Psychology Graduate Students’ Association (PGSA)

“The mission of the Psychology Graduate Student Association at The University of Alabama is to provide a strong voice for all psychology graduate students. With this voice, the PGSA aims to facilitate communication amongst graduate students, faculty and staff. The PGSA also aspires to encourage inter student coordination and collaboration with the purpose of enhancing student life and promoting research, teaching, and service as students embark on their primary goal of successfully completing and graduating from the program.”

Your Representatives and Their Goals

PGSA President (Ernest Wayde): To be an effective and approachable leader for the PGSA and all psychology graduate students as the PGSA tries to achieve the goals and aims mentioned above in the PGSA mission statement.

Clinical Psychology

Clinical Vice President (Beth DiNapoli): To provide PGSA updates in a newsletter, to organize training workshops, and to assist clinical concentration representatives with their goals.

- Health (Anna Smitherman): To help facilitate growth in health specific opportunities (e.g., advanced health practicum).
- Gero (Latrice Vinson): To encourage student collaboration across mentors.
- Law (Jennifer Wilson): To help facilitate communication between psych-law students and the faculty, and to represent the concerns of the concentration to the department.
- Child (Meghann Sallee): To encourage and help facilitate collaboration between the child clinical and developmental concentrations.

Experimental Psychology

Experimental Vice President (Jillian Pierucci): To encourage collaboration and dialogue across concentrations and to build up students during their pursuits of their goals.

- Cognitive (Eric Greenlee): To encourage student ‘visibility’ and to create a list of available resources (e.g., schedule of events).
- Developmental (Blake Nielsen): To mediate and voice the concerns of developmental students to further their positive interactions with faculty (p<.05).
- Social (Bryan Poole): To increase student engagement in departmental activities (e.g., colloquia, interview weekend), and to facilitate better communication between social psych students and the faculty.
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Training Workshop

Former UA geropsychology graduate, Dr. Misti Norton will be providing a training workshop to interested graduate students on **September 21st from 10am-2pm in Room 351**. Dr. Norton is a clinical psychologist on the PTSD clinical team at the Birmingham VA Medical Center. The workshop will cover some of the following topics: in-depth review of a protocol that is used for treating PTSD/trauma, specific case examples, and opportunities that are available for our graduate students at the Birmingham VA. It is an **excellent training opportunity** and the topic should be applicable to all our clinical graduate students. Lunch will be provided by the department. Please respond to the evite invitation so we can get an estimate of the number of faculty and students who plan to attend.

Awards

Krystal Hedge has won the First Place Psychology Division Research Award through the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) for her work with intellectually disabled individuals being charged with capital crimes. More specifically, Krystal’s research focused on examining the impact of factors outside the diagnostic criteria for intellectual disability considered by judges in capital cases.

Graduates

Congrats to Captain Andrew Presnell for successfully passing Air Force officer training school in Montgomery, AL.

In addition, a **BIG** congrats to all who received their PhD. We are extremely proud of Tess Neal, Mitchell Ziemke, Philip Haley, Abigayl Perelman, Marie Moore, Courtney Worley, Rachel Baden, Joanna Mussey, Gregory Vander Wal, Tiarney Ritchwood and Stephanie Evans and we wish them all a fruitful career.

Interdepartmental Psychology Conference

The PGSA would like to assess the interest of students to have a poster/presentation conference to be held within the department in the spring semester. This event will give all psychology graduate students a chance to highlight their own (or lab) work to other students within the department by presenting new or old posters/presentations. Please help us by expressing your interest (or disinterest) to your concentration representatives.
Upcoming Psychology Social Events

FIELD DAY

This will be our third run of this event and we hope everyone can make it. For the uninitiated… Field Day is an annual event run by the PGSA designed to welcome incoming students and have some silly fun! Our event involves a series of team based competitions including stuff like a three legged race, water balloon toss, egg on a spoon relay, inflated balloon popping relay, football toss, etc. All graduate students (clinical and experimental) and significant others and friends are welcome to attend. The event tends to last most of the afternoon and there will be some snacks and drinks available. An email and evite for this event will be sent out shortly.

