Greetings! This year, I would like to update you on two exciting new developments:

**Influx of new faculty:** Last year we had searches for three new faculty, but ended up recruiting five excellent members to the core research faculty in our department. We haven’t seen such real growth in our numbers for a long time and it is a testament to the central role our teaching and research plays on campus. See pages 2 and 3 in this newsletter, for details about profiles of the new faculty members. We also welcome Dr. Ruth Ellingson as a new clinical research professor who complements our clinical training of both graduate and undergraduate students.

**Influx of new centers:** Three new research centers were either formed within our department or joined forces with us during this last year. The Center for Digital Mental Health (Director: Nick Allen, https://www.c4dmh.net) supports research, and builds digital tools, to enhance mental health. The Center for Translational Neuroscience (Director: Phil Fisher, http://ctn.uoregon.edu) translates knowledge from basic neuroscience and applies it to improve well-being, promote resilience, and mitigate the effects of early adverse experiences. The Center for Brain Injury Research and Training (Director: Ann Glang, https://cbirt.org) devises resources for schools and families to help children with brain injury. Combined, they add significantly to our department’s research profile and our ability to translate basic science into real-world outcomes.

One late update, on a very sad note, our colleague and dear friend Professor Emerita Helen Neville passed away this October. For the department and the University, Helen was an extremely important and forceful presence. Helen was one of the most influential and visionary psychologists and neuroscientists of her time and she was honored by the William James Fellow Award from APS and a membership in the National Academy of Science. Helen is greatly missed. We have set up a tribute page if you’d like to share your memories and thoughts: https://psychology.uoregon.edu/neville-tribute/

Finally, if you are interested in a deep dive into everything that happens in our department check out our first ever “State of the Department” report that provides a detailed account of our activities and progress: https://tinyurl.com/ya7qx8y7.

As always, we welcome your comments as well as news about significant events or activities in your own lives. Please submit updates at the website (psychology.uoregon.edu/2016/08/19/alumni-updates), contact us by e-mail at newsletter@psych.uoregon.edu, or write to Elliot Berkman, our newsletter editor, at Department of Psychology, 1227 University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403-1227. You can also find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/uopsychology and on Twitter at @UOPsych.

Best wishes for the coming year!

Ulrich Mayr
Department Head
Alumni News

Carolyn Allard, alum of the dynamics lab (PhD, 2007) was just elected president of Division 56 (Trauma psychology) of APA. Congratulations Carolyn!

Jennifer Miner Weaver (BA, 2003) was recently tenured at Boise State University in the Department of Psychology. She is enjoying life with her husband (a fellow Duck) and their three beautiful children.

Marina Gross (BS, 2015) received a three-year NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2017) for her work at Washington University in St. Louis (in a PhD program). At this year’s Psychonomic Conference, she was awarded a travel and networking award by the Psychonomic Society & Women in Cognitive Sciences.

Steve J. Legallet (BS, 1981) writes that after 23 years of service as a Senior Mental Health Client Specialist for Santa Cruz County Children’s Mental Health, he is now providing psychotherapy services to the community as a Marriage & Family Therapist in Private Practice in Capitola, CA.

Alex Bies (PhD, 2017) will be starting as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Gonzaga University starting in the fall of 2018.

Jennifer M. Gómez (PhD, 2017) won a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine, the Trainee Award for the 2018 Summer Training Institute for Research in Child Abuse and Neglect funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and did program review for the clinical trial, Supporting Survivors and the Self: An Intervention for Social Supports of Survivors of Partner Abuse and Sexual Aggression funded by NIAAA. She has also presented her work with the Help Not Handcuffs non-profit at the United Nations Commission.

Welcome New Faculty

We are thrilled to welcome a record five new faculty members to our department this year!

