



Second Year Cog/social students:

David Markham, Michelle Zerbi, Maria Piteros, Kelly Barnes, Wesley Stoller, Josh Staller.



First Year Cog/social students:

Front row: Stephen Prunier, Erin Nicolette, Jenny Klucarich

Back row: Chris Childs, Nate Sutter, Noah Jacobs

Student Biographies

Cognitive & Social Processes students

Kelly Barnes

Hi, my name is Kelly Barnes and I am a second year student in the Cognitive and Social Processes program. I am from Northwest Indiana, "The Region," and did my undergrad at Trinity Christian College in the south suburbs of Chicago. At Trinity, I majored in psychology with minors in business and theology. I also had the opportunity to be part of a research team at DePaul University where I studied procrastination and regret. After my time at BSU, I plan on pursuing my PhD in Social Psychology in the hopes of becoming a professor at a small liberal arts college. My research interests include stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, especially as they relate to the concept of nationalism.

Michael Butchko

Hello Everyone! I am a first year clinical psychology student and am originally from Minnesota. I graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Psychology from the University of Minnesota Duluth. I studied under the guidance of Dr. Randall Gordon and my undergraduate research interests involved stereotyping and prejudice on potential job applicants. After I receive my degree from BSU, I would like to pursue my Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Currently, I am a graduate assistant for Dr. Perkins and Dr. Tagler. My research interests include social stigmas on individuals suffering from mental illness and abnormal eating behavior, negative self body image and prevention of obesity in children.

Chris Childs

Hey! I am from the Northwest suburbs of Chicago and I recently graduated with a B.S. from Ball State University. In my senior year of undergrad I worked with Dr. Bernard Whitley on prejudice and discrimination research. I liked it so much I wanted to come back for grad school. I am currently a G.A for Professor Ron Truelove and Dr. Whitley. My research interests are prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping and studying social identity of people of color. My goal is to gain a Ph.D. in social psychology in the near future.

Lindsay Higdon

Hi! I'm a first year Cognitive and Social Processes master's student. I received two bachelor's degrees from the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, KY: one in Psychology and one in Exercise Sport Science. Here, I performed research on the correlation between personality (specifically extraversion, openness to experience, and sensation seeking) and music genre preference and was fortunate enough to get my article published in The Psi Chi Journal. My research interests are vast but more recently have been peer influence on prejudice, stereotyping, and the bullying mentality/behavior. I'm very excited to be assisting Dr. Tagler as a TA and Dr. Pickel as a TA and RA this year!

Noah Jacobs

I'm a first year student in the Cognitive and Social Processes program here at Ball State. I am originally from Louisville, Kentucky. I received my BA in Psychology from the University of Louisville (U of L). After graduating I spent the next two years working under Dr. Pavel Zahorik who

runs the Zahorik Auditory Perception Lab (ZAPLAB) at U of L. In addition to working in ZAPLAB I also worked with Dr. Keith Lyle in his Memory and Cognition lab at U of L. Together Dr. Lyle and I designed and conducted two experiments dealing with false memories in eyewitness testimony. We have since submitted the results of these two experiments for publication and hope that they will soon be in press. My current interest in psychology lies in human memory, especially as it pertains to eyewitness testimony. After graduating from Ball State I hope to continue my education in an experimental psychology PhD program.

Jenny Klucarich

Hi, I am a first year masters student in the cognitive and social processes program. I was an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin River Falls, where I gained a bachelors degree in psychology. I am originally from Ashland, WI a small town on the beautiful bay of Lake Superior. My research interests are: time perspective, meditation, and interpersonal relationships, but really pretty much anything in psychology I find intriguing. Basically, I want to do research that in some way will help increase happiness in the lives of others. I am hoping to enter a PhD program and become a professor.

David Markham

I am a second year student in the Cognitive/Social program. I earned a B.S. in Psychology at Colorado State University, where I did work in the field of memetics. Currently I am working on diversifying my research interests in both cognitive and social psychology.

Erin Nicolette

Hello! This is my first year at BSU. I finished my undergraduate degree at IPFW, and while I was there I collaborated with one of my professors on a project concerning gender differences in spatial cognition. I have also had experience as both a teaching assistant and a research assistant. While in pursuit of my Master's degree I would like to expand my knowledge on gender differences in spatial cognition and anything else I happen to find interesting. I hope to move on to a Doctoral program somewhere and eventually be a professor and do my own research.

