

PSYCHOLOGY

UC Riverside Psychology Newsletter | Issue 3 | Editors: Dr. Rachel Wu & Lilian Shin

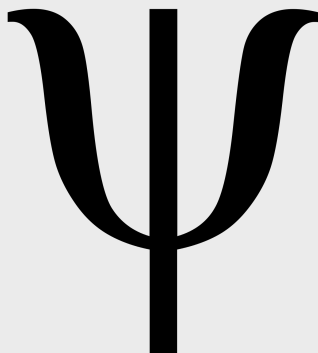
Alumni feature

Dr. Michael Furr was presented the Alumni of the Year Award and presented at the annual Psychology Department Workshop September 2018.

Select PhD graduates

Dr. Zane Xie from the lab of Dr. Weiwei Zhang successfully defended his PhD dissertation and started a postdoctoral position at NINDS.

Dr. Laura Quiñones-Camacho from the lab of Dr. Elizabeth Davis successfully defended her PhD dissertation and started a postdoctoral position at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



Achievements and community engagement

UCR's Department of Psychology has had a number of major achievements in the past six months, including both academic achievements, as well as achievements in community engagement. This issue provides an overview of these accomplishments achieved in the past six months.

Child Studies at UCR

Child Studies is a collection of research groups in the Department of Psychology at UC Riverside that specialize in studying infant and child development. All of the studies take place on the UCR campus in one of seven laboratories. Recruitment of local families with children from birth through age 17 is an ongoing, collaborative effort. Efforts to streamline and centralize strategies and tools for recruitment were presented at the UCR Organizational Excellence Showcase on April 30, 2018, and [highlighted by UCR News](#). Graduate and undergraduate students engage year-round with the public via recruitment at events held by the City of Riverside as well as local museums, festivals, and non-profits. Flyers in four languages (English, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese) have been created to help reach a broader diversity of potential research participants, and more information may be found at <http://childstudies.ucr.edu>.



Select grants

- **Dr. Khaleel Razak:** Hearing Health Foundation: *Age-related hearing loss and cortical processing*; UCR Teaming Grant: *Workshop to develop constellation pharmacology approach at UC Riverside*
- **Drs. Kalina Michalska and Megan Peters (BCOE):** RED seed grant: *Neural representation overlap may underlie abnormal fear learning in anxious youth*
- **Dr. Kelly Huffman:** James McDonnell Foundation: *Cortical plasticity within and across lifetimes*
- **Dr. Chandra Reynolds:** University of Southern California (NIH/NIA): *Clarify risk and protective factors for dementia with the Interplay of Genes and Environmental In Multiple Studies (IGEMS) consortium*; SES Health Gradients in Late Life: *Testing Models of Gene-Environment Interplay in an International Twin Consortium*
- **Dr. Rebekah Richert:** John Templeton Foundation: *Planning phase for the Developing Belief Network: The ontogeny and diversity of religious cognition and behavior*
- **Dr. Tuppert Yates:** California Wellness Foundation: Guardian Scholars

Promoting happiness and well-being

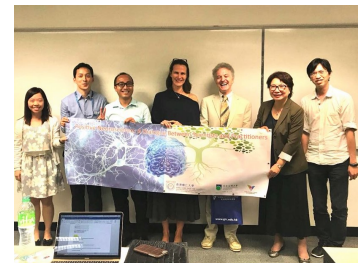
In October, **Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky** spoke at the 2018 World Knowledge Forum in Seoul, South Korea, a conference bringing together “global leaders to promote balanced global growth and prosperity through knowledge-sharing.” She spoke to an audience of roughly 3,000.



Dr. Kate Sweeny presented [research on Capitol Hill](#) and published an [opinion editorial in the Washington Post](#). A summary of Dr. Sweeny’s research from the past decade can be found here: [Current Directions in Psych Science](#).



Dr. Kalina Michalska presented a keynote lecture in Hong Kong on the neuroscience of prosocial and antisocial behavior. Her paper on perceived pain, published in [Psychosomatic Medicine](#), was featured in [Scientific American](#).



Neuroscience conference

With support from the Center for Glial and Neuronal Interaction (CGNI), **Drs. Hongdian Yang** (CNAS) and **Edward Zagha** (CHASS) successfully brought the 31st Annual Barrels Meeting to UC Riverside this November. This international conference is a long-running, prestigious 2-day neuroscience conference, and serves as a “kick-off” satellite meeting to the larger annual *Society for Neuroscience* meeting. The meeting focuses on the study of sensory and motor processing, using rodent whiskers as a model system: ‘barrels’ refers to the one-to-one cortical representation of each whisker, analogous to human sensory maps.

