

Psych Update!

The Brock Psychology Newsletter

Message from the Interim Chair

This newsletter offers an excellent overview of the many achievements and activities our faculty, students and staff have accomplished over the last year. These achievements are all the more impressive given the continued challenges we have faced because of the pandemic. I am sure that everyone will agree that it will be wonderful to get outside and enjoy the summer months ahead.

Starting July 1st our Department will have two new Co-Chairs: Tanya Martini and Drew Dane. We appreciate their willingness to take on this important role. I also want to thank Caitlin Mahy and Angela Evans for sharing the Chair role with me over the past year. Spreading out the tasks across three Co-Chairs has made the role much more feasible. Caitlin and Angela, however, have gone above and beyond in ensuring that the past year has been enjoyable. Thank you both for all your support!



By Teena Willoughby,
Ph.D., Interim Chair,
Department of
Psychology

Farewell Linda Diraddo!



Linda Diraddo was a fixture at Brock for more than 20 years and a wonderful colleague to many across the University. She officially retired from her role as the department's Administrative Assistant in February 2022. Linda was widely seen as always friendly and approachable and is missed by many as a great member of the Psychology department. Linda's organization and professionalism were a major asset to our department. We miss you Linda and hope you are enjoying retirement so far!

In This Issue

Message from the Interim Chair - page 1
 Farewell Linda Diraddo - page 1
 Hello Julie Ross - page 2
 Congratulations Professor Duarte-Guterman - CRC Recipient - page 2
 Celebrating Faculty Successes, Awards and Updates - pages 3-4

Brock Psych Hosting This Year's Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference - pages 4-5
 Brock Psych Community Involvement Spotlight: Music and Memory Club - page 5
 Celebrating our Amazing Graduate and Undergraduate Students - pages 5-8
 Publications Round-Up - pages 8-9

Hello Julie Ross!



As a replacement for Linda's role, we recently hired Julie Ross as a new Administrative Assistant in the Psychology Department. She says she thoroughly enjoyed her time training with Linda and learned that "when you retire from Brock you get to keep your personnel brock email which in my case means that Linda is always available for my questions. She cannot hide from me!" Julie had worked at Brock for some time before her recent move to the Psychology Department, including at the "Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute" and a longer stint at "Brock International" in the ESL department. She especially loved her time at Brock International and valued meeting people from all over the world. Before coming to Brock she worked in Management Consulting for the Food & Agriculture sector across Canada. We're grateful to have Julie's varied and longstanding experience benefitting us in the department now! Julie also shares that in her free time she likes to swim, cycle and run...and especially likes putting all three together to train and compete in triathlons! She has been racing in Olympic distance triathlons for the past six years, plans to race her first half Ironman this summer and hopes to race a full distance Ironman next year. Julie enjoys racing in triathlons with her oldest daughter Skyler (pictured with Julie at the spring "IronGirl" triathlon they race together every year) and her youngest daughter is their support Sherpa at triathlon events. Glad to have you in the department Julie!



Congratulations Professor Duarte-Guterman - CRC Recipient!



From left: Paula Duarte-Guterman, Assistant Professor, Psychology; Newman Sze, Professor, Health Sciences; Matthew Kwan, Assistant Professor, Child and Youth Studies; and Danielle Sirianni Molnar, Associate Professor, Child and Youth Studies

The Psychology Department is beyond excited for our recent hire (January 2021) Dr. Paula Duarte-Guterman who was officially confirmed as our latest Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in January 2022. This award will support her ongoing research on how experience shapes the remodelling of brain circuits across the lifespan. The award, and her research, were profiled in the [Brock News](#) but here are some highlights: "For her CRC, she'll be using animal models to investigate how parenthood and aging influence the formation of neurons in the hippocampus, the brain region responsible for learning and memory and the regulation of stress and anxiety. According to Paula: "Parenthood is a crucial experience in many animals, yet surprisingly little is known about the impact of this unique experience on the brain and with aging. My research aims to identify how parental experience remodels the hippocampus and the implications for memory, stress and anxiety in the short term and with aging".

Celebrating Faculty Successes, Recognitions and Updates!

