

## New Faculty Profiles: Edith Chen and Gregory Miller



Edith & Greg with their son, Jonah (age 6)

The Psychology Department is excited to welcome two new professors, Edith Chen and Greg Miller, to our department this year. Professor Chen and Miller are a husband-and-wife team coming to Northwestern from the University of British Columbia. Both are health psychologists who will have joint appointments with the Psychology Department and the Institute for Policy Research. They will be the first health psychologists to join the faculty, and the department is thrilled to be able to expand into this important area of psychology.

The research of Professor Chen and Miller relate to how socioeconomic status, poverty, and early life conditions affect physical health later in life. They study the psychological and biological pathways that can explain the relationship as well as the protective factors that can buffer people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. While they do a lot of overlapping research, they also have independent specialties. Professor Miller focuses specifically on the effects of stress. He studies how stress plays out in the body biologically, and how stressors that occur during early life can get biologically embedded and impact people's risk for

medical problems. Professor Chen focuses on childhood health problems such as asthma, and also does work on understanding the neighborhood, family, and individual psychological factors that contribute to health disparities.

Professor Miller has always been interested in health psychology, but Professor Chen had a more varied academic path. She received her bachelor's in the history of science from Harvard University, and then decided to switch to psychology for her doctorate at University of California, Los Angeles. She started out studying anxiety disorders, but over time her interests shifted toward health psychology as a function of the people she met and with whom she collaborated. One of these people was Greg Miller; the two met in graduate school at UCLA and first bonded over their shared academic interests.

When asked how they balance their professional and personal lives, the husband-and-wife pair said simply, "We do our best work together." They are excited to have the opportunity to work together in their new jobs, and they will be starting a joint research lab in the fall. They feel grateful to have found a place for both of them at Northwest-

### ABOUT PSYCHWATCH

PsychWatch is a newsletter for alumni, faculty, and friends of the Department of Psychology at Northwestern University. The graphics in the masthead of the newsletter are details from the lights in the Swift Hall entry, a distinctive architectural feature of our historic building. Your comments are always welcome. Please contact us either by mail, at PsychWatch, Department of Psychology, Northwestern University, 2029 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208; or e-mail at: [katherine-meyer@northwestern.edu](mailto:katherine-meyer@northwestern.edu).

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## A Note from the Chair

by Dan P. McAdams

**G**reetings from Northwestern! In my remarks to the graduating seniors and their parents this past June, I focused on a few stories about the undergraduates in the Psychology Department. Let me begin my annual report to you along the same lines:

Ganesh Thippeswamy worked this past year with Professor Ben Gorvine on a project that aims to provide guidance for at-risk students attending an alternative high school in Chicago. Ganesh co-facilitated a young men's group at the school, leading discussions on masculinity, parenting, and personal development. Along with Ben, Ganesh co-authored a recently published paper entitled "A Qualitative Assessment of HIV/AIDS Related Knowledge in Inner-City Minority Students."

Professor Robin Nusslock credits Ellen Reynolds for nearly single handedly getting his lab up and running this past year. Ellen conducted her own research in the area of psychophysiology, as well, producing an outstanding honors thesis. She is off to Columbia University this fall to take a full-time position as a research coordinator for a neuroscience lab.

Nicole Hendrix worked with Professors Sue Hesos and Sandy Waxman in research on infant cognition. Sandy describes Nicole as a "dedicated, thorough, and terrific writer." Sue reports that Nicole will be leaving crying babies behind this fall to attend graduate school in educational psychology at the University of Iowa.

Grace Berman and Ben Yu worked this past year in Professor Eli Finkel's social psychology lab. Quoting Eli here, Grace "hurled herself headlong into one of the most contentious topics among scholars of interpersonal attraction. [Seems ironic that scholars who study love should end up being so "contentious"!]

Along the way she provided crucial evidence to resolving scholarly debates in the field." Ben blended his expertise in biology with expertise in psychology to produce a thesis that required the best of both. He showed that testosterone spikes when people are exposed to romantic mating opportunities, and, to quote Eli again, "he discovered something essential about the human psyche along the way."



Steven Pinker spoke at NU on February 20  
Photo Credit: Stephen Anzaldi

The most important thing that faculty members in the Psychology Department do is to teach and train the wonderful students we are honored to know here.

Beyond teaching and training, our faculty chalked up a large number of impressive accomplishments on the fronts of scientific research and professional development. These are listed in other places in our newsletter, but let me recognize a few of the most noteworthy here. Along with Sir Paul McCartney and a handful of other luminaries, Professor Alice Eagly was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences this past year. Sandy Waxman was officially invested as the Louis W. Menck Professor in Psychology, and Dedre Gentner received a parallel honor, receiving the endowed Alice Gabrielle Twight Professorship. Satoru Suzuki was promoted to full professor, Steve Franconeri received tenure and was promoted to associate professor, and Ben Gorvine was promoted to senior lecturer.

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the year was the inaugural Northwestern Symposium on Mind and Society, which took place on April 19 and featured Dan Gilbert, a social psychology rock star and professor at Harvard. Gilbert participated in a panel discussion in the afternoon, which centered on issues raised in his recent book, *Stumbling on Happiness*. Gilbert's public address that evening was extraordinary — a cross between a stand-up comedy routine and scientific lecture. Nearly 1,000 people filled Pick Staiger Auditorium to hear Gilbert speak. I believe this to have been one of the most successful, high-profile academic events that Northwestern University has ever put on. Contingent on funding, the Psychology Department plans to host a second Northwestern Symposium on Mind and Society in 2013-14.

