Science is not defined by or contained in specific disciplines and it is not defined by the use of particular tools or technology. Rather, science is characterized by the approach that a discipline takes and whether it uses the scientific method to investigate questions of interest. This approach emphasizes a process in which a question is formed based on observations, a testable prediction is made, a methodology is designed to test this prediction, and data are analyzed to make a conclusion about whether to support the prediction. In addition, there is emphasis on communicating these results in a public forum so that others can attempt to replicate, validate, and advance the findings. Given these criteria, psychology, which seeks to objectively describe and make predictions about behavior and mental processes, fits this approach.

On July 1, 2015, the Psychology Department became the department of Psychological Science. Changing the name of our department to the Department of Psychological Science accurately reflects our scientific and experimental approach to the investigation of behavior that is the modern approach to the discipline. The name Department of Psychological Science reflects the current perspective of the majority of psychologists, and models the approach of the primary psychological association for experimental and research psychologists—the Association for Psychological Science.

The name, Department of Psychological Science, better emphasizes our current teaching and research practices. Our current curriculum is based on the American Psychological Association's (APA) suggestions for an undergraduate program in psychology. Following the APA's recommendations, psychology majors are required to take courses in traditional areas as well as in the areas of Cognition and Learning and Biological Psychology, reflecting the modern emphasis on neuroscience. Also in line with the APA's recommendations, our psychology curriculum focuses on the scientific method of inquiry into behavior and requires all majors to complete two statistics courses and one research methods laboratory course. These courses lead up to either a semester-long research seminar or a year-long research project directed by a faculty member.

In sum, our new name reflects not only the training and approach of our faculty, but also the modern departmental mission formed with our students in mind.
Career Forum Panelists Share Their Wisdom of the Workplace

By Abigail Heller, Psychology Student Representative ('15)

Most college students spend a considerable amount of time pondering their post-graduation life. Much of this pondering is the result of well-meaning questions about what they want to do after they graduate. Psychology majors, in addition, are often questioned about their major; they are asked why they chose psychology and what they can do with a degree in psychology. These are useful questions, but sometimes difficult ones, to answer.

Many psychology students are unaware of all their post-graduation options; therefore, the department’s Psi Chi chapter sponsors the annual Career Forum. During this event, individuals who are currently working in a field related to psychology are invited to share their experiences applying to graduate school, attending graduate school, and/or applying for a job, and working that job. Psychology students are invited to attend and to ask questions in an effort to learn about different career options and paths related to psychology. The forum is a great opportunity for students to get sense of the education, licensure, and other requirements for different careers and what day-to-day life is like in different workplaces.

The Career Forum Panel: Tia Bach, Sharon Steifel, Michelle Kreisman, Sarah King, and Leanna Papp

At last semester’s Career Forum, there were five panelists. Panelist Tia Bach, a 2011 UMW graduate who majored in psychology, has a master’s degree in clinical social work and is a trauma therapist. Panelist Sarah King has a master’s degree in social work, too, and is working at Empowerhouse, a non-profit organization in the Fredericksburg area that provides assistance to individuals who have experienced domestic violence. Panelist Michele Kreisman, recipient of a doctoral degree in education, served as an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) specialist at Falmouth Elementary School. Panelist Leanna Papp, a 2014 UMW graduate who majored in psychology, is working as a research assistant at the University of Maryland. Last, but not least, panelist Sharon Stiefel is a school psychologist at Park Ridge Elementary School in Stafford, Virginia.

After introductions, a lively question and answer session began. As social workers with master’s degrees, both Tia and Sarah had a lot to share about their paths through school to work. Tia’s description of the process of applying to graduate school was very informative. She emphasized the need to make connections with professors and other professionals who may become valuable references. Sarah was asked what it is like to work for a non-profit organization. She commented that individuals from many educational and experiential backgrounds, not just psychology, can work for a non-profit; however, salaries may be low and job security may be tenuous because the work is often funded by grants that are time-limited.

Many questions were directed toward Michelle about her work as an ESOL specialist. She described her job as, primarily, helping teachers work effectively with ESOL specialists. Michelle emphasized the growing need for ESOL specialists. Unlike Michelle, who earned a doctorate before beginning her work as an ESOL specialist, Leanna was employed with a bachelor’s degree, although she is planning to earn an advanced degree in the future. In addition to enjoying her work as a research assistant, Leanna is grateful to have the time to continue learning about areas in which she may want to specialize by obtaining an advanced degree. She advised students to search out research assistantships actively by contacting project leaders directly because these positions are not always advertised.

