Psychology Department Newsletter

NEWS & UPDATES ACHIEVEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS RESOURCES

At this point in the semester, students and faculty alike may be feeling the increased pressure of balancing school, work, and family responsibilities. While stress is a natural part of life, how we perceive and respond to it makes a difference. Psychologist Richard Lazarus reminds us that our cognitive appraisal of stressful situations matters. When we view challenges as opportunities for growth, we can develop strategies to manage stress, see setbacks as stepping stones to success, and build resilience by learning from our mistakes.



Maintaining a healthy work-school-life balance requires intentionality, self-awareness, and a willingness to seek support. Meaningful relationships with our parents, grandparents, teachers, mentors, friends, and classmates remind us that we are not alone. Having people we can turn to for emotional encouragement, guidance, and practical assistance is essential to our overall well-being. Remember to check in with one another, offer support, and nurture relationships that foster connection and belonging.

As we navigate the many responsibilities and demands of our academic and professional lives, both students and faculty are looking for ways to work more efficiently. Artificial intelligence (AI) offers exciting possibilities for teaching, learning, and productivity, but also raises concerns about unethical use, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. I am currently participating in a faculty development workshop, *Empowering Students Not to Use AI*, which has encouraged me to think more deeply about how AI can be incorporated thoughtfully, effectively, and ethically into teaching and learning. Our goal should be to use technology to enhance—not replace—creativity, critical thinking, and meaningful engagement.

Our own faculty member, Dr. Kevin Volkan, has authored a forthcoming book on AI and will speak at an upcoming virtual event hosted by UC Santa Cruz on November 9 at 6 PM. His presentation will explore a fascinating question: Is AI a savior of humanity or a threat to our very existence? Join us for this thought-provoking discussion about the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of AI.

As we approach the end of the semester, let's continue to prioritize our well-being, embrace new possibilities, and foster meaningful relationships. Finish strong by lifting each other up, learning from our experiences, and striving to be our best selves. Together, we can make a difference by embracing kindness and compassion, celebrating one another's successes, and helping each other reach our fullest potential.

Warmly,

Christy Teranishi Martinez
Chair and Professor of Psychology

Cal State Channel Islands

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Course Offerings & Impt Dates	02–03
Department News and Updates	04
Psi Chi Updates and Meetings	05-06
Faculty & Student Accomplishments	07–10
Upcoming Events	11-12
Advising and Tutoring	13
Faculty Work-Life Balance	14
Psychology Program Ad	15

STAY CONNECTED

Christy Teranishi Martinez, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair of Psychology
Madera Hall, Room 2723
Phone: 805-437-3311
christy.teranishi-martinez@csuci.edu

Ivy McKinley (she/her)
Academic Program Analyst
Madera Hall, Room 1721
Phone: 805-437-8957
ivy.mckinley@csuci.edu

Psychology Department Website

New Course Offerings: Spring 2027

Recognizing the importance of relationships and positive coping strategies, our Psychology Department is excited to offer several new electives this spring: PSY 457 Psychology of Families, PSY 490 Positive Psychology, and PSY 490 The Science of Love. These courses explore relationships, human flourishing, and the factors that contribute to happier, healthier lives.

Visit our Padlet for detailed descriptions of our exciting spring Psychology courses.



Looking Ahead: Spring 2027

SPRING 2027 ELECTIVE OPTIONS

Spring 2027 electives will be offered in a variety of modalities, including in-person and online formats. Consider courses that let you explore your interests, strengthen your skills, clarify academic or career goals, or simply try a topic that sounds especially interesting. Search the full course schedule and check CI Records for current course details. All course offerings are subject to change.

- PSY 220 – Human Sexual Behavior
- PSY 315 – Child Psychopathology
- PSY 327 – Parenting
- PSY 340 – History and Psychology of Nazi Germany
- PSY 346 – Human Motivation
- PSY 370 – Fundamentals of Counseling Theory
- PSY 424 – Organizational Behavior
- PSY 457 – Criminal Behavior
- PSY 473 – Atypical Psychopathologies and Culture Bound Syndromes
- PSY 490 – Topics in Psychology
  - Sec 01 Dr. Thayer: Positive Psychology
  - Sec 02 Dr. Walsh: Science of Relationships
- PSY 492 – Internship or Service Learning
- PSY 494 – Independent Research in Psychology

IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES

Fall 2026

Oct. 30	Schedule & appts available
Nov. 10–20	Continuing student reg.
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day Holiday
Nov. 26–27	Thanksgiving holiday
Nov. 30	New transfer registration
Dec. 5	Last day of instruction
Dec. 7–12	Final Exam Week

Spring 2027

Jan. 25	Weekday classes begin
Feb. 12	Add/Drop deadline
May 14	Last day of instruction
May 17–21	Final Exam Week
May 22	Commencement

Department News and Updates

MA IN PSYCHOLOGY LAUNCHES

We welcomed the first cohort of students into our new Master of Arts in Psychology program this fall. The research-focused degree prepares students for doctoral study and research careers through advanced training in psychological theory, quantitative methods, and applied research. The inaugural cohort marks an important expansion of graduate education opportunities at CI.

