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Greetings from the Department of Psychology Chair,
Dr. Julian Keith

Scientists take the idea of causality really, really, seriously. The way things are now is a result of things -- dizzying combinations of innumerable things -- that happened earlier. As the year draws to a close and I reflect on memorable events, achievements, and milestones that distinguish 2017, my memory wanders deeper into our departmental history and the efforts of those responsible for our present good fortune. The 2017-18 academic year is the 70th anniversary of the founding of our institution and the Psychology Department’s 45th.

From 1972 through 1982, the psychology department shared the small second floor of King Hall with the School of Education. Classrooms were little, and research space was improvised from shared storage closets. As one example – the only location with a sink where Mark Galizio could clean his research equipment was a small room that also happened to be where the department chair, John Williams, kept caiman (little crocodiles) that roamed freely on the floor. Mark and his students held off attacking caiman with a broom while cleaning their equipment between each research session. Still, while teaching four different courses each semester, UNCW faculty found ways to build research programs, involved students in the process of discovering new knowledge, and publish articles in professional scholarly journals. Undaunted by the scarcity of material resources, the founding faculty "MacGyvered" research equipment and apparatus.

The "Going the Extra Mile" award goes to Bill Overman. Bill joined our faculty in the mid-1970s and brought a neuroscience research program to UNCW. Bill collaborated with scientists at the National Institutes of Mental Health, most notably the eminent neuroscientist Mort Mishkin, on studies that involved the brain and memory. With no suitable place for such research on the main campus, Bill built a lab at UNCW’s marine science building then located near the drawbridge at Wrightsville Beach. As a new, untenured, assistant professor, Bill hitchhiked back and forth between campus and Wrightsville Beach to do research with his many students.

In 1982, the department moved to the (then) new Social and Behavioral Sciences building, which we shared with four other departments -- Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, and Philosophy and Religion. Though S&B seemed palatial initially and had several dedicated spaces designed as laboratories, we rapidly outgrew it and faculty research scattered around campus, much of it housed in pre-fabricated metal buildings. When Rob Hakan joined the faculty, he brought a research grant -- the biggest NIH grant to an individual at UNCW at the time -- and operated it out of space that was about 100 square feet. Students he trained in that small lab included a future cardiothoracic surgeon and chair of the Department of Psychology at Columbia University, in New York.

Renowned for our excellence as teachers, the psychology department has more recipients of university teaching awards than any other unit, including five Board of Trustees Distinguished Teaching Awards (three in a row over the past three years), UNCW’s most prestigious award. Our identities as teachers and scientists are entwined. We view ourselves as responsible for contributing to the development of new knowledge and intensively mentoring students in this process. Even with little lab space and heavy teaching loads, throughout the early history of our department faculty successfully competed for grants against larger programs and received significant grant support from NIH, NSF, Department of Education, Department of State, and numerous non-governmental agencies and foundations.

Motivated by core values in which science and education are regarded as public goods crucial for a flourishing of society, the founding faculty challenged students to push incessantly toward more in-depth understandings of nature and to yearn to see the world as clearly as possible. When I was a novice psychology student at UNCW in the early 1980s, Mark Galizio taught me that the best scientists are humble about what they know, but proud of the methods they use to win new knowledge. Though each truth is only a partial, provisional best-we-can-do-for-the-moment understanding of reality, every small advance is a treasure.

Today, the Psychology Department is a premier UNCW program. We are the home department of the President of the American Psychological Association (Tony Puente), 2017 recipient of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) Award for Enduring Contributions by a program, and the 2017 individual award from ABAI for Service to the Field (Carol Pilgrim). Chancellors, provosts, and deans noticed the dedication, excellence, and achievements of our faculty and students and invested generously, including: a 100,000 sq ft, $36 million state-of-the-art teaching and research building (we share with Environmental Science), $4.5 million targeted to support our graduate program over the next five years, and a new 3,300 sq ft psychology clinical training facility that will open early Spring 2018.

Reinforcing UNCW’s administration’s investment in psychology, the graduate deans of the UNC General Administration and the UNC Board of Governors unanimously approved our Ph.D. program, which is off to an excellent start this year. Belief in the value of their work, dogged determination to contribute to their beloved discipline and their infectious passion for teaching and research are qualities the founding faculty bred into our departmental DNA. Happily, the newest generation of colleagues to join our department also are stellar teachers and researchers. Rachel Kohman was inaugurated into the Million Dollar club (based on NIH grants) in record time -- under five years.

