

PGSA Newsletter

Fall 2013 | Issue II



Students Sara Steele, Meagan Wood, Megan Malcolm, and Professor Dr. Bev Roskos pose for a picture with President Judy Bonner at the Association for Women in Science Banquet.

Mason, Ami, Karolina, and Caitie paint their pets at Uptown Art!



What an eventful semester! Congratulations to all of our students, staff, and faculty for making it through yet again, with a trail of publications, awards, and plenty of memories. Let's reflect upon Fall 2013 one more time!

Inside this issue

- A Few of Our Favorite (Local) Things
- Student Award Recipients
- Psychology Department Staff Interviews
- Life Events Updates
- Student Achievements
- Pictures and more!



Important Dates:

- ✓ Classes begin—January 8th
- ✓ MLK Jr. Day—January 20th
- ✓ G.A.P.S Conference-- January 24th
- ✓ Basowitz Lecture—January 24th
- ✓ Health & Gero Interviews—January 31st
- ✓ Experimental Interviews—February 7th
- ✓ Child & Law Interviews—February 14th
- ✓ Spring Break—March 21st-28th

STAFF ONLY

Where would we be without Robin, Sue, Patti, Mary Beth, and Pam? We're thankful we don't have to answer that question—and even more thankful for our wonderful staff. That's why we're featuring them in this Issue!

Robin Bonner

- “ I have been in the Psychology Department at UA since March 2005. About 8 ½ years.
- “ One thing about my job that I love is getting to interact with so many people – undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and staff. That's why I have candy.
- “ If you have been in Gordon Palmer for any length of time, you know what a maze it can be. So, when someone comes in for the first time looking for “room 410”, my first response is “get on the elevator and press #4.” Apparently, they do not realize what floor they are currently on, or simply do not pay attention to the room numbers. I think it would make a great Psychology research experiment.
- “ For relaxation, I enjoy reading. I probably read about 50 novels a year. Mostly fiction, but some biographical as well. My current hobbies are bird watching, working with flowers, and watching old movies.
- “ I have a Bachelor's Degree in Music from The University of Alabama. I was a piano major with a voice secondary, and taught various types of music for 30+ years before I became a part of the Psych department. I still play and sing at church or anywhere there is an opportunity. I am also a Trekkie. ‘Live long and prosper.’

Mary Beth Hubbard

- “ I have worked in the Department for 9 years.
- “ I love that I'm working at my alma mater and that this is the perfect job for me in that it matches my personality and skill set. I also love it that I come into contact everyday with so many interesting people.
- “ The most relaxing thing for me is having a cat in my lap. I love to read, watch TV/movies, and spend time with my family.
- “ I've had 20 different employers and for a few months several years ago, I had 5 different employers at the same time.

Sue Rankin

- “ I have worked here since May 2011
- “ One thing I love about my job is watching candidates as they're told they successfully defended.
- “ A funny memory: when the staff dressed up as the British royal family for Halloween!
- “ I enjoy crafts, quilting, and Netflix in my time off.
- “ A surprising fact about me: I won several national dance competitions growing up.

Pam Lavender

- “ I have worked in the Psychology department for 9 months.
- “ One thing I love about my job: shopping!
- “ To relax, I like to catch a movie or go shopping with my family; or spend the day with Nat Cole on my deck when the weather permits.
- “ What is a secret talent you have?: Sorry—that's G-14 classified!

And the Award Goes To...

Ami Bryant: Outstanding Research by a Doctoral Student (Oliver Lacey/Norman Ellis Research Award)

The focus of my research is health disparities among older adults. More specifically, my research interests lay in substance abuse related health disparities among older adults. However, I have contributed to a number of health disparities related projects on numerous topics. The overarching goals of my health disparities related research is to reduce health disparities among older adults and thus improve the mental health and quality of life of minority older adults.



