

Get PSYCHED!

Department of
Psychological and
Brain Sciences

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NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR: DR. SUZANNE MEEKS

Welcome to the Fall 2017 semester! My wish for all of you is a successful semester moving towards your goals for completing your degree and entering the work world or going on to further studies. Although U of L has had a lot of negative press lately, in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, we continue to provide excellent instruction and opportunity to all of our students, and I am very proud of what we have to offer! We still have the fine faculty and dedicated staff we've always had, and we continue to build and change to keep our programs contemporary and relevant.

One exciting development I want to highlight for you is our work on creating a new undergraduate major in neuroscience. This will be a unique, B.S. option for students interested in the brain and its functions, and who want to get hands-on laboratory experiences as a part of their degree program. We are in the process of shepherding the paperwork for this program through many bureaucratic levels, but I am optimistic that it will be approved and that we will start enrolling students in 2019 or before. The major will be housed in the College of Arts and Sciences and administered in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, but jointly offered with the Department of Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology in the School of Medicine, so that students will have the opportunity to work in faculty laboratories on both campuses. Stay tuned as we begin to enhance our neuroscience course offerings to support this new major!

In the meantime, we are thrilled to welcome a new faculty member, Dr. Nick Hindy, who joins Dr. Brendan Depue, our last addition to the faculty in the area of neuroscience, in setting up a second neuroimaging laboratory here. Dr. Hindy has already started working with undergraduates in his laboratory, and is teaching a cognitive neuroscience class this fall and an introduction to computer programming for psychology (focusing on the program MatLab) in the spring. You will no doubt read more about Dr. Hindy and his research in this newsletter, and you can also do so here: <http://louisville.edu/psychology/hindy/about>. Dr. Hindy comes to us after a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University and completing his doctoral degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to these developments, the Department faculty spent their retreat this year examining how we can best revise our undergraduate curriculum to help you get through the program efficiently while also updating and modernizing our descriptions, sequences, and numbering. Stay tuned as we announce changes as they occur. For now, just know that we are working in your best interest to give you the best psychology major experience we possibly can.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about the psychology major, you may contact me at smeeks@louisville.edu. Have a great semester!

Suzanne Meeks, Professor & Department Chair

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NEW FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Nicholas Hindy, Ph.D.

**Assistant Professor
Director, Cognitive Neuroscience of Memory**

Have you ever forgotten someone's name? It sure can be frustrating ... but also fascinating! How do we remember and why do we forget? These are the kind of questions that I like to ask through functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) of people's brains.

For all of its frailty, memory has always fascinated me. In my graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, I used fMRI and other techniques to study language, working memory, and cognitive control. In my postdoctoral work at Princeton University, I developed computational approaches to fMRI analysis in order to study memory in the context of vision, learning, and prediction. Now I'm very excited to collaborate on new projects to discover the neural mechanisms for chemotherapy-related memory impairment, and to help develop a state-of-the-art interface for visualizing fMRI data on top the complex neuroanatomy that maintains everything we remember.

I couldn't be more thrilled to join the University of Louisville and the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences! Since arriving, I've been delighted and impressed with students and amazed by faculty and staff. I hope that I can contribute to the already vibrant department. Please stop by my office or send me an email so that we can chat! And, if you happen to know a toddler, my wife and my son Nathan just turned two years old and is always eager for a play date!

PhD Position, Behavioral Economics, Experimental Psychology

Dr. Daniel DeCaro, Director of the Social Decision Making & Sustainability Lab is seeking applicants for a fully funded PhD position in behavioral economics/experimental psychology. The student will contribute to a National Science Foundation project in the Social and Economic Sciences, focusing on the psychological processes involved cooperative decision making in social dilemmas (see [Award #1658608](#) for more details). The project examines how communication, enforcement, and participatory decision making influence cooperation. Funding is available for one student for up to 5 years, including yearly stipend (\$22,000), tuition (\$17,000), and benefits (\$3000).

How to Apply: The position starts July 2018 (Fall 2018). **Deadline December 1, 2017.** Applicants will enroll in the Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program in the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences, and be trained in interdisciplinary behavioral economics by Dr. DeCaro. In your application, include standard materials (e.g., Personal Statement, CV, and References). Also mention that you are applying to work with Dr. Daniel A. DeCaro on his National Science Foundation project. For application information, see: <https://louisville.edu/psychology/graduate/experimental/apply>

Information about the Social Decision Making & Sustainability Lab (SDS Lab)

Dr. DeCaro is an Assistant Professor in Urban & Public Affairs and Psychological & Brain Sciences. He completed his postdoc with Nobelist Elinor Ostrom at Indiana University – Bloomington's Vincent & Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory & Policy Analysis.

