DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS PROGRAM

2020-2021
Congratulations from the Chair

Craig Berridge  
Psychology Department Chair

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate our undergraduate award winners! Our department is unique in the extent to which undergraduates participate directly in research. Each semester hundreds of students work in the laboratories of world-renowned psychological scientists, helping to move our understanding of Psychology forward. These students make important contributions to our understanding of human growth and development, the origins and treatment of behavioral dysfunction and how the brain supports healthy human behavior and the brain bases of healthy human behavior and behavioral dysfunction.

As you know, your participation in research has provided training experiences that one cannot get from a classroom. This includes a deep understanding of the complexity of research observations. In approaching this complexity, you have had to utilize experimental design, statistical analysis and critical thinking tools you learned about in your courses. This learn-by-doing is essential for strengthening your mastery of these tools. Your training has provided you the skills needed to break down complex issues into their component parts, identify gaps in our understanding and design a path forward for filling these gaps. Lastly, you have refined your communication skills to share what you have learned. Collectively, these are skills that are in demand widely in our society and will serve you well, no matter which career path you choose.

Your success in the lab is a testament to your hard work, talent and dedication to psychological science. I am very pleased that we have the opportunity to celebrate your success and I am thankful for the generosity of our alumni donors who make these awards possible.
Bryan’s Aspiring Psychology Student Award

About the Award

This award is intended to acknowledge students’ excellent work as a UW-Madison student and to encourage these students to take the next steps toward achieving their academic and career goals in the psychology department. Bryan’s Aspiring Psychology Students have declared the Psychology major in the past academic year, and have the top GPAs among their peers. Bryan encouraged these students, through a personal letter he wrote to the recipients, to join a department research lab, consider honors courses and our honors in the major curriculum/program. Many have taken Bryan’s advice and are thriving students with big plans for the future.

About the Donor: Bryan Hendricks

Bryan Hendricks was a beloved Lecturer in the Psychology Department who passed away in 2013 shortly after his retirement. He was always known as Bryan to his students. After receiving his PhD, Bryan taught for 31.5 years at UW-Colleges in Wausau. Subsequently he joined the Psychology department as a Lecturer at UW-Madison. He specialized in the entry level courses: Introductory Psychology, Psychological Statistics, and Experimental Psychology PSY 225 (now Research Methods). He thrived working with bright, ambitious, and energetic students. During his time at UW-Madison, Hendricks made an impact on so many Psychology undergraduates. Through his substantial gifts and the creation of an endowed fund, the Department of Psychology has granted hundreds of awards in Bryan’s honor.

Bryan’s Aspiring Psychology Student Award Recipients

Samantha Bebel

Samantha Bebel is a sophomore from Thousand Oaks, California. Samantha is double majoring in Psychology and Neurobiology. On campus, Samantha is a member of Dr. Lixin Rui’s lab, general chemistry lab assistant, athletic department tutor, SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital volunteer, member of the professional development committee of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society, content editor for the Journal of Undergraduate Science and Technology, cancer education and advocacy chair for Relay for Life, counselor for Camp Kesem, member of Chi Omega, and member of the Chabad Jewish Student Association. Samantha is planning on attending medical school after graduation, with the aspiration of becoming a surgeon.

Maddie Bergstrom

Maynie Bradley is a sophomore from Marinette, Wisconsin, majoring in Journalism and Psychology, with a certificate in Textiles and Fashion Design. On campus, Maddie is the section editor and managing editor for Her Campus Wisconsin. After graduation, Maddie hopes to get into print journalism writing about topics that she loves, such as mental heath and politics.

Lydia Bliss

Lydia Bliss is a sophomore from Middleton, Wisconsin. She is majoring in Psychology and pursuing certificates in Health and the Humanities, and Public Policy. On campus, Lydia is the Notetaking Payment and Hiring Coordinator at the McBurney Disability Resource Center, Communications Chair of Psychology Club, and is on the Mental Health Services Student Advisory Board.

