

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

Another busy semester is coming to a close. We have a big honours class working hard on their research. We are pleased to introduce you to a new faculty member!

Honours Class 2018-2019

We are enjoying working with this talented and enthusiastic honours class. We wish them every success and look forward to learning more about their thesis projects as they progress.



(Back L-R): Andrew Hall, Vanessa Gray, Briea Malloy, Moira Kinney, Derek Bailey
(Front L-R): Danielle Caissie, Jessica Gilbert, Elizabeth Dreise, Lourdes Pastrana, Alexandra Mackie

Current Honours Thesis Projects

Subjective shortening in auditory short-term memory. **Derek Bailey** (Advisor: Dr. Tyler Bancroft)

University students' mental health, resilience, coping, and academic behaviours. **Danielle Caissie** (Advisors: Drs. Marvin Claybourn and Suzanne Prior)

"We're not doing it to be nasty!": Informal caregivers' accounts of negotiating driving safety with their aging loved one. **Elizabeth Dreise** (Advisor: Dr. Michelle Lafrance)

University students' mental health, resilience, coping, and academic behaviours. **Jessica Gilbert** (Advisors: Dr. Marvin Claybourn and Suzanne Prior)

Machiavellians and their negative perception of their romantic partners. **Vanessa Gray** (Advisor: Dr. Mihailo Perunovic)

Introducing the on-line evidence for spontaneous trait inferences in self-perception. **Andrew Hall** (Advisor: Dr. Nancy Higgins)

"What do I do? Where do I start? Who do I talk to?": Challenges of information navigation among informal caregivers of older adults. **Moira Kinney** (Advisor: Dr. Michelle Lafrance)

Do the benefits of retrieval practice persist under conditions of divided attention? **Alexandra Mackie** (Advisor: Dr. Sandra Thomson)

"Faking Orgasm" in Women's Magazines. **Briea Malloy** (Advisor: Dr. Monika Stelzl)

An experimental study of sexual savouring. **Lourdes Pastrana** (Advisor: Dr. Sarah Vannier)

New Faculty Member



Dr. Sarah Vannier

The Department welcomes Dr. Sarah Vannier who began a three-year limited-term appointment on August 1, 2018. Dr. Vannier completed her Ph.D. in Experimental and Applied Psychology at the University of New Brunswick in 2016 and is joining STU from a postdoctoral fellowship in the Couples and Sexual Health lab at Dalhousie University.

Dr. Vannier's research specialization is in the area of sexual and romantic relationships and integrates the domains of social, developmental, and health psychology. "The driving force behind most of my work is an interest in exploring the ways we think about, understand, and maintain our close relationships. I am also interested in how these things change during critical periods of development (e.g., emerging adulthood, transition to parenthood). Right now my research is mostly focused on how first-time parents can maintain sexual and relationship well-being during the first year postpartum (see here for a fun video summarizing one of my recent studies looking at how new moms explain postpartum sexual changes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iPGtEVYZaU>). I am also interested in pro-relationship processes. These are processes that promote well-being. Most sexuality research has focused on ways to minimize negative outcomes, such as sexual risk, dysfunction, or distress, but we know less about how to maximize positive outcomes. I am hoping that my work will help to fill in some of this gap."

Fun facts about Dr. Vannier: She is from Laval, QC, worked part-time at the Gap all through university, and met her partner while playing ultimate frisbee in Fredericton!

Recent Faculty Publications and Conference Presentations

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Ensor, T. M., **Bancroft, T. D.**, & Hockley, W. E. (in press). Listening to the picture-superiority effect: Evidence for the conceptual-distinctiveness account of picture superiority in recognition. *Experimental Psychology*.

Bond-Fraser, L., & **Fraser, I.** (2018). Is an impartial jury possible? *Solicitor's Journal*, 34(1), 1-8.

Conference Presentations

Korotkov, D. (2018). Profiling the health and disposition related correlates of the underdog. Poster presented at the 32nd annual conference of the *European Health Psychology Society*, Galway, Ireland.

