



## A message from the Chair

Welcome to the Spring, 2017 edition of the UNLV Department of Psychology newsletter! We are continuing to grow in many areas, including our undergraduate and graduate programs. Check out our newly renovated website and find us on Twitter and Facebook at unlvpsychology. Keep in touch with us! Also, we are interested in developing internship placements for our undergraduates. If you are affiliated with an agency that can help us train our undergraduate students in community settings, please let me know!

## People

We are thrilled to welcome a new assistant professor to our Department, Dr. Gloria Wong-Padoongpatt. Dr. Wong-Padoongpatt received her Ph.D. in social-personality psychology from the University of California, Davis in 2016 and has been working in our Department as a postdoctoral scholar since that time. Her research work focuses on the impact, mechanisms, and individual variations of microaggressions, a form of subtle discrimination. Dr. Wong-Padoongpatt's research conceptualizes microaggressions as stressors and uses a transitional model of stress to uncover the mechanisms by which microaggressions may negatively impact mental and physical health. She has already conducted a large-scale review in this area and, using an experimental induction, her research is the first in the field to examine the immediate and proximal impacts of microaggressions. She has several articles on this topic in addition to her interest in personality factors related to excessive gambling among minority individuals. Both lines of research focus on health and mental health disparities of marginalized individuals. Dr. Wong-Padoongpatt has also developed and



taught our new course in multicultural psychology. Welcome, Gloria!

We also placed 9 clinical doctoral students in APA-accredited internships and several of our clinical and experimental psychology doctoral students will be graduating this spring. In addition, we are pleased to welcome 8 new clinical doctoral students and 4 new experimental doctoral students to our incoming classes in the fall! Of course, we remain busy as well with our 1400 undergraduate majors and over 400 psychology and neuroscience minors!

## Research

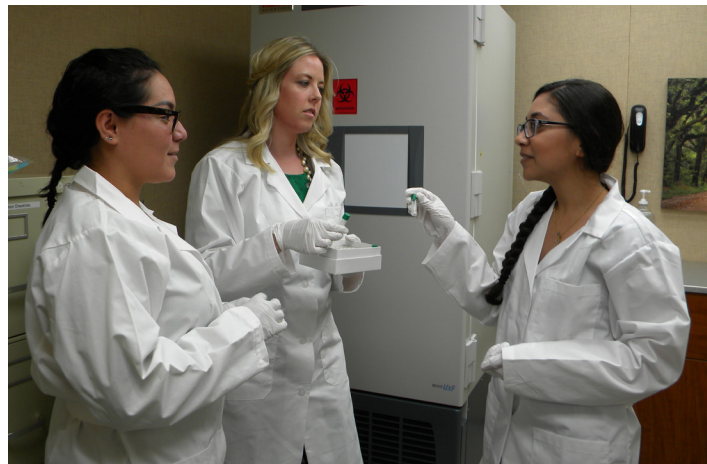
Our faculty members conduct cutting-edge research in clinical, cognitive, and developmental psychology as well as neuroscience and quantitative methods. Our research is enhanced by great diversity in our undergraduate student population and in our community in Las Vegas. Several of our faculty have been featured recently in UNLV and other media publications, including Drs. Rochelle and Dustin Hines, two of our neuroscience researchers, who were recently profiled as part of their collaboration with the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art.



We continue to have a very productive faculty, with scores of publications from 2016 that can be viewed on various Department faculty websites. Examples include:

- Dr. Allen's work on negative symptoms in bipolar disorder and schizophrenia in *Schizophrenia Research*
- Dr. Barchard's examination of the relationship of internal consistency to power in *Multivariate Behavioral Research*
- Dr. Benning's work on postauricular reflexes in *Psychophysiology*
- Dr. Chen's work on gene variants of nicotine and alcohol dependence in *American Journal of Medical Genetics Part B: Neuropsychiatric Genetics*

- Dr. Hyman's work on context-dependent remapping of medial frontal cortex neurons in *Journal of Neuroscience*
- Dr. Kinney's work on the role of GABA B receptors in learning and memory and neurological disorders in *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*
- Dr. Millar's work on the effects of gender and cost on suspicion in initial courtship communications in *Evolutionary Psychological Science*
- Dr. Rennels' work on asymmetries in infants' attention toward and categorization of male faces in *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*



- Dr. Culbert's work on negative affect and binge/purge behaviors in women with anorexia nervosa in *Comprehensive Psychiatry*
- Dr. Donohue's work on the psychometrics of the Home Safety and Beautification Assessment in *Psychological Assessment*
- Dr. Freeman's work on disruptive mood dysregulation disorder in *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology*
- Dr. Hannon's work on language-specific rhythms in *Frontiers in Psychology*
- Dr. Hurlburt's new book entitled, *A passion for specificity: Confronting inner experience in literature and science*, from the Ohio State University Press

- Dr. Robnett's work on gender bias in *Psychology of Women Quarterly*
- Dr. Silver's work on computer programs for comparing dependent correlations in *Revista Digital de Investigacion en Docencia Universitaria*
- Dr. Snyder's work on attention to change-relevant

objects and successful detection of acoustic changes in *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*

## Faculty-in-residence

Our faculty-in-residence have also been very busy! Dr. Paul and Dr. Lefforge have been directing the PRACTICE in addition to working on a legislative bill for the registration of doctoral psychology trainees, interns, and psychological assistants, promoting integrated health care with the new medical school, and organizing interprofessional teams from Nursing, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Social Work, and Dentistry. In addition, Dr. McMurray has been active in directing Psi Chi, leading to a 42% increase in membership. Dr. Villa recently presented her work at the UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo, and Drs. Cummings and Nelson have worked on our undergraduate committee to improve retention and graduation rates and to prepare our new capstone psychology course.

## And finally...

We want to know how you are doing as well! Please visit our Department website and find the "Calling All Alumni" section on the right side. You can let us know where you are and what you are doing. After all, once a UNLV Department of Psychology member, always a UNLV Department of Psychology member!

