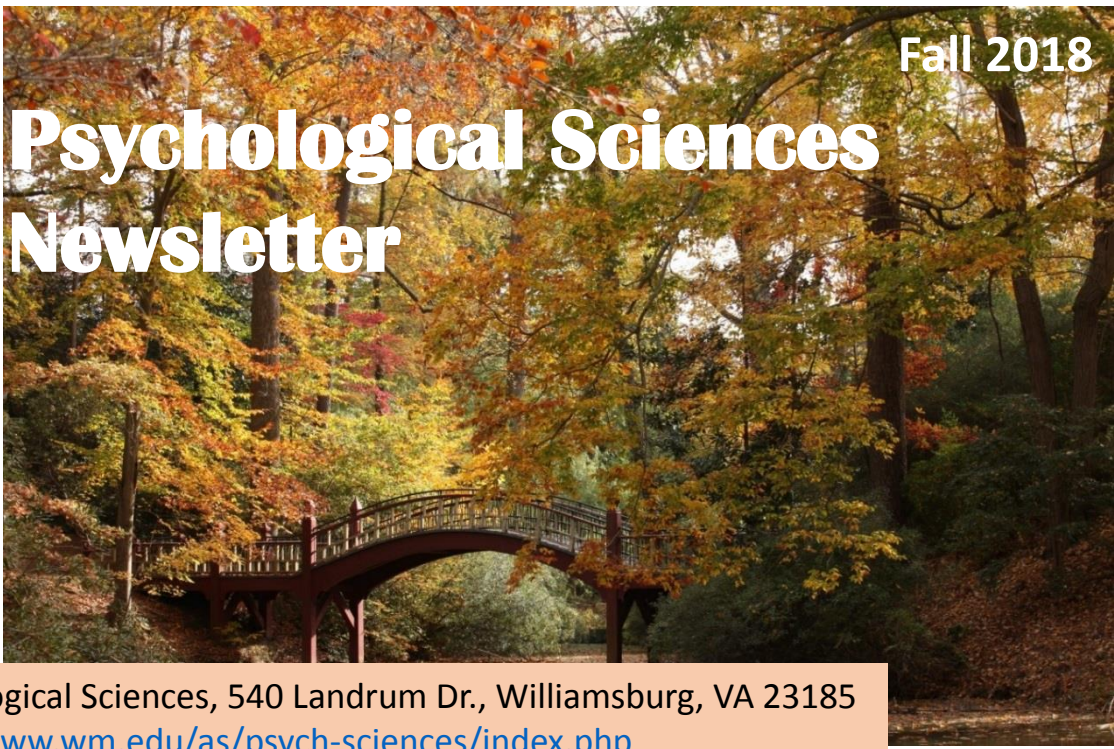


Fall 2018

Psychological Sciences Newsletter



Psychological Sciences, 540 Landrum Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23185

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Current Students,

I hope that your Fall is off to a good start. Our semester has been another exciting one, with 337 current majors, 27 students graduating at the end of the semester, and 149 students expected to graduate in May. In addition, our cohort of 6 students in our M.S. program are making solid progress toward defending their thesis, and our 9 incoming students are already making important contributions to the success of our department.

As it turns out, I am writing this letter from a plane as I travel to the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting. Two students from my lab are able to join me and present their findings at this conference. There are around 30,000 participants at this meeting. This experience exposes students to such an incredible variety of neuroscience research from around the world. In some cases, students are meeting with prospective graduate school advisors. The opportunity for one-on-one interactions with prospective advisors along with graduate students already working with the prospective faculty advisor provides invaluable information as our students choose which graduate program to attend. My favorite part of the conference is re-connecting with former W&M students. One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is hearing about the success of students who were in my lab or in my classes. Last year, one of my first honors students was starting her first year in a faculty position and another one of my students is applying for faculty positions this year. If this meeting is like previous Society for Neuroscience meetings, I will see W&M alumni who have moved into a variety of different career paths, such as advocating for mental health awareness, working for a pharmaceutical or biotechnology company, or working within the book and journal publishing field. I appreciate the opportunity to hear updates about how things are going with our alumni and about how these alumni apply the skills learned at W&M to their careers. I hope that you will consider giving us an update about how you are doing (https://www.wm.edu/as/psych-sciences/alumni/alumni_updates/index.php) and consider joining our Alumni Network (<https://www.wm.edu/as/psych-sciences/studentresources/psychology-alumni-network/index.php>).

As we gear up for the end of the semester and finals, I wish you a warm and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Josh Burk, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychological Sciences

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2018 Homecoming

Thank you to those who were able to attend Homecoming in October! It was great to see you again and catch up with you. Some highlights of Homecoming include:



Brian Anyakoha (2018 Student Commencement Speaker) with Cheryl Dickter and Joshua Burk



Alumna Kate Major Foreman with her family



Alumnus Mason Montgomery with his partner, and alumna Danielle Thomas



Psychological Sciences reception area with full buffet table

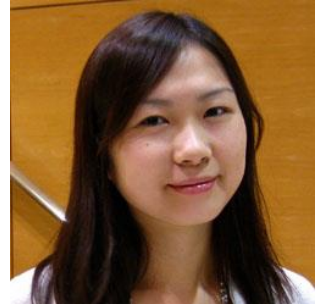
You can check out more photos of Homecoming here:

<https://www.wm.edu/as/psych-sciences/alumni/homecoming/homecoming-memories/2018-homecoming/index.php>

2018 New Faculty

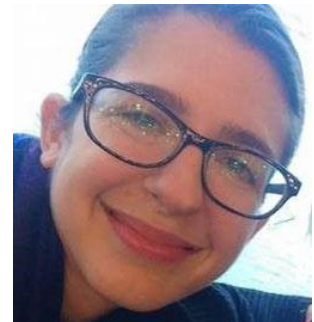
The Department of Psychological Sciences welcomes three new faculty members this year:

Dr. Xiaowen Xu, Ph.D., joins us as an assistant professor. She earned her Ph.D. in Social/Personality Psychology from the University of Toronto, after which she accepted a postdoctoral position in Psychology at the University of Toronto before coming to William & Mary. Her research focuses on personality and individual differences that underlie political ideology and meaning-making. She is teaching Elementary Statistics, Personality Theory, and Motivation and Emotion. She currently works with one graduate student and three undergraduate students on her research, and is looking forward to having more students join her lab!



Xiaowen Xu

Dr. Sandra Kauffman, Ph.D., joins us as a visiting assistant professor. She earned her Ph.D. in Psychology with a concentration in Cognitive Psychology from the University of South Florida. Professor Kauffman's research focuses on judgment and decision-making. Her teaching assignments include Cognitive Psychology and Physiological Psychology.



Sandra Kauffman

Dr. Ilan Shrira, Ph.D., joins us as a visiting assistant professor. He earned his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Georgia. Professor Shrira's research focuses on cross-cultural differences and health disparities. His teaching assignments include Introduction to Psychology as a Social Science and Social Psychology.



Ilan Shrira

You can learn more about these faculty members by visiting our Faculty Directory page: <https://www.wm.edu/as/psych-sciences/facultydirectory/index.php>

Would You Be Willing to Share Your Success?

Here in the Department of Psychological Sciences we try to show our undergrads some of the various paths to professional success for psych majors and of course that success can be within psychology or in a variety of other areas – public service, education, health care, law, etc. Once or twice each academic year we bring alumni to campus to meet with undergrads to discuss their own professional development to help students see various opportunities. Would you be willing to be considered for this? If so, please submit your CV or resume to psychology@wm.edu .