

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2024 Newsletter



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Joelle Ruthig, Ph.D.

The Psychology Department has had an exciting and busy year! We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the department (see [PsyCentennial Celebration](#)), we hosted the annual Northern Lights Conference ([more details](#)), and we welcomed new faculty to join our department. Although there were rumors of a possible relocation, it looks like our department will remain in Columbia Hall – at least for the next while.

Our programs continue to thrive with nearly 500 undergraduate majors, 200 minors, and 180 graduate students across our graduate programs in Clinical Psychology, Experimental Psychology and Forensic Psychology. This year also marks the end of my second term and sixth year as department chair. I've enjoyed many opportunities and challenges as chair, and I look forward to returning my focus to research and teaching upon passing this administrative role onto Dr. Andre Kehn, our incoming department chair.

Joelle

MEET OUR DIRECTORS

A large part of the department's success is due to our highly competent and committed program directors.



Adam Derenne

Experimental
Psychology
Program



Heather Terrell

Undergraduate
Programs



JP Legerski

Northern Prairie
Community
Clinic Director



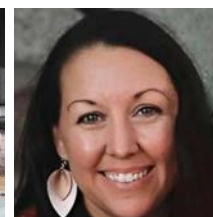
Joe Miller

Clinical
Psychology
Program



**Doug
McDonald**

INPSYDE
Program



Alison Kelly

Forensic
Psychology
Programs
(incoming)



Andre Kehn

Forensic
Psychology
Programs
(outgoing)

NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Cassandra Flick joined the experimental/forensic psychology faculty at UND in August 2023. Her primary research interests are broadly focused on how psychological theory and the law can be used to better understand decision-making of legal actors at various points in the United States criminal and civil justice systems. Dr. Flick's research particularly focuses on decision-making in civil litigation cases and alleged excessive use of force cases. She recently received a dissertation award from the American Psychology-Law Society for her work examining lay perceptions and juror decision-making in police use of force cases through the lens of the Reasonable Officer Standard.



Dr. Tiffany Russell joined the UND clinical psychology faculty and the Behavioral Health Research Initiative in August 2023. Dr. Russell's research specialties include LGBTQIA+ mental health, maladaptive personality traits, and externalizing behaviors (e.g., violence, substance misuse). Since joining the department, Dr. Russell has been awarded the Joyce and Aqueil Ahmad Peace Endowment for her work related to mental health effects of extremist violence exposure in sexual and gender minorities. She was also awarded the College of Arts and Science's Multi-Investigator Seed Grant to assess the effects of sleep quality and quantity, individual traits (e.g., impulsivity), and other modifiable mechanisms (e.g., motivation to use substances, resilience) that may relate to marijuana and alcohol use in college students.



Dr. Kimberly Schweitzer is an Assistant Professor who joined the Department of Psychology in August 2022. Her primary area of research is broadly focused on decision-making in the U.S. legal system, including juror/jury decision-making in criminal and civil contexts, the role of emotions at trial, and factors that influence probation outcomes. This fall, she was awarded UND's Early Career Scholar Award to research factors that influence jurors' determinations regarding a defendant's Indian status and how those determinations impact verdict decisions in criminal trials.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Sky Overbo is a recent UND graduate from the clinical psychology doctorate program. After completing her internship at Tulsa University, she headed back to Grand Forks to start her career at UND.

As the embedded mental health provider for the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Science, her role is not only providing mental health care, but also completing assessments for the FAA's medical examiners, providing outreach to classes at UND, presenting at conferences around the world, and overseeing the UPLIFT peer support program lead by students in the aviation program.

Dr. Kaylee Trottier, a member of the Deer Clan from the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe, earned her Ph.D. from our INPSYDE program in 2013, then completed her internship at the Black Hills Healthcare System. Dr. Trottier has primarily focused her professional efforts on serving Indigenous and military populations.



