

the Standard Deviation

The Official Newsletter of the Manhattan College Department of Psychology

Student Research

One of the most important experiences you can get as a psychology major is to engage in psychological research. There are various ways of doing this and connecting with faculty and other psychology majors. Find out about some of the research psych majors were conducting over the summer (pg. 8). Also, volunteer opportunities still available (pg. 11)

Psi Chi

Psi Chi, the international honor society for psychology. Not a member yet? The application period for Psi Chi has arrived. See details (pg. 4)

Study Abroad: Bahamas

Dr. Maust-Mohl had another successful study abroad trip in Bimini, Bahamas. She shared with us some of the pictures and highlights. Also, Eva Pugliese, senior psych major, tells us about her experience. (pg. 5 - 7)



Chair's Welcome

Although the summer heat is still here, the fall semester has arrived! As the new interim chair, I am excited to welcome you to the new semester. I hope everyone had a productive *and* relaxing summer. My summer was busy, but a right kind of busy with a balance of work and fun.

I had the opportunity to meet with our new majors (freshman and transfers) on Friday, August 27th at the New Student Orientation. To prepare, I thought about what I would've wanted to hear when I was a freshman at Southwest Texas State University back in 1997. While not wanting to overwhelm them with the logistics of a psychology major, I came with four tips that I wished I had been told as an undergraduate student. While simple, I thought they would be good reminders for all as we start the new semester, so I share with you the suggestions: 1) Be curious, ask questions. For that to happen you must go to class prepared, engaged, and ready to ask questions- and



Course Spotlight: PSYC 257: Forensic Psychology

- A popular course taught by Dr. Arno Kolz offered once a year during the fall semester- it fills up fast!
- Description: An analysis of psychological causes of criminal behavior.

Dr. Kolz's favorite topic: Jury nullification, which is when jurors reach a verdict based on their values, rather than the law. They break their juror oaths, and do what they think is right even if it contradicts the law. The reasons they do this, and how the legal system reacts to it, are fun to teach.

What surprises students? That "profiling" is only a tiny part of the field, and that it is not nearly as accurate or useful as it is portrayed in the media. Students are also surprised how different the legal system is than psychology in how it evaluates evidence and reaches decisions.

listen to the response; 2) Form relationships. When I look back at my own journey, I think about how lucky I am to have the mentors I did (and still have). Make those connections both as a mentor and mentee this semester; 3) Don't be afraid to stumble- or even fall. This is something I have to remind myself of often. As many of us take on new roles, we must remember that mistakes are part of learning; and 4) Don't be afraid of change. It's a false notion to think that you need to have everything figured out today. Embrace the process and be open to changing your mind- it can be scary, but most likely it will lead you to amazing things and people.

These are not always easy things to practice, so if you need help along the way, be sure to reach out to the faculty in the Department of Psychology. If we can't help you, we know someone on campus who can. There are incredible resources for you in and outside of the department. Don't be afraid to ask.

As I close, I want to express how grateful I am to Dr. Zella Moore for her guidance and organization while I learn the ropes as interim chair. We wish Dr. Moore a fruitful and restorative year sabbatical. We look forward to your return.

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter (sorry for the length!). I needed a lot of room to showcase the great work of faculty and students. I think it will help us all get excited about the upcoming year and give us ideas on how we can make it a great one.

Dr. Kelly Marin
Interim Chair
Department of Psychology

Note: While Dr. Zella Moore is on sabbatical, please email Dr. Kelly Marin (Kelly.marin@manhattan.edu) or visit DLS 448.

Faculty Announcements

Dr. Kimberly Fairchild

Finola Elizabeth Driscoll was born on the morning of May 26th happy and healthy- congratulations to Dr. Kimberly Fairchild and her family!



Dr. Martha Mendez-Baldwin

Dr. Martha Mendez-Baldwin published an article, College Athletes' Views on Sports Bullying and Hazing, in the *Journal of Bullying and Social Aggression*.

