Many have said that the UA Psychology Department is a special place. It is a place of impressive learning and scholarship, but it is also a place where collegiality and mutual respect are so highly valued, they have become an important part of the Department’s identity. Thus, we have named our newsletter *Collegialis*, the Latin word for collegial. With this newsletter, we reach out to our current, past, and future psychology colleagues. Let us hear back from you!

-Fran Conners, Chair

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Psychology Honors Class of 2014 with their faculty mentors
Undergraduate Student News
by Molly Cory, Psi Chi President

As the number of undergraduate students in our program climbs to 1000, the Psychology Department is continuously progressing to accommodate the interests of its diverse student body. Our faculty and staff strive to foster student academic success and involvement in research, but the students themselves are central to the achievements within the undergraduate program.

Students have the opportunity to connect with faculty by serving as research assistants, with the potential for poster or paper authorship. As a result of their research efforts, in spring of 2015, 34 of our students presented at the UA Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, several of whom won awards for their work. Also throughout the past year, several students have presented at conferences around the country. Furthering student engagement in research, the Psychology Honors Program allows a select group of students to pair with a faculty mentor for a thesis project spanning each student’s junior and senior years. The senior class is investigating topics intersecting the realms of cognitive, clinical, developmental, health, and forensic psychology, in addition to geropsychology and neuroscience. These topics range anywhere from chronic pain in older adults to child anxiety disorders to religiosity of psychopaths.

Beyond research, the department offers peer advising, which allows experienced students to give to freshmen as class registration approaches.

Graduate Student News
by Gayle Faught, PGSA President

As usual, the graduate students are very busy this year! We have welcomed about 20 new students into the department this fall. Experimental students are working as research assistants on newly funded grants, while others are teaching their own classes. In addition to the above, clinical students are also working in clinical placements at the University and in the community. Fifteen clinical students are away on internships around the country this year, and we are very excited for them! As a group, we continue to participate in a host of academic activities throughout the year, including brown bags, clinical workshops, Dinoff, and Basowitz lectures. This past year’s brown bags included talks on publishing articles, book writing, and secondary data analysis, while clinical workshops included talks on sleep, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and suicide risk assessment. We were also very lucky...
**Psychology Research: The biology of misbehaving**

Dr. Andrea Glenn is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and has a joint appointment in the Center for the Prevention of Youth Behavior Problems. The goal of her research is to improve interventions for conduct problems in youth by making them more individualized based on biological information. Currently, there are several interventions that are known to be effective in reducing conduct problems. However, there is variability in how children respond, with some benefitting greatly, and others not showing any improvement. One reason may be that youth with conduct problems are a very mixed, or heterogeneous, group. Some kids may have conduct problems because they have difficulty inhibiting their impulses and tend to react aggressively to provocation, whereas other kids may act aggressively because they have trouble understanding the emotions of others and feel less empathy. These types of deficits have been associated with different underlying biological factors such as genetics and brain functioning. Dr. Glenn’s research focuses on identifying biological factors that cause some youth to respond poorly to interventions so that we might be able to develop alternative interventions that would work better.

In collaboration with Dr. John Lochman, Dr. Glenn has been examining how genetic factors may influence responses to an intervention program called Coping Power, which was developed by Dr. Lochman and colleagues at UA. Coping Power is a prevention program for late-elementary students exhibiting aggressive behavior. It focuses on teaching youth social and problem-solving skills and also involves parent training. Dr. Lochman recently led a study examining the effectiveness of two different versions of Coping Power – a group-based format, in which child sessions are conducted in group of 6-7 youth compared to an individual-based format in which sessions are administered individually. DNA samples were collected from the participants. Dr. Glenn and Dr. Lochman have conducted initial analyses, which indicate that the specific gene variants influence whether youth do better in the group- or individual-based form of the intervention. For youth who are carriers of one variant, the group-based intervention seems to be more beneficial; it may provide a needed opportunity to practice social skills. However, carriers of the alternate variant seem to do better in an individual setting; these youth may be more influenced by their peers, and putting them in a group with other aggressive youth may be problematic. Although these results are preliminary, they suggest that genetic information could be useful in determining which form of an intervention may work best for a particular child.