Samantha Bebel is a sophomore from Thousand Oaks, California. Samantha is double majoring in Psychology and Neurobiology. On campus, Samantha is a member of Dr. Lixin Rui’s lab, general chemistry lab assistant, athletic department tutor, SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital volunteer, member of the professional development committee of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society, content editor for the Journal of Undergraduate Science and Technology, cancer education and advocacy chair for Relay for Life, counselor for Camp Kesem, member of Chi Omega, and member of the Chabad Jewish Student Association. Samantha is planning on attending medical school after graduation, with the aspiration of becoming a surgeon.

Maddie Bergstrom

Maynie Bradley is a sophomore from Marinette, Wisconsin, majoring in Journalism and Psychology, with a certificate in Textiles and Fashion Design. On campus, Maddie is the section editor and managing editor for Her Campus Wisconsin. After graduation, Maddie hopes to get into print journalism writing about topics that she loves, such as mental heath and politics.

Lydia Bliss

Lydia Bliss is a sophomore from Middleton, Wisconsin. She is majoring in Psychology and pursuing certificates in Health and the Humanities, and Public Policy. On campus, Lydia is the Notetaking Payment and Hiring Coordinator at the McBurney Disability Resource Center, Communications Chair of Psychology Club, and is on the Mental Health Services Student Advisory Board.

Bryan’s Aspiring Psychology Student Award Recipients

Samantha Bebel

Samantha Bebel is a sophomore from Thousand Oaks, California. Samantha is double majoring in Psychology and Neurobiology. On campus, Samantha is a member of Dr. Lixin Rui’s lab, general chemistry lab assistant, athletic department tutor, SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital volunteer, member of the professional development committee of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Honor Society, content editor for the Journal of Undergraduate Science and Technology, cancer education and advocacy chair for Relay for Life, counselor for Camp Kesem, member of Chi Omega, and member of the Chabad Jewish Student Association. Samantha is planning on attending medical school after graduation, with the aspiration of becoming a surgeon.

Maddie Bergstrom

Maynie Bradley is a sophomore from Marinette, Wisconsin, majoring in Journalism and Psychology, with a certificate in Textiles and Fashion Design. On campus, Maddie is the section editor and managing editor for Her Campus Wisconsin. After graduation, Maddie hopes to get into print journalism writing about topics that she loves, such as mental heath and politics.

Lydia Bliss

Lydia Bliss is a sophomore from Middleton, Wisconsin. She is majoring in Psychology and pursuing certificates in Health and the Humanities, and Public Policy. On campus, Lydia is the Notetaking Payment and Hiring Coordinator at the McBurney Disability Resource Center, Communications Chair of Psychology Club, and is on the Mental Health Services Student Advisory Board.
Allison Block
Allison Block is a junior from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is majoring in Psychology and Biology. Allison works in the Social Behavioral and Development Lab with mentors Quanfa He and James Li. On campus, Allison is involved with Badger Volunteers and Badger Yogis. In the future, Allison hopes to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy.

Isa Butz
Isa Butz is a sophomore from Greenfield, Wisconsin. She is majoring in Psychology and Neurobiology, with certificates in Health and the Humanities, Biocore, and LGBTQ+ Studies. On campus, Isa is the NSLS Fundraising Chair. After graduation, Isa desires to attend law school and work with Spanish-speaking populations.

Emily Boettcher
Emily Boettcher is a sophomore from Burlington, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and Spanish, with a certificate in Criminal Justice. On campus, Emily is a team member at Capitol Cafe and a member of Delta Delta Delta. After graduation, Emily desires to attend law school and work with Spanish-speaking populations.

Chengyi Gong
Chengyi Gong is a junior from Beijing, majoring in Psychology and Economics. On campus, Chengyi is Vice President and Marketing Minister of the Chinese Undergraduate Student Association. After graduation, Chengyi is applying to a graduate school of business and is pursuing an MBA.

Annalisa Chu
Annalisa Chu is junior majoring in Psychology from Madison, Wisconsin. On campus, Annalisa was a laboratory assistant for the Klein Lab for approximately two years, and is currently a research assistant for the Cognitive Development and Media Lab. Annalisa is also working on a Senior Thesis with Dr. Heather Kirkorian, Laura M. Secord Chair in Early Childhood Development. Annalisa was also involved in Naya Global Health and AMWA. In Naya Global Health, Annalisa was the President. One other campus experience Annalisa had was working as a Conversational English Tutor for GUTS for two semesters. After graduation, Annalisa is applying to counseling psychology doctoral programs to become a counseling psychologist in the future.

