

PSYCHOLOGY

UC Riverside Psychology Newsletter | Issue 7 | Editors: Rachel Wu, Ph.D., Tania Rodriguez, Leah Ferguson

Graduate student awards & grants

Jenna Merenstein: NIH/NIA
F31 NRSA

Eleanor Collier: NSF GRFP

Katie Nelson-Coffey:
Association for Psychological
Science Rising Star Award

Pamela Sheffler: Western
Psychological Associated
(WPA) Student Research
Award

Austin Moon: UCR Graduate
Research Mentorship
Program (GRMP) Award

Sarah Knapp: Dissertation
Year Program (DYP); UCR
Psych Mentor Award

Jordan Mullins: Honorable
Mention for the NSF GRFP;
U54 Continuity Collaboratory

Jamiela Kokash: UC
President's Pre-Professoriate
Fellowship



UCR mourns the death of Dr. Will Dunlop

For Dr. Dunlop's biography, please see Page 3

Achievements, funding, & community engagement

UCR's Department of Psychology has had a number of major achievements in the past year, including obtaining several new grants, as well as other academic achievements and community engagement. This issue provides an overview of these accomplishments achieved in the past year.

New grants



[Dr. Jimmy Calanchini](#) received an NSF grant to investigate how perception and memory of people of other races impact racial disparities. People often have worse recognition memory for individuals who are not (versus are) in their racial group. This well-known cross-race effect can lead to racial disparities. This research has the potential to transform our understanding of social influences on perception and cognition, including the basic psychological mechanisms that contribute to racial disparities in the US.

Graduate student awards & grants

Jessie Bridgwater: Association for Psychological Science Rising Star Award; UCR GRMP; Blumenthal Service Learning Fellowship

Annamaria Boullion: Honorable Mention for the Ford Fellowship

Linnea Linde-Frieger: UCR Psych Rosenthal Research Award

Dana Glenn: UCR Dissertation Year Program (DYP)

Dulce Wilkinson: Dissertation Year Program (DYP)

Lilian Azer: UCR Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Laura DeLoretta: UCR Outstanding Teaching Assistant award

Karynna Okabe-Miyamoto: UCR Outstanding Teaching Assistant award

Erick Perez: UCR Outstanding Teaching Assistant award

Monica Beals: UCR Outstanding Teaching Assistant award



[Dr. Aerika Loyd](#) received a grant to establish a training partnership between UCR and the University of the District Columbia, as part of the University of California-Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative (UC-HBCU).



[Dr. Anubhuti Goel](#) received the NARSAD Young Investigator grant from the Brain and Behavior Foundation to study hypersensitivity and distractibility in Fragile X Syndrome (FXS). An inability to tune out distracting sounds or sights can make everyday tasks very difficult. This work will inform future therapies to target specific behavioral issues.



[Dr. Khaleel Razak](#) is a co-PI on two new grants to investigate neuroplasticity in mouse fathers (NSF) and using nicotine to reverse age-related hearing deficits (NIH). The NSF grant will help Dr. Razak's team investigate fathers' neural and behavioral responses to infant odors and cries, which form the basis of infant care and social bonding. The NIH grant will test the hypothesis that nicotine treatment will reduce age-related hearing declines in mice and humans, as hearing deficits are one of the primary factors driving cognitive deficits in older adults.



[Dr. Aaron Seitz](#) received 3 NIH grants on cognitive training and music interventions to help people with vision and hearing problems. Drs. [Aaron Seitz](#), [Lani Bennett](#), and [Weiwei Zhang](#) received an NIH grant to test the role of locus coeruleus on cognitive aging, as the brain region accumulates Alzheimer's disease pathology first, and is thought to impact higher level cognition.



[Dr. Marcello Maniglia](#) received an NIH grant to investigate how to train eye movement strategies in macular degeneration.

Undergraduate awards

Yssis Davis: [Black Girl 44 scholarship](#)

Elizabeth Fletes: UCR Chancellor's Fellowship Award

Purnima Qamar: UCR Chancellor's Fellowship Award

Alumni jobs

- **Dr. Laura Quiñones-Camacho:** Assistant Professor, UT Austin
- **Dr. Kyla Rankin:** Assistant Professor of Psychology at Moreno Valley College
- **Dr. Komi German:** FIRE (The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education)

Outreach

Dr. Aerika Loyd: [Interview with KRCW on stress & mental health](#)

Dr. Kalina Michalska: [Feature in The Washington Post on Back to Work Anxiety](#)

Dr. Kate Sweeny: [Op-Ed on COVID-10 and uncertainty; Hidden Brain podcast](#)

Dr. Rachel Wu: [The New Yorker feature; NPR interview](#) on learning new skills as adults

Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky: [Hidden Brain podcast](#)

Dr. Bri Coulombe: [Blog post for Noba on innovative teaching](#)

New faculty awards

Dr. Misaki Natsuaki: Society for Research on Adolescence (SRA) Mid-Career Scholar Award; UCR University Honors Faculty Mentor of the Year

