

Psychological & Brain Sciences

Graduate Student Newsletter

Issue 003 - Spring 2022

Edited by W. Connor Gibbs & Sophie Peterson

Hello everyone! Happy beginning (ish) of Spring quarter! 🎉🥳🎉

In this quarter's issue, in addition to announcing the social event the Graduate Executive Committee (GEC) has planned, you will hear from a few of our graduating students and get updates from several department committees about the work they've been doing over the previous quarter.

Additionally, we would like to draw your attention to the very bottom of this newsletter. At the bottom of all of our newsletters we include several anonymous forms in order to collect any feedback you may have. In addition to the link to our PBS graduate student Twitter (@[pbs_grads](#)), there is a link to an *anonymous* [Google Form](#) that can be used to provide feedback specifically on these newsletters. There is also a [Google Form](#) that can be used to provide *anonymous* feedback or make an *anonymous* recommendation to any of the following department committees:

- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- Graduate Affairs
- Graduate Executive
- Graduate Training
- Undergraduate Experience

Please feel free to use these forms to provide any feedback and recommendations you may have.

With that, we'll get on with the rest of the newsletter. We hope you all have an amazing quarter and we're looking forward to seeing you at Trivia Night later this quarter.

Thank you,

The Graduate Executive Committee

Social Events This Quarter

Psych & Brain Sciences



Trivia Night

Learn some trivia while competing in teams
for glory (and knowledge)!



Winners and runner-ups will receive prizes!



WHEN: Friday May 13th, 5:00-8:00pm

- Trivia will start around 5:30pm

WHERE: SAGE Room (Psych 1312)

WHO: PBS graduate students, faculty, and staff

- Kids and +1's welcome as well!

Light food and beverages (+ alcohol) will be provided.



Graduating Student Remarks

We asked recent (or soon to be) PBS graduates to reflect on their experiences in graduate school and pass on advice to current

Here is what they had to say...

If you could tell your first-year self to spend more time on a particular skill or experience (networking, self-care, mentoring, etc.), what would it be and why?

“Networking inside and outside of academia, and I would have done at least one summer internship. I’m obsessed with self care anyway, but I think that’s the advice I’d give to most students who are not me - nothing is worth selling your soul.”
- Dr. Lauren Ortosky (Social)

What are you looking forward to the most now that you’ve completed your PhD?

“Working in a space where I can make a direct impact on students’ education and improve the belonging and performance of underrepresented students.”
-Soon to be Dr. Anudhi Mnuasinghe (Social)

“My receding hairline. The wisest male scientists tend to have cul-de-sac balding and I’m excited for that level of expertise.”
-Dr. Evan Layher (CPCN)

Favorite Study Spots

- Old Town Coffee
- Helena Ave Bakery
- Grad study area on the top floor of the library
- Anywhere with beer and Wifi

What was your favorite class to TA and why?

“120L. Seeing the students development from the beginning of the quarter to the end is by far my favorite experience as a TA”

“PSY1 because most students are fascinated by the topics and you get to be the first one to teach them the concepts”

“PSYC10B, I loved teaching undergraduates statistics and introducing them to RStudio”

What advice do you have for current and future graduate students?

“Institutions do not/cannot/will not love you back, but your community will. Find a community that will support you and love you for you.”

-Soon to be Dr. Payton Small (Social)

Committee Updates

Graduate Executive

The Graduate Executive Committee has continued to organize and develop this newsletter to help PBS graduate students stay up to date with relevant department information. The committee has also been planning several social events, including last quarter’s Mardi Gras party and this quarter’s Trivia Night.

This committee oversees internal projects, social media accounts, and organizes social events.
Email: gradexecutive@psych.ucsb.edu

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The PBS DEIC met most weeks in Winter 2022. The issues that were discussed and actions taken are as follows: 1) New PBS DEIC web presence; this commenced last year, and the new microsite will go live before the end of this quarter. We've put the PBS strategic plan there, as well as updated and re-organized the diversity related resources. There is an anonymous comment facility for people to ask questions and report concerns, and DEIC will publish (anonymously) issues/questions we receive and our responses. We will also post any diversity issue related statements and diversity related events. The current link on the PBS website has been renamed 'diversity' and now points to the new site. The url is <https://diversity.psych.ucsb.edu/>. 2) A new set of guidelines for the faculty-graduate student mentoring program have now been created by the graduate affairs committee after our discussions last quarter. We are working on a document ourselves to further support faculty mentors and mentees in this role. 3) The PBS climate survey, administered in Spring 2021, has been analyzed and we are working on mechanisms for its dissemination. 4) Representatives from the committee attended monthly meetings of Diversity Officers run by the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as well as workshops on navigating difficult DEI discussions and anti-racism; Tamsin German reported to the March meeting on the development of the PBS system for faculty merit and promotion and its safeguards to promote equity in personnel decisions.

This committee oversees department culture and climate, diversity and inclusion initiatives.
Email: deic@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Admissions

Based on the Department's procedures, we were able to allocate recruitment slots to all interested faculty. We held a successful Interview Day (or Recruitment Day) in virtual format on Friday, February 11, and the Committee appreciates everyone's participation in this important Departmental event. In addition, some candidates have been visiting our Department in person.

We are pleased to report that the Department received approximately 300 applications for our PhD program this year. We admitted 20 students, and so far 12 students have accepted, 1 has declined, and 7 have not yet responded. We also are pleased to report that we were able to award Regents Fellowships to 2 of the incoming students. We are well on our way to recruiting another excellent incoming class of outstanding students.

This committee oversees graduate student outreach and recruitment.

Email: gradadmissions@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Affairs

The Graduate Affairs Committee has continued to review and implement department policies regarding graduate students. This quarter, the committee has developed a specific set of guidelines for the PBS Mentorship program, a department-wide policy for the qualifying exam, and commented on revamping of Psychology 590 series.

This committee oversees student policy, procedures, and milestones.

Email: gradaffairs@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Training

After consulting with the PBS department chair, Dr. Shelly Gable, in the fall, the Graduate Training Committee has paused activities until the results of the Advanced Quantitative Skills search and the Mellichamp Initiative search are known. Both new faculty members will provide input into the re-design of the quantitative curriculum for the PhD program.

This committee oversees graduate professional and academic training.

Email: graduatetraining@psych.ucsb.edu

Undergraduate Experience

In Winter 2022, the Undergraduate Experience Committee (UEC) began the process involved with nominating students for graduating senior awards. Nominations are due Friday, April 1st. The PBS graduating senior awards ceremony is to be held in Spring 2022. It will be the first in person ceremony that the department will have had for graduating seniors in three years. The

UEC is looking forward to planning this special occasion to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Department's most outstanding students.

This committee oversees improvement of the PBS undergraduate experience.

Email: ugradexperience@psych.ucsb.edu

 Follow us on Twitter [@pbs_grads](https://twitter.com/pbs_grads)

Do you know a PBS grad student with exciting news or a recent accomplishment?

Fill out [this form](#) so we can share it on our Twitter!

This newsletter was organized by the Graduate Executive Committee. If you would like to provide *anonymous* feedback on this newsletter, please complete this [Google Form](#).

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