Dr. Glenn is also examining whether brain functioning may influence how youth respond to the Coping Power program. In collaboration with Dr. Cliff McKinney at Mississippi State University, Dr. Glenn is using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to examine brain functioning during processes that may be important for success in Coping Power – emotion recognition and tendencies to approach or avoid. Prior to beginning the intervention program, youth receive an MRI scan. The goal of the study is to determine whether different patterns of brain functioning predict which youth will benefit or not. For those who do not respond well, information about brain function may be useful in figuring out how to tailor the program to the specific needs of the subgroup. Although this study has the potential

*Continued on page 11*
Spotlight: Dr. Stan Brodsky
44 years impacting UA students’ lives
by Michelle Jones, current Brodsky graduate student

One of the preeminent names in the field of psychology and law, Dr. Stanley Brodsky has called The University of Alabama home for over 40 years. He began his collegiate education at the University of New Hampshire, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. He then earned a Master’s and Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Florida, studying under Dr. James Dixon. His first job was in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, where he served as a prison psychologist. After leaving Kansas, he began his career at UA.

Dr. Brodsky was one of the first members of the American Psychology-Law Society (a division of the American Psychological Association), co-chaired its first conference in 1974, and he continues to be an active and integral member (Grisso, 1991). He currently coordinates the Psychology and Law concentration of our Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program, which draws over 100 applicants each year and was one of the first programs of its kind in the country. He has mentored over 50 Ph.D. students who have gone on to have careers in a variety of academic and applied settings. Dr. Brodsky also has a passion for educating students and he teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses at UA. He often says that, professionally, he most values the close relationships he forms with colleagues and students, and he has maintained lifelong friendships with many of his past students.

Dr. Brodsky is the author or editor of fifteen books and approximately 250 articles and chapters, mostly in the psychology/law realm. His latest book, The Expert Expert Witness (Second Edition), was released in October, 2015. In addition to this work, he also has researched and written about therapy with criminal offenders (or other “reluctant” therapy clients), improving the quality of marriages, and the psychology of adjustment and well-being. Some of his most recent publications have discussed ethical dilemmas in conducting forensic evaluations, how jurors viewed a “hired gun” expert witness, and teaching trial consultation to graduate students.

Among other honors, Dr. Brodsky has been the recipient of the Distinguished Contribution Award for Outstanding Achievement in Forensic Psychology from the American Academy of Forensic Psychology, and the Award for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology and Law from the American Psychology-Law Society.

Here at UA, Dr. Brodsky directs the Witness Research Laboratory in the Department of Psychology and he maintains an independent practice in forensic and clinical psychology. With respect to research, Dr. Brodsky has carved out a specialty in the psychology of expert witness testimony; many in the field refer to his writings when they are preparing to testify in court. He also conducts seminars on this topic for mental health and other professionals. In addition, Dr. Brodsky offers trial consultation services. Through his private practice, Dr. Brodsky provides his doctoral students with the unique opportunity to observe and help conduct forensic psychological evaluations. This hands-on experience is invaluable to them as they consider career paths and prepare for life beyond UA.
Dr. Brodsky has served as a clinical supervisor to many second-year Ph.D. psychology students learning to conduct individual therapy. His guidance and skill have helped many students to develop and grow as therapists. He has gone above and beyond to share his knowledge in ways that will take students out of their comfort zone and push themselves to always do better. His dedication to both his students in the department, in clinical, class, or research settings, is unparalleled. Dr. Brodsky is someone who cares not only about the academic success of a student, but truly works to help students develop as people. He has been an inspirational model and mentor to many students that have been a part of this program.

