It has been a busy year and we are happy to welcome our new doctoral students, as well as our new faculty, Dr. Carryl Baldwin (Human Factors) who is our Carl and Rozina Cassat Distinguished Professor and Director of the Regional Institute in Aging, Dr. Lisa Vangsness (Human Factors), and Dr. Quan Lei (Human Factors). Dr. Baldwin is joining us from George Mason University where she was the Director of their Human Factors Doctoral Program. Her research focuses on auditory processing and driving. Dr. Vangsness is a graduate of K-State University and her specialty area is judgment and difficulty. Dr. Quan Lei is completing a post doc at the University of California at Berkeley. His research interests are in low visual ability.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 12 doctoral students graduated with their PhDs.

The Applied Psychology Research Institute is flourishing, having been awarded another contract with General Atomics. Human Factors is 29 years old and is our oldest doctoral program. We are proud of all of our Ph.D. programs and the graduates who have come through the psychology department.

We are super excited that Human Factors was reaccredited for another six years (2019-2025). I want to thank the Human Factors faculty and the committee for their hard work.

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It was truly a group effort. Additionally, we are so proud of our student chapter of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society for achieving gold status for 11 years in a row!

Our Community Psychology Program received a bronze level award for student membership at the Society for Community Research and Action Conference in Chicago.

We have continued to be a leader in the University by bringing in grant dollars, publishing in top journals, and presenting our research nationally and internationally.

This year, we recognized our outstanding alumni and graduate students. We held our fourth Annual Psychology Awards Ceremony at which we recognized Dr. Traci Hart (Human Factors) from the Applied Psychology Research Institute at Wichita State, Dr. Mariann Suarez (Community-Clinical) from the University of Central Florida, and Dr. Cari Ahlers-Schmidt (Community) who is the Director of Research for Infant Birth and Survival at the University of Kansas Medical School-Wichita. Graduate students were also honored, including: Christal Patzer (Human Factors), Kyle Rexer (Community-Clinical), and Alissa Bey (Community). The Psychology Graduate Student Organization also recognized outstanding faculty and Dr. Joel Suss was honored for his exemplary service, mentoring, and student advising.

We also recognized our outstanding staff this year, thanking Ms. Marci Nelson and Ms. Judy Barnes for the outstanding contributions they make every day to keep the psychology department thriving.

The psychology department continues to: 1) provide accessible education to our undergraduates and 2) address pressing community and industry research needs. We saw an incredible number of campus visitors this year, as psychology is a very popular major across a variety of students, including adult learners and those seeking degrees online. We hope to build upon this momentum of growth and change.

I want to encourage the faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates to continue to do good work. You have made the reputation of the department what it is today—phenomenal!

I want to acknowledge the contributions of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology that inducted new members at WSU this year.

Psychology is always shining. Three of our emeritus faculty were inducted into the Academy for Effective Teaching: Dr. Paul Ackerman, Dr. Louis Medvene, and Dr. Greg Meissen.
The Community Psychology Association (CPSYA) has been extremely busy this academic year.

In the spring semester, CPSYA held a Pizza and Politics discussion that focused on Gun Rights vs Gun Safety and featured Dr. Michael Birzer from the Criminal Justice Department. It was a great turnout and a very interesting discussion.

CPSYA also wrote an editorial on what constitutes consent that was featured in WSU’s The Sunflower.

In the Fall, CPSYA held Community Exploration Day, an event that informs students about Community Psychology as a field. Community Exploration Day featured videos, powerpoints, conversations with faculty and graduate students, and food.

Alumni are doing great things

Our alumni of the Community Psychology Doctoral Program are doing great things all over the country and in the local community. Here are a few exceptional examples: Dr. Kyrah Brown, Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas at Arlington, earned the Early Career Award presented by the Society for Community Research Action (Division 27) of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Ashlee Lien was promoted to Associate Professor at SUNY Old Westbury—congratulations Dr. Lein! Dr. Kate Witsman is doing great work for Homeland Security.

2018-2019 Graduates

Dr. Refika Sarionder currently works at the Community Engagement Institute.

Dr. Hannah White currently works as a Research Scientist at the Research Triangle Institute in North Carolina.

