

PSYCHOLOGY

UC Riverside Psychology Newsletter | Issue 1 | Editor: Dr. Rachel Wu

New PhD students

The Department admitted 17 PhD students in 2015, 30 in 2016, and 32 in 2017. Of the 32 admitted in 2017, so far 16 have accepted.

Dedication of the Brain Game Center

The Brain Game Center is a new research unit established by Dr. Aaron Seitz. The Center focuses on improving cognitive functioning via specialized video game software. The Open House was held on March 22, 2017.

Distinguished professorship

In Fall 2016, Dr. Howard Friedman was named Distinguished Professor of the Graduate Division.

Emeritus professorship

In Spring 2015, Dr. Robin DiMatteo became an Emeritus Professor of Psychology.

Achievements and new beginnings

UCR's Department of Psychology has experienced major changes and new beginnings in the past two academic years. Among its accomplishments, the Department has hired nine new faculty members, received record levels of funding, and established the Center for Advanced Neuroimaging and the Brain Game Center. This issue provides an overview of these accomplishments achieved in the past two years.



Psychology funding hits record high

The Department's grant awards in 2016 increased markedly: In 2016, 39 faculty submitted 50 applications, and the department

External grants

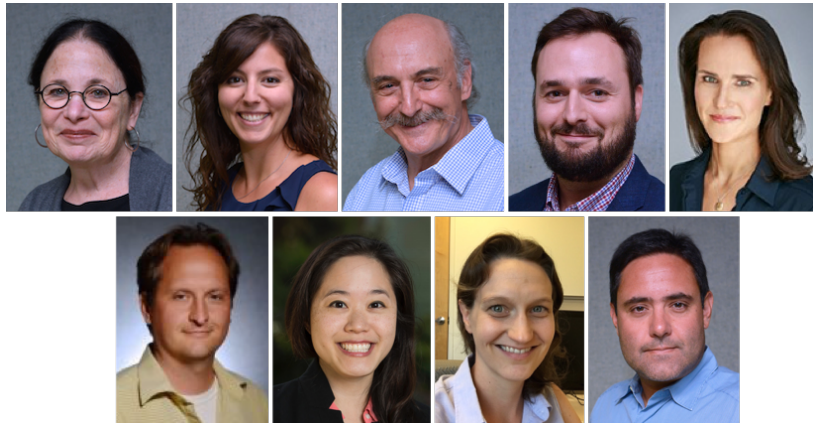
Including the *Research in the Spotlight* grants, a few others are listed below.

- **Dr. Chandra Reynolds:** NIH/ National Institute on Aging - *Colorado Adoption/Twin Study of Lifespan Behavioral Development & Cognitive Aging (CATSLife)*
- **Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky:** John Templeton Foundation - *How Can People Become Lastingly More Humble? Development of a Long-term Humility-Boosting Program*
- **Dr. Ed Korzus:** NIH/National Institute of Mental Health - *Prefrontal circuits and function in memory accuracy*
- **Dr. Larry Rosenblum:** NSF - *The Multisensory Training Benefit for Speech and Speaker Perception*
- **Dr. Sara Mednick:** Office of Naval Research - *Effects of psychostimulants and zolpidem on sleep and cognitive performance*; NIH/National Institute on Aging - *The Pharmacological Enhancement of Sleep for Memory Improvement*
- **Dr. Aaron Seitz:** NIH/National Eye Institute - *Integrating Perceptual Learning Approaches into Effective Therapies for Low Vision Population*

received \$7,696,017 in external funding. The Department's total funding amount in 2016 is more than all other College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) departments combined. Specifically, this amount is 73% of the CHASS grant total, more than 80% of the units in College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS), more than 80% of the units in Bourns College of Engineering, and more than any unit in the School of Medicine. The success in grant funding is particularly noteworthy given that the Department's course enrollments are typically well over 10,000 undergraduates per year. This achievement is a testament to the Department's creativity, skill, and intense efforts, and to the talents of the staff and their commitment and contributions to the Department's research mission. The Department looks forward to the knowledge generated by the research stemming from these awards.

Nine new faculty members

In the past two years, the Department of Psychology has hired nine new faculty members in Neuroscience and Developmental, Social, and Cognitive Psychology: Drs. Judy Kroll, Ilana Bennett, David Rosenbaum, Brent Hughes, Kalina Michalska, Jon Willits, Rachel Wu, Jessica Montag, and Edward Zagher (photos from upper left to lower right).



