44th Annual Graduate Awards Banquet

Thursday, April 25, 2024
5:00pm – 7:00 pm
Student Center East, Room 301
2024: FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The annual awards banquet provides the Department of Psychology with a special opportunity to honor those graduate students whose scholarly and educational achievements have been truly outstanding.

The publication of articles in leading journals, the presentation of papers at (virtual) national and regional conferences, and the garnering of research fellowships or grants represent high levels of scholarly achievement. The accomplishments reflect the contributions to our department and to the field of psychology. Indeed, they are the hallmarks of the independent scientist/scholar in whose training we take great pride.

The special awards, named for esteemed former colleagues of the department or graduates of our undergraduate/graduate program, honor graduate students whose research and instructional contributions have been exceptional: the Jamie Carter Research Resource Award, Christopher B. Keys Award for Early Outstanding Research Achievement, Leonard D. Eron Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Scholarly Accomplishment, Harry S. Upshaw Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Dr. David B. Henry Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award.

In addition, the Michael J. Piorkowski Award recognizes a graduate student in Brain and Cognitive Psychology whose characteristics include “creativity, strength of character, and a love of people.”

Everyone who obtains a graduate degree has completed an educational objective of considerable magnitude. The listing of degree recipients acknowledges this significant accomplishment.

Congratulations to all and best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

Jamie Roitman
Department Head
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICATIONS IN REFEREED JOURNALS OR BOOK CHAPTERS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTINGUISHED AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILESTONE COMPLETIONS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIAL AWARDS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWARD DESCRIPTIONS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HONOREES

Publications in Refereed Journals or Book Chapters

Stacey Cabrera

Andrea DaViera


Rebecca Denson

Lena Hildenbrand


Jennifer K. Hoots


Louis Ingram

Mary Katz

Nathan McDowell

Lindsay Novak


Alison Sklenar


Paul Teas


Logan M. Tufty
Elizabeth Wenzel


Clarisa Wijaya


Sinem Yilmaz

Presentations

Lane Adams


Michael Cervantes


Andrea DaViera

DaViera, A. L., Benitez Cruz, C., (in press). Anti-oppressive sociopolitical praxis: How community psychology can be a better “critical friend” to communities amidst sociopolitical crises. The Community Psychologist

Lena Hildenbrand


Jennifer K. Hoots


Mary Katz


Nathan McDowell


Taylor Miller


Neharika Nair


Nair, N., & Littman, R. (2024). Do they see me as a victim? How the (meta)perceptions of victimhood relate to intergroup attitudes and support for violence. [Data blitz]. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference, San Diego, California, United States.


* Indicates co-first authors.

Lindsay Novak


Allison Sklenar


Lindsay Novak


Paul Teas
Description: I led the research review and authored the sections on disinformation and ideological polarization, highlighting evidence-based strategies for legislative consideration.


Logan M. Tufty


Elizabeth Wenzel


Clarisa Wijaya
Ad-hoc reviewing: Implementation Science Communications; Journal for Medical Internet Research

Sinem Yilmaz
SPSP - Poster presentation on my research "Belief Bias" and MPA talk on my research "Political Belief Bias" and getting my MA
Distinguished Awards and Fellowships

Stacey Cabrera
UIC Graduate College - Pipeline to Inclusive Faculty (PIF) Fellowship - Awarded Fall 2023

Andrea DaViera
*Offered two Post-Doctoral Fellowships
(1) Tulane University Violence Prevention Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship, offer received March 2024 (I accepted the position)
(2) Northeastern University Future Faculty Postdoctoral Fellowship, offer received April 2024 (declined the position)

Rebecca Denson
T32 Cancer Health Equity and Career Development Program (T32CA057699) Pred
Role: Pre-Doctoral Fellow
Funding Period: 08/2023-08/2024

Award for Graduate Research, UIC (December 2023)
Graduate Student Council Travel Award, UIC (June 2023)

Mary Katz
Honorable Mention - 2024 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
2023 - Psychology Diversity Research Award (PDRA)

Neharika Nair
Provost's Graduate Internship Award, 11 May 2023

Paul Teas
UIC Graduate Student Council Travel Award ($500) - 2023
International Society for Justice Research Travel Fellowship ($1,000) – 2023

Elizabeth Wenzel
F31 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship from the National Institute of Mental Health (F31MH130077). May 2022-May 2024.

