

# the Standard Deviation

Official Newsletter of the Manhattan College Department of Psychology

February 2018

## Chair's Welcome:



A new semester and new year are upon us! Stay tuned to the newsletter this term for info on some very exciting events, advising and course scheduling, faculty highlights, and spotlights on psych alums who were once in your shoes! Want to get involved? Look no further than the newsletter for announcements.

Bundle up, and stay the course...

--Dr. Moore



## Course Spotlight:



### *Lifespan Development (PSYC 334)*

This course examines the developmental processes that shape our lives from conception to death. We explore the ways biological, cognitive, and socio-emotional influences systematically interact to shape life's course. The first part of the course focuses on the earliest developmental stages of the lifespan, and the second part focuses on development during adolescence and adulthood while considering the role of early-life factors in later development. Some topics include gene-environment interactions, social relationships, personal identity, resilience, and longevity. We critically evaluate the scientific research, as well as the "voices" (personal narratives) of individuals to explore issues pertinent to lifespan development and aging.

# Faculty Focus



**Dr. Jay Friedenber**  
Professor

## **\*What is the focus of your research?**

My research interests now are in the field of empirical aesthetics, which is the study of beauty, art, and creativity. Specifically, I am interested in the aspects of visual form that people consider beautiful. In our lab, we have discovered that people have a preference for longer objects and that they like shapes that are more regular. Examples of regular shapes are polygons with equal sides and equal angles. We are also now correlating preference for orderly patterns with personality traits.

## **\*Which psychology courses do you teach?**

I teach Intro to Psychology I (150/203), Artificial Psychology (332), Cognition & Learning (340), Sensation & Perception (367), and Physiological Psychology (435). I am also teaching The Psychology of Beauty and Art (PSYC 330/ART 402) for the first time this semester.

## **\*Where did you go to school?**

I graduated from the University of Virginia (in Charlottesville) in 1995 with a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology, with a specialty in visual perception.

## **\*Which books have you and are you now writing?**

My coauthor Gordon Silverman (Ex-Dean of the School of Engineering) and I have published the best-selling undergraduate textbook in cognitive science. It has been selling about a thousand copies a year in the U.S. and internationally. I have also published books on consciousness, dynamical systems, and artificial intelligence. It is likely that I will get a contract soon with Cambridge University Press to write a book on Superintelligence.

## **\*What do you do when you're not teaching or doing research?**

The great thing about being in a big city like New York is that you have opportunities to do things you can't in other places. In this regard I regularly attend a monthly group that meets to write and critique haiku. I have also just recently become associate editor of *Frogpond*, the journal of the Haiku Society of America. In addition, I pursue interests in photography, digital art and pastel landscape painting. I've exhibited my work regularly in galleries in Brooklyn, the East Village, and upstate New York. You can view some of my art at the website: [BigAppleArts.com](http://BigAppleArts.com)

## **\*What do you do for entertainment?**

I'm a big fan of adventure travel and have visited many exotic locales, including Peru, Thailand, Egypt, and India. I have an "Indiana Jones" bent and love seeing ancient ruins and foreign cultures. It puts a perspective on this country to know that not everybody lives or thinks the way they do here in the U.S. My wife Melissa and I also take a de-stress vacation every winter, going someplace warm. She gets to lie on the beach while I go scuba diving!





## It's time to apply for Psi Chi!

Looking for a great way to get involved? Apply to be a member of **Psi Chi**, the international honor society in psychology. One of the largest honor societies in the United States, Psi Chi values superlative scholastic achievement and interest in the discipline of psychology.

The Manhattan College Chapter requires:

- 1) 12 completed credits in psychology
- 2) Declared major or minor in psychology
- 3) An overall GPA of 3.4
- 4) Psychology GPA of 3.4

How to apply: by Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 (noon):

- Fill out the online application at:  
[http://www.psichi.org/?page=become\\_member](http://www.psichi.org/?page=become_member)
- Submit a copy of your transcript (print from Degree Works or get an unofficial copy from Registrar's Office)
- Submit \$75 in cash or a check made out to Martha Mendez-Baldwin, which includes \$55 registration fee plus \$20 chapter dues

Transcripts and money are to be given to MaryEllen LaMonica or Syrita Newman in Miguel 405.

# Faculty Accomplishments



## Introducing... Nina Jayawickreme!



**Nina was born on Friday,  
January 26<sup>th</sup>, weighing in at 8lbs  
and 6oz!**

## Dr. Jay Friedenber

-Fresh back from sabbatical leave, Dr. Friedenber just published a paper on geometric regularity, symmetry, and perceived beauty in the journal *Empirical Studies of the Arts*.

## Dr. Zella Moore

-Dr. Moore just co-authored the International Society of Sport Psychology's official position stand on mental health among athletes.

## Dr. Arno Kolz

-Dr. Kolz is geared up for a great presentation at the upcoming Eastern Psychological Association conference. The conference will take place this March in Philadelphia, PA. Co-authored with MC psychology student Talia Price, the presentation is on whether dark triad traits predict phoniness on Facebook.

