

# Couples Research & Therapy *NEWSLETTER*

The Newsletter of the Couples Research & Therapy ABCT–SIG, Summer 2018

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## Letter from the Editors

We are delighted to share with you the Summer 2018 edition of the ABCT Couples SIG Newsletter. We were thrilled to receive many updates from a variety of labs; thank you for your contributions! We are happy to share your accomplishments with the SIG!

In addition to lab updates, kudos, and “hot off the press” publications, we are pleased to share with you the featured article, “Trauma Exposure and Aggression Toward Partners and Children: Contextual Influences of Fear and Anger” (pg. 5) by Amy Marshall and her team. This recently published piece is just a sample of the great work that members of the SIG continue to do. Additionally, the newsletter includes reflections on this past year’s ABCT convention as well as anticipatory announcements for this year’s conference in Washington, D.C. **For more information, please read the letters from your SIG Co-Presidents, Drs. CJ Fleming and Julianne Flanagan (pg. 2), and your Student Co-Presidents, Judith Biesen and Alex Wang (pg. 3).**

Finally, there is still time to submit abstracts for the SIG Exposition & Cocktail Party to be held at the conference! If you would like to present a poster, please see the **Special SIG Announcement** on page 3 for details on how to submit your work. The deadline for submissions is August 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

We hope everyone has a productive and enjoyable end to their summers. We look forward to providing you with another round of updates prior to the conference in November. Until then, **thank you for making the Couples SIG Newsletter possible!**

*Eileen Barden and Alexandra Wojda*

*Couples SIG Newsletter Editors:*

*Eileen Barden, BA*  
*Binghamton University (SUNY)*  
[ebarden3@binghamton.edu](mailto:ebarden3@binghamton.edu)

*Alexandra Wojda, BA*  
*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
[akwojda@live.unc.edu](mailto:akwojda@live.unc.edu)

## Letter from the SIG Co-Presidents

Julianne Flanagan<sup>1</sup> & CJ Fleming<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Medical University of South Carolina*; <sup>2</sup>*Elon University*

Hello colleagues!

We hope everyone is having a wonderful summer full of rest and relaxation, and time well spent with family and friends. As always, we are grateful for your membership and have enjoyed serving the SIG.

Last year's conference in San Diego began with a preconference event focused on intimate partner violence, and featured thoughtful presentations from Amy Marshall, Rick Heyman, and Dan O'Leary. Our business meeting was well attended. We welcomed our new Student Co-Presidents (Judith Biesen and Alex Wang), Newsletter Co-Editors (Eileen Barden and Alexandra Wojda) and Media Coordinators (Anna Gilmour and Jessica Ferreira). We awarded the first place Bob Weiss graduate student poster award to Katie Lenger and second place to Joel Sprunger. Thanks to Drs. Justin Lavner, Jenny Langhinrichsen-Rohling, and Steffany Fredman for their helpful reviews. The cocktail hour was well attended. Many also attended the cocktail party, and we all enjoyed catching up with one another. We hope to see even more people this year! Some important content around diversity and inclusion were brought to the forefront, and we also joined together to advocate for the critical role our student and trainee members play in our SIG and ABCT overall.

This year, we will be ending our service as Co-Presidents and we would like to sincerely thank Dr. Melanie Fischer for her hard work as Treasurer during the past two years. We will continue holding elections prior to the conference, and we will open nominations for a new Treasurer and President(s) soon. We hope that you will consider nominating (or self-nominating!) a stellar colleague to fill one of these positions. Please keep an eye out for an email from us requesting nominations.

Thinking ahead to the 2018 conference in Washington, D.C., the call for cocktail hour posters was recently distributed, and plans for the preconference event are in the works. We aim to be responsive to last year's request to highlight our student members' research, incorporate mentoring opportunities, and focus on diversity in education, clinical practice, and research. We will keep you posted as the details are finalized.

Best wishes,

CJ and Julianne

## Letter from the Student Co-Presidents

Judith Biesen<sup>1</sup> & Alex Wang<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Notre Dame; <sup>2</sup> Binghamton University

Greetings from your new Student Co-Presidents! We are very excited to serve this great organization!

### Couples SIG Cocktail Party!

We are currently working on organizing the Couples SIG Cocktail Party. More information will be forthcoming as we finalize the venue. So please keep your eyes peeled for details in the fall newsletter as well as a listserv RSVP email.

In line with past Cocktail Parties, faculty presence is very welcomed at this event. We know that many students relish the opportunity to mingle and get to know the amazing researchers at the forefront of their field!

### Get Involved!

Since we are both new to the student leadership role of this professional organization, we are very interested to hear your suggestions for how we can make it better and more useful to you! Please contact us with your comments, questions and suggestions! And don't forget to join the SIG and the SIG listserv ([couples-sig@sfu.ca](mailto:couples-sig@sfu.ca)) if you haven't already!

We are looking forward to seeing you in DC in a few months! Stay in touch!

Judith ([jbiesen@nd.edu](mailto:jbiesen@nd.edu)) and Alex ([bwang@binghamton.edu](mailto:bwang@binghamton.edu))

## SPECIAL SIG ANNOUNCEMENT:

It's time to submit abstracts for consideration for the SIG Exposition & Cocktail Party that will be *held on Friday, November 16, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.* This is a great opportunity for SIG members to present late-breaking work or poster abstracts that may not have been accepted at this year's full conference.

**Submissions are due August 13 by 5 PM.**

If you plan to submit an abstract, please follow the steps below:

1. Complete the following survey, which includes your abstract title and list of authors and affiliations. It asks for the first author's status (undergrad, etc) - not to worry! This is not about seniority, but about making sure at least one spot is saved for an undergrad poster. Submission can be made here:

[http://elon.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cOc4j4dlhk9GTT7](http://elon.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cOc4j4dlhk9GTT7)

2. Send your abstract to [cjebanksfleming@gmail.com](mailto:cjebanksfleming@gmail.com)

**IMPORTANT:** For blind review please **DO NOT** include author or affiliation information on your abstract.

Please include only the title and a max of 250 words of text. Both steps must be completed for your abstract to be considered.

Please be in touch if you have any questions. We look forward to your submissions!

### **ABCT Couples SIG Treasurer's Update**

*Melanie Fischer*

Hello SIG Members!

