



Psychology Newsletter



2 Years, 2 Grants, \$700,000

Research Funds for Marijuana- Anxiety Studies

In 2011, **Dr. Buckner** Assistant Professor of Psychology, received approximately \$235,000 in direct costs from the National Institute of Drug Abuse for an NIH Exploratory Developmental Research Grant (R21) to support a two-year long research project involving a series of studies aimed at identifying affective, cognitive, and situational predictors of marijuana use among users with and without elevated social anxiety.

This September the National Institute of Drug Abuse funded a grant for approximately \$466,000 in direct costs for a research study titled, "Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Cannabis Dependence with Co-occurring Anxiety Disorder."

Congratulations Dr. Buckner!

Science Award

The 2010 SAGE Science Award for Scholarly Contribution went to the neuropsychology laboratory of William Gouvier, for the dissertation project of Randee Booksh and coauthors Russel Pella and Ashvind Singh.

"Ability of College Students to Simulate ADHD on Objective Measures of Attention" published in the



Journal of
Attention
Disorders

Outstanding Faculty Awards

Dr. Hicks



Received the LSU Alumni Association Faculty Excellence Award recognizing him for outstanding teaching and research.

Dr. Lane



Received a Tiger Athletic Foundation Award for Undergraduate Teaching, recognizing him as outstanding teacher.

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Faculty Research

Clinical Psychology

Dr. Phillip Brantley



My primary area of research examines factors which moderate psychosocial adaptation and treatment adherence in individuals with chronic medical conditions including diabetes, hypertension, chronic pain and obesity.

Dr. Julia Buckner



Primary focus concerns understanding the nature and treatment of anxiety disorders, with a particular interest in the relations between anxiety and addictive behaviors.

Dr. Alex Cohen



My laboratory focuses on understanding how emotional and neuro-cognitive abnormalities contribute to social dysfunction in schizophrenia.

Dr. Amy Copeland



My research interests focus on cognitive and affective variables in substance use initiation, maintenance, cessation, and relapse.

Dr. Thompson Davis



My research interests focus on the assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders in children, adolescents, and young adults. In particular, my work has been on the phenomenology, etiology, assessment, and treatment of specific phobias.

Dr. William Drew Gouvier



Neuro-psychological assessment, treatment, and forensic issues are the primary focus of research in our research laboratory.

Dr. Mary Lou Kelley



My research has focused on the behavioral assessment and treatment of children and adolescents. Topics of interest have included ADHD, home and school interventions for children with externalizing problems, and the psychological effects of violence exposure.

Dr. Johnny Matson



My interests have focused on the field of intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders. Using a behavioral/biological approach, my research has ranged from teaching social skills to the evaluation of side-effects of psychotropic medications.

Biological Psychology

Dr. Alan Baumeister



My research focuses on developments in psychiatry during the first half of the 20th century, including the psychopharmacology revolution of the 1950s.

Dr. Paula Geiselman



Relationships among acute fat and other specific macronutrient intake, fat preference, and habitual levels of dietary fat intake in men and pre- and post-menopausal women with and without exogenous

Dr. Mike Hawkins



My research focuses on historical developments in neuroscience and on the neuroanatomical and neuropharmacological systems which regulate stress responding in animals.

Faculty Research

Cognitive/Developmental Psychology

Dr. Melissa Beck



The research in my laboratory focuses on understanding the cognitive processes involved in the perception of a complete and continuous visual world.

Dr. Katie Cherry



Cognitive aging, especially memory processes in healthy older adults; Memory interventions for cognitively-impaired older adults; Interdisciplinary studies of healthy aging.

Dr. Emily Elliott



My research focus includes the areas of short-term memory and working memory, and also the interaction of attention with memory performance.

Dr. Jason Hicks



I focus on encoding and retrieval in long-term memory, especially in source memory. Decision processes in memory retrieval is an emphasis. Prospective memory—memory for intentions—is also a focus.

