

**VOL 1.**  
**ISSUE 2.**

**SPRING · 2024**

# PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES Party

**MAY**

---

## **INVOLVEMENT**

---

STUDENT CLUBS:  
WHERE STUDENTS SHINE

## **GATHERING MOMENTUM**

DIVE INTO CONFERENCE SEASON

## **KAT'S CAFE**

---

MOM'S CHEESECAKE IS  
THE PERFECT SPRINGTIME  
TREAT

## **GET TO KNOW**

---

NASTASIA SANTANA,  
PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC  
ADVISOR

**AND MORE!**



**MSU**  
**DENVER**

Department of  
Psychological Sciences  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

# HELLO AND

# WELCOME BACK!

HEY EVERYONE,

WELCOME BACK TO THE SECOND ISSUE OF *PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES PARTY!*

WE'RE THRILLED TO SEE THE EXCITEMENT FROM OUR FIRST EDITION CARRYING OVER INTO THIS ONE. WHETHER YOU'RE A SEASONED PARTY ANIMAL OR JUST JOINING US FOR THE FIRST TIME, GET READY FOR ANOTHER DOSE OF FUN, INSIGHTS, AND GOOD VIBES.

IN OUR DEBUT SHINDIG, WE SET THE STAGE FOR A CELEBRATION OF PSYCHOLOGY LIKE NO OTHER. FROM MIND-BLOWING INSIGHTS TO MINDFUL MUSINGS, WE COVERED IT ALL WITH THE ENTHUSIASM OF A KID IN A CANDY STORE. AND GUESS WHAT? THE PARTY'S JUST GETTING STARTED!

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **\*\*FEATURING THE STUDENTS: \*\*** GET TO KNOW SOME OF THE INCREDIBLE PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS WHO ARE MAKING WAVES IN THE FIELD. THEY'RE PUSHING BOUNDARIES, SETTING NEW STANDARDS, AND INSPIRING US ALL WITH THEIR PASSION AND DEDICATION.
2. **\*\*END-OF-SEMESTER SOIREE: \*\*** PREPARE TO DIVE HEADFIRST INTO CONFERENCE SEASON AS WE WRAP UP THE SEMESTER, OFFERING STUDENTS AND FACULTY ALIKE OPPORTUNITIES TO BOND AND NETWORK.
3. **\*\*REFLECTIVE REVELRY: \*\*** AS THE SEMESTER DRAWS TO A CLOSE, OUR RESIDENT PSYCHOLOGY PARTY ANIMALS ARE BACK WITH MORE ENTERTAINING INTERVIEWS, AND EVEN A SURPRISE OR TWO.

# TO ALL THE GRADUATING SENIORS!



GET READY FOR A MIX OF WISDOM AND WHIMSY FROM SOME OF THE COOLEST CATS IN THE PSYCHOLOGY SCENE AND MUCH MORE!

REMEMBER, THIS PARTY IS ALL ABOUT YOU! WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS, IDEAS, AND FEEDBACK AS WE CONTINUE TO SHAPE THIS BASH INTO SOMETHING TRULY SPECTACULAR. YOUR INPUT IS WHAT MAKES THIS PARTY A TRUE CELEBRATION OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES!

SO GRAB YOUR VIRTUAL PARTY HAT, KICK OFF YOUR SHOES, AND LET US KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING. TOGETHER, WE'LL KEEP THIS *PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES PARTY* ROCKING! THANKS FOR BEING A PART OF OUR JOURNEY. LET'S CREATE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES TOGETHER!

HAPPY EXPLORING!

THAI INTARA, ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, *PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES PARTY*  
[PSY@MSUDENVER.EDU](mailto:PSY@MSUDENVER.EDU)

# Chair's

## CORNER



...we couldn't be more proud of the accomplishments of our undergraduate students.

