



INTERNS & GRADUATES

Please join us in congratulating our students on internship. Erin Horn is at the West Virginia University Counseling Center and Diana Dinescu is at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

Graduating from the program this year were Elie Hessel, Jessica Beadel, Gena Gorlin, and Yishan Xu.

Congratulations to everyone and best of luck in the future!

Psychology Department Welcomes New Chair

The Psychology Department is very excited to welcome Alev Erisir as the new Department Chair. Alev joined the department in 2000. She has a MD from Istanbul University and a PhD from the Behavioral Neuroscience Program at SUNY. Alev has held various appointments within the department including Associate Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program 2007-2009, Director of the Cognitive Science Undergraduate Program 2008-2011, Director of the Neuroscience Undergraduate Program 2011-2015, and she was appointed as Professor in 2013.

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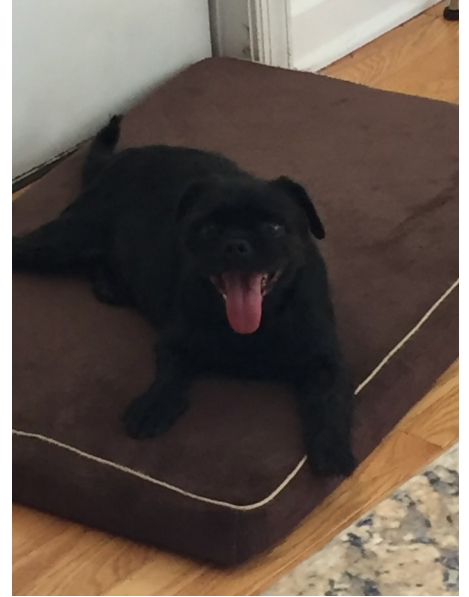
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In The Spotlight: Gilmer Pets

For this year's fun photo theme I asked faculty and students to send in photos of their furry friends. Our most popular theme yet!



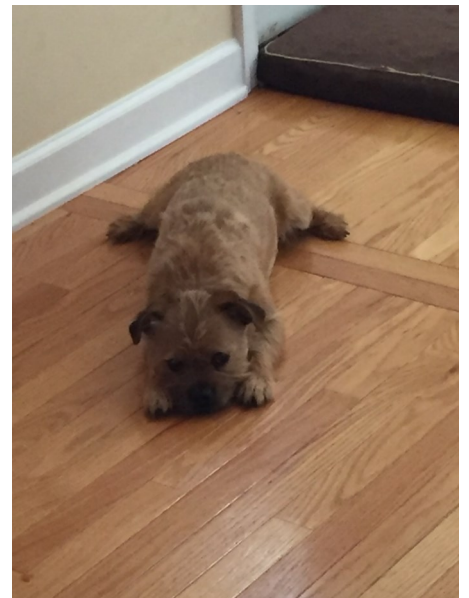
Diana Dinescu with her fiancé Brian, and their cat Buckley Owen, aka Bucky



Noelle Hurd's dogs: Apple (above) and Jack (below).



Jeff Glenn with his cat Marlowe, a seal point Siamese mix.



In the Spotlight: Gilmer Pets



Alex Wertz's cats Misty and Penny tired from playing!



Lee Llewellyn's bobtail cat "Bobby" (above), and her cat Pumpkin, age 19, lounging on the back deck (left).



Audrey Witttrup's new dog Fiona and her cat Pinot (look very closely towards the back of the sofa!)



Jess Kansky's new dog Chloe

In the Spotlight: Gilmer Pets!



Bethany Teachman's dog Coco with her daughter Joni.



Rachel Narr with her dog Piper and her new puppy Sadie.