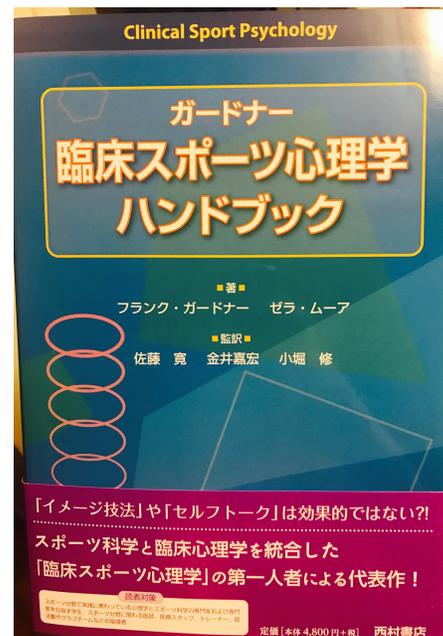
Also, she was the keynote speaker at the Lakeland School District Research Scholars Conference (May 2018).

Dr. Jay Friedenber

Dr. Jay Friedenber gave a talk, Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder: Individual Differences in the Perception of Randomized Visual Pattern at the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics in Toronto (August 2018).

Dr. Zella Moore

Dr. Zella Moore's first book, *Clinical Sport Psychology* (2006) has undergone years of translation and has now been re-published in Japanese!



Dr. Kelly Marin

Dr. Kelly Marin gave a talk the Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture conference, Human Cognitive Development Across Cultures at Emory University in (May 2018).

She also gave a talk, *What do we really know about developmental psychology?* to a group of high school teachers who teach AP Psychology (July, 2018).

Psi Chi



The application period for Psi Chi has arrived. Apply to be a member the international honor society in psychology. As 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 (this is a higher standard than required by PSI CHI):

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

- Seniors who are thinking of graduate school should apply for membership to PSI CHI NOW-waiting until the Spring semester means that you will not be accepted in time to put this achievement on your graduate school applications.
- Current members do not need to re-apply. That means if you were inducted already- no reapplying for you!

Students interested in being considered for membership must apply online using this link: http://www.psichi.org/?page=become_member

You must apply by Thursday September 13, 2018 at 12 noon

In addition to completing the online application, you will need to turn in the following to MaryEllen LaMonica or Syrita Newman in MIG 405 (Not Dr. Mendez-Baldwin's mailbox) by 9/13 at 12 noon.

1. A copy of your transcript- You can print it from DegreeWorks or get an unofficial copy from registrars.
2. A check (or Cash) made out to Martha Mendez-Baldwin for \$75 (\$55 registration fee plus \$20 chapter dues).

*Decisions will be made by October 1st. If you are not accepted, fees will be returned. You will receive information about the induction ceremony after Spring Break.

Please contact Dr. Mendez-Baldwin with questions
(martha.mendezbaldwin@manhattan.edu)

Study Abroad: Bimini, Bahamas Summer 2018



This year's trip included 8 amazing students (1 marketing major, 1 engineering major, and 7 psychology majors) from Manhattan College and 2 students from Hunter College. We were fortunate to have good weather most of the trip and excellent dolphin encounters that allowed us to collect more data for ongoing research projects. The first day we went out on the boat, we had a rare sighting of a group of bottlenose dolphins socializing (usually we observe them foraging). We also had a few encounters with more than 20 spotted dolphins, including several mothers and calves. It is always remarkable to swim so close to them; it seems they are just as curious about us as we are of them.

- Dr. Maust-Mohl

Eva Pugliese (Senior, Psychology Major) shared with us a bit about her experience in Bimini, Bahamas- as well as some beautiful photos.



Photos provided by Eva Pugliese

How would you describe the experience overall? My study abroad trip in Bimini was beautiful and unforgettable. I learned so much in such a short amount of time and I got to experience a part of the world, the Caribbean, which I had never seen before. We did so much while we were there to learn not just about dolphins and sensory systems, but about the culture and environment of Bimini as well.

