

# Psychology

# Newsletter



IUP Department of Psychology Newsletter

Spring 2021, Issue 3



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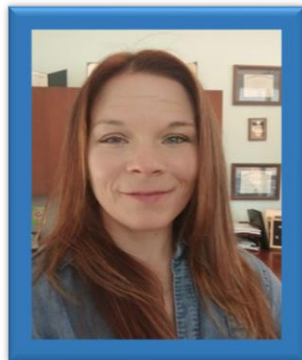
## WELCOME

Welcome to the third issue of the IUP Psychology Department Newsletter! We hope that you are managing during the pandemic and that 2021 is better for the world as a whole, as well as your corners of it. Despite canceling most in-person activities, IUP and the Psychology Department are still functioning. Please enjoy catching up with the Department and learning about what we have been up to during the last year. As always, the goal of the Newsletter is not only to provide information, but also to serve as a tool to connect with alumni and others currently or previously affiliated with the Psychology Department. In this Newsletter, you will find information about faculty, student, and alumni activities and achievements, as well as Department events and Psychology Day plans. You will learn about a generous donation from alumnus, Dr. Charles Petrie (MA 1985). The stories showcase the diversity of psychology, in its theoretical, empirical, and application glory. We are always interested in expanding the Newsletter to include varied topics of interest. If you have information and/or ideas about what to include in future Newsletters, please let us know. Send us information about what you are doing. Email us with any feedback, information, ideas, or questions at [psychologynewsletter@iup.edu](mailto:psychologynewsletter@iup.edu)

Stay safe and healthy!



## *A Message from the Department Chair*



Department Chair  
Dr. Lisa Newell

What a year it has been! No one could describe the past year as dull or uneventful, that is certain. In March of 2020 we transitioned to completely remote learning in just one week. While making this transition was necessary to protect our students, faculty, staff, and community members, it was still extraordinarily challenging for everyone. We made the difficult decision to cancel our annual Psychology Day event, moved our Honors Program students' presentations to a virtual format, and were unable to hold a Departmental graduation ceremony. These end-of-the-academic-year events are treasured traditions that were difficult to abandon or alter.

Yet, we persevered. Over the summer, we began planning for a very different upcoming academic year. We have spent this year conducting classes, holding meetings, and attending presentations over Zoom. We have all increased our technology skills by 200%, at least! As you can read in this Newsletter, we have been staying busy and are planning for a virtual Psychology Day 2021.

We have faced other changes and challenges beyond those created by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the fall of 2020, three of our faculty received retrenchment letters, meaning that they would no longer be at IUP after the end of this academic year. Thankfully, we were able to save their jobs and get their retrenchment letters rescinded. However, we also learned that IUP is undergoing a massive organizational change, including direct impacts to our Department. Over this summer, we will be merging with the Educational and School Psychology Department and we will be moving from the Kopchick College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics to the College of Health and Human Services. There is, understandably, a fair amount of uncertainty about the impact of these changes on our current faculty and students. However, we have started working together with our new colleagues and we should have lots of news to share in next year's Newsletter! The reorganization will also impact staffing at IUP. Most of the staff at IUP will be in new positions next year, including our **Sheila Gardner**. Her absence from the Clinical Psychology/PsyD Program will be deeply felt, both professionally and personally. We wish her the very best in her new position!

These changes and challenges are difficult. But I know that our students, staff, and faculty are second to none. We have a long history of rising to challenges and growing from changes. This year will continue to support our history. We appreciate your continued support of our Department, and look forward to hearing from you and seeing you again soon.

## *Faculty Activities and Achievements*

In November 2020, **Dr. Anthony Perillo** gave an invited closing address for the 2020 *Jornadas de Psicología Forense*, a forensic psychology conference in Costa Rica. Dr. Perillo gave his address remotely to an audience of psychologists in Costa Rica conducting evaluations for Costa Rican courts. His talk, *Comprendiendo y respondiendo al sesgo en las evaluaciones forenses* (*Understanding and responding to bias in forensic evaluations*) covered many factors shown to bias forensic evaluators' conclusions, despite their stated mission to remain impartial when working with courts. The talk included research conducted at IUP by Drs. Jen Perillo and Anthony Perillo, and concluded with recommended practices for reducing bias in forensic practice. Dr. Perillo called this talk, "a top thrill and honor in my professional career," and has been in conversation with Costa Rican colleagues about giving another talk at their 2021 conference.



