

# THE SELF MONITOR

The Official Alumni Newsletter of the Psychology Department  
of the State University of New York at New Paltz

Volume 12 - Summer 2019

Edited by Dr. Glenn Geher (geherg@newpaltz.edu) &  
Dr. Karla Vermeulen (vermeulk@newpaltz.edu)

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## Message from the Department Chair, Dr. Jonathan Raskin



It's been a busy academic year! Among the highlights:

The annual cognitive science colloquium brought in two exciting speakers. In the fall, Dr. Ira Noveck of the *Institut des Sciences Cognitives-Marc Jeannerod* in Lyon, France presented "From Psychology to Language

and Back: The Role of Intentions in Utterance Comprehension." In the spring, Dr. Justin C. Hulbert of Bard College presented "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger: Psychological trauma and its relationship to enhanced memory control." Both talks were well attended and well received.

American Psychological Association President Rosie Phillips Davis visited SUNY New Paltz and gave a Distinguished Speaker Series lecture co-sponsored by the Department of Psychology. Dr. Davis made a case that one of the most important collective actions we can take in the fight against poverty is to change our attitudes about impoverished people.

Dr. Yanhong Liu, assistant professor of counseling and human services at Syracuse University, presented an empowering invited lecture on adoption in April. The presentation, which was well attended by faculty and students across counseling and psychology, was entitled "Adoption as a Specialty Area of Counseling: Reality, Themes, and the Journey of Healing." The talk addressed issues related to adoption that are often overlooked in the counseling literature.

We hired a new assistant professor. Dr. Matthew Wice, currently a visiting lecturer, will join the SUNY New Paltz Department of Psychology as a full-time assistant professor starting in Fall 2019. See page \_\_ to learn more about him. The Department of Psychology is very excited to have Dr. Wice join its ranks and welcomes him to the faculty.

Our faculty had many impressive accomplishments this year, including the following:

- Professor Giordana Grossi co-edited (with Rebecca Jordan-Young, Barnard College, and Gina Rippon, Aston University) a special issue of *The Scholar & Feminist Online* (15.2 Spring 2019 issue) on NeuroGenderings.
- Professor Emeritus Phyllis Freeman coauthored two articles on Lyme Disease with Dr. Richard I. Horowitz.
- Associate Professor Karla Vermeulen received a \$45,000 grant from the New York State Department of Health and a \$40,000 grant from the state Office of Mental Health, to support disaster mental health training projects throughout the state.
- For the third year in a row, members of the New Paltz Evolutionary Psychology Lab held a symposium related to evolution for the Hudson Valley Humanists as part of the Humanists' celebration of Darwin Day at the New Paltz Community Center.
- Professor Douglas Maynard taught a special topics course on game design, in which students designed their own board games!

So much vibrant activity! I'm really proud of our faculty and students and all the tremendous work that they do. Here's to a terrific 2019-20 academic year. Meanwhile, please keep in touch by letting us know what you're up to these days. We'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan D. Raskin, Ph.D.  
Chair, Department of Psychology

p.s.: Want to support faculty and student research? Check out the "Donate Now" button on the Department homepage:

<http://www.newpaltz.edu/psychology/>

### Welcome to our Newest Full-Time Faculty Member, Dr. Matt Wice!

Matt Wice is currently a visiting lecturer in the Psychology Department at SUNY New Paltz, and is very excited to be joining the department as a full-time assistant professor beginning in Fall 2019. Matt received his PhD in Developmental Psychology from The New School for Social Research in 2017. After completing his doctorate, Matt spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at The New School before joining New Paltz in Fall 2018 as a lecturer. Matt's research concerns the development of social cognition, with a particular emphasis on how socio-cognitive development is influenced by cultural beliefs and practices. His teaching specializations are developmental and cultural psychology.



