



PANTHER STRONG

Important Advising Changes: How will they affect you?

"What's the point of having an assigned advisor? I just go to walk-in advising when I have a question. Advisors just help me pick classes."

The above are common misconceptions students have about academic advising. Often, students do not understand the value their assigned advisor can provide.

Approximately 3 years ago FIU deployed the e-Advisor system in order to help students get the most out of their advising appointments. There are over 4,400 + psychology undergraduate students with various needs coming from a variety of backgrounds. In order to obtain a more personalized experience, it is essential for students to develop a relationship with their assigned advisor.

Once you establish a relationship with your advisor, they can better guide you towards your goals, using the knowledge they have of your strengths, weaknesses, stressors, work/life balance, and career goals. They will work with you to develop a personalized plan to optimize your academic success. Advisors can assist with course planning, graduate school planning, career goals, exploration of majors or careers, internship or research opportunities, and much more.

Both FIU and the psychology department value the relationship advisors develop with

their advisees. It is for this reason that starting fall semester 2015 there will no longer be traditional walk-in advising. We found that in order to establish meaningful relationships and provide through advising, a full appointment is necessary and is in the student's best interest.

"But I have an emergency and I need to see someone without an appointment? What am I supposed to do!?"

During our traditional walk-in times, we will have an advisor "on-call" to answer quick questions and to see non-psychology major students. The primary role of an "on-call" advisor is to address immediate concerns and quick questions. Students who come in during these times and need a full advising session will be directed to schedule an appointment with their assigned advisor.

To Schedule an Appointment:

1. Log into your my FIU.
2. Click "Student Dashboard".
3. Click the "Appointment Request" Tab and proceed to click "Request an Appointment".
4. Reserve a day and time that fits your schedule.

Psychology Department: Undergraduate Newsletter

Fall 2015

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Alumni Spotlight

Alejandra "Ali" Golik

Ali graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa with High Honors in Psychology, as well as with a double major in International Relations and Sociology in Spring 2015. She came to FIU as a transfer student from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. Ali was originally pursuing nursing, but switched to psychology after her first rotation at the hospital; she realized what she loved most about nursing was the connection she made with her patients.

At FIU, Ali became involved AIESEC, a student organization run by student volunteers all over the world. Through AIESEC, students create global partnerships between local businesses in various countries. During her 2 year tenure, Ali became AIESEC president, developing her leadership skills while inspiring her to work internationally.

As a psychology major, Ali pursued various research opportunities available with department faculty. During her time at FIU, she worked with multiple faculty at the Center for Children and Families (CCF). She was a counselor in the Brave Bunch treatment program for young children with excessive shyness and a research assistant (RA) in both the Child Anxiety and Phobia Program (CAPP)

and in the Development, Context, and Communication Lab. While working as an RA at CAPP under the direction of Dr. Pettit and Dr. Rey, Ali had her "Ah Ha" moment, discovering the positive impact research can have by improving people's lives. "

Ali received additional mentorship from Drs. Comer and Furr. Ali worked as a key research associate in Dr. Comer's Mental Health Interventions and Technology (MINT) Program — an interdisciplinary clinical research program devoted to expanding the quality, scope, and accessibility of mental health care for kids. Additionally, Ali has been actively involved in innovative scholarship—even serving as principal investigator of her own study examining the specific impact of the Boston Marathon bombing on local Hispanic and Latino youth.

Ali conducted an undergraduate honors research project examining the impact of contemporary social media on female body image. Ali has already published her work in prestigious academic outlets, and has presented her work at national conferences. In May, she travelled to Peru, assisting with counseling efforts offered to underserved populations. She is currently working full-time as a research associate in the MINT program.

Ali is a true example of panther pride and acknowledges "I owe so much of where I am today, to FIU, my mentors (Dr. Comer and Dr. Furr), and the MINT program." Indeed, at this early stage of her very promising career, Ali has already demonstrated an unparalleled passion for helping those most in need, and she has shown herself to be an extraordinary scholar. She is truly "Worlds Ahead."



Michael Powell arrived to FIU as a transfer student from Miami Dade College (MDC), where he was originally pursuing a major in Music. His first semester at FIU he took the Global Learning elective "LGBT and Beyond". Michael shined, "This was the first course I ever took that had a global focus on a specialized subject." Michael became fascinated with the subject of gender disparities and its impact on the world around us.

Senior Spotlight

Michael Powell

The following term, Michael decided to take a "Women in Leadership" course with Dr. Asia Eaton, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies. He also became a Research Assistant (RA) in Dr. Eaton's Power, Women, and Relationships (PWR) lab. Michael admits, "I was very surprised (at my changing interests) because I always thought I wanted to be a high school music teacher, and then when I got to FIU, the exposure to different courses helped me realize I wanted to pursue social science."

