

The PsyClone

The Alumni Newsletter of the Iowa State Psychology Department

The Inaugural Issue of a New Newsletter

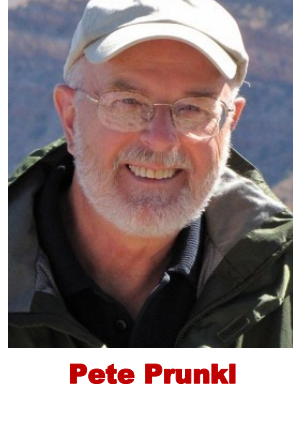
If you love Iowa State and the ISU Psychology Department and wish there was a way to keep in touch with life at Lagomarcino Hall, say hello to The PsyClone. As editor of this new venture, I hope to publish two PsyClones a year. The intent is to give psych alums an overview of the people, research and issues that populate our beloved psych department.

The impetus for The PsyClone arose many times over the past several years. Whenever a student fundraiser called from ISU to ask if I would contribute to the Psychology Excellence Fund of the ISU Foundation, I'd usually agreed. In the back of my mind (if there is such a place), I wondered if the money ever got to the Psychology Department.

In October 2018, I was invited back to ISU by the Alumni Association. They were honoring the Class of 1968 on its fiftieth anniversary. That was the year I received a Master's in Industrial/Organization Psychology from ISU.

During my weekend on campus, I visited with Susan Cross, chair of the psych department. We discussed my concern for my contributions and her interest for keeping in touch with psych department alums. Susan also wanted to assure alumni that money given to the Psychology Excellence fund was being put to good use.

So, our first issue of The PsyClone is devoted to the Psychology Excellence Fund—how it works and what good it does. Other issues may take us in different directions. Your suggestions are welcome.



Pete Prunkl



Ceren Gunsoy

Is it better to be a cheater or a failure? That intriguing question served as the title of an article by Ceren Gunsoy et al. Some of the research undertaken by Dr. Gunsoy to answer that question was funded by the Psychology Excellence Fund at ISU.

Ceren Gunsoy, a native of Turkey, received her Ph.D. from ISU in 2017. She is now an assistant professor of psychology at Clemson University where she teaches social and cross-cultural psychology. She is continuing her work on cultural differences at Clemson.

Ceren and her colleagues thought that students in an honor culture like Turkey would react aggressively when confronted with proof that they cheated on an assignment. Not reacting with aggression would be equivalent to admitting responsibility for the misdeed. She thought Midwestern students would get aggressive when told they had performed poorly. The Turkish students acted as expected, but there was no difference in aggression or mood for being labeled a cheater or a failure among the ISU students.

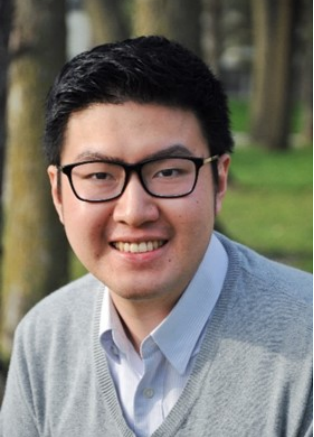
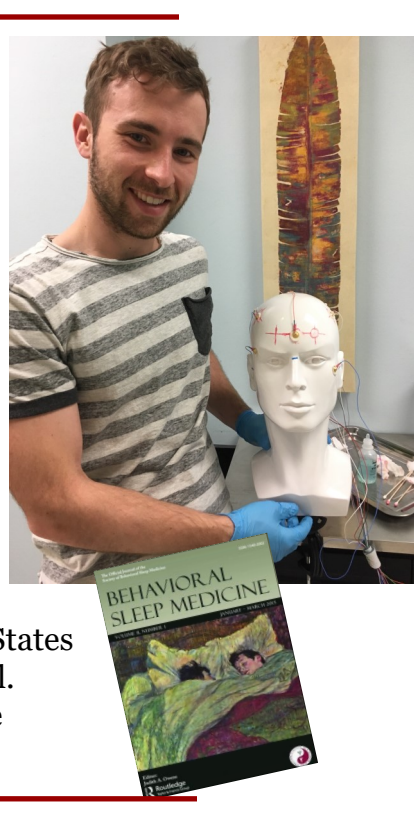
"I used the money to pay students in the United States and Turkey who participated in my dissertation study," she wrote in an email. "Thanks to the Excellence Fund, I was able to finish my dissertation on time."

Garrett Hisler

Native of Springport, Michigan, Garrett is completing his fifth year of his Ph.D. program in social psychology. His interests are in the interrelationships of sleep, impulsivity and risk taking. In one published study, he examined whether sleepiness correlated with risk taking. Here was where the Psychology Excellence fund was needed. Between 115 and 130 participants earned as much as \$5 for the risk taking assessment.

In another study, the stakes were higher. Participants could earn \$50 over a two-week period. Again, a grant from the Psychology Excellence fund gave Garrett the real money he needed to finish his dissertation.

"Currently I'm applying for post-doctoral positions around the United States and hope to start my first post-doc next year," wrote Garrett in an email. "Afterwards, I intend to apply for faculty positions at research intensive universities."



Ben Lam

After he received his Ph.D. from ISU in 2016, Ben moved to Australia where he is a Research Fellow at the University of Queensland. His interests are in cultural psychology.

"Understanding the profound influence of culture on human behavior is an important part of my research interests," said Ben.

Like Ceren and Garrett, Ben used funds from the Psychology Excellence Fund to provide incentives for his research participants. His American sample came through the subject pool system, but he needed the funds for his Chinese participants.

In that study, he found that Chinese were more likely than European Americans to think that changing oneself for one's partner to accommodate differences was beneficial for the relationship. That is, said Ben, "Chinese believe that a couple who is willing to adjust will have a better quality and longer lasting relationship than a couple who do not adjust but value their differences." His findings were included in a chapter Susan Cross and Ben wrote for the book, *The Psychological and Cultural Foundations of East Asian Cognition*.

How the Psychology Excellence Fund is Used

As you can tell from Ceren, Garrett and Ben, the Department of Psychology Excellence Fund supports graduate student research. But it does much more than that.

We use the funds to provide lunch for our new graduate students during their orientation to the department. These resources also provide some of the food and drink for our Fall Picnic, where new graduate students, staff, and faculty are introduced to the rest of the department and where we all catch up after the summer break.

We've also used these funds to host guest speakers from other universities. Not only do these speakers broaden our students' experience, but they are also good ambassadors for ISU when we are recruiting graduate students and new faculty from among their students.

These funds have also allowed us to say a proper "good bye" to retiring faculty. We have had retirement receptions recently for three pillars of the department: Norm Scott (Counseling), Veronica Dark (Cognitive) and Fred Lorenz (Social). There aren't enough words (or space in this newsletter) to spell out how much their tireless work has impacted generations of students and the department faculty.

Overall, your gifts to the Department of Psychology Excellence fund allow us to assist students and enhance their experience at ISU. Students and faculty alike agree that the sense of community we share is one of the best parts of the department, and your gifts help create that environment. We promise to steward your gifts well, so that the PsyClone nation grows larger and stronger.

Go Cyclones!



Susan Cross

The PsyClone is published periodically throughout the year.

What would you like to know about our ISU Psych Department?

E-mail or mail news, ideas, letters and photos to:

psychclone@iastate.edu

Pete Prunkl, 421 South Ellis Street, Salisbury, NC 28144

Thank you.

Want to continue the work of the Psychology Excellence Fund?

Donate here: <https://bit.ly/isupsych>

Want to share your ideas for future issues of PsyClone?

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