THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Psychology

2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome

Message from the Head

Sixty years ago, the Department of Psychology at UBC became an autonomous academic unit. Since then, our outstanding teaching and research have secured our reputation as one of the strongest psychology departments in the world, ranked first in Canada and tenth globally.

In this report, we take a look back at our highlights from 2017/18, including our breakthrough research accomplishments and distinguished teaching contributions. We also review the leadership and community engagement activities of our faculty members and students.

In 2017/18, our faculty body continued to grow. We welcomed two new tenure-track faculty members, Dr. Simon Lolliot and Dr. Nancy Sin. We also expanded our roster of outstanding lecturers to include Dr. Grace Truong.

I'm proud of the Department's wide-ranging successes, including our interdisciplinary collaborations—both at UBC and beyond. None of these achievements would be possible without the efforts of our exceptional faculty members, students, and staff.

Dr. D. Geoffrey Hall
Head, Department of Psychology

Research and Innovation

2017-2018 Highlights

$7,210,827 million in research grants awarded

- $3,434,936 Tri-council
- $1,800,237 Other government
- $1,375,653 Industry & non-profit
- $600,000 Canada Research Chairs

205 peer-reviewed articles published

2 books published

Research Excellence

Dr. Frances Chen and her Social Health Lab's sleep tracking app won the Healthy Behaviour Data Challenge for its contribution to public health research.

Dr. Kalina Christoff was named a Wall Scholar by the Peter Wall Institute.

Dr. Kiley Hamlin received a 2018 Stanton Award from the Society for Philosophy and Psychology.

Dr. David Klonsky received a 2017 UBC Killam Research Fellowship.

Dr. Joelle LeMoult was named a 2017 Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science.

Dr. Kristin Laurin was awarded the 2018 APS Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions by the Association of Psychological Science.

Dr. Ara Norenzayan, **Dr. Azim Shariff**, and colleagues received the Daniel M. Wegner Theoretical Innovation Prize for their paper *The Cultural Evolution of Prosocial Religions*.

Dr. Kiran Soma received a James McKeen Cattell Fellowship.

Teaching and Learning

2017-2018 Highlights

17,695 total undergraduate students enrolled
8,814 undergraduate students
2,101 BA psychology majors
134 BSc psychology majors
130 honours & directed studies students
14 co-op students
$16,050 in psychology undergraduate awards

Student Awards

The inaugural Mary Whiton Calkins Undergraduate Award was awarded to **Jonathan Grams**.

Psychology student **Katherine Moore** was named a 2017/18 Wesbrook Scholar. Katherine also received the Arts Outstanding Leadership in the UBC Community and Beyond award.

Teaching Excellence

Dr. Mark Lam and **Dr. Darko Odic** received 2017 Robert E. Knox Teaching Awards.

Dr. Catherine Rawn received the 2017 Jane S. Halonen Teaching Excellence Award from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, Division 2 of the American Psychological Association.

A new course developed by **Dr. Catherine Rawn**, and **Dr. Kristie Dukewich**, *PSYC216: Questioning Psychological Science in the Media*, examines the validity and implications of psychological statements being used in media.

The first University-wide course in Language Sciences, *Living Language: Science and Society* was developed by **Dr. Janet Werker** and **Dr. Mark Turin**, co-directors of UBC Language Sciences.

Graduate and Post-doctoral Training

2017-2018 Highlights

306 graduate student applications
110 graduate students
30 MA students
80 PhD students
27 post-doctoral fellows
$31, 773 median support provided to graduate students
86% of graduate students held fellowships
$1,010,750 in new graduate student fellowships
15 MA degrees awarded
16 PhD degrees awarded

Scholarly Excellence

Kyle Gooderham received the 2017 Demetri Papageorgis Teaching Assistant Award.

Anthea Pun was awarded a 2017/18 Killam Doctoral Scholarship.

Serene Tianyou Qiu was the recipient of a 2017 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship for her research proposal *The progression from suicidal ideation to attempts: understanding its temporal course, predictors, and pathways.* Serene also received a 2017/18 Killam Doctoral Scholarship.

Leadership and Community Outreach

2017-2018 Highlights

Ranked **1st** in Canada and **10th** globally

279 conference presentations by faculty

162 invited addresses by psychology faculty

19 journal editorships and associate editorships held by faculty

Public Engagement

Graduate students **Kyle Gooderham** and **Drake Levere** launched *Brain Buzz*, a new science podcast.

Jenn Lin, an undergraduate student, created *Humans of UBC Psych*, a digital storytelling project featuring people in UBC's psychology community.

Dr. Robert Knight was the distinguished speaker for the 2017 Quinn Memorial Lecture.

Leadership

Dr. Michael Chandler received the 2017 APA Mentor Award.

Dr. Kenneth Craig received funding to launch the *BC Pain Research Network*, a partnership between Pain BC and UBC.

Dr. Liisa Galea became the UBC Neuroscience Graduate Program Director.

Dr. Toni Schmader received a $2.5 million dollar SSHRC Partnership Grant to fund the *Engendering Success in STEM* consortium.

Dr. Janet Werker was awarded the 2018 Killam Prize in Social Sciences, one of Canada's most prestigious awards for academic-career achievement.

Dr. Janet Werker received the nation's highest honour, an appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada.

People in 2017-2018

New faculty members

Dr Simon Lolliot, Instructor 1
Dr. Nancy Sin, Assistant Professor
Dr. Grace Truong, Lecturer

Retirement

Dr. Charlotte Johnston, Emeritus Professor
Dr. Wolfgang Linden, Emeritus Professor

Promotion and tenure

Dr. Steven Barnes, Senior Instructor
Dr. Kristin Laurin, Associate Professor
Dr. Amori Mikami, Professor
Dr. Victoria Savalei, Professor

Media Coverage

2017-2018 Highlights

Our research received over **300** media mentions in local, national and international media including CBC News, The Globe and Mail, Global News, The Guardian, Time Magazine, The New York Times, New York Magazine, NPR, and The Washington Post.

Popular Stories in the News

Research by PhD student **Ryan Dwyer** and **Dr. Elizabeth Dunn** found people who used their phones while out for dinner with friends and family enjoyed themselves less than those who did not.

A study by undergraduate student **Emma Ward-Griffin**, **Dr. Frances Chen**, and **Dr. Stanley Coren** confirms that therapy dogs help stressed university students.

Research by graduate student **Marlise Hofer** and **Dr. Frances Chen** found that the scent of a romantic partner can help lower stress levels.

Former PhD student **Ashley Whillans** and **Dr. Elizabeth Dunn's** research reveals that using money to buy free time is linked to happiness.

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