The spring has been an exciting term in the department of Psychology. Three things are especially noteworthy. First, we are delighted to welcome Dr. Veena Dwivedi. Dr. Dwivedi’s expertise in the cognitive neuroscience of language will add further strength to the Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience division of our graduate program. Second, Dr. Stephen Emrich, an expert in Visual Cognitive Neuroscience, was awarded tenure & promotion to Associate Professor. Bravo, Stephen! Third, Caitlyn Gallant (an MA student) was highly successful in Brock’s 3-minute thesis competition, making it to the Provincial finals. Well done, Caitlyn!

In addition to celebrating these and other moments of individual success, the Psychology department is celebrating advances in both our graduate and undergraduate programs. Beginning this year, PhD students will be required to take fewer courses and Advanced Studies Papers (a series of papers written each summer) are being replaced by a single comprehensive exam that will be tailored to each student’s interests and career goals. We’re excited to see how this streamlined program further enhances our students’ success. At the undergraduate level, we’re introducing a truly innovative course: Roadmaps to Careers in Psychology. Dr. Tanya Martini and Dr. Drew Dane are working diligently to help our 2nd-year students explore and prepare for a breadth of career options. It is said that ‘a rolling stone gathers no moss’ and that is certainly true of the dynamic groups of faculty, staff, and students that comprise Brock’s Department of Psychology!
The Psychology Department is thrilled to welcome Veena Dwivedi to the department this summer! Veena makes a unique contribution to our department with her diverse background from mice to human language. I sat down with Veena for a little Q&A to get to know her a little better and here is what she had to say...

**What is your academic background?**

My academic background has provided the perfect foundation for my current research and teaching. My undergrad is from McGill, where I was studying Immunology and Physiology. My honours thesis involved testing a cure for malaria, using mice. That experience pretty much sealed it—I loved science but not medicine. I’d discovered linguistics as an elective, and then went to meet with the neurolinguist David Caplan (now at Harvard Med School and Massachusetts General Hospital, and my first real “boss”) who said, sure you can combine linguistics and neurology. So I got my BSc, and went off to get at PhD from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in Linguistics. Given that I now study the neurophysiology of language processing; I’d say it couldn’t have been a better combination.

**Tell us about your research program and your favourite finding.**

First, I should mention that every finding is my favourite finding because we are asking questions that nobody has ever looked at before. So it’s always cool stuff.

It’s especially cool because we are looking at the brain-language interface, trying to figure out what sort of neural activity results from information in sentences that is gleaned from experience in the world (e.g., what happens at a birthday party) vs. information in sentences that must come from unconscious grammatical knowledge (e.g., progressive aspect on verbs must be marked with -ing, as in She is running vs. She is run). This is a good first place to start because language is what separates us from animals. Yes, they communicate but they don’t talk at the level of humans. If they did, we’d know about it.

**Why do you study language and why is it important?**

If the brain is the final frontier in the 21st century, then the brain-language interface is the final frontier for humanity. We are the only species that have this cognitive ability. So figuring out language is figuring out what it means to be human.

**Why do you love research?**

I love research because it’s always new, it’s always fascinating and it’s always relevant. Playing with sentence meaning, looking at brain waves, it’s just a blast. And it’s especially fun to do so with students in the lab. I love having a team to do this with, and watching them learn and have fun in the lab keeps me going. It’s a different kind of fun than what we do in the classroom.

**What opportunities does your lab offer to graduate or undergraduate students?**

Students in my lab will learn how to measure neural activity to sentences using EEG technology. We look at time-locked responses to words in sentences and look for specific brain waves to tell us what people are doing. We also do look at reading times in sentence comprehension, using self-paced reading methods. In addition, students can look forward to learning advanced statistical techniques using R. Students with no background in language or linguistics should not be afraid—I teach that stuff in the lab.
An interview with Veena Dwivedi Continued…

What have you brought to the Psychology department?
I’ll be teaching Brain and Language and eventually Psychological aspects of Bilingualism (as well as stats!!). Besides teaching, I hope to bring enthusiasm and a level of sophistication to the studies in neurocognition of language.

