Excellence. This week I attended a Celebration of Excellence hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences. I enjoy these events; they provide an opportunity to catch up with colleagues from other departments and to reflect on the outstanding work being done at Brock University. As I read the celebratory brochure, I was struck by one phrase that was repeated at a remarkable rate: Department of Psychology. At every level—students, staff, and faculty—members of the Psychology department received a disproportionate number of awards. Well done! Excellence in teaching, research, and administration really do define our department.

Special congratulations go to Linda DiRaddo who received the President’s Distinguished Staff Service Award for Outstanding Contributions. It is fitting that her plaque now hangs with those of our two other administrative assistants, Joanne Boekestyn and Linda Pidduck. Psychology is fortunate to have such a capable and dedicated administrative team!

At the same time that we celebrate long-term service, we welcome Dr. Karen Campbell to our department. Karen holds the prestigious position of Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience of Aging. Her cutting-edge research with older adults will strengthen the bridge between lifespan development and cognitive neuroscience; two strengths in our department. You can learn more about Dr. Campbell by reading an interview with her inside this issue.

Enjoy reading our Winter 2017 newsletter where you will learn more about the exciting work being done by our faculty and graduate students. Discovery and dissemination of new knowledge abounds!
Karen Campbell joined our department this January as our new Canadian Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience of Aging. What better way to get to know Karen and her research than a little Q & A?! Here is what Karen had to say...

**What is a CRC?**
CRC stands for Canada Research Chair, which is an award given out by the Government of Canada to accomplished researchers at universities across the country. These awards are part of a national strategy to make Canada one of the world’s top countries in research and development. As part of the award, I get money for research and a lighter teaching load so I have more time to dedicate to my trainees.

**Where did you come from?**
I did my PhD at the University of Toronto, working with Lynn Hasher and Cheryl Grady. After that, I moved to Cambridge, England to work with Lorraine Tyler and Richard Henson at the University of Cambridge. I then moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts (good to keep as much of one’s address the same as possible when moving!) to work with Daniel Schacter at Harvard University.

**Tell us about your research program and your favourite finding.**
My research program examines the cognitive and neural changes that accompany normal (i.e., non-pathological) human aging. I am primarily interested in how older adults’ lessened ability to control the focus of their attention affects their ability to encode and retrieve information. My favourite finding is when we showed that older adults encode and bind together distracting information that young adults ignore, and then use this information to boost their performance on a later task. This work suggests that in some cases, older adults know more about the world around them than younger adults!

**Why is it important to study older adults?**
Canada’s population is aging and yet, we still know very little about how to do so healthfully. Determining how the brain changes with age, and the lifestyle and demographic factors that contribute to healthy neurocognitive aging has never been more pressing.

**Why do you love research?**
Sometimes the human mind and brain feels like the last frontier. There are so many interesting questions that still need answering, and it’s a lot of fun being on the “front line”: designing experiments, collecting data, and getting answers.

**What could a graduate or undergraduate student do in your lab?**
Graduate students will gain experience with either EEG or fMRI, looking at the neural underpinnings of older adults’ decreased cognitive control and the implications for memory performance. Undergraduate projects will likely use behavioural measures (including eye-tracking, where appropriate) to examine age differences in attention and memory. The first step in any project will be developing a research question that interests both me and the student!

**Who is Karen Campbell outside of research?**
I am a mom to two kids and a dog. I like to run and lift weights (key to neurocognitive health!). My husband and I like to binge-watch shows on Netflix and travel whenever we can (key to mental health!). Oh, and I love grime music, and I’m not ashamed to admit it.
Student News

Where Are They Now?

✦ Jasmine Mian, BA Psychology (2012), represented Canada as a wrestler in the 48 kg category in the 2016 Olympics! Way to go Jasmine!

✦ Malvina Skorska, PhD Psychology (2016), recently became a post doc in Tony Bogart’s lab and is a part-time instructor in our department. Welcome Malvina!

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

For the 2016-2017 academic year, we have 29 graduate students holding external scholarships (new this year or on-going), including 15 MA students and 14 PhD students. This amounts to 75% of our MA students and 61% of our PhD students. Great job everyone!! These external scholarships have been awarded by the following provincial and national funding agencies:

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Malvina Skorska, a received both the The Distinguished Graduate Student Award and the Brock University Board of Trustees Spirit of Brock Medal at convocation.