**Dr. Meg Reardon** and retired colleague **Professor Emerita Dr. Susan Zimny** published their paper on perceptions of environmental justice in the interdisciplinary journal, *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*. This paper stems from a project completed with the aid of multiple **undergraduate students (now alumni) including: DiAinni Dennis, Diana Morales, Macy Retterer and Jacob Vallorani**, who assisted with collecting data from community members in Bradford County, PA. This project built on a previous study involving **then students Carol Maderer and Tanya Timko**. Drs. Reardon and



Zimny argue that to reverse the degradation of Earth's living systems, humanity will have to alter how it thinks about and interacts with these systems. Their aim was to use the methods and measures of psychological science to identify factors that are associated with an expansion of environmental justice beliefs to the rights of nature, the rights of species other than humans, and a concern for future generations. Variables associated with a stronger endorsement of expanded environmental justice (e.g., complex analysis of fracking, moral basis for political ideology, knowledge of a range of environmental specifics and relationships between systems, broad health worries) point to directions for promoting change in how people think about and interact with Earth's living systems.



**Dr. Catherine Raeff** published *Exploring the Complexities of Human Action* with Oxford University press in July 2020. The book offers a vision of humanity from a systems perspective that promotes empathic understanding of complex human beings by conceptualizing what people do in terms of holism, dynamics, variability, and multi-causality. Dr. Raeff also constructively questions some conventional practices and assumptions in psychology (e.g., fragmenting, objectifying, aggregating, deterministic causality). She then explains how human action can be understood systemically in terms of interrelated and dynamic individual, social, cultural, bodily, and environmental processes. This theoretical framework is informed by research in varied cultures, which shows how the framework can be used to think about a wide range of action, from eating to art. Dr. Raeff also uses the theoretical framework to consider varied vexing human issues, including mind-body connections, diversity, extremism, and freedom, as well as how human action is simultaneously universal, culturally particular, and individualized.



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**Dr. Maureen C. McHugh**, Distinguished University Professor and Dr. Joan Chrisler of Connecticut College received the 2020 Distinguished Publication Award from the Association for Women in Psychology (AWP) for their co-edited special issue of the journal, *Women and Therapy*, on “Making Space for Every Body: Ending Sizeism in Psychotherapy and Training.” The award is given in recognition of significant and substantial contributions in research and theory that advance our understanding of the psychology of women and promote achievement of the goals of the Association. Every year since 1977, AWP has given one or more awards for books and/or articles (published the prior year) that make a significant contribution to feminist psychology. The special double issue, published in 2019, included 13 articles written by theorists, researchers, clients, and clinicians describing and assessing the impact of weight bias in psychotherapy. Also included in the issue were articles written by **graduates of the IUP Clinical Psychology/PsyD program, Melissa Muelman and Ashley Kasardo**. In their article and in the special issue, McHugh and Chrisler argue for the importance of addressing weight bias as a social justice issue in psychotherapy, as well as in psychology education and training.



**Dr. Pearl Berman** presented an online workshop in August 2020 with colleague, psychologist Kristin Washington, called, "The Trauma of Racism: Talking to Children and Teens." This 90-minute workshop is designed to help parents and other concerned adults talk to children and teens about the historical trauma faced by African-Americans and how this has influenced current civic unrest over police brutality and racism. It takes a psychoeducational approach and provides practical ideas to stimulate adult thinking about what strategies might work best for a particular family. This workshop was sponsored by the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence across the Lifespan. It filled to capacity and was offered again in March, sponsored by the



American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. Dr. Berman was also invited by the National Veterans Administration to conduct a webinar in October 2020, titled, "Overcoming barriers: Helping older adults disclose and participate in treatment for elder abuse." This webinar introduced the types of abuse, neglect, and exploitation defined by the Centers for Disease Control. Dr. Berman discussed the cohort effects that make older adults less willing to talk about their abuse than younger adults and highlighted two clinical cases.

## *Busy Students and Alumni*

### *Undergraduate Alumnus Spotlight*



My name is **Joe Lacko**, and I'm a 2003 BA graduate of the IUP Psychology Department. I also have an English Education BS from IUP that I earned in 1995, and in 2009 I earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Before earning my DPT, I worked at the Brain and Behavior Laboratory in the Psychology Department at the University of Pittsburgh, helping build facial recognition software in collaboration with the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University and on a larger project to study childhood onset depression. After becoming a physical therapist, I worked in facilities from Maine to Arizona, from nursing homes to outpatient clinics. In the past, I specialized in vestibular disorders, helping patients regain balance and visual acuity following concussions and illnesses at the Eye and Ear Institute at UPMC in Pittsburgh and at hospital outpatient clinics. I am currently working in Central Pennsylvania as a physical therapist with patients dealing with diagnoses as varied as orthopedic concerns to neurological deficits from strokes, injuries, and dementia.