Linnea Kronzer
Linnea Kronzer is a sophomore from Minnetonka, Minnesota majoring in Scandinavian Studies and Psychology. In the future, Linnea plans on going to medical school to become a child and adolescent psychiatrist.
Katelyn Rokus

Katelyn Rokus is a sophomore from Pewaukee, Wisconsin, majoring in Biochemistry and Psychology. Katelyn works in the Gernsbacher Lab with Dr. Morton Ann Gernsbacher. On campus, Katelyn is involved with NAMI, ASBMB, and BASES Mentorship Program. In the future, Katelyn plans to attend medical school.

Tia Sadlon

Tia Sadlon is a sophomore from Arlington Heights, Illinois, majoring in Psychology and Linguistics with a Criminal Justice certificate. Tia works in the Language and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab with Cassandra Jacobs. On campus, Tia is a co-host of The Buzzer Beater, a sports radio show on the Madison student radio, WSUM 91.7 FM. Tia is also the VP of Operations for her sorority, Pi Beta Phi, and a member of the UW-Madison chapter of Psi Chi. In the future, Tia plans on attending graduate school to get her PhD in either forensic psychology or forensic linguistics, and is considering using this path to become an expert witness for court cases.

Daniel Sanji

Daniel Sanji is a junior from Bartlett, Illinois, double majoring in Psychology and History with a certificate in Asian American Studies. Daniel works in the Brauer Group Lab with Markus Brauer and Sophia Winkler-Schor. On campus, Daniel is a member of the Multiracial Student Center Intern for the Multicultural Student Center, Chair of the APIDA Heritage Month Planning Committee, Social Justice Coordinator for the Japanese Student Association, member of the Multiracial Student Union, and member of the APIDA Student Center Advisory Board. After graduation, Daniel plans on pursuing a PhD in Psychology and working to improve resources and research for queer Asian Americans and other queer and trans People of Color (QTPOC).

Sabine LaLiberte

Sabine LaLiberte is a sophomore from Manitowoc, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology with a certificate in Global Health. On campus, Sabine is the Badger Acts of Kindness Secretary, a member of NAMI, a member of Knit for a Cause, a Music and Memory volunteer, a Meals on Wheels volunteer, and a Blackhawk Church Greeter. After graduation, Sabine is planning to further her education with a masters degree in psychology to pursue a career in clinical therapy and public health. She hopes to get involved with mental health programs and organizations geared towards community intervention and treatment.

Jocelyn McCain

Jocelyn McCain is a senior majoring in Psychology from Fitchburg, Wisconsin. After taking numerous classes and working in a variety of environments, she is dedicating her life to understanding and helping others. The education and skills she received at UW-Madison and in Psychology will help her understand and help some of the most misunderstood populations; people struggling with substance abuse and incarcerated persons. She plans to continue her education and earn a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

Amy Severinsen

Amy Severinsen is a senior from Ixonia, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology. After graduation, Amy wants to pursue a Masters in Counseling.
Bryan’s Aspiring Psychology Student Award Recipients

Hannah Sirek
Hannah Sirek is a sophomore from Eden Prairie, Minnesota. She is double majoring in Psychology and Biology. On campus, Hannah is the Membership Vice President of Gamma Phi Beta, a member of the Wisconsin Premedical Society, and an Academic Mentor for the Center of Academic Excellence.

Chenhui Wang
Chenhui Wang is a junior majoring in Psychology and Economics with a certificate in Environmental Studies.

Yisen Wang
Yisen Wang is a junior from Beijing, China, majoring in Psychology and Statistics. On campus, Yisen is an actor in the Saying Club. After graduation, Yisen plans to become a clinician.

Brynn Wozniak
Brynn Wozniak is a sophomore from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. She is pursuing majors in Psychology and Biochemistry with a Health & Humanities Certificate. On campus, Brynn is in Alpha Epsilon Delta (pre-medical honor society). After graduation, Brynn plans to be an Emergency Medicine Physician.