What did you enjoy the most? I enjoyed swimming with the marine life the most. We got to see and swim with dolphins in their natural habitat almost every day, and I could not believe how close we actually got to them. We were also lucky enough to swim with several reef sharks in the middle of the ocean, as well as stingrays. We also did snorkeling trips in the mangroves and in a sunken ship, where we got to swim with so many different kinds of fish.

What's one thing you learned that surprised you? In our lectures we learned about various sensory systems including the visual and auditory systems. We compared these senses in humans and dolphins, and I was surprised to learn the ways in which dolphin anatomy and physiology adapts in order to utilize each sensory system effectively underwater. Learning about these differences in humans and dolphins was so interesting to me, and it was awesome to be able to not only learn about it in the classroom, but see it up close in the ocean.

Did the experience change you or your interests in any way? This experience definitely sparked my interest in the ocean and its inhabitants. Not only that, but I am now more aware about the ways we can help conserve the oceans and its wildlife for

the future. Over the course of our trip, we talked a lot about issues which are hurting our oceans, and the ways in which we can help. We made sure to be 'eco tourists', which is tourism directed toward exotic, often threatened, natural environments, especially to support conservation efforts and observe wildlife. On one of the days, we even did a beach clean up where we filled up several bags of trash. I will always have this frame of mind with me now whenever I travel, as I feel it is important to give back to the host country that you are temporarily staying in.



Photo provided by Maria Maust-Maul

What kind of student should consider the program? This program has so many different elements that I believe just about anyone could find a way to enjoy it. Someone who is interested in doing research abroad should definitely consider the program, and anyone who has a love for the environment and all of its species. This trip should not be considered by psychology majors alone, but anyone who wants to experience the beautiful island of Bimini and the oceans of the Caribbean.

Student Research

Advanced Research Methods Poster Session - Spring 2018



Last spring, seniors enrolled in the Senior Seminar: Advanced Research Methods presented their work at the Annual Psychology Poster Session. There were 11 student presenters and over 50 non-presenting students attended.

Dr. Fairchild and Dr. Young have started planning for next year. They expect 40 - 50 student presenters. Save the date, May 3, 2019- we're already excited!

Summer Research Scholars

- **Lorenzo Froehle** examined youth soccer player's attitudes about sports bullying and hazing (Faculty advisor: Dr. Mendez-Baldwin)
- **Eva Pugliese** examined the relationship between pulmonary injuries and psychopathology in Fire Department of New York First Responders to the 9/11 World Trade Center Attacks (Faculty advisor: Dr. Jayawickreme).
- **Brittney Vargas-Estrella** examined the impact of individualistic vs. collectivistic agency on Puerto Ricans' views about mental health services (Faculty advisor: Dr. Jayawickreme).

Come support Lorenzo, Eva, and Brittney when they discuss their work at the Research Scholars Poster Presentation on September 27 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in Kelly 5 and September 28 when they give a research talk in various rooms in Kelly Commons- presentations begin at 9:30am.

Good luck- we're looking forward to learning more!

Alumni Spotlight



Francesca Falzarano, M.S.
Developmental Psychologist

Francesca Falzarano earned her Bachelor of Science degree at Manhattan College in 2013 under the mentorship of Dr. Kelly Marin. After completing her undergraduate degree, Francesca went straight to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in the Applied Developmental Psychology program at Fordham University. She received her Master's degree at Fordham in 2015 after completing a study examining the construct validity of different measures of false memory. Francesca is currently in the data collection phase of her dissertation research and is expected to graduate in May 2019.

