



Psychology and Neuroscience

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

SUMMER 2022 GOOD NEWS(LETTER)

SUMMER I MAY 2022

LEI YUAN (faculty) was selected to receive a seed grant from the Research and Innovation Office (RIO). Dr. Yuan's proposal was one of 81 submitted to RIO and was reviewed by ten different panels who described the plan as "A highly impactful research proposal that will tackle a concept that has puzzled educators and researchers for decades. The proposed research program will lay the groundwork for future grant opportunities that generate foundational knowledge about human cognition and the use of AI models to inform education."



DONATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT: Over the course of the the 2021-2022 academic year, our department was fortunate to receive over \$173,000 in gifts and donations, including more than \$130,000 in funds designated for research centers and labs and \$32,000 for student scholarships!



ERIK KNIGHT (faculty) recently received notice of a new P01 Grant to look at cognitive aging in a large sample in the Bronx, NY. The project aims to produce data with ecological momentary assessment of cognitive functioning/mood/stress/etc., blood-based biomarkers, health measure, etc., with a particular focus on the effects of discrimination on bio- and cognitive aging.



EVA PIETRI (faculty) is the recipient of 2022 Department Faculty Service Award! Dr. Pietri has provided significant leadership service to the department including co-chairing the department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, providing much needed expertise and guidance in this important domain. Dr. Pietri also contributed her extensive DEI expertise to help faculty make their syllabi more inclusive through a workshop for the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. Dr. Pietri

provides extensive reviewer service for grant proposals and journal articles and served as a consulting editor for multiple journals. Dr. Pietri provides significant leadership in the Society for Personality and Social Psychology and for researchers who study attitudes and social influence.

ANDREW GROTZINGER (faculty) was interviewed for an article in CU Boulder Today about some recently published research in the journal Nature Genetics. This research examined a publicly available genome database looking at the genes associated with 11 major psychiatric disorders (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, etc.) and discovered that the high comorbidity rate of some subsets of these diseases reflect an underlying genetic basis. Check out the article in [CU Boulder Today](#).



CU Psychology and Neuroscience undergraduates **ELICIA AZUA** and **MEGAN LENARD** received Jacob Van Ek Scholarship Awards, one of the College of Arts & Sciences' highest honors. From the awards webpage, "These students were nominated by faculty at the University of Colorado Boulder for their superior academic achievement and service to the university, the Denver and Boulder communities, or larger national and international communities." Read more [about the award and see a list of all the winners](#).



ROSI KAISER (faculty) was awarded the 2021-2022 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award. Dr. Kaiser was acknowledged specifically for her deep dedication to mentoring individual graduate students including exhibiting a unique breadth and depth in her advising. She was especially commended for her excellence in mentoring and facilitating student success during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was also noted that Dr. Kaiser has groundbreaking contributions to improving the overall climate of graduate education within the program.

JENNIFER STRATFORD

(faculty) was awarded a “Best Should Teach” award in 2021. The Best Should Teach Initiative strives to acknowledge



excellence in teaching and academic leadership. This is a student-nominated award and reflects the amazing positive impact that Jenn has had (and continues to have) on her students. Congratulations, Jenn!



CHARLEEN GUST (PhD Student) was awarded the Sheryl R. Young Memorial Scholarship for the 2022–2023 academic year. This competitive scholarship is funded and the recipient chosen by the family of Sheryl Young, who received her PhD from our department nearly 40 years ago.

JUNE GRUBER (faculty) and her team (including senior team members **CYNTHIA VILLANUEVA & LUIZA ROSA**) were awarded an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Team Grant for the 2022-23 Academic Year term to support their new project “Health and Emotions in Latinx (HEAL) Young Adults During and Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic.”



JOANNA ARCH (faculty) is the recipient of 2022 Department Faculty Research Award! Dr. Arch’s research program integrates her expertise in both health and clinical psychology to develop, test, and implement state-of-the-art interventions for anxiety, including in adult survivors of cancer and individuals with metastatic cancer. Dr. Arch designs these innovative and novel interventions so that they can be delivered in person, through self-guided online applications, or through telehealth. These innovations allow her to conduct cutting-edge research in laboratory and community settings with local practitioners and researchers around the world.