Taiming Xue
Taiming Xue is a sophomore from Beijing, China, majoring in Psychology. Taiming works in the Motivation Lab. After graduation, Taiming is pursuing a PhD degree in Clinical Psychology.

Yufan Ye
Yufan Ye is a junior majoring in Psychology with a certificate in Japanese Professional Communication. Yufan works in the BP Lab with Allyson J. Bennett. On campus, Yufan is involved with the Greater University Tutoring Service. After graduation, Yufan plans on continuing into graduate education in Psychology or Neuroscience.

Additional Bryans’s Aspiring Award Recipients: Xinqi Cao, Elisabeth Cartwright, Avery Higdon, Lada Nechval, Jenna Sessions, Lillian VanHandel, Amy Yadev, and Qinlei Zhang
About the Award

The purpose of the Arlene R. Davenport Fund is to annually support a Psychology student who has demonstrated a career interest in psychological research. Funds are to be used to help defray research and career development costs. This award is funded by Professor Emeritus Charles Snowdon & Ann Lindsey and Friends and Family of Arlene Davenport.

About the Donor: Arlene Davenport

The fund was initiated by the Department Chair at that time, Professor Charles Snowdon, on the occasion of Arlene Davenport’s retirement after 37 years of service to the Department of Psychology. Arlene made many important contributions to the department through her advising (she was the only advisor and today we have four) and also by initiating many important programs:

- The development and nurturing of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society of Psychology
- An annual state-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium that continued for 25 years
- The successful development and shepherding of the Psychology Research Experience Program, a highly successful NSF-funded program for minority and low-income, first-generation students to develop research skills

It was felt that Arlene’s service was best honored through an annual scholarship for research-oriented UW psychology students.

Meredith Bone

Meredith Bone is a senior from Seymour, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology with a certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies. Meredith works in the Social Kids Lab with Dr. Patricia Devine, Dr. Kristin Shutts, and Katharine Scott. Meredith’s thesis is “Increasing Parents’ Motivation to Reduce Children’s Racial Biases.” On campus, Meredith is involved with Psi Chi, Pres House Council, and the Prejudice and Intergroup Relations Lab. In the future, Meredith hopes to be a Lab Manager or Research Coordinator.

Zachary Demko

Zachary Demko is a senior from Glendale, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and French. Zachary works in the Learning and Transfer Lab with C. Shawn Green. Zachary’s thesis is “No Evidence for Behavioral Dysregulation in Video Game Addiction.” On campus, Zachary is a Psi Chi Newsletter Chair, Tutor at James Wright Middle School, and French House Resident. In the future, Zachary plans to become a NIH Post-Bac Researcher.

Olivia Moens

Olivia Moens is a senior from Green Bay, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology, Educational Policy & Education and Educational Services. Olivia works in the Social Kids Lab with Dr. Kristin Shutts and Katharine Scott. Olivia’s thesis is “Teaching Parents Strategies for Addressing Children’s Racial Biases.” On campus, Olivia is a group leader for Badger Volunteers. After graduation, Olivia plans to attend graduate school for School Psychology.
“Who must do the hard things? Those who can. Who must do the impossible things? Those who care.”

Carolyn Robertson Payton
Department of Psychology Class of 1948

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Scholar Award

About the Award

This award is given to students who were nominated by a Psychology faculty member and have been outstanding and exceptional research assistants and scholars. When Bryan Hendricks initially donated the funds for this award, he wished to remain anonymous. Today, when students are nominated and awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Scholars Award, they are told about Bryan and his generous contribution to recognize undergraduates’ hard work and dedication to the innovation and discovery happening at UW-Madison.