Dr. Julian DeDeaux currently works as a Research Scientist at the University of Kansas Medical School.

Dr. Brittany Brest currently works as a Parole Officer at the Sedgwick County Sheriffs Department and has plans to pursue a law degree in the future.

Dr. Emma Crabtree is currently the Director of Grants and Compliance at Catholic Charities.

Since 2012, WSU has awarded 35 PhDs in Community Psychology. Our alumni are making a huge contribution to the local
community and the world.

Congratulations goes to our 2019 Community Psychology Alumni of the Year winner, Dr. Cari Ahlers-Schmidt, who is the Director of Research at the University of Kansas Medical School-Wichita.

**We have magnificent graduate students.**

Emma Crabtree and Alissa Bey were our University Graduate Research Award winners during the 2018-2019 year. Congratulations!

We also would like to welcome our three outstanding incoming doctoral students for the 2019-2020 school year: Stormy Malone, Tasha Parker, and Adrianne Ralston.

We are super excited to have them join our Community Psychology program.

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**CLINICAL PROGRAM**

This spring, the Clinical Program was proud to present Dr. Mariann Suarez with its Alumna of the Year Award. Dr. Suarez is an Associate Professor at the Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida Health in Tampa and a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers. Kyle Rexer was recognized at the awards ceremony as the Graduate Student of the Year for his outstanding contributions to the clinical program and the department.

Beginning internships this summer are Yvonne Chaw at the University of Rochester Medical Center; Lucas Cylke at the University of Nevada-Reno Counseling Services; Kyle Rexer at the Memphis VA Medical Center; and Eric Richardson at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Finishing internships this summer, as well as graduating, are Anna Caroline Chinnes at the Wichita Collaborative Psychology Internship Program, with a primary placement at South Central Mental Health Center; and Jeff Swails at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Both have accepted postdocs: Anna Caroline in Florence, South Carolina at WellSpring Psychology Group, and Jeff at the Northport VA Medical Center in New York.

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Congratulations to our Human Factors program on another fantastic and productive year! Here is a glimpse of what we have achieved over the last year:

The Visual Perception & Cognition Lab, directed by Dr. Rui Ni, continues its active research on visual perception and cognition in 3D environments, perceptual learning, driving, and aging. Dr. Ni finished the 2nd year of his NIH grant and made significant progress on the project. He submitted an NIH R15 grant proposal in June. He is continuing his active collaboration with colleagues in other institutions on a variety of projects, including research on working memory, visual attention, depth perception, and perceptual learning. Dr. Ni is also actively involved in several NSF grant proposals collaborating with WSU colleagues, including faculty from Engineering, and Innovative Design.

Dr. Ryan Ringer joined the VPC Lab in October, 2018 as a post-doc, funded by the NIH grant. He has been actively involved in most of the research projects in the lab and has been helping Dr. Ni oversee the research project and supervise graduate students.

JP Plummer successfully finished his Ph.D. dissertation and will present his work at the HFES conference this November.

Brad Weber took a leave of absence to focus on his start-up company. Inga Sogaard is currently working on collecting data for her dissertation. Dominic Canare started his 6-month internship at Intel in Santa Clara, CA. Daniel Smith successfully passed his qualifying exam and finished his internship at Nike.

Finally, this fall the Program looks forward to adding its latest class of students, including Erah Ali from New York, Mouhamad Ballout from here in Wichita, Jonathan Larson from California, and Melissa Miller from Mississippi.
Bill Bui and Abbie Hutton, 2nd and 1st year graduate students, are working on their 2nd year projects.

Undergraduate RAs, Shivani Nagrecha, Carmen Resco, Matthew Pogue contributed to research.

The Human Automation Interaction Laboratory (HAIL), under the direction of Dr. Jibo He, finished upgrading their advanced driving simulator last year. With the generous support of Dr. Alex Chaparro and the department, we have acquired a SMART car in the yellow shocker color. Now, the advanced driving simulator has three projectors with a more immersive experience. The HAIL lab can conduct studies to investigate driver distraction, in-vehicle device design and evaluation, head-mounted display (HMD), connected vehicle, and autonomous vehicle applications.

