

The Bi-Annual GSAC Newsletter

Spring 2021

Interested in what's going on in the department? Want to see what other grad students are up to?

Welcome to the GSAC Newsletter – your source for departmental happenings!



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A note from your GSAC reps...

Hello! Welcome to the Spring GSAC Newsletter! It is our hope that students in the MSU psychology department can use this bi-annual newsletter as a way to stay updated and connected to what is going on in the department as a whole, beyond any one program. We are excited to see how this newsletter will grow and evolve to help students connect with each other. If you have any suggestions for additional features to the newsletter in the future, please reach out to us at gsacpsymsu@gmail.com or to your respective GSAC rep.



GSAC Representatives

[Outgoing Reps]

Chairperson:

Jessica Lee

Secretary:

Mariah Purol

Event Planner:

Kara Cochran

Financial Officer:

Elle Wernette

Communications

Officers:

MK Kitzmiller

Caitlin Briggs

[Incoming Reps]

Chairperson:

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Clarification of GSAC Role

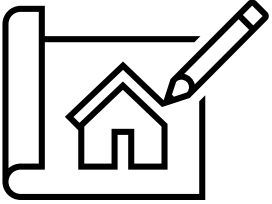
GSAC was established during the 2018-2019 year in response to a call from psychology graduate students to improve communication between students and faculty and between students in different program areas. GSAC consists of 6 elected psychology graduate student representatives, one from each program area

GSAC meets together regularly and has semesterly meetings with Brent Donnellan (Dept. Chair) and Emily Durbin (Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Education). We also meet with program chairs, Faculty Advisory Committee, and student groups on an as-needed basis. We also hold townhalls for students to voice concerns and other student events to facilitate student interaction.

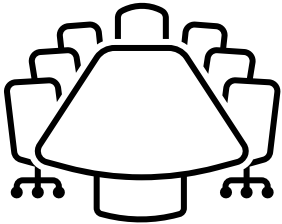
Notably, Department leadership prefers that group-level student concerns are raised through GSAC, and that in turn, GSAC raises concerns to the Faculty Advisory Committee (AC). The AC is viewed as the best method for faculty to discuss important issues amongst themselves regarding students department-wide.

As GSAC representatives, we maintain that GSAC is only one option to facilitate communication between students and faculty but acknowledge that individuals or groups of students may wish to express their concerns to faculty directly or through alternative channels. We still encourage students to use us as a resource!

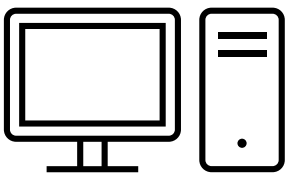
GSAC Activities Report



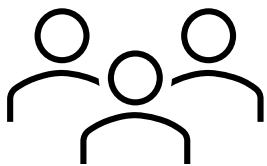
GSAC clarified protocols for returning to the psychology building based on discussions with the department chair.



GSAC inquired about the status of the Graduate Task Force workshops with Dr. Ann Marie Ryan and notified students that the workshops were temporarily on hold due to the pandemic.



GSAC gathered information on students' remote work access needs. Students were able to gain access to certain software using department licenses or to request funds from the department for software licenses.

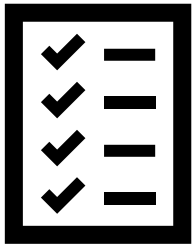


GSAC worked with Dr. Ann Marie Ryan to solicit graduate student volunteers for the department's virtual information session for prospective students. The session is slotted for next fall.

GSAC Activities Report (cont.)



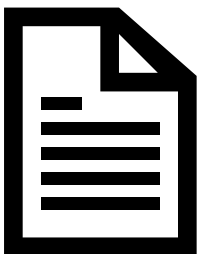
GSAC conferred with department leadership regarding Campus Solutions and RCR requirement tracking. We are hopeful that Campus Solutions issues will be resolved over the summer. Anyone who is graduating in the spring/summer and worried about RCR credit tracking should contact Emily Durbin (cdurbin@msu.edu).



Per the department's request, GSAC gathered information regarding students' reactions to the implementation of the Advisor/Advisee checklist and gave recommendations.