About the Donor: Bryan Hendricks

Bryan Hendricks was a beloved Lecturer in the Psychology Department who passed away in 2013 shortly after his retirement. He was always known as Bryan to his students. After receiving his PhD, Bryan taught for 31.5 years at UW-Colleges in Wausau. Subsequently he joined the Psychology department as a Lecturer at UW-Madison. He specialized in the entry level courses: Introductory Psychology, Psychological Statistics, and Experimental Psychology PSY 225 (now Research Methods). He thrived working with bright, ambitious, and energetic students. During his time at UW-Madison, Hendricks made an impact on so many Psychology undergraduates. Through his substantial gifts and the creation of an endowed fund, the Department of Psychology has granted hundreds of awards in Bryan’s honor.
Kierin Barnett is a senior from Waukesha, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and Sociology. Kierin works in the Goal Setting and Intrinsic Motivation Lab with Dr. Judith Harackiewicz and Michael Asher. Kierin’s thesis is “Promoting Perceived Usefulness in Statistics: An Online Laboratory Study.” On campus, Kierin is involved with Psi Chi International Honor Society Member, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Member, and Study Abroad UW in Florence, Italy Spring 2020. Post-graduation, Kierin aspires to continue her education and research experience by pursuing a PhD in clinical psychology.

Meredith Bone is a senior from Seymour, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology with a certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies. Meredith works in the Social Kids Lab with Dr. Patricia Devine, Dr. Kristin Shutts, and Katharine Scott. Meredith’s thesis is “Increasing Parents’ Motivation to Reduce Children’s Racial Bias.” On campus, Meredith is involved with Psi Chi, Press House Council, and the Prejudice and Intergroup Relations Lab. In the future, Meredith hopes to be a Lab Manager or Research Coordinator.

Cassie Barwick is a senior from Wind Lake, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and Human Development & Family Studies, and is pursuing certificates in Global Health, Criminal Justice, and Leadership. Cassie works in the Building Resilience to Adversity and Violent Experiences (BRAVE) Research Center. On campus, Cassie is involved with Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society in Family and Consumer Sciences, Alpha Phi Omega service organization (leadership roles include Secretary, Vice President of Fellowship, and Director of Rush and Retention), Wisconsin Gymnastics Club (Social and Apparel Chair), and Virtual Study Abroad: Sex-trafficking in Spain, Morocco, and Nigeria. Post-graduation, Cassie will be staying in Madison to work as a Quality Curator at Epic Systems. In the future, Cassie hopes to pursue a graduate degree in psychology, public health, and/or higher education administration.

Laurens Duncan is a senior from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and Spanish. Lauryn works in the Infant Learning Lab with Dr. Jenny Saffran. On campus, Lauryn is involved with Wisconsin Black Student Union as the Outreach Coordinator, Badger Volunteer, and is a Chancellor’s Scholar and Wisconsin International Scholar. Post graduation, Lauryn plans to receive her master’s in counseling.

Mariah Ebert is a senior from Appleton, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology. Mariah works in the Germsbacher Lab. On campus, Mariah is the Fundraising Co-Chair of Advocates for Alzheimer’s Student Organization. In the future, Mariah hopes to continue participating in research at UW-Madison, and plans on applying for graduate schools next fall to pursue forensic psychology.

Yiru Chen is a junior from Zhuhai, China, majoring in Psychology and Neurobiology. Yiru works in the Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Lab with Anthony Auger. On campus, Yiru is a member of the Student leadership Program, Psi Chi, and Undergraduate Neuroscience Society. After graduation, Yiru plans on going into a PhD program.
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Scholar Award Recipients

Samantha Greco
Samantha Greco is a sophomore from Fullerton, California, majoring in Psychology, and getting a certificate in Disability Rights and Services. Samantha works in the Austerweil Lab with Professor Joe Austerweil. On campus, Samantha is involved with Undergraduate Research Scholars. In the future, Samantha hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in neuropsychology and practice clinical neuropsychology.

Yuzhe Gu
Yuzhe Gu is a senior from China majoring in Psychology and Computer Science. Yuzhe works in the Language and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab with Maryellen MacDonald and Arella Gus-sow. Yuzhe’s thesis is “Language Prediction in Second Language Comprehension.” After graduation, Yuzhe plans to go to graduate school.

Nicole Hendry
Nicole Hendry is a senior from Superior, Wisconsin, double majoring in Psychology and Gender & Women’s Studies. Nicole works in the Brauer Group Lab. On campus, Nicole is a Research Intern at UW 4W STREETS Initiative, Writing Fellow at UW Writing Center, and Cycling Instructor at UW RecWell. Nicole is currently applying to research assistant positions in anticipation of applying to PhD programs in the field of gender-based violence and intersectional feminism.