In addition, Dr. Brodsky is a human encyclopedia of knowledge, often providing students and their families with tales from Alabama’s past and sometimes even serving as a tour guide when they first arrive in town. Dr. Brodsky also is a world traveler, often spending part of his summer in Australia and New Zealand. This past summer he spent time in Amish country and Iceland.


Note. Dr. Brodsky will be retiring in June, 2016. We will miss him terribly!

Best Office Staff Ever!

We have an amazing office staff! Every day they keep the ship running with skill and grace. L-R: Julie Davis, Administrative Specialist; Sue Rankin, Office Associate Senior; Robin Bonner, Office Associate Senior; Pam Lavender, Accounting Assistant; Kim Olin, Grant Specialist; Mary Beth Hubbard, Office Associate Senior.
Psychology Research:
Who likes a narcissist?

Dr. Will Hart is an Assistant Professor in Social Psychology interested in social cognition, with a focus on how people form and change evaluations, make decisions, and pursue goals. But he is also fascinated by narcissism. Over the past couple of years, he and his graduate students Alex Burton and John Adams have been trying to understand aspects of this trait. Although they have addressed multiple issues related to narcissism, one issue that they find particularly interesting is whether narcissists like other narcissists. On the one hand, it seems plausible to anticipate that narcissists, relative to non-narcissists, might show enhanced liking for narcissists because narcissists love themselves (a lot!) and therefore they should like others who are similar to themselves. On the other hand, it seems plausible to assume that narcissists might show reduced liking for other narcissists because (a) other narcissists are in competition for superiority and dominance (e.g., two “alphas” are bound to butt heads) and (b) narcissists tend to be more hostile and disagreeable and generally find people less likeable.

In an initial study designed to address this issue (Hart & Adams, 2014), college student participants completed a measure of trait narcissism (e.g., indicated agreement to items such as “If I ruled the world, it would be a better place”) and rated the likeability of people who possessed various narcissistic traits (e.g., arrogant, rude, self-centered, aggressive). The study revealed that narcissists – who are generally disagreeable and harsh individuals – rated others who possessed narcissistic traits more positively than non-narcissists. Dr. Hart’s research team was somewhat surprised by the finding, and planned a follow-up study to replicate the original effect and test for a possible boundary condition.

In the follow-up study (Adams, Hart, & Burton, 2015), Hart and his students reasoned that narcissists might like others’ narcissism more in theory than in practice. For example, narcissists might indicate greater liking for a person described as possessing narcissistic traits (i.e., like narcissism ‘in theory’), but they might not indicate greater liking for a person described as engaging in concrete manifestations of these very traits (i.e., not like narcissism ‘in practice’). To examine this idea, college-student participants completed a measure of trait narcissism and then were randomly assigned to rate the likeability of people who were described by either narcissistic traits (abstract-trait description condition) or behavioral manifestations of these traits (concrete-behavior description condition). Suggestive of the idea that narcissists like narcissists more in theory than in practice, results showed that narcissists (vs. non-narcissists) rated narcissistic others more positively in the abstract-trait description condition but rated narcissistic others more negatively in the concrete-behavior description condition. So in sum, if you find yourself wanting to impress a narcissist, it is ok to claim to be a narcissist but it is not ok to act like one.


As Beverly Thorn prepares to retire this August after 30 years at UA, her students and colleagues reflect on her legacy and the many ways in which she has touched people’s lives.

Bev completed her Ph.D. in Bio-Clinical Psychology in 1980 at Southern Illinois University. She spent 6 years on the faculty at Ohio State University in the Departments of Psychology and Clinical Medicine and served as the Coordinator of OSU’s Psychoeducational Clinic. She then moved to University of Alabama, where she has spent the rest of her career.

At UA, Bev served as Director of Clinical Training (DCT) from 1992 to 2007 and Department Chair from 2009 to 2014. While DCT, she was an active member of the Council of University Directors of Clinical Training Programs (CUDCP), of which she served as Chair for four years. Upon ending her term as DCT, CUDCP established the Beverly Thorn (“Thorny”) Award for Outstanding Service in Bev’s honor and awarding her as the inaugural recipient. The Thorny Award specifically commemorates Bev’s mentorship of other DCTs, especially other women DCTs.

