

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY HAPPENINGS



SPRING 2020

Follow Us On Social Media!



Hello alumni and friends,

We are delighted to share with you our newsletter, which highlights some of the exciting things that we have been doing over the past few months. Psychology faculty and students continue to work on many exciting new programs and research endeavors to support our students.

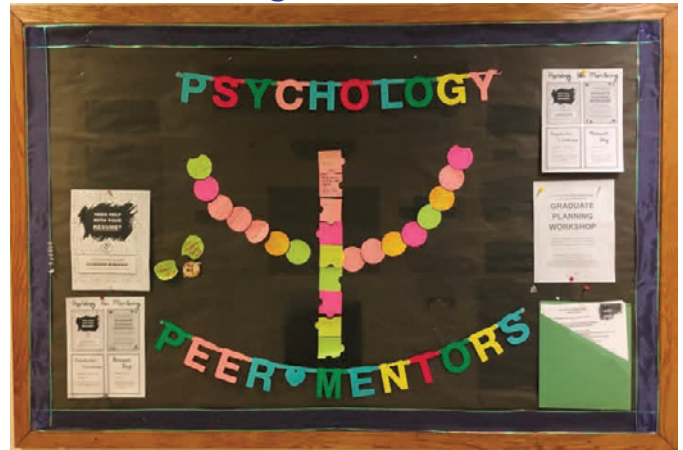
Thanks to last year's Giving Day contributions, we were able to create several new initiatives to support undergraduate and graduate students, including the Undergraduate Peer Mentoring program, undergraduate presentations at local research conferences, new awards for graduate research, and graduate student travel to national conferences! We are currently getting ready for SBU's second annual Giving Day event, which will be held on April 30, 2020! We hope that you will consider making a small contribution to our efforts on that day.

Psychology Celebrates 60 Years!

Happy Birthday to Psychology! The year 2020 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Psychology here at Stony Brook University. Psychology is currently one of Stony Brook's largest and strongest departments, with nearly 1800 undergraduate majors and more than 900 PhD degrees awarded since its inception. The Department provides excellent training in clinical psychology, cognitive science, integrative neuroscience, and social and health psychology and has seven cross-cutting themes including lifespan/development/aging, affective, cognitive, and social neuroscience, social inequality, interpersonal and intergroup relations, psychosocial intervention, quantitative methods, and biological and psychosocial aspects of stress. We are committed to diversity and inclusive excellence in our training, teaching, research and department as a whole.



Undergraduate News



The Department of Psychology undergraduate office is now offering a new **Peer Mentoring Program**, which assists first-year and transfer students in their transition to Stony Brook. Peer mentors act as role models and assist new students to ensure their persistence and success in the Psychology major.

This year, our Peer Mentoring Program offered workshops in resume preparation, graduate school planning, as well as several team building events!



Isabella Bouklas (December 2019 Bachelor of Arts in Psychology) and NY Senator Charles Schumer were speakers at Stony Brook University's Winter 2019 commencement ceremony. Isabella is looking forward to pursuing a career in advocacy and academia. Congratulations to all Psychology Winter '19 graduates!

Aria Tsegai-Moore (a junior Psychology major) won a travel award to present a poster at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) and had one of the top scores in the social and behavioral sciences category/discipline!

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

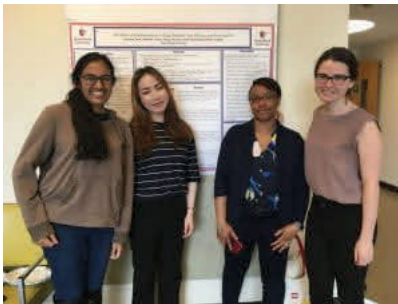


Social Competence & Treatment Lab

One of our large labs in Psychology is the Social Competence & Treatment Lab (SCTL), overseen by Dr. Matthew Lerner. The focus of this lab is on understanding how kids and teens connect to one another and make friends, with a particular focus on helping those with autism spectrum disorders and ADHD. Undergraduate students in the lab assist in every aspect of research, and are trained in how to deal with the problems that may arise when working with the autism population.

SPICE Lab

The Social Processes of Identity, Coping and Engagement (SPICE) Lab, directed by Dr. Bonita London, conducts research in social, educational, and personality psychology. Research projects address issues of stereotyping & prejudice (race, gender, sexual orientation), academic achievement, belief systems, and stress and coping processes. Here, several members of the lab present a poster at the Social/Health Area Mini-Conference.



Graduate Student News

2019

Department of Psychology Awards



Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching: **Jennifer Bowers** (Social/Health PhD student)

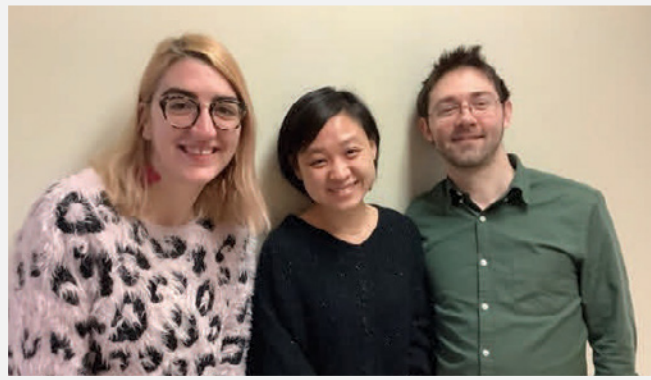
Award for Excellence in Research (2nd year research): **Daniel Mackin** (Clinical Psychology PhD student)

Award for Excellence in Research (advanced research): **Amanda Russo** (Integrative Neuroscience PhD student)



2019/2020

Graduate Research Excellence Awards



Jeanne Charoy (Cognitive Science PhD student) is the recipient of the Award for Cognitive Science. She studies speech perception, in particular how listeners perceive accented speech. She is using her award funds for participant support for her dissertation experiments.

Samantha Chen (Integrative Neuroscience PhD student), recipient of the Biopsychology Founders Award, is conducting a study that aims to understand the underlying mechanism of depression by examining the differences of brain inflammation activities measured by blood-brain barrier (BBB) permeability using MRI between patients with major depressive disorder and healthy controls. The study also examines the relationship between depression, BBB

function, and stress at the baseline and one-year follow-up to delineate the changes of the relations.

Alan Gerber (Clinical Psychology PhD student), recipient of the John Neale Award for Graduate Student Excellence, is conducting a project that will be the first to utilize ecological momentary assessment (EMA), involving in-vivo reporting of events, to provide a more ecologically valid picture of social isolation and loneliness in the daily life of young adults with autism spectrum disorders.