“I have come to feel that the only learning which significantly influences behavior is self-discovered, self-appropriated learning.”

Carl Rogers
Department of Psychology Faculty Member
**Mason Hill**

Mason Hill is a senior from Chisago City, Minnesota, majoring in Neurobiology and Psychology with certificates in Global Health and Biocore. Mason works in the Berridge Lab with Craig Berridge. Mason's thesis is "Neurocircuitry Underlying the Cognitive Actions of Corticotropin Releasing Factor (CRF) Neurons in the Prefrontal Cortex in Females." On campus, Mason is the President of the Triathlon club team, uTA for Biocore program, and a member of AMSA. After graduation, Mason will attend medical school in the fall of 2022.

**Sam Kodzik**

Sam Kodzik is a senior from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, majoring in Communication Arts and Psychology. Sam works in the Post-lab with Dr. Brad Postle. On campus, Sam is an Executive Board Member of C.L.E.A.N. (Campus Leaders for Energy Action Now), and a Student Supervisor at Der Rathskellar. In the future, Sam would like to work as a resident care specialist at a behavioral health clinic!

**Ian Lapcinski**

Ian Lapcinski is a senior from Prescott, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and Neurobiology. Ian works in the Learning and Transfer Lab with Professor C. Shawn Green. After graduation, Ian will likely pursue further education in graduate school.

**Miriam Lebowitz**

Miriam Lebowitz is a junior from Eagan, Minnesota, majoring in Psychology and Computer Science. Miriam works in the Language & Cognitive Neuroscience Lab with Elise Hopman and Maryellen MacDonald. On campus, Miriam is the Vice President of Madison Swing. After graduation, Miriam plans to work as a software engineer or project manager before returning to school to pursue either a PhD or PsyD.

**Olivia Moens**

Olivia Moens is a senior from Green Bay, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology, Educational Policy & Education and Educational Services. Olivia works in the Social Kids Lab with Dr. Kristin Shutts and Katharine Scott. Olivia’s thesis is "Teaching Parents Strategies for Addressing Children’s Racial Biases." On campus, Olivia is a group leader for Badger Volunteers. After graduation, Olivia plans to attend graduate school for School Psychology.

**Trinity Olson**

Trinity Olson is a junior from Appleton, Wisconsin, double majoring in Psychology and Neurobiology. Trinity works in the Brauer Group Lab.
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Scholar Award Recipients

Noah Phillips
Noah Phillips is a senior from Stoughton, Wisconsin. He is majoring in Psychology and earning a Certificate in Computer Science. Noah works in the Learning and Transfer Lab with Dr. C. Shawn Green. Noah’s thesis is “Cognitive Predictors of Extreme Expertise in Competitive eSports.” On campus, Noah is the Psych Club Treasurer, and is in Psi Chi and Hoofer Mountaineering Club. After graduation, Noah will pursue a PhD in Cognitive Science.

Elizabeth Rochon
Elizabeth Rochon is a junior from Bala Newton, Massachusetts. Elizabeth is majoring in Psychology and getting a certificate in Criminal Justice. Elizabeth works in the Prejudice and Intergroup Relations Lab with Dr. Patricia Devine and Emily Dix. After graduation, Elizabeth plans on attending graduate school for counseling psychology.

Luke Rutten
Luke Rutten is a senior from Poplar, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and Neurobiology. Luke works in the Harackiewicz Motivation Lab with Judith Harackiewicz and Michael Asher. On campus, Luke is the President of the Esports Club, on Executive Board of the Peer Learning Association, and a Lead Academic Mentor with the Center for Academic Excellence. After graduation, Luke plans to go on to graduate school to study motivation in educational settings, though he is still figuring out where to attend.

Anantha Rao
Anantha Rao is a senior from Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. Anantha is majoring in Statistics, Computer Science, and Psychology. Anantha works in both the Austerweil Lab with Joe Austerweil and the Lupyan Lab with Gary Lupyan. Anantha’s thesis is “Interactions Between Categorization and Intuitive Physics.” On campus, Anantha is a Music Director for the UW Madhatters. After graduation, Anantha is pursuing a job in Data Science and Graduate School for Cognitive Science or Statistics.