Clarisa Wijaya
2023 - Student Travel Award, Dissemination and Implementation Science Special Interest Group, Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
2023 - Student Conference Award, University of Illinois at Chicago ($800)

Shiva Edalatian Zakerifor
2023 - UIC's Award for Graduate Research (AGR)
Milestone Completions

Masters Prospectus
Michael Cervantes
Vanessa Diaz
Samantha Ellis
Maya Chan Morales
Briana Galindo
Alfred Rodriguez

Masters defense
Kyla Ford
Hanna Ghalyoun
Onyedikachi Ebiringah
Felicia Gutierrez
Julia Lejeune
Nathan McDowell
Catalina Ordorica
Sinem Yilmaz

Preliminary Exam
Ramón Arvizu-Sevilla
Lena Hildenbrand
Pauline Levy
Lindsay Novak
Paul Teas

Dissertation Proposal
Special thank you to...
2023-24 COGS Student Representatives
Rebecca Denson
Rachel Donka

2022-23 DAC-SAB
Maya Chan Morales
Catalina Ordorica

2023-24 Black Scholar Series
Loretta Hsueh
Dennis Sparta

Statistics Assistant
Taylor Strickland Miller

Program TA's
BCS – Katrina Wuglater
Clinical - Shiva Edalatian Zakeri
CADP – Carlos Benitez Cruz
SOC – Vlada Trofimchuk

Rebecca Denson
Samantha Hurh
Lindsay Novak
Rachel Schroeder

PhD defense
Fini Chang
Ariela Kaiser
Jennifer K. Hoots
Katherine Paltell

Clinical Internship
Julia Brooks - Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL, Neuropsychology
Shiva Edalatian Zakeri - Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems, Exton, PA, General Psychology
Maria Granros - Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, IL, Pediatric Psychology
Franchesca Kuhney - University of Pennsylvania Dept. of Psychiatry, Philadelphia, PA, Child/Developmental Disabilities
Nellie Shippen - Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL, Child, Adolescent, and Pediatric Psychology

Personal Achievements
Andrea DaViera, Newly engaged
Neharika Nair, Co-founded Social and Personality Psychology Journal Club
Logan M. Tufty, Celebrated 4th year Wedding Anniversary Lindsay Novak, Successfully taught a (non-practicum) section of PSCH 343 as head instructor
Special Awards

**Eron Award for Outstanding Scholarly Accomplishment**

1990  David B. Henry  
1991  Loretta J. Stalans  
1992  Not awarded  
1993  Not awarded  
1994  William G. Shadel  
1995  Walter D. Scott  
1996  Suzanne L. Davis  
1997  Alison Miller  
1998  Jason Schklar  
1999  Nilly Rafaeli-Mohr  
2000  Tamara Haegerich  
2001  David J. Therriault  
2002  Sharon M. Wasco  
2003  Jessica Cook  
2004  Not Awarded  
2005  Henrietta Filipas  
2006  James McAnany  
2007  Ben Jee  
2008  Jennifer Watling Neal  
2009  Marina Fiori  
2010  Adrienne J. Heinz  
2011  Cynthia Nadjowsk  
2012  Jessica Salerno  
2013  Randi Schuster  
2014  Andrew Jarosz  
2015  Stephanie Gorka  
2016  Natania Crane  
2017  Amy Peters  
2018  Gregory Bartoszek  
2019  Courtney Zulaf  
2020  Matt McCurdy  
2021  Elizabeth Boots  
2022  Carter Funkhouser  
2023  Franchesca Kuhney  
2024  Elizabeth Wenzel

**Upshaw Award for Excellence in Teaching**

1992  David B. Henry  
1993  Theresa M. Schultz  
1994  Pamela I. Dallob  
1995  Paula Smith  
1996  Mark R. Pitzer  
1997  Nicole Schnopp-Wyatt  
1998  Kimberley Duff  
1999  Julie Tillema  
2000  Courtney Ahrens & Bonnie Rosenblatt  
2001  Bonnie Rosenblatt  
2002  Kari Nyss-Carris  
2003  Thomas D. Griffin  
2004  Trina Kershaw  
2005  Julie Scheckter  
2006  Tracy Caldwell  
2007  Robert Youmans  
2008  Susan Long  
2009  Jennifer Veilleux  
2010  Travis R. Ricks  
2011  E. Sam Winer & Traci Weinstein  
2012  Steve N. DuBois  
2013  Not Awarded  
2014  Daniel Conybeare  
2015  Ryan Leach  
2016  Katie McCarthy  
2017  Spencer Campbell  
2018  Alex Jendrusina  
2019  Amber Kraft  
2020  Vinoad Dair Nas  
2021  Felix Pambuccian  
2022  Not Awarded  
2023  Kathryn Howard  
2024  Paul Teas

**Keys Award Early Outstanding Research Excellence**

2007  Justin St. Andre  
2008  Adrienne Heinz  
2009  Jessica Salerno  
2010  Lisa M. Alvy  
2011  Katherine Emerson  
2012  Laura Kuper  
2013  Stephanie Gorka  
2014  Alexander Sokolovsky  
2015  Sarah Hernandez  
2016  Huiting Liu  
2017  Matthew McCurdy  
2018  Marbella Uriostegui  
2019  Elizabeth Boots  
2020  Carter Funkhouser  
2021  Katherine Paltell  
2022  Rebecca Denson  
2023  Melanie Tran  
2024  Neharika Nair
Michael J. Piorkowski Award

