The Psychology Department has had another remarkable year! Looking back, 2017-18 can be characterized as a time of transition and celebration. 2018 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Psychology Department at Brock University. A brief glance at this newsletter will convey what a dynamic department we have: MA and Ph.D. graduates are engaged in exciting careers, both within academic settings and beyond; we hosted Development 2018 (a national developmental conference held every 4th year), including an inspiring keynote by Prof. Stephen Suomi (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH); we hosted several engaging colloquium speakers; innovations to both our graduate and undergraduate programs are complete or underway; faculty and students have won numerous awards and are engaged in exciting research; and, we have laid plans for faculty renewal to ensure that our department remains innovative and is poised to address society needs.

The successes we currently enjoy builds upon the hard work of many former faculty, staff, and student members of the department. That was especially clear when we celebrated, with both sadness and gratitude, the retirement of Linda Pidduck, our Graduate Administrative Coordinator. Linda shepherded each of our first 50 PhD students and our first 150 MA students—as well as the numerous faculty members who served as Graduate Program Directors. The sheer number of people who returned to Brock for Linda’s retirement celebration reflect her contribution to our department and serve as a reminder of our history. It was truly delightful to see retired faculty members and former graduate students return to celebrate with Linda.

Department celebration for Linda Pidduck's retirement celebration
Message from the Chair Continued...

We are pleased to welcome Lindsay Grifa as our new Graduate Administrative Coordinator. Lindsay comes to us from Graduate Studies and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. We look forward to working with her over many years!

This marks the end of my first 3-year term as Chair of Psychology. Like most Chairs, I was a bit nervous stepping into this role. Our department is large and there are a lot of balls to juggle. However, through the generosity of faculty, staff, and students I’ve enjoyed the challenge and am excited about my second term in this role. We’ve worked hard over the past three years revising both our undergraduate and graduate programs so as to further enhance student success. I look forward to a quieter time in the near future as we observe the fruits of that labour. I am especially grateful for three faculty members who played central roles in department administration over the past three years: Teena Willoughby (Associate Chair), Carolyn Hafer (Undergraduate Officer), and Michael Busseri (Graduate Program Director). What an amazing team! Teena and Carolyn have completed their terms and are on well-deserved sabbaticals. Michael has graciously agreed to stay on while our new Graduate Administrative Coordinator ‘learns the ropes’. We welcome Kimberly Cote as our new Associate Chair and Caitlin Mahy as our new Undergraduate Officer. Thank you for stepping into these roles!

Enjoy this newsletter and see why we are PSYCHED at BROCK!

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome Lindsay Grifa as our new Graduate Administrative Coordinator. Lindsay joined our department in April and brings a wealth of knowledge from working in Graduate Studies as an Admissions Assistant. Lindsay is a Niagara enthusiast, born and raised in Niagara and currently lives in the area with her husband and three children (8, 6, and 2 years old). In her ‘spare’ time she enjoys running (she has even run a couple of half marathons!) and, along with her family, is a Disney enthusiast! We look forward to working with Lindsay in the years to come. Welcome to the department Lindsay!

We are thrilled to welcome Elham Salimi to our department. Elham is our new ITS Client Services team member and will be helping our department with much needed ITS support. Elham completed her MSc in computer science at Brock in 2014 and had previously been working as an IT Technician at Vintage Hotels, NOTL. When not working here at Brock, Elham keeps busy by working out, reading, cooking, or sketching. Welcome to the department Elham!
Where Are They Now?

✦ **Paul Adachi** (PhD 2015) accepted a position as Director of Business Development at Immersyve Inc & motivationWorks starting September 2017.

✦ **Thalia Semplonius** (PhD 2018) accepted a Research Associate position at Niagara Workforce Planning Board starting August 2017.

✦ **Chloe Hamza** (PhD 2015), OISE at U of T, received both a SSHRC Insight Grant and a CIHR Project Grant in 2018

✦ **Mojan Naisani Samani** (MA 2017), has started her PhD studies at McMaster University in the De Groote School of Business. Mojan also had a paper accepted for publication based on her research with Dr. Busseri in the Well-Being Research Lab. In addition, Mojan presented some of her research with Dr. Busseri at the annual meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association in Montreal (June 2018).

Student Awards: Congratulations!

✦ **Megan Earle**, won the Faculty of Social Sciences best MA thesis (2017).

✦ **Anne Farrell**, was awarded a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship to work with Tracy Vaillancourt at Ottawa U. Anne was further nominated for the Ann Wilson award given to Canada's #1 overall SSHRC post-doctoral female candidate on behalf of the Royal Society of Canada. Anne was also the 2017-2018 recipient of the Jack Miller Excellence in Research Award.