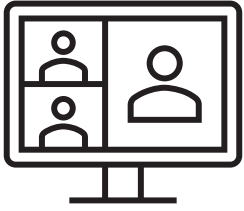


GSAC raised student concerns to departmental leadership regarding the difficulties international students are experiencing securing work visas as the Psychology programs are not considered STEM by the federal government.



GSAC met with an anti-racism student group that had gathered data on student reactions to current performance evaluation processes in the department. GSAC brought this group's findings to department leadership.

GSAC Activities Report (cont.)



GSAC held a town hall meeting at the end of the 2021 spring semester (May 13) during which GSAC activities over the past year were reviewed. GSAC passed any student concerns to incoming representatives who will discuss with department leadership.





Congratulations Organizational Graduates!



Christopher Dishop



Danni Gardner



Lauren Collier-Spruel



Ross Walker



Congratulations Clinical Science Graduates!



Jade Kobayashi



Samantha Schires



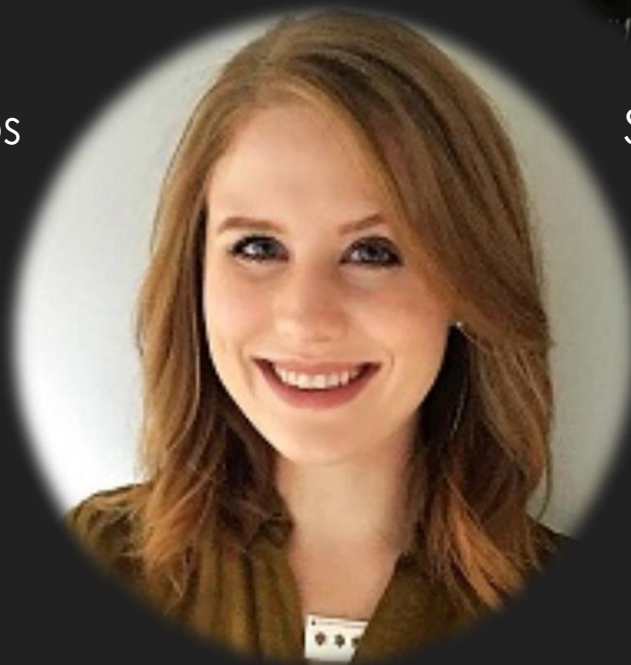
Congratulations Ecological/Community Graduates!



Tatiana Elisa Bustos



Sara Stacy



Lauren Vollinger

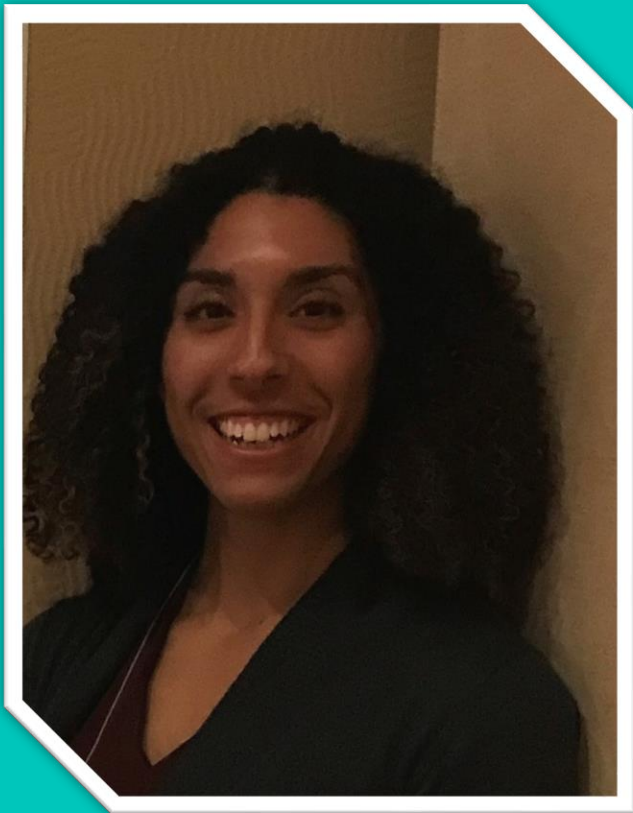
Congratulations Behavioral Neuroscience Graduate!



