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## Letter from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Time flies when one is busy! Much has happened that I'm excited to share with you.

### **A time of growth**

We have had an exceptionally strong recruitment season this year. Since I took over as Chair, we have hired 4 new faculty! Amitai Shenhav (Cognitive Neuroscience), Mariam Aly (Cognition), Jasmin Brooks (Clinical Science), and Giovanni (Gio) Ramos (Clinical Science). Amitai and Mariam will be starting at Berkeley as early as this July. Of the two new faculty recruited by my predecessor, Serena Chen, Gul Dolen started in January 2024 and Hedy Kober will be joining us starting in July 2024. All in all we will have 4 new colleagues to welcome to our community this Fall. Jasmin and Gio will both be joining us in July 2025.



We will also have 18 new graduate students joining our program this Fall, the largest incoming cohort of recent years. We have collectively awarded over a dozen years of academic fellowships to the incoming cohort, which was enabled by the generosity of the Graduate Division. Many thanks go out to our Dean Lisa Garcia-Bedolla.

### **Some goodbyes**

Despite this wonderful growth in our ranks, we are also saddened to know that 4 of our colleagues, Joni Wallis, Frederic Theunissen, David Foster, and Jack Gallant will be moving to the new Neuroscience Department come July 1st. In addition, Ann Kring will be retiring at the end of June and Jason Okonofua is moving to Brown University. They will be sorely missed; nevertheless, we wish them the best in their new endeavors!

### **Other noteworthy highlights**

We have had another successful Big Give this year. With Kathy Knopoff's generous offer of matching funds, and with the contribution of many of you, we were able to raise over \$20,000 for the department. These funds will be used to support our graduate students. Our graduate program is graduating 20 students this year – the largest single cohort to leave the department in recent history (see page 5). We are excited for them, and proud to always call them Cal Bears.

### **Fiat Lux**

In the 2024 rankings of the U.S. News & World Report, UC-Berkeley was again the No.1 Public University in the country, and our undergraduate program was ranked the No. 1 Psychology Program. Our graduate program was also tied with Stanford as No. 1 and each subarea was individually ranked within the top 3 in the country. We have a lot to be proud of.

[Give to Berkeley Psychology](#)

Please [send us your stories and life updates!](#) We feature alumni stories on our website and would love to hear from you!

And keep in touch with us via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and our [Department website](#).

Best wishes,

Ozlem Ayduk

[Read the Full Newsletter](#)

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## Honors and Awards

### FACULTY

**Iris Mauss**, Professor of Psychology, has been awarded the [2024 Society for Affective Science Mentorship Award](#) for her unparalleled devotion to the career development of her mentees.

**Robert Knight**, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, has received the [2024 Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions](#) from the American Psychological Association (APA). This award recognizes senior scientists for distinguished theoretical or empirical contributions to basic research in psychology.

**Jan Engelmann**, Professor of Psychology, received the [2024 Early Career Award in Developmental Science](#) from the Jean Piaget Society. This award recognizes outstanding career contributions in Developmental Psychology.

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Emily Rosenthal**, a Clinical Science PhD student, has received the [2024 Philanthropic Educational Organization Scholar Award](#). This award provides substantial merit-based awards for women of the U.S. and Canada who are pursuing a doctoral-level degree.

### STAFF

**Harumi Quinones**, Student Services Director, has been awarded the [2024 Chancellor's Outstanding Staff Award](#). This award recognized staff members who demonstrate excellence in performing their job duties and make significant contributions to the UC Berkeley campus community. Harumi was also awarded with the [2024 Social Sciences Distinguished Service Award](#). The Distinguished Service Award recognizes a staff member who has made extraordinary service contributions to their department and to the UC Berkeley campus.

Jefferson Ortega, third-year PhD student, and David Whitney, Professor of Psychology, are the recipients of the [Brain Foundation grant](#) to improve

emotion recognition in individuals with autism by increasing their ability to focus on important social cues during social interactions.

## Join the Charter Hill Society for Psychology!

The Charter Hill Society is a community of alumni dedicated to supporting UC Berkeley Psychology, its students and faculty, and each other. Members will be invited to special programming for Psychology, as well as to events with Charter Hill members from around the College. Recent lectures and events have featured Nobel laureates and leading figures in Psychology and Neuroscience.

Charter Hill members make a three-year pledge to the Psychology Department of \$1,000 or more per year. Gifts directly support the students and faculty of Berkeley Psychology.

To become a member of the Charter Hill Society, [make a three-year recurring commitment](#) (One-time gifts can also be made as well). For more information or questions, contact [socialsciences@berkeley.edu](mailto:socialsciences@berkeley.edu)

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## New Research and Publications



A recent study published in *[Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders](#)*, **Breanna Bullard and Robert Levenson, PhD** examined the effectiveness of emotion regulation strategies on caregivers. Their findings highlight the need for future research to consider individual differences, like gender, when identifying emotion regulation strategies in order to best support the mental well-being of dementia caregivers.





In their study published in [Behaviour Research and Therapy](#), **Eli Susman**, **Serena Chen, PhD**, **Ann Kring, PhD**, and **Allison Harvey, PhD**, evaluated a 20-second daily self-compassion “micropractice.” They found that micropractices had the potential for augmenting single-session interventions and offering help when more time-intensive approaches may be less accessible.



In their study published in [The Journal of Attention Disorders](#), **Emily Rosenthal** and **Sheri Johnson, PhD**, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Miami, explored how ADHD symptoms relate to emotion-related impulsivity. They discovered that inattention was related to dysregulated thoughts and motivations during strong emotions, while hyperactivity/impulsivity aligned with dysregulated behavior.

[Read about more about Publications and Research](#)

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## 2024 Commencement PhD Graduates

Congratulations to all of our PhD graduates!

Read on to learn about their graduate research, their post-graduation plans, and some advice they have for current and future graduate students.



**Gerald Young, PhD**

**Graduate Research:** My research investigated how social (e.g., social identity, social integration into groups) and affective processes (e.g., emotion regulation, emotion beliefs) relate to mental health across and within diverse populations to inform how to

build inclusive environments in which all people are mentally healthy and thrive.

**Post-Graduation:** Starting this fall, I will be a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Diversity Science at Ohio University.

**Advice:** Have a structured routine/schedule that you adhere to for working and figure out a work/ life balance that works best for you.



## Lauren Weittenhiller, PhD

**Graduate Research:** I examined the social and emotional challenges of people who experience psychosis. Specifically, my work identified factors that limit social engagement and how people with psychosis respond to being socially excluded.

**Post-Graduation:** I'll be a post-doctoral fellow in the MIRECC Advanced Fellowship in Mental Illness Research and Treatment program at the VA Greater Los Angeles, where I will be researching the

community integration of people who experience psychosis and/or homelessness.

**Advice:** When your self-confidence wavers, find the person who most believes in you, and allow yourself to see through their eyes.

[Read more interviews with our graduating students](#)

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

GIVE TO PSYCHOLOGY AT  
BERKELEY

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