- While on her well-deserved sabbatical (delayed so she could serve as acting department chair last year, thanks again Tanya!) Dr. Martini has been honing her craft as a teaching-focused Professor who typically heads up our large, flagship “Introduction to Psychology” course, PSYC 1F90. Some of her research on teaching (conducted in collaboration with a Brock honours thesis student and an international exchange student from the Netherlands) was mentioned in “[The Teaching Professor](#)” and some of the updates she’s made to 1F90 recently were profiled in “[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)”. Congrats Tanya!



- Professor Angela Evans was invited to give a workshop at the Committee of Youth Officers of Ontario conference on April 20th. She shared about her research on “Best Practices for Interviewing Child Witnesses”. This is but one example of how our faculty engage with policy makers and practitioners to translate our research into practical advice and action.

- Scott Neufeld and fellow members of the Community, Action, Research and Ethics (CARE) Collective recently enjoyed some time together in-person for a “transcription party” typing up paper survey responses from a community-based participatory research project on hearing from people with lived and living experience of criminalized substance use in the Niagara region. Scott and grad students Hamnah Shahid (PhD) and Tia Greto (MA) are also excited to be presenting together for the first ever CARE Collective symposium at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues’ annual conference in Puerto Rico this June. The symposium title is “Critical Perspectives on Structural Interventions to Address Substance Use-Related Stigma”. Another highlight in April 2022 was Scott co-organizing a virtual mini-symposium on “Community-Led Research Governance: Envisioning the Future Through Dialogue” and presenting on his work with Research 101 in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. The two-day mini-conference was partially sponsored by Brock’s Lifespan Development Research Institute, Brock’s Social Justice Research Institute and was profiled in the [Brock News](#).

APRIL 7-8 2022
COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH GOVERNANCE:
 ENVISIONING THE FUTURE
through dialogue

April 7th
 11 AM - 1 PM
PANEL 1

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
 This workshop will showcase innovative and radical strategies of community-led research governance across Canada. We invite folks from any and all communities, interested researchers, and those working within the research ethics space to join us in this conversation.

FRENCH/ENGLISH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION
available

REGISTER NOW

- Assistant Professor Will Hall was very pleased that both his new MA students (Rebecca Anderson and Estera Houshang Tehrani) presented posters at the annual social psychology conference SPSP.
- Dr. Teena Willoughby is excited that Kristie Poole will be joining her lab group in September 2022 as a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow. Kristie studies children's socio-emotional development, with a particular focus on the origins and outcomes of temperamental shyness.

Updates from the Brock Psych Society

A Night to be Heard

We had a fantastic turnout to our third annual Night to be Heard! As a club we want to extend a huge thank-you to everyone who came, and an extra special thank-you to those who participated! Each year the Psyc Soci plans A Night to be Heard with Niagara Strong at Brock to shed light on mental wellness and to help shatter the stigma. Participants are invited to pre-submit or perform on the spot any type of performance including but not limited to poems, songs, instrumentals, and pictures. We cannot wait for next year's event, which will hopefully return to an in-person affair!



A message from the 2021/22 President looking ahead...

I wanted to send my gratitude to all the members of the Psyc Society, the psychology department students, staff, and faculty for a wonderful year. When I started my journey at Brock, I never imagined being the president of the Psyc Soci, but I am beyond grateful that I had the opportunity to do so. I have met many great people and gained many valuable skills throughout my time as a Psyc Soci executive member. I encourage anyone who is interested in running for any position in the future to do so! Thank you to everyone who made this year a great one, I am excited to see what next year's executive team has in store!

- Taylor McRae (outgoing Brock Psych Society president)



Brock Psych Hosting This Year's Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference!

Brock undergraduate students Osama Chattha and Sara Stephenson, in collaboration with Brock Psych Professor Tim Murphy, would like to welcome all faculty and interested students to attend the 52nd Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference (AOPUTC), hosted this year by Brock University. This year, the conference is on **Friday, June 24 2022** and will be hosted virtually on GatherTown. The conference

will consist of poster presentations by 4th year honours thesis students from across Ontario and a keynote speaker.