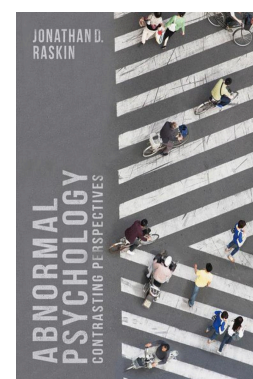
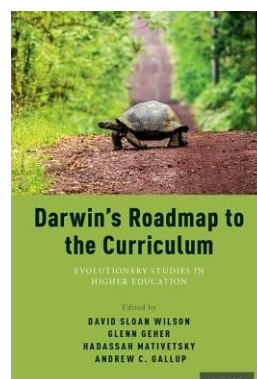
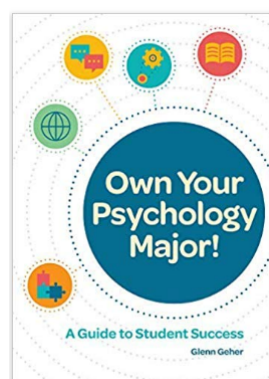
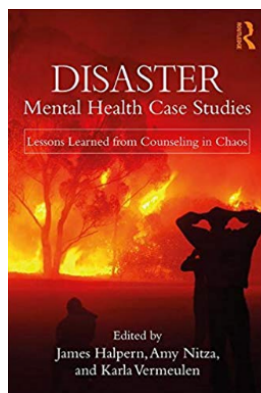
Matt's interest in culture and social development was largely inspired by the time he spent living in a small town in Japan during his early 20s. The summer after earning his B.A. from Ithaca College, Matt set out for Japan to work as an English teacher with the JET Program (a teaching exchange program managed by the Japanese government). Matt spent three fulfilling years in Japan teaching, studying Japanese, traveling, and developing a deep fascination with the relationship between culture and human development. Upon returning to the U.S., Matt enrolled in the psychology graduate program at The New School in Manhattan. While at The New School, Matt was awarded the Dean's Fellowship, Dissertation Fellowship, and Dean's Discretionary Stipend. Matt has published work in numerous journals and handbooks exploring the intersection of culture and social cognition, including *Developmental Psychology* and the *Oxford Handbook of Human Development and Culture*. He has also served as a peer reviewer for journals, such as *Cognitive Development*.

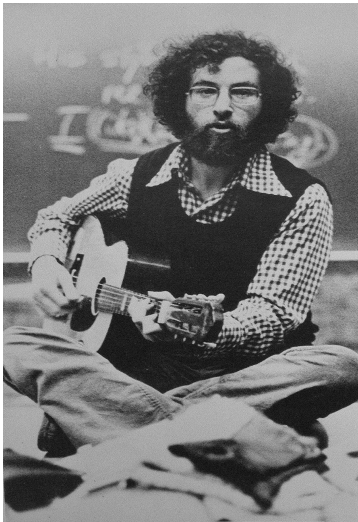
In his free time, Matt enjoys playing the guitar, cooking, and conducting experiments on his one-and-a-half-year-old son.

### 2018-2019 Faculty Book Publications

In addition to numerous scholarly articles Department of Psychology professors published in peer-reviewed academic journals this year, faculty members also released four new books:

- Three psychologists affiliated with the Department of Psychology and the Institute for Disaster Mental Health (IDMH) – Associate Professor Karla Vermeulen, IDMH Director Amy Nitza, and IDMH Founding Director and Professor Emeritus James Halpern – co-edited a collection of case studies written by mental health professionals who responded to 17 major disasters, *Disaster Mental Health Case Studies: Lessons Learned from Counseling in Chaos*.
- Professor Glenn Geher published two books: *Own Your Psychology Major! A Guide to Student Success* (authored) and *Darwin's Roadmap to the Curriculum: Evolutionary Studies in Higher Education* (co-edited).
- Professor Jonathan Raskin published a new textbook with Macmillan International Higher Education, *Abnormal Psychology: Contrasting Perspectives*.