Prospective students can learn about the program, admission requirements, and upcoming deadlines on the program website.

Application and unofficial transcript deadline: January 31, 2027

Scan to visit Cal State Apply to begin your application!

NEW PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Second B.A. Pilot

Psychology has joined a pilot for returning and international students seeking a second bachelor's degree. The Dean's Office is developing the program, which could begin as early as spring. More details about the pilot will be shared as planning continues.

Dual Enrollment

The department has begun developing a program that would expand access to college-level psychology courses for high school students. Possible models include co-teaching and courses led by qualified high school instructors.

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY



Anastasia (Gorden) Ashe, PsyD

A licensed marriage and family therapist, Dr. Ashe teaches Clinical and Abnormal Psychology online and in person. Her work reflects a commitment to mental health advocacy, clinical research, cultural learning, and inclusion for BIPOC and LGBTIQ+ communities.

Psi Chi Honor Society in Psychology

FALL 2026 OFFICERS

President
Darren Slatten

Vice President
Marshall Mee

Secretary & Historian
Kelli Dever

Treasurer
Isabella Cardona



Psi Chi, the International Honors Society in Psychology, is an organization with lifetime membership for qualified students in psychology. Here at CSU Channel Islands our chapter has been meeting regularly, creating a space for motivated psychology students to network and socialize with their peers through a mix of in-person and virtual meetings.

The topics of our meetings vary, from casual psychology trivia and presentations on student skills, to learning about careers in psychology from guest speakers. Continuing from last semester, we have sought out individuals' whose experiences in the field of psychology make them insightful sources of information on graduate school and careers in psychology. Previously we have heard from one of our prior Psi Chi presidents who is now an AMFT. We were also joined by Dr. Kirsten Gabriel, a clinical psychologist and the former director of CSUCI's CAPS.

Regardless of their focus, in all of our meetings we aspire to create a welcoming and collaborative environment where we can share our interest in psychology and develop connections with our peers. Feel free to join us in our future meetings this semester or in the spring, when we look forward to formally inducting our new members.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Nov. 10 • 5–6 p.m. • SUB 1080

Creative Stress Relief Activity Night

Meetings are open to all students, regardless of membership. Meeting topics and locations are subject to change. View dates and more information on our website here.



STAY CONNECTED

Follow us on CI Sync
Instagram: @psichi_csuci
For questions, contact
President: Darren Slatten
darren.slatten343@myci.csuci.edu

PSI CHI THE INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN PSYCHOLOGY







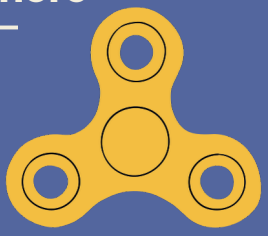
Psi Chi & Psychology Club

Mindful Making: Stress Relief Through Creativity

Activities

- Coloring Books
- Puzzles
- Oragami kit
- Fidget spinner
- Mini knitting kits
- Inspirational Stickers & more





Meeting details

- When: Tuesday, November 10th
- Time: 5-6pm
- Location: SUB 1080







Faculty and Student Accomplishments

SABBATICAL UPDATE

Songbirds as comparative models of development and evolution in humans

Dr. Francisco Magdaleno recently completed a sabbatical where he conducted exciting research with students. Dr. Magdaleno works with songbirds as comparative models of development and evolution in humans. His research stresses evolution and development (or what is often referred to as Evo-Devo) because these are 2 major ways of understanding how behavior changes.

During his sabbatical, Dr. Magdaleno conducted several experiments with wild songbird populations of the Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater) across the Oxnard Plain. Experiments involved “baiting” wild cowbirds to come into test sites in the field by playing sound recordings that are known to attract them.

Dr. Magdaleno and students tested the perceptual ability of cowbirds to distinguish different sounds by looking at behavioral differences between cowbird subjects tested with the control sounds vs subjects tested with test sounds.