Maria Piteros

Hey! I'm a second year in Cog/Soc and am also enrolled in the Institutional Research Certificate program. I am originally from Milwaukee, WI and attended the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. After graduation I plan to find a job working in institutional research and may go back to school in a few years for a doctorate degree.

Stephen Prunier

I am a first year student in the Cognitive and Social Processes Masters program. I am originally from Noblesville, IN. I obtained my B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Chemistry from Wabash College. While obtaining my undergraduate degree my research focused on understanding why people believe in conspiracy theories. I am also interested in researching how people make decisions. After Ball State I plan on pursuing my Ph.D in cognitive psychology.

Josh Staller

Hey, I'm Josh Staller and I'm a second year grad student in the Cognitive/Social Program. I'm originally from Fort Wayne, IN and I completed my B.A. in Psychology at IPFW. While completing my undergraduate degree, I spent a semester as both a teaching assistant and a research assistant. I also spent two semesters tutoring students in Psychology. At Ball State, I am currently working with Dr. Butler on research that may one day get published and I am the Graduate Program Assistant for Dr. Pickel. After I graduate, I plan on working toward a Ph.D. in either Social or Cognitive Psychology.

Wesley Stoller

I am a second year student in the Cog/Soc program. I grew up on a farm in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. I have a BS in Psychology from Western Oregon University. I am currently working as a Graduate Assistant for the Center for Media Design. I am also working towards a Certificate in Institutional Research. When I graduate I hope to work in the research field and possibly go back to school to earn a Ph.D.

Nate Sutter

I am a first year cognitive and social processes student here at Ball State University. I grew up in Northwest Ohio, and I graduated from Defiance College with a B.S. in both criminal justice and psychology. My research interests include problem solving, personality, and addictive behaviors. During my senior year, I conducted a study investigating the addictive behavior of cell phone usage in college level students. Depending on the opportunities, I will either continue for my PhD or pursue a career related to my interests.

Michelle Zerbi

Hi, I am in my second year in the Cognitive Social Program. I am from the Kalamazoo area in Michigan. I attended Northern Michigan University and Western Michigan University for my undergraduate work. My research interests are group dynamics and pro-environmental processes. I am currently assisting Dr. Ritchey and Dr. Butler with their research. After I complete my degree at Ball State, I would like to join the U.S.E.P.A. or enter a PhD program somewhere tropical. In my free time, I enjoy dancing around my apartment and sitting in the woods.



Second Year Clinical Students:

Front row: Leslie Faulkner, Leah Dunleavy, Angie Norris, Celia Atkinson, Sam Miadich, Trisha Makovsky

Back row: Ben Glad, Laura Brodhun, Meg Terranova, Pam Rumsey, Kevin Francies, Andy Fedor



First Year Clinical students:

Front row: Shannon Doody, Renee Mohan, Megan Ayres, Tiara Dillon, Jackie DiSarro, Katlin Young

Back row: Michael Butchko, Darren Smucker, Kit Corps, Gerta Dume

Clinical Psychology students

Laura Aoki

I am a second year student in the clinical psychology program and originally from Minnesota. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a major in Psychology and minor in foundations of Neuropsychology. After I finish my master's degree I hope to go into Neuropsychological assessment. My interests outside of school include working with refugees and learning about middle eastern culture.

Celia Atkinson

I was born and raised in Chicago and received my B.S. in psych from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. My research interests involve masculinity and the military and vicarious traumatization in primary caregivers for war veterans. I am pursuing licensure in the state of Illinois, upon completion of which I hope to work with veterans within my community. After working for a few years, I plan to attend a Ph.D. program in Chicago. I enjoy running, Late Nite!, and dancing with my girls.

Megan Ayres

Hi Everyone! I'm Megan Ayres, and I'm a first year clinical student. I am originally from Fort Wayne, IN, and I received my BA at Indiana University, Purdue University Fort Wayne. I'm interested in a few different fields of psychology but my main interest is in suicide and depression. After graduating from BSU, I hope to go on to a Ph.D program for clinical psychology.

Kit Corps

My name is Kit Corps, and I am in the clinical psychology program. I received my bachelor's degree from Indiana State University with a major in Psychology and a minor in Human Development and Family Studies. My research interests include topics related to psychology and personality development of children. After completing my master's degree, I plan to obtain my PhD in Clinical Psychology with the goal of becoming a licensed, practicing psychologist.