✦ **Caitlyn Gallant**, was the winner of the 2017/18 Scotiabank Graduate Award.

✦ **Sean Robb**, received the 2017-2018 Vincent FitzGibbon - Brain Injury Community Re-entry Bursary.

✦ **Breanne Wylie**, received the 2018 Faculty of Social Sciences Student Research Award and the American Psychology-Law Society Grant-in-Aid Research Award for her MA thesis.


✦ **Bradey Alcock**, was awarded a Distinguished Graduate Student Award in Psychology, Spring 2018.

✦ **Matthew Green**, was awarded a Distinguished Graduate Student Award in Psychology, Spring 2018.

✦ **Amanda Stoner**, was awarded a Distinguished Graduate Student Award in Psychology, Spring 2018.

✦ **Tessa Mazachowsky** received a spring research fellowship from the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Congratulations to the students awarded Certificates of Academic Excellence by the Canadian Psychological Association in August 2017: **Dr. Tina Brook (PhD)**, **Megan Earle (MA)**, **Taylor Heffer (MA)**, **Claire Matthews (MA)**, and **Emily Davis (Undergraduate Honours Thesis)**.
Psychology Graduate Students’ Successes with External Awards and Scholarships!!

For the 2018-2019 academic year we have 15 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>PhD</th>
<th>External Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Claire Matthews</td>
<td>NSERC - Vanier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tessa Mazachowsky</td>
<td>OGS</td>
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<td>Tiago Guardia de Souza</td>
<td>Trillium</td>
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<td>Alison O’Connor</td>
<td>SSHRC-CGS</td>
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<td>Brent Pitchford</td>
<td>OGS</td>
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<td>Elvira Prusaczyk</td>
<td>OGS - PhD &amp; + Ontario Women’s Health Scholarship</td>
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<td>Jennifer Roters</td>
<td>OGS</td>
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<td>Breanne Wyllie</td>
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<th>MA</th>
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<td>Jennet Baumbach</td>
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<td>Owen Daly</td>
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<td>Tori Dykstra</td>
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<td>Dawn Ryan</td>
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<td>Emily Davis</td>
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<td>Sarah Henderson</td>
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<td>Valerie Plante-Brisbois</td>
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Wendy Murphy Memorial Award

The awardees of the Wendy Memorial Award were Nathalie Gauthier and Kevin MacDonald. The Wendy Memorial Award goes to those students who have a “good head and a good heart”.

Nathalie is beginning her fourth year as a PhD student in the Social/Personality division. Nathalie has worked hard to make herself a well-rounded student, voluntarily attending grad seminar courses in other divisions in order to learn about various areas of research other than her own. It was noted in her nomination letter that she is tremendously supportive of her fellow students and was described as a person that students often turn to in times of need. She has provided, at a minimum, a sympathetic ear to everyone and has offered excellent advice to multiple students. It has been said that she has kept some students motivated when they were ready to give up.

Kevin is beginning his fourth year as a PhD student in the Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience division. He has developed an impressive degree of expertise in his area of specialization, sleep, and is very active in his lab. He was described as someone who always works to promote and encourage other students and give others credit for ideas or work whenever possible. He has also been credited with providing much needed social activity amongst the grad students. For example, to help with morale he held a “choose your celebration night” where he placed a white board at the door and every student had to write what they were celebrating on the board as they entered.

Congratulations to Nathalie and Kevin for exemplifying what the Wendy Murphy Award stands for.

The 22nd annual golf tournament will be held on Saturday Sept 8. For more information contact Tim Murphy at wmmgt@hotmail.com
Congratulations to all of our 2017-2018 graduates!

Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference

This year the Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference was held in Toronto at Ryerson University. Brock University had 13 students attend (12 talks and 1 poster)! Congratulations to all 2018 Honours Psychology graduates!

The Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association conference

The Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association conference was held at Guelph University this year with approximately 20 Brock students and faculty in attendance.
Faculty and Staff Grants and Awards

✦ **Dr. Tim Murphy** has been awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award this year. The award will be presented at the fall convocation in October ([www.brocku.ca/pedagogical-innovation/awards-grants/distinguished-teaching](http://www.brocku.ca/pedagogical-innovation/awards-grants/distinguished-teaching)).

✦ **Drs. Teena Willoughby, Angela Evans, & Caitlin Mahy** along with Co-Applicant Rob Coplan from Carleton University received a SSHRC Connection Grant for hosting Development 2018 at Brock University ($24,703).

✦ **Dr. Caitlin Mahy** received an Ontario Early Research Award (2018-2023) titled “The development of young children’s future-oriented memory.” The Early Researcher Awards program gives funding to new researchers working at publicly funded Ontario research institutions to build a research team (i.e., to support a postdoc or graduate students). The award is valued at $150,000. Additionally, Dr. Mahy received the Faculty of Social Sciences Untenured Researcher of the Year Award!