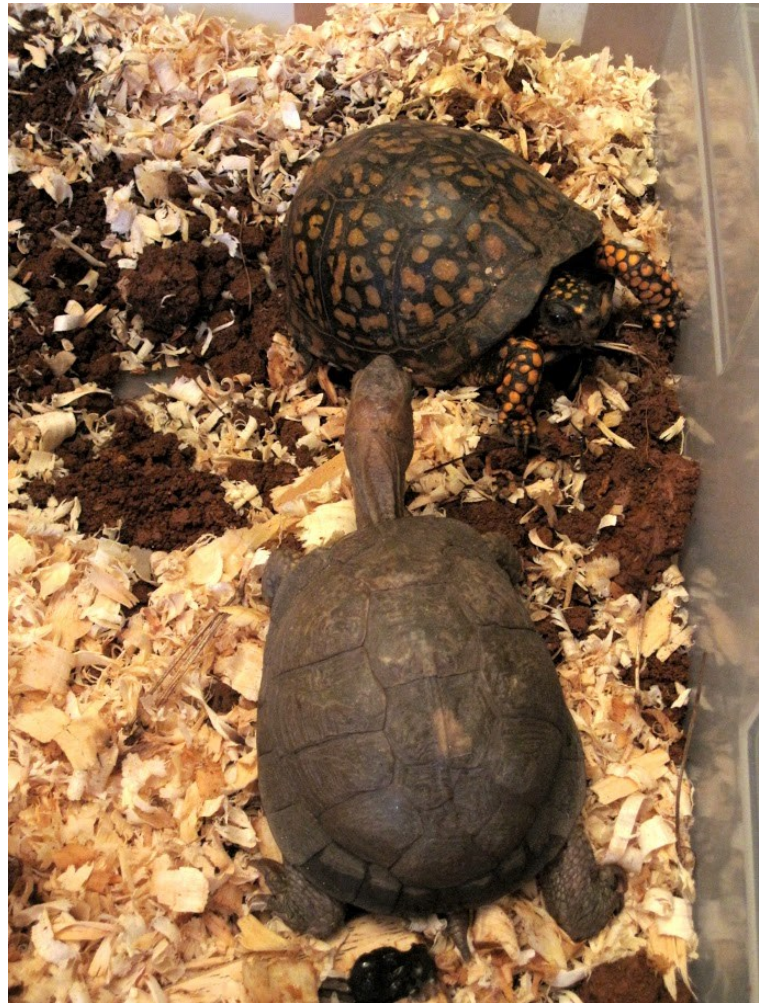


Eric Turkheimer with his dog Mason, taking a Reactive Rover Class

And the award for the oldest living Gilmer Pet that I received photos of goes to

Speedy the turtle!

Here are Rachel Narr's turtles Speedy and Morla. Speedy is the turtle at the bottom of the photo and he is 20 years old!



Awards, Honors, Publications, Media Mentions, and Updates: Students

Alex Werntz

- 2016 Accepted into the LIFE Program

Jessica Kansky

- 2016 Accepted into the LIFE Program
- 2016 M.A. Graduation
- Won an SPSP Travel Award to present her accepted poster at the SPSP Annual Convention that is being held in San Antonio in January . Kansky, J., Diener, E., & Allen, J. (2017, January). Attachment, communication, and satisfaction in romantic relationships: The role of early adolescent affect. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX
- Kansky, J., Allen, J., & Diener, E. (2016). Early adolescent affect predicts later life outcomes. *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*, 8, 192-212.

Sara Medina-Devilliers

- 2016-2017 Presidential Fellowship of Data Science

Audrey Wittrup

- Received a Virginia Education Science Training (VEST) predoctoral Fellowship

Lucy Guarnera

- 2015 Distinguished Teaching Fellowship; Awarded to excellent graduate student teachers in the psychology department; awardees design and teach their own upper-level undergraduate seminar (“Criminal minds: The science of modern forensic psychology”).
- 2015 Doris Buffett Fellowship, Center for Children, Families, and the Law; Awarded to graduate students undertaking applied work related to children and families in need.
- Harvey Fellowship (2015-2017) 2-year fellowship awarded to outstanding Christian graduate students in any discipline who possess unique vision to impact society through their vocations
- 2016 All-University Graduate Teaching Award for the Social Sciences; Awarded to the best graduate teaching assistant in the social sciences.
- 2016 Rebecca Boone Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching; Awarded to the best graduate teaching assistant in the psychology department.
- 2016 1st place, Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition; Best graduate research presentation in the area of “public policies and incentives”.
- Welcomed baby boy Charlie, born in June (photo to the right).