In a related vein, a second highlight of the year was a big student-sponsored public lecture delivered by Harvard Professor Steve Pinker, back in February. Pinker spoke about his new book, *The Better Angels of our Nature*. Amassing an enormous amount of scientific and historical evidence, Pinker's book makes the counterintuitive argument that human violence has dramatically declined over the past two



Dan Gilbert spoke at NU on April 19  
Photo Credit: Natalie Krebs



centuries, and that today we may be living in the most peaceful epoch ever. I was skeptical when I started the book, but Pinker won me over by the end. You should read it and see what you think!

For the new academic year, we welcome 16 new PhD students in the Psychology Department. Our new Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Sue Hesos, presided over a very successful recruiting season. Among our new junior colleagues, three students are from underrepresented minorities.

The new year also welcomes two new faculty to Northwestern University. Through a joint search with Northwestern's Institute for Policy Research, the Psychology Department hired a superstar husband-and-wife team: Professors Edith Chen and Greg Miller. This single hire suddenly gives us a formidable program in health psychology, which we hope to augment with an upcoming hire in the area of "personality and health." You can read about Edith, Greg, and their son Joshua in accompanying articles for this issue of *Psychwatch*.

The department was also fortunate this year to receive a generous grant from the Alumnae of Northwestern University Gifts and Grants Committee that allowed us to upgrade the ceiling-mounted projectors in our two Swift Hall seminar rooms. The improved capability of these state-of-the-art projectors will allow faculty, graduate students, and guest presenters to display high-resolution slides (such as brain images) with improved clarity and visibility.

I hope your year was as good as ours here at Northwestern. Do drop us a line — via email or whatever — to get us up to date on what is going on in your professional life. Or come to campus. We are eager to include news from our alumni in future editions of this publication. And should you fancy to offer other forms of support, we would love to hear about that, too. The Psychology Department continues to search for new ways to enhance our research enterprise and improve our educational mission. If you feel you can help us in that regard, let us know.

*Dan P. McAdams*

## Distinguished Faculty Profile: Satoru Suzuki

Satoru Suzuki is a faculty member in the Brain, Behavior, and Cognition division who studies vision, cross-modal interactions, and awareness. He has been with Northwestern's Department of Psychology since fall 1997. The main goal of his research is to understand how people perceive things. He works to understand how interactions of neural responses create perceptual reality.

Professor Suzuki also studies conscious and unconscious processing and how the two work together in people's daily lives. He is curious about the common, frustrating situation where you know what you want to say, but you cannot figure out the right words to explain it properly. People have an ongoing dialogue between their conscious mind that has desires and intentions, and their unconscious mind that actually generates things such as words, ideas, actions, and emotions at the request of their conscious mind. By investigating how information processing differs between the conscious and unconscious modes of neural interactions, Professor Suzuki strives to understand how best to access your unconscious mind so as to increase the likelihood of generating ideas, actions and experience.

Over the course of his academic journey, Professor Suzuki has explored a variety of interests, always in a quest to get to the bottom of things. When he started his bachelor's at Wesleyan University, he was originally interested in biotechnology. He soon realized that he wanted to investigate the core information driving biological theories. He switched to physics and found the subject matter more in tune with the way his mind worked. After completing his undergraduate degree, he was accepted into a doctoral program in physics at the University of Massachusetts. Physicists talk about "reality" as an objective understanding of the universe, but he could not get past the idea that all knowledge has to go through our mind. Every physics experiment had to be constructed so that the human brain could understand, and he realized that the human mind was the most

fundamental entity. He left UMass after getting his master's and switched into a psychology doctoral program at Harvard. Fate was on his side because that year the program took in students with unconventional backgrounds. Although he was slow in the beginning, he believes having a non-psychology background allows him to make a unique contribution to the study of the brain and mind.

Now with his research on perception, he feels like he is finally settled on the core subject matter that he had long been searching for.

Professor Suzuki and his fellow researcher, Research Associate Professor Marcia Grabowecy, also a member of the psychology faculty, are the principal investigators of the Visual Perception, Neuroscience, and Cognition Lab. When asked how the collaboration started, Professor Suzuki replied that when he first came to Northwestern he did not know Dr. Grabowecy. They did not speak for nearly a year, but Dr. Grabowecy eventually broke the ice and came to his office to talk. They realized they shared similar research interests, had complementary expertise, and worked very well together. They have been collaborating on their research ever since.

When describing his feelings about Northwestern, Professor Suzuki said he feels grateful to be in an institution where everyone is collegial. He finds it easy and fun to collaborate with colleagues in the social, clinical, and personality areas, as well as those within his own area of research. He



Satoru with his daughter, Kya

believes colleagues make or break a job, and he is happy to be surrounded by friendly people. He also appreciates the high quality of undergraduate students that Northwestern attracts. His favorite class to teach is an undergrad class titled "Consciousness." He likes that it is all discussion based and that he gets to discuss the cutting edge research being done in the field with young minds.

Music is Professor Suzuki's second love. He almost double majored in music while in college, and has always been passionate about composing. While at Wesleyan, he had the opportunity to work with a dance major on her senior project. He would go to rehearsals and work with a group of dancers, each improvising in reaction to each other's art while he improvised melodies and rhythms to harmonize with the dancers' movements and sentiments. Between his research and playing soccer with his daughter, Professor Suzuki does not have a lot of time for outside activities, but he remembers that experience in college fondly. He hopes he can go back to composing sometime in the future.

### Edith Chen and Gregory Miller

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ern, where the current faculty is welcoming and enthusiastic about expanding the department's academic scope. Professors Chen and Miller look forward to bringing health psychology into more prominence. There are many people doing health-related research at Northwestern, but there has historically been less focus on this within the Psychology Department. Professors Chen and Miller will help align courses from other departments to develop a larger contingent of health classes. Next spring, Professor Chen will teach an undergraduate special topics course on

health psychology, and Professor Miller will teach an advanced undergraduate seminar on psychoneuroimmunology. They hope to develop new graduate health psychology courses in the future.