Who is Veena Dwivedi outside of research?
Ha! This is a 24/7 gig so….. well, I have two teenage kids and we are all musical and we perform together (my husband, Greg, likes to listen in the audience). We do all sorts of Indian music, from semi-classical Hindustani to Bollywood. It’s a lot of fun and keeps us connected as a busy family of 4.

Where Are They Now?

✦ Paul Frosina, a recent graduate from our B.A. Honours Psychology program, was named the 2017 Co-op student of the year. Congratulations Paul! To read more click here https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/03/paul-frosina-named-2017-co-op-student-of-the-year/

✦ Samantha Metler, former M.A. student, is now working at Sick Kid’s Hospital (Toronto) as a Project Co-ordinator in their Learning Institute

✦ Valentina Proietti (former Postdoc in the Face Perception Lab) and Shawn Geniole (former PhD student in the McCormick Lab) have returned to Canada from Vienna. They are collaborating with Justin Carré (also a former PhD student in the McCormick Lab), Assistant Professor at Nipissing University, North Bay. Welcome back!

Student Awards: Congratulations!

✦ Joshua Black, a PhD student in our department, won the President’s Surgite Award! The award recognizes students who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and made a significant contribution to student life or provided a service to the Niagara community. Joshua clearly exemplifies the award with all of his work connecting with the Niagara and broader community with his Grief work. Congratulations Joshua! Click here to learn more: https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/04/presidents-surgite-award-winners-honoured/

✦ Ann Farrell, a PhD student in our department, received the Barb Daly Excellence and Student Leadership Award and Scotiabank Graduate Award.
Student Awards Continued...

✦ Caitlin Gallant won the Brock 2017 Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, and received the Dr. Liette Vasseur Graduate Scholarship.

✦ Kariann Gracey received Brock University’s 50th Anniversary Undergraduate Scholarship and the John Lavery Scholarship.

✦ Brenda Garlow received the David Siegel Award for Leadership and Academic Excellence in Social Sciences.

✦ Taylor Heffer received the Jack M. Miller Excellence in Research Award (Master’s).

✦ Sarah Henderson obtained a NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award.

✦ Mark Hoffarth received several awards this year including the Jack M. Miller Excellence in Research Award (Doctoral), Brock Faculty of Social Sciences Scholarly Conference Presentation Travel Award, and the American Psychological Association Division 34 Graduate Student Award!

✦ Lauren Kniewasser received a Dr. Terrance and Cathryn Boak Scholarship.

✦ Alison O’Connor received the American Psychology-Law Society Student Grant in Aid for her Master’s thesis project.

✦ Elvira Prusaczyk won the Bluma Appel Graduate Entrance Scholarship for Excellence.

✦ Sean Robb received the Brock University Faculty Association Graduate Studies Award.

✦ Joel Robitaille won the 2017 Vision Science Society Student Travel Award.

✦ Madeleine Shaver obtained an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award.

✦ Jonathan Simone obtained the WG Dewhurst award to attend the CCNP conference in Kingston and the ICRS student travel award to attend the conference in Montreal.

✦ Sarah Thorne received the John W. Bean and Kathryn Bean Scholarship in Social Sciences.

Psychology Graduate Students’ Successes with External Awards and Scholarships!!

For the 2017-2018 academic year we have 13 students who have won external scholarships and awards! Great job everyone! These external scholarships have been awarded by the following provincial and national funding agencies:

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<th>Student</th>
<th>External Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Caitlyn Gallant</td>
<td>NSERC - Vanier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holly Lockhart</td>
<td>NSERC - PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Pitchford</td>
<td>NSERC - MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Earle</td>
<td>SSHRC - PhD</td>
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<td>Taylor Heffer</td>
<td>SSHRC - PhD</td>
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<td>Jennifer Roters</td>
<td>SSHRC - MA</td>
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<td>Kevin MacDonald</td>
<td>Queen Elizabeth II - PhD</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sean Robb</td>
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<td>Kristen Baker</td>
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<td>Alison O’Connor</td>
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<td>Elvira Prusaczy</td>
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Faculty and Staff Grants and Awards

