

## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Alumni Update



SUMMER 2021

### Follow us on social media!



Undergrad Alumni: Send us your updates at the following link: <https://forms.gle/fh5RX5DfLNUuu9i6>

Graduate Alumni: Send us your updates at the following link: <https://forms.gle/hh6X4EjEEZj5reio6>

Hello alumni and friends!

We hope you are all enjoying your summer so far. Summer tends to pass all too quickly on a college campus, however we do look forward to an increased level of normalcy in the upcoming Fall semester with the return to in-person classes for students.

We are happy to share with you some updates from alumni who have reached out to us. If you have any updates that you would like to share with us for an upcoming newsletter, we invite you submit your news through our alumni update form: <https://forms.gle/hh6X4EjEEZj5reio6>

We would also like to share with you some sad news. We recently learned of the passing of one of our emeritus faculty members, Dr. Thomas D'Zurilla, who joined our department at its inception in 1965. Marv Goldfried and Dan O'Leary have written an obituary that we share with you on page 3 of this newsletter.

## Department News

Dr. Marci Lobel (Professor, Social & Health Psy) was awarded the College of Arts & Sciences 2021 John S. Toll Endowed Award for Teaching Excellence. Marci was selected based on her exceptional teaching & passion for her field of study, as well as for the mentorship of her students.

Dr. Jessica Schleider (Assistant Professor, Clinical), Dr. Michael Mullarkey (Postdoc), & PhD student Mallory Dobias co-authored a therapeutic self-help workbook for adolescents. "The Growth Mindset Workbook for Teens" was just published and was the #1 new release in Teen and Young Adult Mental Health on Amazon.

Dr. Joanne Davila (Professor, Clinical) was featured in Story Collider's "Stories of COVID-19: Love, Part 1" interviewed by Erin Barker. After the story, the host speaks with Joanne Davila about how the pandemic is affecting relationships. <https://www.storycollider.org/stories/2021/1/27/stories-of-covid-19-love-part-1>

## Retirements

Dr. Patricia Whitaker (Integrative Neuroscience): Pat joined the Department Psychiatry and Behavioral Science in 1983, and joined the Department of Psychology in 1997. She has been a valued member of the Integrative Neuroscience area (formerly Biopsychology) and we all wish her much relaxation in her well earned retirement!

Marilynn Wollmuth (Graduate Coordinator) has been overseeing the graduate office in Psychology since 2005. She has kept our graduate students well informed and on track as they navigated the journey from admission to hooding. She will be retiring at the end of the summer, and is already working on her travel plans. Safe travels, Marilyn!

Carol Carlson (Undergraduate Advisor): Carol retired this Spring after working in the Psychology undergraduate office for over 30 years. Psychology is one of largest undergraduate majors at Stony Brook, and steering the countless undergraduate psychology majors towards their graduation is not an easy task. We wish her the best in her retirement!

## ALUMNI UPDATES



**LaPearl Logan Winfrey** (1988, Clinical, Advisor: Goldfried) I retired as Dean and Professor from the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University 12/31/2019. In August 2020 I received the James M. Jones, Lifetime Achievement Award, for "longstanding and distinguished contributions to the field of racial and ethnic minority psychology through teaching and training", from the Minority Fellowship Program of the American Psychological Association. I still practice a bit and also serve on several not-for-profit boards focusing on integrating mental health and diversity/equity/ inclusion perspectives in strategic planning, and person retention and well-being.

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**David Gersh** (1981, Social/Health, Advisor: Friend) Completed 40 years teaching psychology at Houston Community College (2 years adjunct faculty, 38 years resident faculty). I am going to try to make to 40 years resident faculty, but cannot promise! Also 20 years as a volunteer at Holocaust Museum Houston.



**David A Karpf** (1975, Clinical, Advisor: Levine) I am proud to have been a member of only the second class in Clinical Psychology at Stony Brook where we were one of the first programs which had direct clinical training with clients in the first year! I also appreciated my research experience with the amazing Dr. Marv Levine where we studied Thinking Aloud in Human Discrimination Learning. I have now retired from Clinical practice after 43 years and live in Gainesville, Florida with my wife Alee Karpf. I am fortunate to have two daughters living in town along with five grand-children!