I hope that all of you are doing well and are enjoying the summer! Here is an update of our membership status and dues:

Our current dues-paying membership, including those who have paid dues within the last 5 years, is 213 (82 professionals, 131 students). This includes 12 new members (2 professional, 10 students) since our last count in October. Please continue to spread the word and encourage others to join as we always love to welcome new members, particularly during our upcoming conference!

The balance at the last update in October was \$1752. Since then, we have taken in \$1260 in dues. We have paid out \$300 for poster awards, \$620.87 for the party at the 2017 conference, \$167.85 in gift cards as a thank you for our preconference speakers, \$107 for a new projector screen for the SIG and \$25 bag fee to transport it to the conference. This leaves us with a current balance of \$1791. Thank you for your continued support!

We will collect 2018-19 dues at the SIG business meeting during the upcoming conference. If you are not attending the conference or would like to pay your dues electronically, please go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and send money to [msfi@email.unc.edu](mailto:msfi@email.unc.edu). If you use paypal, it is important to designate the payment as a "send to friends and family" to avoid processing fees. You can also mail a check to the address below.

Dues are \$25 for professional members and \$5 for students and retired members. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about dues or membership.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the conference!

Best,  
Melanie

Send checks for membership dues to:  
Melanie Fischer  
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
CB #3270, Davie Hall  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3270

### **Media Coordinators Update**

*Jessica Ferreira and Anna Gilmour*

If you ever have any information you would like to share with fellow SIG members via the listserv or website (e.g. job postings, study recruitment, or anything you believe will be of interest), please don't hesitate to email us. We will be happy to disseminate that information to the SIG. Furthermore, please be in touch if your contact information ever needs updating on the website or listserv. Thanks so much everyone and we look forward to seeing you in Washington D.C. this year!

- Jessica and Anna

## FEATURED ARTICLE

### Trauma Exposure and Aggression Toward Partners and Children: Contextual Influences of Fear and Anger

Amy D. Marshall  
The Pennsylvania State University

Michael E. Roettger  
The Australian National University

Alexandra C. Mattern, Mark E. Feinberg, and Damon E. Jones  
The Pennsylvania State University

#### Full article citation:

Marshall, A. D., Roettger, M. E., Mattern, A. C., Feinberg, M. E., & Jones, D. E. (2018). Trauma exposure and aggression toward partners and children: Contextual influences of fear and anger. *Journal of Family Psychology*, doi: 10.1037/fam0000405

Aggression within families is a common phenomenon, particularly among parents of young children. In a community sample of 453 families with children ages 3–7 years, 49% of parents engaged in physical intimate partner aggression (IPA) and 87% engaged in physical parent-to-child aggression (PCA; Slep & O’Leary, 2005). Rates of psychological IPA and PCA are even higher, with rates of psychological IPA estimated at 97% of parents (O’Leary, Smith Slep, & O’Leary, 2007) and psychological PCA estimated at 90%–98% of parents (Straus & Field, 2003). Similar rates of IPA and PCA have been observed across community samples of young families (Kim, Lee, Taylor, & Guterman, 2014; Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Selwyn, & Rohling, 2012). Moreover, IPA and PCA frequently co-occur within families, such that nearly 95% of parents who engage in IPA also engage in PCA (Slep & O’Leary, 2005).

A breadth of physical and mental health consequences of experiencing IPA exist, and often occur following exposure to psychological IPA, even in the absence of physical IPA (Lawrence, Orengo-Aguayo, Langer, & Brock, 2012). Men’s IPA is particularly concerning as it is most strongly associated with women’s development of mental health problems and physical injury (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). At the same time, children’s exposure to IPA is a risk factor for poor emotional, behavioral, social, and cognitive functioning (Kitzmann, Gaylord, Holt, & Kenny, 2003). Although these outcomes are more prevalent and serious with exposure to physical IPA (Kitzmann et al., 2003), exposure to psychological IPA also predicts children’s adverse outcomes above and beyond the effect of physical IPA (Jouriles, Norwood, McDonald, Vincent, & Mahoney, 1996). Similarly, the negative consequences of PCA for children are substantial and occur even with relatively commonplace acts such as spanking (Gershoff, 2002). In fact, exposure to psychological PCA predicts adverse outcomes independent of physical PCA (Miller-Perrin, Perrin, & Kocur, 2009). Importantly, children exposed to IPA and PCA exhibit more severe negative outcomes than children exposed to only one form of family aggression (McDonald, Jouriles, Tart, & Minze, 2009).

In response to frequent calls for contextual conceptualizations of family aggression and to facilitate causal inference, we asked men and women to report on their emotional experiences immediately preceding their initiation of IPA and PCA. Given the pervasiveness of trauma exposure in the United States (i.e., approximately 83% of individuals have been exposed to an average of six types of trauma; Liu et al., 2017), we examined our questions among a sample unselected for trauma exposure, thus increasing generalizability of study findings. This sample includes men and women whose first-born child was roughly age 2.5 to 4 years during the measurement period as this is a time of increased family stress (Belsky et al., 1991) when rates of IPA remain high (Fritz & O’Leary, 2004) and rates of PCA begin to peak (Straus & Stewart, 1999). We used an interview to assess incidents of psychological and physical IPA and PCA, including antecedents of discrete incidents of aggression and the specific aggressive behaviors that occurred during each aggressive incident. This approach is distinct from existing work in which the total number of aggressive behaviors perpetrated over the course of a specified time frame (e.g., past year) are measured, thus conflating aggression frequency (i.e., number of incidents of aggression) with aggression persistence (i.e., number of aggressive acts used within discrete aggressive incidents). Because

predictors of aggression initiation and within incident aggression persistence may differ, we focus on the latter to best reflect disinhibited behavior that has the greatest potential for harm.

### Method

Participants include 203 parents (109 women, 94 men) from 111 heterosexual couples whose first-born child was approximately 32 months old at the beginning of the study (in 19 families only one parent participated). Most participants were married (87% of women, 84% of men) and identified as non-Hispanic, White (90.8% of women, 92.6% of men). On average, women were 31.02 years of age ( $SD = 3.81$ , range = 23–45), with 15.78 years of education ( $SD = 1.38$ , range = 12–17), an annual family income of \$85,500 ( $SD = \$34,429$ , range = \$7,500 – \$162,500), and worked 28.07 hr per week ( $SD = 19.17$ , range = 0–80). On average, men were 32.56 years of age ( $SD = 5.12$ , range = 25–50), with 15.43 years of education ( $SD = 1.75$ , range = 11–17), an annual family income of \$85,698 ( $SD = \$34,564$ , range = \$22,500 – \$162,500), and worked 43.44 hr per week ( $SD = 14.17$ , range = 0–80).