✦ **Dr. Teena Willoughby** is an Active Member of the Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada-International Knowledge Translation Platforms (NCE-IKYP) grant for the Heathy Young People Everywhere Project ($1,600,000). Dr. Willoughby also received a Brock University Retention Grant ($6,740).

✦ **Dr. Angela Evans** received a CRISS grant for her work examining “Children's understanding of Asking versus Telling” ($2,900) as well as an Arizona State University Project Expansion Grant (Category 3) with her co-applicant Dr. Stacia Stolzenberg ($15,000 USD).

✦ **Dr. Angela Book** received a SSHRC Insight grant for her work examining personality traits of psychopaths’ victims.

✦ **Jayne Morrish** (MA 2012) received one of the 2017 Brock University President’s Distinguished Staff Service Awards for Outstanding Contributions.

Department Retreat

Faculty members of Psychology gathered for a full-day retreat in June. In light of several upcoming retirements, they spent the day planning future directions of the department. Our retiring faculty members will be dearly missed, but we have an exciting plan for our future! We were delighted to have Dr. Sabrina Thai spend the day with us; Sabrina will join the department in January.

We also celebrated Dr. Tim Murphy’s promotion to Full Professor and Dr. Caitlin Mahy’s receiving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Well done!
Celebrating Dr. Brudzynski’s Retirement

Happy Retirement to Dr. Stefan Brudzynski! Stefan is a wonderful researcher, teacher, mentor, and colleague who was instrumental in starting the Neuroscience Program at Brock. Stefan gave a commemorative speech in the fall providing a fascinating overview of his research and his career path. We wish you all the best for your retirement!

Brock Hosts National Developmental Psychology Conference!

The Department of Psychology along with the Lifespan Centre hosted the Development 2018 conference May 3rd-4th at Brock University. Approximately 420 Developmental Psychologists from across Canada attended the conference including numerous of our own students and faculty. This was an extra special event as it coincided with the Psychology Department’s 50th anniversary! The conference included 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 was the 2018 recipient of the Pickering Award for Outstanding Contribution to Developmental Psychology for her work on emotion development and developmental psychopathology. Over 30 symposia and 200 posters were presented during the conference and attendees were able to experience some of the best of Niagara’s food at an evening food truck event held on campus. Thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to all the student volunteers who helped make the event a success!

Organizing committee: Angela Evans, Teena Willoughby, Caitlin Mahy, Liz Shulman, Cathy Mondloch, & Jayne Morrish
Psych Society Bowling Night!
The PSYC Society organized a Bowling Night in January and both faculty and students had a blast! Thanks to the Brock Psych Society for putting on a great event!

Taking Our Research Around the World
Current and former Well-Being Research Lab members presented their research at the biannual meeting of the Canadian Positive Psychology Association in Toronto (May 2018). This event was particularly special because Dr. Busseri finally got his ‘Hogwarts moment’ by giving a research talk in a Victorian-era chapel, surrounded by hand carved wooden benches and stained-glass windows. Sadly, no Sorting Hat was to be found.


Dr. Sid Segalowitz hosted the Sharcnet Workshop on ERP History, Methods, and Advanced Techniques at Brock University.

Dr. Caitlin Mahy’s lab visited Amsterdam for the Jean Piaget Society Annual Meeting in May 2018.
Dr. Willoughby’s Adolescent Development Lab attended the Society for Research on Adolescence Conference in Minneapolis, MN and met up with lab alumni Royette Tavernier (PhD 2014).

Cathy Mondloch and Claire Matthews (PhD student) were invited to participate in a fascinating workshop: Face Recognition at Its Best. Held in London (England), the workshop brought together a small group of researchers and practitioners from the FBI, London MET, and Australian Police. The workshop provided an excellent exchange between academics who investigate how we recognize faces and forensic examiners. Cathy and Claire also took the opportunity to take in some sights—including a reunion with one of Cathy’s ancestors (William Wilberforce) at the Portrait Gallery!

In March, Cathy Mondloch travelled to Australia to give a keynote talk at the 2nd CCD (Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders) International Workshop on Person Perception. Her talk provided an integration of classic theories of face recognition and contemporary research paradigms. She spent a week at the University of Western Australia (Brisbane) working with Nicole Nelson, a former postdoc, prior to making the trek to Perth. Cathy then participated in the Australasian Society’s Experimental Psychology Society Meeting in Hobart, Tasmania.

The Face Perception Lab (PI: Dr. Mondloch) travelled to the meeting of the Vision Sciences Society in St. Pete Beach Florida. Cathy Mondloch, Claire Matthews, and Kristen Baker all presented posters, reunited with VSS friends, and learned about new methods and paradigms.