Dr. Sean Lane



The general goal of my research program is to understand how memory and cognitive processes are deployed in complex real-world events.

Dr. Robert Mathews



My research focuses on applying cognitive science to enhance learning. Several projects in my lab involve experiments on ways to integrate experiential (hands-on learning) with reflective (theory based) knowledge.

Dr. Megan Papesh



My lab focuses on investigating human perception and memory, using converging techniques to study multiple, interrelated phenomena.

Dr. Janet McDonald



My research is done within the field of psycholinguistics. I am specifically interested in first and second language acquisition, bilingualism, and language comprehension.

School Psychology

Dr. Frank Gresham



My research interests involve the use of data-based decision making in the schools using a problem solving model of consultation for children and youth experiencing academic and social behavioral difficulties.

Dr. George Noell



My work focuses on Interventions for young children (ages 2-12 years), at-risk children, and children with disabling conditions. My team works with challenging behaviors, academic problems, and social/adaptive behavior concerns exhibited by children.

Dr. Tyler Renshaw



My inquiries are broadly devoted to enhancing the well-being of students and their caregivers in school settings. I am especially interested in population-based approaches to service delivery and non-traditional paradigms for approaching assessment and intervention in the schools.

Current Graduate Students

Clinical Psychology

Dr. Julia Buckner:

Ecker, Anthony

Dr. Alex Cohen:

Callaway, Dallas

MacAulay, Rebecca

Morrison, Sean

Najolia, Gina*

McGovern Jessica

Brown, Laura*

Auster, Tracey

Dr. Amy Copeland:

Waldo, Krystal Kleabir

Shah, Sonia

Peltier, MacKenzie

Proctor, Steven Lee

Vinci, Christine

Kinsaul, Jessica

Silgado, Jose

Dr. Thompson Davis:

Whiting, Reanna Sara

Kirkpatrick, Megan

May, Anna

Noack, Franziska

Jenkins, Whitney*

Munson, Melissa

Rudy, Brittany Moree*

Dr. William Drew Gouvier

Barker, Alyse

Musso, Mandi*

Ory, Justin

Proto, Daniel

Dr. Mary Lou Kelley:

Aikins, Jamarri

Raines, Christine

Harbin, Shannon

Cosgrove, Seandra

Harrison, Katherine

Thompson, Julia

Corwin, Caleb

Scheithauer, Mindy

Geary, Meghan Ann*

Schexnauldre, Mark

Ashwill, Morgan

Walls, Valerie Fine

Grant, Stephanie

Adams, Leah*

Kreiger, Blair Burke

Dr. Johnny Matson:

Turygin, Nicole

Tureck, Kimberly

Rieske, Robert

Belva, Brian

Sipes, Megan*

Macmillan, Katherine

Cervantes, Paige

Konst, Matthew

Goldin, Rachel

Adams, Hilary

Horovitz, Max Aaron*

Jang, Jina

Mahan, Sara

Kozlowski, Alison*

Fitzgerald, Mary Shoemaker*

Neal, Daniene

Hattier, Megan

Beighley, Jennifer

Williams, Lindsey

Biological Psychology

Dr. Alan Baumeister:

Lee Pow, Joni

Henderson, Kristopher

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Currently supervised by

Dr. Jason Hicks

Taylor, Claire*

Trout, Rachel

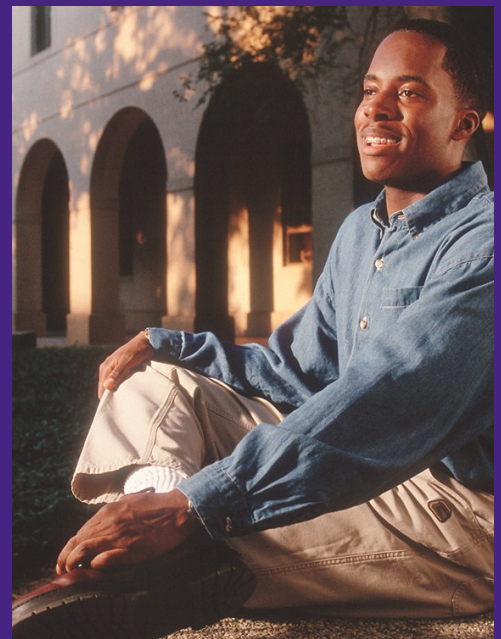
Lowery, Byron Shane

Currently supervised by

Dr. Emily Elliott

Booth, Suzanne

*currently on Internship



Current Graduate Students

Cognitive/Developmental Psychology

Dr. Melissa Beck:

Goldstein, Rebecca

Ericson, Justin

Van Lamsweerde, Amanda

Cornett, Dillon

Dr. Katie Cherry:

Lyon, Bethany

Dr. Emily Elliott:

Harris, Joseph

Lutfi-Proctor, Danielle

Briganti, Alicia

Dr. Jason Hicks:

Franks, Bryan

Dr. Sean Lane:

Butler, Leslie Ann

Martin, Stephanie Groft

Vieira Kathleen

Karam, Tanya

Dr. Robert Matthews:

Ledet, Patrick Lingenfelter

Tall, Jonathan

Acklin, Dina

Dr. Janet McDonald:

Horn, Rebecca

Seidel, Christy

School Psychology

Dr. Frank Gresham

Olinger, Rachel

Minor, Lisa Libster

Hartman, Kelsey

Fischer, Aaron

Collins, Tai*

Robichaux, Natalie

O'Leary, Kristen

Dart, Evan*

Hunter, Katherine

Corwin, Emily Patty

Dr. George Noell

Harris, Meredith

Schafer, Michael

Baker, Elise

Barahona, Carolyn

Mevers, Joanna Lomas*

Alvarez, Jessica Schuh-

Claus

Miller, Sarah

Dr. Jeffrey Tiger

(Former LSU Faculty Member)

Kliebert, Megan



*currently on Internship

Undergraduate News

Georgia Shaheen

Over my time at LSU, this wonderful university has given me the opportunity to pursue a career I truly enjoy. Currently, I am graduating with my bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Business Administration this fall. I plan to pursue my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, specifically in child and adolescent anxiety. I have spent the last couple years as a research assistant in Dr. Drew Gouvier's lab and Dr. Thompson Davis's lab. Each lab has provided me with different areas of study, Dr. Gouvier's lab being a neuropsychology lab, and Dr. Davis's lab performing research in child anxiety and specific phobia in the Child Assessment Clinic. These two opportunities have equipped me with numerous valuable skills that you simply aren't given in the classroom. Today, just taking the required classes isn't enough to get you into the competitive realm of graduate school. As I apply to graduate school a large aspect of what graduate schools are looking for is research experience. Most faculty members in the Department of Psychology offer research assistant positions to undergraduate students. For me, it has been the most helpful in my journey towards graduate school and I am very thankful for the experience that I have received.



The Psychology Club

The Psychology Club encourages undergraduate psychology majors and minors to make use of the great resources provided by the organization. Not only does the Psychology Club provide information and advice on furthering your education beyond the undergraduate level, the officers also organize professional guest speaker events, help you build peer networks and get involved on campus and with the community.



Amanda Davis, current president, is working on her undergraduate Degree in Psychology and Criminology. While she is planning her application to a graduate program in School Counseling, she has recently joined Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, the only Multicultural Sorority in the state of Louisiana, has been a member of the Psychology Club for over three years and is now serving as its President. What she enjoys most about her role as president, is to "have conversations with people who have similar academic and professional goals outside of just class."

If you are interested in joining the Psychology Club or need more information, please contact Amanda Davis at psichi@lsu.edu.