All procedures were approved by the Pennsylvania State University institutional review board (Study 36870, “Within-Incident Spillover of Family Aggression”). Participants were originally recruited to take part in a randomized controlled trial of Family Foundations (Feinberg et al., 2016), a psychosocial program for first-time expectant parents designed to enhance coparental and parent–child relationships, parental mental health, and infant self regulation (Feinberg & Kan, 2008). Couples had to be expecting a first child and cohabiting or married, with each parent at least 18 years of age. Couples were primarily recruited from childbirth education programs and obstetric/gynecologic clinics in three mid-Atlantic states and one Southern state. After completion of the Family Foundations 24-month follow-up assessment, participants were recruited into the current study if they were in a cohabiting intimate relationship. Because recruitment overlapped with completion of the Family Foundations study, only participants who completed the 24-month follow-up assessment were recruited into the current study. With the exception of one participant who did not complete the first interview until his child was 47 months of age, the average child age at Wave 1 was 31.86 months ( $SD = 2.70$ , range = 25–38).

Participants who completed at least one interview ( $n = 203$ ) did not differ from those who declined to participate ( $n = 113$ ; 49 women and 64 men from 66 couples) in terms of intervention group status, age, race, education, hours worked per week, or social desirability. Based on data from the 24-month assessment, participants who accepted versus declined participation also did not differ in terms of IPA perpetration. Men who accepted versus declined participation did not differ in terms of PCA perpetration, but women who participated in the study reported somewhat more PCA perpetration than those who declined participation,  $t(137) = -1.68$ ,  $p = .094$ ,  $d = .29$ . Full results are available upon request.

Participants were asked to complete four telephone interviews during which the Children, Intimate Relationships, and Conflictual Life Events (CIRCLE) interview (see below) was administered. Because each interview assessed aggression during the prior 13 weeks, interviews could not be scheduled less than 91 days apart. The median time between interviews ranged from 112 to 115 days. Participants were paid \$40 per interview, plus a \$40 bonus for completing all four interviews.

### Results

Men’s degree of incident-level fear interacted with their breadth of exposure to potentially traumatic events (hereinafter, simply “trauma exposure”) to significantly predict their number of within-incident IPA behaviors; however, the nature of the interaction was not as hypothesized. As displayed in Figure 1A, and as expected, IPA behavior counts remained relatively constant across levels of trauma exposure under conditions of relatively low fear. In contrast, under conditions of relatively high fear, trauma exposure was negatively associated with men’s IPA behavior count. Compared to men with the most trauma exposure, those with no trauma exposure used approximately 4.5 times more IPA behaviors under conditions of high fear. Additionally, under conditions of high fear compared to low fear, men with no trauma exposure used twice as many IPA behaviors, whereas men with the most trauma exposure used roughly half the number of IPA behaviors. Men’s incident-level anger did not significantly moderate the effect of men’s trauma exposure on their use of within-incident IPA behaviors.

Women’s incident-level fear interacted with their trauma exposure to significantly predict their within-incident IPA behavior count, with the nature of the effect being similar to that found among men. As displayed in Figure 1B, IPA behavior counts remained relatively constant across levels of trauma exposure under conditions of relatively low fear. In contrast, under conditions of relatively high fear, women’s trauma exposure was more strongly negatively associated with their IPA behavior count. Compared to women with the greatest trauma exposure, those

with no trauma exposure engaged in approximately five times more IPA behaviors under conditions of high fear. Additionally, under conditions of high fear compared to low fear, women with no history of trauma exposure engaged in nearly twice as many IPA behaviors whereas women with the most trauma exposure engaged in approximately half the number of IPA behaviors.

Women's incident-level anger also interacted with their trauma exposure to significantly predict their within-incident IPA behavior count. As displayed in Figure 1C, IPA behavior counts remained relatively constant across levels of trauma exposure under conditions of relatively low anger. In contrast, under conditions of relatively high anger, women's trauma exposure was negatively associated with their IPA behavior count. Compared to women with the most trauma exposure, those with no trauma exposure engaged in approximately six times more IPA behaviors under conditions of high anger. Also, under conditions of high anger compared to low anger, women with no trauma exposure engaged in approximately three times more IPA behaviors whereas women with the most trauma exposure engaged in little IPA regardless of the degree of anger experienced.

In contrast to results for men's and women's IPA, as displayed in Figure 2A, PCA behavior counts remained relatively constant across levels of trauma exposure under conditions of relatively low fear. In contrast, under conditions of relatively high fear, men's trauma exposure was positively associated with their PCA behavior count. Compared to men with no trauma exposure, those with the most trauma exposure engaged in nearly five times more PCA behaviors under conditions of high fear. Additionally, under conditions of high fear compared to low fear, men with the most trauma exposure engaged in approximately three times more PCA behaviors, whereas men with low levels of trauma exposure engaged in little PCA regardless of the degree of fear experienced.

Similarly, as displayed in Figure 2B, men's PCA behavior counts remained relatively constant across levels of trauma exposure under conditions of relatively low anger. In contrast, under conditions of relatively high anger, men's trauma exposure was more strongly positively associated with their PCA behavior count. This effect was driven by men exposed to relatively low and moderate levels of trauma as men exposed to the most trauma did not report experiencing high levels of anger immediately prior to their use of PCA. Compared to men with no trauma exposure, those with a moderate degree of trauma exposure engaged in approximately 4.5 times more PCA behaviors under conditions of high anger. Additionally, men with moderate levels of trauma exposure engaged in approximately four times more PCA under conditions of high anger compared to low anger. Neither the experience of incident-level fear nor anger significantly interacted with women's trauma exposure to predict their PCA behavior counts.

### **Discussion**

The current study is the first to simultaneously examine trauma exposure, anger, and fear as contributors to men's and women's IPA and PCA perpetration, with a focus on their persistence of aggression within incidents. To date, the reliance on global measures of anger and fear to predict IPA and PCA perpetration renders the immediate, within-incident functional influence of these emotions ambiguous (Norlander & Eckhardt, 2005). We tested this notion by examining the context and sequence of behaviors within aggressive incidents, including the emotions that immediately preceded initiation of IPA and PCA.