Amara Schiffman
Amara Schiffman is a senior from Millwood, New York. She is pursuing majors in Psychology and Spanish. Amara works in the Social Kids Lab with Kristin Shutts and Eren Fukuda. On campus, Amara is a Schools of Hope Volunteer, Building Bases Program Mentor, UW Athletics Tutor, and Member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. In the future, Amara will be getting her Psy.D. in School and/or Clinical Child Psychology.

Caleb Smith
Caleb Smith is a junior from Madison, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and Anthropology. Caleb works in the Koenigs Lab with Professor Michael Koenigs, Philip Deming, and Talia Cohen. Caleb is a PEOPLE Scholar and in the future plans to get an advanced degree in psychological science.

Chloe Stevens
Chloe Stevens is a junior from Port Washington, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology, Neurobiology, and Biochemistry and is getting a certificate in Biocore. Chloe works in the Child Emotion Research Lab with Dr. Seth Pollak and Kristina Woodard. On campus, Chloe is involved with Biocore Outreach Ambassadors, Badgerland Girl Scouts, and Optima Dance. In the future, Chloe is pursuing a career in Pediatric Medicine.
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Scholar Award Recipients

Yufan Ye
Yufan Ye is a junior majoring in Psychology with a certificate in Japanese Professional Communication. Yufan works in the BP Lab with Allyson J. Bennett. On campus, Yufan is involved with the Greater University Tutoring Service. After graduation, Yufan plans on continuing into graduate education in Psychology or Neuroscience.

Tianyi Zhang
Tianyi Zhang is a senior from Liaoning, China, majoring in Psychology and getting a certificate in Education and Educational Services. Tianyi works in both the Berridge Lab and MELD Lab with Craig Berridge, Robert Spencer, Percival Matthews and Robert Quintana. Tianyi completed a Hilldale Undergraduate Research Project titled “Is There a Rostrocaudal Gradient for the Cognition Enhancing Effects of Psychostimulants within the Prefrontal Cortex?” On campus, Tianyi was a Team Member at Gordon dining hall during freshman year. Tianyi recently accepted a PhD offer to Penn State University studying Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

“Only through our connectedness to others can we really know and enhance the self. And only through working on the self can we begin to enhance our connectedness to others.”

Harriet Goldhor Lerner
Department of Psychology Class of 1966

Additional Outstanding Undergraduate Research Scholar Award Recipients:
Hannah Bressi, Sidney Dobbins, and Michaela Haak
This award recognizes an undergraduate student who has been nominated by a faculty member in whose lab they work. The award is designed to give a student who is committed to a career in Psychology an unexpected “boost,” just as the donor himself once received such a boost that set him on a wonderful career trajectory.

About the Award

About the Donor:  
Aris Alexander

Aris Alexander graduated in 1957 with a BS in psychology and went on to earn his MS and PhD in psychology, all from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. A retired professor of psychiatry, Aris is erudite, insightful, and kind, and speaks honestly about life, priorities, and happenstance. A Milwaukee native, Aris first began his collegiate studies as an Architecture major at the University of Illinois. He then transferred to UW-Madison to pursue engineering, only to change to a Psychology major in his third year. His desire to change majors, and the opportune support Aris received from one particular College administrator during that time, gave him the serendipitous push he needed to pursue a career in the field of Psychology. Through Alexander’s donation to the Psychology Department, he established a Serendipity Award for undergraduates and graduate students pursuing Psychology.

Recipients

Paige Bruggink
Paige Bruggink is a junior from Oostburg, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies with a certificate in Disability Rights & Services and Leadership. Paige works in the Infant Learning Lab with Dr. Jenny Saffran, Desia Bacon, and Christina Schonberg. On campus, Paige is the Chapter President of A Moment of Magic Wisconsin, a NAMI general member, and a UW-Madison Writing Center Writing Fellow. Paige completed a Sophomore Research Fellowship titled, “How does speech grammaticality influence word processing in 14-15 month old infants?” In the future, Paige plans to attend Medical School and pursue Adolescent & Child Psychiatry.

