

VOL. 1.
ISSUE 1.

FALL • 2023

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

OCTOBER

PARTY

RESEARCH

WHAT ARE FACULTY
FINDING AND
PRESENTING?

EVENTS

WORKSHOPS &
MORE

GET TO KNOW

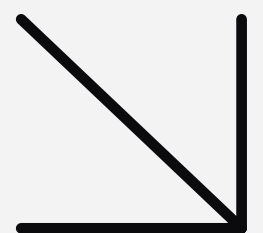
WE INTERVIEW TWO UP-
AND-COMING FACULTY
MEMBERS IN THE
DEPARTMENT

KAT'S CAFE

SIMPLE RECIPES EVEN
A PSYCHOLOGIST CAN
MAKE!



METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY™
OF DENVER
Department of Psychological Sciences



TAKE A LOOK

HEY THERE
FACULTY, STAFF,
STUDENTS, AND
ALUMNI!

We're throwing confetti,
popping virtual champagne,
and welcoming you to the most
amusing newsletter debut
ever...

*Psychological Sciences
Party!*

Get ready to groove to the rhythm of exciting ideas, inspiring stories to think about, and have fun exploring the fascinating world of the *Department of Psychological Sciences!*

Why “Psychological Sciences Party,” you ask? Well, because learning about the department experience should be a celebration!

We are thrilled to have you join the fun as we embark on this wild ride into our world, where every discovery is like finding a bonus onion ring in your order of fries. Nothing life changing, but a pleasant surprise nonetheless!

“Psychological Sciences Party” is here to:

1. **Feature the Brainiacs**: Meet the psychologists, researchers, and thinkers who are turning the world of psychology upside down and setting a higher benchmark at MSU Denver.
2. **Unmask Mind-blowing Insights**: Dive deep into the latest research, mind-bending trends, and innovative studies that will leave you thinking, “Whoa, I never knew that!”
3. **Mindful Musings**: Get ready for entertaining interviews, foodie tidbits, and quirky opinion pieces from our resident psychology party animals.
4. **Party Radar**: Stay tuned for news about the most happening psychology events, conferences, and gatherings where you can meet fellow party animals and get your groove on!

But remember, this party is all about YOU! We want to hear your thoughts, ideas, and feedback as we shape this bash to fit your interests and curiosities.

We believe that exploring psychological sciences should be as exciting as a dance-off, as enlightening as a lightbulb moment, and as fun as a barrel of monkeys.

So, grab your virtual party hat, get ready to make some new mental connections, and let’s rock this “Psychological Sciences Party” together!

Thank you for being a part of our debut shindig. It’s going to be fun!

Here’s to you,

Thai Intara, Assistant Office Manager

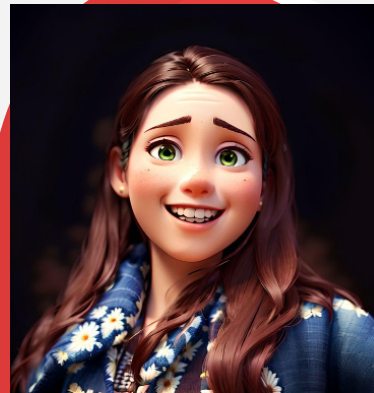
Editor-in-Chief, “Psychological Sciences Party”

EXCLUSIVES

INTERVIEWS



**CASSANDRA
BAILEY, PH.D.**
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**HANNAH
SHATZER, PH.D.**
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



**SAM BARBER,
M.F.A., ABD.**
*PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC
ADVISOR*



Chair's

CORNER

Hello from the Chairs Corner!

Welcome to our inaugural edition of the Psychological Sciences Party. With so many exciting and innovative things going on in our department, we wanted to create a space to share and communicate with students, the MSU Denver community, and alumni about all the inspiring stories and activities going on in our department. This is the place to tune in for the latest on our department-wide programs like Psyched to Work!, for updates on student and faculty trainings related to diversity, equity and inclusion, or to catch-up with our newest faculty and staff. With so many unique opportunities geared specifically for our students and our community, you will be glad you did!

