Endowment of Gibson Scholarship

A scholarship to honor Dr. William Gibson has reached endowment ($25,000) thanks to friends, family and supporters of one of the psychology department’s most beloved faculty members. Dr. Gibson taught bio-psychology to thousands of students during his teaching career. Bill mentored his students and often helped them jumpstart their careers. He was the faculty advisor to Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. The William Gibson Scholarship Outstanding Student in Psychology and Public Service Award is given to seniors with a GPA of at least 3.25 who demonstrate a desire to better their community through volunteer activity or public service.

Living Compassion Conference

The Department of Psychology, in conjunction with the SBS Compassion Project, was a major sponsor and participant in the interdisciplinary Living Compassion Conference held in October 2012. Over 450 students (representing 24 different majors) from across the NAU campus and about 125 adults from the community attended some or all of the two-day conference. Many psychology faculty were instrumental in encouraging their students to attend part of the conference. Dr. Heidi Wayment, currently serving as department chair, was the conference coordinator, and the Director of the SBS Compassion Project. Although an interdisciplinary conference, psychological research and application were a main theme. The psychology presentations included: Kirk Warren Brown (Loving What Is: The Kindness of Mindful Presence, Virginia Commonwealth University), Suzanne Daiss (The Impact of a Yoga Intervention on Women in a “Small Changes” Weight Loss Program, NAU), Holley Hodgins (On the Psychological Divide Between “Us” and “Them”, Skidmore College), Ann

Student Highlights

Brett Velez was accepted into Urbana-Champaign’s Illinois Summer Neuroscience Institute from May 20-24, 2013. Mr. Velez will gain valuable experience through presentations on current neuroscience research, interaction with professors and graduate students, tours of the campus and facilities, and an introduction to the methods and challenges of neuroscience research.

Fall 2012 Gold Axe Awards

From left to right: Dr. Andrew Gardner mentor for Samantha Roan and Brianna Oliphant with mentor Dr. Andy Walters

Athletics Honors Dr. Demir

Dr. Melikşah Demir has been selected by Elinor Priest, a member of the NAU Soccer team, to be recognized as an outstanding educator for the Spring 2013 semester! Every year, the Lumberjack student-athletes nominate their favorite professors to receive recognition at a NAU sporting event.

Psi Chi Convention Coming Soon

Where: Northern Arizona University
When: April 26-27, 2013
Register by: April 12, 2013
Fee: $10.00
Submission Date: April 5, 2013

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Huffman (A Greener Industrial/Organizational Psychology, NAU), Kristin Neff (Self-Compassion and Well-Being, UT Austin, Educational Psychology), Kristin Layous and Katherine Nelson (Counting Kindness: Promoting Prosocial Behavior, Peer Acceptance, and Well-Being among Pre-Adolescents, Graduate Students UC Riverside), Tiana Tallant (Ahimsa: The Spirit of Compassion and co-presented with Dr. Suzanne Daiss, NAU Graduate Program in Psychology), and former NAU faculty member Jack Bauer (Compassion and the Transformative Self, University of Dayton), Larry Stevens (In Search of a Quieter Ego: Markers of Compassion, NAU), Heidi Wayment (The Conscious Road to Compassion: The Quiet Ego, NAU), and Chad Woodruff (The Science of Interpersonal Understanding, NAU). In addition, several of our undergraduate and graduate students presented posters, including Dawn Whinnery, Ashleigh Day, and staff member Janina Burton. The SBS Compassion Project was established in 2010 as a way to inspire our academic and civic communities through coordinated efforts to promote interdisciplinary perspectives on the multi-faceted nature of compassion. Four PSY 485 students were instrumental in conference organization (Ivy Loney, Sarah Rande, Ashton Dunphy, Drew Felton) as were our Psychology Department Staff (Delfina Rodriguez, Julie Lambert, Janina Burton), and SBS staff (Zoe Lonetti, Carlene Klein, and Diane Hogg).

Conference Presentations


Dr. Andrew Gardner was recently invited to participate as a member as an Early Career Reviewer with the NIH Early Career Reviewer program this year. The Center for Scientific Review (CSR) at NIH has established an Early Career Reviewer program that is designed to benefit faculty who are actively involved in biomedical-behavioral research but have not yet had experience serving as a reviewer of grant applications for the NIH. Early Career Reviewers are given a limited workload since they are new to NIH review. This allows them to focus on observing how panels evaluate impact, what drives discussion, and how panels score applications.

Publications
