

Meet Our Students



Second-Year Cognitive/Social students:

Front row: Chris Altman, Ethan Dahl, Laura Donaldson

Back row: Cameron Davidson, Katy Dunlap, Aditi Suryanarayan



First-Year Cognitive/Social students:

Front row: Kinsey Bryant-Lees, Kao Lee Yang, Kim Buxton, Kayla Alves, Elizabeth Campbell

Back row: Matt Ladwig, Ryan Strimple, Chris Thomas



Second-Year Clinical students:

Front row: Hilary Moore, Kelcey Hall, Amanda Henderson

Back row: Derek Gosman, Kristina Hernandez, Victor Figuereo, Alex Nyquist



First-Year Clinical students:

Alyssa Spurling, Sara Comstock, Keisha Woodall, Carin Smith, Meredith Cors, Julia Matsen

Student Biographies

Cognitive & Social Processes students

Chris Altman

Hello. My name is Chris Altman and I am a second-year Master's student in the Cognitive and Social Processes program. I received my Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Greensburg (UPG). As an undergraduate at UPG my primary research focus was in legal psychology, relating psychological principles to areas of the legal system. Under Dr. Pickel I hope to continue this line of research while earning my Master's Degree. After receiving my Master's Degree from BSU I hope to move on to a doctoral program and earn my Ph.D. in legal psychology.

Kayla Alves

I am currently a first year student in the cognitive and social processes program where I am a graduate assistant for Dr. Pickel and Professor Truelove. I grew up in a small town in Rhode Island and got my Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Roger Williams University which is a small school in Bristol, Rhode Island. During my senior year of undergrad I conducted research focusing on the impact of cross-examination of victim impact testimony on juror's confidence in their sentencing recommendation. I am interested in legal psychology and hope to continue conducting research within this field. In the future I hope on attending a Ph.D program in legal psychology.

Kinsey Bryant-Lees

Hi, my name is Kinsey Bryant-Lees and I am a first year Master's student in the Cognitive and Social Processes program. I received my BA in psychology with a minor in women's studies from Denison University. As an undergraduate, my research focused primarily on gender and sexual orientation stereotypes specifically within the workplace. I would like to continue working with this area of research throughout my Master's program. Currently, I am the GA for Dr. Kite and Dr. Gentry, and a TA for Prejudice and Discrimination. After earning my Master's degree from Ball State, I hope to enter a Social Psychology Ph.D. program.

Kim Buxton

I am a first-year student in the Cognitive and Social Processes program. I earned a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Philosophy along with a minor in Sociology from Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. As an undergraduate I completed an independent research practicum dealing with religious attitudes and work volition as well as a community service practicum. At Ball State I am a graduate assistant for Dr. Mary Kite and Dr. Heather Adams. Although my research interests are still somewhat broad, much of my interest is in areas such as self-presentation, belief perseverance, and social psychology as it relates to religion. I plan on honing my interests while at Ball State and gaining valuable experiences to prepare me for my future endeavors.

Elizabeth Campbell

My name is Elizabeth Campbell. I am a first year in the cognitive/social program. I received a BA in Psychology from Marian University. As an undergraduate my research focused on the effects of position and work experience on self-efficacy and attribution. My career goals are to continue my education in a doctoral program. Eventually, I want to teach and conduct research at the collegiate level.

Ethan Dahl

I am currently a second year student in the Cognitive and Social Processes Master's program here at Ball State University. I grew up in the small town of Kennedy, Minnesota and received my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Minnesota State University in Moorhead Minnesota. My research background has involved the topics of violent media, virtual worlds/interreality, and language interpretation. Current interests I have center around the concepts of social facilitation, risk, gambling, and online media interaction. Upon completing my degree at Ball State I plan to pursue my Ph.D. in Social Psychology.

Cameron Davidson

I am from Noblesville, Indiana and am a second-year grad student in the cognitive/social program. I earned my undergraduate degree from Ball state. My primary interests pertaining to research include sleep and neuroscience. I am interested more specifically in attitudes relating to sleep and sleep hygiene as well as the neurological component of sleep. I eventually would like to obtain a doctorate to teach and do research at the collegiate level.