Natasha Fowler

Graduating Student Spotlight

Congratulations and best wishes to all the recent and upcoming graduates! Check out these student spotlights to learn more about a few of our graduating students, their dissertation research, and their favorite graduate school memories!



Natasha Fowler

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
Sacramento, CA

WHAT'S YOUR DISSERTATION CALLED?
An examination of between- and within-subject effects of stress on emotional eating over 49 consecutive days in women

CAN YOU SUMMARIZE IT IN A TWEET?
Women who experience lower than average levels of cortisol or higher than average levels of average and daily stress are more likely to engage in higher levels of emotional eating

FAVORITE GRADUATE SCHOOL MEMORY?
Winning trivia with my friends at Hopcat and then spending all of our prize money on appetizers the following week

Graduating Student Spotlight

Congratulations and best wishes to all the recent and upcoming graduates! Check out these student spotlights to learn more about a few of our graduating students, their dissertation research, and their favorite graduate school memories!

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
Cincinnati, OH

WHAT'S YOUR DISSERTATION CALLED?
Exploring youth voice in decision-making in Full-Service Community Schools

CAN YOU SUMMARIZE IT IN A TWEET?
A mixed-methods, community-based participatory research project to understand facilitators, barriers and opportunities for youth voice in decision-making #MakeYourVoiceHeard

FAVORITE GRADUATE SCHOOL MEMORY?
All the varied student-led opportunities for community building and supporting each other throughout this process, including: coffeeshop work sessions, coordinated comprehensive exam gifts, post-milestone Peanut Barrel lunches, and the Community Building & Action Team.



Sara Stacy



Student Celebrations



MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

- The following students recently successfully defended a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation:
 - **Ana Pomales Ramos (MA), Alexandra Ballinger (MA), Danni Gardner (PhD), Dom Roberts (MA), Jenna Van Fossen (MA), Jessica Lee (MA), Lauren Collier-Spruel (PhD), Sarah Kuang (MA)**
- The following students recently proposed a dissertation:
 - **Connor Eichenauer (MA)**
- The following students recently passed comprehensive exams:
 - **Ajay Somaraju, Caitlin Briggs, Corbin Standley, Funmi Ayeni, Isi Bilbao, Jen Gruber, MK Kitzmiller, Sergio Marquez**

In this section we invite everyone to celebrate fellow students' high points – academic or otherwise!





Student Celebrations (cont.)



PUBLICATION CELEBRATIONS

- **Benjamin Fry** published his most recent article titled "Disruptions in effort-based decision-making following acute optogenetic stimulation of ventral tegmental area dopamine cells" in *Learning and Memory* . The journal will also dedicate the cover image for April's issue to Ben's work. Here's the link to the [MSU article](#).
- **Natasha Fowler** co-authored an article titled "The effects of puberty and ovarian hormone removal on trajectories of palatable food and chow intake in female rats" in *Physiology and Behavior*.
- **Mariah Purol** published her first-authored manuscript, "Optimism: Enduring resource or miscalibrated perception?" in *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*.
- **Corbin Standley** published his Master's thesis research entitled "Intersectionality, social support, and youth suicidality: A socioecological approach to prevention" in *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*



Student Celebrations (cont.)



PUBLICATION CELEBRATIONS

- **Corbin Standley**'s essay entitled "How I Used Community Psychology Values to Foster State-Level Change" was published in *The Community Psychologist*.
- **Rosaura Dominguez-Rebollar, Jessica Saucedo, and Tatiana Bustos** published their essay entitled "Belonging at a predominately white institution: Fostering the growth of underrepresented scholars through welcoming spaces" in the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science's online chronicle.
- **McKenzie Javorka**'s co-authored manuscript entitled "Campus sexual assault climate: Toward an expanded definition and improved assessment" was recently published in *Psychology of Violence*.
- **Sara Stacy, Malu Castro**, and their co-author published a manuscript entitled "The cost of youth voices: Comparing the feasibility of Youth GO against focus groups" in the *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*.



