

Psychological & Brain Sciences

Graduate Student Newsletter

Issue 004 - Fall 2022

Edited by W. Connor Gibbs, Sophie Peterson, & Joanne Stasiak

Hello everyone! Happy beginning of the 2022-23 school year! 🎉🎊🎊🎉

In addition to the normal newsletter sections, given the importance and relevance to members of the PBS community, we have included a note from protesters in Iran.

Before all of that, we have a few announcements to share:

First, the department is excited to be conducting three job searches! The department is looking to hire two research faculty and an additional lecturing faculty member in the coming year.

Second, if you'd like to update your [PBS website profile](#), please email help@psych.ucsb.edu with the changes you'd like made.

Finally, as a reminder to returning grads and to inform new grads, 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. There is a link to an *anonymous* [Google Form](#) that can be used to provide feedback specifically on this newsletter. There is also a [Google Form](#) that can be used to provide *anonymous* feedback or make an *anonymous* recommendation to any of the department committees. 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 the Murder Mystery party!

Thank you,
The Graduate Executive Committee

PBS Activism

Through our social networks, the GEC has been able to communicate with some protesters in Iran. These protesters asked that we share the following information about the protests and the ongoing movement:

- “At least 76 people are killed and thousands have been arrested.”
- “Protesters are not going to be satisfied with changing the Mandatory Hijab Rules or reforms in Iran only, they want to change the regime (The Islamic Republic regime).”
- “This movement started with a protest against the killing of Mahsa Amini by so-called “morality police” however protests are not only about the Hijab or women’s rights only, but protests are also about 44 years of oppression, systemic corruption, poverty, and dictatorship in Iran.”
- “The Islamic Republic regime has shut down the Internet to suppress people, and violently attack protesters with gun fire while preventing videos from being leaked to the free world.”
- “Protest is still continuing and protesters are asking teachers, professors, drivers, and everyone to do a ‘Nationwide Strike’ against the regime.”
- “Many professors and teachers have started a strike and are not holding classes.”

Note: The above points were communicated to the GEC on September 28th, 2022.

Social Event This Quarter

[RSVP Form](#)

You are invited to the...

PSYCH & BRAIN SCIENCES MURDER MYSTERY PARTY

Devil's Gulch is a quiet, unassuming little town. Or it was. Things have changed since the fire at the Bates Mansion a year ago. Now this quaint little town appears to be cursed. Be warned and beware, attend this costume party *only if you dare!* If you can figure out the mystery, you will be rewarded with a prize!



WHEN: Friday October 14th, 5:00-8:00pm

WHERE: SAGE Room (Psych 1312)

WHO: PBS graduate students, faculty, and staff

- Kids and +1's welcome as well!

Light food and beverages will be provided. For alcoholic drinks, donate to the drink fund via Venmo to Dylan Benkley (@Dylan-Benkley) by Thursday, October 13th.

Want to volunteer as a primary suspect?

Let us know in the RSVP form:

<https://forms.gle/BAHjwAzqx4Qec7cu6>



Graduating Student Remarks

WE ASKED RECENT (OR SOON TO BE) PBS GRADS TO REFLECT ON THEIR GRAD SCHOOL EXPERIENCE...

here's what they had to say...

IF YOU COULD TELL YOUR FIRST YEAR SELF TO SPEND MORE TIME ON A PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE OR SKILL WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"Learn R and how to program. My life would be so much easier if I had put in a lot of effort to learn R from the start, rather than piecemeal over the 5 years. Programming is such a versatile skill for research (both data analyses and stimuli creation), and its very easily transferable to industry!"

Dr. Ashleigh Wells LeRoy (CPCN)

BEST PLACES FOR FOOD OR DRINKS IN SANTA BARBARA

1. Lilly's Tacos
2. Your Choice
3. M. Special
4. Los Agaves
5. Imperial Lounge



ADVICE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GRAD STUDENTS

"Don't hesitate to reach out to people when you need help. Other grad students in the department or your labmates can help you along the journey."