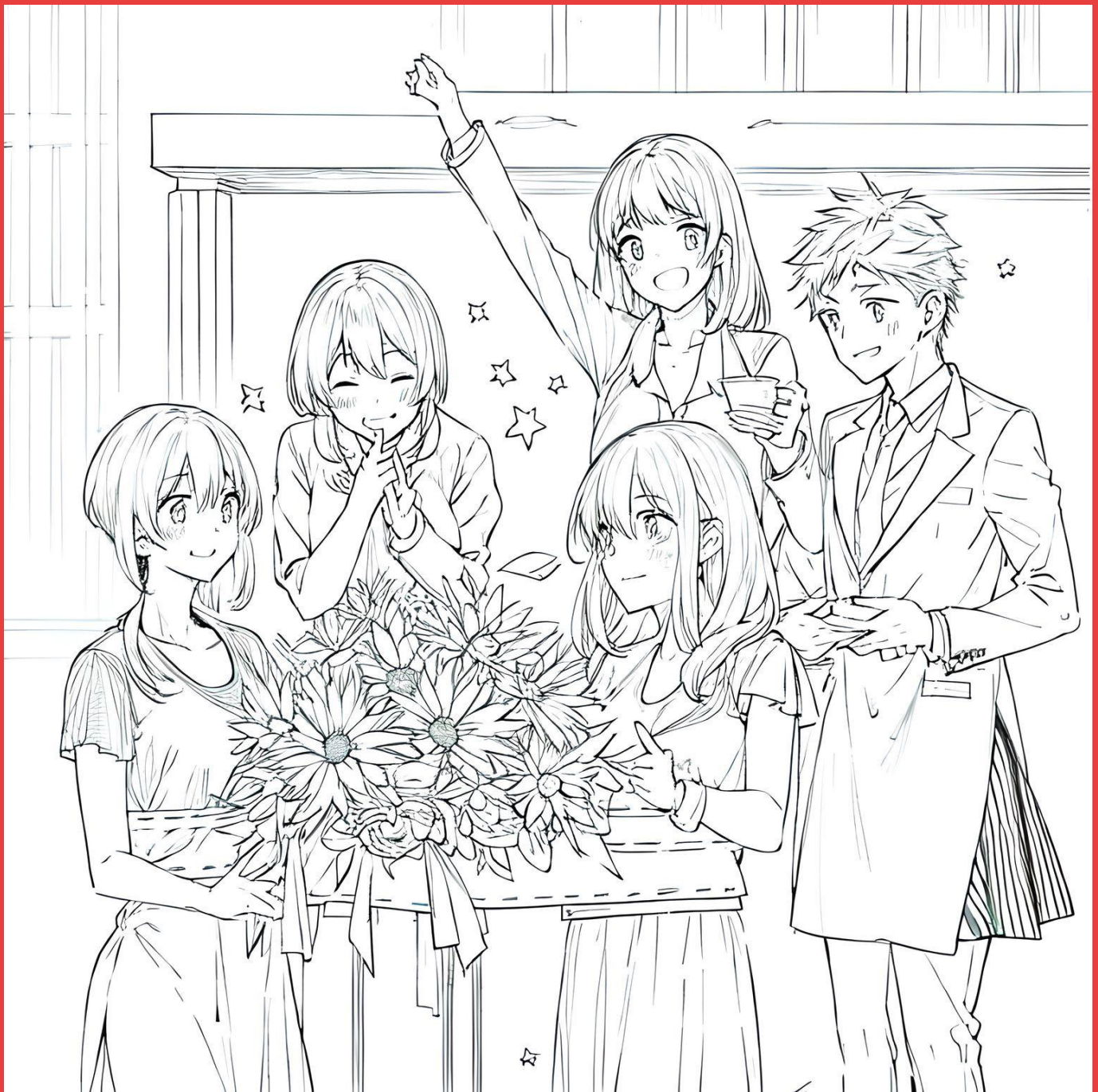


Dr. Lisa Badanes

You can always reach out to me via email at

lbadanes@msudenver.edu

By the Numbers



As of October, 2023

- Our Fall 2023 **Psyched to Work** Job Shadow Program saw a record breaking **89** students enrolled in the Canvas course to prepare for their job shadow day!
- There were **1002** students enrolled for Introductory Psychology courses. **1002** possible Psychology/Human Development & Family Studies majors!
- There are **2,874** declared Psychology majors. Of those, **477** are Online majors.
- There are **340** declared Human Development & Family Studies majors. Of those, **124** are Online majors.
- There are **25** fulltime, tenure-line faculty members.
- There are **19** professional adjunct faculty members.

PRESENTATIONS

FACULTY & STUDENT COLLABORATIONS

Association for Behavioral Analysis Conference (an International Conference Denver, CO)

Moore*, K., Lukela*, E., Jara Rivas*, M., Prynne*, M., & Flynn, M. (2023, May). The efficacy of a brief values intervention in a spider-related behavioral approach. Poster accepted for presentation at the Association for Behavioral Analysis International conference in Denver, CO.

Lukela*, E., Moore*, K., Prynne*, M., Jara Rivas*, M., & Flynn, M. (2023, May). Weight-related stigma and well-being among college students with overweight and obesity: The role of fusion as a moderator. Poster accepted for presentation at the Association for Behavioral Analysis International conference in Denver, CO.

Jara Rivas*, M., Prynne*, M., Moore*, K., Lukela*, E., & Flynn, M. (2023, May). Experienced stigma and health care avoidance among women with obesity: Avoidance as a moderator. Poster accepted for presentation at the Association for Behavioral Analysis International conference in Denver, CO.

Prynne*, M. K., Jara Rivas*, M., Lukela*, E., Moore*, K., & Flynn, M. (2023, May). Experienced stigma and health care avoidance among women with obesity: Fusion as a moderator. Poster accepted for presentation at the Association for Behavioral Analysis International conference in Denver, CO.

Society for the Study of Human Development Conference (Philadelphia, PA)