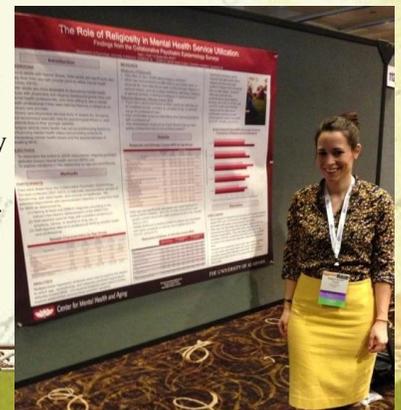
Lisa Beck: Outstanding Service by a Graduate Student

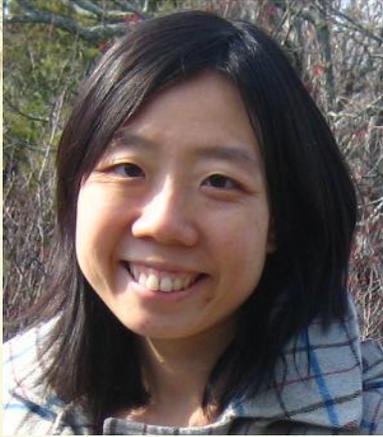
My main areas of service include Capstone Alliance (the registered campus organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied faculty, staff, and graduate students), Safe Zone, and Spectrum (UA's undergraduate student group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and otherwise queer students and their allies). I serve as a Safe Zone trainer and as an advisor for Spectrum. I think service is important because if we do not use all of the knowledge and insight we gain from our research about social support and helping others to effect real change, then I feel the research may be moot. My service to organizations often leaves me feeling re-energized (albeit sometimes sleepy, also) about the others area of my work. Plus, I am still on board with Dr. Martin Seligman's notion of the "meaningful life,... which consists of using your signature strengths in the service of something that you believe is large than you are."



Katy-Lauren Ford: Outstanding Research by a Master's Student

I'm really interested in discovering the causes of and solutions for the under-utilization of mental health services by older adults - particularly those in rural areas and those who belong to racial or ethnic minorities. The KAHD Lab has provided some amazing opportunities for this. My research is mainly secondary data analysis, which makes it easy to turn projects around quickly, but means I have a *lot* of data and statistics in my life. I'm planning to do primary data collection for my dissertation, so we'll see how that goes!





Xinying Ang: Outstanding Thesis

My thesis examined the emotional experiences of detained adolescent offenders with different levels of callous-unemotional traits. Using a mixed-methods approach, I looked at different aspects of the youth's emotional experiences (e.g., emotion recognition, perceived emotional intensity and arousal associated with each emotional experience, beliefs pertaining to emotional expression and control of emotions, manipulation of emotions in others) and the themes from the narratives they shared. This was a valuable research experience which provided me with a deeper understanding of how callous-unemotional youth feel. I found that callous-emotional youth have some limitations in processing and experiencing fear, and prefer to contain their negative emotions (e.g., fear and guilt) from others.



**Congratulations
to all of the
award winners!**

Lindsay Greenlee: Outstanding Teaching by a Doctoral Student (Paul Siegel Teaching Award)



When I was an undergraduate student, I had some fantastic instructors that lead me to the career path I am on today. Hopefully, I can do that for some students too! I like interacting with the students and showing them that things like research methods and statistics are fun. To do that, I really try to use interesting research, both classic studies and new studies, to demonstrate concepts and get students to think critically about ideas.

When the students are interested in the topics, everyone, including me, has fun!





Students love Pam almost as much as the camera does!



Adriana, Meghann, Casey, and Morgan shower Kristy with love at her Baby Shower!



Robin shows off her ROLL TIDE spirit!



We are so thankful to have Mary Beth!



Students gather to congratulate Becca after a performance in The Nutcracker.



The Royal Family!

These Are a Few of Our *Favorite Things*



Feeling *smart*? Check out trivia nights at local bars. Mellow Mushroom on Tuesdays, Wilhagan's on Thursdays, and BW3's on Wednesdays!

Wondering what to do in and around Tuscaloosa? Bored with the same old routine? Well, you're in luck! Check out these great ideas from our graduate student body.

Feel like hitting the road? Go visit DeSoto State Park in Northern AL, the Gulf, Atlanta, New Orleans, or Nashville— on just one tank of gas!

Feeling *outdoorsy*? Go play at Lake Lurleen State Park, The Arboretum, The River Walk, Lake Tuscaloosa, or Sokol Park! There is a new dog park, for the canine-inclined. And the Farmer's Market is delicious!

Don't forget about Birmingham! Drive just an hour to enjoy a Baron's game, some hiking at Oak Mountain, music and drinks in the Lakeview District, or meet the nice folks at Good People Brewery!

Feeling a *song* coming on? Go hear some music at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater or Moody Music Hall. Or find a local band (like the Voodoo Saints) at the Bama Theater or Alcove!

