Welcome

Welcome to PsychNews, a publication of the Department of Psychology, St. Thomas University. We produce two issues per year.

Purpose

PsychNews provides readers with updates on faculty, honours students, and honours programme alumni, as well as other noteworthy information about the department.

Editor

The current editor of PsychNews is Dr. Suzanne Prior. Suggestions and/or updates for issues can be sent to Dr. Prior (prior@stu.ca). The Department of Psychology reserves the right to determine the content of PsychNews.

Editor’s Note

In this issue, we celebrate the many accomplishments of the 2018 honours class. We also showcase an alumnus who is now a faculty member at Oakland University.

Honours Research on Tour!

The tradition continues! Honours students Kyoungsil Nah and Cameron Smith travelled to Dalhousie University to present their honours thesis research at the 42nd Annual Science Atlantic Undergraduate Psychology Conference held May 8-10. Thanks to faculty representatives Dr. Kim Fenwick and Dr. Suzanne Prior who joined the students at the conference.

(l-r) Cameron Smith and Kyoungsil Nah at the 42nd Annual Science Atlantic Undergraduate Psychology Conference
Honours Class 2017-2018

Congratulations to the Honours Class on the successful completion of their honours theses! The students presented their research to the department on April 13. We wish you the very best in the next chapter of your lives!

Kyoungsil Nah
Activation of Spontaneous Causal Inferences in Self Perception (Advisors: Drs. Nancy Higgins and Sandra Thomson)

Cameron Smith
The Relationship Between Happiness Motivation, Well-Being, and Friendship Type (Advisor: Dr. Dave Korotkov)

All done!
Recent Faculty Publications and Conference Presentations

Peer-Reviewed Publications


Conference Presentations

Bond-Fraser, L., Ferris, K., & Fraser, I. (2018). The knowledge and beliefs of Canadian judges concerning the scientific evidence pertaining to the fallibility of memory. Presentation at the 21st Annual Meeting of the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences (AABSS), Las Vegas, NV.


Invited Presentations

Honours 2018-2019

Congratulations to the following students on their admission to the honours program for 2018-2019:

Derek Bailey (Advisor: Dr. Tyler Bancroft)
Danielle Caissie (Advisors: Dr. Marvin Claybourn and Dr. Suzanne Prior)
Elizabeth Dreise (Advisor: Dr. Michelle Lafrance)
Jessica Gilbert (Advisors: Dr. Marvin Claybourn and Dr. Suzanne Prior)
Vanessa Gray (Advisor: Dr. Mihailo Perunovic)
Andrew Hall (Advisor: Dr. Nancy Higgins)
Moira Kinney (Advisor: Dr. Michelle Lafrance)
Alexandra Mackie (Advisor: Dr. Sandra Thomson)
Briea Malloy (Advisor: Dr. Monika Stelzl)
Lourdes Pastrana (Advisor: Dr. Sarah Vannier)

We are looking forward to working with you!
Prizes in Psychology

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded the following prizes:

1st year prize for Psychology:
   Patrick (John) Ducet

2nd year prize for Psychology:
   Jillian Debley

3rd year prize for Psychology:
   Elizabeth Dreise

4th year prize for Psychology:
   Chanieca Gallant, Alexandra Mackie

Dr. Helen Lyons Memorial Prize for Psychology Honours in 4th Year:
   Kyoungsil Nah

Ray and Lorain Irving Prize for Best Thesis:
   Kyoungsil Nah, Cameron Smith

Canadian Psychological Association’s Certificate of Academic Excellence:
   Kyoungsil Nah, Cameron Smith

Paige Boisvert (BA Honours 2017) at Queen’s University where she is an MSc(OT) student in Occupational Therapy.
Honours Alumni News: 
A Showcase of Diversity and Excellence

Graduate School Acceptances and Updates

Hannah Anstey (BA Honours 2017) received a SSHRC Canadian Graduate Scholarship in support of her MA studies in the Clinical Psychology program at the University of Regina.

Kailey DeLucry (BA Honours 2017) was accepted in the MA program in Clinical Psychology at the University of Regina.

Mackenzie Doiron (BA Honours 2015) was accepted in the PhD program in Psychology at Carleton University.


Nicolas Levesque (BA Honours 2017) was accepted in the MA program in School Psychology at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Anna MacDermid (BA Honours 2017) has been awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s (CGS M) from NSERC in support of her MSc studies in Experimental Psychology at Memorial University.

Kyoungsil Nah (BA Honours 2018) was accepted in the MA/PhD program in Experimental Psychology at the University of New Brunswick.

Brandon Sparks (BA Honours 2013) completed his MA in Applied Social Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. He is continuing in the PhD program.

Brittany Stairs (BA Honours 2012) completed her Bachelor of Midwifery (BMw) at the University of British Columbia.

SJ Thiessen (BA Honours 2015) was accepted in the MSW program in Social Work at York University.
Career Updates

Wyn Fournier (BA Honours 2004), MSW, RSW worked as a Social Work Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces until August 2016. She then retired after 32 years of service and opened a private practice in Ottawa called Healing Emotions and Relationship Therapy (HEART). Wyn also offers weekend workshops for couples, as well as families with teens, based on the book Hold Me Tight, by Dr. Sue Johnson.

Brittany Stairs (BA Honours 2012) is now practicing midwifery.

Former honours students: We would love to hear from you!
Please send updates (photos would be great) to prior@stu.ca
Alumnus in the Spotlight

Lisa Welling (BA Honours 2005), PhD

We are pleased to highlight Dr. Lisa Welling as our Alumnus in the Spotlight! Lisa completed her honours in 2005 under the supervision of Drs. Ian Fraser and Michael Houlihan. She then moved to Scotland to study at the University of Aberdeen’s Face Research Laboratory. Lisa completed her PhD in 2008. Her dissertation was entitled Individual Differences in Face Preferences and was funded by NSERC’s Canada Graduate Scholarship. Next, Lisa secured an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) one-year postdoctoral fellowship to continue research at the Face Research Laboratory. Thereafter, she completed a 3-year American Institute of Bisexuality (AIB) funded postdoctoral fellowship at the Pennsylvania State University with Dr. David Puts in collaboration with Dr. William Crowley at the Harvard University Medical School. Following this, Lisa joined the faculty at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan in 2012 where she is now a tenured Associate Professor. Lisa was awarded the Oakland University New Investigator Research Excellence Award in 2015 and the Oakland University Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award in 2018.

Lisa has published more than 65 academic peer-reviewed articles and recently finished editing her second book, titled “The Oxford Handbook of Evolutionary Psychology and Behavioral Endocrinology”. Her lab has several graduate and undergraduate research students, all investigating human romantic relationships from an evolutionary perspective. Lisa is particularly interested in how hormones affect different aspects of our behaviour, including mate choice, preferences, and sexual behaviour.

Reflecting on the honours program at STU, Lisa says “STU, particularly my honours thesis, prepared me very well for the rigours of graduate school and academia. The stellar professors in the psychology department taught me so much and I am forever grateful for their guidance. My husband is also a STU alumnus, and we got married in the STU chapel in 2008 right after I defended my dissertation. Last September, my husband and I welcomed our little boy, Declan. This was less than two months after receiving tenure — I guess timing is everything!”

Congratulations Lisa on your outstanding academic career that builds on your honours thesis research and studies at STU. We are proud of you both and wish you the very best!