*With warmer and longer days upon us, we are excited to celebrate and reflect on the successes of the past year. At the spring 2024 commencement, we will loudly applaud as more than one hundred psychology and human development and family studies majors walk across the stage to receive their hard-earned diplomas. Against the backdrop of internships, Psyched To Work!, research conference presentations, honors projects, recognitions, awards, and final papers, we couldn't be more proud of the accomplishments of our undergraduate students. This has been a truly outstanding year in our department, and it would not be possible without the extraordinary work of our faculty and staff! I hope you enjoy the latest edition of our newsletter, and I can't wait to see what the next year will bring.*



Lisa Badanes, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department Chair

You can always reach out to me via email at [lbadianes@msudenver.edu](mailto:lbadianes@msudenver.edu)

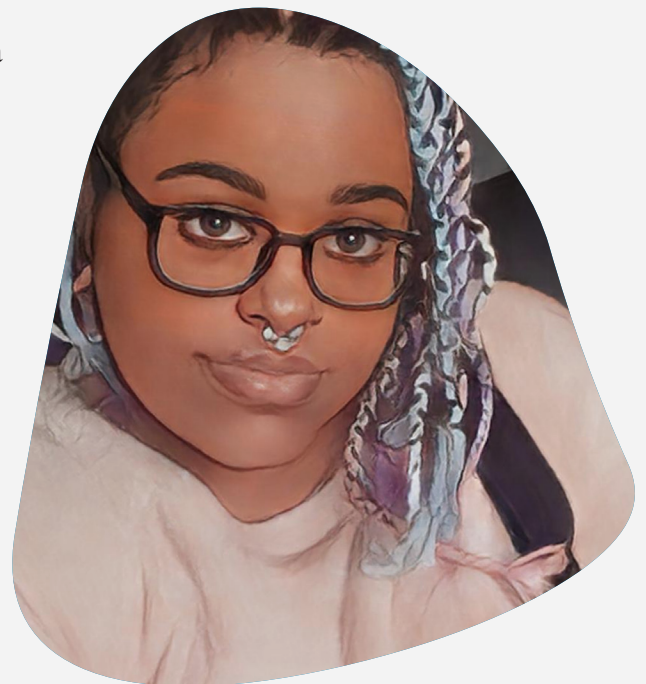
# Nastasia

## SANTANA

Hailing from the vibrant city of Philadelphia, Nastasia shares their tale—a narrative woven with threads of academia, adventure, and an unexpected fondness for alpacas.

Their academic journey commenced at the Metropolitan State University of Denver, where they immersed themselves in the captivating realms of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. Not content with a single discipline, they delved into the nuances of Psychology, proving that diverse passions can fuse into a rich embroidery of education.

Beyond the confines of traditional scholarship, Nastasia emerges as a trailblazing researcher, navigating the complex interplay of Critical Race Theory and Queer Theory. Their focus? The Alternative/Kink community—a realm fraught with untold stories and societal taboos.



ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Through their work, they strive to amplify marginalized voices and challenge prevailing norms. When not immersed in academic pursuits, Nastasia embraces the joys of everyday life. From virtual adventures on their Nintendo Switch to indulging in the imaginative world of “Dimension 20” on Dropout.tv, they embody the spirit of modern exploration. And let’s not forget their newfound passion for Cosplaying and experimenting with dramatic-graphic makeup—a testament to their boundless creativity.

Amidst their urban escapades, Nastasia harbors a modest affinity for nature. While their gardening endeavors may be fledgling, their determination to nurture a lone plant speaks volumes about their resilience and dedication to growth.

Asked to choose a theme song for their grand entrance, Nastasia ponders thoughtfully before settling on “Yucky Blucky Fruitcake” by Doechii—a original anthem that captures their unique spirit and zest for life.

# EMBARKING ON THE JOURNEY OF NASTASIA SANTANA: SCHOLAR, EXPLORER, AND ALPACA AFICIONADO

In a hypothetical scenario of being stranded on a deserted island, Nastasia opts for companionship in the form of their trusty Nintendo Switch and the comforting embrace of passionfruit bubble tea—a fun choice that reflects their penchant for joy and comfort.