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Kate Nooner has received multiple NIH grants since coming to UNCW five years ago, and Ricky Pond has published about (this will likely change by the time you read it) 30 journal articles since joining us in 2012.

Award winners are celebrated, and stellar research is honored, but we remind ourselves daily that every person who is part of our program is equally important to our institution and department. Though we now have a Ph.D. program, we remain as dedicated as ever to undergraduate education -- faculty supervised more than 200 undergraduate directed individual studies, 20 honors thesis projects, and 55 counseling practica in 2017. We have over 600 majors and as many psychology minors. We also co-manage minors in Applied Behavior Analysis and Neuroscience, both of which are booming.

Bill now walks only a few feet from his office to get to his lab and Mark doesn’t fend off caiman to conduct his research. But their intrepid dedication to their students and work still inspire us. Theirs are the shoulders upon which we stand. We have far to go to fully achieve our potentials as teachers, scientists, and clinicians. But in this season of the life of our department, we are grateful to those -- taxpayers, university officials, and alumni -- who support us and provide opportunities for us to do meaningful work, build mentoring relationships with students, and funded the fantastic facility where it all happens today.

Sarah Accattato
Recipient of the SURCA Research supplies grant and the Summer 2017 SURCA award. Undergraduate researcher with Dr. Mark Galizio.

Caitlin Fountain

Jeremy Langford
Recipient of the Innovative Master’s Thesis Grant for Basic Research from the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis. Researcher with Dr. Raymond Pitts

Haleigh Winbourne
Second year SATP M.A. student under Recipient of the Governor’s Institute Scholarship in Substance Abuse Treatment. Researcher with Dr. Donlin Washington.

UNCW Department of Psychology receives program award from ABA-I in Denver, CO
New Psychology Training Clinic to Open in 2018

A new training clinic is set to open in 2017. The building will co-house two clinics: an Applied Behavior Analysis Center for Pediatric Behavioral Health, and an Adult Assessment clinic. Each graduate student concentration will have an associated training clinic with the goal of providing exceptional foundational training in evidence-based assessments and treatments. The clinic is expected to open for patient intake and student training in 2018.

The Pediatric Behavioral Health clinic will aim to improve the lives of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while providing a clinical research supervision experience for students in the Applied Behavior Analysis track. The clinic will allow treatment for severe problem behaviors, for pediatric feeding disorders, and for early skill acquisition.

The severe behavior program of the clinic will provide specialized behavioral treatment for severe challenging behaviors such as aggression, elopement, self-injury, or stereotypy. Children ages 2 to 18 will have the opportunity to receive outpatient or intensive day-treatment therapies. The pediatric feeding disorders clinic will be expanded in the new building, allowing for an inter-disciplinary team of clinicians to treat children ages 1-12 in an outpatient or intensive day treatment therapy program. The early acquisition program for children with developmental disabilities to learn language, academic and vocational skills, social skills, and self-help skills. The Applied Behavior Analysis Center for Pediatric Behavioral Health programs represent the first of their kind in the region or in the state.

The adult clinic will provide training for students in the assessment and treatment of educational and learning accommodation and mental health and substance use challenges. In addition, the Adult Clinic will also respond to regional needs by providing treatments for veterans and their families, as well as for the treatment of opioid addiction. The adult clinic will provide these services for students and staff at UNCW, in addition to the surrounding community.

“Having a Psychology Training Clinic will allow us to offer much more intensive, foundational experiences to students,” says Clinical Supervisor and Psychology Professor Dr. Sally MacKain. “Because clients will consent to have every session recorded, the faculty supervisors can get a much better sense of where the student is, in terms of developing competencies. We can’t get that kind of hands-on, developmental supervision in any other setting...The training clinic is a real milestone in UNCW’s investment in educating future leaders in psychology.”
Dr. Kate Nooner is the recipient of a major federal grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

The purpose of the grant is to identify biomarkers of binge drinking in maltreated children. It is unique in that it goes to the homes of children to interview them and to measure their brain function.