My original intent in coming back to IUP for a psychology degree was, professionally, to begin a career in neuropsychology. However, personally, I'd become fascinated with the question of "Where does this all come together: science and art, music and math?" I'm forever grateful for my experience at IUP, and especially for the wonderful professor, Dr. Raymond Pavloski, who introduced me to issues of the brain and behavior, the study of consciousness, and the great insight that the human brain is central to how we know, understand, and love the world. It has been nearly 20 years now, but rarely a day goes by that I do not enjoy the benefits of all that I learned while an undergraduate in IUP's Psychology Department. Personally, as a musician and writer, there is just something rounded and fulfilling in knowing about consciousness and what is really going on in the heads of the people I write and play for. Professionally, the reward is more tangible. I have insight into matters that are sometimes confounding to my peers in the medical field—the frequent and "strange" manifestation of emotional pain as measurable physical ailment, or the sometimes almost transparent line between hallucinations and perception grounded in clear external stimuli. I relate to my patients better because of that insight, and I believe they sense acceptance and understanding from me that I otherwise might not be able to give.

My advice to current undergrads is related to "finding your place," and I think it is absolutely related to my search for that meaning across so many once-separate areas of my life: art to science, math to music. I remember feeling so confused about what career path I should take. One degree, then another, then leaving academia. I remember the frustration. So, what worked? I figured out and then pursued the question that was important to me (Where does it come together?), and despite the stops and starts, and a lot of student loan debt, I can now say that my work matters to me and to others. I can say that my interests are being addressed in the way I spend my days rather than being put aside because of how I have to spend my days. I believe if you move forward to understand what is important to you—take calculated risks and spend your time (however much time is needed), focused on what might end up mattering to you, you'll find yourself on that path. And that the path, rather than actually found, is something you created.

## Busy Clinical Psychology/PsyD Graduate Students and Alumni



A team of IUP psychology researchers recently published their work on perceptions of campus sexual assault in the journal *Violence Against Women*. **Adrie Henry**, a fifth-year Clinical Psychology/PsyD student, is lead author on the paper, "Reflecting the times? Reexamining the effect of alcohol intoxication on perceptions of campus sexual assault." The co-authors are Drs. Anthony Perillo and Jen Perillo, both Assistant Professors in the Psychology Department, and Dr. Cristina Reitz-Krueger, a former IUP psychology faculty member who is now at Warren Wilson College. The research was also presented at the 2019 American Psychology-Law Society conference. In the study, students from both IUP and Warren Wilson College read about a sexual assault after a college party and offered their impressions of the students involved, who was to blame, and whether anyone

should be considered liable for sexual assault. Contrary to some past research, participants blamed victims less—and more strongly perceived the incident as sexual assault—when victims were highly intoxicated. Participants were also most punitive toward sober perpetrators with highly intoxicated victims, as has been documented in sexual assault cases recently covered in the news (e.g., the Brock Turner case). Adrie and the research team note that discussions of sexual assault in the media and social media have been salient during their two-year study. Thus, they are calling for additional, prospective research to assess if their results signal possible shifts in perceptions of consent or temporary responses to ongoing public dialogue.

Dr. Anthony Perillo recalls that “This paper all started because of Adrie, when she visited me after class during her first year in the PsyD Program to discuss research ideas. Little did she or I know, that chat would turn into a multi-study investigation with Adrie supervising multiple graduate and undergraduate students, presenting at national conferences, and now publishing this paper in *Violence Against Women*. None of this would have happened without her effort and skill.”

**Sushmitha Mohan** is a fourth-year student in the Clinical Psychology/PsyD program. She is also a Teaching Associate in the Psychology Department and teaches two sections of General Psychology. Sushmitha graduated summa cum laude from Concordia College, New York with a BA and Honors in Psychology and then earned her MA in Clinical Psychology at IUP. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Northern Cambria Middle and High schools approached Sushmitha’s practicum site (The Community Guidance Center in Indiana), and requested a presentation that could educate students, teachers, and parents about self-injurious behavior. During the pandemic, schools have been performing temperature checks regularly on every student who attends in person, which allowed them to recognize the high prevalence of self-injurious behavior in middle and high school students. Due to her interest in this high-risk population, Sushmitha was approached by her practicum supervisor about an opportunity to provide psychoeducation on Non-Suicidal Self- Injury (NSSI) to students at Northern Cambria Middle and High Schools. She presented information on the prevalence, myths, and reasons why adolescents engage in this behavior. She also provided information on how adolescents can help each other, ways in which they can reach out to adults/teachers/caregivers, and also on how they can help themselves. She presented this information through a school-wide Zoom meeting that all teachers displayed in their classrooms in order to avoid a large gathering. The presentation was well received, and the schools were provided additional resources to help these students. Originally from Chennai, India, Sushmitha is passionate about becoming a clinical psychologist who works with suicidal and self-harming adolescents and young adults. She is currently working on her dissertation which examines factors that could lead to poor treatment responses in suicidal adolescents.