✦ Jayne Morrish, The Knowledge Mobilization Officer for the Lifespan Centre, received the prestigious Top 40 Under Forty award. The award recognizes Niagara’s next generation of business leaders. The 40 winners are under the age of 40 and are consistently making their mark in business and their communities. Jayne has made a big impact here at Brock. Congratulations on the award Jayne! To read more click here: https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/04/three-brock-employees-make-top-40-under-40-list/

✦ Timothy Murphy was awarded the Faculty of Social Sciences award for Excellence in Teaching, and was acknowledged at Spring Convocation. His dedication to students and ability to impart complex material is admirable. This latest award adds to his distinguished teaching award record. During Spring Convocation Tim gave an invited address to the 2017 graduating class and provided a simple message of “be a good person” To read more click here: https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/06/psychology-profs-simple-advice-to-graduates-be-a-good-person/

Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference

This year the Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference was held in Ottawa at the University of Ottawa. Brock University had 12 students attend (9 talks and 3 posters) representing about 25% of oral presentations! Congratulations to all 2017 Honours Psychology graduates!

The Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association conference

The Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association conference was held here at Brock University this year and close to 200 people attended from across Ontario. The conference was organized by Cheryl McCormick and made possible with the help of professors and several Brock University student volunteers. Professor Joffre Mercier from the Department of Biological Sciences gave an amazing welcome speech at the conference. Psychology graduate student, Kevin MacDonald, gave one of three chosen trainee talks at the conference.
Message from the Undergraduate Program Director

I would first like to congratulate, on behalf of the entire department, all of our recent graduating students! Thanks to Tim Murphy for his wonderful words of advice in the convocation address.

In more specific news, 12 of our honours thesis students attended the Annual Ontario Undergraduate Psychology Thesis Conference, held this spring at the University of Ottawa. The students presented their honours thesis research through oral presentations and posters. They all did a tremendous job, showing off our program and the calibre of our students! Many thanks (again!) to Tim Murphy for coordinating the students’ travel, accommodation, etc.

Finally, in May, faculty and staff attended a Psychology Department retreat where we discussed improvements to our undergraduate program, including ways to better convey to students the value of the skills they learn throughout their Brock Psychology degree. Did you know that Brock University BA program ranks 13 out of 98 Canadian universities, and in the top 5 for research productivity and impact? Brock was also rated 8th (of all universities in Canada) for preparing students for the workplace!

Carolyn Hafer - Undergraduate Program Director

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**EXPERIENCE PSYCHOLOGY.**

Brock’s Psychology Department ranks...

- **13th out of 98** Canadian universities for its BA program (Macleans magazine, 2017)
- **Top 5** in research productivity and impact (out of 40 Canadian universities that train MA and PhDs; Canadian Psychological Association)
Convocation

This June two PhD students and five MA student from our Department Graduated. Karen Campbell delivered the address our graduating graduate students at convocation, encouraging graduates to be brave, take risks, and don’t let failure stop you. Congratulations to all of our graduates: Shawn Geniole, PhD., Meghan Weissflog, PhD., Elizabeth Stoakley, M.A., Joel Robitaille, M.A., Christine Salahub, M.A., Kari Lustig, M.A., and Erin Higgs, M.A.

Graduate Student Social

The Graduate Student Social Committee organized the first social event this summer and it was a great success! Fifteen of our Psychology graduate students across the three streams got together for dinner at Kully’s downtown!

Brock Hosts National Developmental Psychology Conference in 2018!