Xiaomei Zhou, a PhD student in the Face Perception Lab, won a prestigious scholarship for her final year of study. The Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-finance Students Abroad is set up by the China Scholarship Council (CSC) to honor overseas Chinese graduate students with outstanding academic accomplishments. The selection involves a minimum of three rounds of judging conducted by experts from each student’s field of study, both in China and the host country. The award includes a $6,000 prize and a CSC-issued certificate.

Wendy Murphy Memorial Award

The Wendy Murphy Memorial Award is given each year to a student (or two) who possesses both “a good head and a good heart”. This year’s outstanding winners were Josh Black and Kevin Mulvihill.

Josh Black is beginning his third year as a PhD student in the Social/Personality division. He is actively involved in both academic pursuits and community activities, particularly focused on his area of speciality concerning ‘dreams of bereavement’ — a topic that has generated much interest from the general public and in the media. His kindness, compassion, and readiness to help his fellow students were noted in several of the nomination submissions, along with Josh’s dedication to improving the lives of others in the community through outreach and public education.

Kevin Mulvihill is beginning his third year as a PhD student in the Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience division. He has developed an impressive degree of expertise in his area of specialization, vocalizations in rats and links with affective states, and is a well-respected academic colleague among his graduate students. In addition, fellow students praise Kevin’s commitment to improving the climate for graduate student education here at Brock and his voluntary participation in several departmental committees and working groups.

The annual fundraiser for the Wendy Murphy Memorial Award is a golf tournament organized by Tim Murphy. This past summer was the 20th tournament with one of the largest turnouts ever. Currently, the Wendy Murphy Fund is now about $250,000 and growing allowing for future students to be supported by the award. The next tournament will be held on Saturday Sept 9th 2017. Contact Tim Murphy at wmmgt@hotmail.com for details.
Message from the Graduate Program Director

It’s recruitment season!

On Friday February 17th the department will host our annual Psychology Graduate Program Open House. This event will see prospective graduate students spend the day with us to learn about our MA and PhD programs, tour our research labs and the Brock campus, and socialize with our faculty members and current students. I thank everyone, in advance, for helping us make this day a great success.

Recruitment season is also a good time to reflect on the many things that make our Psychology graduate program among the very best in Canada. For example, we recognize our small faculty to grad student ratio (1:2). We celebrate our faculty members’ external research funding (60% have research grants from a Tri-council agency), and our graduate students’ external awards (66% are funded by award from an external agency). We applaud our faculty and graduate students for an ever-growing number of academic dissemination activities, including presentations at national and international conferences, as well as peer-reviewed publications in top-tier journals. We also commend our graduate students for their outstanding work as dedicated Teaching Assistants in dozens of our undergraduate courses. It really is an amazing time to be part of our graduate program. Let’s spread the word!

Faculty Grants/Awards:

**Stefan Brudzynski**, was awarded the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Faculty of Mathematics and Science for exceptional contributions in research, teaching and service.

**Caitlin Mahy**, received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant examining “Parent Perspectives on Children’s Future Thinking” ($48,998)

**Linda DiRaddo**, received the President’s Distinguished Staff Service Award! This award is a peer nominated award for outstanding contributions to the work environment at Brock. Linda was one of four winners of the award across the university this year.

**Teena Willoughby, Sid Segalowitz, Cheryl McCormick, and Liz Shulman**, in Psychology, as well as Jayne Morrish in the Lifespan Centre and Bareket Falk, Nota Klentrou, Deb O’Leary and Terrance Wade in Applied Health Sciences (along with 7 external researchers) were awarded a CIHR Project Scheme (2016-2021). Brock Healthy Youth Project $1,433,440.
Faculty of Social Sciences Celebration of Excellence

The Faculty of Social Sciences held its 2017 ‘celebration of excellence’ to recognize the many achievements of faculty and students in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Psychology students and faculty show up on (literally) every page of the award lists. Simply amazing ... Congratulations to all!