**Karley Richard**, a second-year student in the Clinical Psychology/PsyD Program, has already made important contributions to our understanding of masculinities by examining multiple masculinities, including traditional forms as they operate in romantic relationships and as they impact emerging adult men in the military. Karley Richard began her research on masculinities with Dr. Sonia Molloy at Penn State’s York campus, and their research was recently published in *Psychology of Men and Masculinities*. At IUP, Karley is now working on a paper about masculinity and perceptions of romantic rejection among emerging adult military men. She is also working with Dr. Maureen McHugh on research about femininity. In March of 2021, Karley presented a paper examining “Sexual harassment of female athletes on Instagram” to the Association of Women in Psychology. Karley is actively involved in Division 51 (Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinities) of the American Psychological Association, including as Chair of its Academic Outreach Committee, and as co-host (with the Division’s student-member-at-large) of the soon-to-be-released podcast, “2 Psych Students.” Karley also shares her expertise on masculinity here on campus. She has made numerous presentations on masculinity to undergraduate and graduate classes. And if that is not enough—as part of her position with the IUP Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs office, Karley is involved in a (funded) survey which explores alcohol use in graduate, veteran, and military-affiliated populations. Through her continuing research on masculinity, including her dissertation, Karley Richard hopes to help young men—especially men in masculinized environments such as the military and sports—to develop a positive sense of themselves.



Karley Richard with Dr. Maureen McHugh



In February of 2021, we welcomed **Dr. Michael Marquez**, a graduate of the IUP Clinical Psychology/PsyD program (2019), back to campus (via Zoom) to present a workshop to the campus community. At the workshop, Dr. Marquez shared his expertise on alcohol use/abuse among the LGBTQ community. In his dissertation, chaired by Dr. Maureen McHugh, he studied “The Effects of LGBTQIA+ Inclusive School Based Sex Education on the Sexual Health Functioning of Queer College Students.” As part of his Doctoral Internship at Towson State University, Dr. Marquez apprenticed with the diversity coordinator, assisting with training peer educators and developing outreach programming with a focus on issues of social justice.

Subsequently, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Loyola University Counseling Center in Baltimore, where he helped start a support group for Queer People of Color and conducted outreach activities. Currently, as a part-time counselor at the Loyola University Counseling Center, he continues his work with outreach to the diverse campus community. He also provides outreach and social justice-oriented trainings to the community in



his roles as clinician and trainer at Hawn Therapy and Consulting. In September 2020, Dr. Marquez co-founded Bmore Liberated, LLC, where he provides affirming counseling to queer, trans, and gender expansive folks of color; facilitates a support group for queer Latinx individuals; supervises therapists in training; and develops and conducts social justice-oriented outreach and training programming in the community

## **CONGRATULATIONS to the 2020 Clinical/PsyD Program Graduates!**

**Sofia Alvarez, Kermeka Desai, Rebecca Frazier, Victoria Hauth, Chris Metzger, Sarah Pritt, Nathalie Rieder, Katie Quinn**

They worked hard.



They had some fun.



They worked some more and then they graduated on Zoom.

And now...

- Kermeka Desai is a forensic evaluator at Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center in Los Angeles, CA.
- Rebecca Frazier is a neuropsychology postdoctoral fellow at Wake Forest Baptist Health Network in High Point, NC.
- Victoria Hauth is a forensic psychology postdoctoral fellow with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health in Columbia, SC.
- Chris Metzger is a neuropsychology postdoctoral resident at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center in Cleveland, OH.
- Sarah Pritt is a postdoctoral fellow in clinical health psychology at Geisinger Medical Center, in Danville, PA.
- Nathalie Rieder is a geropsychology postdoctoral fellow at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI.
- Katie Quinn is a postdoctoral resident at Psychology Specialists of Maine in Brunswick, ME.



*From left to right, Top Row: Sarah Pritt, Kermeka Desai, Chris Metzger  
Bottom row: Nathalie Rieder, Victoria Hauth, Rebecca Frazier*

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It was almost noon on December 31<sup>st</sup> when Dr. Newell saw the email from an unknown source. She gingerly opened the message and thought she misunderstood. Maybe so much time in front of a screen was finally getting to her. But no, she understood just right – Dr. Charles Petrie (MA 1985) wanted to donate \$5,000 to the Psychology Department, with a 50% match from his employer, Pfizer. We are touched and grateful, and cannot thank him enough for this generous gift. Here is his story.