Lyons, K. E., Kelsey, B. C., Moreno, A., & Martinez, A. (n.d.). Parenting College Students' Perceptions of Multiple Time Constraints: Considering Developmental Periods of Parents and Children [Review of Parenting College Students' Perceptions of Multiple Time Constraints: Considering Developmental Periods of Parents and Children].

Association for Psychological Science (Washington D.C.)

Ansburg, P.I., Bridgers, C., Phinnella, A., and Vinson, S. (2023) Domain-general ideation predicts domain-specific everyday creativity. Presented at the Association for Psychological Sciences convention, Washington, DC.



What some Alumni and current students doing today?

Dr. Mo Flynn: *Deserea Richards* a former student is the program coordinator for Native and Indigenous student support at MSU Denver. This is the first position of its kind here.

Dr. Lisa Hagan: *Devon Rapken*, a former TA got a research job at CU Boulder; *Shelly Barth*, a former RA is in a Ph.D. program in Atlanta.

Dr. Kristy Lyons: *Juliet Madsen*, who is working as a Disaster Behavioral Health and Fatality Management Planning & Response Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Preparedness & Response for the State of Colorado.

Dr. Pam Ansborg: *Crystal Bridgers* is continuing to work with me this semester on her own project to understand how people view and trust parenting advice generated by ChatGPT compared to that from human experts in parenting and adolescent development.

Dr. Cheryl Sanders: My former TA, *Amy Bordelon (now Amy Bordelon Freeman)* (MA; LPC) recently gave this TedTalk. She was the first recipient of the department's emeritus scholarship.

Dr. Randi Smith: I'm conducting research—with my amazing research assistant *Gabe Trujillo*—on how legislation is affecting sex education. Specifically, Colorado passed a bill in 2019 mandating that sex education in our state be comprehensive (rather than abstinence-based), that the health needs of LGBTI individuals cannot be excluded, that instruction on consent must be provided, and that—if pregnancy is covered—abortion must be addressed as an option. We're surveying alumni of Colorado K12 schools to see whether these legislative changes are having a meaningful impact on students' experiences. Early results suggest yes! Gabe and I will be presenting preliminary findings at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality in New Orleans in November.

