

PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PSYCH DEPARTMENT

SUMMER 2022

FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. David Lane
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Psychology continues to change and thrive at Western Illinois University. Students can major in Psychology on both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. On the Macomb campus they can choose between Psychology and Forensic Psychology. Graduate programs continue to provide advanced training in Clinical/Community Mental Health, General Experimental Psychology, and School Psychology. We have new classes, popular minors, and numerous opportunities for students to get involved in research and applied settings.

Whether you graduated last semester or forty years ago, I hope you will find this update from your department interesting. It's our intention to contact you every summer with the latest news. If you have any questions or comments about Psychology at WIU, please feel free to contact me.

Best,
David Lane, Ph.D.

PSYCHOLOGY BY THE NUMBERS

Second largest major based on enrollment!

Macomb Majors: 281
Quad Cities Majors: 65
Total: 346

Gender: 275 females, 71 males
Race/Ethnicity: White 51.7%, Black 26.6%, Hispanic 13.0%, Other 6.4%, Unknown 2.3%

HIGHLIGHTS

Psychology by the Numbers

Changes to the Major

Student Achievements

News from the Graduate Programs

Hotline Celebrates 50 Years

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CHANGES TO THE MAJOR

If you haven't paid attention to the undergraduate Psychology major recently, here are some changes to the program.

New Required Careers Course

Students and their families are rightly concerned with getting jobs after graduation, but are not always sure how to plan for a career. To address this, the Department has long had a Careers in Psychology course and in 2021 this course was expanded and new students are now required to take it. The course, *Psychology as a Science and Profession*, has two goals: to prepare students for their upper-level Psychology courses by giving them more practice in writing, and to help them decide on a career. Students will take this course while still early in their major, so they can use their time at WIU to build skills and find experiences that will help them in their future careers.

Quad Cities

In 2019, students on the Quad Cities campus got the opportunity to choose Psychology as a major, and it quickly became popular. Two full-time faculty relocated from the Macomb campus to join a part-time instructor and now provide a variety of courses to students at the Riverfront campus on the bank of the Mississippi. Almost twenty percent of Psychology majors are now at the Quad Cities campus.

New Minor

Students can now choose to minor in Mental Health, where they take a variety of courses including Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology (formerly Abnormal Psychology). It has proven to be popular, with 84 students across campus in the minor.

HOTLINE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

In 1971, students in the Psychology Department created a phone crisis call center called Hotline. This was in response to concerns about the suicide rate in the county. Since then, WIU students have run Hotline under the guidance of a faculty member with clinical training. Student volunteers are trained to provide telephone and text support, crisis intervention, and referrals. Hotline is open every night that the residence halls are open. In Fall 2021 Hotline celebrated its 50th anniversary. Thank you to the hundreds of student volunteers who helped make Hotline successful over the years!



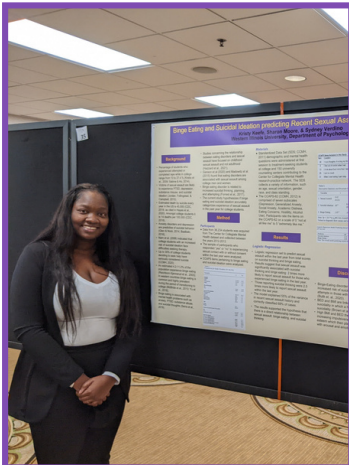
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

After a two year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in May the department met in person to celebrate the success of students with its annual Student Awards Ceremony.

Undergraduate Student Awards:

Emma Holtz was the Department Scholar. In addition to excellent grades, she was a member of three research labs, completed an honors thesis, and presented research at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association.

Right: Emma Holtz



Sharon Moore received the Donald Poindexter Scholarship, which recognizes students representing an American minority group who have excelled academically. She was a member of a research lab and coauthor of research presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association.

Left: Sharon Moore at the Midwestern Psychological Association

McKenna Davenport and **Sydney Verdino** were recognized as Distinguished Juniors. Both are involved in research, and Verdino is a member of the Honors College.

Right: McKenna Davenport

Far right: Sydney Verdino



The following students received James Joyce scholarships, which are given to students who exemplify scholarly performance and professionalism: Alanna Colucci, McKenna Davenport, Hector Esparza-Velez, Siobhan Hickey, Sharon Moore, Sydney Verdino.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

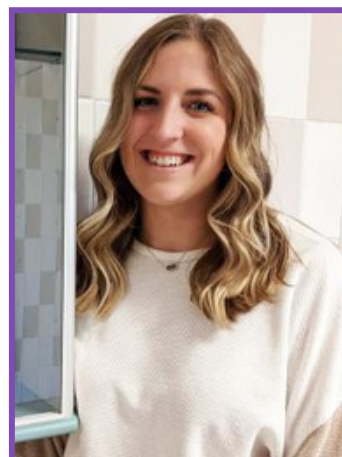
Graduate Student Awards:

Bailey Marek received the Alphons J. Richert Scholarship from the Clinical/Community Mental graduate program. This scholarship was established by Ruth Richert in memory of her husband Al, a long-time faculty member and director of both the graduate program and the Psychology Clinic.



Cheng-Lun Tarantola was one of two students in the state to receive the Illinois Fund for Careers in School Psychology Minority Scholarship. She is a graduate student in the School Psychology program.

Madison Grady was awarded the Lori Lynn Myers Scholarship from the School Psychology graduate program. This scholarship was created in 1999 by the family of Myers, who was a School Psychology graduate who passed away unexpectedly.



THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS!

Many of the awards and scholarships provide money for students – thank you to all alumni who have contributed this year! Be on the lookout for the annual mailing from the University Foundation this Fall, and consider donating to support Psychology students.

NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

NEW HIRE FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Leigh Ann Fisler was hired in Fall 2021 to be the coordinator of the School Psychology program. Previously, she was a faculty member at California State University-Los Angeles. To learn more about the program, contact Dr. Fisler at LA-Fisler@wiu.edu.



This May, all School Psychology graduates of the program accepted positions as school psychologists at their internship locations.

Attention School Psychologists: if your district/Co-op/AEA is interested in interns, the School Psychology program is holding an **Intern Meet-and-Greet** on Friday Nov. 18. Contact Dr. Leigh Ann Fisler (LA-Fisler@wiu.edu) for information.

CLINICAL/COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

Founded in the Fall of 1972, the Clinical/Community Mental Health graduate program will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this coming Spring and alumni should be on the lookout for more information.

Starting this year, Dr. Fisler is also coordinating the C/CMH program. To learn more about the program, contact her at LA-Fisler@wiu.edu.

GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL STUDENTS PRESENT AT CONFERENCES

Current and former GEP students collaborated with faculty and presented at the following conferences during the 2021-2022 academic year: Gerontological Society of America, Midwestern Psychological Association, American Psychology and Law Society, Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Society of Southeast Social Psychologists.

Dr. Sandy McFadden stepped into the role of coordinator of the General Experimental Psychology graduate program. To learn more about the program, contact Dr. McFadden at SL-McFadden@wiu.edu.