Diana Dinescu

- Diana’s pre-diss "Is Marriage a Buzzkill? A Twin Study of Marital Status and Alcohol Consumption" was heavily covered in the media recently. The study was featured in the Washington Post, UVA News, CBS news, and the NY Daily news just to name a few.
- <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/who-drinks-more-couples-or-singles/>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/08/03/marriage-changes-how-men-drink-in-weird-ways/>
- <http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/health/singles-booze-married-cohabitating-couples-article-1.2748931>
- <https://news.virginia.edu/content/does-marriage-affect-drinking-new-study-provides-insights>

Awards, Honors, Media Mentions and Publications: Faculty

Bethany Teachman

- 2015 Inaugural Fellow, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
- 2016 Chair, Coalition for the Advancement and Application of Psychological Science
- Featured in Virginia Magazine: http://uvamagazine.org/articles/the_choice_is_yours
- Quoted in US News and World Report: <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/health-wellness/articles/2015/11/23/the-science-of-awkwardness>
- Quoted in Real Simple: <http://www.realsimple.com/health/mind-mood/emotional-health/how-to-calm-down>

Bob Emery

- Published a new book “Two Homes, One Childhood: A Parenting Plan to Last a Lifetime”. He recently had an hour long On Point segment on NPR: <http://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2016/08/09/two-homes-one-childhood-co-parenting-after-divorce>. New York Magazine published a great review: <http://nymag.com/the-cut/2016/08/read-this-book-about-divorce-even-if-youre-not-divorcing.html> , and he has an op-ed coming out in the Washington Post.

Noelle Hurd

- 2015 Noelle was nominated by the clinical area faculty and received the Association for Psychological Science Rising Star designation

Genetics and Human Agency

A new research initiative led by Professor Eric Turkheimer began in November, 2015. This project, supported by the John Templeton Foundation, aims to unite philosophers and psychologists in understanding the role of genetics in complex human behavior. Letters of Intent proposing philosophical, theoretical and empirical research were submitted and reviewed in March of 2016. Invitations were then extended for submission of full applications. From those applications, awards have been made to 13 proposals. These awards have a three year funding period. Awardees and members of the Genetics and Human Agency Advisory Board will meet annually in Charlottesville to review and discuss progress on the projects. Project team members will blog on the project website to aid in creating a network of philosophers and psychologists. More information can be found at www.geneticshumanagency.org



Awards, Honors, Publications, and Updates: Alumni

Mia Smith Bynum (1999)

- 2016 Recipient, Jerry P. Wrenn Outstanding Service Award, School of Public Health, University of Maryland
- 2016 Recipient, Faculty Minority Achievement Award, President's Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues, University of Maryland

David Tate (1999)

- David, his husband Jimmy, and their son Jude, reside in Connecticut. David is Principal at Tate Consulting Group, a boutique consultancy that focuses on executive and team coaching, family-owned and closely held enterprises, strategic planning, and promoting healthy organizational development.
- David is an Assistant Professor in Psychiatry and a Lecturer in Management at Yale University.

Monica McConnell (2000)

- Currently serves as Chair of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – South Carolina (AFSP-SC) Chapter
- Conducts a training program called “More Than Sad”. This is a suicide prevention program for middle and high school age students.
- Serves as the director of Child, Adolescent and Family Services at Columbia Area Mental Health Center and operates a small private practice.

