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TONY HOFFMAN
This fall semester I was visiting lecturer and the American University of Beirut; my class organized some great psychosocial projects for children in a Syrian refugee camp in the Bekaa Valley. They did a great job!

Youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZO6Ucul6zl&app=desktop

CHRISTY BYRD
I presented on school climate and racial identity at the National Black Child Development Institute in Detroit, MI.

I also received a New Faculty Research Grant for a study on microaggressions

TOM PETTIGREW
I have been invited to give the Jos Jaspars Memorial Lecture next May at Oxford University. My title – the same as my 2016 paper for the ANNUAL REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGY – will be: IN PURSUIT OF THREE THEORIES: AUTHORITARIANISM, RELATIVE DEPRIVATION AND INTERGROUP CONTACT.

If invited, I would like to give this as a tryout at an April colloquium.
ROSE GROSE
Shelly, Anjali and I won The Georgia Babladelis Best Paper Award!


GINA THOMAS
I proposed my dissertation on October 2. “How to be alone: investigation of solitude skills”

I gave birth to baby boy Hugo Thomas Long on November 14. 8 lb 3 oz, 21 inches long. Healthy and happy!

ANNIE DITTA
I presented a poster at Psychonomics on my first year project.

I also submitted an abstract for a special issue journal on episodic future thinking.

ACACIA OBEROYE


CHRISTY STARR


I started volunteering at the Walnut Avenue Women's Center (along with Christine Brown and Sona Kaur).

I went to the Psychonomics Society and had my paper presented in a talk!

JULIA SOARES

3 Accomplishments

Graduate Students
4 Accomplishments

Graduate Students

SPENCER CASTRO
"Spatial Metaphors of Web Use" was a collaboration between linguistics and spatial metaphor researchers at the University of California, Merced. It compares UC Santa Cruz undergraduates’ "web talk" in the mid-1990's to web-related speech of UC Merced undergraduates in 2012.

It was published in Spatial Cognition & Computation: An Interdisciplinary Journal in September.

NICK ANTRILLI
I submitted my first year project titled “Visual cues generated during action experience facilitate 14-month-old infants’ mental rotation” to the Journal of Cognition and Development. Got my first revise and resubmit!

PAT SAMERMIT
I presented “Stop yankin’ my chain: Embodied metaphors and humor production” in my first ever talk at the Conceptual Structures, Discourse, and Language conference in Santa Barbara, CA. I also got a compliment from Eve Sweetser (swoon)!

I also expanded my family and adopted a baby bunny! I’m now the matriarch of a happy bunny family!
2. I work with Alan Kawai-moto. I research the psychology of reading and speech production. At the moment I am interested in which specific articulatory gestures can be directly operated upon by a speaker when attempting to strategically shorten response time to a written stimulus.

3. One morning when my mother was visiting, after breakfast at the Walnut Café, we passed a man on the sidewalk with long, curly tresses of hair and a magnificent beard, dressed in vaguely Indian, flowing garb. Though no music was audible, he closed his eyes, oriented toward the still-low sun, and swept his limbs through graceful but unpredictable arcs, as though inspired to perform a sacred dance.

4. I originally grew the beard so that I could play Don John the Bastard in a production of “Much Ado About Nothing.” The beard’s appearance was met with near-universal acclaim in my personal life; it was fawned over by my girlfriend, friends at school, and even various old ladies at my church. So I kept it. Oddly, it may have had a rather different impact on my theatre life. I can’t prove a connection, but my next three casting offers were for villains or otherwise unsavory characters...
2. Ben Storm
Research interests: forgetting, generation, retrieval-induced forgetting, memory bias
3. Santa Cruz Moment: Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure K (the cannabis tax): "I ask the voters to Vote No on Measure K, not for me but for the 'Grateful Dead.'"
4. I'm originally from Ardsley, NY. I completed my undergrad at SUNY Binghamton.
5. I quoted a fortune cookie in my NSF proposal.

2. Nameera Akhtar
Research Interests: Bilingual language development, Cognitive development, Socioeconomic status
3. Sea lions making weird noises.
4. I grew up in Tehran, Iran; I went to UCLA.
5. I misspell a lot of words.

2. Nicolas Davidenko
My field of research is perception; and my interests include face perception, visual perception in a virtual reality context (focusing on Oculus Rift HMD), perception of time, and studying how people draw faces.
3. I saw a couple on a tandem bicycle with matching bike jerseys!
4. Born in England, I lived there until middle school and I've lived in the bay area ever since. I went to undergrad at a beautiful school called UCSC.
5. I'm a published poet.
Chris Karzmark

2. I work with Ray Gibbs studying conceptual metaphors and embodiment. Specifically, I'm studying conceptual metaphors in video games.
3. The day after I moved in, on my way from the grocery store I chatted with a homeless couple who painted a penny for me. Peace sign on one side, yin/yang on the other.
4. I grew up in San Jose, same house my whole life. I went to undergrad at UC Berkeley as a Cognitive Science major. As you may have noticed, I've been in northern California my whole life. I quite like it here.
5. There are only 5 living people with my last name.

