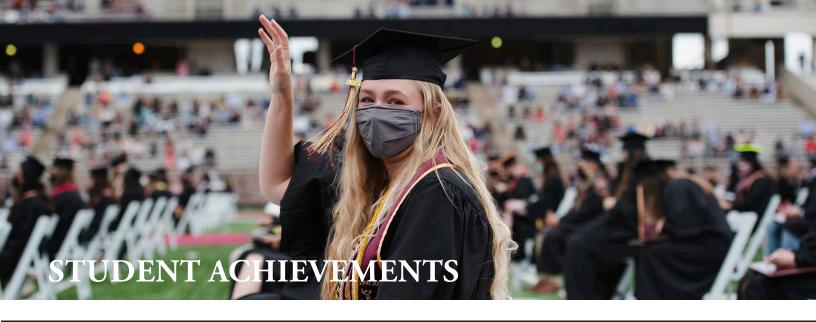


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STUDENT AWARDS

Current MAPR student Neha Shresthra was elected to serve as the graduate student representative to the Southwestern Psychological Association's Board of Directors.

Current MAPR student Kaitlin Grelle was awarded a scholarship from the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education to fund her education in the MAPR program.

Undergraduate student Natalie Quintero-Flores was named the Outstanding Senior in Psychology for 2020-2021.

Undergraduate student Omalys Biggs Rodriguez was awarded the Pecot Fellowship from the McKnight Foundation for Neuroscience to fund her work in the laboratory of Dr. Carmen Westerberg during the 2021-2022 academic year. View the announcement.

Undergraduate student Victoria Villarreal, tied for 3rd place, at the 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference and Thesis Forum for her research poster, Generation Z Attitudes About the Workplace During COVID-19: An Exploratory Survey, Advisor, Dr. Katherine Warnell.

Undergraduate student Katelyn Domer, Honorable Mention, at the 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference and Thesis Forum for her research poster, The Deceiver and the Deceived: Effects of Recollecting Prosocial Lying on Emotions and Values, Advisor, Dr. Katherine Warnell.

Undergraduate student Connor MacKinnon, Honorable Mention, at the 15th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference and Thesis Forum for his research poster What Defines You: A Subordinate View of Authentic Leadership, Advisor, Dr. Randall Osborne.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE PSYCHOLOGY DIGITAL STUDENT POSTER SHOWCASE

- Best Graduate Poster: Natalie Tucker, Big Little Lies: A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Prosocial Lying to Children Outside of Parental Contexts (mentor: Dr. Katherine Warnell)
- Graduate Runner Up: Kristen Hardin-Sigler, Under the Digital Bridge: Investigating Trolling Behaviors in Baby Boomers (mentor: Dr. Rebecca Deason)
- Best Undergraduate Poster: Katelyn Domer, The Deceiver and the Deceived: Effects of Recollecting Prosocial Lying on Emotions and Values (mentors: Dr. Jennifer Clegg & Dr. Katherine Warnell)
- Undergraduate Runner Up: Megan Ximenes, Pandemic Stressor and Alcohol Problems Among U.S. Women: The Combined Roles of Drinking to Cope and Intolerance to Uncertainty (mentor: Dr. Jessica Perrotte)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WHO WON AWARDS AT THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS RESEARCH EXPO

Oral presentations: 2nd place, Natalie Quintero-Flores (mentor: Dr. Jennifer Clegg)





Poster presentations: 2nd place, Katelyn Domer (mentor: Dr. Katherine Warnell)

STUDENTS WIN PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Undergraduate Student Scholarship Winners

- Leah Burnett Scholarship (\$2200): Lauren Sweeny
- Fahringer-Fox Scholarship (\$2100): Alexandra Mendez
- Sheila Fling Scholarship (\$1200): Jenna Vanderzwart
- William James Scholarship (\$1000): Bliss Morvant
- Rebecca Lee Wheeler Memorial Scholarship (\$926): Tyler LeBlanc
- D. Theron Stimmel Scholarship (\$700): Shelby Snead

Graduate Student Scholarship Winners

- Steven Mesquiti, current MAPR student, was awarded an MAPR Scholarship (\$500)
- Neha Shrestha, current MAPR student, was awarded an MAPR Scholarship (\$500) and a Graduate College Scholarship (\$1000)
- Katherine Vrotsos, incoming MAPR student, was awarded a Graduate College Merit Fellowship (\$3000)

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Former MAPR student Stephen Ramos ('16) published the article "COVID-19's impact felt by researchers" for the American Psychological Association's Science Student Council.

Former MAPR students Dalton Klare ('20), Alyse Finch ('20), and Aleyda Arreola ('20), along with Texas State faculty Dr. Krista Howard and Dr. Stephanie Dailey published the article <u>"Examining how sexual identity, psychosocial factors, and organizational differences relate to intent-to-quit in a large-scale cross-sectional study"</u> in the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies.

