

PsychNews Ψ

Department of Psychology | St. Thomas University | Fredericton, NB

Welcome

Welcome to PsychNews, a publication of the Department of Psychology, St. Thomas University. We produce two issues per year.

Purpose

PsychNews provides readers with updates on faculty, honours students, and honours programme alumni, as well as other noteworthy information about the department.

Editor

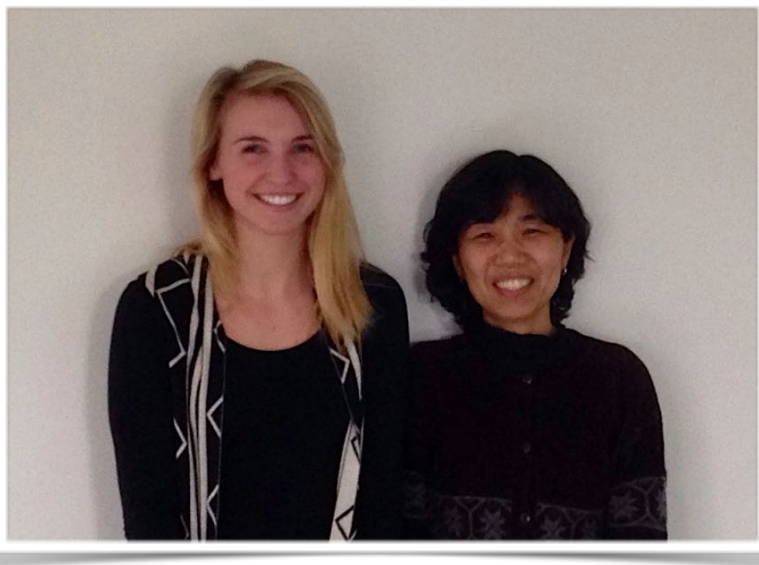
The current editor of PsychNews is Dr. Suzanne Prior. Suggestions and/or updates for issues can be sent to Dr. Prior (prior@stu.ca). The Department of Psychology reserves the right to determine the content of PsychNews.

Editor's Note

We are at the beginning of another busy semester. Honours thesis research is in full swing and faculty are actively engaged with teaching and research.

Honours Class 2017-2018

The small, but mighty honours class is hard at work on their thesis research. We wish Cameron Smith and Kyoungsil Nah every success and look forward to learning more about their thesis projects as they progress.



(L-R): Cameron Smith, Kyoungsil Nah

Current Honours Thesis Projects

A probe recognition investigation of spontaneous casual inferences in self-perception. **Kyoungsil Nah** (Advisors: Drs. Nancy Higgins and Sandra Thomson)

Living the good life: The role of friendship. **Cameron Smith** (Advisor: Dr. Dave Korotkov)

Recent Faculty Publications and Conference Presentations

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Bond-Fraser L. & **Fraser, I.** (2017). Eyewitness fallibility and its relationship with false confessions, tunnel vision, prosecutor and defense lawyer errors. *Solicitor's Journal*, 33(1), 14-17.

Bond-Fraser, L., Ferris, K., Waite, K., & **Fraser, I.** (2017). Assessing the perceptions of police officers concerning the number of exonerations in which eyewitness error was a factor. *JBSS*, 4(3), 149-155.

Open commentary article: Thomas, E.J., **Lafrance, M.N.**, & **Stelzl, M.** (2018). Misrepresentation and the media: A reflection on our experiences with media engagement. *Sexualities*.

Stelzl, M., & Stairs, B., & Anstey, H. (in press). A narrow view: The conceptualization of sexual problems in human sexuality textbooks. *Journal of Health Psychology*.

Conference Presentations

Anstey, H., Deweyert, C., & **Perunovic, M.** (2017). Exploring feelings of victimization in individuals with psychopathic tendencies in romantic relationships. Presentation at the 78th annual convention of the *Canadian Psychological Association*, Toronto, ON.

Deweyert, C., Anstey, H., & **Perunovic, M.** (2017). Negative implications of Machiavellianism on romantic relationships. Presentation at the 78th annual convention of the *Canadian Psychological Association*, Toronto, ON.

