

# EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Fall 2021

Issue 16



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We are excited to be back on campus this Fall (with vaccinations and masks, of course)! Despite many obstacles in the past year, there is much to celebrate in this year's newsletter. Thank you for sharing all your news. If you have any future updates, please reach out to [experimentalpsyc@towson.edu](mailto:experimentalpsyc@towson.edu).

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and as always, thank you for taking the time to read it!

Justin Buckingham, Program Director





## New Cohort Alert!

### Students & Advisors

**Marissa Spears**

**Rene Perez**

**Mallory McKenna**

**Lexie Mathis**

**Bryce Lund**

**Yu Ting Huang**

**Brianna Donaldson-Morton**

**Jenna Brouse**

**Magdeline Biller**

**Samuel Bennett**

**Amber Adkins**

Jarrold Bock, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Katz, Ph.D.

Jacqueline Leventon, Ph.D.

Kim Shifren, Ph.D.

Blaire Weidler, Ph.D.

Geoff Munro, Ph.D.

Paz Galupo, Ph.D.

Kerri Goodwin, Ph.D.

Jeff Kukucka, Ph.D.

Blaire Weidler, Ph.D.

Jeff Kukucka, Ph.D.

## Class of 2021 Graduates!



Michael Huchler

MacKenzie Forbes

Ryan Robertson

Kristen Judy

Trevor Pitts

Ezra Morris

Kathryn Hundertmark

Andrew Bennett



**Kristen Judy (2021 graduate)**

Started a position as Research Coordinator at the Clinical Trials Unit of Kennedy Krieger Institute

**Rosie Shrout, Ph.D. (2013 graduate)**

Started a position at Purdue University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies

**LaTasha Holden, Ph.D. (2012 graduate)**

Started a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Psychology & Institute for Intelligent Systems Affiliate at the University of Memphis

## Alumni Updates

**Larry Fort (2019 graduate)**

Currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the GIGA Doctoral School in Medical Sciences at University of Liege, Belgium - He is the first American to be accepted into this program!

**Bryan Moore (2012 graduate)**

Started a position as an Audit Quality Assurance Manager at AstraZeneca in Gaithersburg, MD

**Michael DeWald (2013 graduate)**

Started a position as Manager of Special Projects with Community Care Behavioral Health

**Ryan Robertson (2021 graduate)**

Currently enrolled in a public health Ph.D. program at UNC Charlotte



Kennedy Krieger Institute



**Brittney Workman (student)** presented two posters, "Applications of the PDC-HS in an inpatient unit: An examination of multiple informants" and "An evaluation of caregiver preference for graphic depiction of data," at the Association for Applied Behavior Analysis International 47th Annual Convention in Portage, MI.

**Tiana Cruz (2012 graduate)** presented "Individual factors and students' experiences of COVID-19: Implications for student affairs professionals" at the Maryland Student Affairs Conference.

**Tiana Cruz (2012 graduate)** presented "Impacts of the pandemic on UMD college students: Coping, well-being, resilience, and disparities" at the University of Maryland Counseling Center Research & Development Speaker Series.

**Andrea Norr (2020 graduate) with Dr. Kukucka (faculty)** created an online poster titled "If the shoe fits? Crime stereotypicality as a potential moderator of racially-biased interrogation judgments" for the American Psychology-Law Society's 2021 Virtual Poster Session.



## Student & Alumni Presentations

**Kelly Deegan (2nd year student) with Dr. Kukucka (faculty)** created an online poster titled "Reading between the lines: A content analysis of replies to exonerees' housing inquiries" for the American Psychology-Law Society's 2021 Virtual Poster Session.

**Kelly Deegan (2nd year student) with Dr. Kukucka (faculty)** presented "Somebody's watching me: Does monitoring attenuate the prevalence effect in fingerprint comparisons?" at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition.

**Anthony Garove (2020 graduate) with Dr. Kukucka (faculty)** created an online poster titled "Choose your own adventure: Guilty knowledge and just world beliefs affect innocent suspects' decision-making" for the American Psychology-Law Society's 2021 Virtual Poster Session.

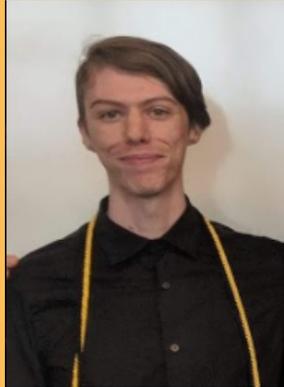
**Dr. McGinley (faculty) with Kristen Judy (2021 graduate)** presented "Uncertainty and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic: reflections and future directions" at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management.

**Kristen Judy (2021 graduate) with Dr. McGinley (faculty)** presented "Emotion regulation moderates the effect of pandemic-related factors on anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic" at the 33rd annual convention for the Association for Psychological Science.

# Student & Alumni Publications



Faculty: Jeff Kukucka, Ph.D.



2021 Graduate: Ryan Robertson



Student: Brittney Workman



2021 graduate: Kristen Judy



Faculty: Jared McGinley, Ph.D.

**Kristen Judy (2021 graduate) and Dr. McGinley (faculty)** published "Vagal tone does not moderate the relationship between social anxiety and disengagement from threat: A brief report" in the *The Towson University Psychology Graduate Student Association (TU PGSA) Journal* in 2021.