Graduate News

Gina Najolia



Gina Najolia is a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. student at Louisiana State University who is currently doing her internship at Western State Hospital. To her, the site is a perfect match, in that it matches her interests in forensics and serious mental disorders, while allowing her to make use of her legal background.

Her experience at Western State Hospital:

“Not only is it a great training opportunity, but it happens to be located in a very scenic part of the country--Tacoma, WA, on the Puget Sound. The hospital was originally opened in 1871, and is set on a beautiful campus.

In addition, one of my three rotations will be spent providing therapy and conducting assessments at the Special Commitment Center, a separate facility located on McNeil Island that provides treatment to approximately 300 individuals who have been civilly committed as sexually violent predators following completion of their prison sentences. Right now, I'm on my first rotation, where I am receiving supervision in (i) conducting evaluations and preparing petitions for civil commitment for individuals who are transitioning out of the forensic center but who may require continued inpatient treatment, and (ii) providing various group therapies for civilly committed residents as part of an integrated program based on social learning principles (including implementation of a token economy), aimed at teaching residents the skills necessary to become productive members of the community upon discharge.

My third rotation will be with the forensic team, and will consist of evaluation of individuals referred by the criminal court system for determination of issues related to competency to stand trial and/or mental state at the time of the offense.”

Gina Najolia is hoping to obtain a post-doc position at a similar site, allowing her to focus more heavily on research activities.



Graduate News

Tai Collins

Tai Collins is a School Psychology Ph.D. Student at LSU and is currently pursuing an internship at Fort Worth Independent School District, a district that encompasses 80,000 students in 83 elementary schools, 28 middle schools, 14 high schools, and 17 special campuses. Tai appreciates that “the internship site is very flexible, as interns are able to tailor their experience and work with specific populations. Also, there are school psychologists from many different backgrounds within the district, so interns are able to develop their skills without having to conform to a particular assessment or counseling style.”

He is planning on defending his dissertation on “Reciprocal Peer Mentoring, which uses peers as mentors to increase the social skills of students who are socially neglected” in the next couple months. Being passionate about students who have internalizing behavior problems Tai Collins believes that his research will help to develop an intervention that is feasible and effective in schools, and hopes to be able to continue this pursuit as a prolific researcher in the field of school psychology as a faculty member at a university.



Dr. Arlene Gordon-Hollingsworth

Dr. Arlene Gordon-Hollingsworth is a LSU Alumni, who graduated in 2011. She is currently conducting her second year of postdoc at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry under Golda Ginsburg. She is working on three grants that investigate prevention and treatment of child anxiety and plans to pursue a position in academia following completion of her postdoc. Her interests include mental health care disparities and dissemination of evidenced based treatments for children with anxiety and other internalizing disorders.

She states that her degree from LSU has given her the tools to succeed in the field of psychology, as she feels she is able to efficiently apply learned knowledge and skills in both research and clinical settings, which she attributes to LSU’s respected, evidenced-based training model.

Staff Corner

Questions? Concerns? Need information?

The LSU Psychology Department Staff is there for you.

Feel free to stop in, most offices are located on the second story of Audubon Hall and people will be glad to help you.

Ms. Nancy Arnold

Graduate Coordinator

Graduate School can be rather challenging, which makes us quite fortunate to have somebody we can rely on when it comes to the bureaucratic aspects of it. Whether there is an upcoming deadline, paperwork is incomplete or a document was signed in blue rather than black ink, we know that Ms. Nancy will inform us and make sure we are on the right track so that everything will run smoothly. If you are a graduate student or in the process of applying to one of LSU Psychology Graduate Programs, Ms. Nancy is or will be one of your most important resources.

While taking care of us, Ms. Nancy is also working on her Bachelor's Degree in General Studies, minoring in history, anthropology and religious studies - a personal dream of hers. Despite all her responsibilities, she has an open door policy and if you need something, even if it is just a smile or some words of encouragement, she will make time for you.

Thank you Ms. Nancy!



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