MIRIAM CLAYTON

(PhD Student) was selected as a recipient of a 2021-2022 GPTI Teaching Excellence Award for her work as a Graduate Part-Time Instructor (GPTI).





KATHLEEN MURPHY (PhD Student) was chosen to receive an NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) for her work studying the interbrain correlative activity that occurs in pair-bonded prairie voles when they interact with each other. Read more about the NRSA on the [NIH website](#).

MATT KELLER (faculty) was named the director of the Institute for Behavior Genetics (IBG). He will take over for John Hewitt, also of the department, who led IBG for over 20 years and will continue with his research program. Read more about the institute and Matt on the Research & Innovation Office's website.



TINA PITTMAN WAGERS (faculty) is the recipient of a Department Lifetime Achievement Award! We honor her more than 15 years of outstanding teaching and service to the Department



with this award. Professor Pittman Wagers has contributed to the success of the department in numerous ways, including (but certainly not limited to) her instrumental role in developing and subsequently teaching two new undergraduate courses, Women's Mental Health and Psychological Treatment, serving on a variety of committees in the department, including chairing the department's Awards Committee and the Education with Inclusive Practices subcommittee of the department's DEI committee, as well as serving as the master of ceremonies for the department's commencement for many years. Tina has also made many significant contributions to the Renée Crown Wellness Institute, most notably on the development of the Alma peer mentoring program for perinatal depression, one of the Institute's signature research programs.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE SPENCER LAB

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



MATT HARTSOCK (PhD Student) was selected as the recipient for a competitive Travel Award to attend the 2022 Stress Neurobiology Workshop in Columbia, SC.

The article below is the product of a 3-year collaboration between Dr. Theresa Hernandez's lab and the Spencer Lab, in which they studied over 50 CU students with recent concussion, as well as control subjects. This project was funded by the University's Research & Innovation Seed Grant Program:

Villegas, E, Hartsock, MJ, Aben, BLLG, Lenahan, KN, Hernandez, T and RL Spencer. Association between altered cortisol profiles and neurobehavioral impairment after mild traumatic brain injury in college students. *Journal of Neurotrauma*, in press (published online February 24, 2022).

Hartsock, MJ, Strnad, HK, and RL Spencer. Iterative metaplasticity across timescales: how circadian, ultradian, and infradian rhythms modulate memory mechanisms. *Journal of Biological Rhythms*, 37:29-42, 2022.

SAGE DOBBY and **ALEX CHOI** (undergraduate Neuroscience Majors) – were both selected to receive summer UROP fellowships!

HONORS GRADUATES



INGRID ANDERSON (BA in NRSC and Music Major-Violin Performance!) – received summa cum laude honors for her honors thesis project: "Light during testing mediates the time-of-day dependent differences in open field task behavior of adult male rats".

ETHAN ROWE (BA in PSYC & NRSC) – received summa cum laude honors for his honors thesis project: "Inhibition of prefrontal cortex to amygdala neuronal pathway and its effect on fear extinction learning and fear extinction recall".





DAN BARTH, CHRIS LOWRY and JON REUTER (faculty) were selected as recipients of a seed grant from the Research and Innovation Office (RIO) to study autism and epilepsy. This research partnership is described as an “excellent, well qualified team that leverages the expertise of Dr. Lowry, in immunology, neuroinflammation and behavior; Dr. Barth, in development of animal models of acquired epilepsy and ASD-like behavior; and Dr. Reuter, in neuroscience and cannabis research.” Their proposal was one of 81 submitted to RIO and was reviewed by ten different faculty panels.

ROSI KAISER, JUNE GRUBER, and MARK WHISMAN (faculty) all received honorable mentions from UROP for their mentorship of undergraduates. UROP is CU Boulder’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program and annually honors a handful of faculty with mentoring awards based on nominations and letters of support from undergraduates whom they have mentored. Read more about this year's [UROP Award recipients](#).