✦ Bluma Appel Graduate Entrance Scholarship for Excellence in Social Sciences, Elvira Prusaczyk
✦ Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral, Kari Lustig
✦ Writing Award for Best Graduate PhD Thesis, Shawn Geniole
✦ President’s Distinguished Staff Service Award, Linda DiRaddo
✦ Brock SSHRC Institutional Grant (BSIG), Andrew Dane
✦ SSHRC Insight Grant, Michael Busseri
✦ SSHRC Insight Development Grant, Caitlin Mahy
✦ NSERC Discovery Grants, Cheryl McCormick and Cathy Mondloch
✦ CIHR Grant, Teena Willoughby
✦ Ira & Harriet Reiss Theory Award, Tony Bogaert
✦ Council for Research in Social Sciences Research Award (CRISS), Stephen Emrich, Cheryl McCormick, Dawn Good, Kathy Belicki, and Veena Dwivedi
✦ All OGS, SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR graduate fellowship award winners (noted previously)

Brock Hosts National Developmental Psychology Conference in 2018!

As one of the top three Developmental Psychology programs in Canada, 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. The organizing committee is thrilled to announce that Stephen Suomi will be one of the Keynote speakers for the conference. Stephen 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. For more information, please visit: www.development2018.com
Taking Our Research Around the World

In October, Cathy Mondloch travelled to Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena, Germany & University of York, UK. She gave an invited address at each school, titled: Here’s Looking at You? Experience influences adults’ and children’s ability to learn new facial identities. Cathy served as the external examiner for a PhD thesis in Jena and developed new collaborations with researchers abroad. Highlights including hiking in the countryside with colleagues, Juergen Kaufmann and Stefan Schweinberger, and enjoying time in British pubs with others who are passionate about face recognition!

Gordon Hodson’s Lab (Brock Lab of Intergroup Processes or BLIP) was well represented at the biennial conference for the International Society for Justice Research this summer in Canterbury, UK. The BLIP lab gave three talks and presented two posters at the conference.

June 2016. The sleep lab crew went to the Associated Processional Sleep Societies conference in Denver, Colorado. Four posters were presented, involving 5 Brock graduate students, one undergraduate thesis student, a high school mentorship student and two Faculty collaborators.

In January, Angela Evans attended a week long workshop at the Lorentz Center in the Netherlands called the Invention of Lying: Logic, Language, and Cognition. Angela spent the week discussing the latest research on lying, presented her work on methods for promoting honesty with young children, and spent some time wandering the canals in Amsterdam.
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.

✦ Kari Lustig, a PhD student in our department, was recently featured in the Brock News for her work examining whether hormones can be viewed as a mechanism to explain some of the deficits observed in emotional processing after sleep loss.

✦ Karen Campbell, Canadian Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience of Aging, was recently featured in the Brock News as one of two new CRC’s hired at Brock University this year. You can learn more about Karen’s work here: https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2016/12/brock-university-gains-two-new-canada-research-chairs-in-workplace-injury-aging/

✦ Michael Busseri’s research on happiness was recently featured in the Brock News as one of the recently funded SSHRC projects at Brock University. Click here to learn more: https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2016/09/brock-researchers-receive-3-7-million-funding-from-federal-granting-agency-sshrc/

✦ Teena Willoughby was featured in the Brock Press and the St. Catharines Standard for her recent 1.4 million dollar CIHR grant funding the Brock Healthy Youth Project.

✦ Thalia Semplonius, a PhD student in the department was interviewed by the National Post about her graduate school experience and research on younger and older adults’ well-being.
Our Research in the News Continued..

✦ Ann Farrell and Thalia Semplonius were interviewed by Brock Press about the Canadian Psychology Article on Rankings of Canadian Developmental Psychology Programs that they co-authored with several other Lifespan graduate students and faculty. [http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/cap/57/2/76.pdf&uid=2016-01248-001](http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/cap/57/2/76.pdf&uid=2016-01248-001)

✦ Harroop Ahuja, a high school student research volunteer in Teena Willoughby’s Lab and member of the Brock Healthy Youth Project Youth Engagement Committee, was interviewed by The Brock News in December 2016 about his role in the Youth Engagement Committee.

Supporting our Students

Tanya Martini has developed a new website for our undergraduate psychology students. It includes everything from our old .pdf undergraduate manual and more! Check it out at: [www.brockpsycsite.com](http://www.brockpsycsite.com)

Making Community Connections

Kimberly Cote organized and launched the first-ever national fundraising campaign for healthy sleep. The first Great Canadian Sleep Walk took place on Aug 20th, 2016 in 4 cities across Canada: Halifax, Quebec City, Montreal, and here in Niagara. Niagara participants walked a 5km route on the Brock campus through the Bruce Trail. Across the 4 sites, there were over 100 walkers and nearly $6000 was raised. The funds will help support the advancement of sleep medicine and research in Canada, and advocacy and education programs, with the Canadian Sleep Society. Cote is the current President of the Society. The Canadian Sleep Society is aiming to help local communities run their own Sleepwalks through the Canadian Sleep Society throughout the year.
Making Community Connections Continued...