The Department of Psychology along with the Lifespan Centre are thrilled to be hosting the Development 2018 conference. Approximately 500 Developmental Psychologists will attend the conference at Brock next spring. This will be an extra special event as it coincides with the Psychology Department’s 50th anniversary! The organizing committee is thrilled to announce our two Keynote Speakers: Dr. Stephen Suomi and Dr. Jenny Jenkins. Dr. Suomi is an internationally known Primatologist who uses an integrative approach to developmental research, examining how both genetic and environmental factors influence change across the lifespan. Dr. Jenkins is the 2018 recipient of the Pickering Award for Outstanding Contribution to Developmental Psychology for her work on emotion development and developmental psychopathology. For more information, please visit: www.development2018.com
Kimberly Cote recently completed a 3-year term as President of the Canadian Sleep Society (CSS), a national non-profit professional organization committed to improving sleep for all Canadians through: support for research, promotion of high quality clinical care, education of professionals and the public, and advocacy for sleep and sleep disorders medicine. She accomplished numerous initiatives during her term including the following:

✦ The society’s first Strategic Planning Meeting was organized and held in Niagara in 2015, which led to a new vision and mission for the society, as well as four ad-hoc working committees and a plan that would guide future activities.
✦ A CIHR-funded Patient Engagement Workshop was held in Toronto 2015, the first of its kind for the society.
✦ Two successful National scientific conferences were held (800 attendees in Toronto in 2015 and 700 attendees in Calgary in 2017), both making record-breaking revenue for society.
✦ A national fundraiser was initiated - the Great Canadian Sleepwalk was organized in four cities in August 2016 (including a walk on Brock campus), and in Calgary in 2017. Plans are underway for a National walk across multiple cities to raise awareness about inter-provincial differences in access to sleep medicine care.
✦ Patient information brochures, written by Canadian experts, were revised and posted on the website: https://css-scs.ca/resources/brochures.
✦ Important partnerships were established from government to private sector

Kimberly also ended her successful term by honouring her mentor, Robert Ogilvie, with an honorary membership of the Canadian Sleep Society. For full details see Our Research in the News below.
In early June, Tim Murphy gave a talk at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan on the effects of sleep deprivation on early visual processing, risk assessment, attention, and performance monitoring.

Several research teams from the department visited Austin, Texas for the Biennial Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Meeting and took some time off in the evening to watch the Bats fly out from under the Congress Ave Bridge and have dinner together!

Claire Matthews and Cathy Mondloch (Face Perception Lab) spent some extra time in Texas after SRCD, and re-connected with Nicole Nelson (former postdoc and now faculty member at University of Queensland). The group took a road trip to Dallas, where Claire Matthews gave a colloquium in the Department of Psychology at UT-Dallas.

The Face Perception lab enjoyed top-notch science, presenting their research, and loads of seafood during APS in Boston this May. Keynote talks, walking the Freedom Trail, and enjoying a pint of beer in one of Paul Revere’s hangouts were highlights!

Christine Salahub, Joel Robitaille, and Stephen Emrich from the Visual Cognitive Neuroscience Lab attended the Cognitive Neuroscience Society (CNS) conference in San Francisco.
Taking Our Research Around the World Continued..

**Caitlin Mahy** and family attended the Jean Piaget Society conference in San Francisco this spring and made a little trip down to Santa Cruz. Caitlin is currently serving as the Chair of the Membership Committee for the Jean Piaget Society.

**Sid Segalowitz**, gave a Keynote Address at Science Atlantic (Psychology) in Sydney, NS this spring.

Kimberly Cote, Kevin McDonald, and Kari Lustig from the **Sleep Research Lab** presented their research on naps and threat judgments at the Canadian Sleep Society Conference in Calgary, Alberta. Yee-Haw!

**Cheryl McCormick** and **Cathy Mondloch** attend the International Conference on Psychological Science in Vienna, Austria March 2017 where they visit their “science kids” Shawn Geniole (PhD graduate from McCormick lab) and Vale Proietti (former post-doc from Mondloch lab), post-doc’ing at University of Vienna. Photo: Shawn and Vale eating at a fabulous Ethiopian restaurant with Cathy and Cheryl (not depicted).