Laura Donaldson

I am a second-year student in the Cognitive/Social Processes program. I received my BA in Social Studies Secondary Education from Ball State University and then went on to teach at Arsenal Technical High School in downtown Indianapolis. While teaching, I became intrigued about learning disabilities, specifically language processing disorders, such as dyslexia. I am also interested in neuroscience. My goal upon completing this program is to obtain a PhD with the intention of teaching and further pursuing research.

Katy Dunlap

Hello! I'm a second year Master's student in the Cognitive and Social Processes program. I obtained my BA in Psychology from Manchester College (now called Manchester University). While there, I worked on a couple of independent research projects, one that looked at attitudes towards homosexuality across different gender, religion, and age categories; and another that analyzed the emotional and behavioral effects of poverty on school children. Currently I am interested in attitudes and prejudices, and I would like to explore how those interact with workplace productivity. My goal once I graduate is to obtain a PhD and teach at a college or university.

Matthew Ladwig

Hi, my name is Matthew Ladwig, and I am a first year pursuing a double Master's degree in Cognitive and Social Processes and Sport and Exercise Psychology. I did my undergraduate work in psychology at Purdue University-Calumet. During my undergraduate career, I performed research pertaining to the psychological effects of warm-up. I plan to continue this work as a graduate student while branching into neurocognitive areas such as perception of exertion, time, and the neurological bases of motivation in athletes and exercisers. One of my major research questions is how elite-level athletes use certain cognitive "tricks" to push themselves through extraordinary amounts of exertion and pain. After receiving my Master's degrees, I would like to pursue a PhD in either Cognitive or Neuropsychology with hopes of conducting research and teaching at the university level.

Ryan Strimple

Hi! My name is Ryan Strimple and I am a first year Master's student in the Cognitive and Social Processes program. I completed my undergrad here at Ball State where I received my B.S. in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Some of my research interests include eyewitness memory, juror decision making, and police lineups. After completing the program, I plan to continue my education at the doctoral level, perhaps in legal psychology.

Aditi Suryanarayan

Hi, I'm in the second year of the Cognitive and Social Processes Program. I am from India, which is where I received my first Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. I am currently working as a Graduate Assistant for Dr. Kristin Ritchey. My broad areas of interest include human/animal behavior and cognition. I am specifically interested in concepts like theory of mind, the biological basis of behavior and linguistic competence in humans. I plan to pursue my Ph.D. in Cognitive/Biological Psychology after I complete my Master's degree.

Christopher Thomas

Hello. My Name is Christopher Thomas and I am first year Master's student in the Cognitive and Social Processes Program. I received my Bachelor of Science in Psychological Science with minors in Interpersonal Relations and Human Development from Ball State University. My research interests include decision-making, attitudes, and selective exposure. After completing my Master's degree, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Social Psychology.

Kao Lee Yang

My name is Kao Lee Yang and I am a first year student in the Cognitive and Social Processes program. I am from Madison, WI and received my Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. My research interests are broad; however, I have an enduring interest in social psychological research surrounding issues of diversity and pluralistic societies. Currently, I am assisting in the labs of Drs. Littleford and Holtgraves. Upon graduation from Ball State University, I will be pursuing a doctorate in Social Psychology.

Clinical Psychology students

Dana Burgan

Hi! I'm Dana and I am a student in the Clinical Psychology program. I am originally from Fort Wayne, IN, and I received my BS in psychology from Ball State University. As an undergraduate, I assisted with a variety of research including research related to multisensory integration, hemispheric lateralization, and pragmatic meaning. I was also a teaching assistant for several courses and completed a senior thesis on perfectionism and health-related behaviors. I hope to continue exploring health-related aspects of psychology while at BSU. After earning my Master's degree, I hope to earn a PhD in either Counseling or Health Psychology.