**Background & Education:** Dr. Nooner grew up in Queens and attended Wellesley College, a women’s college outside of Boston. After college, Dr. Nooner was the lab manager of a developmental psychology lab at M.I.T where she conducted research with infants. She has also served as guardian ad litem for the Department of Social Services in Boston. It was through those experiences that she arrived in her current research interests in child maltreatment. Dr. Nooner completed her PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of California, San Diego. Her research at UNCW examines the intersection of childhood trauma, brain, function, and high-risk alcohol use.

**About her time at UNCW:** “My most meaningful experience at UNCW has been working with undergraduate and graduate students in my Trauma and Resilience Lab. I enjoy mentoring students on ways that they can measure brain function to better understand the ways in which adverse childhood experiences may contribute to high risk choices pertaining to alcohol use. Child maltreatment and alcoholism are a major problem in the nation including in Wilmington and helping to find ways to solve these problems through my research, while at the same time serving the students and community of UNCW brings meaning to my life every day.”

Dr. Kohman is the recipient of an R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) grant from the National Institute of Aging.

The goal of the grant is to investigate a possible pathway that may contribute to the development of chronic low-grade neuroinflammation with normal aging. “As this age-related neuroinflammation appears to contribute to the progression of several neurodegenerative diseases there is a need to understand what events are triggering chronic in older individuals.”

**Background & Education:** Dr. Kohman is originally from Minnesota, where she attended the small liberal arts college of Augsburg College, in Minneapolis. She also attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas and explored how early life events altered the responsiveness of the immune system to an immune challenge in adulthood. Since she joined the faculty at UNCW in 2012, her research has continued to explore the interactions between the brain and the immune system in the field of psychoneuroimmunology. The goals in her lab are to understand why normal aging alters the immune system, particularly the function of immune cells in the brain, as well as identifying potential interventions to slow or prevent these age-related changes in neuroinflammation.

**About her time at UNCW:** “The most meaningful part of my job is serving as a research mentor for graduate and undergraduate students. I thoroughly enjoy helping students gain a better understanding of the research process and identifying their own research interests.”
Alumni Spotlight

Cecil R. Reynolds, PhD, ABN, ABPdN

Class of 1975
Alumnus of the year, 1984.
Recipient of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington 50th Anniversary Razor Walker Award for Service to the Youth of North Carolina.

“You can’t take too many psychology courses, or know too much stats or neuroscience if you want to be a psychologist”

Dr. Reynolds’ primary research interests are in all aspects of psychological assessment with particular emphasis on assessment of memory, emotional and affective states and traits, and issues of cultural bias in testing. He is the author of more than 300 scholarly publications and author or editor of over 50 books including The Energetic Brain, The Clinician’s Guide to the BASC, Clinical Applications of Continuous Performance Tests, Handbook of School Psychology, the Encyclopedia of Special Education, and the Handbook of Clinical Child Neuropsychology. He is also the author of several widely used commercial tests of personality and behavior. He maintained a clinical practice treating trauma victims and individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury for 25 years before retiring from clinical work at the end of 2003 to extend his forensic practice and writing efforts.

Dr. Reynolds is a diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology, of which he is also a past president, is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Neuropsychology and is now the Immediate Past President of the Board, and was a diplomate in School Psychology of the American Board of Professional Psychology, prior to retiring his diplomate in 2004. He was elected a Distinguished Practitioner and Fellow of the National Academies of Practice in 2012. He is a past president of the National Academy of Neuropsychology, APA Divisions 5 (Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics), 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology), and 16 (School Psychology). He is a Fellow of APA Divisions 1, 5, 15, 16, 40, and 53. He served as Editor in Chief of Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology (1990-2002), official journal of the National Academy of Neuropsychology, Applied Neuropsychology (2004-2008), and the APA journal Psychological Assessment (2009-2015), and in April of 2015 became Editor of the APA’s open access journal, Archives of Scientific Psychology. He serves on the editorial boards of 11 other journals in the field. He has served as Associate Editor of School Psychology Quarterly, Journal of Special Education, and is currently Associate Editor of the Journal of Pediatric Neuropsychology. Dr. Reynolds has received multiple national awards recognizing him for excellence in research.

A fun fact about Dr. Reynolds: “Before turning to Psychology, I played professional baseball with the NY Mets!”