Yet, in a world free from financial constraints, Nastasia dreams of a pastoral idyll—a life as an alpaca farmer, surrounded by rolling hills and gentle herds. It’s a vision of simplicity and contentment, infused with a spirit of generosity and compassion. They noted, they would hire a bunch of farmhands (very well paid, full benefits) so they could play with the alpacas all day!

As the lightning round unfolds, Nastasia’s preferences emerge with charm and candor. From cozy board game nights to snowy vistas and hot tea, their choices reflect a love for life’s simple pleasures and the warmth of human connection.

## A PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTION

Amid Nastasia’s journey lies a poignant reflection on the state of academia. They muse on the shifting landscape, where the pursuit of knowledge seems increasingly driven by a desire for minimal effort and maximal reward—a phenomenon reminiscent of the “min/max” approach in video games. In their environment, the intrinsic value of personal growth and intellectual curiosity risks being overshadowed by the allure of financial gain and professional advancement. Nastasia yearns for a return to the essence of learning—an ethos characterized by hunger for knowledge, wonder at the mysteries of the world, and a deep appreciation for the transformative power of education.



Nastasia is awarded the *2023 Golich Outstanding Professional Advisor Award* April 4, 2024.

# Kat's CAFE

EVERY ISSUE WE WILL FEATURE A NEW RECIPE FROM OUR RESIDENT FOODIE, MS. MARTINA GRASSE. THIS MONTH, WITH SPRING IN THE AIR AND MORE DAYLIGHT TO ENJOY, MARTINA SHARES HER MOM'S CHEESECAKE RECIPE!

Cheesecake, Martina's mom's version

Make either a crust for a full cheesecake, or use cookies for the mini/cupcake version.

Filling:

**FULL Cheesecake** – 11" pan

16 oz cream cheese (2x 8 oz)

38 oz sour cream (2x 16 oz)

12 oz sugar

dash salt

8T cream of wheat

6 eggs

1 lemon - first grated peel then press out juice

**HALF size for cupcakes** – makes 24-30

8 oz cream cheese 1x 8 oz brick

16 oz sour cream 1x 16 oz tub

6 oz sugar

dash salt

4T cream of wheat

3 eggs

lemon peel and juice of half

mix together (will be soupy)





## *Cheesecake, Martina's*

### *Mom's version cont...*



#### **PREHEAT OVEN TO 325F**

#### **FOR MINI CHEESECAKES:**

Line muffin tins with paper liners, drop a cookie (nilla-wafer or half an oreo or other sammich cookie – my favorites are lemon sandwich cookies, twisted apart and placed cream side up) into the bottom of each liner, then top with filling. Fill each about 2/3rds full (they will rise then fall.) Try not to dribble on the tin.

~ Bake approximately 30-35 minutes, you want them set, but not dry

For easter, decorate with green 'grass' of shredded coconut, or 'nests' of toasted coconut shreds, and place eggs on each. I prefer the almond M&Ms, but can use jellybeans or malted eggs. Or set a marshmallow chick on the nest. If you just want general spring, use the green grass or not, and use colored candy to make flowers on each cupcake. Or cut strawberries into flowers, or use spring mix sprinkles. Or just place some berries, or leave them plain, they are good plain.

Serve at room temp, but store them in the fridge if you plan to keep them more than a day.

If you want to make a full size cheesecake, here is mom's crust recipe, done in an 11" springform with the FULL filling recipe.

#### **CRUST:**

1 1/4 C flour  
1t baking powder  
5T sugar  
1 egg  
3/4 stick butter (6 oz) soft, not melted  
dash salt

Mix together, press into a greased and floured springform (11")

Bake for 90 minutes, turn off heat and prop door slightly open till cool (to minimize cracking.)

Serve cool/room temp, but store any leftover in the fridge, tightly wrapped.