**Dr. Sherman in 1976**

### **Emeritus Faculty Profile “Cursed with Outside Interests” by Mark Sherman, Ph.D.**

While in graduate school in psychology (at Harvard) in the 1960s, I was already pursuing what would be a major interest of mine for the next 30+ years: songwriting and singing. Many of my professors seemed wrapped up in the academic world, and one of them – a young assistant professor named Albert Bregman – said to me as we walked one evening, “You’re cursed with outside interests.”

This “curse” remained with me throughout my 25-year teaching career at SUNY New Paltz, and continued well after my retirement at the young age of 52. I loved psychology and teaching, but a main reason I retired early was to spend more time pursuing other passions of mine as well. It wasn’t just music. It was also humor and writing – and very often the combination of the two; in fact, most of my songs, and certainly some of my most popular ones, were humorous.

While my most prolific songwriting and performing period was in the ’70s and ’80s, in 1998 I played to a sold out crowd at the Unison Arts Center in New Paltz. I released the performance as a CD, “Please, Professor,” in 2005 and tracks are available on many digital sites. Another venue for my humor has been our local weekly newspaper, the *New Paltz Times*. My humor column has appeared in the paper regularly since 1984. I’ve now done more than 760 columns! Also, for the last 14 years I’ve done readings of my columns at the historic Mohonk Mountain House. I read from the book of columns I published in 2004 (*Real Men Don’t Write Columns: A Psychologist’s Humorous Look at Men, Women, Family, and Psychotherapy*) and ones I choose from the 732 which aren’t in the book.

My Mohonk experience led me recently to start a podcast, titled “The Kvetching Professor.” It typically features one of my columns, with an intro of several minutes, where I talk about the topic I’m about to have intelligent fun with. Most of the episodes are under 10 minutes and can be found simply by Googling “The Kvetching Professor.”

But psychology has remained an abiding passion of mine, especially gender issues. My early focus was human sexuality and male-female communication, but shortly before my retirement it became – and has stayed – a concern for the plight of boys and young men in our country (and the developed world, in general). Overall, they are not doing very well, and in my writings, primarily my blog on Psychology Today, and concerted efforts with others – such as Warren Farrell, author of 2018’s *The Boy Crisis* – I have worked toward trying to make sure that we don’t confuse boys with men, and recognize that a situation where in terms of suicide, incarceration, poor school performance, and other measures of deficit, the youth of one sex is faring worse than the other is not good for either.

For full disclosure, an important motivator for me is the fact that I have three grown sons and five grandsons (sadly, there have been no females in my bloodline since at least 1909); but it goes well beyond that. Graduate school taught me the importance of data, and whether it’s autism, college enrollments, or suicide rates, the data is clear: Boys and young men need our attention.

I have not merely been cursed with outside interests but also with an abiding concern for the world and how I can try to make things better. But when I have made a difference – whether in the classroom, in my humor, in my community or the world – it’s a wonderful feeling.



**Dr. Sherman today**



## Psychology Alumni Profiles

We always love to hear what our former students accomplish after they leave SUNY New Paltz! Here are updates from several – and next we want to hear from you. Please send your news to [geherq@newpaltz.edu](mailto:geherq@newpaltz.edu), [vermeulk@newpaltz.edu](mailto:vermeulk@newpaltz.edu), or [raskinj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:raskinj@newpaltz.edu) to be included in next year's newsletter and in our online news blog: <https://hawksites.newpaltz.edu/psychology/>, which is updated frequently.

### Leah Bernstein

**New Paltz degree: BA in Psychology, 2016**

**Email: [leah.bernstein56@myhunter.cuny.edu](mailto:leah.bernstein56@myhunter.cuny.edu)**

**Current role: MSW student at Hunter College and social work intern at Essex Street Academy**

My name is Leah, I live in Brooklyn and I am a second-year graduate student at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in East Harlem. I am expected to graduate with my master's degree in social work in May 2019. Currently, I am interning as a school social worker at Essex Street Academy, a public consortium high school in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. ESA serves a diverse group of students who come from Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx. At ESA, I provide individual and group counseling to a caseload of fifteen high school students that are either referred or mandated to have counseling services.