Upon prompting by the audience, Sharon described her days as a school psychologist. Often, she gives presentations on various topics like, for example, bullying. Sharon does therapeutic work, too, but typically on a group basis, perhaps meeting with a group of gifted students. Dr. Mindy Erchull (Associate Professor and Psi Chi Faculty Advisor) rounded out the discussion by commenting that a great way to try out a position like one of the ones described is to complete an internship or do volunteer work. Either activity is a resume builder and may help individuals make useful contacts in a desirable field.

The department is grateful to all the panelists who attended and shared their wisdom. In particular, the department is humbled to have had the opportunity to benefit from Michelle Kreisman’s experiences. Sadly, Michelle passed away on May 25, 2015. In addition to our gratitude, the department sends our condolences to Michelle’s family and friends. Last, we invite students to take advantage of the next Career Forum, which will take place on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 5 pm; the panelists and location are to be announced.
Adventures in Psychology in Europe!

By Jenna Gray, Psychology Major (’16)

In early May of 2015, ten young women filed behind Dr. Dave Kolar (Associate Professor) to board an early morning flight to London, England. Embarking on an experience called, “Psychology in Europe,” we traveled to four countries in two weeks’ time to see where the study of psychology began.

The first stop of our four-country, five-city excursion was London. Not being ones to fight the impulses of typical tourists, we spent our first day in London exploring what felt like every inch of the city. We saw Buckingham Palace, strolled through Westminster Abbey, and took selfies with Big Ben in the background!

The rest of our time spent in London reflected the academic purpose of our trip. We toured historical sites and listened to lectures about the history of psychology. In particular, we toured the house of Sigmund Freud, now turned into a museum for the public; we got to see Freud’s famous couch in his perfectly-preserved home office! Also, we explored Charles Darwin’s home and attended a lecture at the Open University of London in the eccentric town of Camden.

We left London and traveled to the heart of France: Paris. During our stay in Paris, we explored famous churches and prisons, and we went on a guided tour of La Petite Salpetriere. La Petite Salpetriere is an old, but still operating, hospital where the practice of hypnotism got its start.

The third leg of our journey took us to Würzburg, Germany, where we explored the Centre for the History of Psychology, and visited the University of Würzburg. Our next stop in Germany was Dachau concentration camp. Dachau concentration camp, the model from which the notorious concentration camp at Auschwitz was built, was a place each of us took in at our own pace; however, we all agreed it was an emotional, yet fascinating and historically-relevant experience.

The last stop on our adventure was Vienna, Austria. In Vienna, we toured the Alfred Adler Center and Freud’s other, pre-WWII, home. On one of our last nights in Europe, Dr. Kolar took us to see a beautiful ballet at the opera house in the very heart of Vienna, which was a lovely end to our two-week excursion.

Psychology in Europe is a three-credit course, open to students of any major who have taken General Psychology, that will be offered again next summer.

Psychology in Europe is a summer course that will be offered again next year. To fulfill course requirements, all of our visits to historically-relevant sites required completion of readings or other relevant assignments. For example, we read excerpts from Freud’s Interpretation of Dreams, and watched the film, Schindler’s List.

The course is open to students of all majors. Upon completion of the trip and its assignments, students earn three interdisciplinary course credits. Completion of General Psychology is the only pre-requisite. Furthermore, the trip can fulfill the Global Inquiry General Education requirement.

Next summer, Dr. Dave Kolar will once again lead a small group of students on a journey through Europe. If you are interested in the trip or have questions about it, please contact Dr. Kolar at dkolar@umw.edu.
Psychology Faculty Awarded Sabbaticals and Fellowships

Drs. Debra Steckler (Associate Professor) and Miriam Liss (Professor) were awarded sabbaticals recently. A sabbatical is a compensated leave from regular duties (e.g., teaching, service) during which the faculty member performs other professional activities (e.g., writing, research). Faculty apply for sabbaticals and the process is competitive. Awardees are chosen based on an evaluation of the professional work they plan to compete. In addition, Dr. Mindy Erchull (Associate Professor) was awarded a Jepson Fellowship for the ’15-’16 academic year. Applying for a Jepson Fellowship is a competitive process as well. This fellowship allows its recipients to teach a reduced number of courses throughout the academic year which, in turn, allows them to spend more time on professional activities.