# KUDOS FOR DAYS

## Faculty and Staff SOAR Awards (April 4, 2024)

2023 President's Distinguished Service Award

[Martina Grasse](#)

2023 Faculty Senate Teaching Excellence  
Award for Tenured Faculty

[Cheryl Sanders, Ph.D.](#)

2023 Golich Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award

[Lisa Hagan, Ph.D.](#)

2023 Golich Outstanding Professional Advisor  
Award

[Nastasia Santana](#)

WHEN SOMEONE FROM THE DEPARTMENT WINS AN AWARD,  
IT'S A WIN FOR US ALL!





# What's

## UP IN THE CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

### *Psychology Research Club*

This year, the Psychology Research Club conducted two experiments examining students' impressions of professors. One study examined how a professor's gender identity affected impressions, while the other focused on ethnicity and accent. Both experiments were accepted to the *Association for Psychological Science conference*, and the research will be presented at the *Undergraduate Research Conference* as well.

**Chad R. Mortensen, Ph.D.**

### *Psi Chi*

Psi Chi has hosted over a dozen events this year including but not limited to a clothing drive, a food drive, a destress event during finals, fall fest, spring fling, three different academic speaker events, a research project, three posters at *RMPA*, a formal Induction Ceremony, a brain bowl, a Valentine's Day event, and an internship showcase.

**Lisa Hagan, Ph.D.**

### *DEI*

During the 2023/2024 academic year, members of the department's DEI Student and Alumni Advisory Committee engaged in activities such as providing input from a student/alumni perspective on DEI-related matters impacting the psychology department, presenting a workshop at *RMPA* on DEI committees in psychology departments, interviewing professional members in the community for the department's website, and holding a DEI speaker event for students on working with Indigenous and Native American clients.

**Maureen Flynn, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)**

# WHERE



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION**



**UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH  
CONFERENCE**



**AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION**



**ASSOCIATION FOR  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
SCIENCE**

# IN RECOGNITION OF OUR STUDENTS

EVERY YEAR THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES IS REPRESENTED BY A STRONG SHOWING OF OUR STUDENTS AT VARIOUS CONFERENCES. AND THIS YEAR IS NO DIFFERENT! THE FOLLOWING LISTS STUDENTS WHO HAVE PRESENTED OR WILL PRESENT AT A CONFERENCE BEFORE THE START OF SUMMER!

## Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Annual Conference

- Aislinn DiRito
- Alden Gruidel
- Alicia Phinnella
- Angel Tasto
- Annie Hill
- Brandon Martinez
- Cath Martin
- Chuck Ciociola
- Fatima Meza
- Gabe Trujillo
- Grace Solarin
- Heidi Garcia Sanchez
- Holly Solomon
- Isobella (Bella) Veitch
- Jackson Maxwell
- Jenny Valadez Fraire
- Julie Sickrey
- Justin Montoya
- Kayla Davis
- Madi Barber
- Madison Murdock
- Molly Middletom
- Pam Ortiz Torres
- Rianna Elmshaeuser
- Sara Hobbs
- Savannah Miller
- Sequoia McNeil

## 2023-2024 Undergraduate Research Conference

- Adam Nicks
- Alicia Phinnella
- Brandon Martinez
- Brennan Cowing
- Bug Bobitsky
- Carrie Bohlmann
- Cath Martin
- Chuck Ciociola
- Dane Showalter
- Deanna Bright
- Diego Maldonado Lopez
- Ezra Toledo
- Gabriel Trujillo
- Isobella Veitch
- Jackeline Martinez Haro
- Joshua Isom
- Kalista Kuchka
- Kaysie Mcgurk
- Kelly Hein
- Kiarra Berry
- Kye Hearn
- LaKrisha Fehringer
- Mary Usry
- Matthew Day
- Megan Dragani
- Nana Akua Adu Owusu
- Sara Ikenberry
- Tierra Zuniga
- Whit Oyler

# THEIR AMBITIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

## **2024 Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention**

- Alicia Phinella
- Dane Showalter
- Deanna Wright
- Ezra Toledo
- Kalista Kuchka
- Kaysie McGurk
- Linda Eve
- Vicotira Bradbury

## **2024 Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society**

- Antonio Boersma
- London Samson
- Zachary Mellema

## **National Latinx Psychological Association**

- London Samson

## **American Psychological Association Conference**

- Lillian Beattie

## **Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Conference**

- Gabe Trujillo

## **2024 Western Psychological Association Conference**

- Julia Sickrey
- Madison Barber



Students enjoying a night out at the Faculty/Student dinner  
April 11, 2024.

