



Inside Psychology Newsletter

Summer 2026

Note from the Alumni Relations & Development Committee

I'm David Sherman, Chair of the department's Alumni Relations & Development Committee and Professor of Psychological & Brain Sciences at UC Santa Barbara. Summer is here, and with that a time to reflect on the past, and look ahead to the future. The Summer 2026 Edition of *Inside Psychology* highlights how so many members of our Psychological & Brain Sciences community go above and beyond the call of duty.

[Read the letter](#)



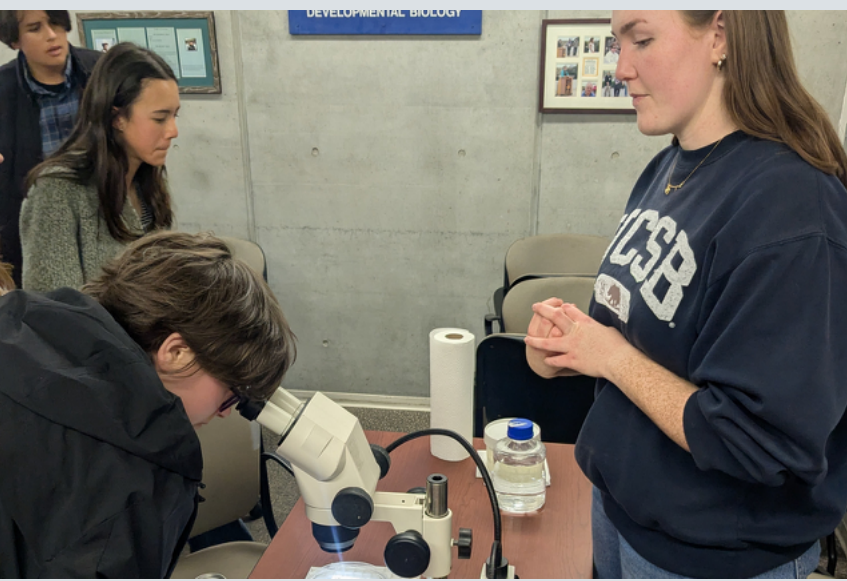
David Sherman
Chair, Alumni Relations & Development Committee, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences
Professor, Psychological & Brain Sciences
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PBS in the Community

PBS Mentors Support Young Researchers at County Science Fair

At this year's Santa Barbara County Science Fair, PBS faculty and graduate students introduced local middle and high school students to scientific research. Their participation helped make science more accessible, encouraged students' curiosity, and strengthened connections between the department and the Santa Barbara community. Those interested in volunteering or sponsoring the event can contact Prof. Sherman, and visit the Science Fair [webpage](#) for more information.

[Read the full article](#)



Cutting-Edge Research from PBS Labs

NSF Grant Supports Research on Collective Action

Research led by Assistant Professor Nils Reimer examines why people judge forms of collective action such as marches, boycotts, and hunger strikes differently depending on their own ideology.



[Read the full story on *The Current*](#)

Brief Lapses in Attention Can Weaken Memory

New research from UCSB doctoral student Shivang "Shibu" Shelat and Professors Barry Giesbrecht and Jonathan Schooler shows that even brief moments of mind-wandering can leave measurable gaps in memory.



[Read the full story on *The Current*](#)

Faculty Interview

In Conversation with Professor Belinda Campos

In an *Inside Psychology* interview, Dr. Belinda Campos reflects on her path from UCSB to UC Irvine, the mentors who shaped her career, and the importance of centering culture in psychological research.



[Read the interview](#)

Celebrating Staff Excellence

The Psychological & Brain Sciences Student Affairs Team has been selected to receive the William J. Villa Departmental Service to Students Award, a campuswide honor recognizing departments and teams that demonstrate exceptional service to students.

[Read the full article](#)



Faculty Honors & Awards

Shelly Gable elected to American Association for the Advancement of Science

This honor recognizes her groundbreaking research on social connection and its role in emotional and physical health.



[Read the full story here](#)

Laura Lewis Awarded APA Fantz Memorial Award

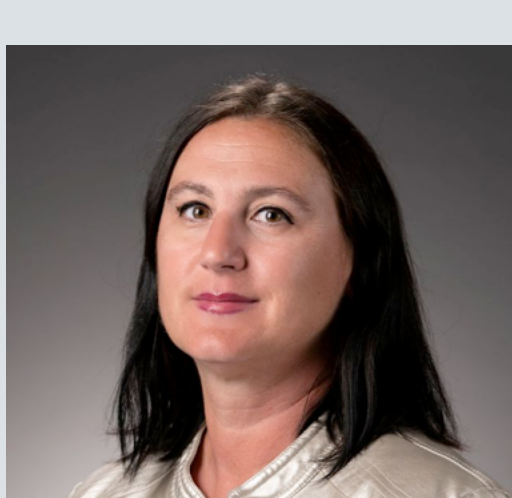
The award supports promising early-career researchers working on perceptual-cognitive development, selective attention, creativity, individuality, and free-choice behavior.



[Read the full story here](#)

Karen Szumlinski Receives Distinguished Teaching Award

The award recognizes her outstanding commitment to undergraduate and graduate education, mentorship, and teaching excellence.



[Read the full story here](#)

Dan Conroy-Beam Receives HBES Early Career Award

The award recognizes outstanding early-career scientists who have made distinguished theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of evolution and human behavior.



Honoring Outstanding Graduate Achievement

This year, PBS graduate students received an exceptional range of campus and national awards and fellowships, as well as the annual MiniCon honors. These recognitions celebrate and reward their achievements in research, teaching, mentorship, and scholarly contributions at every stage of graduate training.

[See list of awards and fellowship recipients](#)

[See MiniCon 2026 award recipients](#)



Acknowledgements to PBS donors: Thank you for your generosity

The Department thanks the following individual and organizational donors for their philanthropic support in providing essential resources for student fellowships, faculty research, and departmental programs and priorities.

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