In light of the current crisis surrounding novel coronavirus COVID-19, the USU Psychology Department has found new methods to promote connection, student success, and kindness. The following stories demonstrate a few of the positive success stories during COVID-19.

Distance Students Have Increased Access Research Week

Research Week is transitioning to a digital format, which will create a more inclusive atmosphere for students. The Office of Research and their supporters are working through logistical challenges, but the end goal is for students to present via telecommunication. Students who are not able to travel to Logan to present with their colleagues will now have the opportunity to do so remotely.

“It’s a great win to have inclusivity and an equalizer of students who have worked equally on a project,” said Dr. Crissa Levin, a lecturer with primarily online and distance students.

PSY 3400 Students Continue Research by Supporting Ongoing Research

Students in Dr. Amy Odum and doctoral-student Annie Galizio’s PSY 3400 classes, Advanced Analysis of Behavior, dive deeper into the theories of behavior analysis and the work of B.F. Skinner. Students traditionally participate in lab work for this course via the on-campus pigeon lab or with an online rat simulator. Since the closure of in-person labs, students have been able to participate in real live research by coding video for an ongoing study.

Psychology Advising Moves to WebEx and Phone Appointments

Registration season is in full swing for students. The Psychology Advising office was quick to move to WebEx and telephone appointments to support undergraduate students. Students will have more support than before with an additional half-time advisor coming on in mid-April. Future and same-day appointments are both still available with advisors and peer advisors. Click here to make an appointment.

Culture and Mental Health Lab Supports Others with Self-Care Ideas

Dr. Melanie Domenech Rodríguez and her Culture and Mental Health Lab have found success in supporting others with an online list of self-care ideas while practicing social distancing or isolation. The list includes physical activities, anxiety tamers, at-home ideas, and family activities. You can check out the full list here and add items to the list by sending them to melanie.domenech@usu.edu.

Share a photo of your furry co-worker!

The department is collecting and sharing photos of pets supporting their human counterpart’s work from home during social distancing. Ranger, a six-year-old tabby cat, kicked off the campaign with a call for photos from other pets helping with work or studying. A new pet is shared every day! You can follow along via the department’s social media channels on Facebook and Instagram or via the hashtag #USUPsychologyPets. You can also send your pets to be shared to hillary.fruge@usu.edu.