Dr. Kroll's research focuses on bilingualism and second language acquisition. Dr. Bennett's research seeks to advance our understanding of neurocognitive aging by examining age-related differences in the way we acquire, retain, and retrieve information and identifying the neural substrates that underlie these learning

External grants

- **Dr. Rebekah Richert:** NSF - *Collaborative Research: Using Educational DVDs to Enhance Preschoolers' STEM Education*; John Templeton Foundation - *Longitudinal Examination of the Cultural Influences on Developing Concepts of God*
- **Dr. Khaleel Abdulrazak:** NSF - *CAREER: Cortical Mechanisms of Sound Localization*
- **Dr. Kelly Huffman:** NIH - *How Does Early Experience Affect Cortical Organization, Connections and Behavior?*
- **Dr. Tom Sy:** Department of Defense/Army Research - *Follower-Leader Identity Integration: Conceptualization, Instrument Validation, and Leader Development*
- **Dr. Ilana Bennett:** NIH/National Institute on Aging - *High-resolution Multimodal Imaging of Episodic Memory Networks in Aging*
- **Dr. Tuppert Yates:** NSF - *Relational Beliefs and Expectations in Early Adolescence as Predictors of School and Social Competence*

Upcoming events

- Southern California Learning and Memory Symposium in May (<http://www.iclm.ucla.edu/events/sclm/SCLM.html>)

and memory processes using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Dr. Rosenbaum is interested in motor planning and control for everyday actions, such as grabbing a glass. Dr. Hughes investigates how motivation influences decision-making and risk-taking behaviors. Dr. Michalska's research focuses on the typical and atypical neural development of empathy and emotional processing. Dr. Willits uses computational methods to investigate language development in terms of meaning and semantic knowledge. Dr. Wu studies optimal learning strategies from infancy to aging adulthood. Dr. Montag investigates language development in relation to production and comprehension of complex sentences. Dr. Zaghera's research focuses on neural mechanisms of sensory detection and impulse control. More details about faculty research are available at www.psych.ucr.edu/faculty/.

Center for Advanced Neuroimaging: Grand opening and dedication



The new Center for Advanced Neuroimaging is directed by Dr. Xiaoping Hu, who started as a Professor in the Bourns College of Engineering in 2016. The Center features a brand new state-of-the-art 3T Prisma

scanner. Since opening, the Center has hosted a dedication ceremony, an open house, and a users meeting. This Center is adjacent to the Psychology building.

Select major publications

In the past two years, the Psychology faculty have published numerous important journal articles, books, and edited volumes. Two are listed below.

- Dr. David Rosenbaum published the book, *Knowing Hands: The Cognitive Psychology of Manual Control*. (Cambridge University Press). <http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/psychology/cognition/knowning-hands-cognitive-psychology-manual-control?>
- *The Encyclopedia of Mental Health*, with Dr. Howard S. Friedman as editor-in-chief, was published in 2016 and is available electronically (free) through the UCR library website. It has 2,000 pages of 240 succinct articles covering a wide range of topics ranging from Psychopathology, Tic Disorders, and Narcissistic Personality Disorder, to Elder Abuse, Responses to Natural Disasters, and Post-traumatic Growth. The volume is useful in gaining a quick overview, a definition, or entry into the relevant literature. Many UCR faculty, graduate students, and former graduate students contributed to this encyclopedia.

Inaugural UC Well-Being Conference

Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky and her graduate students Lisa Walsh, Megan Fritz, and Julia Revord organized and hosted the very first University of California Well-Being Conference, held at UC Riverside from March 3-5, 2017. The small intercampus conference, co-hosted by Dr. Ye Li at the School of Business, was designed to highlight the research of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in the University of California system who study positive emotion, emotion regulation, positive activities, and well-being.

Thirteen graduate students and post-doc researchers from four different UC campuses were invited to give brief talks on their research. The conference included a dinner at the beautiful Mission Inn, and a wine and cheese hour sponsored by UCR's own Dr. Dan Ozer. New intercampus research collaborations were formed and many connections were made between faculty, post-doctoral scholars, and graduate students. On a post-conference survey, all of the respondents reported that they were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the overall quality of the conference. The conference will be held again in 2019.



Inaugural Ross D. Parke Lecture

In Fall 2016, Dr. Ross. D. Parke started a fund based on his generous donation for a lecture series on socio-emotional development. On March 9, 2017, Dr. Steve R. Asher (photo below), professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University, served as the inaugural speaker of UCR Department

Select awards

Faculty:

- Leamer-Rosenthal Prize named in part after **Dr. Robert Rosenthal**
- 2015 and 2016 Association for Psychological Science Rising Stars: **Drs. William Dunlop, John Franchak, Rachel Wu**
- APA Distinguished Scientific Award for an Early Career Contribution to Health Psychology; UCR's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (Faculty Mentoring Award, 2016): **Dr. Kate Sweeny**
- Distinguished Research Award, AERA division E; SRCD Early Career Research Contributions Award; APA Early Career Research Award: **Dr. Cecilia Cheung**

