

# PSYCHOLOGY

UC Riverside Psychology Newsletter | Issue 9 | Editor: Rachel Wu, Ph.D.

## Graduate student achievements

**Chelsea McElwee:** SRCD Anti-Racist Development Science Summit travel grant; Chicano Student Programs Travel grant; 2024 Grad SLAM Semi-Finalist

**Tina Vo:** Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award; UCSD postdoctoral fellow

**LeNisha Williams:** UCR Psychology Rising Star Award; CSU Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program Fellow

**Jordan Mullins:** UCR Psychology Robert Rosenthal Research Award

**Dr. Julia Boehm** (UCR 2011): SPSP Fellow

**AnnaMaria Boullion:** Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award

**Liz Wilson:** Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award

**Roberto Perez:** UCR Psychology Mentoring Award

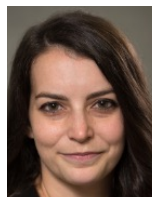
## New faculty 2024-2025



**Dr. Tabea Springstein** studies how people differ in their experiences and regulation of emotions in day-to-day life and how these processes evolve with age.



**Dr. Alejandra Arce** investigates resilience and resistance among immigrant and BIPOC youth in the context of oppression. She aims to translate findings into strengths- and community-based prevention interventions.



**Dr. Olivia Atherton** investigates how self-regulation develops across the lifespan, how it is shaped by sociocultural contexts, and the impacts it has on mental and physical health.



**Dr. Gene Brewer** investigates sustained attention, attention control, working memory, long-term memory, and general intellectual abilities in both applied and theoretical contexts.



**Dr. Holly O'Rourke** is an applied statistician who studies statistical models and methods for behavior change over time with a focus on health and substance use. She will be starting January 2025.

## DEI highlight

**The Riverside Social and Spatial Cognition Laboratory (Dr. Jimmy Calanchini)** is leading a workshop Spring 2025 tailored for UCR student leaders that will introduce social psychological theories and interventions to empower student leaders to address bias and foster meaningful change within their spheres of influence and across campus, "Empowering Student Leaders: Bias Reduction Workshop for an Inclusive Campus." To ensure diverse psychological perspectives are integrated, the lab invites graduate students from all areas of psychology to participate and contribute psychological insights from their field to enhance the workshop's effectiveness. If interested, please contact Marlene Figueroa: mfigu052@ucr.edu.



## New grants

**Dr. Olivia Atherton** received an NIH R21 from the National Institute on Aging entitled, "Behavior-Opportunity Gaps and Midlife Cognitive Health: Geographical Linkages to Enrich an Ongoing Longitudinal Family Study of Dementia Risk in a Minoritized Population."

**Dr. Annie Ditta** received a grant from NSF (DUE-HSI), entitled "Providing Equitable Access to Fundamental Data Analytical Skills for STEM Students with a Theme-Based Approach."

**Dr. Kiera Coulter** received an NIH K99/R00 from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities entitled, "Promoting Resilience and Reducing Health Disparities: Towards a Shift-and-Persist Intervention."

**Marlene Figueroa** from **Dr. Jimmy Calanchini's lab** was awarded a grant from the Vice Chancellor Student Affairs office to address bias and bigotry at UCR.

**Amanda Sadri** from **Dr. Tuppert Yates' lab** received an AlianzaMX grant and conducted an independent research study in Mexico.



## New faculty awards

**Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky** was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She also received a UCR Academic Senate Faculty Research Lecturer Award.

**Dr. Rachel Wu** received the UCR Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Faculty Award

**Dr. Jimmy Calanchini** received the Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentor Award.



## Outreach

- **Dr. Aerika Loyd** was featured on KCRW discussing risks and benefits of social media for teens
- **Dr. Olivia Atherton** was featured as part of the "cocktail chatter" on Slate Political Gabfest; APS Observer
- **Dr. Howard Friedman** was featured in a Today Show article on Jimmy Carter turning 100
- **Dr. Kate Sweeny** appeared on NPR's Morning Edition to discuss how video games can help people worry less
- **Drs. Lani Bennett & Rachel Wu** were featured in a PBS show, Supercharge Your Brain
- **Dr. Kalina Michalska** was interviewed by Flux about CBPR

## Donate to UCR Psych

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.

## Other news

**Drs. Cecilia Cheung and Kalina Michalska** and their students traveled to Hong Kong through the FLEAP Program.



**The Psychology Department** recently received a generous donation of a Moxie AI robot from Susan Hackwood, Director of UCR's Science to Policy Program and Dean Emeritus of the Bourns College of Engineering. Moxie is an advanced, child-focused robot designed to foster social, emotional, and academic growth in kids through engaging play-based conversations and activities. This exciting addition will be available for all labs and will support the department's ongoing research in child development, emotions, and social learning! Check out what Moxie can do [here](#).



## Dr. Bob Rosenthal

University and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychology Bob Rosenthal passed away on Jan 5, 2024.

Bob was a huge part of our community for nearly a quarter century, having joined our Department following his retirement from Harvard in 1999. His accomplishments and accolades are too numerous to detail, but highlights include his induction as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, his Lifetime Achievement award from the American Psychological Association, his receipt of the James McKeen Cattell Award from the American Society for Psychological Science, and his recognition as just one of ~40 University Professors appointed since 1960 across the entire UC System. In addition to being among the most eminent psychologists of the 20th century for his work on self-fulfilling prophecies (i.e., the Pygmalion or Rosenthal Effect), non-verbal communication, and research methods, Bob was a devoted husband to his late wife Marylu (for whom he dedicated the "MaryLu Clayton Rosenthal Dance Studio" at UCR), a beloved father and grandfather, an amazing colleague, a generous friend, and a person of utmost integrity, ingenuity, and humility. He will be dearly missed.

For more information about Dr. Rosenthal and his legacy and life:

- <https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2024/01/10/psychology-research-giant-robert-rosenthal-has-died>
- <https://news.ucr.edu/articles/2018/12/11/when-world-took-notice>
- <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jsp7iljnmwr2bkn9hu6sl/Robert-Rosenthal-Memorial-Tribute-from-Howard-Friedman.pdf?rlkey=pe6ud7ugt276wipozhou8uomf&dl=0>