Tiara Dillon

Hello everybody. I was born and raised in Columbus, OH, the home of the amazing OSU Buckeyes!!! I received my B.A. in Psychology at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, OH. During my undergraduate career, I conducted independent research on cognitive biases in depression and hope to continue this research through graduate school. Before starting my M.A. here at Ball State, I maintained full time employment at Netcare Access, where I worked on a residential unit for mental health and alcohol and drug clients. During this time, I got to work with clients to develop treatment goals, run group sessions, and talk with them about their symptoms and stressors. After receiving my MA, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology.

Jackie DiSarro

Hi, I am a first year Clinical Psychology student from Connecticut. I received my B.S. in Women's Studies with a minor in Psychology from Ball State University. I am interested in

many areas of research but mainly gender and child development. I worked under Dr. Adams as an undergraduate doing qualitative research on women with chronic illnesses and hope to explore more qualitative research in the future. I plan to become a licensed psychologist and provide therapy in a women's/family crisis center.

Shannon Doody

Hey everyone! I'm a first year clinical student. I'm from Palatine, IL, a suburb of Chicago and I received my B.A. in Psychology from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In undergrad I worked with children with Autism, and did multi-cultural research as well as an Undergraduate Thesis on divorce and romantic relationships. I then went on to spend a semester being a teaching assistant to a 1st grader, as well as working with another child with autism. Currently, I am a research assistant for Dr. Simon-Dack and a teaching assistant for Kim Brown, M.A. My current research interests include Autism and ADHD, and I want to get my Ph.D. in Child Psychology. My goal in life is to be a professor in Chicago so I can be close to family, but I suppose being a professor somewhere else would be okay too.

Gerta Dume

Hi Everyone! I was born and raised in Albania and moved to the States when I was 11 years old. I graduated from Oakland University with a B.A. in Psychology. There, I studied the relationship between personality differences and the electronic environment, as well as mood regulations, anxiety, and eating behavior. My personal research interest lies in anxiety disorders, especially post traumatic stress disorder. My long term goal is to obtain a PhD in clinical psychology.

Leah Dunleavy

Hi Everyone! I am a 21 year-old, second-year clinical student. I am originally from South Florida and received my BA at Florida International University in Miami, FL. My undergraduate research focused on whether adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome experience tip-of-the-tongue, which is correlated with theory of mind. I also worked at a school for students with neuropsychological disorders. My research interests include assessing the social skills and academic deficits of children with autism; also, I am very interested in how the brain's activity affects human behavior. Currently, I am the graduate assistant for Dr. Whitely and Dr. Adams. I plan on pursuing my PhD in clinical psychology, then doing a neuropsychology post-doctoral internship. My final goal is to become a pediatric neuropsychologist.

Leslie Faulkner

Hello all. I received a BA in Psychology from Texas Tech University in 2008. Last year, I presented research conducted under the supervision of Dr. Gaither on anti-gay bias. Currently, I am an intern at the Allen County Juvenile Center counseling juvenile delinquents. I am also pursuing licensure to counsel in the State of Texas. My interests include cognitive-behavioral intervention techniques and existential therapy.

Andy Fedor

Hi my name is Andy Fedor. I am a second year clinical student. I was born in PA, and moved around a lot before my family settled in Grand Rapids, MI, where they currently reside. I completed my undergrad education at Kent State University in Kent, OH with a

B.A. in psychology and a justice studies minor. My areas of interest include assessment using the MMPI-2, and substance use/abuse. My long term goal is to obtain a PhD in clinical psychology.

Kevin Francies

Hi, my name is Kevin Francies and I am a second-year clinical student from Oxford, MI (a little town in the northern suburbs of Detroit) and I graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. I work as a graduate assistant for both Dr. Kerri Pickel and Dr. Lucinda Woodward, and my personal interests in psychology focus primarily on anxiety disorders and specifically phobic disorders. Once I have completed my time at Ball State, I plan to pursue my PhD at another university.

Benjamin Glad

Hi, my name is Benjamin Glad and I'm a second year clinical student. I am from Westfield, Indiana but was born in Pittsburgh, PA (Go Steelers and Panthers!). I graduated from Indiana University with a B.S. in Psychology and as an undergraduate did research in probability learning as well as self/body image. While I'm not completely certain where research will lead me, my main interests are cognitive-behavioral therapy vs. medicinal therapy, child and adolescent psychology, and self-image. After I receive my master's I plan on attending medical school for psychiatry. In my spare time I like to cycle (including road racing) and am a local hip-hop DJ.