Alina Larson

2. Nicolas Davidenko
Research Interests: Visual Language, Face Perception, Metacognition, Social Cognitive Neuroscience

3. I can hear sea lions barking as I go to sleep and when I wake up in the morning, even though I live a 30-minute walk from the waterfront.
3.5. I love being able to open my bedroom door into the back yard and watch my cat fail at catching bugs in the grass.
4. I grew up in Berkeley, CA. I completed my undergrad at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR (Psychology & Foreign Languages [Russian, French])
5. I enjoy dancing ballroom and folk dances, as well as playing music on penny-whistle and occasionally playing/DJ-ing for dance events.
Zeneva Schindler

2. My advisor is Phil Hammack. My research is focused on the examination and integration of social categories. I am specifically interested in looking at the role of biological essentialism in narratives surrounding gender and sexuality.
3. Having grown up in Santa Cruz, it is hard to think of a single moment that encapsulates Santa Cruz—but one that stands out is the fact that my mom tried to change her name to Shona–Wolf–of–the–Sunset when she first moved to Santa Cruz (sadly, it was unsuccessful).
4. I was born and raised in Santa Cruz. I did my undergraduate work at Sarah Lawrence College in New York.
5. Fun fact: Taking a cue from my Mom and following in the Santa Cruz tradition, I changed my name to Zeneva when I was eleven. Thankfully Zeneva was my second attempt as I initially tried to change my name to Dragon.

David Gordon

2. Advisor: Gina Langhout, Research Interests: Resiliency, Youth Empowerment, Community Psychology
3. Santa Cruz Moment: Just walking around and soaking in all of the on-campus natural beauty. Particularly seeing the view of the ocean from the Wellness Center. Sure beats the heck out of the view I had in undergrad (see below).
4. I grew up in the Bay Area, mostly in Fremont, CA. I attended undergrad in Cleveland, OH at Case Western Reserve University.
5. Big fan of the following: Golden State Warriors, San Francisco Giants, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, and Doctor Who.
My name is Alexandra Merritt and I am a first year student working with Dr. Christy Byrd. My research interests generally encompass the academic advancement of minority students. I grew up in Merced, CA and moved to Sacramento, CA for high school. One thing that you probably wouldn’t know by looking at me is that I am in love with all things Beyonce. I still haven’t figured out why her and I aren’t best friends. My Santa Cruz moment happened when I was leaving campus one day and happened to notice a guy on a unicycle playing his guitar – that’s SO Santa Cruz!
A note

A letter from Christine Brown:

Neda Namirinian and I are your Graduate Student Association (GSA) representatives for the 2014–2015 academic year.

As your GSA representatives we represent your interests as psychology graduate students and are your resource for bringing attention to issues that concern you (e.g., issues related to: funding, diversity, tuition, housing, etc.). Further, we also take part in decisions on discretionary funding, GSA resolutions, and committee work.

I am currently serving on the Affirmative Action and Diversity Committee (CAAD), and Neda is serving on the Travel Grants Committee.

Please contact us to have your voice heard in our meetings.

For more information about the GSA:

https://gsa.ucsc.edu/node/31

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
Organized by Provost Faye Crosby and Ella Ben Hagai, and co-sponsored by the Psychology department, the Speaker Series Conflict and Compassion on the Israeli Palestinian conflict was a great success! Well over five hundred people joined us for weekly lectures on different facets of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Distinguished scholars including Hatem Bazian, Stephen Zunes, Lee Ross and Tom Pettigrew gave fascinating talks to an audience of professors, students and community members. The success of the series showed our communities' ability to deeply engage in a thoughtful manner with a polarizing yet important topic such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in which the US is deeply enmeshed.

Some of the Talks
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLx-hf0mk1r6geWnyMPOKd8IloLEFTD05
If you could have an academic superpower, what would it be?

- Ability to summon research participants at will!!
- Making Reviewer #2 a life-long fan of your work.
- To be able to re-read Sartre, Chomsky, and Foucault one more time and really really get what they were trying to say.
- Instantly memorizing the authors and dates of important papers
- Having a clone to represent me at meetings so the real me can get my work done
- Unarguably perfect stimuli
If you could have an academic superpower, what would it be?

- Analyze data just by looking at the numbers
- The power of funding.
- Instant data collection
- teleportation—would save lots of money
- Writing more books
- Literature Omniscience
- Come up with infallible studies that everyone loves so much that my scientific research becomes worshipped like a religion

13 Kooky Question
In 2002 I began my PhD studies in the program in Cultural Psychology at the University of Chicago, where students were strongly encouraged to conduct international fieldwork for their dissertations. The second Palestinian intifada (uprising) was at its height at the time, and with my previous research experience working with adolescents exposed to community violence in Chicago, I decided to think about conducting dissertation research in Palestine and Israel. But there was one problem: I had absolutely no connection to the region and wasn’t really sure how to go about making connections there. I had heard about Seeds of Peace, which is a peace education or “coexistence” program run like a classic summer camp in Maine. They work with teens from several regions of conflict, but their focus has long been on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. I decided to apply for a staff position at the summer camp as a Group Facilitator, given my experience doing group facilitation with LGBT youth in Chicago. I was very fortunate to be offered a position that summer, which was the summer between my first and second year of doctoral studies. My experience that summer opened up more doors for me and my research than I could have possibly imagined. Suddenly I knew scores of young Palestinians and Israelis, as well as colleagues in intergroup dialogue work from the region. As a consequence of this experience, I decided to focus my dissertation on the experience of these types of intergroup contact programs for Palestinian and Israeli youth, ultimately designing and conducting a longitudinal ethnographic study. That first summer turned out to be one of the most formative experiences of my life and career.