For the past two years, Michael has been working under Dr. Eaton's mentorship and is currently a lab manager for PWR Lab. With Dr. Eaton's encouragement, Michael applied to a highly selective research internship in social psychology at Harvard University.

Michael was chosen to work with the Edgar Pierce Professor of Psychology, Dr. Dan Gilbert, a world renowned social psychologist. Dr. Gilbert's work has resulted in numerous accolades and his TED talks, seen by about 13 million people, are among the most popular of all time. The internship experience at Harvard was life changing for Michael; he has decided to stay in Boston and finish his final semester at FIU online. With his anticipated graduation (Fall 2015), Michael is currently looking for a full-time position in the Boston area, possibly at a nonprofit community outreach center for LGBT youth and adults.

As for the future..? Who knows? The sky is the limit. Michael is considering pursuing a Masters in Social Work or a Ph.D. in Social Psychology. What he does know is that he is, "thankful for all the opportunities and experiences he had at FIU."

MEET YOUR ADVISOR



Andrea Green & Fred Bouma



Hayat Hammad & Adrienne Grudzien



Tamara Rousseau & Frank Orifici



Michelle Perez & Yanella Gilbert



Adrienne Yuen & Susel Cardoso



Career Corner

Informational Interviewing

What is an informational Interview?

An informational interview is a meeting initiated by an individual looking to enter a specific career, graduate program, company, or industry. The primary goal of this meeting is to learn about a career's particulars from someone who is already established in a given industry. These meetings expand an individual's knowledge and may help students to make career decisions. Through this process, one might obtain an idea of what the day to day operations in a certain field are like and what employers might be looking for in potential job candidates. It also serves as a networking tool that often times opens doors to job opportunities. While an informational interview can lead to a job interview and a potential job offer, it is a more casual conversation led by the individual seeking the information whereas a job interview is led by those already in the field.

What are potential benefits?

- Networking: increase contacts in professional fields you may be interested in
- Gain insider knowledge of a company
- Learn about the culture of company
- Can lead to a job opportunity
- Helps narrow down interests and clarify educational/ career goals
- Advice from experts in the field on how to prepare for a particular industry
- Demonstrates desirable qualities to potential employers (ambition, go getter, confidence, etc.)
- Opportunity to practice interviewing skills in a less stressful situation

When should you conduct one?

There are many times when conducting an informational interview may be helpful. to you to gather information or seek out an opportunity that isn't advertised yet. Majority of jobs are hidden and not advertised. When looking for a job, informational interviews help you tap into that hidden job market.

Besides looking for a job here are other seniors utilizing an information interview would be helpful:

- Looking for an internship
- Researching graduate programs
- When having doubts or concerns is a major is a good fit for your desired future career
- Undecided about career choices
- Moving to a different state or county and want to learn about job opportunities in those locations (can be done via skype)

How do I get started?

To conduct an informational interview, you simply need to first find your contact person you are interested in speaking to. Then follow these simple steps:

1. Reach out via LinkedIn, email, or phone call and request an informational interview
2. Do your research and develop a list of questions you would like to address
3. Bring a copy of your polished resume
4. Dress professionally as if on a job interview
5. Relax, enjoy and be yourself
6. Send a follow up thank you email or hand written thank you card.

Does this work?

Yes! Students who have used this strategy have reported feeling more confident in their interviewing skills and more knowledgeable of the steps they need to take to reach their goals.



Want Research Experience?

The psychology department has a plethora of research labs that are working on innovative projects at the cutting edge of inquiry. Research experience will not only provide you with hands on experience in the field of psychology, it will also assist you in developing your critical thinking skills and ability to work with data. Students who have research experience will have a leg up when applying to graduate and Ph.D. programs in the psychology field. Below are a list of research labs who are currently looking for research assistants (RA). If granted an RA position, you can earn course credits towards your major requirements and a potential letter of recommendation from the faculty member who is leading the lab.

ABC-ERICA Lab

We examine the causes and correlates of ADHD using behavioral, cognitive, emotional, and biological methods. Interested RAs must have a 3.2 minimum GPA and be able to commit to: two academic terms of service, 10 hours per week, and evening and weekend hours. Contact emusser@fiu.edu for details.