This summer Professors Chen and Miller packed up their family and made the long move from Vancouver to Chicago. Vancouver consistently ranks as one of the world's most livable cities, so they are sad to leave it behind. They said it speaks to the quality of Northwestern that they are willing to move, and they remain optimistic about loving

Chicago. Professor Miller said there are few places for which they would consider throwing their life into upheaval, but Northwestern is a great university with wonderful people and a strong research reputation. He also added jokingly that they luckily already love purple. When not doing research, they spend time with their six-year-old son, Jonah, and enjoy skiing, traveling, and hiking. In the upcoming year they look forward to exploring Chicago, discovering new restaurants, and learning to love the Cubs.

## Distinguished Alumna Profile: Marilynn Brewer

Northwestern alumna Marilynn Brewer was born and raised in Chicago, and received her PhD in social psychology from Northwestern University in 1968. After spending her first few years as an assistant professor at Loyola University of Chicago, she spent the next twenty years as tenured faculty at University of California Santa Barbara and at the University of California Los Angeles, where she also served as Director of UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research. In 1993 she was hired as the Eminent Scholar in Social Psychology at Ohio State University, and since 2009, has been Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University and a visiting professor at the University of New South Wales in Australia.

Across her distinguished career Dr. Brewer authored or edited a dozen books, as well as more than 200 articles. She has been recognized as one of psychology's most influential scholars in the understanding of intergroup relations, social identities, and the self-concept, with her work cited more than 20,000 times. The importance of Dr. Brewer's work has been recognized across multiple disciplinary boundaries within psychology, as reflected by her multiple prestigious awards, including the Kurt Lewin Award (Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues), the Donald T. Campbell Award for Distinguished Research in Social Psychology (Society for Personality and Social Psychology), the International Society for Self and Identity Career Award, the Harold Lasswell Career Award (International Society of Political Psychology), the Distinguished Scientist Award, (Society for Experimental Social Psychology) and Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award (American Psychological Association). Her professional and scientific contributions were further recognized when she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004.

Beyond her clear scientific impact, Dr. Brewer also strongly influenced the field of psychology through her service. She has served as editor or associate editor of four journals, as the president of five scientific societies, and was both a founding member and president of the American Psychological Society.

Dr. Brewer is known for being both a fearless methodologist, a broad thinker, and a cross-disciplinary scholar exploring fundamental questions of the sociality of human nature. She traces the genesis of many of these aspects to her time in the Northwestern psychology department, and especially to her graduate mentorship by Professor Donald Campbell.

### Marilynn Brewer – A Few Northwestern Reminiscences

When I entered the doctoral program in psychology at NU in 1964, I was incredibly naive, both intellectually and politically. Having graduated from a small liberal arts college, my education in the social sciences had been broad but not very deep. So I was grateful that the psychology doctoral program at that time had a structured curriculum of required courses for the first two years of graduate work. Taking classes on the content, methods, and history of psychology from faculty such as Ben Underwood, Win Hill, Carl Duncan, and Al Erlebacher upped my level of sophistication in the discipline substantially. At the same time, the political climate of the late 1960s (including the Democratic convention in Chicago in 1968, just after I completed my



doctoral degree) had a tremendous influence on my social conscience that shaped both my political values and my research interests for the rest of my life.

But nothing that I experienced during my four years of predoctoral and two years of postdoctoral work at Northwestern compared to the impact of having Donald Campbell as my academic advisor and mentor. Although nominally trained in the field of social psychology, I found that working with Don Campbell was an education in epistemology, evolutionary theory, and research methodology all writ large. I gradually honed my intellectual debating skills, arguing with Don over issues of human nature and the "selfish gene" (learning in the process that Don was always open to a good argument, but never actually changed his mind). While I was still a graduate student Campbell invited me to become a research associate on an interdisciplinary program of research entitled the Cross-Cultural Study of Ethnocentrism (CCSE). The CCSE project, funded by the Carnegie Foundation, was an ambitious collaborative effort led by Campbell and Robert A. Levine, an anthropologist from the University of Chicago. Combining ethnographic methods and structured interview surveys in sites all over the world, the goal of the project was to test the universality of certain principles of ingroup favoritism and intergroup relations—pretty heady stuff for a still-fledgling social scientist. One aspect of the CCSE—a survey study of intergroup perceptions in East Africa—became the basis for my doctoral dissertation research and a later book co-authored with Don. Apart from these tangible products, the questions posed by the CCSE project—questions of group identity and intergroup behavior—became the key questions that I would pursue throughout my research career.

In a number of autobiographical essays, Don Campbell expressed his gratitude to the psychology program at Northwestern for affording him the luxury of pursuing his broad (and often idiosyncratic) intellectual interests without the constraints of rigid disciplinary or subdisciplinary boundaries. As the indirect beneficiary of this intellectual freedom, I share his gratitude, along with many fond memories of my tenure at Northwestern.

## GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: DANIEL SANCHEZ IN BRAIN, BEHAVIOR, AND COGNITION

From the blistering heat of the southern California high desert, Daniel Sanchez found reprieve in the cool shores near the University of California, San Diego. With an early passion for science bolstered by the great Don Herbert (Mr. Wizard), he was originally committed to a career in engineering and physics in order to find a place in the research and development area of the automotive industry. However, after a few psychology courses revealed the mysteries of the brain, Danny decided he was more interested in reverse-engineering the process of human cognition. A reductionist interest in neuroscience led him to work in the rat lab of Dr. Squire, under the guidance of Dr. Robert Clark. Although the memory research conducted in the laboratory was of significant interest, he quickly decided that working with rodents was not a personally desirable career path. After dabbling in language research with Dr. Tracy Love, Daniel found his way into the implicit memory lab of Dr. Paul Reber, where he is currently in the process of developing his dissertation work.