In June 2016, two MPS (Chris Bittle and Vance Badawey) visited the Face Perception Lab in association with NSERC’s funding announcement. They spent time learning about our work on identity recognition and its implication for the security industry. For more see [https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2016/06/local-mps-get-a-look-at-federally-funded-research/](https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2016/06/local-mps-get-a-look-at-federally-funded-research/)

Joshua Black, a PhD student in our department, gave 8 talks on grief dreams. Talks were given at Children's Grief Awareness Event, Bereaved Families of Ontario Hamilton/Burlington Volunteer Appreciation Event, Compassionate Community Launch week, P. X. Dermody Funeral Home, Grimsby Library, Walpole Island First Nation, and Heartache2Hope Support Loss Group. Joshua also helped organize the 25th Annual Bereavement Ontario Network Conference and was a Facilitator on Grief Dreams at Camp Erin (a camp for bereaved children). This fall, Josh organized and hosted the 1st Annual Children’s Grief Awareness Event at Brock University on November 12, 2016.

Sid Segalowitz has become a collaborating investigator on the project “A National Coordinating Neuroinformatics Framework for Autism and Related Conditions” funded by Brain Canada and the Azrieli Foundation based at McGill University and the Montreal Neurological Institute. Together with the PIs, Alan Evans and Mayada Elsabbagh, he is partnering with Compute Ontario and SharcNet through James Desjardins to develop a pipeline for rapid processing and analysis of the very large set of EEG records of children at risk for ASD. The pipeline will be available also for other large scale EEG projects.

Teena Willoughby, Jayne Morrish, Sid Segalowitz, Thalia Semplonius and Taylor Heffer gave a presentation about the Brock Healthy Youth Project to Premier Kathleen Wynne in January 2017.

The Brock Healthy Youth Project team (PI: Teena Willoughby) is partnering with World Health Organization, UNICEF Canada, Mental Health Commission of Canada, RCMP, Niagara Catholic District School Board, PREVNet, Canadian Public Health Association, Right To Play-Canada, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Niagara Region Public Health, Pathstone Mental Health, Peace Grantmakers Network, Live Different, Parachute, Peaceful Schools International, Brock University Students Union, Leave Out Violence (LOVE), Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Canada, and Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport in their integrated knowledge mobilization activities.
Volunteering in our Community

Khadija Dairywala is an exceptional volunteer in the community. Khadija’s research program centres around adolescent well-being and she clearly volunteers and engages with this community. Khadija volunteers for a non-profit organization that hosts networking opportunities for local artists, celebrates the multicultural art diversity through festivals and community gatherings and provides funding to artists called the Cultural HotSpot (Toronto). She also volunteered for the Go Global Exposition (hosted by Verge Magazine, Toronto). This event provided individuals (especially students) with an opportunity to learn about the organizations that send students abroad for work or volunteer purposes. Students were also invited to various panel discussions led by students who had gone abroad and enjoyed their experience. Khadija also visited Tanzania (Dar es Salaam) in October and gave a mini talk, along with several other girls from different countries, about the importance of education and her own experience as a student as part of the Let Girls Learn program initiated by Michelle Obama.

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


✦ Choma, B.L., & Hodson, G. (in press). Right-wing ideology: Positive (and negative) relations to threat. *Social Cognition*
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


✦ Laurence, S., Zhou, X. & Mondloch, C.J. (2016). The flip side of the other-race coin: They all look different to me. i, 374-388.

✦ MacInnis, C.C., & Hodson, G. (in press). It ain’t easy eating greens: Evidence of bias toward vegetarians and vegans from both source and target. Group Processes and Intergroup Relations.


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


Do you have something that you would like showcased in our next newsletter? Please let Angela Evans know aevans@brocku.ca

Newsletter Co-Editor: Angela Evans & Somaya Kalla (undergraduate research assistant in the Social-Cognitive Development Lab)

Layout designed by Jayne Morrish