Message From the Chair

Dr. Jeanette Taylor

A new academic year is always exciting and is made more so by the welcoming of 41 new graduate students and four new faculty. See our new By the Numbers section for more, including the $11.5 million in new grants awarded to our faculty over the past 6 months.

We shine the spotlight on notable accomplishments of faculty and staff, including Sandy Saunders reaching the 20-year mark in Psychology at FSU. We appreciate her dedication and continued excellence. Our graduate students, undergraduates, and alumni continue to make their mark in impressive ways garnering awards, NIH fellowships, new jobs, promotions, and even an interview for a Rhodes Scholarship. Please read about all of the things happening in Psychology!

Dr. Thomas Joiner was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in recognition of his contributions to the field of suicide research and prevention, particularly for the development of the leading theoretical account of suicidal behavior. AAAS began recognizing fellows in 1874. Thirty-eight current FSU faculty members have achieved the rank of fellow since 1957. Thomas will receive recognition at the AAAS annual meeting in February.

Faculty Grants

Joe Franklin received $150,000 from the Military Suicide Research Consortium for his project “Using Machine Learning to Distinguish Among Active Duty, Veteran, and Civilian Suicidality”.

Colleen Ganley, Chris Schatschneider, and Rob Schoen (FCR-STEM) received a $1.4 million grant from the Institute of Education Sciences to study the relation between elementary school teachers’ math anxiety, their instructional practices, and their students’ math anxiety and achievement.

Greg Hajcak received a $644,116 grant from NIMH for his project “Attention Training to Modify ERN and Risk for Anxiety in Adolescence”.

Elizabeth Hammock received a $108,000 grant from The Foundation for Prader-Willi Research to work on her project, “Neural mechanisms of oxytocin-enhanced infant feeding and social behavior development.”

See more grants on p.4

In the Spotlight

Dr. Thomas Joiner
Named AAAS Fellow

Thomas Joiner was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in recognition of his contributions to the field of suicide research and prevention, particularly for the development of the leading theoretical account of suicidal behavior. AAAS began recognizing fellows in 1874. Thirty-eight current FSU faculty members have achieved the rank of fellow since 1957. Thomas will receive recognition at the AAAS annual meeting in February.

By the Numbers

41 New graduate students joined the department this Fall
13 Ph.D’s awarded in Spring and Summer 2017
4 New faculty joined the department this Fall bringing our total to 41
24 Master’s awarded in Spring and Summer 2017
622 Undergraduates enrolled in formative experiences in Summer and Fall 2017
$11.5M In new grants in the past 6 months
Faculty Awards & Honors

Jon Bailey received the Outstanding Scientific Contributions to the Field of Behavior Analysis Award from the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis on October 5th, 2017 at the 37th Annual Meeting in Daytona Beach.

Wally Boot was the recipient of the APA Division 21’s prestigious Earl Alluisi Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements made by a psychologist within 10 years of receiving their Ph.D. Wally was also awarded Fellow status by the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), the world’s oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. Fellow status is an acknowledgement of outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology.

New Faces

Several new faces joined the department recently. This included four new faculty. Greg Hajcak (Clinical) uses psychophysiological and neurobiological measures (i.e., event-related brain potentials or ERPs, functional magnetic resonance imagining or fMRI, startle reflex) to understand cognition, emotion, and psychopathology—especially in relation to anxiety, depression, and psychosis. Jon Maner (Social) focuses on the interplay between motivation, emotion, and social cognition, drawing on a blend of theories and methods from evolutionary and social psychology. Jon was previously a faculty member at FSU from 2003-2014. Jessica Ribeiro (Clinical) seeks to accurately detect risk for suicidal behavior for all people at all points in time. Her approach represents a radical shift from the status quo, with the aim of substantially advancing risk identification, especially for suicidal behavior. Jessica received her Ph.D. from FSU in 2014. Linda Rinaman (Neuroscience) studies the development and functional organization of neural circuits that control motivated behavior, and circuits that provide physiological support for that behavior under normal and stressful conditions.

We also welcomed two new research faculty: Jens Foell and Huiyuan Zheng. Jens is collaborating with Chris Patrick, and Huiyuan is collaborating with Linda Rinaman.

Lauren Chapman and William Fickbohm recently joined the grants team as Grants Specialists. The advising office welcomed Ryan Chin-Hing as an academic advisor, and Hao Wu joined the technical support group as the department’s programmer.

In the Spotlight

New Books

Don Compton published Theories of Reading Development, an edited volume that brings together theories of reading development and disabilities from genetics, education, psychology, and cognitive science.

Thomas Joiner published Mindlessness: The Corruption of Mindfulness in a Culture of Narcissism, a book that chronicles the rise of mindfulness and resulting trend towards narcissism.
Alumni Updates

Joye Anestis was awarded a Nina Bell Suggs Endowed Professorship for the 2017-2018 academic year at the University of Southern Mississippi. Joye received her Ph.D. in 2012 under the guidance of Joyce Carbonell.

Don Capron was awarded a Nina Bell Suggs Endowed Professorship for the 2017-2018 academic year at the University of Southern Mississippi. Don received his Ph.D. in 2015 under the guidance of Brad Schmidt.