In her military career, Dr. Trottier serves as a Major in the US Army Reserves. In March 2024, she further advanced her military leadership by assuming command of her reserve unit. Dr. Trottier founded a nonprofit, Indigenous Living, where she dedicates her efforts to providing cultural teletherapy, training, and consultation services to Indigenous communities. Additionally, Dr. Trottier serves as the Director of the Counseling Center at UND, where she continues to impact the academic and local community by overseeing a range of counseling services and furthering the development of culturally sensitive therapy practices.

JEFF WEATHERLY

RETIREMENT REFLECTION

Twenty-five years ago, I arrived in Grand Forks to begin my new position in the Psychology Department. Charles Kupchella had just started as university president, Ralph Engelstad was finalizing a gift to the university, and everyone was worried that Y2K would end civilization as we knew it.

A lot happened over 25 years. I had the pleasure of chairing the department for eight of them, overseeing the hiring of many faculty who are still on staff as well as the launching of the department's successful online undergraduate program, online M.A. forensic psychology program, and on-campus M.S. forensic psychology program. I also had the good fortune to enjoy many fruitful collaborations, publishing with numerous students and over half of the department's faculty members.

After many years and a myriad of administrative duties, the light has shown itself at the end of the tunnel. I will be officially retiring from the university at the end of June, with the plan being to enjoy lake life, try my hand at some writing, and return to traveling. My thanks go out to all the students and colleagues who have made this a wonderful journey. In the words of the late Jimmy Buffett, some of it was magic, some of it was tragic, but I had a good 25 years all the way.



We recently celebrated some major milestones in the department at the PsyCentennial Celebration: the department's 100'th anniversary, the 50th anniversary of the Clinical Phd Program, and the 30th anniversary of INPSYDE. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with our former students and faculty and to showcase some of our current research, our integrated clinic space, and our current residence in Columbia Hall. Following the afternoon tours and open house, we celebrated with dinner in the Memorial Union ballroom. Ralph Kolstoe's son Paul presented the department with a caricature portrait of Ralph and shared stories of his father's long history within the department. After dinner, we enjoyed a few good-natured laughs during the roast of Dr. Tom Petros, then capped the evening off with music and dancing.



GRASP



GRaduate Alliance for **S**tudents in **P**sychology (GRASP) had a very busy year, facilitated numerous on campus and off campus events to try to increase student involvement, foster relationships amongst graduate students, and provide materials and resources for students in their academic journey.

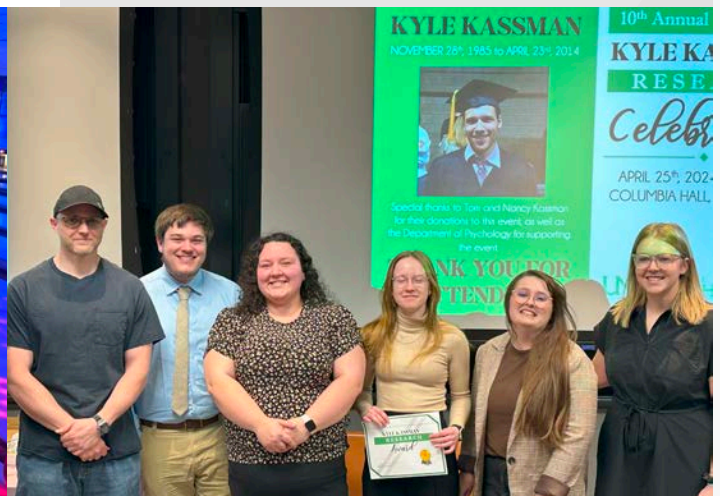
They hosted the annual welcome picnic for incoming graduate students, department pot-lucks, assisted with the Northern Lights Psychology conference, graduate admissions open house, and the Kyle Kassman research celebration to name just a few.

2023-24 GRASP Officers

President: Jessica Van Bree
Vice President: Chris Veenstra
Secretary: Kaden Bollinger
Treasurer: Madison Adrian

2024-25 GRASP Officers

President: Sophie Johnson
Vice President: Kaden Bollinger
Secretary: Reagan Alsbaugh
Treasurer: Emma Hickman



NORTHERN LIGHTS

PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE



In addition to several paper presentations and a poster session, this year's Northern Lights conference featured a keynote address by [Dr. Mary Fristad](#), Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Behavior Health at Ohio State University. Dr. Fristad's address focused on the impact the coronavirus, social media, and cannabis have had on adolescent mental health, presented on evidence-based psychotherapies for bipolar spectrum disorders in youth, and summarized lessons from LAMS (the Longitudinal Assessment of Manic Symptoms study).

