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PSYCHOLOG^e-MATTERS

A DIGITAL NEWSLETTER FROM
THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AT UW-MADISON



Mark your calendar for the celebration of all things UW! [Day of the Badger](#) is back March 28-29 and we're rallying alumni, friends, and supporters throughout Badger nation to make a difference in the lives of UW-Madison students. Your support for the Department of Psychology will help us increase award recognition of our exceptional undergraduates, provide students with career development services and resources to help them thrive professionally, and enable us to hire more faculty to meet the needs of our growing student population (indeed, Psychology is the [4th fastest-growing major](#) at UW-Madison!). Let's do this!



“A fundamental assumption of the way I approach intergroup relations is this idea that people sometimes are living in very distinct realities, not just from what they read, but from their experience, from the power that they have,” Professor Demis Glasford says. “So when you bring them together, they may disagree, but sometimes **the way they’re actually seeing the same thing is fundamentally different.**”

Glasford, who joined the UW-Madison Psychology faculty in the fall of 2022, will lead research on intergroup relations, social change, and the experiences of racial, ethnic and religious minority groups through his INSPIRE Lab. [Read more about his work here.](#)



“This long expanse in the middle [of life] really hadn’t been systematically studied, so **we went after what is happening in these middle years, which are a profoundly important time in life,**” says psychology professor and director of the UW–Madison Institute on Aging Carol Ryff. “That’s when people are in high gear in terms of family life, work life, citizenship, and roles in their communities.”

This Midlife in the U.S. study examines the factors that contribute to illness and disease, but it also investigates the protective factors that keep people healthy when they experience adversity. And NIH is on board, providing \$62 million to support the study’s next six years of research. [Read more about MIDUS here.](#)



With graduation less than two months away, we're **celebrating this year's graduates** with a feature on a few of our remarkable students - Alex Beckerman, Anotnina Brandt, and Briley Rossiter - [here](#).

We work to prepare our students for flourishing lives, and you can be a part of that, too! **Sign up to participate as a mentor** to a Psychology student in the [Career Conversations](#) program. As a mentor, you'd meet with a student to share your professional journey, insider perspective, and career guidance. You can make a difference for a fellow Badger!



Spring semester has everyone thinking about what's next, so it's no surprise that the Psychology PhD Panel drew a standing-room-only crowd in February. Facilitated by psychology major and communications intern Megan Wu (far right), the event brought together faculty and graduate students from various psychology fields to share their experiences with undergraduates considering a doctoral degree.

From events like these to the upcoming [Student Thesis and Research Showcase](#), **get a peek into the life of our vibrant Department** [here](#).



Rebecca M. Blank, an economist and educator who served in high-level U.S. government and academic positions and, for nine years, as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, died of cancer Feb. 17 near Madison, Wisconsin. She was 67.

During her tenure at UW–Madison, from 2013–2022, Blank focused on improving educational outcomes and the student experience, further elevating the university’s world-class faculty and placing the university on firm financial footing through a combination of private fundraising and inventive strategies.

She was known for her direct style, quick analysis and dry sense of humor, all while leading one of the country’s top public research universities through a complex political period and a devastating global pandemic. Read more [here](#).



Charles T. Snowdon, Hilldale Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, died Jan. 8 at UW Hospital in Madison at age 81.

A phenomenal scientist, dedicated teacher and leader in comparative psychology and primatology, Snowdon’s contributions as mentor and friend were felt by the great many people to whom he brought wisdom, humor and unfailing support.

“His leadership and positive impacts on department climate and the wellbeing of students, staff and faculty were transformative and remain deeply valued,” says Allyson Bennett, professor of psychology and department chair.

Read more about Professor Snowdon’s impact on the primatological community and his students [here](#).



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