Colton Turner graduated with the guidance of Barb Chaparro and Jibo He. Will Choi is going to defend his dissertation. Kirsten Crager is doing her 2nd internship at Facebook. Kevin Morales finished his 2nd year project (2YP), and Jasmine Granados passed her qualifying exam. The HAIL lab has finished their two NSF projects in the last three years.

The Applied Cognition & Expertise (ACE) Lab, directed by Dr. Joel Suss, has continued its research on expertise in applied domains. In exciting news, the lab will be acquiring a video-based law enforcement judgment-and-decision-making simulator. The simulator is part of a grant awarded by the National Institute of Justice that will investigate the effect of online cognitive-skill training on police officers' decision making.

6th-year graduate student Paul Misasi participated in the Doctoral Consortium at the International Naturalistic Decision Making conference in San Francisco in June 2019. After presenting his research ideas to the field's leading researchers, Paul received valuable feedback that will help him structure his dissertation proposal.

To advance their goal of working in games user research, 4th-year graduate students Adam Armijo and Alexis Raushel attended the Games User Research conference in San Francisco in March 2019. There, they got to meet the who's who of the industry. Alexis also designed and distributed a survey to learn what hiring managers look for in prospective games user researchers.
Second-year graduate student Monica Connelly received an honorable mention for her application for the National Science Foundation’s prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship Program. She proposed her 2YP involving studying weapon detection by law enforcement officers using biological motion as a cue. To realize the research, the ACE lab is collaborating with the Wichita Police Department and with Dr. Nils Hakansson (WSU Department of Biomedical Engineering). In fall 2018, Monica completed the 12-week Wichita–Sedgwick County Citizens Police Academy; she was elected class president and spoke at the graduation ceremony.

In spring 2018, Dr. Suss was fortunate to work with Dakota Scott, a promising undergrad from Emporia State University, Kansas. Dakota completed a research project assessing anticipation skill in shoot/don't shoot situations; this built on Alexis Raushel's 2nd-year project. Dakota is continuing his work in the lab, and will be joining the Human Factors PhD program in fall 2019. He completed the 12-week Wichita–Sedgwick County Citizens Police Academy in spring 2019.

After an extensive search, we are adding three new faculty members to our program in the new year! Dr. Carryl Baldwin is taking over the positions of Carl and Rozina Cassat Professorship in Aging and Director of the Regional Institute on Aging. She brings transfer student and 4th year Steven Chong with her from George Mason University.

Dr. Lisa Vangsness is joining us in the fall as an Assistant Professor. We are excited for her to bring her Challenge Metacognition and Performance Lab to our program!

Dr. Quan Lei is joining us in the spring as an Assistant Professor.

Congratulations to our student chapter of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society for achieving gold status for 11 years in a row!

Lastly, we would like to welcome our three new graduate students: Dakota Scott, Shivani Nagrecha, and Abbie Hutton! We are excited to see what great work they will do!
Both labs directed by Traci Hart Ph.D., housed at the Applied Psychology Research Institute, continued to produce experiential learning opportunities for Human Factors graduate students, bringing in $110K for the year. The Optimize User-Centric Research Group conducted contracts for website usability testing with short-term funding for 6 HF students on the projects.

The Human Factors Aviation Lab continued its long-term funding through multiple sub-contracts with General Atomics Inc.. The project continues to support the design and initial fielding of a ground control station for the U.S. Air Force.

Dr. Hart also is the faculty advisor for the Applied Research in Gaming Lab (ARGL) run independently by HF graduate students. ARGL explores ways that people interact with games and investigates factors contributing to gaming success, currently conducting both online and board game studies.

Optimize took part in the Expanding Your Horizons STEM day at WSU. This enabled the women in the Human Factors program to introduce Human Factors as a STEM career to middle school-aged girls through examples with LEGO bricks, gaming technology, and website wireframing demonstrations.
This summer, the Psychology Department maintained its participation in the Summer Research Institute (SRI). The institute, initially started in part by previous Human Factors faculty members, Drs. Barbara and Alex Chaparro, now operates in conjunction with the First Year Research Experience (FYRE) program at WSU. This was the first year that the program was funded partially by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which enabled the program to open attendance to a total of 8 students! This year, the top incoming freshmen in STEM majors were selected to participate in this week-long research emersion. The students learned numerous essential research skills, including how to conduct a literature review, ask quality research questions, develop robust methods, collect data, run statistical analyses, and synthesize their results into 10-minute PowerPoint presentations presented to their teachers, parents, and peers.