When: Sunday, September 16th at 1pm
Where: House of Jesse McPherron & Anna Smitherman
2304 18th Street, Northport, AL 35476

FIRST OF THE YEAR PARTY

Dr. Bev Thorn will be hosting the first of the year party to honor new faculty and graduate students. There will be delicious BBQ provided, but guests (except for new students and faculty) are asked to please bring homemade side dishes. Spouses, partners, and children are welcome.

When: Sunday, September 23rd at 6:00 pm
Where: House of Bev Thorn & Walt Misiolek
634 Petersburg Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406
Adeline Mae Presnell (5 mon.)
The Presnell’s are settling in to Dayton, where Andrew is doing his internship at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Addie’s new tricks are eating solid food and (almost) sitting up on her own. She loves to bounce in her jump-a-roo and go on walks to the park.

Gwendolyn Rose Chen Wozniak (1 mon.)
Gwen loves to be swaddled and driven around, and her favorite sleeping place is on her mommy or daddy’s chest. The doggies love her and are always trying to sneak in kisses when no one’s looking. We are very thankful for all of your warm wishes and look forward to introducing her to you soon!

Thane Anthony (Hedge) Fama (1 mon.)
Thane is a happy and healthy baby, already sleeping most of the night. He loves tummy time and he can already hold his head up unassisted and turn it from side to side. Thane also loves bath time, especially if there is classic music playing.

Wedding Announcements

Bryan & Morgan Eichorst were married on May 12th at Mansfield Art Center in Mansfield, Ohio.

Ryan & Meghann Sallee were married on July 21st at St. Christopher Catholic Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Greg & Natalie Smith were married on April 14th at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dan & Kim Sokolowski were married on August 4th at St. Bede Catholic Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mike & Jill Walker were married on May 27th at First Churches of Northampton in Northampton, MA.

Mark & Megan Davis were married on July 16th at Hotel Capstone in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Clifton & Marie Channell were married on July 27th at North River Yacht Club in Tuscaloosa, AL.
Meet the 1st Years

Nicole Mechin
I was born in Queens N.Y. and was raised in northern New Jersey. I received my B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Civic and Community Engagement from Penn State University. I am in the Experimental Psychology Ph.D. program within the Social Department at UA and I will be working with Dr. Philip Gable in the SCEN Lab.

Rachel deLacy
Originally a New Jersey native, I have also lived in the Bronx and London. That said, I am more than excited for my new home here in Tuscaloosa. I'll be working with Karen Salekin in the clinical program concentrating in psych-law. I love working out, playing sports, seeking new adventures, and spending time with friends. Looking forward to getting to know everyone!

Brett Grant
I am from Dallas, Texas and I obtained my B.S. from Texas A&M University. I'll be working with Alexa Tullett and Philip Gable in the Social Psychology program. My interests include social neuroscience, traveling, electronics and music. I also enjoy staying active by hiking, climbing, and biking the area.

Michelle Jones
I am in the psych/law program working with Stan Brodsky. I'm from the DC area and would be considered a "non-traditional" (translation: older) student. I was a lawyer for a number of years and decided to "find my passion," which led to UA. I love to travel, am addicted to TV & movies, and am a diehard Washington Redskins fan (which has been painful these past 10+ years).

Gayle Graham
I'm from Tuscaloosa, AL and graduated from UA. I'm working with Dr. Fran Conners and studying language acquisition in individuals with intellectual disabilities. My hobbies include exercising, scrapbooking, tennis, and reading. I'm obsessed with Alabama football too of course!
Dean Elmore
I'm a first year studying Social Psych under Dr. Hamilton. I'm a Birmingham native, so I am somewhat familiar with Tuscaloosa. I went to Birmingham-Southern College where I studied Sociology and Psychology. As far as hobbies go, I really enjoy watching movies and playing guitar.