Edward Cokely received the Early Career Impact Award from the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, for the Society for Judgment and Decision Making. He received his Ph.D. in 2007 in Cognitive Psychology under the guidance of Colleen Kelley.

Kelly Cukrowicz was promoted to full professor at Texas Tech University. Kelly received her Ph.D. in 2005 under the guidance of Ellen Berler.

Kimberly Driscoll received the Early Career Impact Award from the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, for the Society for Judgment and Decision Making. He received his Ph.D. in 2007 in Cognitive Psychology under the guidance of Colleen Kelley.

Kimberly also recently received an $1.9 million NIH/NIDDK grant.

Eric Krause was promoted to Associate Professor of Pharmacodynamics with tenure in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Florida. Eric graduated with his Ph.D. in Neuroscience in 2005 under the guidance of Rob Contreras.

Research In the News

Wally Boot, Neil Charness, and Dustin Souders were featured in multiple news outlets for their work on debunking the promises of brain games, including New York Daily News, MSN, Medical Daily, and Business Standard.

Jesse Cougle was interviewed by CNN, discussing the effects Hurricane Irma had on Tallahassee’s population and the stress experienced in the aftermath.

Chelsea Ennis (major professor: Jeanette Taylor) was featured for her work on nightmares and suicide in an article in New York Magazine.

Jon Maner was featured in multiple news outlets for his work relating unpredictable childhood environments to obesity during adulthood. His work was featured in US News & World Report, Tallahassee Democrat, FSU Headlines, and The Daily Mail.

Jim McNulty was featured in multiple news outlets, for his work on rekindling marital satisfaction with cute animal pictures. His work was featured in Time, The Wall Street Journal, Reader's Digest, National Geographic, Yahoo! News, Science Daily, Inverse and AV News.

Aaron Wilber was featured in multiple news outlets for his work on the brain's similarity to GPS. His work was featured in the Tallahassee Democrat, Science Update, ALN Magazine, Daily Mail, and Science News Online.

In the Spotlight

Sandy Saunders reached her 20-year employment landmark with FSU during 2017. At the Employee Awards Ceremony, Sandy was given a plaque to commemorate her 20 years with FSU in the Psychology Department. Sandy is the department's business manager and she oversees all fiscal matters.
Grants Con’t

Natalie Sachs-Ericsson and Dawn Carr (FSU Sociology Department) received $50,000 from the Gerontological Society to study the impact of HAI (pet ownership or other forms of interaction) on healthy aging in older adults and their caregivers.

Pam Keel and Lisa Eckel received a competitive renewal award of $164,376 from NIH to continue their T32 training grant, “Integrated Clinical Neuroscience Training for Translational Research.”

Jessica Ribeiro received two grants from the Military Suicide Research Consortium. The first was $1,500,000 for her project “Optimizing Suicide Risk Detection and Management in Military Primary Care”. And the second was $150,000 for her project “Examining the Nature of Suicide Risk Over Time using Machine Learning”.

Brad Schmidt also received two grants from the Military Suicide Research Consortium. The first was $1,500,000 for his project “Building Strong Allies: Development and Evaluation of a Web Application Targeting Interpersonal Risk Factors for Suicide”. And the second was $150,000 for his project “Long Term Follow-up Proposal for MSRC DARTS Clinical Trial”.

Rick Wagner was awarded an NIH/NICHD P50 grant to continue the Florida Learning Disabilities Research Center in the amount of $8,198,566.

Aaron Wilber was awarded an $811,000 R00 grant from NIH for his project, “Parietal-hippocampal network in the triple transgenic mouse model of Alzheimer’s.”

Graduate Student News

Matthew Podlogar (major professor: Thomas Joiner) was selected as the recipient of the American Psychological Foundation’s (APF) 2017 The Trust Eric A. Harris, EdD, JD Grant. This grant is provided to early career psychologists/graduate students for research in the area of ethics and risk management.

Nicole Short (major professor: Brad Schmidt) received a two year F31 NIH Fellowship for her proposal, “Behavioral Mechanisms Underlying Improving Sleep to Reduce Risk for Substance Use Disorder.”

Ian Stanley (major professors: Natalie Sachs-Ericsson and Thomas Joiner) was selected as a recipient of a 2017 American Psychological Association Dissertation Research Award. This award assists doctoral students of psychology with research costs.

Sarah Terrill (major professor: Diana Williams) received a two year F31 NIH Fellowship for her proposal, “Lateral Septal GLP-1 pathways”. Sarah received the Randall Sakai New Investigator Travel Award from the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior. Sarah also won the Beidler Award in Neuroscience.

Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Gil Damon, a double major in psychology and political science, was a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship.

Chloe Halfhide, Devin Sapp, and Katriana Dubytz were inducted into the Garnet and Gold Scholar Society. This group recognizes undergraduates who excel within and beyond the classroom in at least three of the following areas: international experience, internship, leadership, research, and service.

Thomas Preston was selected to receive the Fall 2017 Phi Beta Kappa Alpha Chapter of Florida, Marion Jewell Hay Award. This award recognizes the top student graduating the current term at FSU as determined by the Phi Beta Kappa chapter.