The SRI in FYRE program was once again directed by Dr. Heidi Bell from Human Performance Studies who recruited second-year Human Factors student Monica Connelly to help run the camp and teach the incoming freshmen all about the research process. Our graduate student was involved at every stage of the process, from conducting STEM lab tours to educating the students on research question development and best research practices.

In addition to learning about research, the incoming students were able to sample the full college experience: they stayed in the dorms for the full week-long camp, ate in the dining hall, got to tour many different research labs across campus (including Psychology’s own Optimize Lab), and participated in a myriad of fun on-campus activities. The students were given a great head start on preparing for college and received a snapshot of research labs that they could potentially work in. Monica had a wonderful time mentoring these students and looks forward to continuing this tradition next summer!
STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

ALEXIS RAUSHEL
Randall Chambers Research Fellowship Award

DR. JP PLUMMER
2018 HFES Student Member with Honors

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS
Christina Siu - Human Factors
Alissa Bey - Community Psychology
Karen Akao - Community-Clinical Psychology

2019 GRADUATE AWARDS
Christal Patzer - Human Factors
Kyle Rexer - Community-Clinical
Alissa Bey - Community

RESEARCH ROUNDUP 2019 OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER
Each year, the psychology department hosts a research symposium to celebrate our wonderful undergraduate and graduate students.
Please congratulate the recipients of this year’s Outstanding Researcher awards!
Alissa Bey (Community) - Steve Pratt Award
Elissa Failes (Community-Clinical) - James Snyder Award for Outstanding Research in Clinical Psychology
Dominic Canare (Human Factors) - Charles Halcomb Award

ALISSA, DOMINIC, AND ELISSA
ACADEMY FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING INDUCTEES

Join us in congratulating three of our emeritus faculty members who were inducted into the Academy for Effective Teaching!!

DR. PAUL ACKERMAN
Assistant Professor Emeritus of Psychology

DR. GREG MEISSEN
Professor Emeritus of Psychology

DR. LOUIS MEDVENE
Professor Emeritus of Psychology

WICHITA UNDERGRADUATE DIVERSITY SCHOLARS AWARD IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Department of Psychology is excited to announce the Wichita Undergraduate Diversity Scholars Award in Psychology (WUDSAP). As part of the American Psychological Association’s initiative to recruit diverse and underrepresented students into clinical psychology programs, this program is offered to rising juniors and seniors in order to gain mentored research experience over the course of the 2019-2020 school year.

Please help us congratulate this year’s award recipient!!
RECENT INTERNSHIPS AND PRACTICUM

Name: Adam Armijo  
Title: User Researcher  
Location: Zillow  
At Zillow Group, I was a user experience researcher intern for 12 weeks. I researched the rich media experience provided for buyers. As a researcher, I met with the team to design research on concerning questions and hypotheses they had. I executed an ethnography, concept testing, and rapid iterative evaluations on prototypes to better understand the consumption and capture process of the media experience on the Zillow. Quick data collection and analysis of results was imperative to have an impact on the team. I was able to apply my knowledge from previous research to my work there. It was a great company and an amazing experience!

Name: Jacob Armstrong  
Location: Wichita State University Counseling and Prevention Services  
I conducted supervised psychological evaluations, including clinical diagnostic interviewing, selection of assessment instruments, interpretation of data, report preparation, and provision of feedback to clients. I focused primarily on the assessment and differential diagnosis of ADHD, learning disabilities, and co-morbid conditions. This included review of audio recorded sessions.

Name: Alissa Bey  
Location: Child Start  
I worked on an evaluation of the Child Start early education program with parents who were served by the organization.