His primary interests reside in understanding how people are able to acquire expertise in complex skills. It has long been understood that practice makes perfect, but the underlying neural mechanisms that support procedural improvements are still quite mysterious.

For instance, using the Serial Interception Sequence Learning (SISL) task, researchers have yet to find any tangible limit on the amount or complexity of information one can acquire during perceptual-motor learning. Danny's dissertation research is specifically concerned with the interplay between the explicit (knowing what) and implicit (knowing how) memory systems, and has been personally motivated by his passion for art and cartooning. Likewise, a side-project collaboration combining neuroscience and cryptography has been extremely rewarding in that it allows for a unique return to his original passion for math and engineering. While a career in academia, allowing for the continued pursuit of understanding the brain, remains the obvious goal, he likes the idea of leaving his future options open (hopefully, with options that coincide with returning to the salty breeze of the Pacific coast). The recent addition of a rambunctious son to his small family has consumed his being and has added richness to his life that makes living in the present far more important than worrying about the future.



## Distinguished Staff Profile: Tomeka Bolar

As the business administrator for the Department of Psychology, Tomeka Bolar is an integral figure in the department. She has been working for Northwestern for 16 years, and has been in the Psychology Department for the past 11. Tomeka started at Northwestern in March of 2001 as a program assistant in the Linguistics Department. She was originally drawn to Northwestern because she wanted to work in an academic atmosphere. She appreciated the fact that she was able to take classes at night and expand her education while working full-time. She was not interested in earning another degree, but simply liked the opportunity to learn more about different subject areas. She started the job with a bachelor's degree in English, and over the years she took several night classes in organizational behavior.

A few years into working as a Linguistics' program assistant, Tomeka got a call from the Dean of Finance. Their department was down a staff member, and they asked if she could help with some of the workload. She said yes because — as she puts it — “You cannot say no to the Dean.” She thought she was just helping out as a favor, but as it turns out they were testing her. Six months later, she got a call from the Dean's office asking if she would consider applying to be the business administrator of Psychology. Tomeka said she would not have thought to consider the position upgrade, but at the recommendation of the Dean of Finance she applied and got the job.

Today Tomeka's primary duties include grant management and office management. Her favorite part of the job is managing the department's grants. She gets to help faculty members put together their proposals and manage their budgets after they receive the grants. She thinks it is exciting to have a hand in the groundbreaking research being carried out in the department.

In 2010 Tomeka received the Phil Waldenberg Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Staff Mentor of the Year Award. The award goes to the Weinberg College Staff member who has shown outstanding leadership in coaching and mentoring their fellow staff members. In her 11 years with Psychology, Tomeka has done a variety of tasks in the department, and she shares the tips and tricks she learned with the other staff members who now have those duties. She has a friendly relationship with all of the Psychology staff and maintains a welcoming environment in the main office. Despite her heavy workload, she always makes time for her coworkers. Two years after receiving the award she says she is still doesn't know who nominated her.

Tomeka lives in Dalton on the border of Illinois and Indiana which means she has an hour-and-a-half commute each way. She says she does not mind the time except when the road conditions are poor in the winter and the commute increases to two hours or more. She spent her childhood in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, but she has lived in the Chicago area since 1978. Her husband works as a cable installer in Dalton and his family lives out there as well. The Bolars have two children: Nylah who is 9, and Jeremiah who is 4. When asked how she balances a full-time job with two young children, Tomeka said she's glad to live near family because her mother-in-law can help them out. When she is not working Tomeka enjoys going to movies with her family. In particular she likes seeing shows at an old drive-in movie theater that's still operating in Indiana.



Tomeka Bolar (left) with Azurii Collier '12 and financial assistant Kylah Eagan

## GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: JOSH WILT IN PERSONALITY

Josh grew up in a small town near Pittsburgh, PA, where he spent much of his time playing basketball and dreaming of making the NBA. Notably, he was also instilled with an undying love for the Pittsburgh traditions of rooting for the Steelers and eating pierogies.

As an undergraduate at Ohio State University, Josh voraciously gathered as much experience as he could in psychology research: he worked as a research assistant in personality, clinical, social, psychobiology, and neuroscience labs, and he completed an internship focused on forensic psychology. Unable to decide which area of psychology he found most fascinating, Josh made his way to the Wake Forest University master's program in general psychology. He was fortunate to work under the guidance of personality psychologist William Fleeson on research examining how behavioral states influence subjective judgments of one's own authenticity, and while doing so the decision to pursue personality psychology became clear.

Josh feels extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with his advisers at Northwestern, William Revelle and Dan McAdams. Each has been a constant source of inspiration and guidance with respect to the foundations of



personality psychology, experimental design, and the identification of new and interesting topics for investigation. Josh is also indebted to the undergraduate research assistants who have been integral to a wide variety of research projects, from using cell-phone text-messaging to collect data on the experience of college graduation to interviewing professional dancers about their life stories. Currently, Josh is working on his dissertation, which is broadly focused on how affect, behavior, cognition, and desire are manifested in personality traits and life-narratives. When asked how such seemingly different topics fall within the same field, Josh will respond with his favorite quote from Dr. Revelle, one that reflects what Josh finds so appealing about personality: “Personality is the last refuge of the generalist in psychology.”

Josh is looking forward to someday landing an academic job and passing on his enthusiasm for the field of personality to his own graduate students. He is nearly as excited about the upcoming seasons of *Breaking Bad*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Justified*, as well as re-watching *The Wire* and *The Shield*. When not doing research or watching iconic television programs, Josh can be found at the movies with his wife, where they are steadfastly pursuing the goal of one day seeing 1,000 movies together.