The **BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE DIVERSITY TASK FORCE** (comprised of undergraduates, BN PhD students and postdocs) along with **MIKE BARATTA** (faculty) received an award from the Kahn Family Teaming Fund to fund Diversity Task Force outreach efforts. This fund was established for community outreach activities involving faculty, staff, and students from the CU Boulder College of Arts and Sciences.

2022 UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS

ZIWEI CHENG is the 2022 recipient of the Imogene Jacobs Psychology Thesis Award for her thesis: *Reinforcement Learning and Working Memory in Mood Disorders: A Computational Analysis Using a Developmental Transdiagnostic Sample*. Ziwei's thesis committee characterizes her as a "rising star" in computational psychiatry/psychology. Ziwei was advised by Dr. Rosi Kaiser.

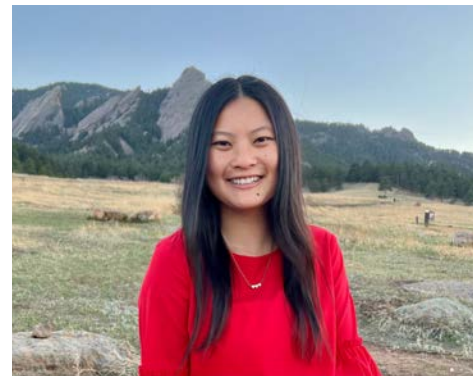


ANNA MCTIGUE was awarded the 2022 Neuroscience Thesis Award for her thesis: *Pair bonding leads to enhanced interbrain correlation with a partner which is not disrupted by blockade of oxytocin receptors*. Anna's thesis committee remarks that her defense was highly impressive and made complex work accessible to non-scientists. Anna was advised by Dr. Zoe Donaldson.



CRISTINA LAU was selected as the 2022 Neuroscience Thesis Award for her thesis: *Consequences of Ubqln2 loss in animal models of familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis*. Cristina's thesis committee note that her technically challenging experiments and thorough validation of reagents and dose-response curves of experiments were highly impressive. Cristina was advised by Dr. Alexandra Whiteley.

GIGI HUNN was awarded the 2022 Psychology and Neuroscience Leadership Award for her active involvement in the department, serving on the executive board of the Neuroscience club for the past two years, serving as President for the 2021-2022 academic year. Gigi's nominators note how impressed they are with Gigi's leadership style and willingness to help other students. Gigi is also part of Nu Rho Psi where she helped pioneer a free tutoring and mentoring program.



2022 UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS



MAYA PALMER was selected as a recipient of the brand new BECA (Building Equity in the Community of Academics) Fellowship. Maya's nominators describe her as an excited, driven and ambitious student, exhibiting more technical mastery than might be expected at the post-doctoral level. Maya is a Norlin Scholar and is the recipient of several other honors and scholarships. Maya is also engaged in DEI efforts on campus and mentors first-generation CU students.

ASHANTI CANNON-TURNER was selected as a recipient of the 2022 Bourne/Yaroush Family Scholarship. Ashanti is double-majoring in Neuroscience and Psychology, with Minors in Chinese and Spanish. Ashanti also earned the Certificate of Academic Achievement in recognition of outstanding work in the Health Professions Residential Academic Program and has held leadership positions in on and off-campus organizations. Ashanti aims to continue studying cognitive neuroscience, particularly focusing on mental health in BIPOC communities.



KATHERINE TEAGUE received a 2022 Bourne/Yaroush Family Scholarship. Katherine is a rising Junior majoring in Psychology & Neuroscience. Katherine was the Social Media Coordinator at Out in STEM, an LGBTQ STEM club, where students can meet like individuals and connect with organizations that offer STEM-related experiences. She has also worked as a Tutor Program Assistant at Spencer Ellis where she helped students in various learning contexts. Katherine plans to complete her bachelor's degree and apply to medical school to become a psychiatrist.



TAYLOR SOLIS-COLLAZOS received the 2022 BECA (Building Equity in the Community of Academics) Fellowship. Through her written thesis and oral defense, Taylor's committee was unanimously impressed with her command of the important issues she investigated. Taylor's lived experiences as a Latin American woman have helped her to value diversity in others and have compassion for people who may not be able to advocate for themselves, and she is committed to creating free or low-cost mental health services to people who do not have access to affordable mental health care.