Name: Keyondra Brooks  
Location: HealthCore Clinic  
I have been working at HealthCore Clinic as part of an evaluation of their integrative health model. Most of my duties include conducting surveys and interviews, helping with the development of measures, and data interpretation. Prior to my practicum, I was not interested in working in health care, as I wanted a more social justice or advocacy related position. However, through my interactions with patients and providers, I have learned that the provision of quality health care is a very important issue to all in Kansas and that there are many hurdles that individuals with low SES face. In my time at HealthCore, I have learned how to navigate and collect data from busy workers and locate a shared vision. Additionally, I gained an interest in quality management and adherence to government and grantor standards. In the future, I plan to investigate how policy and procedures could best shape a healthy work environment that more easily meets these standards within the integrated environment. Overall, I have enjoyed my time...
working at HealthCore and am grateful for the experience.

Name: Dominic Canare  
Title: Developer Experience Research Intern  
Location: Intel  

Intel is preparing to launch an entire suite of software development solutions for accelerated performance across multiple hardware architectures. This includes a brand-new version of C++ and domain-specific toolkits for high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, Internet-of-Things, visual analytics, and more. Several "Developer Experience" (DX) teams within Intel are working to ensure that UX considerations are an integral part of the lifecycle for these products. As a DX Researcher, Dominic works with engineers, designers, technical writers, and customers on user interfaces, supporting websites, product distribution, technical documentation, code samples, and API design to help ensure a positive experience from download to deployment. This work includes expert reviews and heuristic evaluations, as well as designing, recruiting, and running studies with the target audience.

I have had the privilege of working at Saint Francis Ministries this past year in the Grant and Business Development team. My role as a Grant Research Analyst is under the guidance of Director Deanna Knapp, a former graduate of the community psychology program, and consists of a wide variety of tasks. Some of these tasks include providing research support to the team regarding child welfare policies and practices, evidence based interventions, and assisting with grant writing. It is so amazing to be able to make a difference in the lives of others through the work that we do and I am privileged to help provide hope and healing in the community.

Name: Juliana Garcia  
Title: Grant Research Analyst  
Location: St. Francis Ministries  

I have had the privilege of working at Saint Francis Ministries this past year in the Grant and Business Development team. My role as a Grant Research Analyst is under the guidance of Director Deanna Knapp, a former graduate of the community psychology program, and consists of a wide variety of tasks. Some of these tasks include providing research support to the team regarding child welfare policies and practices, evidence based interventions, and assisting with grant writing. It is so amazing to be able to make a difference in the lives of others through the work that we do and I am privileged to help provide hope and healing in the community.

Name: Jasmine Granados  
Title: UX Research Intern  
Location: Human Interfaces  

Human Interfaces is a small family-run consulting company that works with several different companies in and out of the Austin area. I worked with Dell, Poly, and HP. The experience that I had with Optimize really prepared me for my internship. I was able to get practice with a team, managing people, facilitating, creating a report, and talking to stakeholders. The most valuable skill I learned at Optimize was learning what information Stakeholders were interested in (quotes, trends, themes, etc) and what information they were not interested in (p-values, significance, etc). The internship was an amazing opportunity to prove (mostly to myself) that I was able to apply what I learned here at WSU to industry. I will be looking for another internship next summer to gain experience with a bigger company.
The work I do with CARE varies quite a bit. At the basic level, I assist with minor research, report writing, data collection, data analysis, and various tasks in between. Due to my dual enrollment in a public health Master’s program, I help mostly with projects related to public health in partnership with our Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI). To provide more insight into the specifics of what I do, I am currently working on a Community Health Needs Assessment that included gathering data for this specific county, creating a report, preparing a presentation, and eventually presenting that information to community leaders and the organization that we are working for. I am also currently conducting focus groups for a local organization that works with immigrants and refugees.

The classes that I took prior to doing my practicum, such as Applied Research Methods in Community Settings and Seminar in Community and Organizational Intervention, have really helped me in the work that I do. I am always referencing the tools and tricks that I have learned through those classes and the entire program. For my practicum, it also helps that the Community Engagement Institute is a part of Wichita State and that a lot of Community Psychologists work here. I am always learning from my coworkers and supervisors.