Along with training and working closely with 9 undergraduate students, Dr. Magdaleno published an article (Long-term Retention of Nest Desertion Despite Loss of Temporal Modulation in a Brood Parasite Host in Behavioral Ecology) and has another with student co-authors currently being revised to resubmit to Royal Society Open Science.

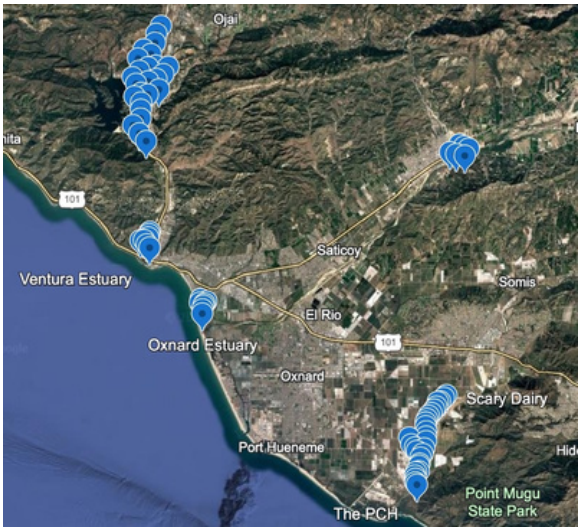
Dr. Magdaleno welcomes students interested in getting research experience to contact him about future projects!



1. Left to right: undergraduates Adri Velasco and Pristine Salvador.



2. Left to right: undergraduates Callista Tai and Angel Acosta-Garcia, Dr. Magdaleno, and undergraduate Marina Melendez.

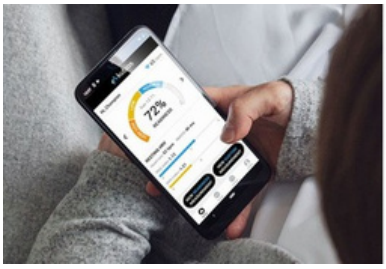


3. Blue icons: successful cowbird test sites. Cowbirds are common near campus, with habitat extending to the Pacific Coast Highway.

Faculty and Student Accomplishments

PUBLICATIONS

Use of a smartphone-based app in an online behavioral neuroscience lab course



Published an article on the inquiry-driven PSY 314 project using a phone app to measure heart rate variability.

de Oca, B. (2026). Use of a smartphone-based app in an online behavioral neuroscience lab course. *Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education, 24*(2), 34–43. https://doi.org/10.59390/001c.163102

The uncanny valley: AI, transference, and the artificial other. Psychoanalytic Inquiry



Volkan, K. (2026). The uncanny valley: AI, transference, and the artificial other. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry.* Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1080/07351690.2026.2688741

Math anxiety predicts initial acquisition of new math skills over and above math competence and study strategy

Ibrahim, A. F. A., & Shah, P. (2026). Math anxiety predicts initial acquisition of new math skills over and above math competence and study strategy. *Frontiers in Psychology, 17*, Article 1829468. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2026.1829468

RESEARCH FUNDING

Hybrid Effectiveness-Implementation Pilot of Personalized PCIT In Community Mental Health Settings

Dr. Zerr will serve as a co-investigator on a recently awarded National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) grant, which will support a 3-year study conducted in collaboration with colleagues at San Diego State University and the University of San Diego. The study involves a randomized clinical trial comparing standard Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), a behavioral parent training program, with a personalized version designed to help families stay engaged in treatment and improve outcomes. The team will also gather therapist feedback to refine how the personalized program is delivered and sustained in community mental health settings.

