Utah State Psychology Department
Awards Banquet
2019 - 2020
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Psychology Department was unable to hold an awards ceremony to honor and recognize the many individuals who make the department a wonderful place to be.

We thank each of you for the many contributions you have made to make our department a place of inclusion, dedication, and academic excellence.
Dr. Gregory Madden is the 2019-2020 recipient of the D. Wynne Thorne Career Research Award. This prestigious award is given to a senior researcher who has completed outstanding research in his or her career.

Dr. Madden’s research on how delay discounting impacts addictions and healthy decision-making is significant and impactful. He is highly regarded and among the most important scholars in his field.

Dr. Madden is a prolific scholar with 82 peer-reviewed journal articles, 11 book chapters, 13 non-peer-reviewed articles, and 18 abstracts. His work has been and continues to be exemplary.

Dr. Melanie Domenech Rodríguez is the 2019-2020 recipient of the Utah State University President’s Diversity Award. Dr. Domenech Rodríguez is recognized through this award as having made significant contributions to diversity and inclusion. She is an excellent model of behavior that promotes diversity and inclusion while nourishing acceptance of individual differences.

Dr. Domenech Rodríguez’s work is focused on promoting diversity and enhancing educational opportunities to be more inclusive and mindful of individual and group differences. Through research, teaching, and service, she advocates for vulnerable and underrepresented populations. She is committed to developing methods to increase our collective cultural competence.
Jennifer Krafft is the Utah State Doctoral Student Researcher of the Year for 2019-2020. Jennifer is a doctoral student in the Combined Clinical/Counseling Program. She is a fifth-year student in the ACT Research Group under the guidance of Dr. Michael Levin.

Jennifer’s research focuses on identifying the active ingredients in change and acceptance in mindfulness-based psychotherapy, testing how these ingredients can be applied to anxiety, OCD, and hoarding problems, and improving access to treatment throughout the innovative use of technology. She has published 14 peer-reviewed articles, one edited book, and three book chapters. The research Jen does examining predictors of mental health and the effectiveness of self-guided interventions to improve mental health is very valuable to those in need of services and to the field of psychology.

Dr. Melanie Domenech Rodríguez is the Utah State University 2019-2020 Graduate Mentor of the Year. Dr. Domenech Rodríguez has been with the USU Psychology Department since 2000. She is recognized for faculty excellence in the complex process of mentoring graduate students to prepare them for productive careers. Dr. Domenech Rodríguez is recognized by students and peers for her collaborative approach to mentorship. Her unique style offers space to adapt and meet the individual needs of each person. She works diligently to create welcoming and safe spaces for students, faculty, and staff.

Preparing the next generation of excellent scholars -- particularly those who come from underrepresented groups -- improves the world. First, one degree at a time. Then, the positive impact of mentorship is amplified many times over.
Jay Hinnenkamp is the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services 2019-2020 Graduate Student Teacher of the Year. He is recognized for teaching excellence as a graduate student. Jay has been the instructor of record for PSY 1400/1410 throughout his tenure at USU.

Jay’s teaching evaluations are consistently excellent though this course is required by all psychology majors and minors and there hundreds of students in this course. Jay is a dedicated instructor focusing on determinism, empiricism, and fun. Regularly, the department receives compliments on his teaching and personability.

Jay has recently accepted a tenure-track teaching position and is planning to graduate this summer.

Dr. Amy Odum is the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services’ Undergraduate Research Mentor for 2019-2020. Dr. Odum has been a professor in the USU Psychology Department since 2003. She dedicates herself to work as a researcher, teacher, and colleague.

Her research on delay discounting, environmental factors influencing the development of tolerance and sensitization to drugs of abuse, drug and environmental influences on timing/temporal discrimination, and factors affecting response persistence and resistance to change has been cited nearly 4,500 times.

Dr. Odum has mentored nine Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunity (URCO) grants and eight honors students through capstone thesis projects.
**Haylee Downey** is the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services 2019-2020 Undergraduate Student Researcher of the Year. Haylee is recognized for being an excellent student and a notable undergraduate researcher who is consistently engaged in independent inquiry.

Haylee is an honors student under the mentorship of Dr. Amy Odum. Her research interests focus on decision making and delay discounting. Haylee’s thesis developing a computer game to measure delay discounting has obtained an internal grant.

Haylee has participated in a variety of research, presented at national and international conferences, and authored published research through Dr. Odum’s research laboratory.

**Krista Terrell** is the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services 2019-2020 Outstanding Staff of the Year.

Krista is intimately involved in many aspects of the Department of Psychology. During her time with the department, she has revamped the methods for tracking graduate students, spearheaded an expansion and remodel of the department’s space and transition to the Sorenson Center for Clinical Excellence, and supported TEAL after the unexpected passing of their graduate program coordinator (GPC).

Krista is an accomplished GPC with a positive outlook. She is well-loved by her colleagues and the department faculty.
Undergraduate Department Awards

Valedictorian
Riley Plott

Outstanding Student
Romney Harker

Outstanding Distance Education Student
Mason Cundick

Applied Psychological Service
Amelia Ashby

Instructor Apprentice
Alexa Black

Undergrad S.T.A.R.
Jennifer Ha

Undergraduate Recognition

CEHS Ambassador
Emily Cook

Honors
Lisa Starrett

Research on Capitol Hill
Jennifer Ha

Rocky Mountain Psychological Association
Jac’lyn Bera
Alexa Renee Black
Allison Buckner
Jessica Burgess
Jaylee Cox
Lucas Gibbs
Sara Newby
Janice L. Snow
Kendal Whitbeck
A Comparison of Implicit and Explicit Measures of Math Anxiety  
Christine Hartmann | Kerry Jordan

Comparing Delay Discounting and Delayed Gratification in Rats  
Macie K. Nielsen | Amy Odum

Computational Thinking Exhibited by Sixth Graders in Coding Board Games  
Melissa Rasmussen | Crissa Levin

Connecting Attention & Reading Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder  
Jennifer Ha | Maryellen McClain Verdoes

Evaluating Advertisements for Men in Treatment Seeking Attitudes, Intentions, and Behaviors  
Brittany Christiansen | Crissa Levin

Evaluating the Effects of Differential Outcomes on Impulsive Choice in Rats  
Sari Christensen | Gregory Madden

Gender Bias in Teaching Evaluations of College Professors  
Megan Boyce | Crissa Levin

“Home Sweet Home”: Effects of Home Environment on Children’s Behavior Development from Infancy to Fifth Grade  
Shelbee Johnson | Lori Roggman

Impact of Student Race/Ethnicity and Sex on ASD Identification in Schools  
Jennifer Ha | Maryellen McClain Verdoes

Psychological Misconceptions and Prior Knowledge Among Undergraduate Students  
Alison Buckner | Crissa Levin

Self-Guided Online ACT Apps and Interventions: A Meta-Analysis  
Connor Clark | Michael Levin

The Relationship Between Reinforced Variability and Psychological Flexibility in People with Depression  
Hannah Johnson | Amy Odum
Scholarships

Anthony LaPray Scholarship
Felicia Andresen  David Cole
Carter Davis  Cassity Haverkamp
Cynthia Navarro Flores

Aden N. & Phyllis J. Frandsen Scholarship
Jennifer Ha

Carolyn Barcus Diversity Scholarship
Racheal Killgore

Elwin C. Nielsen Scholarship
Cari Alvarez

Gloria Foster George Scholarship
Alexandra Hammond

Kenneth W. Merrill Scholarship
Megan Golson

Michael Bertoch Scholarship
Alejandro Vazquez

Ray Alvord Scholarship
Ariel Snowden

Walter R. Borg Scholarship
Jennifer Barney  Tish Hicks
Julie Petersen  Rafaela Fontes
Special Recognition

The 2019-2020 USU Psychology Department’s Special Recognition Award goes to Camille Odell. Camille has been the faculty with the department since 1998 and is the director of the Professional School Counselor master’s degree program.

Camille’s work within the department and for her students is unmatched.

“Camille is a fabulous mentor, instructor, director, and employer. She works tirelessly to provide the best supports and opportunities for all current and past students in the School Counselor Education program. It has truly been an honor to work for and learn from her.”

- Evin Daines, Graduate Student

“Camille is a strong advocate for the school counseling profession and the students in the program. She continuously tracks state and national standards. Based on these standards, she successfully seeks program improvement to ensure students receive a high quality education. Camille is truly invested in the success of the program and students by the many hours she spends behind the scenes. The program continues to grow and thrive at a high standard due to Camille’s leadership.”

- Beverly Pickup, Program Coordinator

Join us in thanking our donors!

The USU Psychology Department would not be the place it is without the support of our donors. This year, the Department awarded more than $26,000 in scholarships to students.

Our heartfelt thank you to those who have donated to our department scholarships. Through your donations, sixteen students from five programs have been supported through the next school year.

Although you may not see their faces each day, we do. We know how your donations support their education, travel to conferences, research, and much more.

We deeply thank you for your support!

Scholarship Giving

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