Korotkov, D., & Heim, J. (2018). Humour, laughter, and health: A social-cognitive approach. Poster presented at the 32nd annual conference of the *European Health Psychology Society*, Galway, Ireland.



STU Psychology in the News

Professor-student trio study caregivers' needs (Honours thesis research by Elizabeth Dreise and Moira Kinney under the supervision of Dr. Michelle Lafrance). Article in the Aquinian: <http://theaquinian.net/professor-student-trio-study-caregivers-needs/>

Students' mental health research draws nearly 200 participants (Honours thesis research by Danielle Caissie and Jessica Gilbert under the supervision of Drs. Marvin Claybourn and Suzanne Prior). Article in the Aquinian: <http://theaquinian.net/students-mental-health-research-draws-nearly-200-participants/>

Honours Alumni News: A Showcase of Diversity and Excellence

Graduate School Acceptances and Updates

Brittany Harris (BA Honours 2016) completed her MSW in Social Work at Carleton University.

Natasha Glover (BA Honours 2014) was accepted in the MD program in Medicine at Memorial University.



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

Congratulations!

Dr. Tyler Bancroft received a SSHRC Explore grant on environmental belief change.

Dr. Marvin Claybourn was appointed Chief Negotiator by the faculty union, FAUST.

Dr. Marvin Claybourn was appointed to the Equity Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

Dr. Michelle Lafrance received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Insight Development Grant (\$59,769.00): **Lafrance, M.N.**, Poulin, C., & Gouliquer, L. (2018-2020). Informal caregivers of older adults: Exploring the individual, social, and political context in New Brunswick.

Nick Levesque (BA Honours 2017) received a Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship in support of his MA studies in School Psychology at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Dr. Mihailo Perunovic was appointed Acting Chair of the Department.

Dr. Sandra Thomson received tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor on July 1, 2018.

Alumnus in the Spotlight

Cheryl Aubie (BA Honours 2000), PhD (2006)

We are pleased to highlight Dr. Cheryl Aubie as our **Alumnus in the Spotlight**. Cheryl completed her honours in 2000 under the supervision of Dr. Thomas Fish. She then completed a PhD in Clinical

Psychology at the University of Windsor in 2006. Her dissertation focused on the effects of weight-related teasing on mood and binge eating. Cheryl moved to Halifax to complete her predoctoral internship, focusing primarily on the treatment of adults with eating disorders and was offered a position in the QEII Health Sciences Centre Eating Disorder Clinic upon completion of her studies. Cheryl has worked in several specialty adult mental health programs, always maintaining a position in the Eating Disorder Clinic.



Cheryl Aubie

Cheryl is an Assistant Professor in the Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry and a Clinical Associate in the Dalhousie University Department of Psychology where she is asked to teach sessional courses and lectures to the PhD Clinical psychology graduate students. She also provides ongoing supervision and training for mental health professionals learning and expanding their skills in emotion focused skills.

In 2016, Cheryl established her private psychology practice, Wavelength Psychotherapy, where she and her associates provide psychological services to individuals, couples, and families struggling with mental health concerns. As of January 2019, Cheryl is transitioning into full time private practice in order to find the work-life balance for which she helps her client strive. “Private practice will allow me more flexibility to be more available to my husband and two daughters, aged 4 and 6. Being a psychologist who exclusively provides psychotherapy, I have to be very mindful of when I am not living according to my own values and the balance of work vs. family feels off.”

Reflecting on the honours program at STU, Cheryl fondly remembers the collegiality between faculty and the honours students. “I felt very valued and supported as a student at STU and that level of attention was excellent preparation for graduate training. I also believe that having a background in liberal arts-based psychology helped ground my work as a psychologist in the human experience. Studying people from a psychological, philosophical, sociological, anthropological, and even a literary perspective helped shape my openness to others’ perspectives and made me a much better therapist than had I approached psychology from a scientific perspective alone.”

Congratulations Cheryl on your outstanding career as a Clinical Psychologist. We are proud of you and wish you the very best with your private practice!