## PhD Recipients 2011-2012

**WINSTON CHANG**  
(Lance Rips- Adviser)  
"Casual Thinking with Physical Mechanisms"

**BOBBY CHEON**  
(Joan Chiao-Adviser)  
"Gene-Environment Interactions on Intergroup Bias: The Role of Threat Sensitivity and Motivations for Social Affiliation"

**HEEYOUNG CHOO**  
(Steve Franconeri- Adviser)  
"Gist perception of size, numerosity, and orientation"

**AZURII COLLIER**  
(Mark Beeman- Adviser)  
"The Mechanisms of Intuitive Judgments and Representations of Solution Knowledge during Insight Problem Solving"

**HEATHER LUCAS**  
(Ken Paller- Adviser)  
"Neurocognitive Interactions Between Fluency and Familiarity Memory"

**VANI MATHUR**  
(Joan Chiao-Adviser)  
"Racial disparities in the subjective and neurobiological processing of pain perception and experience"

**HEATHER MIROUS**  
(Mark Beeman- Adviser)  
"Mood Makes or Breaks Meaning? Mood Effects on Inference Processing During Narrative Comprehension in Adults & Children"

**DESTINY PEERY**  
(Galen Bodenhausen- Adviser)  
"Race at the Boundaries: Better Understanding the Construction of Race through the Study of Racial Categorization of Ambiguous Targets"

**ANDREA PROCTOR**  
(Lance Rips- Adviser)  
"The Computation and Processing of Lexical Aspect in Brief Narratives"

**BENJAMIN SCHALET**  
(Emily Durbin- Adviser)  
"Openness, Intellect, and Absorption: An Exploratory Study of Structure and Links to Psychopathology"

**DAVID SYLVA**  
(Mike Bailey- Adviser)  
"Neural Correlates of Sexual Arousal in Bisexual, Homosexual, and Heterosexual Men"

**SYLIA WILSON**  
(Emily Durbin- Adviser)  
"The Laboratory Parenting Assessment Battery (Lab-PAB): Development and Validation of an Observational Parenting Rating System"



Graduate admissions coordinator, Florence Sales, with the 2012 PhD recipients on graduation day.  
Photo Credit: Sara Jensen

### GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: MAUREEN CRAIG IN SOCIAL

Maureen is a fourth year doctoral student in social psychology. After growing up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, she began undergraduate studies at Purdue University. She started on the path to a career in social psychology in a rather unusual way: as a future civil engineer. However, after taking (and loving) a course on stereotyping and discrimination, she began her studies in social psychology. She participated in three research labs as an undergraduate, including a stint one summer in Oklahoma as a researcher for an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates program.

Currently, Maureen's research interests lie primarily in the interplay between social cognition and intergroup relations. For example, what influences members of stigmatized groups to perceive other stigmatized groups as potential allies or as potential competitors? In her research she has found that reminding racial minority group members (e.g., Latinos) of the discrimination that their racial group has faced leads to greater positivity towards and perceived similarity with another racial minority group (e.g., Black Americans).



This suggests that salient racism may trigger a common "disadvantaged racial minority" (ingroup) identity, engendering more positive attitudes toward and feelings of closeness with other racial minority groups. Intriguingly, a different pattern of results emerged in her studies exploring these processes in White women. In these studies, White women primed with sexism expressed more intergroup racial bias, compared to women who were not primed with sexism. One explanation for these results is that it may be easier to elicit a common "disadvantaged" identity among members of disadvantaged groups within a category dimension (i.e., race), compared with disadvantaged group members across category dimensions (i.e., gender and race). Conversely, different types of discrimination may be seen as more or less similar to other types of discrimination and the perceived similarity of the discrimination experiences may drive the differing results. Maureen will further explore when one may expect intergroup positivity among minority group members in response to ingroup discrimination in her dissertation.

When not conducting research, Maureen likes to run, having completed her first marathon in fall 2011. Maureen also enjoys going into the city to take advantage of the numerous comedy clubs that Chicago has to offer, cooking at home, and playing her most recently acquired musical instrument, the violin. After graduation, Maureen plans to pursue a research-focused career at an academic institution.

## MA/MS Recipients 2011-2012

### MA Recipients

**CAITLIN DUFFY**  
Adviser: Eli Finkel

**CASEY NOBLE**  
Adviser: Sid Horton

### MS Recipients

**YIN-JUEI CHANG**  
Adviser: Susan Hespos

**BRIAN EDWARDS**  
Adviser: Lance Rips

**PRIYA KAMAT**  
Adviser: Wendi Gardner

**NEHJLA MASHAL**  
Adviser: Richard Zinbarg

**KEVIN PRICE**  
Adviser: Marcia Grabowecy

**ILIANA VARGAS**  
Adviser: Ken Paller

**DARYA ZABELINA**  
Adviser: Mark Beeman

## Undergraduate Honors Students 2011-2012

**GRACE BEEMAN**  
Adviser: Eli Finkel

**WILL DOMBAI**  
Adviser: Wendi Gardner

**JOSHUA GREGORY**  
Adviser: Richard Zinbarg

**NICOLE HENDRIX**  
Adviser: Susan Hespos

**KEVIN HSU**  
Adviser: Michael Bailey

**KRISTINE KOHLHEPP**  
Adviser: David Rapp

**CHRISTINE LEE**  
Adviser: Karl Rosengren

**ALCINA LIDDER**  
Adviser: Richard Zinbarg

**DANIEL MESCHER**  
Adviser: Mesmin Destin

**KAITLIN MEYER**  
Adviser: Renee Engeln

**JENNIFER PIEMONTE**  
Adviser: Renee Engeln

**ELLEN REYNOLDS**  
Adviser: Robin Nusslock

**ANNA RHOAD**  
Adviser: Karl Rosengren

**KATHRYN RULON**  
Adviser: Renee Engeln

**KI EUN SHIN**  
Adviser: Richard Zinbarg

**MAX SUTTON-SMOLIN**  
Adviser: David Rapp

**NEIL VASQUEZ**  
Adviser: Michael Bailey

**BENJAMIN YU**  
Adviser: Eli Finkel

### GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: SASHA SHERMAN IN COGNITIVE

Before pursuing her PhD at Northwestern in Cognitive Psychology, Sasha attended Rutgers University in New Jersey, where she double-majored in Cognitive Science and Art History. At Northwestern she has primarily focused on understanding auditory-visual interactions. Her research uses behavioral, neural, and computational methods to understand how meaningful sounds interact with visual perception. She has shown that various types of sounds influence perception and visual scanning of faces, objects, and scenes.