My experience as a psychology major and sociology and evolutionary studies minor at SUNY New Paltz led me to choose a career in social work. During my psychology internship class at SUNY New Paltz, I discovered through my internship with the New Paltz Youth Program that I had a passion for working with students in an educational setting. My internship class at SUNY New Paltz first taught me about clinical skills such as creating rapport and setting boundaries. During my internship class, a fellow classmate inspired me to apply for City Year New York, an AmeriCorps program working with at-risk youth within underserved communities. The year between graduating from SUNY New Paltz and attending graduate school at Hunter, I provided push-in support in ELA, math, attendance, and social-emotional learning in a third-grade classroom at P.S. 108K in East New York. My year of service opened my eyes to the need for an increase in social and emotional support for black and brown students in the New York City public school system, specifically within underserved communities.

My advisors, professors, and peers at SUNY New Paltz all helped to guide me to the profession of social work. Since then, my passion for supporting individuals in want and need has only grown. I look forward to continuing to progress professionally as a social worker in a full-time position after I graduate from Hunter.



### Dave Maffei

**New Paltz degree: BA in Psychology, 2005**

**Email: [dmaff19@gmail.com](mailto:dmaff19@gmail.com)**

**Current roles: Assistant Principal Ketcham High School & Founder, Halfsies Cookie Company**

I'm currently serving as an Assistant Principal at Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls, NY. This year, my wife and I founded Halfsies Cookie Company. My time at New Paltz helped me realize that anything is possible. I honestly picked Psychology as a major because I was scared of taking math in college. When I ended up sitting in Dr. Geher's Psych Stats class during my second semester there, I realized that I wasn't going to get away math-free. Dr. Geher was (is) a great professor. He explained the concepts clearly and with patience, and before I knew it I actually enjoyed math. That semester helped me grow as a person. It erased self doubt, made me confront fears, and gave me an academic confidence that I never had before. That confidence has been a weapon for me. I am capable of things that I already think I am capable of, as well as everything else. I've forgotten most of what I learned at New Paltz, but I have NOT forgotten that.



## Psychology Alumni Profiles



**Lauren Smith**

**New Paltz degree: Psychology BA, minor in Evolutionary Studies, 2016**

**Email: [laurensmith@lclark.edu](mailto:laurensmith@lclark.edu)**

**Current role: School Psychology graduate student at Lewis & Clark College**

I am currently in my second year of the School Psychology graduate program at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. This year, I have been placed at Reynolds Middle School, where I have gotten a hands on experience providing counseling services to students, completing assessment procedures, and collaborating with school staff members and families to promote equitable learning opportunities for all students. So far, it has been an incredible experience and I am eager to start my internship in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District next fall!

Truthfully, I would not be where I am today without the life and educational experiences that I gained at New Paltz. I was first introduced to the field of school psychology in the Psychological Testing course that I took with Dr. Winograd and learned about the use of cognitive testing. I gained a passion for analyzing and collecting data, another major component of school psychology, in the seminar course that I took with Dr. Citera and during my time in the Evolutionary Psychology Research Lab with Dr. Glenn Geher. I am so grateful not only for the opportunities that New Paltz has provided me with, but for the handful of amazing professors that have been supportive and helped me get to where I am today. Thank you New Paltz Psychology Department!

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**Michael Camargo**

**New Paltz degree: M.S. in Mental Health Counseling, 2007**

**Email: [Mike.Camargo@gmail.com](mailto:Mike.Camargo@gmail.com)**

**Current role: Behavior Analyst and Mental Health Counselor**

In 2016, I joined Ulster County BOCES as a behavior analyst where I helped create The Behavior Support Team – a multi-disciplinary team designed to help school districts support students in the least restrictive environments possible. Our mission is to improve the quality of students' lives by providing wraparound services using a person-centered approach that is informed by Applied Behavior Analysis. We offer a variety of services to our component school districts with the goal of helping students overcome their challenging behaviors. Our focus is on providing educators and parents with strategies to respond differently to challenging behaviors in order for students to get their needs met through more desirable means. We also provide training on how to effectively teach communication skills, emotional regulation, and social skills, as well as how to develop positive relationships with students. Additionally, we support our students' families by offering behavioral consultations and connecting families with community resources.