(Check out next semester's first issue for an entire feature on all there is to do in and around Birmingham!)



Community Bulletin Board

A message from the PGSA: In the coming months, we will be welcoming applicants through our doors as they visit our department. We want to thank you all in advance for creating a warm, welcoming environment and for serving as great ambassadors of our graduate student body. You are what make this department a special place to work.

Starting next semester the Provost of Birmingham Southern College would like to start a program with UA who would like to get a taste of teaching at a liberal arts colleges. I will be designing a day in which we would spend meeting key members of the college (provost, deans, president, etc.) then we would split up and go to our respective departments to do either a job talk or a sample class. This is a great opportunity and could possibly lead to job positions to one of more of us. If you are interested in participating in one of these days please email Gabby Smith (gsmith71@crimson.ua.edu) with your anticipated graduation date, department, area of specialization and level of interest in liberal arts colleges.

March 8th is the Tuscaloosa Half Marathon and Fun Run benefitting The Kiwanis Club of Greater Tuscaloosa and ReadBAMARead. If you are looking for a great excuse to get active this spring, let's gather a great showing of Psychology students, staff, and faculty at this year's race. Registration found on <http://tuscaloosahalfmarathon.org>

The GAPS Conference is coming up quickly! Don't forget to submit your abstracts and posters to your concentration representative!

BIG NEWS!

- **Jerome Lewis** engaged to Annika Clark on October 6th
- **Melissa McInnis** engaged to Cody Brown
- **Gayle Graham**- getting married to Josh Faught on December 28th
- **Allyson Phillips**- daughter, Jordyn, born on July 1st
- **Caroline Titcomb** married to Scott Parrott, June 8th
- **Eric Greenlee**- summer internship at Wright Patterson Air Force base
- **Melike Eger & Ozgur Aydogmus** - wedding ceremony
- **McKensie Martin**- backpacked through Europe this summer
- **Dean Elmore**- engaged to Catherine Honeycutt, planning wedding for May
- **Wyley Shreves** got married to Mary Katherine Shreves on November 2nd
- **Patrick Ewell**- accepted and attended the Summer Institute of Social and Personality Psychology
- Kristie and **Grant Harris** welcomed Ripley Elaine Harris to the world!



Publications

Azuero, C. B., Allen, R. S., Kvale, E.A., Azuero, A., & Parmelee, P. (2013). Determinants of psychology service utilization in a palliative care outpatient population. *Psycho-Oncology* epub.

Conners, F.A., **Phillips, B.A.**, Rhodes, J.R., & Hamilton, J.C. (in press). Building a Regional Participant Registry for Research on Intellectual Disability. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

Glenn, A. L., **Johnson, A. K.**, & Raine, A. (2013). Antisocial Personality Disorder: A Current Review. *Current psychiatry reports*, 15(12), 1-8.

Hedge, K. A. & Brodsky, S. L. (2013). Student at the elbow: Graduate student observation of forensic assessments. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 44(4), 266.

McInnis, M.A., Pierucci, J.M., & Gilpin, A.T. (in press). Investigating valence autonomy in children's relationships with imaginary companions. *International Journal of Developmental Science*.

Parrott, C. T., Neal, T. M.-S., **Wilson, J. K.**, & Brodsky, S. L. (in press). Differences in expert witness knowledge: Do mock jurors notice and does it matter? *The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*.

Phillips, B.A., Loveall, S.J., Moore Channell, M., & Conners, F.A. (in press). Matching Variables in Down Syndrome Research: Leiter versus PPVT. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*.

Zakoscielna, K. M., Parmelee, P. A., and Lichtenstein, S. (in press) Perceptions of Staff Quality Improvement Training Needs Among Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Leadership. *Journal of Research in Nursing*

Awards

Jennifer Wilson-- American Psychology-Law Society Student Grant-in-Aid (Dissertation), 2013; American Academy of Forensic Psychology Dissertation Grant in Applied Law/Psychology, 2013

John Lochman—Year 2014 ABPP Distinguished Service Award to the Profession of Psychology.

December 2013

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Have an idea for a feature? Have some news to share? Want to write an article? Email your ideas and contributions to Morgan Eichorst (mkkiamy@ua.edu) and make the PGSA Newsletter your own!

*"The greatest discovery of
my generation is that
human beings can alter
their lives by altering their
attitudes of mind."*

- William James