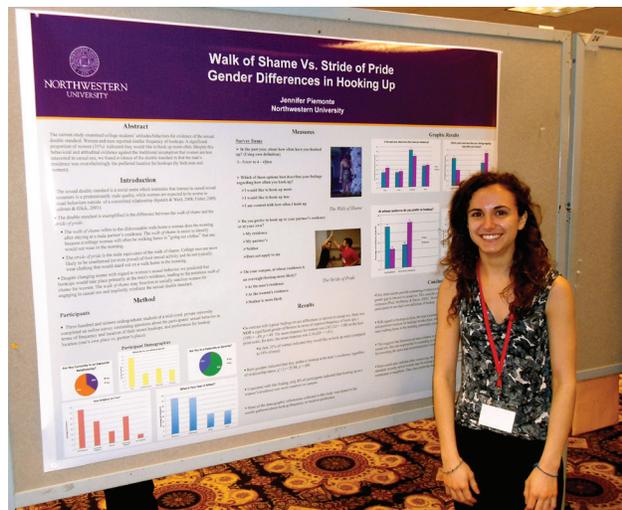
For example, she has demonstrated that laughter modulates the perception of emotional expressions depending on visual context.

Sasha extended the previous research, which only investigated auditory-visual interactions in facial expression perception for single,



isolated faces, to crowds of faces, and demonstrated a surprising result. For a single face, laughter increased the perceived intensity of a happy expression, whereas for a crowd of faces, laughter produced an opposite effect, increasing the perceived intensity of a sad expression in a crowd. In terms of how auditory features influence visual perception, Sasha has shown that different auditory rhythms guide eye gaze to specific regions of spatial frequency. Fast rhythms guide eyes toward regions of high spatial frequency (e.g., cluttered areas), whereas slow sounds guide eyes away from high spatial frequencies. This result suggests that auditory rhythms can motivate visual scanning patterns.

Beyond her primary research, Sasha is passionate about the intersection between art and science, and is currently working on forging collaborations with museums to create unconventional exhibits that increase awareness of the relevance of scientific principles in understanding art. She hopes to create an exhibit that allows museum-goers to experience first-hand how their interaction with an art piece can change based on the design of the visual system, adaptive nature of the brain, and the viewer's current emotional state. She can often be found perusing different exhibits at the Art Institute of Chicago.



Jennifer Piemonte presenting at the 2012 Midwestern Psychological Association Meeting in Chicago

## Awards

### Faculty Honors and Awards

Faculty members of the Department of Psychology continue to receive numerous awards for their contributions in research and teaching at the international, national, and local level.

Professor Dan McAdams received the 2012 Jack Block Award from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology for career contributions to personality psychology.

Senior Lecturer Renee Engeln received the 2011-2012 Undergraduate Psychology Association Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Professor Alice Eagly was elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Professor Sue Mineka was elected as a 2012 Fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists.

Professor Alice Eagly received an honorary doctorate from the University of Bern in Switzerland.

Assistant Professor Joan Chiao was named a Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science and received an NIMH Early Career International Travel Award.

Professor Dedre Gentner received a Humboldt Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

### Graduate Student Honors and Awards

Bobby Cheon won an APA Dissertation Research Award and the 2012 Salimetrics Distinguished Student Scholar Award. He was also awarded the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Fellowship.

Brock Ferguson was awarded the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Fellowship.

Christian Hoyos received the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship.

Xiaoqing Hu won the 2012 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad.

Ming Hui received a Graduate Research Grant from

The Graduate School for his project, "Understanding the Development of Social Norms for Cooperation."

Dorianne Levy was a recipient of the Diversity Fund Graduate Travel Award for the 2012 SPSP Conference, the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship, and the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship.

John Meixner received a Graduate Research Grant from the University Research Grants Committee for his project, "Detecting Real-Life Events with the Concealed Information Test: A Field-like Application."

Stacey Parrot received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship.

Annie Senior was awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship.

Christina Young was awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship.

Iliana Vargas received the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship.

Dasha Zabelina received a Graduate Research Grant for her project, "Creativity and Psychopathology: Attenuated Sensory Gating as a Shared Vulnerability Factor" and a Frank X. Barron award from Division 10 of the APA.

### Undergraduate Honors and Awards

Three psychology majors received special "URG-Underwood" awards. All emerged as top applicants for both the department's Underwood Fellowship and the university's summer Undergraduate Research Grants offered through the Provost's Office:

Mesum Mathison, working with Sandy Waxman  
Francis Park, working with Bill Revelle  
Mike Sladek, working with Renee Engeln

In addition, three psychology undergraduates received funding for their summer research from the University's Undergraduate Research Grants committee:

Marissa Gillis, working with Robin Nusslock  
Stephanie Schuette, working with Dedre Gentner  
Dani Alcorn, working with Renee Engeln

Congratulations to Jason He and Matthew Kingery, the co-winners of the Win Hill Award, for the best papers in Research Methods.

Jason's paper was entitled "The Allure of Ameri-

canization: Sociolinguistic Effects on Perceptions of Asian College Students in the United States."