2022 UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS



CARLY GLASSON was selected as the recipient of the Imogene Jacobs Award for the Outstanding Junior in Psychology as well as a recipient of the David E. Drutz Scholarship! Carly is double majoring in Psychology and Sociology and is also working towards a certificate in Public Health. Carly's excellent academic performance is accompanied by extensive involvement in several student organizations, including Psi Chi. Carly is an engaged and enthusiastic student (even during the pandemic!) who hopes to go into forensic psychology.

CAMDEN MCFARLAND was awarded a 2022 David E. Drutz Scholarship. Camden is part of the Neuroscience National Honor Society, Nu Rho Psi, and a member of the APO service fraternity with over 40 hours of community service. Camden was a learning assistant for Dr. Heidi Day, and a research assistant at CUChange. His recommendation letter applauds his work ethic, intelligence, attention to detail, dedication to the laboratory, and his generosity in terms of sharing his knowledge and supporting his research team.



RIVERS NUNN received both a David E. Drutz Scholarship and a Bourne/Yaroush Family Scholarship in 2022. Rivers is a double-major in Psychology and Neuroscience and has achieved an outstanding academic record while also working full time. James is a member of the National Honors Society (NHS), has worked as an educational tutor, and volunteers his time for environmental work over summer break. He is interested in applying his knowledge in psychology and neuroscience to better understanding the origins and treatment of psychiatric disorders and hopes to pursue a career in counseling or clinical psychology.



LAUREN CHUN (faculty) is the recipient of 2022 Department Faculty Teaching Award! Dr. Chun has only been teaching in the department since Fall 2021 and has already developed a reputation for offering compelling and innovative courses. Dr. Chun's teaching approach fosters engagement through high-effort educational practices and leading-edge pedagogical strategies including active learning participation questions, metacognitive exercises, and creating an inclusive classroom culture. Dr. Chun has established a reputation as a trusted and supportive mentor for her students, confirmed by very enthusiastic student evaluations!

Undergraduate students **ZOE DRIGOT** and **ROSE SUMMERS** are among only 417 college students from across the United States in 2022 to be awarded Goldwater Scholarships, which reward juniors and seniors who are actively conducting research in math, science and engineering. Summers, a junior from Ward, Colorado, majoring in integrative physiology and neuroscience; and Drigot, a junior from Fort Collins, Colorado, majoring in neuroscience and psychology; join 46 previous CU Boulder Goldwater Scholars.



ZOE DRIGOT



ROSE SUMMERS

ANNA GILMOUR (PhD Student) was awarded a CU Boulder Summer Fellowship from the Graduate School. The fellowship includes a 3-month stipend to pursue one's dissertation during the summer months.

2022 GRADUATE AWARD WINNERS



JOEL FISHBEIN was selected as a recipient of the 2022 Dosier/Muenzinger Award for Outstanding Teaching. Joel was nominated for his extraordinary contributions over 10 semesters to Dr. Smutzler's Research Methods in Clinical Psychology class. Joel has been able to grasp and execute the philosophy and content of the course with competence and composure and has often done so under unusually trying circumstances, which has highlighted not only Joel's outstanding teaching abilities, but also his outstanding human capabilities. Joel is incredibly generous with his time, provides excellent supervision for LA's and collaborates well with the full teaching team.

ALEX FLORES received the 2022 Dosier/Muenzinger Award for Outstanding Teaching. Alex has extensive experience teaching difficult courses impactfully and with aplomb. Despite the challenging nature of the coursework she has taught, her teaching ratings are stellar. Her nominators state that Alex is a dedicated teacher who is instrumental to the success of a diversity of students. Because of her teaching effectiveness, Alex has held the Lead Teaching Instructor position in the Department since 2020. Alex is also a graduate mentor to McNair scholars and has a burgeoning body of research that has been published in high impact journals.