# INTERNSHIPS

WHERE THEORY  
MEETS APPLICATION

**We want to give a shout-out to our students who put themselves out there to gain real-world experiences during the 2023-2024 academic year at over 50 unique internship sites!**

Aislinn DiRito  
Alexia Valdez  
Amela Qershia  
amir Whittington-Edit  
Annalisa Phillips  
Annie Hill  
Bailey Belanger  
Camila Robledo Martinez  
Chuck Ciociola  
Claudia Jarisch  
Eden Latham  
Elizabeth Lukela  
Ellie Garcia  
Emily Kitchen  
Emily Levy  
Enya Kaila Sadsad  
Flor Dominguez  
Gisel Orona  
Haley Collins  
Isobella Veitch  
Jenny Patterson  
Jessica Shelley  
Julia Sickrey  
Kacie Roberts  
Karina Sanchez  
Katelyn Stormer  
Katelyn Todd  
Kelly Hein  
Kelsey Hoff  
Kendra Yost  
Kitana Montoya

Kye Hearn  
Lauren Mueller  
Lilianna Pineda  
Lillian Beattie  
London Samson  
Lori Nicholas  
Luz Aguirre Chavez  
Mackenzie Reum  
Madeline Green  
Madison Murdock  
Marissa Ritter  
Maxime Hartman  
McKenna Prynne  
Michaela Vaughn  
Miranda Wayne  
Mirka Jara Rivas  
Molly Middleton  
Molly Murphy  
Nadia White  
Nancy Velasco Lopez  
Nathalia Reyes Hernandez  
Rachael Mills  
Rita Gorskiy  
Shannon Haun  
Shelby Wunderle  
Sophia Mattingly  
Victoria Bradbury  
William (Prav) Grant  
Yileymi Leyva  
Zachary Appel



Bailey Belanger  
Child Life Intern at  
Children's Hospital Colorado,  
Child Life Department



# PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES ALUMNI FEEDBACK SURVEY

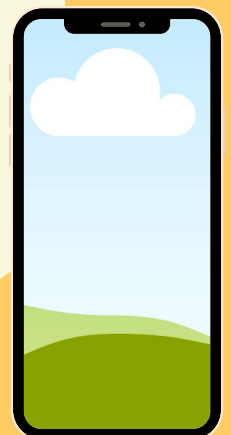
The Psychological Sciences Department would like to hear about your experiences in our department, particularly as it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion, so that we can work to provide the best educational experience possible for all our students.

If you complete the survey, you may choose to be entered into a drawing to win one of three prizes: two \$50 gift cards to the Shop at Matter bookstore.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Maureen Flynn or Dr. Jovan Hernandez

✉ [mflynn13@msudenver.edu](mailto:mflynn13@msudenver.edu)

✉ [jhern137@msudenver.edu](mailto:jhern137@msudenver.edu)



Open the survey directly on your phone!



**MSU**<sup>SM</sup>  
**DENVER**

**Department of  
Psychological Sciences**  
**College of Letters, Arts and Sciences**

CAMPUS BOX 54 PO BOX 173362 DENVER, COLORADO 80217  
PLAZA BUILDING SUITE 220  
[WWW.MSUDENVER.EDU/PSYCHOLOGICAL-SCIENCES/](http://WWW.MSUDENVER.EDU/PSYCHOLOGICAL-SCIENCES/)

**Call Us**  
(303) 615-0699

**Email Us**  
[psy@msudenver.edu](mailto:psy@msudenver.edu)