Nakita Xiong
Nakita Xiong is a senior from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, majoring in Religious Studies and Psychology. Nakita works in the Brauer Group Lab with Markus Brauer and Naomi Isenberg. On campus, Nakita is involved with the Chancellor’s Scholar Program (or Mericle J. Lee Scholars Program), HOSA: Future Health Professionals, Badger Volunteers, and HASA: Hmong American Student Association. Nakita also studied abroad in Scotland in Fall 2019. After graduation, Nakita is planning on taking a gap year after graduation before applying to a Clinical Psychology Graduate program.
“Education can become a self-fulfilling activity, liberating in and of itself.”

Abraham Maslow

Department of Psychology Class of 1931

---

Thesis and Travel Awards

About the Awards

Undergraduates may receive these awards to support research and thesis projects supervised by a Psychology faculty mentor or to cover travel expenses to present research at a professional conference.

About the Donor: Joyce Rosevear

Joyce Rosevear received her PhD in 1974 in animal behavior working with Harry Harlow. She spent several years as a graduate teaching assistant and instructor at the University of Wisconsin Center campus. Joyce recognized through her experiences with Harlow, the importance of research and supporting students’ pursuits in research, particularly undergraduates. She established the Undergraduate Thesis and Travel Awards through her generous, yearly donations. Rosevear has been an active member of the Department of Psychology’s Board of Visitors. In 2018, along with her husband Fred, the Rosevears received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Psychology Department for their longstanding support of the Department.
Fiona Lee
Fiona Lee is a 2020 graduate from Taiwan. Fiona is majoring in Psychology and Computer Science. Fiona has worked in the Learning and Transfer Lab with Professor C. Shawn Green. Fiona is going to graduate school after graduation.

Yuzhe Gu
Yuzhe Gu is a senior from China majoring in Psychology and Computer Science. Yuzhe works in the Language and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab with Maryellen MacDonald and Arella Gus-sow. Yuzhe’s thesis is “Language Prediction in Second Language Comprehension.” After graduation, Yuzhe plans to go to graduate school.

Noah Phillips
Noah Phillips is a senior from Stoughton, Wisconsin. He is majoring in Psychology and earning a Certificate in Computer Science. Noah works in the Learning and Transfer Lab with Dr. C. Shawn Green. Noah’s thesis is “Cognitive Predictors of Extreme Expertise in Competitive eSports.” On campus, Noah is the Psych Club Treasurer, and is in Psi Chi and Hoofer Mountaineering Club. After graduation, Noah will pursue a PhD in Cognitive Science.

Meredith Bone
Meredith Bone is a senior from Seymour, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology with a certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies. Meredith works in the Social Kids Lab with Dr. Patricia Devine, Dr. Kristin Shutts, and Katharine Scott. Meredith’s thesis is “Increasing Parents’ Motivation to Reduce Children’s Racial Biases.” On campus, Meredith is involved with Psi Chi, Pres House Council, and the Prejudice and Intergroup Relations Lab. In the future, Meredith hopes to be a Lab Manager or Research Coordinator.

Olivia Moens
Olivia Moens is a senior from Green Bay, Wisconsin, majoring in Psychology, Educational Policy & Education and Educational Services. Olivia works in the Social Kids Lab with Dr. Kristin Shutts and Katharine Scott. Olivia’s thesis is “Teaching Parents Strategies for Addressing Children’s Racial Biases.” On campus, Olivia is a group leader for Badger Volunteers. After graduation, Olivia plans to attend graduate school for School Psychology.
Congratulations

Due to the generosity of donors, we were able to award a total of $95,580 in 67 individual awards. With over 1,300 undergraduate psychology majors currently enrolled at UW-Madison, this means that less than 5% of declared majors receive these awards. This is an amazing accomplishment! We wish you the best of luck with your remaining academics and future endeavors!

The Department of Psychology Faculty and Staff
“Happiness and well-being are actually best regarded as skills.”

Richard J. Davidson

Department of Psychology Faculty Member
Founder & Director of the Center for Healthy Minds at UW-Madison