I am consistently updating my CV anytime I start a new project or learn a new skill and I keep a running list of everything that I have worked on. Everything that I have learned here about writing reports for communities, interacting with community organizations, and learning how to use specific databases (research-based and health-based) can help me in my future endeavors.
mental health diagnoses, including anxiety, depression, ADHD, and conversion disorder. As part of my job, I was also a consultant for Wesley’s interdisciplinary pediatric team, which required me to conduct risk assessments on children and adolescents who had been admitted to the hospital.

Name: Jamie Quattlebaum  
Location: KU School of Medicine  
Over the last year, I’ve completed three practicums at the KU School of Medicine. The first and longest practicum was as a Psychometrist, which is a paid position. Over many years in this position, I’ve gained substantial skills in assessment, as well as clinical experience with a variety of diagnoses/conditions, some of which are uncommon or very rare (e.g., neurodegeneration from untreated HIV, Huntington’s Disease, or untreated hydrocephalus).

I’ve also participated in an advanced pediatric neuropsychology practicum, where I’ve taken the lead on every step of assessing children for neuropsychological functioning, from interview, to report writing, to feedback. This also included neuropsychological testing, as needed, for pediatric oncology patients who were receiving comprehensive long-term follow-up after chemotherapy or radiation during their initial cancer treatment (which can have negative effects for children on brain development that last well into adulthood). This practicum has helped refine my writing skills overall, but most of all enhanced my diagnostic skills; the variety and complexity of child cases is remarkable compared to adults. Finally, I completed a short practicum over the summer at the KU Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences clinic, which involved taking the lead on providing evidence-based CBT to children and adolescents. This clinic sees a variety of psychological diagnoses and clients who exhibit severe symptoms, such as OCD, ADHD, ODD, and PTSD. This practicum also included hospital consultations for suicide risk assessment at the Wesley Children’s Hospital. This was a great opportunity to dust off my intervention skills in preparation for internship in the coming year, and to get a little more experience in integrated healthcare settings.

Name: Alexis Raushel  
Title: Games UX Research Intern  
Location: Sony—PlayStation  
Working in user research at a gaming company has always been the dream that’s driven my career choices, and that dream was realized this summer at PlayStation! I love what I do here – helping developers perfect their games by designing surveys, conducting interviews with gamers, and running playtests. My job is primarily to turn user feedback into actionable reports that can help developers make changes to their games that keep their players at the center of the creation process. This may seem simple, but championing the user’s voice is a full-time job in a large company that manages so many different product goals at once.
WSU was a big influence in preparing me for this intern position. My experience working on contracted usability studies at Optimize gave me unparalleled insight into the unique challenges of integrating research with corporate goals. Also, working in the Applied Research in Gaming Lab (ARGL) helped prepare me to think about games in a data-driven, actionable manner, which has been essential. Working at PlayStation has been nothing short of a dream job – from getting to work on unique research challenges that demand equal parts of research aptitude and creativity, to a host of exceptional mentors that are excited and motivated to share their wisdom with the next generation of researchers. The experiences I’ve gained here have fueled my passion and prepared me to be a games user researcher.

Name: Hana Shahin  
Location: United Way of the Plains  
I did a cost-benefit analysis of homelessness in Wichita, comparing costs associated with someone experiencing homelessness while not receiving services from the Continuum of Care (now Impact ICT-COC) and someone experiencing homelessness while using Impact ICT-COC services. I presented the findings to Impact ICT-COC at their meeting in August.

Name: Thomas Skinner  
Title: IT Project Manager  
Location: St Frances Ministries  
I oversaw the development of a foster care placement system that used statistics, geomapping, and machine learning to place children more effectively when the State of Kansas contracted with St. Francis Ministries to place children. Instead of using human judgment, foster care workers could use real-time data about foster families to help them make the best match possible for the well-being of the children to be placed.