A substantial literature documents greater individual-level proneness to anger, angry cognitions, anger expression, and frustration intolerance among individuals who perpetrate IPA or PCA (e.g., Norlander & Eckhardt, 2005; Stith et al., 2009). Results of this study support this literature using a methodology that provides a unique and essential form of data. That is, the experience of more anger immediately prior to men's and women's initiation of IPA, as well as men's initiation of PCA, was followed by their use of more acts of aggression. A direct effect of anger on women's PCA was not observed, despite women's reports of high levels of anger immediately prior to their initiation of PCA. This result indicates that more negative emotion does not always lead to more aggressive behaviors. It may be that anger facilitated women's initiation of PCA, but not the persistence (i.e., use of more than one act) of PCA. Alternatively, this finding may be unique to the current sample as women's PCA often appeared to be used as a form of well-intentioned, but harsh, discipline; thus, replication with a more severely aggressive sample is necessary.

# KUDOS!!!

**We'd like to celebrate these special events in the lives of the following SIG members. Congratulations to you!**

## Dr. Christina Balderrama-Durbin's Couple Adjustment to Stress and Trauma (CAST) Lab

- ☺ Congratulations **Dana Ergas** on her receipt of the 2017-18 Mamie Phipps Clark Diversity Research Grant! This grant will assist her in investigating correlates of stress-related growth in the context of chronic minority stress for LGBTQ+ individuals.
- ☺ **Seigie Kennedy** and **Alex Wang** successfully defended their theses! Congratulations on a job well done!

## Dr. Don Baucom's UNC Couples Lab

- ☺ **Dr. Melanie Fischer** has completed her postdoctoral fellowship at UNC and will begin her new research position at the Institute for Medical Psychology (Heidelberg University, Germany).
- ☺ **Jenn Belus** has received a post-doctoral fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to support her project titled, "Couple-based intervention for HIV treatment and prevention in South Africa." Jenn will be completing this project—and her post-doc—at the University of Maryland, College Park.
- ☺ **Matt Cohen** successfully defended his dissertation this spring and matched with Duke University Hospital for his pre-doctoral internship for 2018-2019.
- ☺ **Kim Pentel** received the 2018 Roy Scrivner Memorial Research Grant from the American Psychological Foundation, granted to a promising young investigator conducting dissertation research on LGBT family psychology and therapy. She also received the 2018 Outstanding Student Clinician Award from the Society for a Science of Clinical psychology, a 2018 LGBTQ Advocacy Award from the UNC LGBTQ Center, and a 2018 Earl and Barbara Baughman Dissertation Research Award from the UNC Department of Psychology and Neuroscience.

## Dr. Bradbury's UCLA Marriage Lab

- ☺ **Teresa Nguyen** has recently matched at the NorCal VA for her pre-doctoral internship! Teresa also recently received the Teaching Practicum Program Fellow and Collegium of University Teaching Fellows awards.
- ☺ Recent lab graduate **Dr. Hannah Williamson** just finished her first year as an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin.
- ☺ Former graduate student **Dr. Justin Lavner**, now an assistant professor at the University of Georgia, was awarded one of the 2017 Rising Stars Awards by the Association for Psychological Science (APS).

# KUDOS!!!

**We'd like to celebrate these special events in the lives of the following SIG members.  
Congratulations to you!**

## Dr. Rebecca Brock's Family Development Lab

- ☺ **Molly Franz**, doctoral student, successfully defended her dissertation, titled "PTSD and dysfunctional parenting: Emotional and biological mechanisms" and will be starting an internship at the VA Boston Healthcare System in the fall.
- ☺ **Erin Ramsdell**, doctoral student, received her master's degree this spring and the prestigious faculty commendation for excellent performance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln clinical training program.

## Dr. Annmarie Cano's Relationships and Health Lab

- ☺ Congrats to **Angelia Corley** as she begins a postdoctoral fellowship at the Phoenix VA.
- ☺ Congrats to **Gavin Sanders**, a first-year student, who presented his work on doctoral dissertation writing challenges among underrepresented scholars at the National AGEP Conference in Berkeley, CA and won a NAGAP Research Grant in March 2018.
- ☺ **Dr. Cano** completed the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Summer Leadership Institute at Bryn Mawr College in July 2018.

## Dr. Rebecca Cobb's SFU Close Relationships Lab

- ☺ Recent PhD graduate, **Jill Logan**, has begun her private practice in Vancouver – congratulations and well wishes to Dr. Logan!
- ☺ Congratulations to **Lauren McRae**, our incoming Master's student and former honours student, who won the Dean's Convocation Medal and is the convocation speaker for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences ceremony in June 2018!
- ☺ Congratulations to PhD student, **Marissa Bowsfield**, who successfully defended her MA thesis last fall; also, congratulations on being awarded a Joseph-Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for her PhD research.

## Dr. James Cordova's Center for Couples and Families at Clark University

- ☺ The lab would like to congratulate **Liz Ollen** on finishing her clinical internship and graduating this May! She will begin her post-doc at the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, where she will be helping to launch EMPWR – UCLA's first clinic for LGBTQ youth who have experienced trauma and chronic stress.

# **KUDOS!!!**

**We'd like to celebrate these special events in the lives of the following SIG members.  
Congratulations to you!**

## Dr. Brian Doss's Couples Lab at the University of Miami

- ☉ We are thrilled to announce that Ph.D. candidate, **Kathryn Nowlan**, matched at her top choice and will be starting her clinical internship with the Atlanta VA in Georgia this summer.
- ☉ Our 2nd year graduate student, **Karen Rothman**, received her M.S. after successfully defending her thesis, "Completion of a stand-alone versus coach-supported trial of a web-based program for distressed relationships."
- ☉ **McKenzie Roddy** was awarded summer funding from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Miami for her project "Long-term Effects of OurRelationship and ePREP on Individual Mental and Physical Health" and was this year's recipient of the Kirk R. Danhour Award for academic, research, clinical, and leadership excellence for the Adult Clinical Psychology Program.
- ☉ This summer we are excited to welcome **Stephen (Gabe) Hatch** as our new graduate student.
- ☉ Congratulations to **Emily Georgia-Salivar** on passing the EPPP!

## Dr. CJ Fleming's Lab at Elon University

- ☉ **CJ Fleming** and her sophomore research assistant, **Jordan DeVries**, were awarded Elon's Lumen Prize, a \$20,000 award to fund excellence in undergraduate research.