Post-docs:

- Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship: **Dr. Eve Higby**

PhD students:

- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship awardees: **Christina Armenta, Komi German, Elizabeth McDevitt, Christian Navarro-Torres, Laura Quinones-Camacho, Sarah Reinhard, Peter Ruberton, Benjamin Yetton**
- Ford Fellowship: **Fanita Tyrell**
- NIH F31: **Brittany Bannon**
- APA Diversity Grant of the Psychological Science Research Grant: **Laura Quinones-Camacho**

of Psychology's Ross D. Parke Lecture Series. The title of his talk was "Friendship Beliefs, Friendship Quality, and Feelings of Loneliness". There were many notable points made during his talk, among which was one of his most significant findings, that if a child has even one friend, that one friend can buffer the child from the maladaptive effects of loneliness. Before and after the lecture, students and faculty had the unique opportunity to meet him personally and to discuss their current research projects.



Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies

Dr. Steve Clark is the new director of the Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies. A \$298,000 grant from the University of California Office of the President allowed Dr. Clark and his colleagues to create the UC Consortium on Social Science and Law, which facilitates multicampus, multidisciplinary research collaborations in social sciences. The Presley Center's mission is to better understand, reduce, and prevent violence and crime, while informing law enforcement policies and practices. The Presley Center was also recently approved for funding to evaluate juvenile justice realignment programs in San Bernardino County. <http://presleycenter.ucr.edu/>.

Research in the spotlight

National Science Foundation (NSF) Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) Project

In 2016, a new NSF PIRE grant ("Translating cognitive and brain science in the laboratory and field to language learning environments"), led by Dr. Judy Kroll (UCR) and Dr. Guili Dussias, was awarded to Penn State with a paired subaward to UC Riverside. The goal of the 2016 PIRE is to exploit new developments in the cognitive and brain sciences to create an

In the media

A few examples from the faculty:

Dr. Kate Sweeny: Lay article on the perils of positivity (<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-30/february-2017/downsides-positivity>)

NYT Well Blog on worrying about test results (<https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/11/02/while-waiting-for-test-results-worrying-may-help-in-the-long-run/>)

Dr. Weiwei Zhang: Studies on human memory for Pokemon reported in Press Enterprise (<http://www.pe.com/articles/term-821578-pokemon-characters.html>) and KPCC (<http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/12/22/67454/new-study-uses-pokemon-to-look-at-memory/>)

Dr. Jessica Montag: NPR Science Friday interview (<https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/the-science-of-story-time/>)

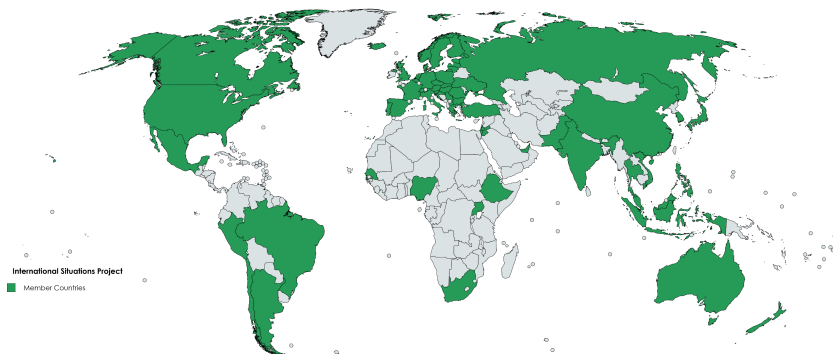
NYT Well Blog on bedtime stories for children (https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/08/17/bedtime-stories-for-young-brains/?_r=0)

Dr. Misaki Natsuaki: TIME Magazine article (<http://time.com/4604907/parents-dont-get-how-negative-they-seem-to-their-teenagers/>)

international network of research on learning across the lifespan that will begin to translate research findings from the laboratory and field to learning environments more broadly.

International Situations Project

The International Situations Project, led by Dr. David Funder, is supported by the National Science Foundation to gather reports of individuals' experiences of daily situations in 62 countries, and in 40 languages. The research team has a custom-built website that collaborators in each country direct participants to, which gathers information about the most memorable situation a person experienced yesterday, as well as information about personality and values. The map below highlights the countries participating in the study. More information can be found at <http://rap.ucr.edu/ISP.html>.



Donate to UCR Psychology!

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

Austin & Helen Riesen Senior Psychobiology Award, UCR Psychology Department (workshops, infrastructure, etc.), UCR Psychology Research, 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. <https://advancementservices.ucr.edu/AdvanceOnlineGiving/Search?key=dept%03Apsychology> | Guardian Scholars (helping emancipated foster youth in higher education) <http://guardianscholars.ucr.edu/>