Professors Janet Shibley Hyde and Hill Goldsmith, influential mentors and internationally renowned experts in their fields, retired this year, capping remarkable tenures in the Department of Psychology at UW-Madison.

Students, colleagues, and former lab members congratulated the scientists through cards, toasts, and well-wishes throughout June. Add yours for Professor Hyde or Professor Goldsmith, and then read how Hyde will use her expertise to address gun violence and how Goldsmith built an academic family with global reach.

Science journalist Siri Carpenter ’95 didn’t need a psychology degree to do what she does now, but it has had a tremendous benefit: “Spending years learning about how human minds work turns out to be a great foundation for being an observer of science as a human enterprise,” Carpenter says.

Carpenter co-founded The Open Notebook, a nonprofit organization that helps science journalists improve their skills, in 2010. “We aim to be a resource for science journalists all over the world, from the greenest newbies to the veterans who want to continue sharpening their craft,” Carpenter says. Read more.
In late April, the Department of Psychology celebrated student and alumni accomplishments at an annual reception. Students were recognized for their exception al work in the laboratories of world-renowned psychological scientists, the dedication and discipline with which they pursue academic excellence, and demonstrated career interest in the field of psychology.

We also recognized this year’s distinguished alumni award winners: Constance Hammen, Daniel Gartenberg, and Zhalairina Sanders. Submit your nomination for an outstanding Psychology alum here.

Prefrontal cortex (PFC)-dependent cognition allows people to plan, avoid distractions, and stay on track to meet their goals as they make decisions throughout their day.

Department Chair and Professor Craig Berridge focuses on this PFC-dependent cognition in his Neural Systems and Behavioral Lab which studies the neurotransmitter regulation of behavior. This PFC-dependent cognition relates to planning, attention, working memory and response inhibition. Read more about the lab’s insights into the neurobiology of higher cognition.

After Professors Patricia Devine and Kristin Shutts discussed their research interests related to social biases and prejudice, they hoped to share their expertise in social psychology and developmental psychology with students, as well as each other.

And so the Prejudice Development and Reduction course was born. “Students get to see a model of collaborative science unfold in our class – that is, how people from different research traditions can profitably work and think together, and what the benefits of doing so are,” says Shutts. Read more.
Congratulations, 2022 graduates!

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