



# EKU Department Psychology Newsletter



Fall 2022

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## Letter from the Interim Chair, Dr. Michael Chen

This academic year ushers in another change of leadership. The College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences has a new Dean (Dr. Mercy Cannon) and a new Associate Dean (Dr. John Bowes). Our former chair, Dr. Richard Osbaldiston has taken a new position with USC Beaufort. Dr. Jon Gore and I are currently serving as interim Associate Chair and Chair of the Department.

Despite the changes and challenges, ECU Psychology Department continues to thrive and grow. The Department's overall enrollment has now exceed 1,200 students across two undergraduate programs, three Master's programs, and one Doctoral program. Our new Applied Behavior Analyst program has grown from 20 students to close to 100 students. The Department is also in the process of hiring two tenure-track professor positions, one in Industrial Organizational Psychology and one is an Open search.

As the Department continues to grow, we ask our friends, family, and alumni to support us. Any one-time or recurring gift allows us to continue our work on educating our students and serving our community. Will you consider partnering with us?



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## Suicide Prevention Initiatives



The Psychology Department hosted Brothers Run 3K run/walk in Versailles on Saturday, September 10th, which was World Suicide Prevention Day. Brothers Run Foundation financially supports the work of our ECU Psychology Clinic with this fundraising suicide prevention event every year. We had 30 participants and was one of the largest teams that we have hosted.

The Department also hosted a suicide prevention workshop at El Centro de San Juan Diego in Lexington on September 7th, 2022. These are just two examples of the many initiatives that the ECU Psychology Department is spearheading in the efforts toward suicide prevention.



## Dr. Richard Osbaldiston says goodbye

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Kelly and I said goodbye to ECU Psychology, where we had been for the past 15 years, and we relocated to USC in Bluffton, SC. Kelly got her Masters degree in I/O Psychology and worked for the University in a couple of different roles, and I progressed through the tenure ranks and I was appointed Chair of the Department. And many of you knew our dog Kinga. ECU is very much a part of our souls, so it was very tough to say goodbye.

My first year at ECU, I was given a few hundred dollars of start-up money for a project wherein I wanted to dissect why motivational speakers were so successful at inspiring their audiences, whereas I as a teacher often felt like I couldn't do the same for my students.

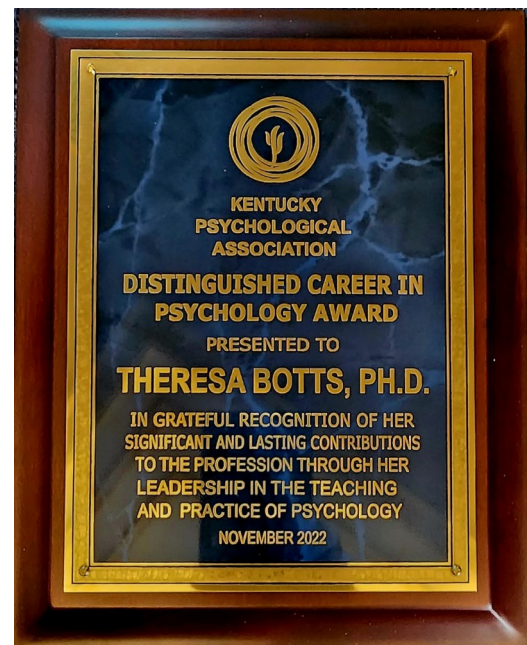
From that start grew my intense affection for motivational messages of all kinds, and I hope that my students will remember that I started each class period with an inspirational saying. Some of these sayings were from the "greats," like Oprah, MLK, Abraham Lincoln, etc., but I loved it when I could find something from a popular source that resonated with students.

Although the pop singer Vanilla Ice is probably not on anyone's list of the "greats," I love his lyric, "Anything less than your best is a felony." In the course of my time at ECU, I always aspired to give my best to all, and I always deeply valued it when I could tell that others were doing the same. ECU is a wonderful place because it is a community of people committed to doing their best at serving others and bettering themselves. It has been such a pleasure knowing and serving you all, and we will miss you!



## Dr. Botts receives the 2022 Distinguished Career in Psychology Award

Dr. Botts received the 2022 Distinguished Career in Psychology Award from the Kentucky Psychological Association. The KPA recognized Dr. Botts at the Annual Convention in Louisville on November 10th for her contributions to the field of psychology and her community.



## Research Spotlight: Multilingual Lab



The Multilingual Laboratory (Dr. Sara Incera and her undergraduate research assistants Angie Marroquin, Haleigh Hamilton, and Montserrat Cruz) attended the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society. Psychonomic is the most important international association for researchers in the field of Cognitive Psychology.