## Dr. Steffany Fredman's Penn State Couple and Family Adaptation to Stress Lab

- ☉ **Steffany Fredman** was awarded an NIH-funded KL2 grant through the Penn State Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute to learn new methods for studying emotion regulation and co-regulation in couples with posttraumatic stress disorder on short time scales.
- ☉ **Yunying (Annie) Le** successfully defended her comprehensive exams.
- ☉ **August Jenkins** successfully defended her master's thesis on the longitudinal associations between depressive symptoms and couple functioning in African-American couples.

## Dr. Jean-Philippe Laurenceau's Lab of Interpersonal Functioning and Experiences (LIFE)

- ☉ **Amy Otto** is finishing her internship at the University of Florida Health Science Center in Gainesville, FL this summer, then will be moving on to a postdoc at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, FL

# KUDOS!!!

**We'd like to celebrate these special events in the lives of the following SIG members. Congratulations to you!**

## Dr. Justin Lavner's Lab at the University of Georgia

☺ The two graduate students in the lab both hit big milestones this year: **Lauren VanderBroek Stice** defended her dissertation on the broader autism phenotype and mental health among emerging adults and matched for her clinical internship at The Medical College of Georgia/Charlie Norwood Veteran Affairs Medical Center, and **Tony Petruzzella** defended his Master's thesis on community connectedness and mental health among gay men. **Dr. Lavner** was named a Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science (APS) and was funded as co-PI on a four-year grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

## Dr. Amy Marshall's Relationships and Stress Research Lab

☺ Lab alumna, **Lauren Sippel**, is now serving as Associate Director for Research for the National Center for PTSD, Executive Division and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. Lauren received a 2018 Alies Muskin Career Development Leadership Program award from the Anxiety and Depression Association of America

☺ Lab alumna, **Kelly Parker-Guilbert**, renewed her contract as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology at Bowdoin College.

☺ Lab alumna, **Feea Leifker**, is now the Director of Clinical Services for the National Center for Veterans Studies and a postdoctoral research fellow with Brian Baucom at The University of Utah.

☺ **Kelly Daly** made a person! Welcome to the world (and lab!), Lucy!

☺ Former McNair Scholar, **Jenelle Richards**, will begin graduate school in the fall at Columbia University.

☺ Former undergraduate research assistant, **TJ Sullivan**, will begin graduate school in the fall at SUNY Stony Brook to work with Joanne Davila and Dan O'Leary.

## Dr. Richard Mattson's Center for Transdisciplinary Research on Intimate Relationships

☺ **Tarah Midy** is finishing her internship at the Syracuse Veterans Affairs and successfully defend her dissertation. She obtained a post-doc position at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, working as the Family and Couples Counseling Services resident beginning in the Fall.

☺ Graduate Student **Allison McKinnon** successfully defended her Master's thesis.

☺ Undergrad **Margarita Ashkinazi** obtained a \$3,000 grant from the Summer Scholars and Artists Program through Binghamton University.

# KUDOS!!!

**We'd like to celebrate these special events in the lives of the following SIG members. Congratulations to you!**

## Dr. Krista Ranby's Healthy Couples Lab

- ☺ **Jennalee Wooldridge** graduated in May and will start her postdoctoral position at UCSD/San Diego VA in the fall!
- ☺ **Sydneyjane Varner** was married in May!
- ☺ **Gillian Lloyd** was engaged in May!

## Dr. Keith Renshaw's Anxiety, Stress, and Relationships Lab at George Mason University

- ☺ **Sarah Bricker-Carter** accepted a Research & Development research fellowship at the Puget Sound VA – Seattle Division to begin this summer. She will focus on how interpersonal factors relate to suicidality and mental health in high-risk and vulnerable populations.
- ☺ **Jennifer DiMauro** accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in trauma psychology at the Washington D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center to begin this summer. She will focus on treating veterans with histories of trauma using a variety of evidence-based practices, and engage in program evaluation and development research.

## Dr. Gregory Stuart's Relationship Aggression & Addictive Disorders (RAAD) Lab

- ☺ **Caitlin Wolford-Clevenger** recently matched to the UAB-BVAMC Consortium Internship Training Program in Birmingham, AL. She also defended her dissertation, funded by the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NIAAA F31) on the proximal relation between alcohol use and suicidal ideation and behaviors among college students.
- ☺ **Meagan Brem** received a Visionary Grant from the American Psychological Foundation to support her dissertation entitled "Extending a Conceptual Model of Alcohol-Related Violence to Cyber Dating Violence using a Daily Diary Design with College Students." It seems likely that she will also receive funding from NIAAA (a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award F31 grant) for this work.
- ☺ **Autumn Rae Florimbio** received a Thomas Fellowship (\$10,000) from the University of Tennessee to support her research project entitled "Longitudinal Association between Implicit and Explicit Attitudes, Laboratory Aggression, and Dating Violence in Couples."
- ☺ As an incoming graduate student, **Alisa Garner** received the Tennessee Fellowship for Graduate Excellence from the University of Tennessee.

## Lab Updates

Please take some time to read about what all of the wonderful  
Couples Labs are up to.

With all your new research ideas and grant proposals brewing, please start thinking about your  
updates for the Fall 2018 Newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you!

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### **Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Ph.D.**

Director: Couple Adjustment to Stress and Trauma (CAST) Laboratory  
Assistant Professor in Department of Psychology  
Binghamton University – SUNY

Another incredible academic year is in the books! The CAST lab has completed recruitment for their community study aimed at understanding and promoting couple resilience following acute stress and trauma. Graduate students, Eileen Barden and Dana Ergas, successfully completed their first year and are well underway in implementing their own studies! Eileen aims to elucidate dyadic coping strategies and psychophysiological co-regulation in underserved couples struggling with PTSD and substance use. Dana's research aims to examine mechanisms of stress-related growth in sexual minority populations. Second year graduate student, Seigie Kennedy continues to collect data for her longitudinal study examining sexual risk-taking behavior in those with and without a history of trauma. Alex Wang, also recently completed his second year, is designing and testing a brief web-based relationship enhancement intervention – a follow-on from his previous work on relationship savoring.

The CAST lab is excited to kick-off a large collaborative project investigating the unique challenges and strengths of lesbian, gay, and bisexual military couples this coming fall. Thank you to our wonderful 2017-2018 CAST lab team! (Many of who are in the photo below). We will also be welcoming a large team of bright undergraduate research assistants into the lab in the fall!



**Donald Baucom, Ph.D.**

Director: UNC Couples Lab

Richard Lee Simpson Distinguished Professor of Psychology  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

It has been a very busy and productive year at the Couples Lab at UNC-Chapel Hill!