Allen Neurocircuitry & Cognition Lab

Applicants should be interested in pursuing a career in cognitive or behavioral neuroscience, able to work in an animal lab setting with rats, and/or in an office setting working with humans. All necessary training will be provided. Please contact Dr. Timothy Allen at allenlab@fiu.edu for details. Website will be up soon so check out <http://allenlab.fiu.edu/> for any updates

Early Childhood Behavior Lab

The main goal of the lab is to develop and examine interventions for families of infants and young children with behavioral and developmental problems. We conduct studies on the effectiveness of parent-training interventions with a variety of at-risk and underserved populations, including infants and children with developmental disabilities and low-income families. Applicants must have 3.0 GPA, two semester commitment 10 hour per week. Application information is on lab website: <http://ecbl.fiu.edu/how-to-get-involved/undergraduate-opportunities/>

School Readiness Lab

The School Readiness Lab looking to recruit passionate and enthusiastic students to assist in three ongoing research studies examining early interventions for children with or at-risk for serious behavior and learning problems. Two semester commitment required. Students must dedicate 10 hours per week to the lab. Interested students can contact Dr. Hart directly. Lab Director: Dr. Katie Hart Contact: khart@fiu.edu

HANDS Lab

The lab studies motor skill in children and nonhuman primates, particularly how the hands are controlled. Our work examines links between motor abilities and cognition, including reasoning, communication, and language. Applicants must speak and read fluent Spanish. Application can be found <http://hands.fiu.edu>

Investigative Interviewing Lab

Undergraduate research assistants gain training in the roles of interviewer, experimenter, transcriber, scorer, data enterer, and medical screener. If you are an undergraduate student interested in becoming involved in working in the I-Lab for at least 3 semesters, and available at least 10 hours a week, please email me at: schreibe@fiu.edu.

Substance Use and HIV Neuropsychology Lab (SUHN) Lab

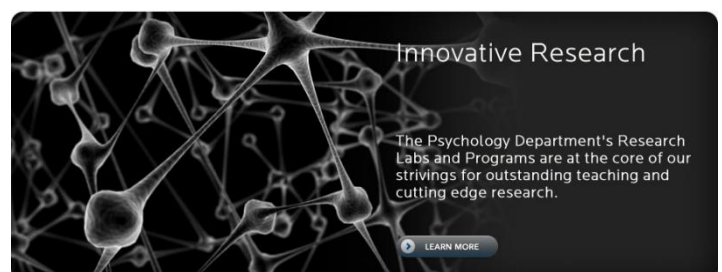
SUHN lab is currently focused primarily on the impact of marijuana use, which accounts for the highest percentage of primary substance use treatment admissions in Miami-Dade County and is experiencing increasing use among adolescents and adults nationwide. Applicants need 3.0 GPA, commit to 10 hours per week, have availability between 2-7pm 2xs per week. If interested: send PDF with brief paragraph explaining interest in research and in this lab, availability with evenings included along with approximate starting and ending dates, and an unofficial transcript to dpaula@fiu.edu

Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory

Research in the lab focuses on understanding the interplay between learning and visual processes in object categorization, using a combination of behavioral, computational and brain imaging techniques. Only students in excellent academic standing will be considered for these positions. Preference will be given to students with strong quantitative and/or computer programming skills, and to students who are highly motivated to acquire such skills. Contact: Dr. Fabian Soto- fabian.soto@fiu.edu

Program for Attention, Learning, and Memory (PALM)

The Program for Attention, Learning, and Memory (PALM) is directed by Dr. Joseph Raiker and is dedicated to positively impacting the lives of children and families struggling with ADHD. This is accomplished through research focused on advancing our understanding of neurocognitive deficits (e.g., attention, memory) in children with ADHD and how these deficits interact to adversely impact core areas of functioning (e.g., attention problems, learning). Additionally, we are conducting research focused on the development of novel treatments targeted at improving underlying neurocognitive dysfunction with the hope that improvements in these areas will lead to sustained improvements in functioning (e.g., improved academic functioning). Contact Dr. Joseph Raiker for more information: jraiker@fiu.edu



Welcome New Panther Faculty!

Dr. Timothy Allen, Assistant Professor

Dr. Timothy Allen is the Director of the new Neurocircuitry & Cognition Lab in the Cognitive Neuroscience Program and Department of Psychology at FIU. The lab is being established to study the neurobiological mechanisms of cognition and related mental health disorders. The lab places an emphasis on the role of long-range connections between the hippocampus and prefrontal cortex using animal models of human cognition allowing the use of biological tools not otherwise available in human research. The lab will seek to translate animal findings to human populations through close collaborations with FIU colleagues that have expertise in human neuroimaging and clinical research.