Matthew's was entitled "The Effects of Environmentalism Schema Priming and Distance between Recyclable Item and Bin on Recycling Behavior."

All of the students listed below won Lois Elizabeth Henrikson Undergraduate Travel Awards to support their travel to conferences for the presentation of their research:

Nicole Hendrix to present at International Conference of Infant Studies in Minneapolis

Kevin Hsu to present at Society for Sex Therapy and Research in Chicago

Claire Waluch to present at the Association for Psychological Sciences in Chicago

Michael Sladek to present at the Association for Psychological Sciences in Chicago

Anna Rhoad to present at the Association for Psychological Sciences in Chicago

Jennifer Piemonte to present at the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago, the Association of Psychological Sciences in Chicago, and the International Conference of Infant Studies in Minneapolis

Ellen Reynolds and Benjamin Yu won the William Hunt Award for best undergraduate research project in Psychology.

# Alumni News

## 1940s

Frances Applehans BS '41 earned her MA in counseling psychology from Missouri State, and then she worked as a psychomitrist at an Illinois District 15 elementary school. She retired in 1991.

## 1960s

Joel Saks BA '60 was an emeritus professor of ophthalmology at University of Cincinnati and Tulane University, and is now retired.

Michelle Melyn BA '61 is a pediatric neurologist now semi-retired in private practice. Previously she was the head of the division of child neurology at University of Illinois, Chicago.

Walter J. Dowling BA '63 is a professor at the University of Texas Dallas. He's conducting research in cognitive psychology and teaching courses in perception, music cognition, and history of psychology. He is the associate editor of the journal *Psychomusicology: Music, Mind, & Behavior*, which has just become an APA journal. He is also the associate editor of the journal *Music Perception*. He fondly remembers working with Donald T. Campbell while at Northwestern. He describes him as an incredibly inspiring teacher and role model who altered the course of his life for the better.

## 1970s

Richard Berlin, BA '72 remained at Northwestern and earned his MD in 1976. He now works in his own private practice as a physician of psychiatry, and is a senior affiliate in psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts medical school. Richard is also an accomplished poet. His second book of poetry, *Secret Wounds*, was selected as the best poetry book of 2011 by USA Book News Awards. The book focuses on his life as a doctor.

Deborah Bovilsky, PhD '72 works at her own private clinical practice for adults and adolescents.

Karen Vroegh PhD '72 is now retired, but worked as a Child Development instructor for nursing students at Evanston Hospital. She was also a research psychologist at the Institute for Juvenile Research and the director of research at the Chicago Child Care Society. She currently resides in Evanston and is an active volunteer in the community. She enjoys having access to many Northwestern activities nearby.

## 1990s

Maria Byskosh, BA '97 is self-employed as a doctor of clinical psychology at a private practice in Barrington, IL.

Jayson L. Mystowski BA '97 currently works for Cognitive Behavior Associates as a licensed clinical psychologist and associate clinical director. He earned his PhD from UCLA in 2003. Since 2004 he has worked as an assistant clinical professor in UCLA's Department of Psychology. He is also a diplomate of the Academy of Cognitive Therapy. His favorite memory of Northwestern is completing his honor's thesis work with Dr. Susan Mineka.

## 2000s

Eddy Ameen BA '03 is currently employed as the assistant director of APAGS, American Psychological Association's graduate student division and living in Washington, DC.

Kimberly Robertson BA '03 is currently a Ph. D. candidate at Vanderbilt University studying psychological science and quantitative methods.

## 2010s

Stephanie Richman BA '10 is studying as a graduate student at the University of Kentucky. Stephanie earned the Society for Personality and Social Psychology travel award for 2012.

Megan Trachok BA '10 is pursuing an education specialist degree in school psychology with a minor in counseling at Indiana University. She works as a graduate research assistant for the Equality Project. Currently she is working on the WT Grant concerning issues of disproportionality in suspension and expulsion of African American students. She had the honor of presenting at the 2012 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting.

## In Memoriam

We are saddened to learn that Dr. William Marshak PhD 1981 passed away in November 2009. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force from 1971 until 1993, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel. After receiving his doctorate, he returned to the Air Force Academy where he taught until 1986. He worked as a chief scientist at Sytronics Inc. in Dayton and also served as an adjunct psychology professor at Wright State University. His wife said he was very proud to be an alumnus of Northwestern and she proudly displays his doctorate degree in her home.



Photo Credit: Katie Meyer

## Psychology Faculty

### J. MICHAEL BAILEY

PhD University of Texas, 1989  
Sexual orientation, gender nonconformity, sexual arousal, behavior genetics, evolutionary psychology.

### MARK BEEMAN

PhD University of Oregon, 1991  
Cognitive neuroscience, higher order language comprehension and disorders, insight problem solving, hemispheric differences.

### GALEN BODENHAUSEN

PhD University of Illinois, 1987  
Prejudice, stereotyping, and intergroup relations; self-regulation of social cognition; influences of emotion and arousal on judgment and decision-making.

### EDITH CHEN

PhD University of California, Los Angeles, 1998  
Health psychology, socioeconomic status and health

### JOAN CHIAO

PhD Harvard University, 2006  
Cultural neuroscience; social and affective neuroscience across development; social and emotional perception; social dominance and affiliation

### MESMIN DESTIN

PhD University of Michigan, 2010  
Perception and interpretation of socioeconomic status; educational motivation; youth perception of future economic success linked to everyday choices and educational outcomes.

### ALICE EAGLY

PhD University of Michigan, 1965  
Sociopolitical attitudes of women and men; gender and leadership; heroism; the content of stereotypes; prejudice; attitudinal selectivity in exposure and memory.