Dr. Debra Steckler is on leave this semester, fall ’15. During her leave, she intends to follow up on research she has conducted over the last few years on the developmental stage of emerging adulthood, including a study on the parenting styles and perceptions of a cross-generational sample, i.e., emerging adults, their parents, and their grandparents. Although Dr. Steckler and the students with whom she has worked presented their research at a number of regional and national conferences, Dr. Steckler plans to use the time away from teaching to publish the work. In addition, Dr. Steckler plans to continue data collection by conducting interviews with parents and grandparents of some of the emerging adults who have participated in her research. Last, Dr. Steckler envisions the beginnings of a book on the influence of society and culture on the stage of emerging adulthood.

Dr. Miriam Liss will be on leave during the spring ’16 semester. She will work on writing a new textbook on the psychology of women, co-authored with Dr. Mindy Erchull and Dr. Kate Richmond. Dr. Richmond is an Assistant Professor at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Although there are a number of existing textbooks on the psychology of women, Dr. Liss describes the textbook to which she plans to contribute as unique for a couple reasons. First, following years of experience teaching psychology of women, all three authors noted that students do not connect with the material in current psychology of women texts. The material in existing texts is dated, representing concerns of students’ parents rather than students’ own concerns. Second, existing texts do not emphasize a modern approach to feminism, an approach that focuses less on equality between the sexes and more on challenging traditional gender roles and eliminating limitations placed on women by such traditional thinking. Dr. Liss will be the primary contributor to a number of chapters on topics such as the learning of gender roles, the contemplation of motherhood, and workplace issues such as equal pay across the sexes.

Dr. Mindy Erchull, Associate Professor, will be teaching courses throughout the year, albeit fewer. This reduction in the number of courses taught will allow her to work on the psychology of women textbook described by Dr. Liss above. Dr. Erchull offered another reason why there is a demand for a psychology of women text with a fresh approach; many texts on the market currently are being updated infrequently because the authors of those texts have retired or plan to retire soon. Dr. Erchull will be the primary contributor to a number of chapters on topics such as the objectification of women’s bodies, women’s sexuality and the sexualization of women, romantic and non-romantic relationships, as well as women and aging. Drs. Liss, Erchull, and Richmond are under contract to write the textbook with the publisher W.W. Norton and Company. It will be a lengthy process to write, edit, and publish the text; it is expected that the book will be available for adoption by institutions of higher education in late 2018 or early 2019.

Congratulations to Drs. Steckler and Liss for being awarded sabbaticals and to Dr. Erchull for being awarded a Jepson Fellowship!
Dr. Chris Kilmartin Receives the Waple Faculty Achievement Award

Congratulations to Dr. Chris Kilmartin, Professor, who was given the third, annual Waple Faculty Achievement Award. The award was established in honor of Shirley Van Epps Waple (’52). Dr. Kilmartin was nominated by his fellow faculty for the award, which is given based on the recipient having produced scholarly, creative, and/or professional achievements that have had a significant impact in his or her field.

Dr. Miriam Liss Receives a Waple Professorship Award

Congratulations to Dr. Miriam Liss, Professor, who was awarded a Waple Professorship. The Waple Professorship not only includes a monetary supplement to one’s salary, but also allows the recipient to teach two fewer courses than usual which, in turn, allows the recipient to spend more time on professional activities. The award was endowed by the estate of Shirley Van Epps Waple (’52).

Faculty Reach Milestones of Service

Drs. Steve Hampton (Associate Professor), Mindy Erchull (Associate Professor), and Holly Schiffrin (Associate Professor) were recognized by the university for their many years of service. Last academic year, Dr. Hampton completed his 35th year at UMW, and Drs. Erchull and Schiffrin completed their 10th years at UMW. Congratulations and many thanks to Drs. Hampton, Erchull, and Schiffrin!

New Student Representatives, Aides, and Tutors for ’15-’16

Last spring, Quinn Doyle, Samantha Amos, Michaela DeAsis, and Ana Martinez were elected by their peers to serve as psychology department student representatives. The representatives have been busy organizing events like majors meetings and the Fall Picnic this semester. The student representatives work with Dr. Dave Kolar (Department Chair and Associate Professor) to bring these events about. Also, the student representatives contribute to this newsletter!