Get to Know



Q&A WITH
OUR NEWEST
RESIDENTS



Cassandra Bailey, Ph.D.

INTERVIEW

AN INSIGHTFUL CONVERSATION WITH DR. CASSANDRA BAILEY: BALANCING ACADEMIA AND ADVENTURE

In this exclusive interview, we sit down with Dr. Cassandra Bailey, a multifaceted scholar whose life and academic journey are as diverse as her research interests.

Q: Dr. Bailey, could you share with our readers where you were born and raised, and the journey that brought you here?

Dr. Bailey: Absolutely. I was born in Beverly Hills, California and raised in Hollywood, California. My early years involved quite a bit of moving around. At three years old, my family and I moved to Louisville, Kentucky, followed by a move to Florida when I was 14. My early twenties brought me to Huntsville, Texas, and later I found myself back in California at 27. Finally, by the age of 28, I was settled in Colorado.

Q: Tell us about your educational background. Where did you obtain your undergraduate and Ph.D. degrees?

Dr. Bailey: I completed my undergraduate degrees in Psychology, Criminology, and Spanish at the University of Florida. From there, I pursued a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, with a Forensics emphasis at Sam Houston State University.

Q: Your research interests are both impressive and impactful. Could you tell us more about your focus areas?

Dr. Bailey: Certainly. My research passions broadly include Latinx mental health disparities, forensic assessment, exploring the significance of diversity. Specifically, my research often delves into how immigration court proceedings affect the mental health of Latinx individuals.

Q: Beyond academia and research, what activities bring balance and joy to your life?

Dr. Bailey: I'm a firm believer in the importance of work-life balance. When I'm not immersed in teaching or research, I find solace and adventure in outdoor pursuits such as rock climbing and camping. I also have a deep passion for cooking and baking; experimenting with new recipes is a creative outlet for me. And I must confess, I do enjoy indulging in some guilty pleasure TV shows like "Love is Blind," "Too Hot to Handle," and "The Ultimatum."

Q: If you could choose one song to play every time you walked into a room, what would it be and why?

Dr. Bailey: That would be Eminem's "When I'm Gone." The lyrics, "And when I'm gone, just carry on, don't mourn, rejoice every time you hear the sound of my voice," resonated deeply with me as I have often been geographically separated from my family. When I would drive back home from college, it was the only song I knew word for word, and I would sing it to myself on my 2.5-hour drive. I did not have a CD player, radio, or iPod, so I had to keep myself entertained somehow!

Q: If you were shipwrecked on a deserted island, what two nonessential items would you want with you?

Dr. Bailey: I'd opt for a good Sudoku book to keep my mind engaged, and a set of dumbbells to maintain my physical well-being. It's all about striking a balance between intellectual stimulation and physical fitness.

Q: Your altruistic nature shines through. What would you do if you had to work but didn't need the money?

Dr. Bailey: I'd open and run an orphanage. In such a scenario, I would dedicate my time to ensuring every child has access to a safe and nurturing environment.

Dr. Cassandra Bailey's journey through academia and life is a testament to the idea that a passion for knowledge can harmonize with a zest for adventure and a heart full of compassion. Her story is an inspiration to those who look to strike a balance between their intellectual pursuits and their pursuit of a fulfilling and adventurous life.

Mr. *INTERVIEW* Samual Barber



“CURRENTLY I
AM FINISHING MY
DISSERTATION IN
CREATIVE WRITING AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER”



EXPLORING THE LITERARY WORLD WITH MR. SAM BARBER

In this insightful Q&A, we delve into the world of Mr. Sam Barber, Professional Academic Advisor. A devoted literature enthusiast and educator, and learn more about his diverse interests and passions.

****Q: Mr. Barber, can you share with our readers where your journey began? Where were you born and raised?***

Sam: I'm a Texan at heart, born and raised in San Antonio, TX. It's where my love for literature (and Spurs) began.