Department
Achievement & Awards

Dr. Sally MacKain was awarded the 2017 Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award and the Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award

Dr. Carol Pilgrim was awarded the Association for Behavior Analysis International 2017 Distinguished Service to the Field of Behavior Analysis Award

Dr. Antonio Puente elected APA president for 2017
Welcome Dr. Tom Cariveau, Assistant Professor of Psychology

From: Minnesota
Education: MA in Special Education and PhD in School Psychology from the University of Oregon. He completed an internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the Marcus Autism Center and Emory University School of Medicine.
Research Interests: "Most of my work is with individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities. I'm particularly interested in the acquisition of verbal behavior and methods to increase the efficiency of intervention outcomes."
About his time at UNCW: "It has been great learning so much about everyone in our department, which is my favorite thing thus far. I'm looking forward to developing as a teacher, researcher, and clinician, while taking the time to enjoy the ocean a bit too.

First Cohort of PhD Students Accepted

“It is a wonderfully unique opportunity to specialize in Co-occurring Substance Use and Mental Health disorders. With the current public health issues revolving around substance use, having this concentration will be a benefit to communities around the nation from both a research and practical perspective.” – Matison McCool, PhD Student

The Clinical PhD program offers two concentrations: an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and a Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders (COSUD) track. Students in the ABA concentration will complete coursework and training to provide strong backgrounds in the experimental analysis of behavior and in the methodological and conceptual foundations of behavior analysis. Students work with faculty with expertise in experimental, conceptual, and applied behavior analysis and developmental disabilities. PhD students in COSUD concentration will receive training in the assessment and treatment of single and co-occurring substance use and mental health problems. Students work with faculty who approach the problem of substance use from multiple research and applied perspectives. The program is designed to prepare students to be eligible for APA Practice Organization’s Certificate of Proficiency in the treatment of alcohol and other psychoactive substance use disorders.
2016 & 2017 Alumni

Applied Behavior Analysis M.A. Recipients

'17
Sarah Haney, BCBA PhD program, Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center

'16
Lea Crusen, BCBA May Center for ABA Services, Jacksonville, NC
Victoria Martin, BCBA Autism Society of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC
Jessica Keane, BCBA Center for Autism & Related Disorders, Carlsbad, CA
Brittany Williams, BCBA Central Regional Hospital, Butner, NC

Psychological Science M.A. Recipients

'17
Kate Clauss Clinical PhD program, Auburn University
Lyndsay Fairchild School Psychology PhD program, Mississippi State University
Drew Froman Clinical Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Angela Goolsby Behavior Analysis PhD program, Western Michigan University
Tamara Greak Counseling PhD program, University of Miami
William Hayes Quantitative PhD program, University of South Carolina
Sarah Johnson Clinical PhD program, University of Tennessee
Hana Kuwabara Clinical PhD program, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Michael Loeffler Social Clinical Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Jenna McPherson Part-time Instructor, University of North Carolina Wilmington
Sam Vanhille Clinical PhD program, Brigham Young University
Samuel West Social PhD program, Virginia Commonwealth University

'16
Rebecca Bauer Lab Manager, Psychology Infant Language and Perception Lab, University of Tennessee
Victoria Bennett Clinical PhD program, University of Houston
Brian Bulla Clinical PhD program, University of Southern Mississippi
Jessica Katschke Clinical PhD program, Wayne State University
Rebecca Keegan Survey Statistician, United States Census Bureau
Michael Mathews Behavior Analysis PhD program, West Virginia University
Courtney Mauzy PhD program, University of Georgia
Andrea Mejia Clinical PhD program, University of Florida
Catharine Nealley Behavioral Neuroscience Research Assistant, Baylor University
Ellen Quick Clinical PhD program, Fordham University
Lauren Schaefer Clinical PhD program, University of Memphis
Angela Sekely Clinical PhD program, University of Toronto
Courtney Walls Child Welfare Intake Specialist, Larimer County in Colorado

Substance Abuse Treatment Psychology M.A. Recipients

'17
Ryan Brabrand Addiction Counselor, Momentum Recovery | Part-time Instructor, University of North Carolina Wilmington
Nicole Cates Consultant, NC Department of Health and Human Services
Stephanie Vettorazzi Therapist, Harvest of Wilmington, NC

'16
Eric Guendner, LPA, LCAS Therapist, Delta Behavioral Health, Wilmington, NC | Part-time Instructor, University of North Carolina Wilmington
Kristine Lapointe, LPA, LCAS Therapist, Delta Behavioral Health, Wilmington, NC
2017 Department Publications


Thank you to our 2017 donors!

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