ASHLEY MASTER received the 2022 Peter G. Ossorio Award. Ashley was enthusiastically nominated by the Clinical area for this award. She is engaged in rigorous, creative and high-level work and has published several peer-reviewed manuscripts and chapters under the topic the biobehavioral and pharmacological impacts of cannabis. In addition, she received independent funding for her cannabis neuropsychology research via the Emerging Scientist Award from the State of Colorado. Ashley is a remarkable young scientist, well on her way to being a strong independent contributor to cannabis research across the state and the nation.

2022 GRADUATE AWARD WINNERS

AMELIA MOSER was selected as the recipient of the 2022 Sean Hudson Leadership Award. Amelia is a dual PhD student who has emerged as a significant leader of efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion on multiple levels in the Department. She is a founding member of the student-led Psychologists Advocating for Systematic Training in Anti-Racism (PASTA) committee and has been a leader of DEI initiatives in her research laboratory. She has developed strategies to address barriers that often limit entry into research and has helped update the Clinical Psychology graduate admissions process to pilot a program centered on DEI values.



DILLON MCGOVERN was selected as the recipient of the 2022 Dosier/Muenzinger Award for Outstanding Contribution to Basic Research. Dillon is conducting highly sophisticated research using state-of-the-art technology and methods that has been recognized both locally and nationally. He has had remarkable success securing grants to support his research program and has earned various recognition awards as well. Dillon's work has made significant contributions to the neurobiology of stress and opioid addiction. Dillon is also very involved with outreach and diversity causes. He established the

Behavioral Neuroscience diversity task force and is Co-Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee in the Department.

LAUREL GIBSON received the 2022 Dosier/Muenzinger Award for Outstanding Contribution to Translational Research. Laurel is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow studying the psychosocial determinants of health and risk behavior. The focus of Laurel's work is understanding health disparities in outcomes that arise as a result of gender identity and sexual orientation. In a second line of research, she has focused on the public health implications of legalized cannabis. Her groundbreaking work represents an outstanding contribution to translational research.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FACULTY RETIREES!



On a sunny Wednesday in May we gathered (in person!!) to celebrate the retirement of 4 beloved PSYC & NRSC faculty: Greg Carey, Lewis O. Harvey, Jr., Bernadette Park, and Tina Pittman Wagers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING 2022 STAFF AWARD WINNERS!!!

ON THE SPOT AWARD



KATE BELL



SADIE HALNIER



JON ROBERTS



RUTH SEAHOLM



AMY ZENS

STAFF EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION AWARD



DENISE BENDER



NANCY COLEMAN



CHASMINE MALABANAN

SPRING & SUMMER 2022 GRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED



Miriam Guy Clayton Erickson | *The social psychology of expansive masculinity* |
Faculty Advisor-Dr. Bernadette Park



M. C. Flux | *Immunological mechanisms of novel mental health therapeutics: Focus on whole-body hyperthermia, floatation-rest, and cannabis* | **Faculty Advisors-Dr. Christopher Lowry and Dr. Erik Willcutt**



Matthew Joseph Hartsock | *Fear-related memory: A role for circadian rhythms in the medial prefrontal cortex* | **Faculty Advisor-Dr. Robert Spencer**



Elizabeth Lemon | *Intolerance of uncertainty as a predictor of depression symptom severity in the perinatal period* | **Faculty Advisor-Dr. Sona Dimidjian**

SPRING & SUMMER 2022 GRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED



Jairo Ramos | *On attention and the judgment of societal risk* | **Faculty Advisor-Dr. Leaf Van Boven**



Kayla Siletti | *Stressor controllability mediates stress-induced changes in motivated seeking of food and drug rewards* | **Faculty Advisor-Dr. Michael Saddoris**



Balbir Singh | *Can't see the trees for the forest? The interplay between identity and race in person perception* | **Faculty Advisor-Dr. Joshua Correll**



Brittany Tokasey | *Using social norms to create long-term reductions in bias* | **Faculty Advisor-Dr. Tiffany Ito**



Holly Noble Wakeman | *Adherence to recommendations, barriers to implementation, and functional outcomes for children and adolescents following psychoeducational assessment* | **Faculty Advisor-Dr. Erik Willcutt**