****Q: Your academic journey seems quite remarkable. Where did you obtain your undergrad and your ongoing Ph.D.?***

Sam: My academic journey has been quite an adventure. I pursued my undergrad with an English major and an emphasis in creative writing at Brown University in Providence, RI. I then completed my MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Arizona, followed by earning a Master's in English from Columbia. Currently, I'm in the process of finishing my dissertation in creative writing at the University of Denver. I also taught for a brief stint in a Brooklyn charter school (H.S.).

****Q: Your research interests are intriguing. Can you tell us more about what fuels your academic passion?***

Sam: Certainly! I'm deeply interested in Latinx literature, Post WWII fiction, the influence of neoliberalism, and exploring the world of Literary Absurdity. These areas of study never cease to amaze me.

****Q: Beyond academia and research, what keeps you busy when you're not teaching or working on your Ph.D.?***

Sam: I'm a devoted dog lover, so I spend a lot of time walking my two canine companions, one being a German Shepherd Husky mix, and the other a Blue Heeler mix. I also enjoy quality time with my wife, especially when we're playing board games. I'm a huge sports fan, and I avidly follow the San Antonio Spurs and Swansea City A.F.C., though they were sadly relegated from English Premier League football a few years ago.

****Q: If you could have a theme song every time you walked into a room, what would it be and why?***

Sam: "People" by Silver Jews would be my choice. The early Wittgenstein reference in the song has always resonated with me and never fails to strike a chord.

****Q: Stranded on a deserted island, what two nonessential items would you want with you?***

Sam: I'd bring along a copy of "Moby Dick" for some literary companionship, and a journal to capture my thoughts and experiences.

****Q: What would you do if you had to work but didn't need the money?***

Sam: I'd embrace the role of Professor Emeritus, teaching literature and film classes to inspire future generations.

Mr. Sam Barber is more than an educator—he's a literary explorer, a dog enthusiast, and a sports aficionado, bringing a rich tapestry of interests and experiences to the world of academia.



Hannah *INTERVIEW* Shatzer, *Ph.D.



****DR. HANNAH SHATZER: BRIDGING SCIENCE AND SOUND****

In this exclusive interview, we get to know Dr. Hannah Shatzer, a cognitive psychologist with a flair for both research and the arts.

****Q: Dr. Shatzer, could you share with our readers where you were born and raised?***

Dr. Shatzer: I'm a Midwesterner through and through, born and raised in the west suburbs of Chicago, IL.

****Q: Tell us about your academic journey. Where did you obtain your undergrad and Ph.D.?***

Dr. Shatzer: My academic journey started at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. I pursued a double major in Psychology and Music, with a minor in Scandinavian Studies. Later, I ventured to The Ohio State University for my Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology.

****Q: Your research interests are intriguing. Could you tell us more about your focus?***

Dr. Shatzer: Absolutely! My research uses behavioral and neural research to study speech perception, particularly in challenging listening conditions. I'm fascinated by how we interpret and understand speech with challenges like noisy environments or hearing loss.

****Q: Beyond academia and research, what passions keep you engaged?***

Dr. Shatzer: When I'm not engrossed in academia, you can find me in the kitchen baking or immersed in the world of music, playing the oboe and English horn. Also, I'm an avid reader. Right now, I'm delving into thrillers, perfectly fitting for the season.

****Q: If you could have a theme song every time you walked into a room, what would it be and why?***

Dr. Shatzer: "September" by Earth, Wind, and Fire would be my anthem. It takes me back to the joy and fun of my college days. In fact, every September, a daily notification on Facebook prompts friends to gather on campus and dance to the song every day in September—it's a beautiful tradition.

****Q: Stranded on a deserted island, what two nonessential items would you want with you?***

Dr. Shatzer: I'd bring along a Kindle loaded with a treasure trove of 2,000 books, and of course, a portable charger to keep the stories going.

****Q: What would you do if you had to work but didn't need the money?***

Dr. Shatzer: Teaching is my passion. I'd still be in the classroom, working with students. If not teaching, I'd channel my creativity into crafts, particularly embroidery.