In addition to my work at BOCES, I have a small private practice in Kingston, NY where I provide individual counseling and parent counseling for parents of children with challenging behaviors. I work with a variety of people, including adults and the families of children with and without disabilities.

The design of The Behavior Support Team and my private practice were heavily influenced by my humanistic training from SUNY New Paltz. The extensive training I received on foundational counseling skills has allowed me to incorporate person-centered practices into my direct work with children and their families, as well as design a service to support local school districts. Moreover, I was given opportunities to develop both my writing and public speaking skills, as well as the tools to read and interpret scientific literature, all of which have served me well in my professional endeavors. My training as a Mental Health Counselor at SUNY New Paltz, coupled with my training as a behavior analyst, has offered a unique perspective to mental health and behavior, and has been invaluable to my professional growth and the ongoing opportunities available to me.

## Psychology Alumni Profiles

**Andrew Shimkus**

**New Paltz degree: M.A. in General Psychology, 2015**

**Email: [andrew.shimkus@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.shimkus@gmail.com)**

**Current role: Doctoral Candidate in Clinical Psychology,  
University of Hartford**



I graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2015 with a Master of Arts in General Psychology. I began the program after completing my undergraduate work at the University of Tampa. I am currently a doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Hartford.

SUNY New Paltz provided a breadth of opportunities to expand upon my academic, research, and career interests. For example, I worked as an undergraduate advising assistant, a position in which I discussed the nuances of the psychology major/minor with students, as well as course offerings and potential career options. This position allowed me to grow in terms of effective communication strategies and problem solving abilities, both of which have assisted in my professional development.

The MA program was instrumental in preparing me for clinical work because it supplied a general knowledge base for competence in varying areas of inquiry. The emphasis on statistics and research methods, both through coursework and outside projects, was very helpful in terms of learning the basics, as well as contextualizing and applying certain statistical processes and results. Throughout my graduate work since my time at New Paltz, this research foundation paid dividends in the insight and critical thought processes I gained from the program.

Perhaps the most invaluable parts of my experience were the academic and professional guidance of department faculty. I enjoyed how the department functioned as a means of student and professor collaboration. The diverse areas of expertise among the faculty allowed for an effective dialogue regarding my questions within a course or a potential career path. In fact, there were a number of faculty members, whom I had never met during a class or campus presentation, who were always helpful with specific questions that arose, and were receptive to any concerns that I may have had.

Overall, the mix of structured academic work and partnerships with faculty allowed for a rich graduate experience that helped me solidify career interests and take necessary steps to work toward my goal of a career in clinical psychology.

**Student Spotlight: Rachael Purtell****Majors: Psychology & Communications (Public Relations)****Minor: Computer Science****Email: [purtellr1@hawkmail.newpaltz.edu](mailto:purtellr1@hawkmail.newpaltz.edu)****Interviewed by Self Monitor co-editor, Glenn Geher**

GG: Rachael, thanks so much for agreeing to be interviewed for the newsletter! I'm always encouraging students to shoot for above-and-beyond and I feel like you've totally taken this approach to your work here at New Paltz! What are some of the roles and activities that you've been part of during your time here?

RP: During my time here I was a dual-sport athlete on the varsity women's soccer and lacrosse teams. I won the Michelle Vargas Robin Memorial Award for soccer last year and I am currently listed on six single game, single season and career record boards for lacrosse. I am also an active member of Athletes Together. I have also spent eight semesters on our campus' student newspaper The New Paltz Oracle including three semesters as Editor-in-Chief. I have also held pseudo teaching and research assistantships with Dr. Janice Anderson and you (Dr. Glenn Geher) respectively. I am also currently employed as a closed captioning editor for Instructional Media Services and worked as a fitness monitor for the Athletic & Wellness Center for a year. I have also held four different internships over the past four years for Peace, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), StepOne Creative (a private advertising and marketing firm), Sports Information (athletic communications here on campus) and Jeff Beals (a congressional candidate last election cycle).