Former MAPR students Sierra Kaiser ('20), Dalton Klare ('20), and Merab Gomez ('20), along with Texas State faculty Dr. Krista Howard and Dr. Natalie Ceballos published the article "A comparison of social media behaviors between sexual minorities and heterosexual individuals" in the Science Direct Computers in Human Behavior Volume 116.

STUDENT PRESENTATION



Current MAPR student Natalie Tucker presented her research "Big little lies: A cross-cultural comparison of prosocial lying to children outside of parental contexts" at the Society for Research in Child Development's Biennial Meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS ATTENDING GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN FALL 2021!

Undergraduates Students:

- Maret Baker-Hayes ('21), JD, Emory University School of Law
- Devon Brunner ('17), PhD in Clinical Psychology, Southern Methodist University
- Leanne Castro ('21), MS in School Psychology, Brooklyn College
- Sarah Hickman ('21), MA in Family Therapy, University of Houston, Clear Lake
- Kiara Leonard ('18), PsyD in Clinical Psychology, Baylor University
- Connor MacKinnon ('21), MA in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Angelo State University
- Breana McCormack ('21) PhD in Psychology, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley
- Allison Pequet ('18), PhD in School Psychology, Tulane University
- Lecouna Price ('21) MA in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, St. Mary's University

- Natalie Quintero-Flores ('21), PhD in Developmental Psychology, University of Texas, Dallas
- Bridget Woodbury ('21), MS in Industrial/ Organizational Psychology, Texas A&M University
- Maria Zavala ('21), MS in School Psychology, Texas State University

Graduate Students:

- Kennedy Anderson ('21), PhD in Clinical Psychology, Sam Houston State University
- Merab Gomez ('20), PhD in Experimental Psychology, University of California, Riverside
- Christopher Hawkins ('16), PhD in Perception, Cognition, and Cognitive Neuroscience, University of California, Davis
- Sinjin Roming ('18), PhD in Educational Psychology, Texas A&M Commerce

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING 2021 MAPR GRADUATES

MADIHA ALI
KENNEDY ANDERSON
DOMINIQUE GUTIERREZ
KRISTIN HARDIN-SIGLER
MICHAELA JEFFERSON
TAYLOR MCDONALD
MACY MYERS
CARA PETROFES



Danielle McEwen, Administrative Assistant III, completed her first year in the Texas State PhD program in Developmental Education with a concentration in Learning Support. She was also awarded a Graduate College Scholarship (\$2000), a Staff Council Scholarship (\$1000), and Staff Educational Developmental Leave (20 hours/week) for both spring and fall 2021, and has been named a Long-Term Trainee in the Autism Consortium of Texas LEND Program, which includes a \$9000 stipend.

Congratulations to Danielle McEwen, Administrative Assistant III, whose proposal has been selected for funding by the University Lecturers Committee for \$3,000. Funding will be used to bring Dr. Temple Grandin, a prominent scientist, author, and speaker to present at Texas State University. The talk will focus on inclusion, diversity, and self-truth, especially regarding education.



FACULTY IN THE MEDIA



Assistant Professor Dr. Rhonda Balzarini was quoted in the BBC News article "How the pandemic has changed our sex lives" and in the Toronto Star article "If you're dating, the pandemic may have sped up your relationship. So you make it or break it sooner." Her research was also featured in the Psychology Today article "When your romantic partner fails to meet your sexual ideal".



Assistant Professor Dr. Jennifer Clegg-Petz was quoted in the Care.com article "Onlychild syndrome: Real thing or unnecessary worry?" and her research was featured in the BBC Future article "How the 'Western mind' was shaped by the Medieval Church."



Professor Dr. Ty Schepis was quoted in the USA Today article "It's time to stop saying words like 'Schitzo' and phrases like 'I'm so OCD.' Here's why."



Associate Professor Dr. Carmen Westerberg's research was featured in the University Star article "Souvenirs of sleep: Professor earns funds for new study analyzing superior memory."

FACULTY PRESENTATION





Assistant Professors Dr. Jennifer Clegg and Dr. Katherine Warnell gave a presentation for the Texas State University College of Liberal Arts Salon Series, "Learning to Lie".

FACULTY AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS



Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Angulo, who was named the 2021-2022 Faculty Senate Fellow. Sarah will conduct a project focused on campus-wide mentorship and career development opportunities for non-tenure line faculty.



Congratulations to Professor Dr. Joe Etherton, who is now officially board certified in Clinical Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).



Congratulations to Dr. Krista J. Howard on her promotion from Associate Professor to Professor.