Dr. Allen earned his doctorate at Yale University in 2008 studying neurobiological mechanisms of learning and memory under the renowned neurophysiologist Dr. Thomas H. Brown. He then completed research as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Irvine in July 2013 under Dr. Norbert J. Fortin studying the neurobiological basis of temporal context. Most recently, he served as an Associate Project Scientist at the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory at the University of California, Irvine working with Dr. Norbert J. Fortin and Dr. Craig Stark, until he recently joined the faculty in the Cognitive Neuroscience Program and Department of Psychology at FIU. Dr. Allen is very enthusiastic about joining the world class faculty in the department and contributing to the mission of the program



Dr. Fabian Soto, Assistant Professor



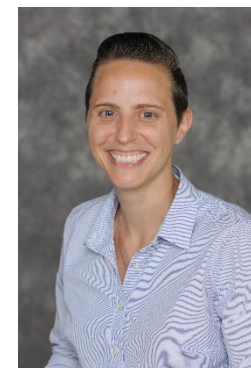
Dr. Fabian Soto earned a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Chile in 2005, and his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Iowa in 2011, under the mentorship of Dr. Ed Wasserman. Between 2011 and 2014, Dr. Soto completed his postdoctoral training with Greg Ashby, working in the Laboratory for Computational Neuroscience at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dr. Soto studies the mechanisms of learning and generalization at play in human cognition, particularly during object categorization and causal inference. His approach to research allows him to use tools from a wide variety of disciplines to tackle challenging research problems. Specifically, his work involves developing computational models of these processes, and testing them using neuroimaging techniques imaging (both fMRI and EEG) and behavioral research.

Dr. Elisa Trucco, Assistant Professor

Dr. Elisa Trucco joins us from the University of Michigan where she completed her postdoctoral work in genetics and problematic substance use in adolescence, after finishing her graduate work at the University at Buffalo and clinical internship at Yale University. Dr. Trucco's program of research is grounded in developmental psychopathology. Her work examines the etiology of substance use from a social ecological perspective. This involves delineating risk and protective factors for the development of adolescent problem behavior and substance use across multiple levels of analysis, including biological factors (genetics), social environments (peers, parents, neighborhoods), and individual characteristics (temperament, personality).

Namely, Dr. Trucco is interested in examining genetic and personality factors that increase or decrease susceptibility to parenting practices and peer influence for engaging in substance use. Dr. Trucco also investigates developmental pathways to substance use onset through genetic factors, temperament, externalizing behavior, and social influences. In addition to her research, Dr. Trucco is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise in adolescent and young adult depression and anxiety, as well as family and couples therapy. Overall, the primary aim of her programmatic work is to uniquely contribute to the improvement of existing substance use prevention programs for youth.



Dr. Michael Chen, Instructor



Dr. Michael Chen is one of two new instructors in the Psychology Department at FIU. He recently received his doctorate in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Kentucky. Michael's research focuses on reading processes and machine-generated speech. He has a wealth of experience building and teaching online courses, as prior to joining the faculty at FIU, he worked as an instructional designer for the University of Kentucky. Dr. Chen will be teaching the following courses online this Fall: PSB 4002 Introductory Biopsychology, PSY 4931: Senior Seminar with a focus on Engineering Psychology and PSY 3213: Research Methods. In all of his courses, Dr. Chen strives to create an inquiry-based learning environment to encourage class discussion. As students are often more motivated when they can relate course material to their lives, Dr. Chen uses instructional methods to relate course material to real life situations using a combination of video clips, in-class demonstrations, and experiments.

Dr. Rachel Ritchie, Instructor

Dr. Rachel Ritchie completed her undergraduate and graduate training at Florida International University and is a Miami-Native. Dr. Ritchie earned her Ph.D. in developmental psychology, and her research interests include online teaching and learning, the use of learning assistants and active learning in the classroom, identity development, identity-focused interventions, parent-child relationships, and positive and progressive developmental change during adolescence and emerging adulthood. Several of Dr. Ritchie's online classes are Quality Matters certified and are award winning. This past year, two of Dr. Ritchie's online courses won Distinguished Course Awards for Student Engagement (CLP4314: Psychology of Health and Illness and PSY4931: Senior Seminar with a focus on Positive Psychology). Dr. Ritchie is serving as a Fellow for Center for Advancement of Teaching during the Fall of 2015.



Mark Your Calendar!

Classes begin	Monday, August 24 th
Last day to add/drop without financial liability	Monday, August 31 st
Last day to apply for graduation	Friday, September 18 th
Late registration with instructor signature and department stamp	Tuesday, September 1 st – Friday, September 4 th
Late registration with instructor signature, department stamp, and dean's signature	Monday, September 7 th til the end of term
FIU McNair Scholars Research Conference	October 14-16 th
Psychology Student Conference	Thursday, October 22 nd
Last day to drop with DR	Monday, November 2 nd
McNair Applications Due	Friday, November 20 th



Florida International University
 Presents
 The 2015 FIU McNair Scholars Research Conference

October 14 – 16, 2015
 Modesto A. Maidique Campus • Miami • FL

Undergraduate students working on research
 under the guidance of faculty should attend

- Abstract submissions
- Poster/Oral presentations
- Campus tour
- Keynote speakers
- Graduate school fair
- Q & A panel
- Workshops
- Networking reception

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SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT NOW :

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