**Steven Greer** (1976, Clinical, Advisor: Calhoun) Retired from private practice in clinical neuropsychology in February, 2019, in Hurst, a suburb of Ft. Worth, Texas, after 37 years practicing. So far as I know, I was the first Texan (also the last?) in the clinical program. Expected to be wearing Western wear, I must have disappointed, in the hippie era at SUNY. But Stony Brook did not disappoint. I learned research and currency habits that allowed a shift from cognitive behavior therapy to psychological assessment to neuropsychological assessment and a solution-oriented brief therapeutic approach. Pandemic has temporarily delayed volunteering plans with the V.A., Alzheimer's Association, and SMU's Perkins Seminary. Two in my clinical class of 10 students are deceased, one changed profession, three in academia, the rest of us primarily in practice. Something to consider.

**Dean F. Salisbury** (1990, Integrative Neuroscience/Biopsychology, Advisor: Squires) I have been involved in first episode psychosis clinical neuroimaging since leaving SB, spending 22 years at Harvard Medical School, and the last 9 at the University of Pittsburgh. We use EEG, MEG, and MRI to track brain functional pathophysiology and structural pathology during the first year of psychosis, with a focus on schizophrenia. Our work has contributed to the emphasis on earlier interventions to prevent the progressive debilitation of psychotic disorders.



**Anthony Napoli** (1996, Social/Health, Advisor: P.Wortman) I recently co-authored a manuscript, titled "The Relationship Between Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy and Client-Therapist Attachment on Symptom Reduction", with a former graduate student of mine, Kelly Marie Tobin, based on our recent research on Equine Therapy. The paper is currently under review for publication.

**Eileen Kennedy-Moore** (1992, Clinical, Advisor: Stone) During the pandemic, my clinical practice has been busier than ever, but I've also been working hard to share useful information about psychology on a wider scale. Building on our book, *Growing Friendships: A Kids' Guide to Making and Keeping Friends*, my coauthor and I convinced our publisher to create a funny, practical, and FREE ebook that we wrote for kids (ages 6-12) called *Growing Friendships During the Coronavirus Pandemic: A Kids' Guide to Staying Close to Friends While Being Apart*. Anyone can download a copy [here](#). I also gave many online presentations for schools and companies, did many media interviews (including Live with Kelly and Ryan, three times!), and wrote a bunch of pandemic-related posts for my blog, *Growing Friendship on Psychology Today*, which now has over 4 million views. My newest project is a series of 2-min videos on YouTube, offering Quick Friendship Tips for parents to help their kids: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjgMGN8v3nWg2iMG9v4eCZurnT-aan-Qv>



## In Memoriam

### Thomas J. D'Zurilla

Thomas J. D'Zurilla, a person who has been described as "a true gentle soul," passed away on May 31, 2021 at the age of 82 after a brief illness. He is mourned by his family, many friends, and colleagues throughout the world.

For those who knew him professionally, Tom was much more than a person with a quiet demeanor. He was an astute and insightful psychologist, with a very strong dedication to improve the field of psychotherapy. He obtained his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Illinois in 1964, and arrived at Stony Brook University in 1965 as an assistant professor in the yet to-be-developed clinical psychology program. During his years as a faculty member, Tom played an essential role in the development of the Stony Brook's clinical program. As he rose to the rank of Full Professor, Tom was instrumental in exploring and furthering what at the time was an innovative approach in the treatment of psychological problems. Indeed, he was among a number of professionals internationally whose work helped develop the field of behavior therapy which, as a result of his efforts, eventually evolved into the field of cognitive behavior therapy, now an essential approach to the treatment of psychological problems.



*Dr. Thomas D'Zurilla, circa 1970*

In his clinical and research work, Tom unquestionably contributed to the improvement of the lives of others. Using both his heart and mind, he collaborated with several colleagues to develop what has become one of the field's most important clinical procedures, namely social problem solving. With a former graduate student, Arthur Nezu, he wrote many articles about problem solving in the 1970s and thereafter, and they developed the Social Problem Solving Inventory. In 2004, he published a book *Social Problem Solving: Theory, Research & Training* with another former graduate student Edward Chang, and Lawrence Sanna. A few years later, together with a graduate student, Alissa Bell, Tom documented with a meta-analysis how problem solving treatment can be as effective as other psychosocial treatments and varied medications in the treatment of depression. His clinical and research work with problem solving inspired other professionals throughout the world to make use of this therapeutic intervention to treat a wide variety of psychological problems, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, impulsivity in children, family conflict, and numerous other psychological problems. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Marvin R. Goldfried and K. Daniel O'Leary  
Stony Brook University