Congratulations to Dr. Amitai Abramovitch on his Tenure and promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.



PSYCHOLOGY ALUM HONORED AT THE ANNUAL COLA ALUMNI GALA



As we noted in the fall newsletter, former Psychology student Myric Polhemus (B.A., 1997) received this year's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. The award was bestowed at the annual College of Liberal Arts (COLA) Alumni Gala in April, and this was the first major face-to-face gathering for the college since the pandemic began. Check out Myric's bio and those of the other award winners on the COLA website.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

As a new feature in our newsletters, we will be highlighting the current accomplishments of 2-4 alumni, including past reflections on their time spent at Texas State.



Stephen Ramos, Ph.D. Candidate

Stephen Ramos grew up playing mariachi music and originally entered college as a music major at the University of North Texas. However, he quickly discovered that he was more curious about evoking emotions and behaviors through music and turned to a career in psychology. As an undergraduate, Stephen worked at a psychiatric hospital and assisted with several psychological research studies. It was through these experiences that Stephen fell in love with psychological research and ultimately decided to pursue a Master of Arts in Psychological Research in the MAPR program at Texas State. As a graduate student, Stephen worked closely with Texas State researchers Dr. Ty Schepis and Dr. Krista Howard, publishing research on a

variety of topics related to human health.

After graduating from TXST in 2016, Stephen entered a PhD program in Clinical Psychology at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago. At IIT, his research focuses on health psychology with a special interest in HIV, health inequity, and marginalized communities. His dissertation is a grant-funded investigation of barriers and facilitators to the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), an HIV preventative medication. Beyond his dissertation project, Stephen wears several hats. He is leading a study investigating social determinants and mental health as predictors of COVID health disparities in Chicago, and he works as a testing supervisor for the Chicago Public School System. He is also the 2020-2022 Health Psychology representative for the American Psychological Association Science Student Committee, a role in which he advocates for graduate student and early career psychologists.

As he nears the end of his PhD training, Stephen is looking forward to starting his internship/residency in Clinical Health/Medical Psychology at the University of Florida, where he will have the opportunity to conduct assessments and provide psychological treatment for patients in areas such as chronic pain, bariatric surgery, sleep medicine, oncology, and transplantation.

Most important thing he learned at Texas State:

Stephen credits Texas State for building his statistical proficiencies and leadership skills, which he continues to use today. He notes that the lessons he learned from the MAPR program helped him to have a strong foundation and to hit the ground running in his career.

Favorite classes at Texas State:

Psychopharmacology with Dr. Ty Schepis and Health Psychology with Dr. Krista Howard.

Fondest memory of San Marcos:

Climbing the Alkek Library stairs (sarcasm noted!), grabbing lunch and coffee with friends at Tantra, Lolita's, Dos Gatos, and that one fantastic taco shop inside the Exxon that nobody ever really knew the name of.

Advice to current Texas State graduate students:

The MAPR program is designed for your development. This is an opportunity to further your education, as well as to diversify your personal and professional network. The skills and connections that you gain from this program will be very important to your future. Lastly, save all of your statistics notes!



Jennifer Abshire Wicker, MA, LPC

Jennifer was born with a yearning to help others. As an undergraduate at Texas State, she chose psychology as her major because of a desire to learn more about the phenomenon of psychosis and how individuals with perceptual differences experience the world around them. She credits her former Texas State instructor Mr. David Carpenter for setting her on her career path as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

After completing a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2007, Jennifer remained at Texas State to pursue a Master of Arts in Health Psychology and to complete her LPC training. She graduated again in 2011. Jennifer's first job after graduation was at ResCare in

San Marcos, where she assisted in the rehabilitation of individuals who had experienced traumatic brain injury. She began her career as a member of the direct care staff and ultimately rose to the positions of therapist and case manager before moving to her current position at the Hays-Caldwell Women's Center (HCWC) in San Marcos.

The HCWC is a non-profit organization offering free and confidential services to victims of family violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Within the HCWC, Jennifer serves as Program Director of the Counseling and Resource Center. In this role, she supervises counselors, legal advocates, and resource advocates. In her work, she strives

to exemplify a transformational management style and enjoys helping her colleagues to grow in their careers. Further, even though she now holds a leadership position within her organization, Jennifer is still able to work with clients every day. Making a difference in the lives of others is a major reason why she loves her job.

Most important thing she learned at Texas State:

Courses like Abnormal Psychology, Adulthood and Aging, and Health Psychology provide information that can be applied in real life. For example, studies of the factors that influence public acceptance of and willingness to participant in health-related behaviors are obviously applicable now as we are confronted with the COVID pandemic.

Favorite classes at Texas State:

Sensation and Perception with Dr. Oberle and Adulthood and Aging with Mr. David Carpenter.