**Brandon Boring (2016 graduate)** published "How and why patient concerns influence pain reporting: A qualitative analysis of personal accounts and perceptions of others' use of numerical pain scales" in *Frontiers in Psychology* in 2021.

**Ryan Robertson (2021 graduate)** published "Emotional consequences of participating in research: How does a history of non-suicidal self-injury and trauma exposure affect participants' experiences?" in the *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics* in 2021.

**Michael Droboniku (2020 graduate)** published "Exploring links between complexity constructs and children's knowledge formation: Implications for science learning" in *R. López Ruiz's Theory of Complexity - Definitions, Models, and Applications* in 2021.

**Michael Droboniku (2020 graduate)** published "Animal interactions affecting core deficit domains among children with autism: A meta-analysis" in the *Journal of Autism & Developmental Disorders* in 2021.



Student: Kelly Deegan

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## Kerri Goodwin, Ph.D.



### Areas of Interest

Memory & Cognition

### What are you currently researching?

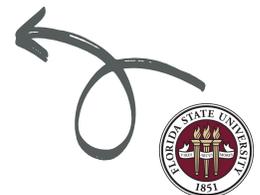
I am working collaboratively with former students and current students on research relating working memory, false memory, attentional distraction, and stereotype threat. What is consuming much of my time lately is writing the 9th edition of my *Research in Psychology: Methods and Design* textbook, which blends my passions for both research and teaching.

### Congrats on being the Psychology Department's new chair! First thoughts?

I am looking forward to working collaboratively with colleagues and to lead our department toward collective action in relation to growth in areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. We have a lot of potential in our department to create new ideas and expand our vision for the future of the department. I am excited to help lead us down that path!

### What led you to your field?

I am a cognitive psychologist who caught the teaching bug when I was in grad school. I was inspired by my undergraduate sensation & perception class and then was really into optical illusions. This soon morphed into an interest in memory distortions, which I explored as a graduate student at Florida State University. My heart was always being pulled toward new challenges and a sense of curiosity and discovery. All of this led me to find an academic position where I can dabble in all of it, in many diverse ways - spanning the academic pillars of teaching, research, and service.



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

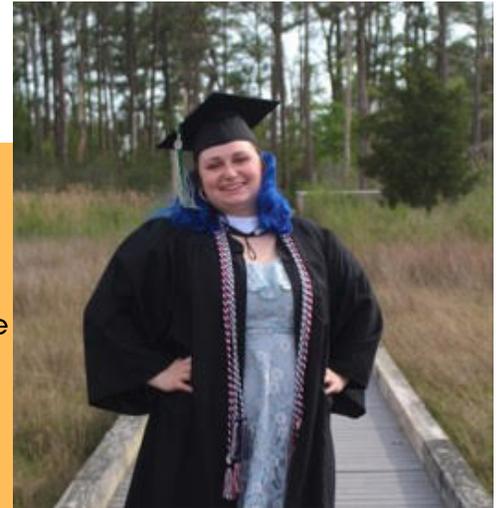


### Fun Facts?

Instead of Psychology, I was almost an Art History major and still really love it. I have 2 boys (3 if you count my husband) and we all love sushi and Indian food (not together). And, I was a DJ at a college radio station in Cleveland, where I met many grunge bands in the day - Nirvana, Bob Mould, L7, Hole, and Dinosaur Jr. to name a few.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Kelly Deegan



I was a **psychology major** at Loyola University Maryland and found my calling as a **research assistant**.

Through **cold emailing professors** at a university near my house I was connected with **Dr. Jeff Kukucka** and I began working with him junior year of undergrad.

**It was a natural move to become his advisee to continue my education with a Master's degree.**



**The thesis road so far:**

**My thesis is on how implementing blind proficiency testing affects performance on fingerprint analysis.**

The results of this study will impact how blind proficiency testing is viewed in the forensic science field.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Laura Humm



I'm the **Chief Operating Officer of SIMmersion LLC**, a small business that teaches conversation skills using role-play simulations.

*simmersion.com training.simmersion.com*

I'm **Co-Founder and Developmental Editor for The Dialogue Doctor**, a small business that helps writers create realistic and engaging character voices.

*https://dialoguedoctor.com/*

### **SIMmersion often uses standardized role-plays as the skills test for our pre-post research.**

For our current study, partnering with Dr. Galupo and Dr. Schmidt, we're training clinicians in gender affirmative therapy skills. We hired 14 role players who identify as gender minorities.

They all took the job knowing that they'll be working with therapists who range in skill level, meaning they're likely to experience microaggressions.

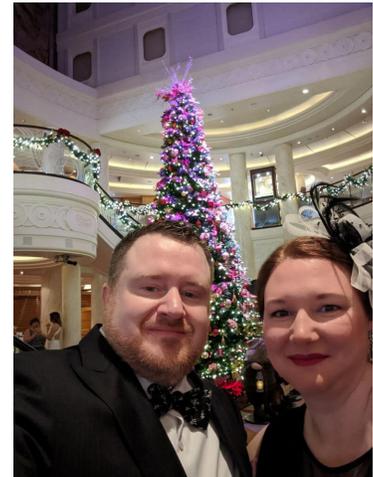
My thesis explores the impact these role-play experiences have on minority actors.



**The thesis road so far:**



*Fun Fact:  
Jason, my spouse, and I dated in college (at Towson!), were friends for a few years after, didn't talk for 10 years, then reconnected and have now been married for 8 years.*



# STUDENT PHOTOS



# CONTACT INFORMATION



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