Select grants

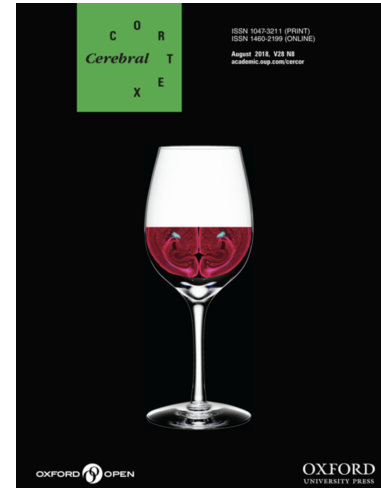
- **Dr. Weiwei Zhang:** NIH/NIMH: *A neurocognitive mechanism for precision of visual working memory representations*
- **Dr. Aaron Seitz:** NIH/NICHD: *Brain training for central auditory dysfunction after traumatic brain injury*; NIH/NEI: *Visual remediation in schizophrenia*
- **Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky, Lisa Walsh:** John Templeton Foundation: *Is gratitude only for the self? The benefits of recalling, sharing, receiving, and witnessing*
- **Dr. Kate Sweeny:** UCOP MRPI: *Reducing obesity: Sugar, stress and environment*; City of Hope: *An analysis of patients' emotional needs in the context of cancer care*
- **Drs. John Franchak and Elizabeth Davis:** NIH/NICHD: *Play and learning across the year*

PhD and Postdoc awards

- **Dr. Zane Xie:** Earle C. Anthony Travel award from UCR's Graduate Council
- **JC Lynne Lu Sing:** UC Riverside Academic Excellence Award
- **Yeram Cheong:** SRCD Student Travel Award; UCR Dissertation Research Grant (\$1,000)
- **Jacqueline Dighero:** NSF GRFP

Cover art

Dr. Kelly Huffman's image was chosen as cover art for a new issue of *Cerebral Cortex*, which also contains one of Dr. Huffman's papers. The cover art complements the article presenting exciting research demonstrating the impact across multiple generations of alcohol use when pregnant. [Click here](#) for more information.



Research in the spotlight

Dr. Weiwei Zhang received an RO1 grant from NIMH. The grant investigates how the brain remembers precise information. More details about the grant can be found at [UCR Today](#) and [Science magazine](#). Dr. Zhang also has been invited to conduct research on physical and cognitive efforts in the world's only undersea research station as part of NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) 2019 mission.

Awards and Honors

Dr. Carolyn Murray was awarded the prestigious 2018 Dr. William Montague Cobb award for special achievements in public health at the local level from the NAACP. The award ceremony was held on July 16, 2018, during the Health Luncheon at the NAACP's 109th Annual Convention in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Murray also was presented the CHASS Civic Engagement Award.

Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky was awarded the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Diener Award in Personality Psychology, which recognizes "a mid-career scholar whose work has added substantially to the body of knowledge to the personality field and/or brings together personality psychology and social psychology." Dr. Lyubomirsky also was awarded a

- **Lisa Walsh:** 2018 Society for Affective Science (SAS) 5th Annual Conference Positive Emotions Pre-conference Poster Award Winner
- **Brianne Coulombe:** Best Paper Award from APA Division 7
- **Sebastian deLarrea-Mancera:** Mexus/CONACYT Fellowship, Government of Mexico
- **Gwen Gardiner:** Psi Chi Graduate Student Research Grant
- **Alexander Karan:** UC Health Consortium Grant
- **Sarah Knapp:** Alyssa McCroskey Memorial Scholarship
- **Kirsten Lesage:** Patrice L. Engle Dissertation Grant for Global Early Child Dev, SRCD; Student Research Grant, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- **Alessandra Macbeth:** UCR Dissertation Research Grant; UCR DYP Fellowship
- **Parisa Parsafar and Daniel Harmon:** NSF iCorps Program Phase I and II; NPR interview with Daniel Harmon
- **Julia Revord:** 2018 UCR Healthy Campus Initiative Project Grant Award: *Kindness online and in-person: More than skin deep*
- **Kristen Rudd:** Society for Psychophysiological Research Travel Grant
- **Dr. Lauren Whitehurst:** NIH T32 Postdoctoral Fellowship; UCSF Chancellors Postdoc Fellow
- **Dulce Wilkinson:** UC Health Consortium Grant

Distinguished Research Lecturer Award from UCR.