## Dr. Danielle Young

-Dr. Young is giving a talk at the upcoming Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference, which will take place in March in Atlanta, GA. Her talk is on testing the predictions of hypodescent and the in-group over-exclusion effect in categorizing multiracial and racially ambiguous targets.

-She also just attended the Racial Justice LaSallian Colloquy.



# Did You Know?



## Join Psych Club and get involved!

The Psych Club's first event of 2018 is coming up fast. Join us on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in Miguel 310.

There will be pizza, good times, and a common connection to psychology!

Email: [kelly.marin@manhattan.edu](mailto:kelly.marin@manhattan.edu) if you'd like more information

## Study Abroad in the Bahamas

Interested in the summer study abroad trip to the Bahamas? Attend an info session on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 in Mig 311.

## Peace Week Events

-Check out the *Cost of War* lecture on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 in O'Malley Library, Room 100.

-Don't miss the *Bethlehem Beyond the Wall Exhibition* (Feb. 19-27), co-sponsored by the Psychology Department.

## NY State Psychological Association Conference

This conference is right here in NYC June 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, at the Marriott East Hotel. What a great way to see what's going on in the professional organization and larger field, and to mingle with other undergraduate students, graduate students, and psychologists!

## Coffee and Career Panel for Psychology

The Center for Career Development is hosting a fantastic psychology-related panel event on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm in Kelly Commons 5C.

Come learn about different opportunities in the psychology field from six panelists of different backgrounds, such as mental health, substance abuse, education, social work, and clinical psychology.

Email: [sharon.damelia@manhattan.edu](mailto:sharon.damelia@manhattan.edu) if you'd like more information



## **Have The Resume Blues?**

### **Need To Refine Your Interview Skills?**

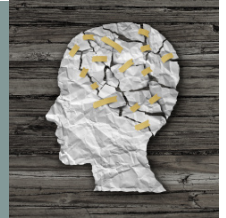
We've been there, too, and we know it can be quite daunting. Luckily, the Center for Career Development is conducting workshops that can help!

**Resume Workshop:** Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in the OCP Suite of Thomas Hall, 3.48.

**Interviewing Made Easy:** Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm in the OCP Suite of Thomas Hall, 3.48.

**Daily Assistance:** They can also help you write resumes and cover letters every weekday from 11:00-4:30. Just drop by the OCP Suite of Thomas Hall, 3.48.

## Alumni Spotlight



**Robert Rivera, LCSW, MA**  
Clinical Social Worker

Robert Rivera is a proud graduate of Manhattan College. Majoring in Psychology with a clinical focus, Robert earned his B.S. degree in 2004 under the mentorship of Dr. McCausland and Dr. Mendez-Baldwin. Upon graduation, Robert attended Adelphi University for his M.A. in Psychology, with a teaching assistantship. Robert also earned his M.S.W. from NYU, where he was able to advance his focus of clinical practice and obtain his NYS Licenses for therapy and private practice. He currently works at Manhattan College as adjunct faculty for the Psychology Department for the last 11 years, and is now the Assistant Director for the MC Counseling Center.

Robert's passion for clinical psychology was solidified upon completion of a summer undergraduate internship at New York Presbyterian Department of Psychiatry. Adelphi University helped Robert expand his knowledge about assessment, interventions & trauma and NYU's MSW advanced his clinical practice training, which sparked a focus on addiction, cultural stigma and minority and LGBTQ mental health. Robert's clinical career includes working with adolescents and adults, inpatient & outpatient psychiatric settings, substance abuse and methadone clinics, and residential sites. Robert states he was well prepared for graduate studies and attributes his continued success to the academic and professional support he received from the Psychology Department during his time at Manhattan College. Robert stays connected with the Psychology Department at MC as an adjunct faculty member, and enjoys teaching intro, developmental, and clinical courses to inspire the next generation of psychology majors.



# Faculty at a Glance



## **Full-time Faculty:**

Kim Fairchild, Ph.D.

Jay Friedenber, Ph.D

Nuwan Jayawickreme, Ph.D.

Arno Kolz, Ph.D.

Kelly Marin, Ph.D.

Maria Maust-Mohl, Ph.D.

Martha Mendez-Baldwin, Ph.D.

Zella Moore, Psy.D.

Danielle Young, Ph.D.

## **Adjunct Faculty:**

Faith Florer, Ph.D.

James Reidel, Ph.D.

Robert Rivera, M.A.

Asghar Sajadian, Ph.D.

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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ManhattanCollegePsychology>

**Twitter:** @MC Psychology

**Learn more about our department on our homepage:**

<https://manhattan.edu/academics/schools-and-departments/school-of-liberal-arts/.psychology-dept/index.php>

Something you'd like to see in an upcoming issue of *the Standard Deviation*? Let us know!

Email: [zella.moore@manhattan.edu](mailto:zella.moore@manhattan.edu)