I arrived in the “Christmas Tree Capital of the World” on a sunny summer day in August 1983 driving a battered U-Haul truck down Philadelphia Street, leaving a wake of burnt transmission exhaust that had followed me all the way from Johnstown. Yikes. I pulled over for a respiratory pit stop and found myself across the street from the Indiana County Court House and directly in locked-gaze with Jimmy Stewart – well, his statue, at least. It took me by surprise, utterly. My hero. No kidding. And there he was standing right there – and was he actually pointing at me?!!! In the surprising serendipity of that moment, I had the heady sense that I was meant to be at IUP, even after battling that gear-grinding, sputtering, noxious-fumed transmission.

Well, that was then. Over the years since, I have often said to myself, and I want to say to you now, “Thank you IUP for taking a chance on me.” I was delighted to have been admitted to the IUP Clinical Psychology MA program, 1983-1985.

The IUP Clinical Psychology MA program prepared me well to pursue my goal of obtaining a PhD. It was an intense learning and training experience and I have fond and fun memories of relationships with faculty and student peers in the program. My memories are of studying together, sharing clinical training experiences and perspectives, brewing coffee in that chemistry distillation flask masquerading as a ginormous urn in the basement of Clark Hall, XC skiing together, house-sitting for houses and for pets, and, of course, trying to figure out what content topic areas would be included on the next exam from Ken Edgar on Group Therapy. I am forever appreciative of Don Robertson and his courses on Psychological Assessment (I still have

*Charlie Petrie then and now*

Allen & Yen on my bookshelf!) which provided a true bedrock foundation in psychometrics, test administration and interpretation, and proved to be so essentially valuable as I progressed in my clinical training and research career. Core courses and seminars on therapy interventions with Alex Rich, clinical neuropsychology with Carl Schneider, ethical and professional practice with Leon VandeCreek, research design and statistical analysis with Gordon Thornton, all provided such solid training and a knowledge base to confidently engage a PhD program. I remain especially grateful to Ray Pavloski, who joined the department the year I began my Master's research thesis and who agreed to chair my thesis committee. Dr. Pavloski's expertise, guidance, support, and overall sage advice extended well beyond his impact on my successful completion of an analog clinical outcomes study research project.

After IUP, I trained in Clinical Psychology and was awarded the PhD from The University of Georgia in 1990. I completed clinical internship training in Behavioral Medicine at Brown University Medical School. I worked in varied settings, including staff and clinical appointments in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University Medical Center of East Carolina University School of Medicine. I returned to Providence as a Managing Partner and Director of Clinical Services at the Institute for Behavioral Medicine. I also consulted to managed healthcare organizations in the New England region. In 1996, I was recruited by Pfizer Global Research & Development to establish a Health Outcomes Research Group for early clinical trials of pharmaceuticals. As head of this group, I established a funded fellowship that supported graduate-level interns and fellows from a variety of disciplines, including psychology, health economics, epidemiology, public health, and pharmacy. I retired in 2018 as Vice President of Outcomes Research for Neuroscience and Rare Disease. Throughout my career, I contributed to and served on varied professional societies and advisory boards, including at the Federal Drug Administration and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke. My work in behavioral medicine and outcomes research has been presented at professional conferences and workshops, and published in peer-reviewed journals.

The psychology program at IUP was the beginning for me of an orientation to the critical importance of scientist-practitioner training and interdisciplinary collaborations. The faculty instilled in me an embrace of evidence-based practice that continued in earnest into my PhD training. My career experiences have also taught me that our skill set in behavioral science and clinical practice carries enormous versatility and can be highly valued in places outside of the traditional clinical psychology behavioral medicine settings, university teaching hospitals, and academic positions for which many of us were trained.

Since I retired, I have deliberately taken a break from "work" to catch up with my immediate and extended family, my colleagues and friends, and to focus on my passion for hiking, biking, XC skiing, swimming, music festivals and craft beers – and not always in that order! My wife, Doreen (who remembers well our years in Indiana, PA, where she was an ICU Nurse at the Indiana Community Hospital before taking a position in the ICU with the Pittsburgh VAMC) and I spend our time between the glorious Mount Washington Valley in New Hampshire and the never-a-dull-moment university town of Athens, Georgia. Although busy with other life activities now, if I can be of service or perspective to IUP Psychology students, just give me a shout! [chasdpetrie@gmail.com](mailto:chasdpetrie@gmail.com)