Student Celebrations (cont.)



PUBLICATION CELEBRATIONS

- **Rosaura Dominguez-Rebollar** published her first-authored manuscript, "Factors and interventions that foster success of Latinx students in public community colleges: A theory-driven systematic review and content analysis of psychological research", in the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*.
- **Danni Gardner** (first author) and her co-authors published their paper, "Managing boundaries between work and non-work domains: Personality and job characteristics and adopted style" in the *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology*.
- **Sergio Marquez, Jo Alanis**, and co-authors published a commentary entitled "Making It Happen: Keeping Precarious Workers' Experiences Central During COVID-19" in the *Industrial-Organizational Psychology: Perspectives on Science and Practice*.
- **Courtney Bryant** was a co-author on the article entitled "Give Black Employees Time to Rest and Recover", which was published in *Harvard Business Review*.



Student Celebrations (cont.)



PUBLICATION CELEBRATIONS

- **Connor Eichenauer, Jo Alanis**, and their co-author published their paper entitled “Leadership During Crisis: An Examination of Supervisory Leadership Behavior and Gender During COVID-19” in the *Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies*.
- **Danni Gardner, Caitlin Briggs**, and their co-author had their paper entitled “It’s Your Fault: Workplace Consequences of Anti-Asian Stigma During COVID-19” accepted at *Equality, Diversity & Inclusion: An International Journal*.
- **Daniel Griffin** had a paper entitled “Supporting a Merger of Entrepreneurship Curricula: Combining Organizational Frames and Theory of Change” accepted at *Entrepreneurship, Education, and Pedagogy*.



Student Celebrations (cont.)



PRESENTATION CELEBRATIONS

- **Prachi Solanki** conducted a seminar at the University of Amsterdam's Institute for Logic, Language and Computation on her project entitled "Stereotypes as Bayesian Judgements of Social Groups".
- **Danni Gardner, Caitlin Briggs**, and their co-author were selected as one of the top 10 posters at the annual conference for the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology for their poster "It's Your Fault: Workplace Consequences of Anti-Asian Stigma During COVID-19".
- **Lauren Collier-Spruel** and her co-author were selected as one of the top 10 posters at the annual conference for the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology for their poster "Which Characteristics Relate to Effective and Ineffective Allyship?".



Student Celebrations (cont.)



AWARD , FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, & GRANT CELEBRATIONS

- **Prachi Solanki** received a research grant from the Minority Politics Department.
- **Lauren Vollinger** was selected for the 2021 Bob and Bets Caldwell Award.
- **Jessica Saucedo** and **Funmi Ayeni** received the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP)'s Scholar Award through NSF and MSU's graduate college.
- **MK Kitzmiller** received the 2021 Graduate Student Award for Community Engagement Scholarship from University Outreach and Engagement.
- **Jenna Van Fossen** and **Daniel Griffin** were selected as 2021-2022 Future Academic Scholars in Teaching (FAST) fellows.
- **Jo Alanis** was awarded a National Science Foundation GRFP Fellowship.
- **Lauren Collier-Spruel** received the Graduate Student Research Enhancement Award for her dissertation research.



Student Celebrations (cont.)



JOB AND INTERNSHIP CELEBRATIONS

- **Danni Gardner** will be joining Colorado State University's psychology department in Fall 2021 as an Assistant Professor.
- **Natasha Fowler** has secured a postdoctoral position with Dr. Deena Walker at Oregon Health and Science University, investigating sex differences in the effects of adolescent stress on addictive-like behaviors such as drug use and overconsumption of palatable foods.
- **Zach Woessner** will be interning with Google's People Analytics for summer 2021.
- **Sarah Kuang** will be working with Lockheed Martin as a Future of Work intern for summer 2021.



Thanks for Reading!

If you have any ideas for future additions to the newsletter please email us at gsacpsymsu@gmail.com or to your respective GSAC rep.