1997 Mark R. Pitzer
1998 David Cook
1999 Holly Rice
2000 David Therriault
2001 Mark G. Orr
2002 Michael F. Bunting
2003 Tim Miura
2004 Ivan K. Ash
2005 Rob Youmans
2006 James McAnany
2007 Leah Rubin
2008 Gregory Colflesh
2009 Jason Braasch
2010 Travis Ricks
2011 Patrick Cushen
2012 Stephanie Ebner
2013 Andrew Jarosz
2014 Dennis Amodeo
2015 Allison Jaeger
2016 Jacklynn Fitzgerald
2017 Andriana Christofalos
2018 Marta Mielicki
2019 Sushi Shrikanth
2020 Tricia Guerrero
2021 Joshua Buffington
2022 Lena Hildenbrand
2023 Rachel Donka
2024 Taylor Miller

Jamie Carter Award

2015 Carlos Salas & Alexander Sokolovsky
2016 Not awarded
2017 Hillary Rowe
2018 Not awarded
2019 Andriana Christofalos & Marie Chesaniuk
2020 Kathryn Howard
2021 Not Awarded
2022 Franchesca Kuhney
2023 Rebecca Denson
2024 Vanessa Diaz
   Krista Miloslavich
   Neharika Nair
   Marina Ridchenko

Dr. David B. Henry Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

2021 Kelly Burke
2022 Jennifer Hoots
2023 Joshua Lovett
   Nellie Shippen
2024 Pauline Levy
Award Descriptions

Jamie Carter Research Resource Award
UIC alum Jamie Carter, in appreciation of her education in the Psychology Department, established this award to further their graduate student training by purchasing a research tool, e.g. special software package or small piece of equipment, attend a training workshop or travel to a conference in which the student will present. The awardee must be in good academic standing and demonstrate an active and productive research career. Students may apply for this award on a rolling basis. Funding limited to availability.

Leonard D. Eron Award for Outstanding Scholarly Accomplishment
Established on the occasion of Leonard Eron’s retirement, the award is made annually to the graduate student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago who best exemplifies the tradition of scholarship and scientific contributions made by Leonard Eron. Every graduate student registered during the current academic year in the Department is eligible for consideration for the award in that year, including students who completed all of their requirements for the Ph.D. since the date of the previous year’s award. Apart from exceptional circumstances, graduate students will not be eligible if they have received the award before or if more than two years have passed between the date of their prospectus approval and the date of their dissertation approval. The major criterion for the award is evidence of accomplishment in scholarly research. The primary source of this evidence is papers authored by the nominee (first author) that are judged by the Selection Committee to have the potential for a major impact on the field.

Dr. David B. Henry Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
Dr. David B. Henry had a lifetime commitment to education and mentoring students. He had with a real talent in making complex methods and concepts understandable for students. Dr. Henry’s passion and commitment to educating students started as a graduate student teaching assistant in the Department Psychology at UIC. To honor his incredible support of students and his high standards that brought out the best of students, the UIC Department of Psychology will annually present the Dr. David B. Henry Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. In honor of Dr. Henry, the award recognizes the significant work of a graduate student who serves as teaching assistant that exemplifies a commitment to the highest standards of educating students. Each year, an awardee will receive $1000 and a plaque. There may be multiple winners in exceptional circumstances.

Christopher B. Keys Award for Early Outstanding Research Achievement
Established on the occasion of Christopher Keys’ retirement, this award is made annually to a 1st through 3rd year graduate student who is in good standing in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago whose work best exemplifies the tradition of innovative, adventurous research conducted by Christopher Keys. The major criterion for the award is a high-quality research project that is completed in substantial part at UIC. Special consideration is given to an innovative research that breaks new ground theoretically, methodologically, empirically, or practically. The research has to be completed, so no works in progress, abstracts, etc. can be accepted, though it does not have to defended or in press yet.

Michael J. Piorkowski Award
In memory of their son, Michael J. Piorkowski, Dr. Geraldine and Mr. Frank Piorkowski have endowed an award to the University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Psychology. The purpose of the award, in the words of his parents, is to "honor the memory of our son, Michael J. Piorkowski, and to encourage the pursuit of psychology to a graduate student who displays intellectual curiosity, creativity, strength of character, and love of people-characteristics that Michael had in abundance." Michael's graduate career in psychology was abruptly ended by a terminal illness. This award is given to a deserving student in the areas of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

Harry S. Upshaw Award for Excellence in Teaching
Established on the occasion of Harry Upshaw’s retirement, the award is made annually to the graduate student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago who best exemplifies Harry Upshaw’s dedication to teaching excellence. Every graduate student registered during the current academic year in the Department is eligible for consideration for the award in that year including students who completed all of their requirements for the PhD since the date of the previous year’s award. In addition, the graduate student must have completed all of the requirements of the Practicum in Teaching and be committed to an academic career. The major criterion for the award is evidence of outstanding accomplishment in teaching.
We wish congratulations to all of our students for their scholarly pursuits and achievements. Special thanks to UIC LAS, Faculty, Staff, Students, and all our donors who have made these awards possible.