The theme for this group is building on our strengths and extending in new directions. In the social-personality area, David Condon and Sara Weston add to our already strong personality group and bring new expertise in big data and health. In the cognitive-neuroscience area, Sarah Dubrow and Ben Hutchinson further strengthens the research in our department on memory, attention, and executive function and expands our repertoire of experimental and multivariate analytical tools. Kate Mills rounds out our expertise in developmental social neuroscience and adds knowledge and experience in open science and international collaboration.

David Condon

David Condon comes to the University of Oregon from Northwestern University where he was an Assistant Professor in the department of Medical Social Sciences. He is also a graduate of Northwestern, having received his PhD in Psychology in 2014. His research focuses on the measurement of individual differences across a wide range of psychological domains, including personality, cognitive ability, emotion, and engagement. Using large-scale data sets collected online, David’s research has led to the development of several new measurement tools and a more informed understanding of the ways that these psychological domains relate to one another. He is currently getting started on a new line of research funded by the National Institute on Aging to develop a mobile-phone based tool for measuring longitudinal changes in cognitive function. Condon says, “I’m most excited about the opportunity to join the vibrant and enthusiastic team of scientists at UO.” When he’s not on campus, he expects you’ll find him on the hiking trails around Eugene!

Sara Weston

Sara Weston was previously a postdoctoral fellow in the Medical Social Sciences department at Northwestern University. She received her PhD in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis in 2017. Her research focuses on the ways in which personality is associated with or influences health, especially through behavioral and emotional mechanisms. Sara is especially interested in the role of personality post-diagnosis, such as how people differ in their capacity and willingness to change their lifestyle and take responsibility for their health. Her work often takes a longitudinal perspective, for example, by examining how traits may serve as risk factors for health over decades or by charting idiographic responses to health symptoms over time. Sara has also committed herself to open and transparent science and is working to develop new tools to keep her own research open. Weston says, “I love the collaborative spirit of UO. Nearly every person I’ve talked to has inspired me to take my research to new and surprising places. I cannot wait to start new projects with my colleagues.”

Share Your Alumni Updates with Us!

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Sarah DuBrow

Sarah DuBrow comes to the University of Oregon from the Princeton Neuroscience Institute, where she was a postdoctoral researcher. She completed her PhD at New York University and undergraduate degree at Stanford University. Her research investigates how we learn the structure of our environments and how we use that structure to organize our memories and guide our decisions. Using behavioral and cognitive neuroscience techniques, she probes how the brain balances the need to maintain stable thought patterns while still being flexible enough to update when the world changes. Currently, she is investigating when and how the brain can support multitasking and what consequences it has for later memory. She will be teaching courses on the psychology and neuroscience of learning, memory and decision making. Sarah says, “I’m so excited to be joining this fantastic group of researchers and educators in a department with a long tradition of groundbreaking psychological science. I look forward to working with the innovative and forward-thinking students of UO to make discoveries about human learning.”

Ben Hutchinson

Ben Hutchinson comes to the University of Oregon from Northeastern University where he was an assistant professor of psychology. Before his time in Boston, he was a post-doctoral fellow at Princeton University and received his PhD from Stanford University. His research focuses on how our we are able to interact with our memories and how our memories guide our interactions with our world. Specifically, he uses a combination of behavioral and neuroimaging techniques to better understand how we might attend to information retrieved from the past, and how such information might guide the focus of attention in our visual world. He has previously taught courses on memory, cognitive neuroscience, and scientific programming and he will be teaching courses on cognition and neuroscience here at Oregon. Ben says, "I’m thrilled to join my new colleagues and interacting with the students here at U of O, particularly at a time when the department and the university are growing in such exciting new directions.”

Kate Mills

Former University of Oregon postdoctoral researcher Kate Mills has now joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor. Kate completed her PhD in neuroscience at University College London and undergraduate degree at Portland State University. She also received pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training in Dr. Damien Fair’s lab at Oregon Health and Sciences University, and is a former Research Associate at the Oregon Research Institute. Her research focuses on the intertwined social, biological, and cognitive processes that underlie the development of skills needed to navigate the social environment. A main goal of this research is to understand how the prolonged development of certain brain systems can facilitate cultural learning during childhood and adolescence. Her research combines longitudinal social network analytic approaches with laboratory and social environmental measures to understand how a child’s social environment affects the development of cognitive and behavioral strategies. Kate says, “I feel fortunate to be in a department with such excellent students and a progressive attitude towards open and reproducible science.”