GG: As a student athlete, you've got a lot to balance. Please tell us about your experience as a student athlete, including the leadership roles you've held, as well as what kinds of attributes you've developed along the way.

RP: People always asked me how I've been able to manage all these roles, especially under the mental and physical stress of athletics. After four years, I finally figured out my answer: if you really love everything you're doing, you find a way. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it all. Regardless of titles, I have tried to be someone who leads by example and is approachable. I am more of a quiet look-what-I'm-doing type of leader, but I have also learned the importance of reaching out to people individually and building relationships with every member of my team. I always wanted to be the best, but I turned to every single one of the girls I played with and said, "come be the best with me."

GG: You and I share a strong interest in freedom of expression. Your role as editor-in-chief of the Oracle relates strongly to this value. What is your take on freedom of expression in a university community? Why is it so important? And what events have you seen during your time at New Paltz that have related to this topic?

RP: To be perfectly candid, I think freedom of speech is very subtly stifled on this campus. The campus is good about allowing and tolerating student demonstration, but does not promote diversity of thought and thus the campus' conservative minority often remain silent. Diversity of thought and freedom of expression are extremely important because you can not truly know what you stand for and what your values are until you have to justify and defend them. It is important to educate oneself on all types of views and then decide which ones you most closely align with. Some topics and events that have most deeply affected and drove me to action during my work as Editor-in-Chief include, most notably, the #MeToo movement, the free speech controversy on college campuses, the 2016 election, immigration, mass shootings, Title IX reform and the current mental health crisis.

GG: What are some of the skills that you've developed as a psychology major here at SUNY New Paltz?

RP: My majors actually compliment each other well. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I began my college career but I knew that I wanted to work with people in some capacity. Communications and Public Relations helped me understand how people behave and communicate while psychology helped me understand why people do what they do and the underlying psychological mechanisms and processes that contribute. Psychology in particular has also greatly enhanced my research skills.

GG: You've been an advocate for student athletes to stand together, and I know that many people in our community appreciate your work on this front. Please tell us what this initiative is about, and what lessons you'd like to impart to current and future students in our community?

*continued on next page*



**Student Spotlight: Rachael Purtell** *continued*

RP: Athletes Together is a coalition of student-athletes with the goal to destigmatize mental health among our own athletic community and college athletics in general. You wouldn't go to practice with a sprained ankle and we want student-athletes and coaches to start taking mental health as seriously as physical health. My work in this club focuses on coping with and recovering from traumatic events. I created an anecdotal video about my own experience with trauma at a young age and the incredibly humbling experience that was my recovery. For student-athletes and any other person watching this video, I want them to know that they are not alone. Support is out there, but you must take responsibility for your own to mental health to pursue it. You can't wait for someone to come fix you and make life easier, but if you're willing to work to better and care for yourself you will be met with well-deserved and overwhelming support. For a lot of people, what I went through is the end of the world; but if I can be an example of why it doesn't have to be and it helps one person, then it is worth sharing my story.

GG: What are three pieces of advice you have for brand-new psychology majors at SUNY New Paltz?

RP: My advice for brand-new psychology majors is as follows: build relationships with your professors because networking is an incredibly important skill; pursue extracurricular opportunities that align with your academic endeavors, if you can think of a club I can almost guarantee it exists in some capacity on this campus... it doesn't matter what it is but do something!; and lastly, love every minute... even when you don't.

GG: What is next for the formidable Rachael Purtell?

RP: Beginning in August I will begin a Graduate Assistantship and pursue a research masters in Communication Theory (M.A.) at West Virginia University. My research interests include social justice issues, particularly sexism and sexual harassment in the workplace and in athletics.