### ELI FINKEL

PhD University of North Carolina, 2001  
Interplay between close relationships, the self and health processes; optimal self-regulation as interpersonal process; determinants of romantic attraction.

### STEVEN FRANCONERI

PhD Harvard University, 2004  
Visual attention, visual memory, reflexive attention capture, object tracking, number perception.

### WENDI GARDNER

PhD Ohio State University, 1996  
Social exclusion and belonging, cross-cultural differences in social cognition and behavior, social aspects of the self, social neurology, emotion and evaluation.

### DEDRE GENTNER

PhD University of California, San Diego, 1974  
Cognition and language in learning and development, processes of similarity, analogy and metaphor, acquisition of word meaning.

### SUSAN HESPOS

PhD Emory University, 1996  
Comparison of object, spatial and number representation abilities in children and adults.

### WILLIAM (SID) HORTON

PhD University of Chicago, 1999  
Higher-level aspects of language use and conversation, figurative language and narrative comprehension.

### SARAH MANGELSDORF

DEAN OF WEINBERG COLLEGE  
PhD University of Minnesota, 1988  
Social and emotional development in infants and young children

### DAN MCADAMS

PhD Harvard University, 1979  
Personality and development, adult development, identity and development of the self, culture, political psychology, biography.

### DOUGLAS MEDIN

PhD University of South Dakota, 1968  
Concept and classification learning, cross-cultural cognition, decision making, computational models of cognition, culture and education.

### GREGORY MILLER

PhD University of California, Los Angeles, 1998  
Health psychology, mechanisms linking stress and health

### SUSAN MINEKA

PhD University of Pennsylvania, 1974  
Behavioral and cognitive processes of fear, anxiety and depression; cognitive and behavior therapy for anxiety disorders, primate models of psychopathology.

### DANIEL MOLDEN

PhD Columbia University, 2003  
Influences of motivation on judgment processes, notably strategies of hypothesis testing; processes by which meaning is assigned to behavior.

### ROBIN NUSSLOCK

PhD University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2009  
Biopsychosocial models of bipolar disorder and unipolar depression

### KEN PALLER

PhD University of California, San Diego, 1986  
Memory, disorders of memory, face perception, combining neuropsychology with brain imaging and EEG methods to study human cognition.

### DAVID RAPP

PhD SUNY- Stony Brook, 2000  
Reading comprehension; identifying and remediating struggling readers' difficulties; mechanisms underlying narrative experience; multimedia based influences on learning.

## DONORS 2011-2012

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to all our donors. Every donation helps to support the department in its teaching, research and outreach endeavors. Your support is truly appreciated.

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 Dr. Richard Evan Zinbarg

**PAUL REBER**  
 PhD Carnegie Mellon University, 1993  
 Human learning and memory, nonconscious memory, cognitive neuroscience, functional neuroimaging.

**WILLIAM REVELLE**  
 PhD University of Michigan, 1973  
 Personality theory and assessment; interrelationships of personality, motivation, and cognitive performance; biological basis of personality; measurement and psychometrics.

**JENNIFER RICHESON**  
 PhD Harvard University, 2000  
 Intergroup contact, controlling prejudice, detecting and confronting prejudice and discrimination, racial categorization.

**LANCE RIPS**  
 PhD Stanford University, 1974  
 Human reasoning, semantics and long-term memory; experimental, computational, and mathematical analysis of deduction.

**J. PETER ROSENFELD**  
 PhD University of Iowa, 1971  
 Psychophysiology; mechanisms, processes, and detection of deception.

**KARL ROSENGREN**  
 PhD University of Minnesota, 1989  
 Cognitive and motor development.

**ARYEH ROUTTENBERG**  
 PhD University of Michigan, 1965  
 Molecular basis of memory.

**SATORU SUZUKI**  
 PhD Harvard University, 1995  
 Mental encoding of physical dimensions; influences of prior experience, attention, intention and mental states on perception.

**DAVID UTTAL**  
 PhD University of Michigan, 1989  
 Cognitive development, specifically of symbolic and spatial reasoning in toddlers and preschoolers; cultural differences in mathematics cognition and achievement.

**SANDRA WAXMAN**  
 PhD University of Pennsylvania, 1985  
 Conceptual development and language acquisition in infancy and early childhood; cross-cultural perspectives on language acquisition; development of conceptual knowledge and reasoning abilities.

**RICHARD ZINBARG**  
 PhD Northwestern University, 1989  
 Vulnerability to and psychotherapy for anxiety disorders; structure of anxiety; relations between personality and psychopathology; psychometric theory.

**SARA BROADERS**  
 SENIOR LECTURER  
 PhD University of Chicago, 2003

**RENEE ENGELN**  
 SENIOR LECTURER  
 PhD Loyola University Chicago, 2004

**BENJAMIN GORVINE**  
 SENIOR LECTURER  
 PhD University of Michigan, 2002

**JOAN LINSENMEIER**  
 SENIOR LECTURER  
 PhD Northwestern University, 1977

**DAVID SMITH**  
 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR LECTURER  
 PhD Virginia Commonwealth University, 1993

**MARCIA GRABOWECKY**  
 RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
 PhD University of California, Berkeley, 1992



Psychology Department Faculty  
 Photo Credit: Sara Jensen

# Alumni Questionnaire

Name

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Title	First	Middle	Last
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Northwestern psychology degree(s)

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Degree(s)	Year(s)	Advisor(s)
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Current employer

Job title and description

Home phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any news you wish to appear in our next newsletter? Information might include positions, promotions, awards, publications and items of personal interest.

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Please return the completed questionnaire to: Department of Psychology, Alumni News, 2029 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208  
You can complete the questionnaire online at: [http://nwpsych.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_77YzCJ1G5IFVUqw](http://nwpsych.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_77YzCJ1G5IFVUqw)

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