Bev’s interest in studying pain has spanned her entire career. Her early research beginning in graduate school used rats as animal models for the study of pain and analgesia, and her dissertation examined the neuroanatomy of etorphine-induced analgesia and catatonia in rats. While at OSU, Bev’s research expanded to include a focus on pain and analgesia in humans and psychosocial treatments for chronic pain. Since that time, Bev’s research has focused increasingly on understanding and treating chronic pain, with a specific emphasis on cognitive factors related to pain, especially pain catastrophizing. Most recently, Bev’s work has focused on adapting psychosocial treatments for pain to disadvantaged populations such as racial and ethnic minorities, people with low literacy or educational attainment, low-income populations, and rural populations.

Currently, Bev is the lead researcher of a large community-based comparative effectiveness trial of psychosocial pain self-management adapted specifically for populations with low literacy in rural Alabama. The study targets demographic groups who are most impacted by pain and who most lack access to treatment. This study is

“Whenever you think of Bev, you most likely imagine her smiling, always bringing cheer and light into every interaction you have with her.”
supported by a grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), one of the latest of over 20 grants and contracts that have supported her work over the years.

Bev is author of over 70 published articles in peer-reviewed journals and 14 book chapters in addition to her 2004 book, Cognitive Therapy for Chronic Pain: A Step-by-Step Approach (which multiple former graduate students have noted seeing on the shelves of colleagues around the country). Bev is currently working on an updated second edition of her book.

In addition to her active research and clinical work, Bev has been active in professional service over the course of her career at the University, regional, and national levels. She served as a member of the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives as well as President of APA Division 38 (Health Psychology). She was Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Clinical Psychology and serves on the editorial boards of 5 other academic journals including Pain and Health Psychology.

Bev has mentored 29 graduate students and 7 postdoctoral fellows, and she takes the mentoring role seriously. Among her students, Bev is known for her genuine warmth and how much she cares about her students’ professional and personal development. Bev empowers her students to pursue their own research passions while sharing her own passion for chronic pain research. One former student commented, “She was truly an advocate for me and other students while I was at UA and her solid reputation continues to help me, as one of her students, as I move throughout my career.”

Amidst Bev’s professional and mentoring activities, she somehow still finds time to pursue her personal interests and health. Bev has a wonderful sense of humor and a heart for social justice and diversity issues. She enjoys local events such as 5K runs, half-marathons, and triathlons. Bev also enjoys yoga, meditation, hiking, traveling, spending time with her family, and her dogs, Bear and Earl.

Special thanks to Martha Combs, Julie Cunningham, Bill DeMonte, Shweta Kapoor, Anna Smitheman, and Calla Torres for their contributions!
Comings and Goings

New Faculty

Dr. Jennifer Cox. Jenni Cox joined the faculty in Fall 2014 after graduating from Texas A&M University. As a member of the Clinical Psychology Program’s Psychology-Law track, Jenni’s research focuses on psychopathic personality, juror decision making, and the use of assessment in the legal system. Jenni hails from Washington D.C. and, as a fan of the Washington Redskins and the Chicago Cubs, she has a good sense of humor. When she’s not working, Jenni is spending time with her husband and two young sons.

Mr. Craig Cummings. Craig Cummings has transitioned into his teaching position this fall from Auburn University’s Department of Psychology. He will complete his doctorate at the end of the semester. At Auburn he was a member of the Teaching Fellows Program (TFP), the TFP committee, and Head Graduate Teaching Assistant. While earning his doctorate Craig has taught 7 semesters of Introduction to Psychology and Drugs and Behavior. He, along with his wife, Leigh, and infant twins, Vivien and Walter, is overjoyed to have the opportunity to continue his academic career in our department.

