

the Standard Deviation

Official Newsletter of the Manhattan College Department of Psychology

March 2017

Chair's Welcome:



Following our inaugural issue of *the Standard Deviation*, we continue to strive to give majors and minors an inside scoop on what's going on in the Department. Make sure you check out the interesting topics, our faculty highlight, recent accomplishments, and our alumni spotlight!

Enjoy a wonderful and safe Spring Break!

--Dr. Moore



Course Spotlight:



Cultural Psychology (PSYC 348)

Taught by Dr. Nuwan Jayawickreme, *Cultural Psychology* takes the position that broad human similarities exist, but that there is also vast psychological variation that is observed across human groups. This course considers current theories and empirical research on culture, race, and ethnicity, and examines evidence suggesting that psychological processes are culture-and context-dependent. *This course also fulfills a non-Western culture requirement for the School of Liberal Arts core.

**Fall 2017: Offered Tuesdays and Fridays, 11:00-12:15

Faculty Focus



Dr. Maria Maust-Mohl
Assistant Professor

***What is the focus of your research?**

The primary focus of my research is animal behavior and communication. I have been studying hippos to describe their vocal signals and behavior, and I am examining the adaptations they may share with their close relatives, the cetaceans (dolphins and whales). I am also examining giraffe behavior and communication at the Bronx Zoo, and I am developing new research questions involving the dolphins in Bimini. In addition, I am interested in animal cognition and humans' perceptions of animal thinking.

***What do you do when you're not teaching or doing research?**

Outside of school and research, I enjoy spending time with my family and cherishing every moment with my two little girls who are 3 and 10 months. I also love to go to the movies, aquariums or the zoo, and I try to travel whenever I can, especially to the beach.

***Fun questions! What book are you reading right now? What is your can't-miss TV show? Have you seen any recent movies?**

I have been reading the book "The Goldfinch" for a little while because I tend to read at night but will fall asleep! Some of my favorite TV shows include "The Walking Dead", "Game of Thrones" and "Face Off", and I like the new show "Legion". The most recent movie I saw in the theater was "Split", but I have also watched quite a few Disney movies with my older daughter.

***Where did you go to school?**

I received my PhD from the Graduate Center of CUNY in Biopsychology and Behavioral Neuroscience.

***What psychology classes do you teach?**

I typically teach Roots Psychology: First Year Seminar, Statistics, Research Methods, Cognition and Learning, and Sensation and Perception.

***Can you tell us more about your Study Abroad Course in the Bahamas?**

This summer 2017 will be the third time Manhattan College students will be traveling to Bimini, Bahamas to study the behavior and communication of spotted and bottlenose dolphins. The Bahamas project dolphin program is unique in that students gain first hand experience conducting research while swimming with wild dolphins. Students register for Sensation and Perception (PSYC 367) and will learn about the sensory systems of humans, dolphins and other species. The program is full of exciting experiences. It's not too late to sign up, so let me know if you are interested in more info!



Recent Faculty Research Topics!

**** Effects of organizational culture on decision-making and employee attitudes**

****The impact of coping with discrimination**

****Using cultural scripts to communicate mental illness in non-Western cultures**

****Bullying and factors related to bullying among children, teens, and athletes**

****Animal behavior and communication, including how animals adapt to different environments**

****Aspects of shapes that are judged as beautiful**

****Mother-adolescent conflict narratives and self-competencies**

****Women's experiences of street harassment and catcalling**

****Mindfulness and emotion regulation processes within both clinical practice and performance practice**

Announcements!

****It's almost time for Fall 2017 registration! Registration begins on April 1st. Please sign up with your psychology advisor ahead of time, so you can best meet your Fall scheduling needs.**

****Want to get involved in faculty-led research programs? Now's the time to reach out to faculty to form these relationships. You'll need to get onboard with a faculty member before advising time to be considered for a research assistantship. Because it's a selective process, don't wait too long, or spots will be taken!**

Did You Know?



Dr. Jay Friedenber

-He recently published a book entitled, “Humanity’s Future: How Technology Will Change Us”.

Dr. Martha Mendez-Baldwin

-She was selected by student-athletes to be recognized at the 6th Borough Bridge Program, and also provided great advise on parenting in NY Metro Parents magazine.

Dr. Kelly Marin

-Her valuable research on rumination and self-esteem was highlighted in *Psychology Today*, which was based on her newest publication in the journal *Memory*.

Dr. Zella Moore

-She just published a book chapter on working with transnational professional athletes, and published an article in the *Journal of Forensic Psychology*.

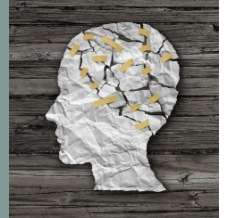
Kehana Bonagura

-The senior psychology major was awarded the Broderick Medal for Psychology by our department! Go Ke!

Greg Inzinna, Andrew Fontaine, Kehana Bonagura

-These exceptional psychology majors are finalists for the coveted School of Liberal Arts Medal.

Alumni Spotlight



**Ms. Jessie Wallace, M.S.
School Psychologist**

Ms. Jessie Wallace is a proud Manhattan College graduate. Majoring in psychology, she earned her BA degree, with honors, in 2002. After graduating, she attended Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts where she received her Master's of Science degree and Certificate of Advance Graduate Study in school psychology. Ms. Wallace returned to Westchester County, New York where she completed her school internship in the Pelham Public Schools. Following her advanced schooling, she was hired as a school psychologist in the Rye Neck Public Schools, where she worked with elementary, middle, and high school aged students.

Ms. Wallace works in the Yorktown Central School District as a school psychologist, where she has worked for the past eight years. She initially worked at the middle school and is presently responsible for collaborating with the school-based team to meet the various educational needs of 4th and 5th graders. Ms. Wallace has also obtained her Permanent New York State Certification, as well as National Certification, as a school psychologist. Recently, Ms. Wallace transitioned to working as an educational consultant to support families who need assistance navigating the public school educational system. She possesses extensive knowledge on New York State Regulations in regards to the special education process, and is exceptionally well versed in conducting psychological testing, implementing behavioral interventions, and providing social/emotional goal development to support the needs of students at all developmental levels. Ms. Wallace is proud of her continued work with school professionals, families, community resources, and of course, her students. Her future goals include seeking an additional educational Master's degree, and to hopefully work as an adjunct professor at Manhattan College in the near future! Look for Ms. Wallace's class soon!

Faculty at a Glance



Full-time Faculty:

Kim Fairchild, Ph.D.

Jay Friedenberg, Ph.D.

Nuwan Jayawickreme, Ph.D.

Arno Kolz, Ph.D.

Kelly Marin, Ph.D.

Maria Maust-Mohl, Ph.D.

Martha Mendez-Baldwin, Ph.D.

Zella Moore, Psy.D.

Danielle Young, Ph.D.

Adjunct Faculty:

Faith Florer, Ph.D.

Stephen Keolamphu, Ph.D.

James Reidel, Ph.D.

Robert Rivera, M.A.

Asghar Sajadian, Ph.D.

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Learn more about our department on our homepage:

<https://manhattan.edu/academics/schools-and-departments/school-of-liberal-arts/.psychology-dept/index.php>

Something you'd like to see in an upcoming issue of *the Standard Deviation*? Let us know!

Email: zella.moore@manhattan.edu