David Sbarra (2004)

- Promoted to Professor of Psychology at the University of Arizona
- Published a new ebook on close relationships "Love, Loss, and the Space Between: The Relationship Expert Essays," which is available on Amazon.com

Anthony Chambers (2004)

- Promoted to Director of the Center for Applied Psychological and Family Studies at Northwestern University
- Promoted to Full Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychology at Northwestern University
- Co-Editor-In-Chief of the “Encyclopedia of Couple and Family Therapy” published by Springer
- Co-author of a new book “Integrative Systemic Therapy” published by APA

Andreana Haley (2005)

- Starting an exciting new line of research with collaborators Dr. Francisco Gonzalez-Lima and Dr. Hirofumi Tanaka at the University of Texas at Austin. They are examining the efficacy of transcranial laser therapy or photoneuro-modulation to improve neurocognitive function in aging as well as Mild Cognitive Impairment. This research is funded by the NIA and the Darrell K. Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease.

Monnica Williams (2007) and Jessica Meyer (2008)

- Jessica and Monnica were members of the same class at UVa and they were recently reunited in Connecticut (pictured right) where they will be working together as faculty at UCONN. Jessica is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Monnica was recently hired as an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology.



Awards, Honors, Publications, and Updates: Alumni

Elise Clerkin (2010)

- 2015 Career Development Leadership Program, Anxiety and Depression Association of America
- 2016 Welcomed baby Elliot John Magee in January
- 2016 Junior Faculty Scholar Award, Miami University

Joshua Magee (2010)

- 2016 Welcomed baby Elliot John Magee in January
- Is continuing to work on the K23 Grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse titled: “Text Message Support to Prevent Smoking Relapse in Community Treatment Settings”

Matt Lerner (2013)

- 2015 *Rising Star*. Association for Psychological Science.
- 2015 *Distinguished Reviewer*. Behavior Therapy.
- 2015–2016 *Simons Investigator*. Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative.
- 2015–2016 *Visiting Scholar*. Center for Health Innovation, Adelphi University.
- 2016 *Biobehavioral Research Award for Innovative New Scientists*. National Institute of Mental Health.
- 2016 *NARSAD Young Investigator Award*. Brain & Behavior Research Foundation.
- 2016 *Early Career Reviewer*. Center for Scientific Review. National Institutes of Health.
- 2016 *Teacher of the Year*. Department of Psychology, Stony Brook University.
- 2016 *Editorial Board*. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.
- 2016 *Editorial Board*. Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology.

Riana Anderson (2015)

- Riana is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Racial Empowerment Collaborative and Applied Psychology Division at the University of Pennsylvania. She was recently selected for a new national leadership program, “Culture of Health Leaders”. This program is co-led by the National Collaborative for Health Equity and CommonHealth ACTION with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She will participate in leadership development and collaborate with leaders from across the country to solve persistent challenges and help advance a Culture of Health.



Featured Research: “Advancing the Science of Interpersonal Connections in Autism Spectrum Disorders “

Humans are a fundamentally social species, yet there are many ways the development of subtle, complex social ability can go awry. In my lab at Stony Brook University, we strive to better understand how this happens, and help create a more accessible, rewarding social world for kids and teens, primarily those with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We do this by focusing on improving assessment of individual social strengths and challenges, then designing, testing, and deploying novel, evidence-based tools and treatments that are matched to each individual’s needs. We do this in a number of ways.

Social functioning profiles. Social competence involves effective navigation of the interpersonal world to achieve friendships and other close relations. When people encounter social information, the cascade of biopsychosocial processes that contribute to their perception, interpretation, and reaction may or may not lead them to successful connections. In one line of work, my grad students (Tamara Rosen, Erin Kang, Cara Keifer, Alan Gerber, and Tessa Clarkson) and I are recruiting large samples of youth with ASD to examine this array of processes across multiple levels of analyses (electrophysiological, behavioral, observed, parent-, self-, teacher-, and peer-reported), then looking at how individual differences in these factors prospectively predict real world social interactions with peers and classroom-based friendship.