Over 1,000 researchers attended the event in Boston, where Dr. Incera gave a talk about how appearance (the way a speaker looks) influence listeners perceptions of foreign accents.

## PsyD Graduates 50th Student

This semester, 11 students earned Eastern's Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) degree, marking the 50th graduate from the program. Launched in the fall of 2015, the program graduated its first cohort of 4 students in 2018. The program was initially accredited on contingency by the American Psychological Association (APA) in April of 2018, shortly before the first cohort of students completed the program. EKU received full accreditation from APA for 10 years in 2020.



## Graduate Program Update: Clinical Psy.D.

This fall, we moved the Psychology Clinic from Cammack to Rowlett and have started our return to in-person services. Much of our work in the Clinic is still being offered remotely due to client demand, but we have a high clinic load in the clinic as well and our new space is being well-used.

We also welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Joshua Turner to the clinical faculty. Dr. Turner received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology with specialty emphasis tracks in Spanish counseling and integrated behavioral health from New Mexico State University in 2019. He completed his pre-doctoral internship with Veterans Affairs Healthcare System in Lexington, KY and his post-doctoral residency with Veterans Health Indiana in Indianapolis, IN. His clinical interests include bilingual counseling, trauma, primary care, LGBTQ+ and gender identity. His research interests include sizeism, healthism, body image, health disparities and equitability. Dr. Turner enjoys travel, reading historical fiction novels, poetry, mandala coloring books, and singing.



## Graduate Program Update: General Psychology Master's Program

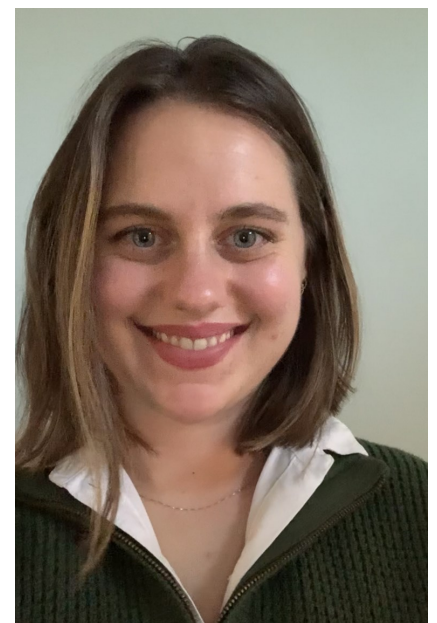
In the Experimental Psychology concentration of the General Psychology Master's program, three students completed their theses in Fall 2022. Evan Charles' thesis is entitled "'Scale validation of American Exceptionalism Index.'" Dr. Winslow was his mentor. Aaron Lankster's thesis is entitled "Factors contributing to feelings of inclusion and exclusion among Swahili-speaking refugees in Lexington, Kentucky." Dr. Gore was her mentor. Katelyn McClure's thesis is entitled "'I could not understand anything they said!': Non-native English-speaking instructors, online learning, and student anxiety." Dr. Chen was her mentor.



Evan Charles



Katelyn McClure



Aaron Lankster

## Graduate Program Update: General Master, ABA Program, I/O Program

One piece of big news for the MS program in General Psychology is that Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Bundy completed and submitted the program review this semester.

A total of 15 students graduated from the ABA program at the Fall 2022 ceremony. We are proud of the work students and faculty have put into this program. This fall we hosted the ABA concentration's first online lunch time colloquium, featuring Dr. Robert Wallander speaking about "Treatment Integrity: You'll Never Look at a Behavior Plan the Same Way Again". Attendees included community members, faculty, and enthusiastic graduate students. We will host another online lunch colloquium in Spring 2023. We're looking forward to learning from Dr. Robert Pennington from UNC Charlotte.

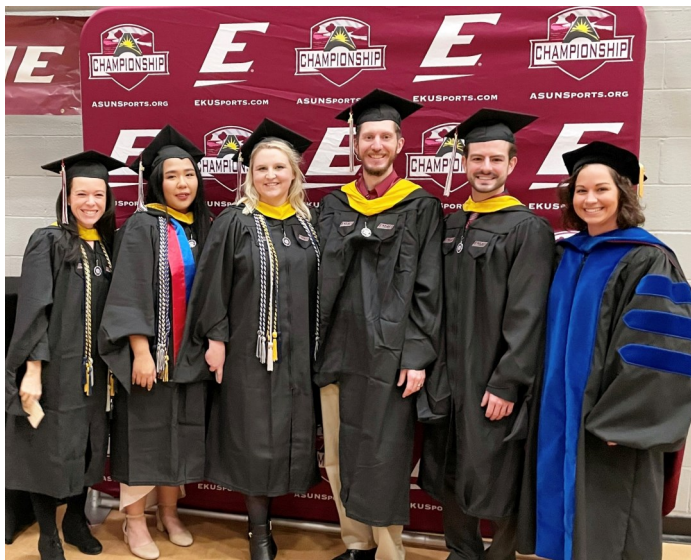
Among the graduate students in the Experimental Master's program, Inés Elena Martín completed her Master's thesis entitled "The relationship between cognitive and linguistic abilities in bilingual children," under the direction of Dr. Sara Incera. Inés has accepted a position to start in the fall in a Ph.D. School Psychology program at Tulane University, in New Orleans.