Another highlight of the conference was an [expert panel](#) of LGBTQ+ community advocates discussing the psychological effects of ND state laws on sexual and gender minority people in the state. Members of the panel included UND Law Assistant Professor Jen Cook, the president of the Grand Forks chapter of PFLAG Merie Kirby, Program Director Chad Pitt of North Dakota Healthcare, Opportunity, Prevention and Education in Suicide Prevention (ND HOPES), and local advocate and organizer Sarah Galbraith. Dr. Tiffany Russell was the panel discussant and panel members described the profound effects recent ND laws have had on the LGBTQ+ community's mental health, the community's unaddressed mental health needs, as well as ways in which faculty and community members can help LGBTQ+ people on campus and across the state.



Since the conference, Dr. Russell has joined the team at ND HOPES to contribute to their mission of reducing LGBTQ+ suicidality in rural ND. She received the Psychology Department's Joyce and Aqueil Ahmad Endowment for Peace, which she will use to study the effects of extremist and radicalized violence on LGBTQ+ mental health. Through her work with UND's Behavioral Health Initiative, Dr. Russell is participating in community outreach and applying for grants to support ND LGBTQ+ families. Graduate students from each of the Psychology Department's programs worked with Dr. Russell to create a series of LGBTQ+ resource videos. The video project has been an overwhelming success, as organizations across UND and the state have amplified them on social media and added them to their websites. [Access the Videos](#)

NORTHERN LIGHTS 2024 PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

Please mark your calendar and join us
for the [2024 Northern Lights Psychology Conference](#)
on Friday, October 11, 2024.

Dr. Barry Rosenfeld a Professor of Psychology and
Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University,
will deliver the keynote address.

STUDENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

In addition to the opportunity to present at our local Northern Lights Psychology conference, many of our graduate and undergraduate students travel to regional and national conferences. Here is a sample of this year's student presentations.

Graduate student presentations:

- Madison Adrian, American Psychology-Law Society (APLS), "Do I Qualify? Death Qualification Characteristics"
- Kaden Bollinger, American Psychology-Law Society (APLS), "The Effects of Disconfirming Feedback on Multiple Tests of a Witness's Memory"
- Mary Cops, American Psychology-Law Society (APLS), "Juror Perceptions of Mental Health Diagnoses and Police Use of Force"
- Sophie Johnson, American Psychology-Law Society (APLS), "Police on Trial: Mock Jurors' perceptions and verdicts through the lens of the "Reasonable Officer Standard"
- James Owens, American Psychology-Law Society (APLS), "Metamemory and Disconfirming Feedback: An Evaluation of the Blank Lineup Procedure"
- Lauren Stornelli, American Psychology-Law Society (APLS), "What Did I Just Hear? The Impact of Alexa Footage on Juror Decision-Making"
- Hadley McCartin, Society for Personality Assessment Convention (SPAC), "Clinical Applications of the PID-5 Faceted Brief Form in Sexual Minorities"
- Annie Nickell, Society for Personality Assessment Convention (SPAC), "An Investigation of the Relationship between Female Rape Myths, Child Sexual Abuse Myths, and Personality Disorders"
- Sarah Kuhn, Red River Psychology Conference, "Do Transgender and Gender Diverse Bisexual+ Women Like Sexual Violence Risk Reduction Interventions? An Intersectional and Exploratory Study"

Undergraduate student presentations:

- Claire Bailly, Red River Psychology Conference, "Stereotypes of College Students Based on Socioeconomic and Employment Status"
- Belle Bernhardt, Red River Psychology Conference, "Stereotypes about Pregnancy and Motherhood"
- Sarah Danielle McAlpin, Red River Psychology Conference, "Analyzing Stereotypes about Age and Gender based on Participant Gender"
- Livia Obrigewitch, Midwestern Psychological Association, "Influences of Mindfulness and ADHD Symptoms on Depression and Anxiety"
- Riley Pelowski, Red River Psychology Conference, "The Influence of Race on Judgments of Guilt"
- Livia Obrigewitch, Red River Psychology Conference, "Perceptions of People with Acquired vs. Congenital Disabilities"

Presenting at psychology conferences is a professional experience opportunity for our students that is largely made possible thanks to the generous donations of our Alumni. Thank you for supporting our students!

2023 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Undergraduate Service

Jett Weiss

This award is open to psychology majors engaged in service activities during the previous academic year. Jett spent over 80 hours volunteering with the Special Olympics, is a member of the Undergraduate Medical Association and member of MEDLIFE—a non-profit organization that partners with low-income communities in Latin America and Africa to improve their access to medicine, education, and community development projects. Jett volunteers for Food for Thought pantry, which provides nonperishable food items and personal hygiene products to students in need. In addition, Jett served as a teaching assistant in the psychology department and spent more than 600 hours conducting research under the supervision of Dr. Mathur in the medical school.

Outstanding Undergraduate Research

Sarah Hammond

This award is open to undergraduate psychology majors who serve as research assistants or conduct independent research (including an honors thesis) during the previous academic year. Recipients demonstrate outstanding research efforts, taking into consideration quantity, quality, and conceptual contributions. Sarah was a research assistant in three different research labs assisting with research conducted by Dr. Derenne, Dr. King, and Dr. Legerski. Her research projects focused on various topics including melanoma detection, interpersonal aggression, first impressions, mindfulness, and applied behavior analysis. Sarah co-authored a poster presentation for the Midwestern Psychology Association's annual conference and was the lead author on a textbook chapter about Ruth Howard—the first African American woman to obtain a doctorate degree in psychology. This chapter appears in an open access textbook that focuses on the life and contributions of marginalized pioneering psychologists.

Outstanding Psychology Student

Joshua McKeever

This award is open to undergraduate psychology majors who demonstrate outstanding overall performance as an undergraduate psychology major. Joshua was a double major in Psychology and Sociology; he also pursued certificates in Forensic Psychology and Behavioral Health. Joshua worked as a research assistant in Dr. Kehn's forensic psychology lab and in Dr. Anderson's sexual violence prevention lab. He gave a first-authored research presentation at the Midwest Sociological Society Conference on women's perceptions of medical providers based on the gender of the provider, and he completed a senior thesis which was an experimental extension of this work. Joshua volunteered with Adopt-a-Highway and as a Special Olympics coach, and served as a teaching assistant in the Psychology and Sociology departments.

Antes Tutoring Fellowship

This tutoring fellowship is for a motivated student who can tutor other students in statistics, research methods, and writing (APA format, in particular). The awardee devotes 2-3 hours per week to working with other students. **The 2023-2024 recipients are Tyler Rapke (Fall 2023) and Taryn Trueblood (Spring 2024).**

Walker-Kitsley Leadership Award

This scholarship is awarded to psychology majors with demonstrated leadership ability, broadly defined. This may include leadership in student government, student organizations, community service, teaching assistant duties, research, and/or coursework and class activities. **The 2023-2024 recipients are DeBen Barnnie, Makaila Martin, Claire Leach, and Taryn Trueblood.**

2023 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Walker Award

Jessica Van Bree

The Walker Award is awarded to a graduate student who displays outstanding overall performance in teaching, research, and service to program, department, and university.

Harold & Diana Randall Family Scholarship

This scholarship award is for graduate students in the Clinical Psychology program and intend to collaborate with a faculty member on a research project in the area of health psychology over the summer. Summer 2024 recipients:

Olivia Revels-Strother who will investigate the relationship between sleep quality, sleep quantity, and individual traits (e.g., impulsivity) that predict problematic cannabis and alcohol use in college students. The project is a collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences, UND's College of Education and Human Development, and the University of Missouri's Department of Psychology.