Dr. Hannah Shatzer is more than just a cognitive psychologist—she's a creative spirit, intertwining the world of science with the magic of music and the arts. Her journey showcases the beauty of finding harmony in diverse passions.

FACULTY RESEARCH

Naufel, K. Z., Spencer, S. M., Van Kirk, J., & Richmond, A. S. (2023). Method matters: The importance of understanding the creation of the skillful psychology student. Advance online publication. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology. <https://doi.org/10.1037/stl0000357>

Richmond, A. S., †Breedin, O., †Lich, T., †Pletcher, J., & †Sharp, A. (2023). The structure, reliability, and validity of the Universal Design for Learning Syllabus Scale. *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*, 34(1), 69-91.

This article is published with three MSU Denver psychology students. The study was designed, analyzed, and written in PSY 4450 class as part of a team-based and project-based assignment.

Richmond, A. S., Boysen, G. A., Gurung, R. A. R., & Naufel, K. Z. (2023). A national study of student and instructor perceptions of introductory psychology. *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology*, Advance online publication: <https://doi.org/10.1037/stl0000345>

Cote, Linda R.; Gordon, Rupa; Randell, Chrislyn E.; Schmitt, Judy; and Marvin, Helena, "Introduction to Statistics in the Psychological Sciences" (2021). Open Educational Resources Collection. 25. Available at: <https://irl.umsl.edu/oer/25> - Version 08/01/2023 (Minor Revision)

Englander, E., Parti, K., Sanders, C., & McCoy, M. (2023). Cyberbullying and Sexting During the Pandemic 2020 to 2022: New Definitions and Mental Health. In Wright, M. (Ed.), *The Psychology of Cyberbullying*. Nova Publishers.

Troisi, J. D., Arnott-Hill, E., Benson, O., Wright, J. W. C., & Fleck, B. (2023). How many total points should your course have? *Teaching of Psychology*, 50(1). 47-56. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00986283211031196>

McGee, A. B., Schlueter, L., Link, T., Badanes, L. S., Dmitrieva, J., & Sarah Enos Watamura. (2023). Physiologic Stress in the Classroom: Does Teacher's Cortisol Expression Influence Children's Afternoon Rise in Cortisol at Child Care? *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 153, 106249–106249. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psyneuen.2023.106249>

FACULTY RESEARCH

Bailey, C., Venta, A., Baumgartner, M., Mercado, A., Colunga-Rodríguez, C., Ángel-González, M., Dávalos-Picazo, G., & Sarabia-López, L. E. (2023). Religiosity and religious scrupulosity as markers of poor mental health in the Latinx community: A mediation model. 8(1), 23–33. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pri0000208>



Photo by Glenn Carstens-Peters on Unsplash

CONNECTIONS

Abroad



From left to right: Dr. Courtney Rocheleau (Professor of Psychology), Guðlaug Jakobsdóttir (Director of the International Office, Reykjavik), Kelly Huang (MSU Denver Office of International Studies), Dr. Chris Garris (Professor of Psychology), and Kristján Kristjánsson (Director of Research Services, Reykjavik).

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND



Dr. Courtney Rocheleau, Dr. Chris Garris, and Office of International Studies representative Kelly Huang had the opportunity to travel to Reykjavik University, Iceland. In Reykjavik, they met with Guðlaug Jakobsdóttir, the Director of the International Office, and Kristján Kristjánsson, the Director of Research Services, respectively. The aim of the meeting of the minds was to establish plans and collaborate for future classes, exchange student opportunities, and the Study Abroad program at both institutions.



KUDOS

AWARDS

When someone in the department wins an award, it's a win for all of us!

Dr. Lisa Hagan - As Faculty Mentor, Psi Chi won the best student organization on campus. 2023

Dr. Chris Randell, Dr. Chris Garris, and Dr. Lisa Hagan -
- Roadrunners Who Soar
- Golich Award for Open Educational Resource Champion
- Center for Technology Learning and Design

Kat's

CAFE

Every issue we'll feature a new recipe from our resident foodie, Ms. Martina Grasse. This month, in theme with spooky season Martina shares her recipe for "***Mummy Dogs***"!