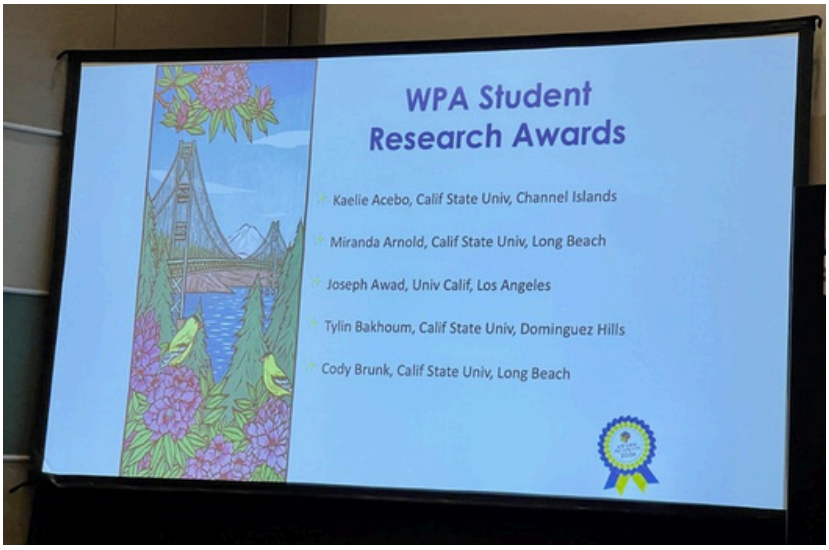
Faculty and Student Accomplishments

AWARDS

CSUCI Students and Faculty awarded at 2026 WPA Convention

Kaelie Acebo,Robert McEachron, Matthew Fabian, Jacquelin Vaca, Andrew Hart, and Christy Teranishi Martinez received a Psi Chi Poster Award at the 2026 Western Psychological Association (WPA) Convention for their poster on *Empathy in a Warming World: Respiratory Regulation and Life-Saving Decisions in a VR Natural Disaster Simulation*





PRESENTATIONS

PCIT International 2026 Biennial Convention | September 2026

- Perez, S., McCabe, K., Zerr, A., & Yeh, M. Exploring relationships between acculturation, question and command use in Child-Led Play, and disruptive behavior among Mexican American families. *This project received the conference's sole Poster Award.*

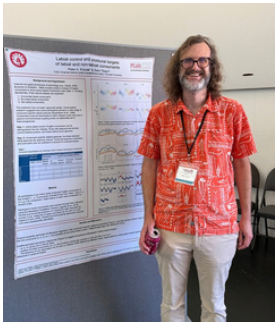
- Snyder, C., Zerr, A., McCabe, K., Perez, S., Greczek, E., Ramos, A., Boggs, M., & Yeh, M. (2026, September 16–18). Assessing children's committed compliance in the DPICS-IV clean-up situation as a treatment outcome in Parent–Child Interaction Therapy.



FACULTY PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Association for Psychological Science (APS) Annual Convention | Barcelona, Spain | May 2026

- Lee, H., & Smith, W. Z. Expanding access to undergraduate research: An asynchronous, discipline-specific introductory course
- Lee, H., & Smith, W. Z. Negatively worded items in psychological assessments: Disentangling the method factor
- Smith, W. Z., & Lee, H. Investigating negatively worded items in visual analogue scales



LabPhon 20 Laboratory Phonology, Montreal, Quebec |June 2026

- Krause, P. A., & Tilsen, S. Labial control and postural targets of labial and non-labial consonants.
- Broś, K., & Krause, P. A. The interplay of lip and tongue movements in variable /t d/ deletion in American English.

International Association for Media and Communication Research annual conference | Galway, Ireland | June 2026

- Chen, N.-T. N., Lee, H., Villalobos, B. T., & Kee, K. (2026). Integrating cognitive, emotional, and information-seeking models to predict COVID-19 vaccine uptake and intention.

International Meeting of the Psychometric Society | Seoul, South Korea | July 2026

- Lee, H., & Smith, W. Z. Disparity impact remover using balanced error rate in DIF contexts
- Smith, W. Z., & Lee, H. Linking dichotomous and continuous: Item characteristic and test characteristic curves



International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology annual conference | Leuven, Belgium | July, 2026

- Chen, N.-T. N., Hsiao, H., Kee, K., Villalobos, B. T., & Lee, H. (2026). Collectivist and naturalistic values, emotions, cognitions, and annual COVID-19 vaccination intention: A cross-cultural study of the United States and Taiwan.



UPCOMING EVENTS

RESEARCH CONFERENCES

Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR)
Nov. 21, 2026 • Abstracts due Oct. 9, 2026 (closed)

Western Psychological Association (WPA)
Apr. 29–May 2, 2027 • Abstracts due Dec 15, 2026

Association for Psychological Science (APS)
May 27–30, 2027 • Abstracts due Dec 1, 2026, 5pm ET

National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)
Apr. 12–14, 2027 • Abstracts due Dec 4, 2026

American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention
Aug. 12–14, 2027 • Abstracts due Jan 13, 2027

POSTER SESSION

Psychology

Fall 2026 PSY301 Poster Session

Friday, Dec 4, 2026

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Grand Salon

The Psychology Department is proud to announce the Fall 2026 Psychology Poster Session! This event highlights students' empirical studies conducted as a culminating assignment in the PSY 301 course.