GG: Thanks so much for taking the time to respond to these questions. And keep up the amazing work. Godspeed, Rachael!

RP: Thank you and all the people I have met and worked with here at New Paltz. It truly was an experience like no other and I will forever bleed orange and blue... Here we go Hawks!

**Heterodox Psychology Conference  
By Julie Planke, Psychology Alumna  
& Graduate Student**

Last August, my mentor Dr. Glenn Geher and I had the unique opportunity of attending the first-ever conference for heterodox approaches to psychology, the Heterodox Psychology Workshop. Heterodoxy in psychology is any perspective in the field that does not conform to the traditional prevailing narratives and orthodoxies of the field. This conference was the culmination of a movement serving to increase viewpoint diversity within psychology - a field that has become startlingly biased in terms of ideology.

*Why* is maintaining some heterodox approaches in the field of Psychology important? To briefly illustrate, in 2012 a renowned psychologist presented findings that compellingly supported the existence of stereotype threats and gender. On an AP calculus exam, when gender was asked at the beginning, boys outperformed girls. When gender was asked at the end, girls outperformed boys. So the success of young girls in our country is hindered by the pervasive societal stereotypes regarding gender differences in the STEM fields, right? Well, guess what... the claims were completely FALSE! Why was our field so receptive to the findings initially without question though? Put simply, the finding "fit" with the social and political viewpoints of the field. The lack of sociopolitical diversity in Psychology is equivalent to putting giant blinders on - scholars are allowing their biases to shape how they approach and conduct research.

This Heterodox Conference in 2018 opened up the dialogue, welcoming a plurality of perspectives. Unlike many other psychology conferences, a right-leaning scholar (like myself) was not fearful to voice a perspective that may deviate from the norm. The Heterodox movement exists to assure that scientists go where the science takes them and not where their politics does, to paraphrase as one of the movement's founders Dr. Richard Redding. Now, along with Glenn, we are part of the executive conference committee working to organize the next event with the most heterodox folks in the field. At this event, you learn how to avoid the pitfalls of traditional orthodoxies and how to deal with and navigate pushback from others while doing so. Basically, how to successfully be a rabble-rousing scientists in pursuit of true knowledge advancement!

The next Heterodox Psychology Conference will be held in January 2020, and a call for paper and poster presentations will be released this fall. So maybe it is time to challenge some of your inherent biases, and think heterodox!





Dr. Nitza and the Disaster Practicum students on a break from restoring flood-damaged homes. Photo courtesy of Joseph Foster '19

## Disaster Practicum Students Rebuild Homes and Lives in Texas Floodplain

One of the most unique student offerings at SUNY New Paltz is the interdisciplinary Minor in Disaster Studies, which is housed within the Psychology Department and overseen by faculty from the college's Institute for Disaster Mental Health (IDMH). The Disaster Studies Minor introduces students to both practice and research in disaster response, with a focus on the emerging field of disaster mental health. Students study the impact of disaster on individuals and communities and are trained to respond to local and global disasters.

The Minor culminates in a capstone Disaster Practicum course which gives students hands-on experience working with local emergency response organizations – and, in the case of the Spring 2019 class, two weeks of intense labor in Coastal Bend, TX, replacing flooring and removing moldy drywall in homes that were still ruined by the extreme flooding caused in 2017 by Hurricane Harvey.

Through a collaboration with the non-profit organization All Hands and Hearts, IDMH Director Dr. Amy Nitza led nine SUNY New Paltz students (plus one from SUNY Potsdam) on a two-week long trip to this small community near Corpus Christ. The fieldwork was focused on restoring homes, not providing formal counseling, but students still had opportunities to learn about the psychological side of disaster response. The practicum included readings, discussion and reflective dialogue meant to prepare students for the interpersonal challenges of working with a community still living the aftereffects of a traumatic event. The work was often physically grueling, but the students persevered, knowing that by helping to rebuild these homes they were also helping the homeowners regain a sense of normalcy and stability they had been lacking for nearly two years since the disaster.