## Speaking of Psychology...

- In September 2020, the **Psychology Department Colloquium Series** went online and featured **Dr. John Drury** of the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. Dr. Drury's presentation, "How have the public responded to the Covid-19 pandemic? Understanding the role of group processes," focused on the role of group processes in the Covid-19 pandemic in two key domains: adherence by the public to public-health behavioral requirements and determinants of community mutual aid. He argued that properly understanding the role of group processes means we can help design more effective interventions to support collective resilience by the public in the face of the pandemic and other threats.
- In March 2021, Drs. Jacqueline Evans and Deborah Goldfarb of Florida International University presented "Enhancing the effectiveness of contact tracing interviews using psychological science" at the **Psychology Department Colloquium Series**. They argued that contact tracing is fundamentally a memory task: Remembering all of one's close contacts over a period of several days, regardless of salience, so that they can be informed of their exposure and self-quarantine. Unfortunately, forgetting is common, and every omitted contact increases the potential spread of disease. The research literature on cognition and investigative interviewing provides a wealth of information regarding how to help people remember. Drs. Evans and Goldfarb discussed relevant principles of psychology, findings of two studies that have successfully tested the application of psychology to contact tracing interviews, and the utility of self-led contact tracing interviews.
- Dr. Krys Kaniasty** gave the first **Science Inspires Lecture** of the 2020-2021 academic year. The Kopchick College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Science Inspires Series (SIS) is offered in collaboration with IUP's Sigma Xi chapter, an honor society of scientists and engineers that rewards excellence in scientific research and encourages a sense of companionship and cooperation among scientists in all fields. SIS presents lectures by prominent researchers on interdisciplinary topics that are of interest to faculty and students from a variety of academic fields, as well as to the general public. Dr. Kaniasty's lecture, "United and divided: Resilient, overwhelmed, and antagonistic communities coping with natural and human-induced disasters," focused on how the capacity of a collective to triumph over shared adversities is based on maintaining and augmenting social cohesion, mutual support, cooperation, and a sense of belonging to a valued social group and community.



## Student Scholarships and Awards: Undergraduates

- **The Stanley W. Lore Undergraduate Psychology Scholarship** is given to junior psychology majors who have achieved exceptional academic records. The scholarship was established in 1987 by the Psychology Department in honor of our first chairperson. One to three awards are typically granted each year.

*After more than 30 years, the Lore Fund could use some replenishing. To donate, please go to [iup.edu/Lore](http://iup.edu/Lore)*

### The 2020-2021 recipients are Rebecca Ettore, Dominique Harris, and Alexis Tavalsky.

**Rebecca Ettore** of Pittsburgh, PA is a student in the Psychology Department's Honors Program and is minoring in Biology. After college, Rebecca plans to earn a doctorate as a "neuropsychologist and to work closely with neurologists and various other doctors to observe/treat brain abnormalities and the subsequent disorders/illnesses that result." Rebecca's honors research with Dr. William Farrell investigates the relations between social isolation and ostracism on people's mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic. As Rebecca explains, "I have always had a deep passion for working with others to help them achieve their goals, as well as help them improve their overall well-being. Throughout the last three years here at IUP, I have worked diligently and have set many academic goals for myself. I have made the Dean's list every semester, I was a Provost's Scholar last semester, and I participate in various honors fraternities/societies. I was extremely honored to hear that I was awarded the Stanley Lore Scholarship because I have never received an award where I was picked as a result of my accomplishments. This really made me feel humbled because to me it shows that my accomplishments did not go unseen."



**Dominique Harris**, of Jim Thorpe, PA, is a student in the Psychology Department's Honors Program and is minoring in Criminology. After college, she plans to pursue graduate education in forensic psychology, and ultimately aspires to be a police psychologist. Dominique's honors research with Dr. Anthony Perillo investigates what exactly, if anything, police psychologists ask concerning race and racism in law enforcement suitability evaluations. Dominique has "always been interested in suitability evaluations, but the events of this past summer made me especially interested in the role that questions about racism/racial bias play in those evaluations." Also in her words: "I am *extremely* grateful to be a recipient of the Stanley Lore scholarship. I struggled with trying to pay for school prior to Covid-19, and this scholarship can definitely help me out for my senior year. It's also a nice reminder that all of my hard work pays



off. It's such a nice feeling to know that others see and appreciate the effort that I put into my academic career. My goal has always been to finish my undergraduate career with a cumulative 4.0 GPA, and this scholarship is just another thing to keep me motivated!"