Translational tools. Our research focused as well on the development of novel technologies to rapidly and efficiently assess various aspects of social perception and cognition in tandem and in vivo. We aim to build assessments that allow us to learn more about social behavior than we could

from traditional questionnaires alone. In one study (conducted in conjunction with the actor and science journalism advocate, Alan Alda), we developed tools to gather information about young adults’ social interactions via smartphone app (i.e., via ecological momentary analysis), then use the same app to randomize participants to brief low-impact social interventions, thereby allowing us to learn about (and potentially modify) social behavior in the real world. In another study (conducted with Rush Neurobehavior-



al Center), children engage with characters in a virtual world that elicits challenging peer interactions (like someone taking the last slice of their favorite type of pizza) to facilitate assessment (and, potentially, modification) of maladaptive social cognitions. In a related study, we study the electrophysiological correlates of performance on these tasks, with the aim of developing more sensitive measures of change in social competence over time.

Evidence-based interventions. While at UVA, I had the opportunity to work on the development of an array of social interventions, under the guidance of Drs. Amori Mikami (now at UBC) and Angeline Lillard. My lab now conducts both efficacy and effective-

ness trials of both these original interventions, and even newer models that have emerged from what we have learned in previous studies. Most recently, we have been conducting an active control study comparing the intervention we used at UVA to a closely-matched control intervention; perhaps most excitingly, we have (thus far successfully) blinded participants, parents, research staff, and even interventionists to which condition is which, thereby controlling for a substantial source of bias that has often bedeviled this area of research.

We also study the effectiveness of social interventions in the “real world.” For instance, we are working (with collaborators at Temple University and Pace University) with a large public school in NYC that serves children with ASD in novel ways to try to understand how their programs “work.” Similarly, we are fortunate to be the lead site on a seven-university consortium (with Rush, St. John’s, Drexel, NYU, Adelphi, and San Diego State) in which we are looking at a large sample of practitioners around the country to develop the first data-driven picture of what “usual care” for core and primary comorbid symptoms looks like for teens with ASD.

Overall, my students and I are excited to be able to work on improving the precision, reliability, and quality of assessment and treatment of social competence challenges in youth with ASD. We hope that by integrating multiple levels of analyses and new technologies, we can help “move the ball forward,” as it were, in improving the quality of life of individuals with ASD and other social challenges.

- Matt Lerner (2013)

Alumni News - Update from Paige Harden ('09)

I am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. I arrived in Austin in August 2009, right after finishing my clinical internship. I received tenure in December 2014.

The Psychology department at UT is very similar to the UVA program in a number of ways. We train a small number (an incoming class of 5-6 students per year) of Ph.D. students who are admitted to work with a primary research mentor. Research is the biggest part of my job. I currently mentor or co-mentor 7 Ph.D. students, some from Clinical Psychology, some from another area called Individual Differences and Evolutionary Psychology. Our lab does research on adolescent development using tools from behavioral genetics. (You can read more about my research at labs.la.utexas.edu/harden/). My favorite part of research is mentoring my graduate students, who are exceptionally bright and hard-working and intellectually engaged, and thinking about the ideas that are constantly percolating in our group. My least favorite part is the constant need to apply for grants to keep our work going. The funding climate is so competitive, and sometimes I feel like I spend more time writing grant applications than doing anything else!

I also recently began teaching two new classes. The first is a simultaneous, massive, online Introduction to Psychology class that serves over 1,000 students. It is filmed and broadcast live, and students do a variety of interactive chats, games, and quizzes



during class time to keep them motivated and engaged. I co-teach the class with another Psychology professor, Dr. Sam Gosling. Even with a co-instructor, the class is a stupendous amount of work, but it is also an incredibly interesting new challenge to figure out how to teach using these new pedagogical and technological tools. I also teach a small seminar on Adolescence for UT's "Plan II" honors program. This is the polar opposite to a massive, online class – just 14 students in a room, talking and writing. Teaching a 1/1 course-load is a privilege that allows me to connect with undergraduate students but also have enough time for my research responsibilities.