Higgins, N. C., O'Donnell, T., & Randall, H. E. (2017). Maintenance of unrealistic optimism when negative experiences are personally controllable: An experimental investigation. Presentation at the 56th *New England Psychological Association Meeting*, Newton, MA.

Invited Presentations

Bond-Fraser L. & **Fraser, I.** (2017). Perception, memory and law. *New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Committee conference*, Moncton, NB.

Thomson, S. J. (2017). Cognitive consequences of multitasking. Psychology Department Colloquium Series, *University of New Brunswick*, Fredericton, NB.



STU Psychology Research On Tour



Former honours students: We would love to hear from you! Please send updates (photos would be great) to prior@stu.ca

Honours Alumni News: A Showcase of Diversity and Excellence

Graduate School Acceptances and Updates



Isabel Brun (BA Honours 2013), MSc at the University of Calgary where she is a PhD student in Counselling Psychology.

Isabel Brun (BA Honours 2013) completed her MSc in Counselling Psychology at the University of Calgary. She is continuing in the PhD program.

Julia Bremner (BA Honours 2012) completed her MSW in Social Work at Carleton University.

Halley Phillips (BA Honours 2015) was accepted in the MA program in Peace & Conflict Studies (Psychology) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC.

Emily Thomas (BA Honours 2014) completed her MA in Clinical Psychology at Ryerson University. She is continuing in the PhD program.



Julia Bremner (BA Honours 2012), MSW and Megan Lamb (BA Honours 2012), MA. Julia recently completed her MSW in Social Work and Megan is currently a PhD student in Psychology at Carleton University.

Career Updates

Julia Bremner (BA Honours 2012), MSW is now a child protection social worker with the Department of Community Services in Nova Scotia.

Katelyn Waite (BA Honours 2013), MScOT is now an Occupational Therapist at a skilled nursing facility in Northern Virginia.

Congratulations! 🏆

Dr. Tyler Bancroft received the Wallace and Margaret McCain Course Release Award.

Dr. Michelle Lafrance received the Qualitative Methods in Psychology Citation for Excellence from the British Psychological Society.

Emily Thomas (BA Honours 2014), MA received an O'Brien Foundation Fellowship in support of her PhD studies in Clinical Psychology at Ryerson University.



Emily Thomas (BA Honours 2014), MA at the awards ceremony for the O'Brien Foundation Fellowship, along with Drs. Michelle Lafrance and Monika Stelzl.

Alumnus in the Spotlight

Katie Saunders (BA Honours 2002), PhD (2008)

We are pleased to highlight Dr. Katie Saunders as our **Alumnus in the Spotlight**. Katie completed her honours in 2002 under the supervision of Drs. Kim Fenwick and Suzanne Prior. Her thesis was entitled *Development of listening, oral, and silent reading comprehension in elementary school children*. This research was published in the journal *Literacy Research and Instruction*.



After graduation, Katie moved to Montreal to study School and Applied Child Psychology at McGill University. During her MA and PhD studies, her research focused on gifted students and the benefits of inquiry-based instruction. Katie also completed clinical internships in school and hospital settings before completing her PhD in 2008. Katie remained in Montreal to pursue her career as a school psychologist.

After graduation, Katie ran the learning centre at a private high school, before changing paths to specialize in psycho-educational evaluations at a not-for-profit organization. Currently, she continues to do evaluations in private practice, focusing on identifying and supporting the needs of students with a variety of learning challenges.

Katie states “Little did I know that my STU thesis research project, which involved administering standardized academic tests, would be the beginning of a career in a related area. I feel lucky to have been a student in the STU Psychology Honours program, where I had my first experiences doing research. I also benefitted from several opportunities not often available to undergraduate students, such as being a teaching assistant. I thrived in the personal environment where professors knew the students and offered individualized support. My supervisors’ guidance was an important factor in my successful graduate school applications. I’m so grateful I had these relationships, as well as lifelong friendships I made at STU. I felt such a connection that a few years after graduation I even got married in the STU chapel!”

Congratulations Katie on pursuing a rewarding career in school psychology that builds on your passion for working with children and on your honours thesis research. We are proud of you and wish you the very best!