Hadley McCartin who will focus on the mental health of sexual and gender minorities, related to fears of extremist violence. The project is a collaboration between the College of Arts and Science, the College of Education and Human Development, and a collaborator from Sam Houston State University.

Elizabeth Abraham Award in Forensic Psychology

The Elizabeth Abraham Award in Forensic Psychology is awarded to outstanding graduate students based upon prior merit and proposed research. This year, recipients are:

James Owens—Assessing Eyewitness Choosing Behavior with Visual Attention

Kaden Bollinger—The Effects of Disconfirming Feedback on Eyewitness Accuracy During Multiple Lineups

Elizabeth Abraham Award in General/ Experimental Psychology

The Elizabeth Abraham Award in General/ Experimental Psychology is awarded to support graduate G/E students who are working on publishing their research outside the 9-month academic calendar. This year's recipients are:

Lauren Stornelli—Hate-motivated behavior: Measurement, Antecedents, and Future Considerations

Madison Adrian—The Role of Prior Record and Expert Testimony in Capital Trials

Elizabeth Abraham Award in Clinical Psychology

The Elizabeth Abraham Award in Clinical Psychology is awarded to a graduate student whose record to date exemplifies diligence in pursuit of the PhD, and whose proposed research best exemplifies excellence in applied clinical research and science-practice integration. This year's recipients are:

Marina Brunner—An Investigation of Depression in Patients Diagnosed with Mild or Major Neurocognitive Disorder

Luke Gietzen—Understanding Processes that Lead to the Development of Obesity and Eating Disorders and Implications for Treatment



Kaden Bollinger also earned 2nd place in the School of Graduate Studies 3MT Research presentation for his study on Eye Witness Misidentification.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE

Our undergraduate students are busy! Last fall, several students presented at the Northern Lights conference. Our students also regularly present at the College of Arts and Sciences UNDERgraduate Showcase. During the last academic year, over 50 psychology majors presented work at this showcase. Several students have also completed senior thesis projects in the last academic year, focusing on topics such as women's experiences with health care providers, why the U.S. has poor maternal health outcomes, stereotypes about the elderly, and the benefits of physical activity on mental health. Many have also presented research at the Red River Psychology regional conference and the Midwestern Psychological Association's annual conference.

Overall, the Undergraduate Psychology program at UND is thriving, holding a steady enrollment of almost 500 majors and over 200 minors, even while other programs and institutions have struggled to maintain enrollment. Approximately one fifth of

our majors are distance students who complete their entire Bachelor of Arts degree online. We're proud to offer a quality distance education option to expand access for students who are unable to pursue an on-campus educational experience. We also offer two undergraduate certificates—a Behavioral Health Certificate and a Forensic Psychology certificate—the latter of which is very popular and a testament to our outstanding forensic psychology faculty.

Here is a sampling of research from our undergraduate students' theses and senior projects for 2023-2024:

- Jenna Ouradnik, "The Benefits of Physical Activity on Mental Health"
- Joshua McKeever, "Women's Perceptions of Health-care Providers Dependent Upon Gender"
- Tyler Rapke, "Experiences with Health Care"
- Sarah Danielle McAlpin, "Utilizing the Stereotype Content Model to Examine Interactions Between Age, Gender, and Participant Gender in Differentiating Out-Group Stereotypes"
- Mya Raulston, "Why Does the Wealthiest Developed Nation Have Relatively the Worst Maternal Mortality Outcomes?"

THANK YOU!

Many of the events, research projects, conference travel opportunities, and awards highlighted in this newsletter are made possible each year by thoughtful contributions of our generous Alumni. If you would like to sponsor student research activities, conference travel, department events, including the Northern Lights conference, please consider making a donation through one of the following. Thank you!

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Scholarships

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[Support Terrance Memorial](#)

**RALPH KOLSTOE
COLLOQUIUM SERIES**
Lectureships

Celebrating the legacy of professor emeritus Dr. Ralph Kolstoe.

[Support Kolstoe Series](#)

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Departmental Needs

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