**Alexis Tavalsky** of Johnstown, PA is a student in the Psychology Department's Honors Program



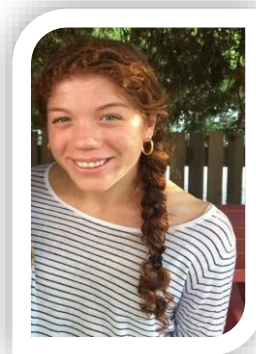
and is minoring in Sociology. After college, she plans to go to graduate school for a PhD and gain clinical experience. Ultimately, her goal is to "improve the mental health of those around me, directly and indirectly" by teaching and conducting research in a university setting. Alexis' honors research with Dr. William Meil investigates the influence of social exclusion and social isolation induced by the Covid-19 pandemic on substance abuse. In her words: "Receiving the Stanley Lore Award means a great deal to me, and I am truly honored to be one of the

recipients this year. Throughout the last three years, I have dedicated a great deal of time and effort toward my studies and have always remained motivated and on task every day. Receiving this award instills motivation in me to continue working hard and applying effort, as it demonstrates that hard work pays off. I hold a deep appreciation for my professors for always being responsive and helpful when needed, as this has helped tremendously in my success at IUP!"

### Student Scholarships and Awards: Graduate Students

- Named in honor of the founder of the Center for Applied Psychology, the ***Richard Magee Scholarship*** honors a member of the Clinical Psychology/PsyD Program's third-year class who demonstrates outstanding clinical skills, leadership among their colleagues, and service to the community and colleagues. The current Magee scholar is **Casey Boland**.

**Casey Boland** is a fourth-year student currently applying for internships and focused on forensic evaluation and treatment of juveniles and adults. She graduated from the University of Rochester in 2014 with a BA in International Relations and Psychology. She then worked in residential treatment with children removed from abusive homes for about three years before coming to IUP. During the course of her doctoral studies, Casey has presented twice at the Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma. One presentation was about the role of social media in violence prevention advocacy (with Dr. Pearl Berman in 2018) and one presentation was about the relationship between rape myth beliefs and bystander behaviors in 2019 (with **Dr. Jessica Miller** of the Counseling Center and Clinical Psychology/PsyD Program graduate). For her dissertation, Casey is looking at the impact of person-first language on community attitudes toward individuals convicted of sexual offenses, in the context of individual



processing styles. She hopes to pursue a career dedicated to integrating strengths-based and trauma-informed approaches into forensic assessment and treatment. She also hopes to pursue research and advocacy relating to effective community reintegration of justice-involved individuals and the impact of racism and discrimination on purportedly objective forensic instruments. Casey's favorite aspect of the Clinical Psychology/PsyD program is the supportive and collaborative nature of the students and faculty, and she is honored to be a part of a scholarship that reinforces and perpetuates those excellent qualities of the program.

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- The ***Beverly J. Goodwin Scholarship*** is a newly-established scholarship named in honor of Dr. Beverly J. Goodwin who was a Psychology Department faculty member from 1986 to 2019. The scholarship is open to all Clinical Psychology/PsyD students who identify as diverse. Not only was Dr. Goodwin a champion of students, she also served for many years as the Director of the Clinical Psychology/PsyD program, the Director of the Center for Applied Psychology, and was intimately involved in the development of diversity training in the Clinical Psychology /PsyD program. The first Goodwin scholars are **Tonia Ballantyne** and **Amber Wu**.

**Tonia Ballantyne** was awarded the inaugural Beverly J. Goodwin Scholarship as she approached her fourth year in IUP's Clinical Psychology/PsyD Program. Tonia graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience. Her clinical interests include sexual violence and trauma, particularly among college students, as well as Native American communities. Tonia is a member of the Georgina Island Chippewa tribe and hopes that her work within the field of Psychology will shed light on the challenges First Nations people face. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact tribal communities at a disproportional rate, Tonia is thankful that receiving this scholarship highlights the importance of improving lives for people within marginalized groups. Currently, she is interviewing for her internship in university mental health settings, as well as working on her dissertation, which explores inter- and intra-gender differences in rape myth endorsements among IUP students.



**Amber Wu** explains: Originally from China, I chose the name Amber when I moved to the United States because not only did I like the color of amber, I also appreciated that it was a fossil stone that represented my old soul. It turns out that I'm much more interested in our minds than souls, which explains why I'm a third-year student in the Clinical Psychology/PsyD Program! My interests are primarily lifespan neuropsychology and community mental health psychotherapy. As a bicultural individual who is also an immigrant, receiving the inaugural Goodwin Scholarship affirms how much I have built and will continue to build, by and for myself in this country. It also reminds me of how my cultural values inform my clinical work and overall professional development. Overall, I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity and would like to thank the faculty for considering me for the scholarship.