The SDS Lab studies the factors that influence cooperation in society. We conduct both laboratory experiments and field case studies in multiple topics areas. For more information, visit: <https://louisville.edu/psychology/d-decaro> or daniel.decaro@louisville.edu

Are you interested in gaining research and service learning experience?

Thinking of a short-term study abroad in May 2018?

PSYC408: International Service Learning & Research Program (Culminating Undergraduate Experience)



2017 ISL&RP Team

Northern Ireland



2017 ISL&RP Team

Based on the pedagogical model of learning-through-doing, students will gain practical service-learning/research experience working directly on a faculty member's on-going research project. Students will develop knowledge of the impact that intergroup contact has in assisting conflict transformation, behavioral and mental health, and multicultural understanding.

Learn more about:

~ Peace Psychology ~ ~ Transitional Justice ~
~ Intergroup Contact ~ ~ Conflict Transformation ~

**Application meeting
Tuesday, September 12
12:20 - 12:50 pm
127 Life Sciences**

Applications are due October 16, 2017 (with \$100 initial deposit)

**Prerequisites: PSYC201, 301 (or equivalent) and 302 (or consent of instructor)
GPA: 3.0 cumulative AND major**

- ◆ **Interview Required:** Students planning to submit an application will be required to participate in an interview with the ISL&RP Faculty Director during the month of September.
- ◆ Selected students will be required to enroll and complete PSYC404: Intergroup Contact & Conflict Resolution (1 credit hour) during the Spring term 2018.
- ◆ Selected students will earn **6 credit hours** for PSYC408 (Spring 2018 course. NOTE: Grades will not be posted until summer). Although the cost of tuition will be waived and class registration is required, a program fee associated with instruction and travel will apply. The program fee is approximated to be \$4,000 (depending on air fares).

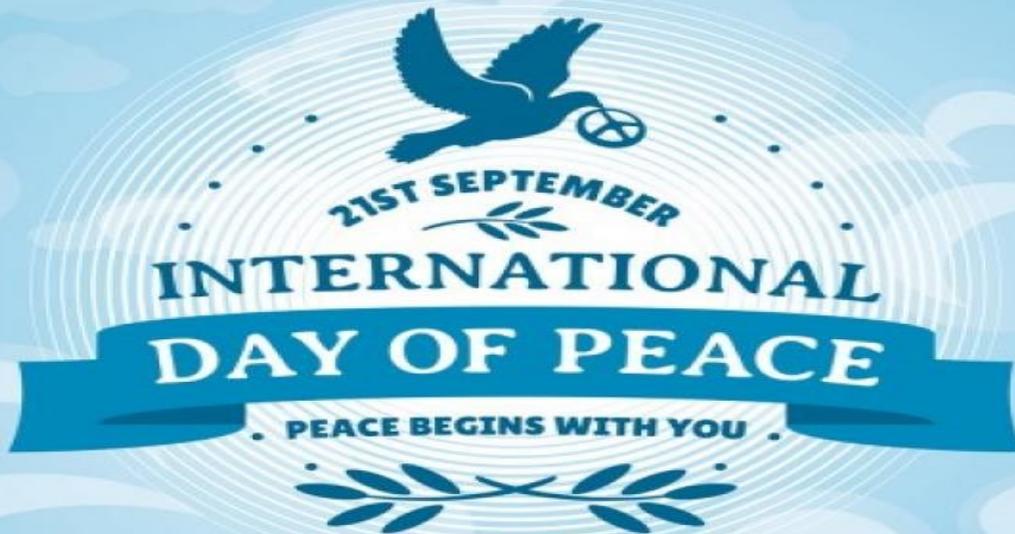
If you meet the prerequisite requirements and plan to apply, please attend the 9/12 meeting. If unable to attend, please contact Dr. Leonard ASAP at melinda.leonard@louisville.edu for an interview.



Lauren Grant



Lauren Grant, a recent graduate of our department, was recently notified that she earned an National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. Lauren was an undergraduate honors student mentored by Dr. Marci DeCaro. As an undergraduate, Lauren studied the impact of choking under pressure on sensorimotor skills. Lauren is currently a graduate student in Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Michigan. With her NSF fellowship, she will be studying similar topics as in her undergraduate thesis. **CONGRATULATIONS, LAUREN!!!**



Please plan to participate in the various activities planned on the UofL Belknap Campus during the day on Thursday, September 21 in the Ekstrom Quad area and at the base of the SAC ramp and during the evening at the Red Barn.

GRE Strategy Session / Lunch / Practice Exam

ARE YOU THINKING OF ATTENDING GRADUATE SCHOOL?