ABA students at the Fall 22 Graduation

The I/O Master's program completed its five year review. The Fall 2022 semester has been a good one for the I-O Psychology Master's program. Seventeen new students joined the program this Fall, and we are looking forward to having several additional new students join us for the Spring semester.

The program graduated 16 students this past Spring and Summer, and 10 students this Fall. This brings the total number of graduates from the online I-O program to 95 students! It is always great to meet our students in-person, and five were able to attend graduation in person this semester! We also were fortunate to



have five students join us for graduation in Spring 2022.

The program is gearing up for a busy Spring semester, with 20 students getting ready to begin their capstone projects. These projects allow students to gain practical experience in the field by completing an applied project for an organizational client. We will also be conducting interviews for a new I-O faculty member in the Spring. The I-O program is looking forward to a successful 2023!

I-O students and faculty attending Fall 2022 Graduation.

Pictured from left to right: Jocelyn Pagel, Erlyn Dalan,

## Psi Chi and Psychology Club

Psi Chi held monthly meetings throughout the semester that were followed by fun activities and events including trivia, board games, and an informational presentation about study abroad. These meetings got students excited and encouraged new friendships and collaborations. We also held several fundraisers, including Halloween crafts, selling hot chocolate and coffee, and



Pie the Psychs in which students paid to pie their professors in the face. We volunteered with groups like Habitat for Humanity, NAMI, and suicide prevention programs. To keep members involved, we also hosted events such as walking in the Homecoming Parade, a Halloween party, and a potluck to wrap up the semester!



## Animal Studies & Animal Studies Club



The Animal Studies program as well as club had a great Fall 2022 semester. The Animal Studies Club took trips to the Reptile Zoo in Slade, Kentucky, where an Animal Studies alumnus works, as well as to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Additionally, Dr. Makecha was able to talk to the Animal Studies club about her recent experience at the International Wildlife Coexistence Conference at Chico Hot Springs in Pray, Montana. She also made a pit stop at a local grizzly bear rescue, the Montana Grizzly Encounter, who agreed to do a talk for the Animal Studies program in the near future.

The Animal Studies program is also looking forward to hosting its 5th Biennial Conference from March 9th – 11th, 2023, after a long hiatus due to COVID. The theme of the conference is Habitat and Home, including the subconferences of Living with Horses, Living with Art and Animals, and Living with Insects. Additionally, it will take place right here on EKU's campus. As always, the conference will be hosting an exciting array of keynote speakers, including Jo-Anne McArthur, a world-famous photographer who focuses on documenting the complex relationships between humans and non-human animals. Other keynote speakers will include Gordon Burghardt, a world-renowned ethologist focusing on animal play, Terry Maple, an expert on animal welfare, Amy M. Youngs, who focuses on the interplay between technology, plants, and animals, most notably insects, and Jeannette Vaught, talking about locusts. The subconference Living with Horses is doing a panel discussion on "The Consideration of Equine Welfare within and Practice of Equine-Assisted Services," with three experts in the area: Veronica Lac, Nina Ekholm Fry, and Arieahn Matamonasa.

The program is also offering a study abroad course on Cetacean Ecology, Behavior, and Cognition in July of 2023 in Bimini, The Bahamas as well as a Biological Anthropology Field Methods course offered by Dr. Ben Freed during spring break. Through the study abroad course, students will learn how to study wild dolphin behavior as well as identify different species/individuals and through the field course, students will learn how to study lemurs through hands-on experience!



## Veterans Study Program



The Kentucky Center for Veterans Studies marked [its second year](#) in fall 2022 and is still going strong. The student [mentorship program](#) pilot with the Lexington, KY Veterans Affairs medical center is moving forward into adoption. Students continue to benefit from [internships](#), [volunteer opportunities](#), and outsiders are [taking notice](#) of our curriculum can be paired with any number of professionalization tracks. The new VTS 500/700 Veteran Identity Theory capstone features the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Veterans Studies*, who hopes to help undergraduate and graduate students in the program gain skills and opportunities to publish. We will be introducing a new legislative advocacy group project in VTS 300 Veterans in Society, a partnership with Occupational Science. And our service-learning oral history project in the VTS 200 introductory course has now archived well over 1000 veterans' stories. Tell your students to take Veterans Studies courses if they want to grow as scholars and people.