Drs. Baucom and Fischer are continuing their collaboration with the National Health Service in England to offer training to therapists to provide couple-based interventions when one partner is depressed. This is part of England's nationwide IAPT program to provide empirically supported interventions to the public. In addition to providing clinical services, these efforts will result in a large scale effectiveness treatment study of couple-based treatment for depression in routine outpatient clinics around the country. The first publication demonstrating the effectiveness of the intervention recently appeared in *Family Process*. At this point, approximately 200 therapists have been trained in Great Britain to offer these services, and several former lab members have served as clinical supervisors for this international effort.

Dr. Baucom and Dr. Melanie Fischer, along with Drs. Sarah Corrie, Michael T. Worrell, and Sara Boeding are continuing to draft their latest book on Cognitive-Behavioral Couple Therapy (CBCT). This book focuses on how to assist couples in which one or both partners experience psychopathology, along with recent developments in treatment relationship distress. The new text is scheduled to be released in 2019.

In addition, our lab has continued to explore interpersonal emotion regulation by examining couple conversations using dynamic systems modeling and other intensive time series methods. We have been interested in vocal features of emotional arousal within multiple populations of couples. We are currently working on multiple projects at various stages. These include the following:

- Using data from our UNITE project (a pilot study investigating a novel couple-based intervention for binge-eating disorder [BED]), Danielle Weber (3<sup>rd</sup> year) conducted a secondary data analysis to examine how partner accommodation relates to specific patterns of emotion co-regulation between patients with BED and their partners. The manuscript summarizing her findings is currently in press in *Family Process*.
- Danielle Weber is currently leading an investigation on the processes through which individuals in long-distance relationships become emotionally "in sync" after periods of separation.
- Drs. Fischer and Baucom (co-PIs) received a NIMH R03 grant titled "Social processes in RDoC: Function and dysfunction of interpersonal emotion regulation in depression and anxiety," which will be the largest study of vocally encoded emotional arousal in couples to date, with a sample of approximately 400 couples and a focus on interpersonal emotion regulation. This investigation will bring together several existing datasets to explore how expressed emotional arousal (as measured by vocal indicators of emotion) is related to marital discord and symptoms of psychopathology (i.e., anxiety and depression).
- Using data from a 25-year-long longitudinal study, the lab has partnered with Dr. Kurt Hahlweg of Technische Universität Braunschweig to explore how dynamics of emotional arousal predict long-term relationship quality in a sample of German couples.
- Alexandra Wojda (2<sup>nd</sup> year) is conducting a secondary data analysis to examine trajectories of vocally-encoded emotional arousal during interactions of couples with and without relationship distress and experiences of male-to-female intimate partner violence.

Additionally, for her dissertation, Kim Pentel (6<sup>th</sup> year) is overseeing the development and pilot study of a cognitive-behavioral couple therapy to treat relationship distress, specifically tailored for same-sex female couples. This past academic year, the ACCESS Program (Affirming Couples Counseling to Engage Same-Sex partners) treatment manual was written, a team of doctoral student therapists were trained to administer the therapy, and recruitment and treatment

began (study website: <http://accessprogram.web.unc.edu/>). Moreover, Kim will be helping co-facilitate the UNC cognitive behavioral couple therapy practicum with Don Baucom in the 2018-2019 academic year.

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**Tom Bradbury, Ph.D. & Ben Karney, Ph.D.**

Directors: UCLA Marriage Lab  
Professors in Department of Psychology  
UCLA

We are nearing the end of our NICHD-funded data collection of newlywed couples living in low-income communities in Houston, Texas. In this study, we are focusing specifically on how couples' social networks influence individual and relationship wellbeing. In addition, we are about to begin a continuation study of our 2009-13 data collection of couples in Los Angeles County. Tom and Ben are finishing the 3rd edition of their *Intimate Relationships* textbook.



**Rebecca Brock, Ph.D.**

Director: Family Development Lab  
Assistant Professor in Department of Psychology  
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

The current focus of the lab is a large-scale longitudinal study of families navigating the transition into parenthood. The primary aim of *The Family Development Project* is to understand the role of family processes in both adult and child psychopathology. In particular, we are investigating how functioning in the interparental (couple) relationship during pregnancy “sets the stage” for functioning in the family after childbirth, ultimately impacting the health and well-being of each family member. 159 families are completing assessments at pregnancy, 1 month postpartum, 6 months postpartum and when the infant turns ages 1 and 2. We have presented preliminary results from this project at several national conferences (ABCT, IARR, APA) and have several publications under review or in preparation from the first two waves of data collection. For more information, check out the study website: <https://familydevelopmentlab.wixsite.com/familyproject>



Most of our 2017-2018 team. To learn more about the team, visit: <https://psychology.unl.edu/family-development-lab/meet-team>

We said goodbye to our lab manager, Kailee Groshans, who has worked in the Family Lab since 2015. She will be starting UNL's school psychology doctoral training program in the fall.

We are welcoming two new graduate students to the lab in the fall, Frances (Frannie) Calkins and Lauren Laifer.

### **Anmarie Cano, Ph.D.**

Director: Relationships and Health Lab  
 Professor in Department of Psychology  
 Wayne State University

We continue to examine emotion regulation in couples facing chronic health conditions with an emphasis on emotional disclosure of health distress and partner responsiveness and empathic responses. We are preparing a manuscript on the feasibility and acceptability of our novel couple-based mindfulness and acceptance intervention for chronic pain. We are also continuing investigations into the role of implicit and in-group faculty bias in doctoral admissions.

### **Rebecca Cobb, Ph.D.**

Director: SFU Close Relationships Lab  
 Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology  
 Simon Fraser University

We have been studying how couples communicate about sexual issues, and how this predicts changes in sexual and relationship satisfaction. We recently completed microanalytic coding of couple's sexual discussions and we will be presenting this research at the conference of the Canadian Sex Research Forum in the Fall. Our next step is coding emotion in the discussions using the Noldus FaceReader, a facial expression recognition software, which was funded by a Psychology Department Research Tools grant awarded to Dr. Cobb and Dr. Yuthika Girme.

A group of dedicated research assistants recently presented a qualitative analysis of themes in couples' sexual discussions (e.g., negotiation of sexual scripts) at Connecting Minds, an undergraduate conference. Their poster won second place for the Best poster – congratulations to Julia Hindy, Edna Ng, Karina Thiessen, and Shaira Thobani!