For more information about IDMH and the Disaster Studies Minor, please visit [www.newpaltz.edu/idmh](http://www.newpaltz.edu/idmh).

## Introducing the NEEPScast: The official podcast of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Psychology Society by Paige Blaine and Gianna Domato, New Paltz Psychology Majors

This is Paige and Gianna, the associate producers of the NEEPScast! We have been working on this project since the beginning of the Spring 2019 semester. The NEEPScast is a podcast featuring individuals associated with NEEPS, an intellectual society which started right here at SUNY New Paltz in 2007! A new episode of NEEPScast is produced almost every week and has featured some fantastic guests, such as Becky Burch (Oswego), Gordon Gallup (Albany), Daniel ruger (University of Michigan), and more! This podcast helps to disseminate information regarding NEEPS and evolutionary psychology as a whole. The NEEPScast was created to keep up interest in NEEPS when the conference is not being held, and to talk about all sorts of fascinating research and development in a way that is easy and accessible!

Paige has been keeping track of what speakers will appear on the podcast and when, organizing the calendar schedule of speakers for Glenn Geher (professor of psychology and executive producer/interviewer for NEEPScast), ensuring the guests and Glenn are on time for the podcasts, sending emails and doing guest outreach, and running all of the social media affiliated with the NEEPScast (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook). Gianna has been uploading and formatting each podcast for our host platform, Anchor, embedding the podcasts to the website, and updating the website's homepage, haiku page (which includes evolution-inspired haikus written by guests of the NEEPScast), and informational pages for guests. The experience of producing an actual podcast has helped us develop several technical and organizational skills that will help us in all kinds of ways in our futures! We look forward to continuing the NEEPScast with Glenn and cannot wait to see what other guests and opportunities come from this project!

### From NP to Ph.D.

Kudos to the following students who have been accepted into doctoral programs!

- Lauren Fennimore (MA, 2019) will enter the PhD program in School Psychology at the University of Memphis
- Alec Goldstein (BA, 2019) will enter the PhD program in School Psychology at Syracuse University
- Nathaniel Pickering (MA, 2019) will enter the PhD program in Counseling Psychology at Fordham University

### Congratulations to the Spring 2019 Psychology Students of Excellence!

#### Undergraduate:

Juliana Arango  
Louis Brown  
Angelina Carroll  
Eleanor Condelles  
Alison Cooper  
Katherine Dobosh  
Stephanie Freer  
Alec Goldstein  
Melissa Greiser  
Christina Krause  
Danielle Lukaszewski  
Whitney Martabano  
Emily Passik  
Puja Patel  
Rachael Purtell  
Kanjira Rodriguez  
Elee Wolf-Sonkin

#### Graduate:

Lauren Fennimore  
Julie Planke  
Erin Koonz  
Karensa Mingione  
Dan Nadler  
Gabrielle Phillips  
Lara Voloto  
Adriana Rudovic

Alison Cooper, Alec Goldstein, Danielle Lukaszewski, Julie Planke, Gabrielle Phillips, and Adriana Rudovic were also awarded the President's Outstanding Student Award.

Their accomplishments make us proud!



SUNY New Paltz President Don Christian addressing Liberal Arts & Sciences graduates at the 2019 Commencement Ceremony, with Psychology Department HQ, Wooster Hall, in the background

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Return to campus this October  
for the 2019 Alumni Reunion!

For details about this year's event, go to  
<https://www.newpaltz.edu/reunion-2018/>

What are YOU up to? Please send your news to [geherg@newpaltz.edu](mailto:geherg@newpaltz.edu), [vermeulk@newpaltz.edu](mailto:vermeulk@newpaltz.edu), or [raskinj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:raskinj@newpaltz.edu) to be included on the department website and in next year's newsletter.

And you can follow department news at any time in our online blog:

<https://hawksites.newpaltz.edu/psychology/>