**Faculty Fun Fact!**

**Cheryl McCormick** came in 2nd place in a local 80’s Dance Contest. Check out that costume!
Our Research in the News

✦ **Joshua Black**, a PhD student in our department, has continued to receive extensive media attention around his research on grief and dreams. Josh gave several radio and podcast interviews to CFBU 103.7 FM, Dear Dougy Podcast, Good Grief with Cheryl Jones, AM790, Journeys with Grace Pointe Grief Centre, Coast to Coast AM, and Twin Cities News Talk about his research on grief and dreams. His work has also been featured in the Brock Press, The St. Catharines Standard, The Welland Tribune, and The Niagara Falls Review. Josh also appeared on the television show What’s New? Josh has also started his own podcast with Shawn Ram called Grief Dreams and has successfully created 15 episodes with over 1300 downloads! Several of his podcasts feature guests from Brock University within the Psychology department including: Mojan Naisani (episode 4), Travis Hodges (episode 9), Dr. Kerri Michalica (episode 10), and Caroline Drolet (episode 15). The podcast can be found on iTunes, Podbean, Stitcher, Overcast, and many other podcast platforms.

✦ **Kimberly Cote** was featured in the Brock News for honouring her mentor Robert Ogilvie as she ends her three year term as president of the Canadian Sleep Society: [https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/05/brock-prof-wraps-canadian-sleep-society-presidency-by-honouring-research-mentor/](/https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/05/brock-prof-wraps-canadian-sleep-society-presidency-by-honouring-research-mentor/)

✦ **Caitlyn Gallant**, a PhD student in our department makes the news for receiving the 3 Minute Thesis prize: [https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/03/concussion-research-claims-3mt-top-prize/](/https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/03/concussion-research-claims-3mt-top-prize/)

✦ **Tim Murphy** and **Karen Campbell** both addressed our graduates this year at convocation: [https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/06/psychology-profs-simple-advice-to-graduates-be-a-good-person/](/https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/06/psychology-profs-simple-advice-to-graduates-be-a-good-person/)

✦ Convocation was a family affair this year for **Cathy Mondloch**, Chair of Psychology. She was able to hood her son, Jonah Mondloch, and her father, Charles Burke, at convocation this spring. As someone who both teaches and studies lifespan development, Cathy thoroughly enjoyed this multi-generational moment. Check out the full story on CHCH news: [http://www.chch.com/22-year-old-brock-student-78-year-old-grandfather-graduate-day/](/http://www.chch.com/22-year-old-brock-student-78-year-old-grandfather-graduate-day/)
Making Community Connections

✦ Joshua Black, a PhD student in our department, gave four talks on grief dreams. Talks were given at Trent University, and the University of Wisconsin as well as to the community at McNally House Hospice in Grimsby. Joshua also gave a talk to our own Psychology department on how to Promote our own research using social media!

✦ Michael Busseri presented a workshop, entitled “The time of your life: Understanding your past, present, and future well-being” at the Brock University Employee Wellness Conference (June, 2017).

✦ Karen Campbell gave a community talk on Aging Well: Studying Healthy Cognitive Aging in Niagara sponsored by the Lifespan Centre. Karen’s talk was a smashing success with 270 community members attending. Community members were welcomed by Dr. Doug Rapelje, a local community member and advocate for seniors rights. if you missed it you can watch her talk here: http://www.growingwithbrock.ca/events.html

✦ Holly Lockhart from the Visual Cognitive Neuroscience Lab began fMRI scanning in Toronto this year. This is the first fMRI study to be conducted by a Brock student!

✦ Caitlin Mahy spoke with Niagara community members about what is means to raise a child well at a recent Conversation Café. To read her interview with Brock News, click here: https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2017/04/brock-prof-tackles-what-it-means-to-raise-a-child-well/

Caitlin also spoke at Nexus Network in Niagara-on-the-Lake on The Good News of Aging: Evidence from Psychological Research.

✦ Several of our faculty members spent an evening volunteering at United Way packing up “Welcome Home” kits for individuals and families moving from a shelter centre to a permanent home. Since the inception of the program more than 2,800 Welcome Home Kits have been packed and distributed by United Way.
Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications


Have You Read Anything Good Lately?
Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications


✦ Nelson, N., & Mondloch, C.J. Adults’ and children’s perception of facial expressions is influenced by body postures—Even for dynamic stimuli. *Visual Cognition*, Published online, April 2017

Have You Read Anything Good Lately?
Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications
