Utah State University Department of Psychology

Awards Reception

Presenting recognition for 2020 - 2021
Thank you for joining us in recognizing a few of the many individuals that make our department a place of inclusion, dedication, and academic excellence.

**Welcoming Remarks and Introduction**
Dr. Scott Bates
Department Head

**Faculty Promotion Recognition**
Dr. Scott Bates
presents faculty promotion recognition

**University Awards & Recognition**
Dr. Scott Bates, Dr. Tyler Renshaw, Dr. Renee Galliher
present university awards

**College Awards & Recognition**
Dr. Rebecca Blais presents
Doctoral Student Researcher

**Department - Special Recognition**
Dr. Scott Bates presents
Departmental Citation & Spectacular Service Award

**Department Awards & Recognition**
Dr. Scott Bates presents
Graduate Student Award

Drs. Jenn Grewe and Crissa Levin
present Undergraduate Student Awards and Recognition

Dr. Scott Bates presents
Student Research Symposium Recognition

**Scholarship Recognition**
Dr. Scott Bates presents
Student Scholarship Awards

**Closing Statement**
Dr. Scott Bates
Department Head

**Optional - Faculty Breakout Rooms**
(time to meet with guests)
Dr. Michael Levin is a clinical psychologist and leading researcher in developing and evaluating Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). Specifically, he studies how ACT can be delivered as a self-guided intervention through web/mobile technologies. Dr. Levin has been recognized as Faculty Researcher of the Year by our college and awarded fellow status by the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science. He has sustained this extraordinary output throughout his career; His work is also widely cited, specifically 5,750 times. Dr. Levin is an excellent teacher with exemplary evaluations and a dedicated mentor. He has mentored three students to awarded PhDs and postdoctoral fellowships at prestigious institutions.

Dr. Levin is highly engaged in service to his discipline, including as Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science. Dr. Levin served the combined clinical/counseling doctoral specialization as Associate Director for three years, and now as Director of Clinical Training.

Dr. Melissa Tehee is a clinical psychologist and an excellent teacher who is dedicated to student success. The training USU undergraduates receive in her Multicultural Psychology course is outstanding, transformative, and essential. The training that graduate students receive in her Professional Ethics and Standards course provides a critical foundation for being professional and ethical psychologists. Dr. Tehee is also an exemplary mentor. Beyond advising five graduate students, Dr. Tehee directs the American Indian Support Project, which is designed to support the recruitment and retention of American Indian students and other students from diverse backgrounds in the combined clinical/counseling PhD specialization.

Dr. Tehee’s program of research and scholarship consists of three interconnected foci: cultural competence, trauma, and psycho-legal tribal issues. Her scholarship has been important and impactful. Dr. Tehee has also been an essential part receiving funding to support diverse students and diversity initiatives, including the USU Howard Hughes Medical Institute Inclusive Excellence Grant (Mentoring and Encouraging Student Academic Success Program for Native American Students; MESAS), a five-year project to build capacity for meeting the professional and educational needs of Native students. Dr. Tehee’s work in teaching, research, and service are tightly interwoven. Dr. Tehee is highly engaged in service to her discipline.
Jennifer Ha is awarded the 2020 - 2021 Utah State University Achievement of the Year award. Jennifer served as the 2020 - 2021 student advocate vice president and directed the government relations council in political engagement efforts. During her time at USU, she has been involved in four different research labs and the USU Honors Program.

Double majoring in psychology and global communication, with minors in biology, linguistics, chemistry, and anticipatory intelligence, Jennifer strives for academic excellence while being vigorously engaged in research, USUSA, and service. She is a proud Aggie and the embodiment of USU’s mission statement of learning, discovery, and engagement.
Sean Weeks is awarded the 2020 - 2021 Bill E. Robins Memorial Award. This award is presented to the student who represents the best USU has to offer. Sean has excelled academically, displayed outstanding leadership ability, shown dedication to Utah State, and possesses traits that set him apart as a rare individual.

Sean is a fourth-year doctoral student in the School Psychology specialization under the mentorship of Dr. Tyler Renshaw. His scholarship focuses on contextual behavioral science, minority stress, substance abuse, and suicidality among adolescents. Along with published research and clinical practice, Sean finds time to volunteer with local organizations to provide free mental health services and field-related training on special topics such as diversity, behavior management, and mindfulness.

Cara Brewer is the November 2020 Utah State University Employee of the Month. Cara is a self-proclaimed Aggie at heart. She is a second-generation alumna following in her father's footsteps to receive a bachelor's degree from USU. After graduating from USU, Cara met her husband and fellow alum, Grandon. They raised four children, including three more Aggies!

Cara started her career with the university in 1993 working with Sponsored Programs. In 2009, Cara was hired as a business assistant in the Psychology Department. She later became the department business manager. Cara’s hire in the department has been transformational. Cara is responsible for all of the Psychology Department’s financial affairs including grants and contracts.
Juan Estrada is the Utah State University 2020-2021 Graduate Student Teacher of the Year. He is recognized for teaching excellence as a graduate student. Juan has been the instructor of record for numerous courses during his tenure at USU including Psy 1010, 3720, and 4230.

Juan is a doctoral student in the Combined Clinical/Counseling specialization. His teaching philosophy centers around inspiring learning, creating engaging material, and presenting material in a way to capture interest from students across backgrounds. He is passionate about creating safe environments where students are encouraged to explore ideas and grow.
Whitney Livingston is the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services 2020 - 2021 Doctoral Student Researcher of the Year. Whitney is a doctoral student in the Combined Clinical/Counseling specialization. She is a fifth-year student under the mentorship of Drs. Rebecca Blais and Jamison Fargo.

Whitney’s research focuses on examining the mechanisms through which sexual harassment or assault, that occurs during military service, relates to posttraumatic stress disorder. She has published 18 peer-reviewed articles, four oral presentations, and nine poster presentations. Additionally, her work has been cited more than 260 times.

Hannah Johnson is the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services 2020-2021 Undergraduate Student Researcher of the Year. Hannah is recognized for displaying an extraordinary level of vision, independence, and excellence in research.

Hannah is leading her own Undergraduate Research Creative Opportunity grant-funded project to examine the relation between learned behavior variability and depression under the mentorship of Dr. Amy Odum. In addition to her project, Hannah is the lead on another project in the Odum Research Laboratory and has worked extensively with the ACT Research Group under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Twohig.
Amy is supportive and generous with her time in teaching faculty and instructors how to use Canvas, integrating technology, and building courses that set students up for success in learning. Through the pandemic, Amy continued to be dependable, incredibly generous, and exquisitely skilled. The department as a whole has succeeded due to her support. We are grateful to have her support and skills.

Amy Carpenter is a recipient of a Departmental Citation for Outstanding Service. Amy has worked with the department community for nearly a decade as an instructional designer in the Center for Innovative Design and Instruction.

Amy is supportive and generous with her time in teaching faculty and instructors how to use Canvas, integrating technology, and building courses that set students up for success in learning. Through the pandemic, Amy continued to be dependable, incredibly generous, and exquisitely skilled. The department as a whole has succeeded due to her support. We are grateful to have her support and skills.
Special Recognition

Spectacular Service Award

**Sarah Pope** is awarded the Psychology Department’s Spectacular Service Award. Sarah is a doctoral student in the Brain and Cognition specialization. In her first year with the department, Sarah was selected by her peers to serve as their student representative for department matters. Additionally, Sarah reignited hosting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Out of the Darkness Campus Walk on the USU Campuses. Sarah is an incredibly dedicated and hard-working individual and very deserving of this award for her service accomplishments.

Graduate Awards

Perfect Presence Award · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Marissa Donahue

Undergraduate Awards

Outstanding Student · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Hannah Johnson

Exceptional · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Landon Willis

Undergraduate Student

Distinguished Distance · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Natalie Wennergren

Student

Outstanding Researcher · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Haylie DeMercy

Applied Psychological · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Romney Harker

Service

Instructor Apprentice · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Morgan Cavey

Undergraduate S.T.A.R. · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Janice Snow

Undergraduate Recognition

Honors · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Jennifer Ha

Haley Hand

Research on Capitol Hill · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Janice Snow

CEHS Ambassadors · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Romney Harker

Landon Willis

Peer Advisor · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · Moira Paul
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Scholarship Awards

Anthony LaPray
Scholarship
Cari Alvarez
Carter Davis
Rafaela Fontes
Tish Hicks
Kory Klimczak
Tony Nist
Julie Petersen
Ariel Snowden
Hallie Tannahill
Alejandro Vazquez

Carolyn Barcus
Diversity Scholarship
Devon Isaacs

Elwin C. Nielsen
Scholarship
Cynthia Navarro Flores

Gloria Foster George
Scholarship
Alex Hammond
Kaitlyn Kauzor

HMSS Hubbard Family
Scholarship
Shari Linares

Kenneth W. Merrell
Scholarship
Kaelah Bakner
Sean Weeks

Ray Alvord
Scholarship
Gabrielle Sutton

Walter R. Borg
Scholarship
Kandice Benallie
Marissa Donahue
Sallie Mack
Sara Peck
Join us in thanking our donors!

The USU Psychology Department would not be the supportive community it is without the support of our donors. This year, the department awarded more than $35,000 in scholarships to students.

The last year has been a trying time for humanity through a pandemic. Through the isolation and insecurity that followed last year, our students are supported. We offer our greatest thank you to those who have donated to our department scholarships. Through your donations, twenty-one students from our department are supported through the next school year.

Although you may not directly see the impacts from your donation, we do. We see how students supported with scholarship funding thrive. We share in their excitement after a successful research proposal, and we celebrate their successes at graduation.

Kranz Combined Student Support Funds

Dr. Peter Kranz

Scholarship Giving

Mrs. Cara Brewer
Dr. Melanie Domenech Rodríguez
Dr. Kerry Jordan
Dr. Anthony J. LaPray
Dr. Gretchen G. Peacock
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