Amanda Van Scyoc (PhD, 2016) is the recipient of a Visionary Grant from the American Psychological Foundation.
Psychology Grant News

The Psychology faculty submitted 20 grant applications covering a wide range of research topics over the 12 months and secured 8 new grant awards during the same period. The Department has 27 active research awards. Here are a few highlights from the past year’s successful grant submissions:

Nick Allen – Mobile Assessment for the Prediction of Suicide (NIH/NIMH) Suicide is the second leading cause of death among adolescents, and despite this pressing public health crisis, little is known about factors that confer imminent risk for suicide. However, recent advancements in mobile technologies afford the capacity to monitor known risk factors—including emotional distress, social dysfunction, and sleep disturbance. This research will leverage adolescents’ natural use of smartphone technology, along with advanced signal processing and computational modeling to identify promising short-term predictors of suicide among high-risk adolescents.

Elliot Berkman “Neural Signature of Craving” (NIH/NCI) In this project we will construct, validate, and share a neural signature of craving for cancer-promoting substances and test the extent to which this signature is general across substances and whether it is substance-specific. The outcome of this research will inform cancer control by (a) constructing, validating, and freely sharing a tool that can be applied to human functional neuroimaging data that quantifies a person’s experience of craving for a depicted substance without requiring an overt response from the person and (b) quantifying the similarity of the underlying neural encoding of craving for various cancer-promoting substances, thereby enabling translation of knowledge about craving across cancer control domains.

Jeff Measelle and Dare Baldwin collaboration with Mt. Saint Vincent’s University (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation). Thiamine deficiency in infants is a significant cause of premature albeit preventable mortality in SE Asia. Simple fortification of household salt could save thousands of lives annually. In this randomized clinical trial, nursing mothers will receive Thiamine supplements to determine the level of fortification needed to protect newborn infants. In addition to reducing mortality and morbidity, the project aims to follow families for six months after birth to determine whether Thiamine fortification also protects infants’ neurological, cognitive, and socioemotional development.
Graduate Student and Faculty Awards

**Faculty**

- **Jennifer Ablow** received a 2018 Incubating Interdisciplinary Initiatives (I3) award for a collaborative project with Elinor Sullivan from the UO’s Human Physiology Department.

- **Dare Baldwin** received a Faculty Excellence Award from the UO’s Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation.

- **Elliot Berkman** received the 2018 Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions from the Association for Psychological Science. Dr. Berkman also received the Excellence Award for Outstanding Mentorship in Graduate Studies from the UO Graduate School.

- **Sara Hodges** won the first annual Marjorie Taylor Art of Teaching Award from the department of psychology

- **Brice Kuhl** received a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award.

- **Maureen Zalewski** was named a 2017 Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science

**Graduate Students**

- **University General Scholarship:** Theresa Cheng, Jessica Flannery, Rita Ludwig

- **Grace Binion** received the Committee for an Inclusive Community’s Inclusivity and Diversity Award.

- **Theresa Cheng** received a TL1 year-long pre-doctoral training fellowship funded by NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

- **Brendan Cullen** received a 3-year Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

- **Sarah Donaldson** won the departmental 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition.

- **Jessica Flannery and Jessica Kosie** received a 2018-19 College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship.

- **Jennifer Lewis** received the 2017 Student Research Award from the International Society for the Improvement and Teaching of Dialectical Behavior Therapy.

- **Elizabeth Loi** received a Gary E. Smith Summer Professional Development Award.

- **Ben Nelson** received a 2018-2019 Graduate Student Research Grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

- **Dori Wright** received the Sandra Morgen Public Impact Fellowship from the Graduate School.

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Suzanne Dieringer ’76
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