Name: Daniel Smith  
Title: Global Digital Experience Insights Manager Intern  
Location: Nike  
I did purely qualitative work in the form of both moderated and unmoderated interviews and user tests. The skills I developed through working with Optimize to develop protocols came in handy when creating the unmoderated tests, but what really helped me the most was organization techniques I learned at WSU. How to handle a mass amount of interview data, notes, and videos was very important, as I had a massive spreadsheet full of notes related to 21 hour-long interviews. HF methods touched on every method I used while at Nike, which was really helpful. I don’t think any form of training could completely prepare someone for any internship – every company has their own ways of doing things – but I was well-equipped to do the job at Nike when I got there, thanks to the classes and contracts at WSU.
I am a junior from Houston, Texas, currently pursuing a Bachelor’s of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice and I am completing the Law and Public Policy Interdisciplinary Track in the Cohen Honors College. My interest in psychology stems from my intrinsic desire to better the futures of those around me. Within the department, I am the president of Wichita State’s Psi Chi chapter and have been a research assistant on projects that focus on community collaborations and behavioral economics. My personal research interests are bifurcated between examining the stigma behind mental healthcare within minority communities, particularly African-Americans, and examining how this stigma contributes to the disproportionate numbers of minority children in the ‘school to prison pipeline’. In addition to my research assistantships, I work for the City of Wichita as an Information Specialist. I recently completed a summer research fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta Georgia which solidified my future plans to pursue a PhD in clinical-community psychology. In my free time I enjoy taking naps with my pup, listening to podcasts, and volunteering.

My name is Courtney Sayers and I am a senior at WSU studying Psychology. All of my life I knew that I wanted to help others for my future career, but wasn’t sure which direction to go. Once I was in high school, I started to gain interest in learning more about psychological disorders, which lead to me pursuing psychology for my undergraduate degree. Since starting at WSU, I have had many wonderful opportunities for involvement in the psychology department. I am currently involved in two research labs, the Behavioral Economics and Cooperation Team and the Contextual Behavioral Science Lab, in which I have been a part of multiple research projects. After completing my Bachelor’s degree, I plan on applying to graduate school to complete my doctorate in Clinical Psychology.
DONATE TO THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Do you want to make a tax-deductible donation to the Psychology Department?

Follow the instructions below to get started:
1. Go to https://foundation.wichita.edu/give
2. Enter your donation amount
3. Select “Fairmount College of Liberal Arts & Sciences” as the college/program
4. Click “Add donation”
5. In the comment field under gift information, specify the Psychology Department or a specific program (Community, Clinical, Human Factors, or Undergraduate)
6. Fill in your contact information

Your gift will benefit current and future students. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018-2019 PH.D. GRADUATES!

Clinical:
- Anna C. Chinnes
- Jeffery Swails

Community:
- Brittany Brest
- Emma Crabtree
- Julian DeDeaux
- Refika Sarionder
- Hannah White

Human Factors:
- Tiffany Leverenz
- David Libby
- Brady Patzer
- John P. Plummer
- Colton Turner

Clinical:
- Erah Ali
- Mouhamad Ballout
- Johnathan Larson
- Melissa Miller

Community:
- Stormy Malone
- Tasha Parker
- Adrianne Ralston

Human Factors:
- Abbie Hutton
- Shivani Nagrecha
- Dakota Scott

A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS
Q: What year and from what program did you earn your PhD?
A: 2010, Human Factors

Q: Please describe your research interests while you were in graduate school.
A: My primary interest was in aviation research. My second year project was researching the Age 60 rule in commercial aviation through cognition and perception metrics with general aviation pilots and age match controls. My dissertation was on decision making of general aviation pilots with go, no-go decisions based on weather reports and the influence from other pilot comments.

Q: For you, what skills/research experience transferred the most from grad school to your post-doc career?
A: First the classes, Human Factor Methods (using KLM, task-based testing, Eye-Tracking equipment, card sorting), Statistical Methods (including non-parametric statistics), Perception and Ergonomics classes I used daily in my roles since graduating from WSU. Second, both my second year project and dissertation were invaluable experiences in proper design of experiments and execution.

Q: What accomplishment(s) are you most proud of since your graduation?
A: I’ve mentored a number of young professionals in the HFE career field. Many of these professionals have gone onto successful HFE careers. I love seeing people find their passion and pursue it. Recently I was awarded the STEP Ahead award.

Q: Briefly describe your family and any hobbies.
A: I’ve been married 5 years. My hobbies include flying, riding my motorcycle, traveling and knitting.
Q: What year and from what program did you earn your PhD?
A: 2007 Community Clinical Psychology Program

Q: Please describe your research interests while you were in graduate school.
A: My primary research interest during graduate school focused on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and the AAQ-9.

