrence of school shooting incidents. Shavondra and Hannah presented their research findings with posters at the annual conference of the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago, at the UIS Student Technology, Arts & Research Symposium, and at the Illinois Innovation Network Undergraduate Research Day at the State Capitol. Continued work on their projects may assist in the development of prevention programs to reduce the number of school shooting incidents in the future.



Shavondra Britton



Hannah Nordby

Dr. Frances Shen

Karen Contreras is currently working with **Dr. Frances Shen** on a study to develop and validate Asian American male and female body image scales. This project consisted of four studies. The first study involved conducting focus groups in order to understand the cultural experiences of body image with Asian American men and women in order to develop appropriate items for the measures. Next, a pilot study was conducted in order to receive feedback on the item content and clarity using a regional sample of Asian Americans. A national sample was then collected to conduct an exploratory factor analysis and identify the items that seem to be measuring similar constructs. At this time, they are in the process of completing the last study, in which a confirmatory factor analysis will be conducted on a second national sample of Asian Americans to finalize the items and structure for the measures and provide evidence of validity. This research project was supported by funding from the 2-year CLAS Faculty Enhancement Scholarship, which was awarded to Dr. Shen in May 2016. Dr. Shen and her RAs have also presented preliminary findings from this project at several regional and national conferences over the past few years, including the Midwestern Psychological Association annual meeting and the American Psychological Association annual conventions. Dr. Shen is also currently working on several manuscripts that focus on Asian male body image, Asian American career development, and Asian American LGB experiences with internalized homo-negativity.



Dr. Frances Shen

Faculty & Student Research

Dr. Michele Miller

Currently, **Dr. Miller** is investigating early associations of anger, attention, and impulsivity with undergraduate research assistants **Brittany Stewart** and **Elise Simmons**. The findings of this study support those of previous research that identifies early negative emotionality as a correlate of attention difficulties and impulsivity. A major strength of this study was the ability to examine these associations using both parent-and experimenter-reported data. The agreement between methodologies bolsters the finding that negative affectivity, and in particular anger, is significantly associated with potential early childhood precursors of ADHD. They also found expected gender differences in attention and distraction in both parent and experimenter-rated variables. This work was presented at the 2019 UIS STARS symposium in a poster titled "Early Associations of Anger, Attention, and Impulsivity."



Dr. Michele Miller



**Elise Simmons and
Brittany Stewart**

Dr. Miller and former undergraduate research assistant **LeAnna Kehl** recently published a paper titled "Comparing Parents' and Teachers' Rank-Ordered Importance of Early School Readiness Characteristics" in the Early Childhood Education Journal. They found that teachers and parents of 30–42-month-old children agreed upon the relative importance of early school readiness components. For both groups, being healthy, happy, and socially skilled were generally ranked as more important than cognitive abilities. These conclusions are promising because children's success is facilitated when parents and teachers share beliefs on which skills children need to successfully transition into the classroom environment. LeAnna is currently completing her Master's degree in Clinical Child Psychology at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and has been accepted to The University of Florida's doctoral program in School Psychology.



Dr. Marcel Yoder

Dr. Marcel Yoder

Dr. Yoder wrote a book chapter titled "Teaching in New Ways Using Visual Thinking Strategies" that will appear in "High Impact Teaching for Sport and Exercise Psychology Educators" which will be edited by John Coumbe-Lilley & Amber Shipherd and published by Routledge.

Faculty & Student Research

Dr. Karen Reinke



Dr. Karen Reinke

Dr. Karen Reinke and **Dr. Jordan Hyde** are working in conjunction on a research project with three students: **Ben Schulte**, **Gabby Weybright**, and **Royce Hill**. The project titled “Employee Selection in Organizations” examines how implicit bias may combine with inattention blindness during the hiring process in such a way that underrepresented groups are overlooked as candidates for jobs. In this experiment, participants were primed with either a high status job or a low status job. Next, they were given a high load attentional task, during which a task-irrelevant person walked through the middle of the scene (the inattention blindness paradigm). Participants then reported whether they noticed the task-irrelevant person. They examined whether the job status prime affected whether the task-irrelevant person would be noticed when that person was White and when that person was Black. If implicit bias makes us automatically think of White individuals for high status jobs, then we would expect the White task-irrelevant person to be noticed more during the inattention blindness task. If they are noticed more during the inattention blindness task, then this may explain why underrepresented groups are not hired as frequently for high status jobs: they go unnoticed. The students presented this research at STARS in a poster titled “Employee Selection, Implicit Biases, and Inattention Blindness: Exploring Factors Affecting Who Gets Hired.”



Ben Schulte, Royce Hill, and Gabby Weybright



Dr. Jordan Hyde

Dr. Jordan Hyde

Dr. Hyde is also working with Hannah Nordby on a research project investigating ethnic and national identities and moral ideals in South Africa.

Dr. Hyde presented a paper called “Can Cultural Psychological Analyses of the Arts Promote Social Justice? An Autoethnographic Reflection on Kendrick Lamar’s DAMN” at the annual Midwinter Meeting of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, Nashville, TN, in March 2019.

Planning Time

This time of year we begin to think about the future. It doesn't matter if this is your first semester or last at UIS, it's a time when you can look forward and plan the next steps of your academic or professional career. Here are some good people and places to help:



Robin Vansacik

Academic Advisor – Robin can help you with understanding your degree audit, planning your classes, and helping you with setting your goals to get to where you want to be!

Robin's office is located in UHB 3139

Internships and Prior Learning – The three IPL programs: Internships, Prior Learning Assessment, and Service-Learning demonstrate the commitment of UIS to the principle that learning is active and can be acquired in a variety of settings. If you are considering doing an internship this is the place to be! There are internship coordinators there to answer your questions and help you through the process.

They are located in BRK 482

Career Development Center – The Career Development Center can help you with creating a resume and cover letter and even help with your personal statement for grad school. They have many resources with helping you find a job on or off campus and helping you prepare for your profession. The Career Center offers several workshops throughout the year. Make sure you take advantage of everything they have to offer.

They are located in SAB 50

Who Else Can Help?

Counseling Center – Feeling anxious about next steps? The Counseling Center provides counseling, outreach and psychological consultation to UIS students. Don't hesitate to contact the professionals at the Counseling Center.

They are located in HRB 64

Faculty Members - It's important to understand your faculty members want you to succeed! If you are hoping to go to graduate school, they can be instrumental in helping guide you to programs that fit your interests. You can ask faculty members about undergraduate research opportunities and the importance of internships. Be sure to talk with them about your future goals and see how they can help you!