

JUNE 2018

College of Letters & Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison

UW Psychology Update

NEWS FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



Greetings from the Psychology Department!



I am writing this column in my role as Director Alumni Relations, with the goal of keeping alumni informed and engaged with the exciting new developments in the Psychology Department.

Earlier this year, we sent emails to 1,000 of our alumni (a random sample from more than 16,000 Psychology alumni total), with a link to a brief online survey. There was an incentive for responding: entry into a raffle for 2 tickets to a Badger football game. They were won by Kate Short-Meyerson, and they are beautiful seats, on the 50-yard line. Thanks to Mark Laufman, Chair of the Psychology Board of Visitors, for donating the tickets.

We had two initial findings. First, alums had ideas about what they wanted to see in this newsletter, and you will see those ideas reflected in the newsletter. A favorite topic is new research findings from UW Psychology faculty. We hope the research updates in this newsletter can contribute to your lifelong love of learning. We also learned about how useful a Psychology degree is for you, whether you go on to a career in Psychology or some other field.

A PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE IS SO USEFUL!

Here is just one of the reflections from alumni, *"I deal with co-workers, customers, consumers, advocates, state, local and federal employees every day in my job...The knowledge and skills I gained play an important role in how I deal and work with a diverse group of people. Thank you!!!"* A Psychology degree is so useful and enriches careers in so many ways.

Above all, we want to connect with our Psychology alumni! We hope that these newsletters keep you up to date.

Join us for Psychology Alumni Weekend in conjunction with Homecoming. The event in October, 2017, was lots of fun and included a tailgate at my house before the football game. **The next Psychology Alumni Weekend will be October 19-20, 2018. Mark your calendars now!** Organize a group of friends from your class to attend together. And as always, feel free to contact me by email or phone with any questions or ideas you have.

On Wisconsin Psychology!

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Janet Hyde's recent research?

"Men Are From Earth, Women Are From Earth: The Science of Gender Differences and Similarities"

is the title of the talk presented at the May 2018 Association for Psychological Science convention. Dr. Hyde was awarded the prestigious James McKeen Cattell Fellow Award by APS for a lifetime of outstanding contributions in the area of applied psychological research. Below is a sample of her many research contributions.

<https://news.wisc.edu/analysis-gender-differences-in-depression-appear-at-age-12/>



What's New? Psychology Research Updates



We heard the request from alumni for easy access to recent research in the UW Psych Department. Click on the links below and learn about some of the interesting research contributions by our faculty and students (and this will not be on an exam!).

Jared Martin: What does a smile mean?
<https://news.wisc.edu/they-grin-you-bear-it-research-reveals-physical-impact-of-a-smile/>

Bas Rokers: Why are Some Brains Blind to Moving Objects?
<https://news.wisc.edu/some-brains-are-blind-to-moving-objects/>

Karen Schloss: How can you use color to communicate a clear message?
<https://news.wisc.edu/when-communicating-with-color-balance-can-be-a-path-to-accuracy/>

C. Shawn Green: What are the cognitive effects of video games?
<https://neurosciencenews.com/cognitive-function-video-games-2794/>

Mark Seidenberg: “Language at the speed of sight”. Check out the book site here:
<https://seidenbergreading.net/>

Jenny Saffran: How can a cat make it harder for children learning new words?
<https://news.wisc.edu/here-is-how-a-cat-can-hinder-children-learning-new-words/>

Carol Ryff: “There are no shortcuts. To get to old age, one has to steer through midlife”
<https://news.wisc.edu/telling-the-tale-of-midlife-in-the-united-states/>

Seth Pollak: Does childhood stress increase risk taking behavior? <https://news.wisc.edu/gambling-against-the-odds-on-lifes-risks-more-common-after-childhood-stress/>

Brad Postle: Can Magnetic Brain Stimulation Bring Back Memories?
<https://news.wisc.edu/magnetic-brain-stimulation-can-bring-back-stowed-memories/>

Trish Devine: Is this how discrimination ends?
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/05/unconscious-bias-training/525405/>

Maryellen MacDonald & Elise Hopman: How can talking make you better at listening to foreign languages? <https://news.wisc.edu/how-talking-more-can-make-you-better-at-listening-to-foreign-languages/>



The Wisconsin Idea in Action: Taking the UW Beyond the Campus Borders



Psychology Faculty bringing the UW to Wisconsin communities:

C. Shawn Green provided talks on “Does Brain Training Really Work?”, “The Surprising Benefits of Video Game Play on Cognitive Abilities”, and “Video Game Addiction: Facts, Fiction, and What Parents Need to Know”

[Link to his talk on "What Video Games Do to Brain Function"](#)

[Link to his video "The Effects of Action Video Games on Vision"](#)

Paula Niedenthal provided talks on “What are Emotions Good For?” & “The Science of the Smile” for the Mercer Library, the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative in Sauk City, and at the Whitewater Public Library.

Check out her website: <https://www.niedenthalemotionslab.com/>

Bas Rokers provided a talk for the Lion’s Club of Beaver Dam on “Don’t believe your eyes: What visual illusions can tell us about how the brain works”. Check out his website:

<http://psych.wisc.edu/vision/research.php>

This is just a sample of faculty talks for communities in Wisconsin. You can request a UW speaker for your community! Check out this website for speakers and topics: <https://speakers.wisc.edu/>

Did you know you can access FREE resources on stress, mindfulness, compassion and neuroscience? UW Psychology Professor Richard Davidson’s Center for Healthy Minds shares a wealth of information.

Check out the site:

<https://centerhealthyminds.org/news>

Did you know the Psychology Department website has a wealth of information on faculty research? You can find published articles and information on the exciting research being conducted in the department. Check out the site:

<https://psych.wisc.edu/>

Congratulations 2018 Graduates!

We have a warm appreciation for all our graduates & welcome you to our community of active alumni.



STAY CONNECTED!

On Facebook: UW-Madison Dept of Psychology
On Twitter: @uwpsych
On LinkedIn: UW-Madison Psychology Alumni

How to Support Wisconsin Psychology?

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