A Kaplan-conducted GRE strategy session, lunch, and practice exam is being sponsored by Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology. Registration is open to ANYONE interested in attending graduate school (i.e., students, staff, family, friends).



WHEN: Saturday, September 23, 2017

WHERE: Davidson Hall—Room 101

TIME: 9:30 am—3:00 pm

COST: \$20.00

**Pre-registration and Payment due
Monday, September 18**

Forward check/money order (payable to Psi Chi) or cash to Psi Chi, Life Sciences, Room 317. Please include "GRE", your name and email, along with your sandwich selection for lunch: ham, roast beef, turkey, or vegetarian. Please indicate whether you will bring your own laptop for the practice exam.

Once payment is received, you will receive an email with additional registration details.

Contact Madison Smith, Psi Chi Fundraising Chair at mdsmit22@louisville.edu or Dr. Leonard, Faculty Advisor at maleon04@louisville.edu for additional details.





Undergraduate Updates

BY: Dr. Judith Danovitch, Director, Undergraduate Academic Affairs

How to Get Involved in Research

Welcome back to a new academic year at UofL! As Undergraduate Director, I often speak to students who are interested in getting involved in research. Working on a research study in a lab is a fantastic opportunity to apply what you learn in class and see psychology methods in action. Students who have worked as research assistants frequently describe working in a lab as the most valuable activity they did as Psychology majors. Having research experience is not just for students who want to go on to graduate school. It also looks great on your resume when you are applying for jobs and helps you build the skills that are necessary to succeed in any field.

How can you get research experience as an undergraduate? Your first step should be to look at the research opportunities posted on the bulletin board on the 3rd floor of the Life Sciences building or online (<http://louisville.edu/psychology/undergraduate/research>). Many labs prefer students who have already completed PSYC 301 and 302 so be sure to take those courses as soon as you can. You can also ask professors whose courses you have enjoyed if they are looking for research assistants.

Another great time to get research experience is during the summer. UofL offers the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP; <http://louisville.edu/research/students/opportunities/undergrad-grad/summer>) where students can get paid \$3500 to work in a research lab and participate in seminars. Other universities also offer programs specifically for Psychology majors to get research experience. For example, Western Kentucky University hosts a program where students work in psychology labs for 10 weeks during the summer and receive a \$5000 stipend and free on-campus housing. Many top universities offer paid or unpaid summer internships in psychology labs – and these internships are often geared towards students who do not attend those universities. The APA website is a good resource for finding out about summer programs: <http://www2.apa.org/education/undergrad/research-opportunities.aspx>. These programs and internships typically have application deadlines in the winter or early spring so it is not too early to start thinking about next summer!

If you have any questions or want to talk more about research opportunities, I encourage you to contact me at j.danovitch@louisville.edu.



Become a Member of Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology



JOIN TODAY!!

Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology

Membership in the University of Louisville Psi Chi Chapter is open to those students who plan to major or minor in psychology (or related field), and who have earned a Psychology GPA of 3.3 and cumulative overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Undergraduate and graduate students who meet the criteria below are eligible for membership. Membership in Psi Chi is open to qualified candidates of any age, sex, sexual orientation, race, handicap or disability, color, religion, and national and ethnic origin.

Benefits: Psi Chi is a wonderful opportunity to build your resume, connect with other Psychology majors, receive information about graduate school, apply for travel and research grants, and learn more about your field. **Besides, members are eligible to wear the honor cord at commencement ceremonies!!!**

Undergraduate Membership Requirements

- * Psychology GPA of at least 3.3 and cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- * Must be at least a second-semester sophomore
- * Must be enrolled as a major or minor in a psychology program or a program psychological in nature that is equivalent to a psychology major
- * Must have completed at least 9 semester hours of psychology courses

Graduate Membership Requirements:

- * Must be enrolled as a graduate student at UofL in a psychology graduate program
- * Must have established a GPA at UofL
- * Must have an overall GPA of a 3.0 out of a 4.0 in all graduate courses

Procedure to join: Students must submit an application form on the international website at www.psichi.org. Hover over the **JOIN** link in the upper left area of the page and click on **Become a Member**. Scroll down and click **APPLY NOW**. Once you read the statement, scroll down and click on **APPLY NOW**. Complete the form and click on **SUBMIT**. Once you have completed the application, please send an email to Dr. Leonard, Psi Chi Faculty Advisor at maleon04@louisville.edu with **Psi Chi Membership** in the subject line and she will review your transcript and get back to you regarding your membership status.

Cost: **\$80.00** (International Membership fee - \$55.00 + U of L Chapter fee - \$25.00)

This is a one time fee for a lifetime membership!!

New members that join between May 1—November 1 and pay their dues by November 1 will be entered into a drawing for two membership dues refunds.