In collaboration with Dr. Joanne Davila of Stony Brook University, NY, we are conducting a randomized controlled trial examining the effects of a relationship education workshop on individual and relational outcomes. This work is funded by an SFU Department Research Grant.

One of our undergraduate students, Brittany Lasanen, is examining how self-expansion and attachment security predict changes in relationship satisfaction over six months in long-distance relationships. This study is funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) institutional grant.

We are excited to welcome a new graduate student this coming Fall! Lauren McRae graduated this month with her B.A. (Hons.) from SFU. She conducted her honours research on relationship boundary discussions last year, and was the winner of the Dean's Convocation Silver Medal and the convocation speaker. Lauren will be entering the Clinical Psychology program at SFU to continue her research on sexuality and close relationships.

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**James V. Cordova, Ph.D.**

Director: Center for Couples and Families  
Professor and Chair in Department of Psychology  
Clark University

James Cordova is working on disseminating and implementing the Marriage Checkup for a wide range of couples across varied treatment settings. He is collaborating with Dr. Cigrang and his Air Force team on an RCT adapting the Checkup for military couples in a primary care setting. Dr. Cordova is also in the process of testing an online platform for the Checkup, allowing couples in any geographical region easy access to a well-trained Marriage Checkup clinician.

Tatiana Gray is completing her post-doc at Clark, turning the Relationship Checkup into a start-up company in order to provide brief, effective relationship healthcare to even more couples. Matt Hawrilenko is finishing up his clinical internship at the Seattle VA and will be starting a research postdoc at the Seattle VA in the fall. Justin Laplante is finishing his dissertation on the developmental trajectory of mindfulness in romantic relationships. He is supervising two undergraduate independent research projects and teaching undergraduate research methods and statistics courses. Emily Maher is finishing her clinical externship at Rhode Island Hospital. She is beginning work on her dissertation, examining the roles of experiential avoidance and acceptance in explaining treatment gains at an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy-based partial hospitalization program. She will be applying for internship in the fall. Taylor Dovala has concluded her thesis research and is beginning work on her dissertation. She is also finishing her clinical placement at UMass Memorial and preparing to begin a new placement at Rhode Island Hospital. Nick Canby finished and presented his second year project, entitled "The role of mindfulness in interpersonal perceptions of empathy and comfort with vulnerability," and will spend the summer preparing it for publication. He is looking forward to starting his practicum site in the Fall at UMASS counseling center. Setareh O'Brien is preparing to collect data for a qualitative study of marriage and spirituality among religiously unaffiliated adults. She is looking forward to starting her psychotherapy practicum in the fall.

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**Brian Doss, Ph.D.**

Director: Doss Couples Lab  
Associate Professor in Department of Psychology  
University of Miami

After enrolling over 700 couples during our first phase of data collection for our ACF-funded grant delivering the OurRelationship and ePREP programs to low-income couples, we have begun our second phase of data collection testing the role of coach contact. We are also continuing to work on two adaptations of the OurRelationship program—one for same-sex couples and one translated into Spanish.

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**Steffany J. Fredman, Ph.D.**

Director: Couples and Families Adaptation to Stress (CFAS) Lab  
Assistant Professor in Human Development and Family Studies  
Penn State

Our lab has been busy working on a variety of translational and basic research pertaining to couples and stress. We've happily completed data collection for our DoD- and VA-funded pilot study to test an intensive, multi-couple weekend version of cognitive-behavioral conjoint therapy for PTSD (CBCT for PTSD) for service members and veterans with PTSD and their romantic partners conducted through the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD. We're also very excited to be collaborating with colleagues at Penn State, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NYU on studies investigating how couples co-regulate emotion in real time. Other lab projects include the daily experiences of couples during the transition to parenthood, the intersection of couple functioning and mental health in racial minorities, and the interpersonal relationships of student veterans with PTSD.

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**Wyndol Furman, Ph.D.**

Director: Relationship Center  
Professor in Department of Psychology  
University of Denver

For the last 18 years, we have studying the romantic relationships of a cohort of 200 participants who were recruited when they were in the 10th grade (15 years old). The majority are currently married or cohabiting. We have collected 11 waves of data, including interview, observational, diary, and multi-reporter survey data. We are currently collecting a 12th wave of survey data. In another project we gathered six months of monthly data from high risk couples to identify predictors of dating violence.

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**Jean-Philippe Laurenceau, Ph.D.**

Director: Laboratory of Interpersonal Functioning and Experiences (LIFE)  
Professor and Chair in Department of Psychology  
University of Delaware

Our current major project is an intensive longitudinal investigation of stress, relationship functioning, health behaviors, and glycemic control in patients with type 2 diabetes and their spouses/partners. We are currently collecting follow-up data for this year-long study. One of our doctoral students, Emily Soriano, recently applied for an F31 predoctoral fellowship to examine the effects of spouse involvement in diabetes management on continuously measured glucose for her dissertation using these data.

We are in the midst of analyzing data and writing up findings from our recently completed longitudinal study on fear of cancer recurrence in breast cancer patients and their spouses/partners. Looking ahead, we are planning our next grant submission to continue our work in this area.

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**Justin Lavner, Ph.D.**

Director: Couples Lab  
Assistant Professor in Department of Psychology  
University of Georgia

Our lab started data collection for our new NIDDK-funded project testing the effectiveness of a responsive parenting intervention for first-time African American mothers and their infants. The project is co-directed by Dr. Leann Birch from the Department of Foods and Nutrition at UGA in collaboration with the Center for Family Research at UGA and Augusta University. We have also been continuing our research examining predictors of marital functioning and how marital dynamics change over time.

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**Annette Mahoney, Ph.D.**

Director: Relational Spirituality and Psychology Research Team – R-SPiRiT  
Professor in Department of Psychology  
Bowling Green State University

R-SPiRiT is an ecumenical research team dedicated to using psychological methods to examine ways religion/spirituality may impact interpersonal relationships (e.g., dating, sexuality, parenting, coupling and uncoupling), for better or worse, and also thereby affect individual adjustment. See website for more information.