Currently, I do almost no clinical work. Until I had my first child, I worked for a few hours a week at a non-profit clinic that offered very

inexpensive therapy to low-income clients, but after Jonah was born, I stopped seeing patients. Running a lab, teaching my classes, being productive as a pre-tenure professor, and being a mother was more than enough to keep me busy, and something had to go. After all the time I invested in my clinical training, I have surprisingly few regrets about not doing clinical work right now.

My son, Jonah, is now 4 years old, and my daughter, Rowan, will turn 2 in December. Having two babies while pre-tenure was definitely stressful at times, but my department was very supportive. When we aren't working, my husband (Elliot Tucker-Drob, also a graduate of the Gilmer program) and I are outside with our kids, who are the best part of every day.

- Paige Harden

Clinical Area Holds Underrepresented Student Visit Day

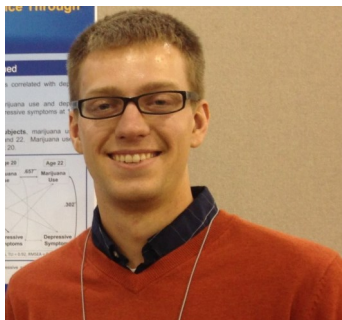
In April, the Clinical Area held a visit day for undergraduate juniors, seniors, and recent graduates from underrepresented groups. An outstanding group of research-oriented students were selected to visit from a large pool of applicants so that they could come to grounds and learn more about the Clinical Psychology Graduate Program and the Psychology Department at UVa.

The day included a variety of events, including individual meetings with faculty members, presentations on applying to and succeeding in graduate school, and attending the weekly Clinical Lunch Lecture series. Students were also invited to network with current graduate students, attend lab meetings, and tour the Ainsworth Clinic. The students toured the grounds, attended a Colloquium presentation, and ended the day with a dinner party at Bethany Teachman's home. The day provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with a fantastic group of young scholars and the Clinical Area looks forward to making this an annual event.



Welcome First Year Students!

Seam Womack grew up in Lake Orion, Michigan and completed his undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. After graduating, he worked



for two years as a research assistant in the Pitt Parents and Children laboratory. At UVA, he is working with Melvin Wilson in the Cultural and Family Functioning Studies lab. His research involves examining environmental turbulence factors as predictors of childhood and adolescent behavior problems.



Evan Giangrande joins the clinical area to work with Eric Turkheimer. Born and raised in Frederick, Maryland, he graduated from Georgetown University with a B.A. in psychology and English.

Before coming to UVA, Evan spent two years at the Clinical and Translational Neuroscience Branch of NIMH researching cognitive impairment in schizophrenia. His research interests include individual differences in cognitive ability across the life span, behavior genetics, developmental psychopathology, and psychotic disorders. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, hiking, snowboarding, live music, and anything involving the ocean.



Briana Akani is originally from Detroit, MI and graduated from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor in 2016 with a BA in Psychology. While at Michigan, she researched girls' pubertal development and adolescent interpersonal relationships, as well as experiences of marginalized students and barriers within higher education. Briana is excited to bridge these areas of research through working with Nolle Hurd in the PHAD Lab. Her specific interests are in the undergraduate experiences of low-income

students and students of color and the impacts that social support can have on these students' social and academic outcomes.



Nauder Namaky moved to Charlottesville from Austin, TX, where he graduated from the University of Texas. He has spent the last three years as the project coordinator in the PACT lab at UVA, but now joins the department as a graduate student working with Jim Coan and the VAN lab. Nauder's research interests include the etiology of affective disorders (including symptomatic network structures), social effects on emotion regulation, psychophysiology and neuroimaging, and applying longitudinal quantitative methods to dynamically model psychopathology. When he's not doing research or writing overly lengthy descriptions of his research interests, Nauder can be found performing improv in town, playing soccer or D&D, and referring to himself in the third person.

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