The VCN lab attended Psychonomics in Vancouver as well as VSS in St. Pete’s Beach, FL where the lab played a fun round of “Poster Karaoke”. Dr. Emrich also attended CSBBCS in St. Johns NFLD and hiked in Quidi Vidi.
The Social-Cognitive Development Lab, including Tori Dykstra, Ailson O’Connor, Breanne Wylie, and Dr. Angela Evans attended the American Psychology-Law Society conference in Memphis, Tennessee this spring. The lab visited the National Civil Rights Museum, enjoyed some Memphis BBQ, and witnessed the marching ducks in the Peabody Hotel lobby.

Our Research in the News

✦ Psychology Graduate Program Celebrates Milestones! In addition to seeing its 50th doctoral student defend a dissertation, the master’s program turned 25 years old and will see its 150th student complete this year. “Over the past 15 years, the Department of Psychology has grown into one of the Top 5 most productive and impactful psychology departments in Canada,” says Graduate Program Director Michael Busseri. “Our past and present MA and PhD students have been an integral part of this growth, through their productivity and successes in research, their commitment to excellence in undergraduate teaching and learning, and their engagement around Brock and in the local community.” [link](https://www.brocku.ca/rock-news/2018/02/psychology-graduate-program-celebrates-milestones/)

✦ The PSYC 3F01 course developed by Dr. Tanya Martini was featured in the Brock News highlighting the unique training our undergraduate students receive in the course. [link](https://www.brocku.ca/rock-news/2018/04/psychology-students-embrace-leadership-course)

✦ Dr. Veena Dwivedi’s lab group was featured in the Brock News for her lab’s unique experience of integrating students from three programs (Speech and Language Sciences, Medical Science, and Neuroscience) in one lab. [link](https://www.brocku.ca/rock-news/2018/04/linguistics-neuroscience-and-cognitive-psychology-come-together-in-brock-lab)
Our Research in the News Continued

✦ **Dr. Kimberly Cote** was interviewed on CBC Radio live syndicate radio about the Stats Canada report on sleep duration (September, 2018), and on CBC radio about ‘does sleeping in on weekends improve health’ (May, 2018).

✦ **Prof. Sid Segalowitz’s** research on autism was featured in the St. Catharines Standard and Niagara Falls Review
  www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/8196488-brock-prof-hunts-for-autism-clues/

✦ Check out this story on **Sarah Henderson**, who was a Psychology Honours thesis student studying memory and healthy aging with Dr. **Karen Campbell**! www.insidehalton.com/news-story/8148723-georgetown-woman-on-cutting-edge-of-memory-and-aging-study/

✦ **Dr. Angela Evans’** research on children’s lie-telling was featured in the New York Times *Is Your Child Lying to You? That’s Good* And CBC Want your kids to do as they are told? Try this, a new study says

✦ **Claire Matthews** was featured in the Brock News as a “rising star” highlighting her recent Vanier scholarship. www.brocku.ca/brock-news/2018/08/rising-star-of-research-awarded-prestigious-vanier-scholarship

The PSYC department now has 3 active social media sites: Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter! So follow like and re-tweet us! Find and Follow us and don’t forget to tag us in your photos: @brockpsyc #brockpsyc
Making Community Connections

✦ Dr. Caitlin Mahy gave a talk at the Science Centre titled “Why preschoolers forget what to do: Testing two possible explanations.” Based on data that her lab collected at the Ontario Science Centre, Toronto, Canada.

✦ Dr. Tim Murphy made a guest appearance on graduate student Joshua Black’s Grief Dreams Podcast. Tim discussed the Wendy Murphy Memorial Award and his own personal experiences with grief dreams about Wendy. You can find the podcast here: www.griefdreamspodcast.podbean.com/e/episode-45-dr-tim-murphy

✦ Dr. Angela Evans provided professional training to the Niagara Regional Police, Family and Children’s Services, and the Kristen French Children’s Advocacy Centre of Niagara in June on best practices for interviewing child witnesses. Additionally, she provided training at the Law Society of Ontario during a special training session on Intimate Partner Violence and Arbitration.

✦ The Social Cognitive-Development lab (PI: Dr. Evans) and the Developing Memory and Cognition Lab (PI: Dr. Mahy) had the opportunity to connect with families in the community and run research studies at the Ontario Science Centre this fall!

✦ The VCN Lab (PI: Stephen Emrich) donated a box of goods they collected as part of our holiday get together.
Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications

Dr. Brudzynski’s *Handbook of Ultrasonic Vocalization* was published at the beginning of summer. Interested persons may consult the Handbook webpage: https://www.elsevier.com/books/handbook-of-ultrasonic-vocalization/brudzynski/978-0-12-809600-0


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