Angela Jordan

Hi, my name is Angie Jordan and I am a second year clinical psychology student. I earned my BS in psychology here at Ball State. My future plans include becoming a counselor for at risk youth and designing a facility that will treat adolescent girls who have been sexually abused. My internship with the Allen County Juvenile Center allows me the opportunity to assess the needs of and counsel the juvenile delinquent population. My research interests include recidivism rates among juvenile offenders and the effectiveness of treatment programs used with the juvenile delinquent population. When I am not busy with school, assistantship, or internship I enjoy spending time with my three children and grandson.

Trisha Makovsky

Hello! I am a second year clinical student from Bethlehem, PA. I received my bachelor's degree in Psychology from Shippensburg University, which is also located in PA. My interests include anxiety disorders (especially post traumatic stress disorder), schizophrenia, and cross-cultural research. After I graduate, I plan to go on to a PhD program in either clinical or counseling psychology.

Sam Miadich

I am a second year student in the Clinical program from Cleveland, OH. I received my B.A. in psychology with minors in biology and sociology from the University of Dayton- Go Dayton Flyers!! I worked on research on injury prevention among adolescents involving skateboarding while at Dayton. I have a wide range of interests, but one area is depression and suicide. After this program I hope to continue on to a Ph.D. program in clinical psychology.

Renee Mohan

Hello! I am from the great city of St. Louis. I received my BS in psychology from University of Central Missouri. As an undergraduate, I conducted research in multicultural psychology. I am still interested in multicultural research, but I have also developed an interest in trauma and health psychology especially cancer. I am currently planning on get a Ph.D. or a Psy.D. in clinical or counseling psychology; however, those plans may change during my time as Ball State. We will see what actually happens!

Pam Rumsey

I am a second year clinical psychology student from the middle of nowhere Ohio. I lived in the same house all my life before heading to undergrad at Indiana Wesleyan University where I received my BA in Psychology and Chemistry. I didn't add psychology until the second half of my junior year but soon found it was where my passion was. While working with Dr. Tim Steenbergh I soon developed a love for psychological research and found I wanted to continue in this direction. He was able to connect me with a former grad of BSU who helped fuel my interest in trauma related research. It is a passion of mine to assist those who have been through traumatic experiences including anything from domestic violence to war related situations. After finishing my degree here I plan on pursuing my doctorate most likely in child clinical psychology.

Nehad Sandozi

Hi! My name is Nehad Sandozi and I am a first year Clinical Psychology student. I grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana (although I don't have a southern accent!) and earned my B. A. in Psychology at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Upon completing my masters, I plan on pursuing a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology and practicing as a family therapist.

Darren Smucker

I am a first year clinical student. I am from northern Ohio and received my BA in psychology from Elon University in North Carolina. At Elon I conducted research on the effects of caffeinated beverages (Red Bull) on attention span and reaction time. I spent several semesters at community based mental health centers and service providers where my interest in childhood psychopathology and assessment grew. I am a graduate assistant for Dr. John Forbey. After receiving my MA from BSU I plan on attending a PhD program in clinical child and adolescent psychology to further study childhood issues, and methods of improving assessment of childhood psychopathology. Besides my academic interests I am a huge Indians, Browns and Buckeyes fan (and Cavs fan as long as Lebron is in Cleveland).

Meg Terranova

Hi, my name is Meg Terranova and I am currently a 2nd year student in the Clinical Psychology Masters program. I am originally from St. Louis and I graduated from Truman State with a B.A in Psychology. This semester, I am working for Dr. Littleford assisting with the planning of the Diversity Symposium and also working for Dr. Blalock helping out with PSYSC 640. My clinical interest is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and I am interested in the differences between individual responses to trauma. I am doing my internship at the BSU counseling center, and so far it has been wonderful!

Katlin Young

Hello! I graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University with a bachelor's degree in psychology, a minor in sociology, and an emphasis in addictions counseling. While there, I assisted with faculty research on gambling addictions and attachment. I also completed my own research concentrating on casino advertisements' contributions to cognitive distortions, as well as the attachment relationship between children and their fathers. I am currently interested in many different research topics, and am looking forward to seeing where I am drawn in the next couple of years. After graduating from Ball State, I plan to pursue obtain a Psy.D. or possibly a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.