MUMMY DOGS

8 hot dogs, or 32 little smokies, or 4-8 sausages of your choice
1 package whomp crescent dough sheet, or 8 crescent rolls.

Cookie sheet

Cooking spray

Oven or air fryer

Optional:

Slice of white cheese or some mayo for eyeballs

A couple of black olives or dill pickle slices, or other pupil substance.

Ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, relish, onions, sauerkraut or other toppings as desired.

If using uncooked sausages partially pre cook them in a skillet; Hot dogs and smokies are pre cooked and don't need that step.

Pre heat your oven to 375F or follow directions on the package.

Spray baking sheet with cooking spray, or line with foil and then spray for easier clean up.

Open and unroll your dough, using a pizza cutter or sharp knife cut dough into long thin strips for your mummy wrappings.

Have fun, let the kids help, wrap each dog/smokey sausage with dough strips to look like a mummy, leave some unwrapped near the top for the head.

Place on baking sheet.

While they are baking 12-16 minutes or till puffed and golden brown prepare optional eyes.

Using a small round cutter (such as the end of a drinking straw, cut out 16 eyeballs from the white cheese. Then use a smaller cutter or a knife to cut pupils from the black olives or pickles.

Once the mummies are out of the oven let cool slightly and then place white cheese eyes or use dabs of mayo, put in a sandwich bag and cut a tiny (no, smaller than that) corner to make a piping bag. Add bits of olive, pickle, or even tiny drops of ketchup for pupils.

Or use drizzles of BBQ sauce or ketchup for bloody mummies... It is Halloween, have fun!

Tidbits and Fun Facts from Faculty

Dr. Lisa Hagan, "Knowing the research behind parenting does not necessarily make you a better parent. Instead, it helps you to identify all the areas you are falling short."

Dr. Lisa Hagan's: "[My] daughter Sarah earned her black belt in Taekwondo."

Dr. Chris Randell: "A 6th primary taste sensation has been identified – ammonium chloride. This taste is associated with identifying dangerous chemicals, meaning it helps us identify dangerous substances and contributes to our survival."

Dr. Randi Smith: "In keeping with the human sexuality theme, I had the privilege of seeing Every Body, a new documentary about people with intersex differences. If you've ever been curious about what "intersex" means, this film will help boost your awareness of and advocacy DSDs (Differences of Sexual Development).

BOLO

HOW TO WRITE EFFECTIVE GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION ESSAYS

WHEN: MONDAY, NOV. 6, 2023, 5:45P.M. – 6:45P.M.

INFORMATION

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL IN PSYCHOLOGY OR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT? ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH WRITING THE APPLICATION ESSAYS? JOIN DR. PAM ANSBURG AND DR. BOB SCHATZ FOR A PRESENTATION THAT WILL PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH ADVICE ON HOW TO CRAFT A STRONG ESSAY. WE'LL DISCUSS WHAT TOPICS TO INCLUDE AND WHAT TOPICS TO AVOID IN YOUR ESSAYS.

AAC OPPORTUNITY TUESDAY NOV. 7, 2023 (WORTH 3 AAC CREDITS. MUST ATTEND AND ATTEND THE EVENT AND WRITE A 2 PAGE, DOUBLE-SPACED REACTION PAPER.)

11:00A.M.-1:15P.M. TIVOLI TURNHALLE. MUST RSVP
THIS YEAR'S FEATURED SPEAKER IS GEORGE M. JOHNSON (THEY/THEM) IS AN AWARD-WINNING BLACK NON-BINARY WRITER, AUTHOR, AND ACTIVIST LOCATED IN THE LA AREA., MOST WELL-KNOWN FOR AUTHORIZING ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE.

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SMM SPECIAL

LECTURER, AMY HAINOFF

“EXPLORING SEXTING:
TECHNOLOGY, PRIVACY,
AND CONSENT”

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

11:00AM-12:15PM

M205

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25