While the registration deadline for students interested in presenting has passed, the registration deadline for faculty/guests is **Monday, June 20 at 11:59 PM**. The organizing committee encourages anyone with further questions to contact them at: aoputc2022@brocku.ca and to check out the links below for more information:

Website (with registration link): <https://aoputc2022.wordpress.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aoputc2022/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aoputc2022>

Brock Psych Community Involvement Spotlight: Music and Memory Club

Dr. Veena Dwivedi's PSYC NEUR 3P59 (Human Neuropsychology) students turned her extra credit class project into an official BUSU club! [The Music and Memory club](#) pairs Brock students with elders in long term care, and students prepare playlists of the elders' favourite music.

Below are some photos from a recent and highly successful fundraiser for the program at downtown St. Catharine's Mahtay Café Open Mic night with Dr. Dwivedi (also faculty advisor to club).



Incoming and outgoing execs on stage at end of night; Neuroscience, Psychology and Applied Linguistics students. Transdisciplinarity at its best at Brock!

Madi Maguire and her mother, Jennifer Maguire (both!) attended 3P59 online, along with co-founder Paige Vaccarella.

Celebrating our Amazing Graduate and Undergraduate Students

We are very fortunate in the Psychology Department at Brock to have had many students successful in awards, exploits and opportunities of all kinds in the past six months. A few notable congrats, are in order for the following folks, with many no doubt absent from this list because we haven't heard or aren't allowed to talk about them yet! Stay tuned!

Undergraduate Awards and Achievements



- Undergraduate Psych Major Ben Johnson was the recipient of a 2021-2022 President’s Surgite Award, one of Brock University’s most prestigious awards that recognizes students who have excelled in leadership, community involvement and academic achievement. He received this honour and was recognized at an in-person luncheon and ceremony with Brock President Lynn Wells on April 1, 2022. (see article in the [Brock News](#))

- Raechel Hamill received the Faculty of Social Sciences (FOSS) Research Award in recognition of her honours thesis research titled “Substance Use-Focused Anti-Stigma Campaigns: Effects of Exposure to White vs. Indigenous Visual Stimuli” and supervised by Scott Neufeld. Congratulations!



- On April 2, 2022 Samantha Romano, a Brock psych honours student (with Dr. Mike Ashton) [won gold in her 50kg weight category at the Ontario University Wrestling championship hosted at Brock](#). While on the podium to receive her gold medal, she also got engaged! Congrats on both counts Sam!

- While this is not a department requirement for undergraduate honours theses some lab groups have a practice of organizing thesis “defences” for a small audience. This is good practice with public speaking and provides an opportunity to celebrate undergraduate student achievement! One recent example: Meher Damathia successfully defended her psychology undergraduate Honours thesis on Tues Apr 26. The thesis was titled “Emotional perception of Indian popular music: A cross-cultural study” and examined perceptions of Bollywood music in both India and Canada. She presented in front of her lab and her parents (!) who were able to join virtually from India via the “Lifesize” app. According to Dr. Dwivedi “It was an excellent defence followed by celebratory lunch and cake!”



Dr. Dwivedi, and grad student Pratik Nath celebrate Meher Damathia’s successful undergraduate thesis defence).

Graduate Awards and Achievements

- MA students in the social-personality stream Rebecca Anderson and Estera Houshang Tehrani (both supervised by Will Hall) were successful recipients of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship this year. Congratulations!
- Claire Matthews (Cathy Mondloch) was awarded an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship. She will be working with Prof. Meg Moulson at Ryerson University. This achievement reflects Claire's extensive publications examining how experience shapes our ability to learn and recognize own- and other-race faces.



- Breanne Wylie (Angela Evans) received a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship award to work with Dr. Thomas Lyon at the USC Gould School of Law to examine best-practices for interviewing child witnesses

- Alison O'Connor (Angela Evans) received a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship award to complete work on older adults honesty at Stanford University. However, Alison had to decline this opportunity because she got a job instead! She is very excited to accept a tenure-track position in the Psychology Department at Mt. Allison University starting July 1 where she will continue her program of research examining older adults' honesty in a health context.