Fondest memory of San Marcos:

Jennifer met her husband while they were students at Texas State! Advice to current Texas State students: With respect to your studies and ultimate career, have a plan...but a flexible plan. Jump on any chances for internships because they give you work experience and the opportunity to try on a role to see if that is a career you would like to pursue. Finally, do not be afraid to network and talk to your professors!



Colleene Saenz, M.A.

Born and raised in the small South Texas town of Beeville, Colleene always dreamed of living and working in New York City. After graduating from high school, Texas State was the first stop in her journey. As an undergraduate, Colleene chose to major in psychology and initially planned to become a therapist. However, as is often the case, her goals expanded as she learned more about the opportunities available to her at Texas State. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in psychology 2010, Colleene ultimately returned to Texas State to earn a certificate in mediation in 2012 and a master's degree in legal studies in 2014.

After a brief stop in Austin, Colleene finally made her move to NYC. She arrived in the

city knowing only one person, but she knew if she gave up on her dreams, then she would always regret it. She took a leap, and it has worked out well for her. Colleene currently lives in Brooklyn, where she works as a Legal Recruiter and Personal Development Coach. Trained in ontological coaching, Colleene enjoys supporting people as they work to identify their goals and achieve their dreams. She describes her coaching approach as positive and forward moving. She strives to meet her clients exactly where they are and to help them connect with their purpose.

Most important thing she learned at Texas State:

Everything you learn in psychology can help you in your interactions with people and in your career.

Favorite classes at Texas State:

Introduction to Psychology with Dr. Stan Friedman and Abnormal Psychology with Mr. David Carpenter.

Fondest memory of San Marcos:

Floating the river with friends any time it was 80 degrees or above and connecting with nature.

Advice to current Texas State students:

Soak up every second of being a college student at this beautiful university and being on your own for the first time. Live and be present and try not to worry too much about the future. Life is not a linear journey. There are going to be twists and turns and mysteries and dramas. So, embrace it! Rather than focusing on what you want as a job title or what salary you should make, focus on who you want to be in the world and what sort of impact and legacy you want to leave. Everything is going to come together for you.



Dr. Michael Bourgeois, Ph.D.

Dr. Bourgeois had a modest up-bringing in Beaumont, TX as the youngest of seven children. After completing high school and dabbling in retail and restaurant management, he decided to pursue an education in Psychology at Texas State University as a first-generation college student, with the goal of becoming a therapist. During his time as an undergraduate, he discovered a love of teaching through his work with the LGBT Speakers Bureau at Texas State. As a founding member, he worked to combat violence against LGBT individuals by speaking on campus and working with the residence hall directors to educate people,

provide sensitivity training, and change laws to classify crimes against LGBT individuals as hate crimes.

After graduating from Texas State University in 1997 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Sociology, he decided to obtain M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara to pursue his love of teaching. As a graduate student, he also realized his passion for research, and also found himself working in the Office of Institutional Research. Given the bleak job market for sociologists at the time, he shifted his research and focus to Institutional Research.

Dr. Bourgeois' research has had a major impact on institutional research, education policy, equity, and inclusion and his work has been instrumental in shifting the field from merely providing institutional analytics to using the data to improve institutional effectiveness. In 2019, he left California for his current position as the Executive Director and Chief Data Strategist in Institutional Research at Purdue University Northwest. In 2008, Dr. Bourgeois also become one of the first 16,000 same-sex couples allowed to marry in the state of California, and he remains happily married today.

Most important thing he learned at Texas State:

The close relationships between faculty and students were instrumental in shaping the way he thought about himself, education, and work, and strongly molded his core ethics and character.

Favorite classes at Texas State:

Research Methods with Dr. Harvey Ginsburg, Introduction to Sociology with Dr. Susan Day

Fondest memory of San Marcos:

Swimming in the San Marcos River in the watering hole near the restaurant at the corner of Aquarena Springs Drive and Sessom.

Advice to current Texas State students:

Get to know your professors and don't be afraid to ask questions. You will learn more during office hours than you will during class. As you plan for life after Texas State, definitely pursue your dreams, but be willing to be surprised that what you end up doing might not be what you originally planned, and be open to that.

ALUMNUS - IN MEMORIUM

We have been informed that Lt. Colonel Christopher Neil Quaid, USAF (retired), class of 1994, passed away on December 16, 2017, at the age of 47 following a diagnosis of glioblastoma. Chris graduated with a degree in Psychology and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Air Force in 1994. He was a master space operator and battlefield airman in the national security community and served in the combat zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. Chris received many decorations during his distinguished career, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with service star, and the Air Force Expeditionary Service Medal. He is survived by several family members, including his wife and four children. For more details about his amazing life, please see the Christopher Quaid Obituary.