For further information, please contact:

Aaliyah Churchill, Membership at ajchur01@louisville.edu or
Dr. Leonard, Psi Chi Faculty Advisor at maleon04@louisville.edu

Congratulations!!!



Psi Chi: The International Honor Society in Psychology Achieves Model Chapter Award Nine Consecutive Years!!!

For the 9th year in a row, the University of Louisville Psi Chi Chapter #59 was awarded the Model Chapter Award. For 2016-2017 The UofL Chapter was one of only 42 out of 1,180 international chapters that achieved this status. The Chapter received a \$100 award and a custom certificate noting their achievement.

The purpose of the Psi Chi Model Chapter Award is to recognize and reward annually those chapters that consistently maintain outstanding records of membership inductions, chapter correspondence, service projects, and other criteria associated with being an outstanding chapter.



PSI CHI NEWS



UPCOMING EVENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

1. **Saturday, September 9:** Please join Psi Chi's team and participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. **If you are interested in supporting this great cause go to the link below to join the UofL Psi Chi Team.** http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=10457&pg=team&team_id=417002 If you prefer to donate, please do so at the same URL. Our goal is to raise \$100. If you plan to walk with us, please meet at 9:45 am near the registration area.
2. **Saturday, September 23:** GRE Strategy Session/Lunch/Practice Exam
3. **Tuesday, September 26:** Our next general meeting will be held from 4:00–5:00 in Life Sciences 135.



Registration is now open for the
Kentucky Psychological Association's
2017 Annual Convention

November 2-4
Griffin Gate Marriott, Lexington, KY

**A Balancing Act: Innovation and Keeping the
Heart of Psychology**

For additional information and registration details, visit:

[https://www.kpa.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=27&Itemid=115&year=2017&month=11
&day=02&title=2017-annual-convention&uid=dc56b9eca14cc5e59eb0d7cea9a9beaa](https://www.kpa.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=27&Itemid=115&year=2017&month=11&day=02&title=2017-annual-convention&uid=dc56b9eca14cc5e59eb0d7cea9a9beaa)

**Psychology Undergraduate, Graduate Students/Pre-Doctoral
Interns, and Post-Doctoral students are eligible to attend.**

You must first join KPA.



Join KPA

- ◆ **Psychology Undergraduate Students** can join KPA for **FREE** but are non-voting members. They receive all correspondence electronically so must have a valid email address on file to be a current member.
- ◆ **Psychology Graduate Student / Pre-Doctoral Interns & Post-Doctoral Members** have voting privileges for the KPAGS Representative on the Board and are automatically enrolled in KPAGS (KPA Graduate Students).

Online Membership Application:

https://www.kpa.org/kpa_membership_categories



Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

University of Louisville
317 Life Sciences Building
Louisville, KY 40292

For newsletter submissions,
please contact
Melinda Leonard, PhD
Psi Chi Faculty Advisor
maleon04@louisville.edu

Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology and was founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduate students who are making the study of psychology one of their major interests and who meet the requirements. Membership requirements for the University of Louisville Chapter include: Completed 9 semester hours in Psychology, sophomore standing, 3.33 GPA in Psychology, and 3.0 GPA overall.

Apply online at www.psichi.org. Hover over the **JOIN** link in the upper left area of the page and click on **Become a Member**. Scroll down and click **APPLY NOW**. Once you read the statement, scroll down and click on **APPLY NOW**. Complete the form and click on **SUBMIT**. Once you have completed the application, please send an email to Dr. Leonard, Psi Chi Faculty Advisor at maleon04@louisville.edu with **Psi Chi Membership** in the subject line and she will review your transcript and get back to you regarding your membership status.

Sponsored by: **Psi Chi**



We're on the Web!
[www.louisville.edu/
psychology/
undergrad/psi-chi.html](http://www.louisville.edu/psychology/undergrad/psi-chi.html)

PSI CHI IS CURRENTLY SEEKING ENERGETIC AND SELF-MOTIVATED STUDENTS.

For more information, please contact one of the following officers.

President: Aamina Qadir at a0qadi01@louisville.edu

Vice-President/Webmaster: Michelle Stewart at mfstew01@louisville.edu

President-Elect: Tesnim Arar at t0arar01@louisville.edu

Secretary: Emily Dickey at eadick01@louisville.edu

Treasurer: Abby Fischbach at alfisc02@louisville.edu

Fundraising: Madison Smith at mdsmit22@louisville.edu

Membership: Aaliyah Churchill at ajchur01@louisville.edu

Historian/Social Media: Blake Gerstner at bagers02@louisville.edu

Program Coordinator: Jeremy Jackson at jkjack05@louisville.edu