- Tia Greto (Scott Neufeld/Will Hall) received a SSHRC Master's Scholarship to support her ongoing research on how and why substance use-focused anti-stigma campaigns across Canada tend to emphasize representations of White and Middle-class appearing people who use drugs when these groups are not disproportionately impacted by either overdose or intersectional stigma like lower-income, Indigenous, or other racialized communities.

- Hannah Shahid (Scott Neufeld/Gordon Hodson) received an Ontario Graduate Scholarship to support ongoing doctoral research examining how people conceptualize drug (de)criminalization as a (de)stigmatizing process.



- MA Student (Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience) Francesco Amodio (Dawn Good) was also the recipient of a 2021-2022 President's Surgite Award (Brock's most prestigious internal award) in recognition of his academic achievement, leadership and community involvement. He received this honour and was recognized at an in-person luncheon and ceremony with Brock President Lynn Wells on April 1, 2022.
- Taylor Heffer (Teena Willoughby) received an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship - her application was ranked 1st by the adjudication committee. Taylor will be completing her postdoc at Harvard University with Leah Somerville.
- Meghan Borg (Teena Willoughby) received the QEII Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology, OGS, and the SSHRC \$105K Doctoral Award - her application to SSHRC was ranked 1st by the adjudication committee.

Publications Round-Up!

Here are a few highlights of some recent publications from faculty and grad students in the department:

- Gordon Hodson published a commentary in Perspectives on Psychological Science in September 2021 titled "[Pushing Back Against the Microaggression Pushback in Academic Psychology: Reflections on a Concept-Creep Paradox](#)". Dr. Hodson and former PhD student Dr. Megan Earle also co-edited a special issue of Group Processes and Intergroup Relations (GPIR) with Dr. Maureen Craig (NYU) titled [Privilege lost: High-status group perceptions of and reactions to eroding social hierarchies](#).
- Tessa Mazachowsky, Katarina McKenzie (PSYC Honours BA student), Dr. Michael Busseri, and Dr. Caitlin Mahy published a partial replication of work finding that current states biases young adults' future thinking:
- Mazachowsky, T. R., McKenzie, K, Busseri, M., & Mahy, C. E. V. (2021). "These pretzels are making me thirsty" so I'll have water tomorrow: A partial replication and extension of adults' induced episodic foresight. PLOS One, 16, e0259424.
- Dr. Caitlin Mahy's MA student, Taissa Fuke, published her MA thesis on the role of retrospective memory and executive function in preschooler's prospective memory development. This paper used both behavioural and parent report measures and was published in Cognitive Development:
- Fuke, T. S. S. & Mahy, C. E. V. (2022). Executive and retrospective memory processes in preschoolers' prospective memory development. Cognitive Development, 62, 101172.
- Graduate students, Ege Kamber (PhD 1), Taissa Fuke (MA 2), have been working with their supervisor Dr. Caitlin Mahy on preparing research on young children's procrastination behaviour for publication (manuscript under revision). They found that both future thinking and executive function predict young children's procrastination tendencies and that this ability emerges early in development.
- Grad student Anita Twele recently published a paper in the British Journal of Psychology co-authored with her supervisor Dr. Cathy Mondloch. Her paper, "[The Dimensions Underlying First Impressions of Older Adult Faces are Similar, but not Identical, for Young and Older Adult](#)

[Perceivers](#)” is the first to examine the dimensions underlying our first impressions of older adult faces. They found that the key dimensions are approachability and competence.

- Grad students Anita Twele and Sophia Thierry also recently published a paper in [Perception](#) showing that surgical masks have minimal influence on first impressions, regardless of whether viewing child, young adult, or older adult faces. Their work was also profiled on the [Brock website](#) and on [CBC News](#)!
- Dr. Michael Busseri recently had a paper titled “[The global belief that “life gets better and better”: National differences in recollected past, present, and anticipated future life satisfaction around the world, across time, and in relation to societal functioning](#)” published in Social Psychology’s top journal, JPSP.

The PSYC department 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](#) on twitter and [@brockpsychology](#) on instagram [#brockpsyc](#)



Do you have something that you would like showcased in our next newsletter?
Please let Scott Neufeld know - sneufeld@brocku.ca

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