Caitie Tighe
I'm in the Clinical Psychology program working with Dr. Natalie Dautovich. I was born and raised in Florida, where I recently graduated from the University of Florida with my bachelor's degree. Outside of time spent at school, I enjoy cooking and spending time with family and friends.

Jerome Lewis
I am a Social Psychology student being mentored by Jim Hamilton. Sam Houston State University is where I received my BS in Psychology. Coming from a military family, I have moved around a lot. I call Texas my home, because that is where my parents are currently located. I enjoy martial arts and music.

Lisa Mieskowski
As one of three new clinical geropsychology students I will be working with Dr. Forrest Scogin. Originally from NE Ohio, I completed my undergrad at Ohio University in Athens, OH, and am looking forward to settling into life here in Alabama (not to mention, frequenting the local Farmers Market).

Cameron Powe
I'm originally from Fairhope, AL. I graduated from Auburn University with my BA. My advisor is Dr. John Lochman and I'm in the clinical child concentration. I love reading and watching movies with friends.
Ben Van Dyke
I'm originally from Greenville, SC. I got my BS in Psychology from Davidson College, which is near Charlotte, NC. Recently, I was working as a full-time research assistant on a study of anxiety disorders in minority adults in Rhode Island. I am in the Clinical Health concentration, and my mentor is Dr. Bev Thorn. I absolutely love watching and analyzing movies and television shows in my spare time. Basically, I just really love a good story. So, if you know any, I'm all ears!

Jordan Williams
I’m in the geropsychology concentration and my advisor is Dr. Parmelee. I’m from Kentucky, and as an undergrad I attended the University of Louisville. In May of this year I graduated with a BA in psychology and minor in biology. I love to read, and my favorite authors are J.K. Rowling, Stephen King, and Dean Koontz.

Hannah Rapport
I’m from Columbia, South Carolina. I received my BS in Psychology with a concentration in Neuroscience from Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. I’m in the Clinical Child concentration working with Matt Jarrett. In my free time, I really enjoy cooking and exploring Tuscaloosa.

Hwaheun Kim
I am originally from Korea. I got my B.A. in anthropology and sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. I studied in a master's program in Family and Human Development at Arizona State University, focusing on gender development and gender stereotype, but I transferred to here without completing my study at ASU. I am in the Developmental concentration working with Dr. Parker. During my free time I like to watch Korean TV shows. I also like to try new restaurants.

Phoebe Block
I’m from Chicago and completed my B.S. in Secondary Education (History) at Northwestern. (I later completed a post-baccalaureate certificate at NU in pre-clinical psychology.) I’m in the clinical health psychology concentration and am working with Dr. Kelly Stanek-Sellbom. I’ve run 12 marathons and have a goal of running a marathon in every state (only 43 states to go!). I love playing sports like softball, volleyball, and football. However, the only sport I enjoy watching is football so I think I’m at the right school.
Al Johnson
I completed undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Spanish at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. I then worked as a research assistant at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on a longitudinal study investigating resilience factors among National Guard soldiers. I enjoy running and cooking. I am happy to be joining Dr. Martin Sellbom’s lab in the clinical psych-law concentration.

Zach Himmelberger
I am in the developmental and cognitive programs, and will be working with Ed Merrill. I am coming here from Manchester, New Hampshire. I love to read and watch sports. Over the last couple years I have coached an elementary school basketball team.

Natalie Harrison
I am from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and completed my undergrad there at Simon Fraser University. I came to The University of Alabama to work with Dr. Randy Salekin within the Clinical Child Psychology program. In my free time I like kickboxing and making quilts as gifts.

Note: In order to keep this newsletter ongoing and informative, we ask that you please email Beth DiNapoli at eadinapoli@crimson.ua.edu with awards, conference pictures, and any other updates you would like included in future newsletters.