Soon to be Dr. Nicole Han (CPCN)



FAVORITE PLACE TO STUDY ON CAMPUS

"Graduate student rooms in the library. Expert advice- Pull the comfy chair up to the table so you can work AND be comfortable"

Soon to be Dr. Kasie Mays (N&B)



Committee Updates

The complete list of department committees and their members can be found [here](#).

Curriculum

The Curriculum Committee has continued to oversee and implement changes to the two undergraduate majors offered by the department. In the last quarter, we have monitored the progress of students through the majors and will continue to use the tracking data to develop potential changes aimed at promoting timely completion of undergraduate programs by students. Key topics that are under evaluation are: lowering the pre-major GPA requirement for students who matriculate to UCSB with only PSY 10A and 10B to complete, evaluation of demographic data related to entrance to the full major and time to degree, assessing the success rate of students moving from the pre-major to full major and whether or not the pre-major GPA is acting as an unnecessary gatekeeper, discussions about allowing pre-major students access to PSY 110+ courses, assessment of course equivalents for students in or planning to enter Education Abroad Programs, and the utility of the Interdisciplinary List course requirements in the Psychological & Brain Sciences major.

This committee oversees the department's overall curriculum.

Email: curriculum@psych.ucsb.edu

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The PBS DEIC met most weeks in Spring 2022. The issues that were discussed and actions taken are as follows: 1) Completed analysis of the 2021 Climate Survey. Dan Conroy-Beam took the lead on this, with Shuying Yu and Vinnie Wu completing some additional analyses specifically on the Graduate Student portion of the survey. 2) Presented the results of the Climate Survey to Faculty at a Faculty meeting. 3) Representatives from the committee attended monthly DEI meetings organized and run by the office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity Equity and Inclusion. 4) The 2022 Climate Survey was released to respondents. Because the release of the survey was delayed until after the end of Spring quarter, the survey will remain open, and

reminders will be sent to our department constituencies at the beginning of Fall quarter to ensure sufficient numbers of respondents. 5) A Graduate Student Town Hall meeting was organized and run over zoom in week 10, where the broad results from the 2021 climate survey were disseminated by Dan Conroy-Beam and the graduate student specific elements were disseminated by Vinnie Wu and Shuying Yu.

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

Graduate Admissions

The Graduate Admissions Committee has nothing new to report.

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. In Spring quarter, the committee selected awardees and departmental nominees for a number of awards. The committee also organized annual graduate student reviews.

This committee oversees student policy, procedures, and milestones.
Email: gradaffairs@psych.ucsb.edu

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. During the summer, the GEC organized and oversaw assigning graduate student representatives to various department committees at the direction of the department chair, Dr. Shelly Gable. The GEC has also been planning several social events, including last quarter's Trivia Night party and this quarter's Murder Mystery party.

This committee oversees internal projects, social media accounts, and organizes social events.

Email: gradexecutive@psych.ucsb.edu

Graduate Training

This year, the goal of the Graduate Training Committee is to finalize its work revising the graduate program. This will involve a series of proposals directed at updating and strengthening the core curriculum, training in research, and transferable skills applicable to traditional academic and non-academic careers.

This committee oversees graduate professional and academic training.

Email: graduatetraining@psych.ucsb.edu

Program Assessment

The Program Assessment committee compiled the following report: [Report](#).

This committee oversees and assesses PBS' graduate program.

Email: yewoods@ucsb.edu

Undergraduate Experience

The PBS Undergraduate Awards Ceremony was held on June 10th, 2022. The in-person event was a huge success. Over 70 students were recognized for their hard work and dedication to their academic and research pursuits, as well as their service to our department, the university, and community. Parents, grandparents, and other family, and friends joined us in the courtyard in front of Psychology-East for brunch, and mingled with one another and faculty. In the Fall quarter the PBS Undergraduate Experience Committee is going to focus on ways to make the honors thesis process more transparent for 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](#).

If you would like to provide *anonymous* feedback or make an *anonymous* recommendation to any of the committees listed above, please complete this [Google Form](#).