Dr. Minjung Kim. Minjung Kim received her Ph.D. in 2012 from Texas A&M University and joined the department this fall as an Assistant Professor. Her research interests are quantitative research methods including multilevel modeling (MLM) and structural equation modeling (SEM). Specifically, she is interested in examining the impact of different forms of model misspecifications in MLM and SEM. Her current research focuses on developing and evaluating a relatively new research method, regression mixture modelling, which assesses differential effects of predictors on outcomes.

Dr. Ian McDonough. Ian’s research focuses how people use decision processes to encode and determine the accuracy of retrieved information and how these processes differ in old age. To better understand these processes, he uses a variety of different techniques including experimental manipulations of behavior, neuropsychological tests, and both structural and functional brain imaging. Outside of research and teaching, Ian enjoys running around with his dog, hiking, and kayaking. He also likes trying out new and unique activities—the most recent being indoor skydiving!

Dr. Wylie Shreves. Wyley Shreves took his first class in the Psychology Department in 2006, and in the intervening ten years he has earned his B.A. in Psychology and Political Science, his M.A. in Experimental Psychology, and his Ph.D. in Social Psychology. His research interests are in the area of social cognition. He is excited to give back to his home department by sharing his passion for Psychology with his students at The University of Alabama and through his joint appointment with UA Early College.
Dr. Andre Souza. Originally from Brazil, Andre earned his Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology at University of Texas in 2012. After post-docs at Concordia University and University of Texas, he joined UA’s Psychology faculty in fall 2014. Andre has an interest in technology and has worked with Samsung researching usability of their products. Although his position at UA focuses on teaching, Andre keeps research-active. Somehow he has managed to find more than 24 hours in a day!

Dr. Ted Tomeny. Ted received his Ph.D. in clinical child psychology from The University of Southern Mississippi in 2014 after an internship at Indiana University School of Medicine. He is interested in intellectual and developmental disabilities, particularly autism spectrum disorder (ASD). His work explores the functioning of families of individuals with ASD, identifying risk and protective factors for typically-developing siblings and caregivers. His lab also studies adults with ASD and ways of improving knowledge and treatment adherence/generalizability among low resource families in Alabama. Ted is thrilled to join this awesome department!

New Staff

Ms. Julie Davis. Julie joined the Psychology Department in summer 2014 as Administrative Specialist. She replaced Patti Thomas, who retired after 30-ish years in the department. Julie has worked for UA for 10 years, and Psychology is her third department. Julie and her husband, Kevin, have two children, Morgan - 21 and Kaitlyn - 14, as well as a 3-year old granddaughter, Elaina. She enjoys camping, boating and swimming in her off time, but her greatest passion is reading. She teaches Pre-school and Elementary children for Sunday School at church and helps with the youth group at times. Jeremiah 29:11 is her favorite verse. She says, “I strive to remember that God has a plan for us in everything we do.”

Ms. Kim Olin. Since graduating from UA in 1995 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Geography, Kim has had a diverse career including positions at the U.S. Forest Service, Corvallis, Oregon, Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, and Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG). In her position as an Environmental Planner with TARCOG she became familiar with the grant world and wrote several grants for communities across a five county region in North Alabama. In fall 2011 she joined UA as a Grant and Contract Specialist in the Office of Sponsored Programs where she worked with several different departments across campus with proposal submissions to various agencies. In 2014, she had the distinct pleasure of becoming the Grant Specialist for the Psychology Department where she has enjoyed assisting the faculty with proposal development, submissions, and award management.

Best wishes

These faculty and staff recently left the Psychology Department for new adventures:

Dr. David Boles. Dave Boles retired in spring 2014 after close to 15 years in the Psychology Department. Dave was in the cognitive concentration and taught physiological psychology and cognitive evolution, among other topics. He studied lateralization of cognitive function and human factors psychology. Along with his students, he established somewhat of a career pipeline to Air Force research. In his retirement, Dave is completing his cognitive evolution book and doing geneology research.