For more information, please contact Ivy McKinley (ivy.mckinley@csuci.edu), Psychology Academic Program Analyst

UPCOMING EVENTS

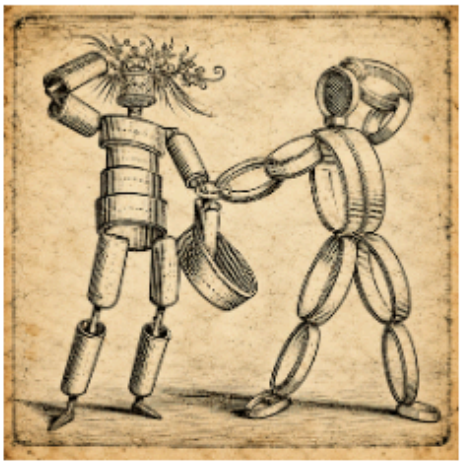
LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Volkan is speaking at an upcoming virtual event at UCSC.

Register here



AI: Savior, Monster, and Symbolic Engine



Artificial intelligence (AI) is now commonly presented as both a savior of humanity and a monster that threatens our existence. It is possible to understand this dual nature as distinctions between human and machine, living and nonliving, and self and other. Additionally, the interaction of AI agents has raised questions about the emergence of subjectivity, cooperation, altruistic behavior, and the evolution of machine intelligence. Our relationship with AI evokes the uncanny, unconscious projections and fantasies. These characteristics allow us to consider how our relationship with AI reflects longstanding human desires to summon, control, and exploit powerful forces that we do not fully understand. The possibility of AI as a symbolic and transitional medium instead of savior or monster is considered as a way we can develop greater compassion, responsibility, and tolerance for ambiguity.

Psychology Advising & Tutoring

PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY ADVISORS

For initial advising for freshman and transfer students, and general requirements for the Psychology major, as well as questions about GE requirements, please contact the Academic Advising Center.

For specific questions about psychology course substitutions and planning for grad school and careers in psychology, contact the Psychology Program advisor associated with the first letter of your last name:

Last Names A-I: Dr. Peter Krause, Associate Professor of Psychology

Madera Hall, Room 1631 | Phone: 805-437-3843 | peter.krause@csuci.edu

Fall 2026 Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30pm-5pm on Zoom via this link

Last Names J-R: Dr. HyeSun Lee, Professor of Psychology

Madera Hall, Room 2416 | Phone: 805-437-8997 | hyesun.lee@csuci.edu

Fall 2026 Office Hours: Wednesdays: 9am-12pm, Thursdays: 2:30-3:30 pm
To schedule an appointment, use this link

Last Names S-Z: Dr. Christy Teranishi Martinez, Program Chair and Professor

Madera Hall, Room 2723
Phone: 805-437-3311 christy.teranishi-martinez@csuci.edu

Fall 2026 Office Hours: Online/In-Person
Monday 12–1pm and Wednesday 12–1pm
To schedule an appointment, use this link

PSYCHOLOGY TUTORS

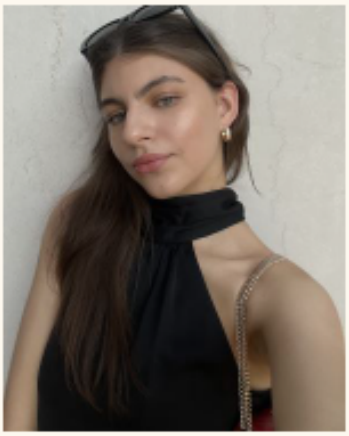
LRC is primarily a walk-in, drop-in tutoring center, so no appointment is necessary to meet with an available tutor. Students are seen on a first-come basis. Visit the LRC website here



Dylan Wikel
Lead Peer Tutor
Major: Psychology & Data Science



Cassidy Rosenbaum
Peer Tutor
Major: Psychology



Elizabeth Lanovaya
Peer Tutor
Major: Psychology

Faculty Work-Life and Family Balance















Cal State
Channel Islands

Psychology Program

Start Where You Are
Follow Your Curiosity

2-year • 4-year • Transfer
Online • In Person • Hybrid

Explore What Fascinates You. Build Your Future.

- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Positive Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Research and Statistics

Let Psychology open your mind to what is possible!

SCAN HERE

For more information about our Psychology Program

One Major, Endless Opportunities



Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

- 4-year program (in person or hybrid)
- 2-year fully online completion degree

Master of Arts in Psychology

- Psychology as a Science
- Research Based Careers
- Doctoral Preparation