## LEX 18 talks with Dr. Moore about her work on suicide prevention



Dr. Melinda Moore, Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of Suicide Awareness and Prevention, sat down with LEX 18 to talk about her work. Dr. Moore commented on the uptick in suicidal ideation among young people and the need for greater awareness across college campuses. Dr. Moore, along with ECU's Psychology Clinic, has hosted events such as "Walk for Hope" to increase the public's awareness of issues related to suicide.

The interview can be accessed on [LEX 18's website](#).



## Fall 2022 Commencement Speaker: Holdyn Morrow

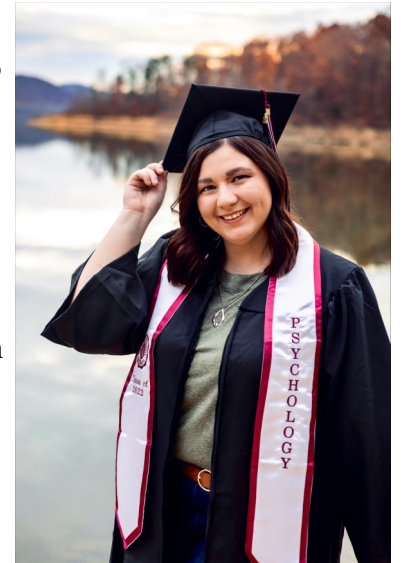
When I began my college journey at ECU, I was unsure of what to expect. My experiences prior to being admitted weren't ideal. I was told throughout high school that I shouldn't even consider college, but I'm stubborn, and I wanted to prove those people wrong.

My dream was to attend ECU and major in Psychology, but unfortunately, that plan didn't work out initially.

I attended a college in my hometown for a single semester before dropping out and deciding I must not be cut out for college. It would take another two years for me to apply to ECU, where I was denied admission. It was a devastating turn of events, but determined to be more than what was expected, I filed for an appeal, and I was admitted.

Throughout my time here, I have worked full-time and have taken classes full-time. From January 2020-December 2022, this cycle continued through every semester- Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. I was lucky to have the utmost support and care from staff and faculty, which led to my successes during my time here at ECU.

They helped me get to the point where I was able to give the Commencement Speech for my graduating class, which meant everything to me. ECU has given to me what I was denied for so long- belief in my own capabilities. I'm so grateful for the opportunities I have been given, and my intentions moving forward are to provide the same belief in others that I have received here.



## Faculty Awards and Honors

### Sabbatical

Adam Lawson, Fall 2022

Dan Florell, Fall 2023 & Spring 2024

Matthew Winslow, Fall 2023

### Awesome Advisor Award

Radhika Makecha, Animal Studies

Matthew Winslow, Psychology

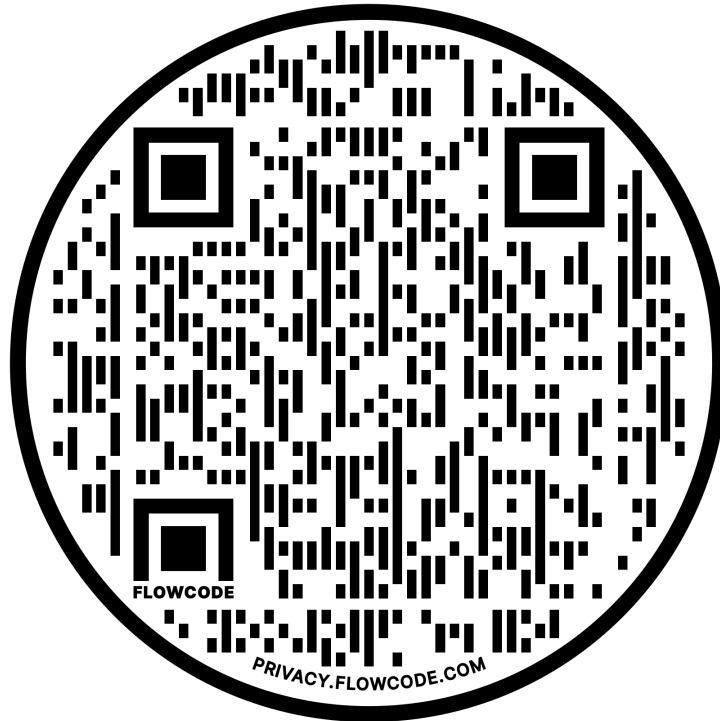


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