Three students were selected to serve as lab aides. Laura Morris and Jennifer Dunn are returning from last year. They were joined by Caroline Schwartz. The lab aides oversee the computer labs which serve psychology and business majors. The lab aides are advised by Dr. David Rettinger, Associate Professor.

Two students will serve as statistics tutors; they are Rebekah Selbrede and Kathryn Tsagronis. During the summer of ’15, Holly Aleksonis served as the statistics tutor.

In addition, Jennaveve Yost is serving as the subject pool student coordinator. She is advised by Dr. Hilary Stebbins, Assistant Professor. Last but not least, Emily Stallings is serving as the community service learning (CSL) student coordinator. She is advised by Dr. Miriam Liss (Associate Professor).

On behalf of the psychology department, thank you to the student representatives, aides and tutors (and to their advisors) for the services you provide.

Psi Chi Inducts New Members and Elects New Officers for ’15-’16

Last spring, a number of psychology majors were welcomed into the UMW chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. The inductees were: Holly Aleksonis, Veronica Boyd, Rosemary Bruno, Rachael Dearborn, Michelle DuTeil, Sara Edwards, Jenna Gray, Laura Morris, Alexis Robinson, and Hannah Walker.

Also, the Psi Chi chapter elected new officers last semester. Robyn Ellis and Jenny Freud were elected Co-presidents, Laura Morris was elected Secretary, and Rebekah Selbrede was elected Treasurer. Also, Michelle DuTeil was elected Historian and Kathryn Tsagronis was elected Fundraising Chair.
Psi Chi Symposium Presenters Given
Awards for Outstanding Research

At the Psi Chi Symposium, outstanding research was recognized in three categories: Methods Course Research, Seminar Course Research, and Independent Study Research. Holly Aleksonis, Tyler Barnikel, Rachel Carson, and Haley Kane were given the award for best Methods Course Research. Their project was titled, You received a Facebook friend request. Will you accept? The effect of Facebook comments and social cues on social perceptions of adults. They completed this project in Dr. Hilary Stebbins’s Research Methods class.

Lindsey Green, Erica Parker, Gabriella Taweel, and Samantha Worman were given the award for best Seminar Course Research. Their project was titled, Feast or fret? The effects of food choice and preparation on stress. They completed this project in Dr. Jennifer Mailloux’s Research Seminar.

Last, but not least, Neomelani Gangi, Britta Grim, Katelyn Hedrick, and Gabriela Lopez were given the award for best Independent Study Research. Their project was titled, The effect of attractiveness on race classification of very briefly presented faces. They completed this project with Dr. Steve Hampton. Congratulations to our award winners and to all the Psi Chi Symposium presenters!

These awards were presented following a keynote address by Dr. Amy Van Arsdale, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Marymount University. Her address was titled, Questioning, Creating, and Caring: Impacting Your Community at Every Level.

Students Named Scholarship and Award Winners

First, the Outstanding Senior Award was given to Celeste Kelly. Congratulations, CeeCee! In addition, a number of students were awarded scholarships for the ’15-’16 academic year. Two Topher Bill Scholarships were awarded to Robyn Ellis and Rebekah Selbrede for their outstanding academic performance, particularly in statistics and research methods. Four Minnie Rob Phaup Scholarships, named in honor of a former faculty member, were awarded to Holly Aleksonis, Katherine Hansen, Laura Morris, and Raven Osei.

In addition, psychology major Jennifer Freud was awarded the James C. (’87) and Deborah S. Llewellyn Scholarship in Psychology for excellent academic performance. James C. Llewellyn endowed this scholarship because he appreciated the critical thinking, research, and communication skills he garnered at UMW, which prepared him well for an advanced degree and a career in human resources. Deborah S. Llewellyn is employed in human resources as well. Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients!

Psychology Majors Invited to Join Phi Beta Kappa

The following psychology majors were invited to join the UMW Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa: Kathleen Adragna, Katlyn Baines, Elizabeth Carroll, Lindsey Green, Haley Kane, Claire Merenda, Rebekah Selbrede, and Julia Smith.

Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776, is well-known for being the oldest undergraduate honors association in the United States. Its mission is to foster and recognize excellence in the liberal arts and sciences.
Where Are They Now?

Lauren Cleland (’14) began the doctoral program in Experimental Psychology at Texas Christian University this fall. Lauren began working in the Comparative Cognition Lab last spring, prior to her formal matriculation in the program; she has been studying occasion setting and hierarchical learning in pigeons.