Manhattan College is where Francesca developed a passion for research, particularly in the areas of cognition and well-being in older adult populations. In 2012, she was exposed to this area of research after completing an internship at the Methodist Home for Rehabilitation and Nursing as part of her Adulthood and Aging course with the late Dr. Mary Noberini. She did research at the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, where she learned more about the daily struggles that Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers face. After beginning graduate school, Francesca gained interest in the "applied" aspect of research, which allows her to see how basic research can be translated to impact populations of interest. As a part of this applied experience, she worked at the New Jewish Home as a part of her third-year Practicum course in New York City. There, she studied rehabilitation outcomes in older adults and joined Fordham University's Long-Distance Caregiving Study (an NIA grant-funded study). This project laid the groundwork for her dissertation project, which examines how the unique stress of serving as an Alzheimer's caregiver impacts functioning across different domains of cognition such as memory, attention, and executive functioning. She has served as a senior teaching fellow at Fordham, teaching advanced courses such as Memory Laboratory and Aging & Society. Francesca attributes her success to the faculty at Manhattan College for challenging her with a curriculum that provided her with a strong background in all aspects of psychology.



Do you have interests in psychology and social justice issues?



Dr. Nuwan Jayawickreme, Associate Professor of Psychology, is the current Program Director of Peace and Justice Studies, an interdisciplinary program in the School of Liberal Arts.

We were curious about the program and how it might be of interest to psychology majors, so we asked him a few questions. Here's what he had to say...

What is Peace and Justice Studies? Peace and Justice Studies focuses on the problems of war, injustice, genocide and violence, and draws on theories and empirical findings of multiple disciplines (including psychology!) in order to find ways to reduce the destructive impact of these problems.

How does it relate to psychology? In order to stop people from committing acts of violence, we first need to understand 1) why people have the capacity for such violence acts, 2) what circumstances are more likely to lead to violence, 3) whether people with certain personality characteristics are more likely to commit violence, and 4) what circumstances are likely to lead to a reduction of violence and greater social justice. This is where psychology comes in! Numerous psychologists from various sub-disciplines (social, personality, clinical, cognitive, I/O) have addressed these questions in their research, and their findings can be used to develop interventions that can reduce violence and promote peace and justice!

Why might a psychology major be interested? If you are a psychology major at Manhattan College, then it is likely that 1) you are interested in understanding why humans do what we do and 2) interested in how we can make the world a better place. If that describes you, then you should consider Peace and Justice Studies as a second major or a minor! As a Peace and Justice Studies major, you will gain an understanding of **how** the world should change so that it is more peaceful and just, and also learn how you can gear whatever career you choose for yourself in such a way that you are part of that change.

If you are interested in learning more about the Peace and Justice Program, come to **A Slice of Social Justice**, which will be held on the International Day of Peace, Friday September 21st at 2pm in Miguel 209 (Cornerstone). I will give a presentation on the Peace and Justice Program and on my own research on refugees. Also, there will be pizza!

Want to get involved?

Psych Club

- Come meet other majors Psych club is searching for a new secretary and several new committee leaders.
- Some events for the semester: Suicide Awareness Walk, information sessions for psychology majors, and Safe Halloween to name only a few. Open to suggestions, so bring your ideas to the first meeting on September 12th at 12:00 in MIG 303. All are welcome!

Psi Chi

- The first Psi Chi meeting of the semester will be on Monday Sept 10 at 2pm in Miguel 438. All members are encouraged to attend

Volunteer Research Students Needed

- **Dr. Jay Friedenber**g is looking for an research assistant to join his team. This semester is he investigating the role of orientation in the perceived beauty of visual patterns. He and his research students will be creating texture like patterns that resemble abstract art. Students will be trained in how to use the Adobe Illustrator and Superlab programs and “intern” alongside other assistants who are already familiar with the procedures. If interested, email Dr. Friedenber for more information.
- **Dr. Danielle Young’s lab** is looking for 1-2 volunteer research assistants to engage in research on everyday thoughts about social groups (e.g., gender and race) and their intersections. You will need to be a self-starting independent worker who is willing to gain expertise in the following: literature searches, social media use, SPSS, Qualtrics, and general research practices. Time commitment is flexible, but must be at least 4 hours a week. A two-semester commitment is preferred, though the 2nd semester can be for credit. Email (danielle.young@manhattan.edu) if interested.

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

Email: kelly.marin@manhattan.edu