Dr. Elizabeth Davis was awarded a Junior Excellence in Teaching Award from UCR.

Dr. Judy Kroll will be the keynote speaker at the 2019 Psychonomic Society meeting.

Dr. Ilana Bennett received an Undergraduate Education Teaching and Learning Grant from UCR.

Dr. Howard Friedman received a President's Citation for Distinguished Service to the Western Psychological Association.

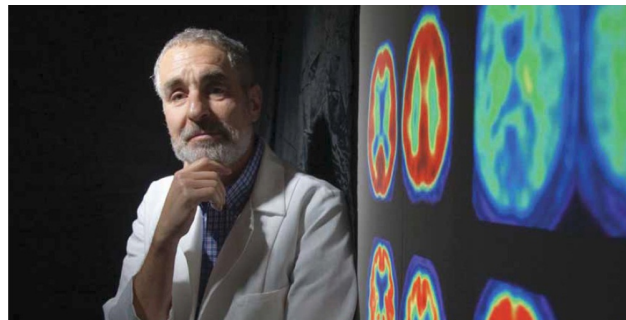
Dr. Rebekah Richert received an American Psychological Association Division 36 Virginia Sexton Mentoring Award. She also received funding for the Council on Undergraduate Research Transformations Project.

Dr. Kate Sweeny was awarded a Teresa and Byron Pollitt Endowed Term Chair, one of three such chairs in CHASS.

Events

Distinguished Speaker Series on Cognitive Neuroscience

This year the department is hosting a Distinguished Speaker Series on Cognitive Neuroscience. Three prominent researchers have been invited to share their work using cutting edge neuroscience techniques to study the neural bases of cognitive processes such as memory and language.



Our first speaker, **Dr. William Jagust**, visited UCR on October 17th. Dr. Jagust is an Endowed Chair in Geriatric Medicine and Professor of Neuroscience and Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. He is best known for his research using positron emission tomography (PET) and magnetic resonance

Affordable Course Materials

Four faculty members in the department received a UCR Affordable Course Materials Initiative grant to eliminate textbook costs in undergraduate classes. By eliminating high textbook costs, a significant factor contributing to inequality and stress in undergraduates can be eliminated. The faculty who received an award are **Drs. Rebekah Richert, Mary Gauvain, Cecilia Cheung, and Rachel Wu.** [Click here](#) for more information about the initiative.

Healthy Campus Initiative

Drs. Kate Sweeny and Rachel Wu were both Healthy Campus Initiative Faculty Competition Winners for integrating Healthy Campus Initiatives, such as lectures on being healthy, into daily activities. Each of them received \$500 for the department. [Click here](#) for more details about the healthy campus initiative.

Upcoming events

Cognitive Neuroscience Distinguished Speaker series:

INTS IIII3, 4:30 - 6:00 PM

December 5, 2018: Dr. Patricia Kuhl (University of Washington)

May 2, 2018: Dr. Nicholas Turk-Browne (Yale University)

imaging (MRI) to understand brain aging and dementia and their respective impact on cognitive functioning. He is recognized for being the first to demonstrate atrophy in the hippocampus associated with Alzheimer's Disease using MRI. He is also pioneering work using PET imaging to assess amyloid and tau accumulations in vivo. These proteins form the plaques and neurofibrillary tangles seen in Alzheimer's Disease. His talk was entitled "Molecules and Memory: the Borderland of Aging and Alzheimer's Disease."

Undergraduate advising events

Degree Audit Workshop: November 1, PSYC 3210, 1:30-2:30PM

This workshop for First Year and new Transfer Psychology students explains Degree Audit and its benefits to support student success and Winter registration.

Graduate School Workshop

Drs. Kate Sweeny and Rachel Wu, and graduate students **Kirsten Lesage** and **Erin Alderson** participated in the Graduate School Workshop organized by the Undergraduate Advisors in the Psychology Department. **Dr. David Chavez** from Cal State San Bernardino also participated on the panel. The panel discussed differences between a PhD, Masters, and PsyD programs, including the expectations and trained skills. The 60 participant slots filled up very quickly, and therefore, this workshop will be offered periodically due to high demand.

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. [Click here for more information.](#) | [Guardian Scholars \(helping emancipated foster youth in higher education\)](#)