- Chris Ceary**, a second-year student in the Clinical Psychology/PsyD program, is the recipient of the 2020-2021 Julius P. Filcik Doctoral Fellowship. The fellowship is awarded to graduate students who demonstrate strong academic preparation and potential for excellence in teaching and research. Candidates are selected based on evaluations of their capacity to contribute to the community of doctoral scholars at IUP. The Julius Filcik Doctoral Fellowship is made possible by Shirley Filcik, wife of Julius, in remembrance of her husband who was a member of IUP'S class of 1953. Chris came to IUP with a Master of Science degree in Counseling from the University of Baltimore, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Stevenson University (Maryland). Her research at the University of Baltimore is the basis for several presentations at the Eastern Psychological Association, as well as a 2019 co-authored publication, "Valued living as a path to resilience," in the *Journal of Stress and Health*. Since beginning doctoral training at IUP, Chris has developed a research project on asexuality with Dr. Maureen McHugh. In addition to several class presentations, Chris presented a paper, "Othering the aces: Asexuality, heteronormativity, and shame" in a Symposium on Heteronormativity, Shame, and Sexual Agency to the Association of Women in Psychology (AWP) in March 2020. Her paper, "Hanging out not hooking up: The fulfilling nature of non-sexual partnering among asexual individuals," has been accepted for presentation to AWP in March 2021. Chris is also currently a Teaching Associate in the Psychology Department, teaching multiple sections of General Psychology.





## Psi Chi/Psychology Club



Psi Chi is the International Honors Society in Psychology. IUP's chapter of Psi Chi also functions as our Psychology Club. We aim to make the content of our meetings relevant to a broad audience and welcome everyone to attend meetings (whether or not students are official members). Even in the midst of the pandemic, Psi Chi has been very active since the last Newsletter. We held remote meetings via Zoom, where several students in the Psychology Department's Honors Program and students from Actively Moving Forward, a peer-run grief support and advocacy group, spoke about ways to get involved in psychology at IUP. We had information sessions and workshops on how to prepare for the GRE, how to write a resumé and CV, and how to write a personal statement for graduate school applications. In addition, several guest speakers shared their experiences in the field. Dr. Jennifer Phillips of Xavier University discussed working in primary care and mental health integration at the Veterans Administration. **Gabrielle Hammer (an IUP alumna)** spoke about her position as an ABA therapist and **Julia Bilk (an IUP alumna)** talked about volunteering for 7 Cups, a service that provides emotional support for individuals struggling with mental health issues. Our meetings also served as a space for getting together informally (including playing games) during the pandemic.

We are always interested in hearing from alumni! If you would like to talk with current students about job opportunities, career trajectories, advice on life after college, or any topics/issues of interest, please email the Psi Chi Faculty Advisor, Dr. Stephanie Davis, at [sdavis@iup.edu](mailto:sdavis@iup.edu). We can organize a remote meeting via Zoom or you can join us in-person once we are back on campus.

## Psychology Day

Since May 2016, the last Friday of classes means **PSYCHOLOGY DAY** in the Psychology Department. This daylong event is designed to further the professional development of our students, and it enables Psychology faculty and students to present their work in talks and poster sessions. Psychology Day starts with a keynote address, and also showcases presentations by alumni and local mental health agencies on careers and practicum opportunities in psychology.

**Please join us this year!**

This year, Psychology Day will be on Zoom on April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, with fewer presentations due to the pandemic. Dr. Dan Guera (PsyD, 1997, who was featured in the 2019 Newsletter) will get us started with an Alumni Address. Psychology Department undergraduates and graduate students will present their research. We will also be joined by colleagues from the Educational and School Psychology Department and the Counseling Department for a panel presentation on Master's degree opportunities at IUP and beyond. The Research Keynote Address will be delivered by Dr. Erika Felix of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), who will talk about collective healing after the 2014 Isla Vista mass murder tragedy near the UCSB campus. Please join us any time on Zoom: Meeting ID: 949 4738 1597, Password: 880540. For more information about this year's program, please email us at [psychology-day@iup.edu](mailto:psychology-day@iup.edu) or go here: <https://www.iup.edu/psychology/>

We hope to be back in person next year. If you are interested in participating in future Psychology Days, please let us know! It would be great to again have a session on "Where are They Now?" We strongly encourage undergraduate and graduate alumni to present their work,

talk to students about working as a psychologist, and talk to students about what you did after graduation and how a psychology degree prepared you for the work you do. We are also looking for other types of presentations or activities for students, such as workshops or panel discussions. We are interested in any interesting ideas. Please email us with any questions or suggestions at [psychology-day@iup.edu](mailto:psychology-day@iup.edu)

If you would like to support the Psychology Department, please consider donating to the Psychology Department Enhancement Fund, which is used for academic events and awards. Please go to [iup.edu/givetopsychology](http://iup.edu/givetopsychology)

Please contact us!  
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Or contact the Department Chair  
Dr. Lisa Newell: [lisa.newell@iup.edu](mailto:lisa.newell@iup.edu)

*Special thanks to Sheila Gardner for contacting alumni and for putting the Newsletter online.*