Dr. Annie Ditta: UCR Academy of Distinguished (ADT) [Innovative Teaching Award](#); UCR Academy of Distinguished Teaching (ADT) Junior of Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky: [Honorary doctorate from University of Basel in Switzerland](#)

Dr. Jimmy Calanchini: Association for Psychological Science (APS) Rising Star; UCR Graduate Division's Commitment to Graduate Diversity Award

Dr. Kalina Michalska and Psi Chi officers: 2020-21 Kay Wilson Officer Team Leadership Award

Dr. Tuppert Yates: UCR Senate's 2020-2021 Distinguished Campus Service Award

Dr. Rebekah Richert: UCR Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award

Dr. Weiwei Zhang: Library and XCITE RStuff Award

Dr. Peter Hickmott: 2020-2021 Outstanding disAbility Ally faculty award

William L. Dunlop

Associate Professor of Psychology

1985-2021



Will Dunlop, a cherished colleague, mentor, friend, husband, and father, died unexpectedly in September 2021. Will was born and raised in Canada, earning his Bachelor's degree at the University of Western Ontario and his PhD in Psychology from the University of British Columbia. He joined our faculty of the Department of Psychology in 2013 as an Assistant Professor in the personality psychology specialization, earning tenure and advancing to Associate Professor in 2019.

Teaching tips

by Dr. Annie Ditta

A Breath of Fresh AIR for Your Courses

As we transition from summer relaxation into fall quarter preparation, many of us are turning our attention to editing our courses. Some of us will be returning to in-person instruction, some will be continuing online, and all of us may need to consider how to implement hybrid teaching as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Regardless of how we will be teaching in the fall, there are some core teaching practices to keep in mind that can bolster your students' engagement and success in your courses. Considering the following acronym **AIR**: Active learning techniques (rather than passive ones, like listening to lectures or watching videos) can help your students learn! Implement this by having your students...

1. Relate new course material to their own lives in 3 dedicated assignments throughout the quarter.
2. Create their own study guide and/or practice questions for upcoming exams.
3. Discuss content with their peers during class time.
4. Cultivate your Instructor presence (i.e., the degree to which students can sense the instructor as the deliverer of content in a class) by...
5. Adding an introductory video to your course where students can get to know you before the class even begins.

Encourage office hour attendance to facilitate communication and delivery of meaningful, live (not pre-recorded) feedback.

1. If in-person, play up your enthusiasm for being back in the classroom, and for teaching psychology!
2. Encourage student success by scaffolding your course with Reminders. Consider...
3. Sending weekly reminders that recap upcoming due dates and exams.
4. Reminding students that there are resources available for their success (e.g., office hours, practice questions in the textbook, etc.).
5. Setting aside a small amount of time each day to respond to student emails in a timely manner.

Considering these teaching practices together will help you revitalize your upcoming courses and breathe new life into them!

Read the full version [here!](#)

In his research, Will studied how people craft narratives about their own life stories to better understand themselves and their identities. He was deeply philosophical and creative in his investigations of the stories we tell ourselves and each other, ranging from the connections we forge with other people, to heartbreaks in our love lives, to falls from grace and redemption stories of overcoming hardship and challenge. He studied moral exemplars of lives lived with integrity, and he was recently fascinated with the indisputable elements of the "good life." Will identified the redemptive sequence in people's life stories, a thematic element where a negative event that could have been catastrophic is instead reframed as an opportunity -- the starting point for growth, development, and an eventual positive outcome. Will was a recognized leader in the use of narrative approaches to understand personality—he published prolifically on these topics, authoring more than 75 journal articles and book chapters, and was working on a textbook on personality psychology when he died. Will shared this love of personality and storytelling in his classes, regularly teaching popular courses on personality psychology, self and identity, and narratives. He mentored graduate and undergraduate students, working closely with those involved in his Personality and Identity Lab.

Will worked with his office door wide open, feet propped up on the desk, laptop balanced precariously, music in the background, surrounded by towering stacks of books piled high on every surface. He invited everyone in to chat about research and life, and was intensely interested in the new adventures people were having. He loved surfing and playing guitar, and lived near the ocean so he could surf in the early mornings before starting work. At the time of his passing, Will was on sabbatical from UCR and serving as Honorary Professor of Psychology at Aarhus University, Denmark, so that he and his wife could be together following the birth of their first child. Will is survived by his wife, Majse Lind, their son Felix, his parents Catherine and Robert, and his brother, Trevor.

Donate to UCR Psychology!

Donate to one of the existing funds to promote and sustain excellence in Psychological Science and well-being.

[UCR Psychology Research](#), [Rosenthal Graduate Student Award](#), Austin & Helen Riesen Senior Psychobiology Award, UCR Psychology Department (workshops, infrastructure, etc.), Ross D. Parke Annual Lecture on Children's Social-Emotional Development Fund, Stella R. Arambel Memorial Award (excellence in Psychological Science), University STEM Academy-USA Program, [Guardian Scholars \(helping emancipated foster youth in higher education\)](#). [Click here for more information.](#)