Q: Please state your title and briefly describe your place of employment.
A: I am the Clinical Director of Behavioral Health Specialists, Inc.; a non-profit behavioral health and addiction treatment agency in Norfolk, Nebraska. We have two outpatient clinics, two short term residential drug and alcohol facilities, a community support program, and a foster care program.

Q: In your opinion, what are the top skills necessary in your career?
A: It is critical to modify our clinical skills to the community that we live and work in for it to be effective. Working in a rural setting often means being creative in our service delivery to meet clients where they are at. Knowing and using your community resources is a must in order to assist our clients in the most effective way.

Q: For you, what skills/research experience transferred the most from grad school to your post-doc career?
A: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy research and practice skills have been my companion throughout my clinical work with a variety of clients. I have also incorporated it into my supervision with my staff and have offered trainings on ACT in a number of settings.

Q: What accomplishment(s) are you most proud of since your graduation?
A: Securing and maintaining my role as the Director of Outpatient Clinical Services at Behavioral Health Specialists for 12 years before being promoted to the Clinical Director position at BHS in August, 2019. Being accepted to and starting the New Mexico State University Master’s Degree Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology with anticipation of moving towards prescription privileges for psychologists.

Q: Briefly describe your family and any hobbies.
A: My husband, Jeff, and I have five children: Lucas (11), Riley (9), Tate (7), Dagney (4), and Rand (1). We enjoy taking care of our acreage of farm animals and the nature of Nebraska as much as we can.
Q: What year and from what program did you earn your PhD?
A: Community Psychology, 2014

Q: Please describe your research interests while you were in graduate school.
A: At the start of graduate school, I had a strong, broad interest in youth development and health. However, by my third year, I developed a strong interest in women’s health and maternal and child health.

Q: Please state your title and briefly describe your place of employment.
A: Assistant Professor, Public Health Program, Department of Kinesiology, University of Texas at Arlington

Q: In your opinion, what are the top skills necessary in your career?
A: It is necessary to have a strong interdisciplinary perspective, strong analytical skills, and high emotional intelligence for working with colleagues and community partners.

Q: For you, what skills/research experience transferred the most from grad school to your post-doc career?
A: As a graduate student in Dr. Lewis’ Behavioral Research and Action Team, I was able to gain invaluable skills in participatory program evaluation. This is a skill area that I have since been able to strengthen overtime.

Q: What accomplishment(s) are you most proud of since your graduation?
A: In general, I’m proud of myself for being courageous enough to take a number of leaps of faith since graduation. For example, after completing my doctoral degree, I pursued an unconventional postdoctoral appointment which was an excellent decision. I also, took a leap of faith by moving to Texas which led me to career paths in practice and academica. I will say, though, that one specific accomplishment so far has been establishing my own research team and lab, the Maternal and Child Health Equity Lab, at UT Arlington.

Q: Briefly describe your family and any hobbies.
A: I live in Texas with my wonderful husband, Carl. I love traveling, going to concerts, spending time with family and friends, and being an adventurous ‘foodie’.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Investigator</th>
<th>Grant Title</th>
<th>Funding Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lewis, R &amp; Petts, R. A.</td>
<td>Fostering a learning organizational culture to increase access to integrated care services and improve health outcomes</td>
<td>Kansas Health Foundation</td>
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<td>Ni, R</td>
<td>CoBre</td>
<td>General Homles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suss, J.</td>
<td>Assessment of cognitive performance-based training to improve police decision making</td>
<td>National Institute of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suss, J.</td>
<td>Quantification of motion deficit for early diagnosis and rehabilitation of Parkinson’s diseases</td>
<td>WSU Regional Institute on Aging</td>
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</table>

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

The Psychology Department had $641,910 in grants, 24 publications, 29 presentations, and numerous campus visitors in the 2018-2019 academic year.

**GO PSYCHOLOGY!**


The Psychology department would never be complete without the consistent love and support of our two special office ladies — Judy and Marci. Each student and faculty member knows that these two are the essential heart and soul of our entire department. Without them, we would certainly fall apart! Therefore, we extend a most heartfelt thank you to the two of them for making Jabara feel like home for over 50 years.

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