<https://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/psychology/graduate-program/clinical/the-psychology-of-spirituality-and-family/about.html>

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**Amy D. Marshall, Ph.D.**

Director: Relationships and Stress Research Lab  
Associate Professor in Department of Psychology  
Pennsylvania State University

Members of the Relationships and Stress Research Lab are busy disseminating findings from the Children, Intimate Relationships, and Conflictual Life Events (CIRCLE) study regarding the context and precipitants of incidents of family violence and aggression. We recently submitted a NIH/NICHHD proposal to continue this work with a greater focus on the role of trauma and threat in promoting or inhibiting violence among high risk families. Additionally, with funding from the Penn State Justice Center for Research, we are starting new data collection with families of children enrolled in Head Start. This work focuses on understanding mechanisms of firearm-related family violence, including the nature and impact of the presence of firearms on the within-incident occurrence, persistence, severity trajectory, and cross-dyad spillover of violence.

We are fortunate to continue working collaboratively across Penn State labs to answer questions about couples' transition to parenthood (with Mark Feinberg) and the impact of PTSD on couple relationships (with Steffany Fredman). Kelly Daly is working on her dissertation regarding the developmental timing of trauma exposure on late adolescents' social competence and aggressive behavior. Alex Mattern completed her master's thesis on how observed threats of rejection and dominance are differentially associated with husbands' observed aggression based on their histories of trauma exposure. Jen Wong completed her master's thesis on gender differences in how dissatisfaction with couples' division of labor and childcare impacts the severity of aggression used during conflicts about division of labor/childcare versus other topics. Emily Taverna joined the lab this year and has hit the ground running to understand differences between parents and non-parents in how IPV perpetration leads to guilt as well as how examination of vocally encoded emotion can inform the validity of interviews used to assess intimate partner violence perpetration and victimization.

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**Richard E. Mattson, Ph.D.**

Director: Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Intimate Relationships  
Associate Professor in Department of Psychology  
Binghamton University

Our lab continues to analyze data from the Individual and Well Being Study utilizing both the biological measures obtained and other subjective measures, and will be presenting initial findings at the International Association for Relationship Research conference later this summer. The graduate students in the lab have made significant progress in their individual projects focusing broadly on sexual assault, including the following projects: Longitudinal Perceptions of Consent, Sexual Assault in the Media, Determinants of Underreporting in the Sexual Victimization and Abuse of Elder Adults. Our team of nearly 25 undergraduate research assistants have been irreplaceable assets as usual. Two of them, Margarita Ashkinazi and Emily Bibby, are working on research projects through the summer with a focus on how body image affects marital and sexual satisfaction and how power differentials influence misinterpretations of women's friendliness as flirting, respectively. We, in collaboration with members from the Sex Lab at Binghamton University, submitted a grant proposal focusing on perceptions of consent in college populations. Additionally, graduate student

Samantha Wagner submitted a proposal to the National Institute of Justice's Graduate Research Fellowship in Social and Behavioral Sciences to support her dissertation work assessing underreporting of sexual abuse in the elderly.




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### **Krista Ranby, Ph.D.**

Director: Healthy Couples Lab  
 Assistant Professor in Department of Psychology  
 University of Colorado Denver

Our lab has four current projects, all examining health behavior engagement within an interpersonal context, specifically romantic partners. PhD students working with Dr. Ranby include Jennalee Wooldridge, Sydneyjane Varner, Gillian Lloyd, and joining in fall 2018, Stephanie Callan. We are working to publish findings in our engaged/newlywed couples study. We have recently published work on a collaborative planning intervention for physical activity within couples experiencing type 2 diabetes. We are in the early stages of recruitment for couples within a cancer survivorship population for an online study of interest in dyadic support for physical activity. We are also enrolling couples for a longitudinal study of physical activity and relationship factors throughout the transition to parenthood. You can keep up to date on lab activities by checking our website: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/healthy-couples-lab/> or liking our Facebook page: UCDHealthyCouplesLab.

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### **Keith Renshaw, Ph.D.**

Director: Anxiety, Stress, and Relationships Lab  
 Associate Professor and Chair in Department of Psychology  
 George Mason University

This spring, we completed data collection on a cross-cultural study comparing mental health and family factors among Pakistani and American college students. This project was a result of our collaboration with Dr. Sadia Saleem, from the University of Management and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan, who received a Fulbright Scholarship to work in our lab for the past year. We will be sad to see her go this summer, but we look forward to continuing to collaborate from afar!

Other updates include that Sarah Bricker-Carter and Jennifer DiMauro are completing their internships at the Seattle VA and Baltimore VA, respectively. Both have completed their dissertations and will graduate as of August! Also, Sarah Giff recently re-submitted a NIH NRSA (F31) application to investigate military couples' parenting practices. Finally, we are excited to welcome Sissi Palma Ribeiro to our lab this coming Fall!




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### **Gregory Stuart, Ph.D.**

Director: Relationship Aggression & Addictive Disorders (RAAD) Lab  
 Professor in Department of Psychology  
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Our research generally focuses on intimate partner violence, substance misuse, family dysfunction, impulsivity, and the overlap of these constructs. Lab members are free to pursue other topics of interest as well. When possible, our research has used longitudinal and/or experimental approaches, including some randomized controlled trials.

Caitlin Wolford-Clevenger is a rising 6th year graduate student whose research examines risk and protective factors for suicide and other harmful behaviors (e.g., interpersonal violence, substance abuse), particularly among vulnerable populations (e.g., LGBT people).

Meagan Brem is a rising 5th year graduate student whose research examines risk and protective factors for face-to-face and cyber intimate partner violence perpetration. She has a secondary line of research investigating compulsive sexual behavior among adults with substance use disorders.

Autumn Rae Florimbio is a rising 4th year graduate student whose research examines cognitive (e.g., attitudes accepting of violence) and behavioral (e.g., alcohol and substance use) factors that increase the risk for intimate partner violence and sexual aggression.

Hannah Grigorian is a rising 3rd year graduate student whose research examines factors that increase the risk for intimate partner violence perpetration and victimization such as sleep quality, emotion dysregulation, and substance use.

Alisa Garner is an upcoming 2nd year graduate student whose research focuses on risk factors for sexual risk-taking and the perpetration of sexual aggression and coercion.

Gloria Romero is a 1st year doctoral student who is interested in studying the intergenerational transmission of interpersonal trauma. Specifically, Gloria hopes to identify risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration by examining the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and adult IPV perpetration and victimization.

# HOT off the Press

## In Press and Recently Published Literature

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- Brem, M. J., Khaddouma, A., Elmquist, J., Florimbio, A. R., Shorey, R. C., & Stuart, G. L. (in press). Relationships among dispositional mindfulness, distress tolerance, and women's dating violence perpetration: A path analysis. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
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