Dr. Natalie Dautovich. Natalie was an Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychology, in the Geropsychology Concentration from 2011 through 2015. She accepted a position in the Counseling Psychology Program in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University beginning in fall 2015. Natalie says she will miss
wonderful colleagues, students, and staff she had a chance to work with while at the University of Alabama and hopes to continue with these collaborations. However, the slightly cooler summers will be greatly appreciated!

Dr. Richard Mocarski. We were fortunate to have Richard for four years as our in-department grant specialist. Previously, Richard had worked in UA’s Office of Sponsored Programs. Graduate school called, however, and this gave the Psychology Department an opportunity to hire him part time to help us submit grant applications. An energetic bloke, he helped boost our funding portfolio. After earning his Ph.D. in Communication and Information Sciences, he accepted a position as Director of Sponsored Programs at University of Nebraska-Kearney, where he lives with his wife and two children.

Dr. Steve Prentice-Dunn. Steve Prentice-Dunn retired in spring, 2015 after over 30 years in the Psychology Department. Generations of graduate students cut their research teeth in his Research Methods class, and cut their teaching teeth in his Teaching of Psychology class. Steve has wasted no time in his retirement – he is enjoying traveling all over the country with his wife Laurie, experiencing all the natural beauty it has to offer. Don’t be a stranger, Steve!

Dr. Erica White. This summer, Dr. Erica White, a licensed Clinical Psychologist, started working in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System. She works at the Alvin C. York campus in Murfreesboro, TN, which is 30 minutes east of Nashville. As a member of a Behavioral Health Integration Team, she coordinates with Psychiatry, Social Work, Nursing, and Pharmacy to provide comprehensive mental health care to military veterans and their families. The opportunity to work within a multidisciplinary system in addition to training Psychology Interns, Post-docs and Residents is exciting. Though they live in the land of the MTSU Blue Raiders, there are plenty of Alabama fans in Tennessee! Roll Tide!

(Biology of Misbehaving, continued) to provide useful information about why some individuals respond better than others, ultimately it is not practical or cost-effective to conduct MRI scans on large numbers of youth prior to intervention. Dr. Glenn and Dr. Lochman are collaborating with Researchers from other universities to seek funding for a study to develop a battery of tasks that would serve as a proxy for brain functioning, which could help to determine the type of intervention that would be most effective for a particular child.

(Undergraduate Student News, continued) Many of our undergraduates are also involved in the student-run psychology honors society, Psi Chi, which inducted approx. 30 new members in the last academic year. Notably, Psi Chi raised over $700 for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in the spring. Psi Chi also obtained a $2000 grant to send eight of its members to the 61st Southeastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting, the first such accomplishment in its chapter’s history.

Our undergraduate program is in an exciting period of growth, and we look forward to seeing our students continue to achieve above and beyond in the coming years.

(Graduate Student News, continued) to see quite a few job talks this past year, which is great experience for our upcoming months on the job market. Of course, we continue to have personal lives full of engagements, marriages, and babies galore! We also continue to participate in many parties throughout the year, including field day and the annual tailgate. These events were huge hits last year, and the Psychology Graduate Student Association (PGSA) is planning for the upcoming semester in the hope they will be even bigger and better. There is already talk of bumping up the intensity of field day by including swimming races and of the tailgate by including corn hole tournaments. The PGSA (and graduate students more generally) is also working alongside faculty members to aid in graduate student recruitment this year, first by improving our department’s website and Facebook pages. We are looking forward to this year’s recruitment season!
Ways to Give to the Psychology Department

Ways to Give

Support the Psychology Gift Fund. This provides the most flexibility for the use of your gift.

Support an undergraduate scholarship
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- Basowitz Memorial Lecture
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1. Go to onlinegiving.ua.edu.
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Please contact Kathy Yarbrough, College of Arts and Sciences Director of Development, 205-348-0696 or kyarbrough@as.ua.edu.

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- Visit the department…and give a talk!
- Write an article for an upcoming newsletter
- Offer to organize a Psychology alumni event
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- Hire a UA psychology major
- Provide an internship for a UA psychology major