

# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY HAPPENINGS



SPRING 2021

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Undergrad Alumni: Send us your updates at the following link: <https://forms.gle/fh5RX5DfLNUuu9i6>

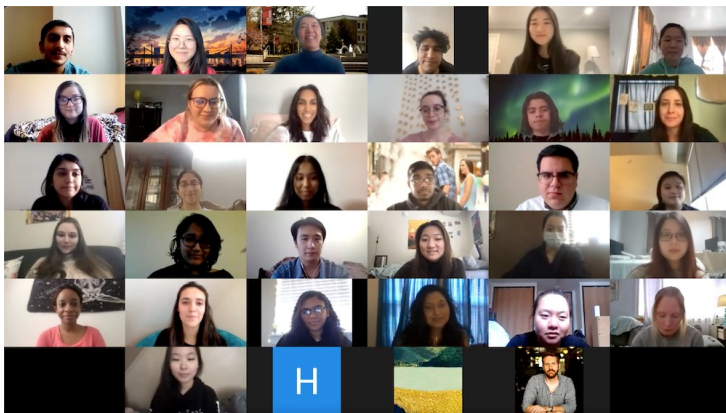
Graduate Alumni: Send us your updates at the following link: <https://forms.gle/hh6X4EjEEZj5rei06>

Hello alumni and friends! We hope that this newsletter finds you well. First and foremost, we want to thank our alumni and friends for their contributions to the Giving Day fundraiser last fall. Your contributions continue to make a difference in our students lives. Special thanks to our own Dr. Nancy Squires, Emeritus Professor of Psychology and former Dean of CAS, who generously matched all donations made. We are also happy to report that our transition back to on-campus research and activities has been smooth, and we look forward to resuming even more on-campus activities in the Fall 2021 semester. We are delighted to share our newsletter with you which highlights some of the exciting things that have been happening in both the undergraduate and graduate student areas.

## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS



Now in its second year, the Psychology Peer Mentoring Program, under the supervision of Dr. Hoi-Chung Leung, continues to assist first-year and transfer undergraduate students to ensure their success in the Psychology major. The program has invited graduate students from different areas of Psychology to a Virtual Graduate Student Cafe to be held over the Spring 2021 semester. In this monthly event, guests have been discussing application processes, student life, and tips on handling the transition to grad school. The Cafe aims to provide information to both local and international students and connect graduate students and undergraduate students from various backgrounds.



Also new this semester, the Department of Psychology has trained a team of senior students to act as Peer Academic Coaches (PAC) for our undergraduate students. These coaches have been trained to address a variety of undergraduate concerns, such as scheduling, course selection and degree progress for Psychology BA and BS majors. The Peer Academic Coaches will also assist undergrads with non-academic questions about campus involvement, on/off-campus internships, jobs, research opportunities, and graduate education.

## STUDENT NEWS



Congratulations to our BA and BS degree recipients who completed their Psychology degrees in 2020, as well as those planning to graduate after the conclusion of the Spring 2021 semester! We congratulate all of you who have continued to work through the challenges of the past year to achieve your goals!



The Psychology Student Alliance (PSA) is an organization that strives to connect undergraduates to the Psychology Department at Stony Brook University by facilitating an environment where peers, faculty, and graduate students can come together. This Spring, the PSA kicked off their multi-part Diversity Series with a talk by Dr. Hoi-Chung Leung (Professor, Integrative Neuroscience), followed by an introduction to various labs in Psychology.



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



### COVID-19 Longitudinal Study 2021 Update!

Our Psychology researchers are still working hard on the longitudinal study which was launched shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began in Spring 2020. The study focuses on the impacts of the pandemic for individuals from younger adulthood into old age and across a wide range of racial, economic, and regional geographic categories. The study is currently in its fourth wave of data collection. Data from this study has been reported in a recent poster presentation at the 2021 Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) Virtual Convention, and a manuscript resulting from these data is currently under review.

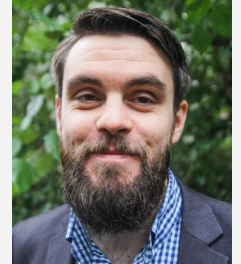
### GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Chelsie Burchette

**Chelsie Burchette** (PhD Student, Social & Health Psychology) was awarded a 2021 Turner Academic Year Research Grant to support her project entitled "Psychosocial Effects of COVID-19 on Black and Latina women".

**Zared Shawver** (PhD Student, Cognitive Science) was awarded the Dean's Alumni Association Leadership Award. Made possible through the generous support of the Stony Brook Alumni Association, this award recognizes a graduate student who has demonstrated strong leadership abilities in engaging the graduate student community.



Zared Shawver



Marybeth Apriceno

**Marybeth Apriceno** (PhD Student, Social & Health Psychology) was awarded the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student. This honor is awarded annually to outstanding graduate student teachers.

**Tori Peña** (PhD Student, Cognitive Science) received a SUNY Graduate Research Empowering & Accelerating Talent (GREAT) award, which is bestowed upon graduate students who won national recognition for their research from prestigious graduate fellowship programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Tori was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship for her research which aims to assess the disruptive influences of social and non-social cues on recall and memory deficits.



Tori Peña

**Aijia Yao**, an alumnus of our undergraduate program (BA, 2020) and a current student in our Psychology master degree program, was nominated for the Intern of the Year award. Aijia has been working as an intern with Dr. Hoi-Chung Leung and the Peer Mentoring Program. Her leadership has been instrumental in creating new programs and opportunities for our undergraduate students. All nominated students are recognized at an award ceremony in the Spring semester.

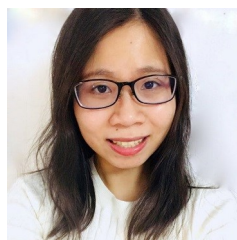


### 2020-2021 PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT GRADUATE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

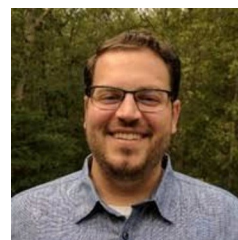
Thanks to the generous support of our donors, the Psychology Department awards research funds to PhD students to help support their research projects. Each year, the graduate committee selects award-ees based on the research plan, strength of the proposed project, and the impact that the award would have on the research endeavor. We are excited to announce the winners of the 2020-2021 Graduate Research Excellence Awards:

**The Cognitive Science Excellence Award:**  
**Tori Peña** (photo above)

**The John Neale Endowed Graduate Student Excellence Award:**



Sin-Ying Lin



Daniel Mackin



Riley McDanal