Janine Crossman (’15) is currently working as a research assistant in the Health, Education, and Social departments of ICF International in Fairfax, Virginia.

Donovan Darland (’10) began the master’s program in Occupational Therapy at Shenandoah University this fall.

Danielle DeVille (’14) began the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology at the University of Tulsa this fall.

Melissa Falkenstern (’09) earned a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, in August of 2013. Currently, she is completing her clinical internship; she is a Primary Care Psychology Postdoctoral Resident at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In addition, Melissa is engaged to her fiancé, Andrew; they are planning a May 2016 wedding.

Wesley Horton (’14) began the master’s program in Clinical and Translational Research at Georgetown University this fall.

John Hummel (’86) is currently serving the dual role of Professor of Psychology and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Katie Jensen (’05) is currently the Educational Director of The Joshua School, a school for children with autism and other developmental disabilities, in Boulder, Colorado. The school’s instructors use applied behavior analysis to assist its students. Katie is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who received her master’s degree in Special Education from The College of William and Mary in 2007. Katie is married to UMW alumnus Tim Spurr (’04), and they have a one-year-old daughter.

Celeste Kelly (’15) began the Psy.D. program at George Washington University this fall.

Eric Knapp (’05) began law school at Duke University this fall.

Marie LePage (’05), currently an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, was awarded the Kathryn Amelia Brown award for excellence in teaching from the college last May.

Lindsay Meredith (’11) earned her master’s degree in Counselor Education from Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Education last May. This fall, she began a position as a middle school guidance counselor in Virginia’s Bedford County Public School system.

Haley Miles-McLean (’13) began the doctoral program in Human Services Psychology in the Clinical Psychology concentration at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Previously, she worked as a clinical research assistant at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. In this position, she worked on a variety of research projects, including investigations of the impact of complex trauma on families and children, gambling disorder in those with co-occurring substance use disorders, and the use of a clinic-based intervention to screen and provide support for individuals with serious mental illness who are also at risk for hepatitis C and HIV. Furthermore, Haley married her partner of over three years, Michael, on May 30, 2015.

Eve Sledjeski (’00) earned her doctoral degree in Experimental Health Psychology in 2005 from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and then she completed postdoctoral research at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Following her postdoctoral research, Eve joined the psychology department at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey; she was awarded tenure this fall. She has been teaching statistics, research methods, and courses in the biological psychology area at Rowan since 2009. (Also, Eve taught similar courses during the 2012-2013 academic year at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.) Most recently, she was named Assistant Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Rowan.

Julia Smith (’15) began the master’s program in Industrial/organizational Psychology at George Mason University this fall. Over the summer, her adventures included working at a sleep-away camp for girls in New Hampshire, at which she’s worked the last two summers, after having taken a bike tour through France.

Elinor Tuhy (’10) received her master’s in Social Work from the University of Kansas last May.
Announcements

The Department of Psychological Science is looking for alumnae and alumni who are willing to discuss their careers and career paths with current psychology majors. Our goal is to create a list of graduates and their occupations to illustrate the variety of opportunities for individuals with a psychology degree and to provide a point of contact so that current students could gain advice and ask questions. The list, including name and occupation, would be posted on our webpage; however, contact information would be made available to current undergraduates by request only. If you are a willing alumna or alumnus, please contact Dr. Virginia Mackintosh, Associate Professor, at vmackint@umw.edu. Send her your name, occupation (including a brief description of your regular activities, if you desire) as well as your current email address and, if you desire, a phone number at which interested students may contact you. We would appreciate your help in providing a valuable resource to current psychology majors. Thank you in advance!

Please consider recognizing the Department of Psychological Science with a monetary contribution. Please make checks payable to the University of Mary Washington Foundation, and specify that the donation is for the Department of Psychological Science. Please send checks to the following address: University of Mary Washington Foundation, Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 1119 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5412. Your donation would be used to support student scholarships and student presentations at conferences. We would appreciate your support!

Find our new and improved department website at: http://cas.umw.edu/psychology
Recent faculty news and upcoming events are posted to the site. Our current students will find information on, for example, program requirements, experiential learning opportunities, and Psi Chi happenings. Furthermore, alumni can keep in touch by providing updates. Check it out!

Keep in touch with your psychology department and fellow graduates. Join the UMW Psychology Majors group or the UMW Psychology Department Alumni group on Facebook!