Sara Comstock

Hello, I am a first year clinical psychology student from Ann Arbor, Michigan. I received my Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University where I studied psychology and women's studies. My primary research interests include anxiety disorders, trauma and women's issues. More specifically, I am interested in working with women exposed to domestic and sexual trauma. Here at Ball State University, I am also a research assistant within the iLearn department, where I conduct research pertaining to online and distance education. Post-graduation, I will continue my education in clinical psychology at a doctoral level with the ambition of pursuing a career in both academia and private practice.

Meredith Cors

Hi! My name is Meredith and I am a first year student in the Clinical Psychology program. I am originally from Elkhart, Indiana and I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a concentration in Cognitive Neuroscience from Manchester University. As an undergraduate, I worked on multiple research projects, the most recent being on malingering in college students. While working with a professor, I also did testing for the Disability Determination Bureau as well as LD testing and Neuropsych Evaluations for the community. Currently, I am a graduate

assistant for Dr. Taylor and Dr. Forbey. My main areas of interest are neuropsychological assessment and malingering. In the future, I plan on pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Neuropsychology with the hopes of becoming a Clinical Neuropsychologist.

Victor Figuereo

My name is Victor Figuereo and I am a second year Clinical Psychology MA student born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. I completed my undergraduate degree in psychology at Clark University in Worcester, MA. My research interests include multicultural psychology and diversity issues in mental health. Currently I am working as a TA for Dr. Michael Tagler and I am a member of Dr. Linh Littleford's research group. Once I complete my MA at Ball State, I hope to continue on to attend a PhD program in Clinical Psychology.

Derek Gosman

Hello! I am a second year Clinical Psychology student. I am from North Vernon, Indiana. I graduated from Ball State University with a double-major in Psychology and Philosophy. My research interests concern the neural mechanisms governing multisensory integration. As a result, the populations I am most interested in working with are those that exhibit some differences in their ability to integrate sensory information (e.g. ADD/ADHD individuals). My goal is to attain a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. with a specialization in neuropsychology.

Kelcey Hall

Hello! My name is Kelcey Hall, and I am from Valparaiso, Indiana. I am a second year Clinical Psychology student. I graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice. During my undergrad, I interned at a medium-security prison in a substance abuse unit, and my main interests are psychological assessments, criminal behavior, and psychology and law. I plan on pursuing my PhD in Clinical Psychology after completing my Master's degree at Ball State.

Amanda Henderson

Hi, my name is Amanda Henderson and I am a second year clinical student. I am from Valparaiso, Indiana and I received my BA in Psychology from the University of Indianapolis. My interests are in autism as well as neuropsychology. I am a graduate assistant for Dr. Wilczynski in the Special Education department who focuses her research on autism. My plan is to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical neuropsychology.

Kristina Hernandez

Hello! My name is Kristina Hernandez and I am a second year clinical psychology student. I am from California, the bay area, and graduated from California State University, Chico with a B.A. in Psychology. I absolutely love learning about the brain! My research interests are in brain injuries, neurodegenerative diseases, and neuroplasticity. I plan on getting my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Neuropsychology so I can become a clinical neuropsychologist and also continue to do research.

Julie Matsen

I am a first year Clinical Psychology student from Leonardo, New Jersey. I completed my undergraduate degree at Reed College. As an undergraduate, I completed a senior thesis examining the relationship between classic parenting typologies and disordered eating in the context of self-determination theory. My interests are in disordered eating, personality, and trauma. After completing my degree at Ball State, I intend to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

Alex Nyquist

Hello, I am second year in the Clinical program. I grew up in Kansas City, Missouri and earned a B.S. in Psychology at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. Currently I am a teaching assistant for Drs. Deckers and Forbey. After Ball State, I plan to earn a PhD in Clinical Psychology and hope to research adolescent depression. I am interested in cognitive-behavioral treatments for depression as well as prevention. Long term, I would like to pursue an academic career and continue to do research, but I am also entertaining the possibility of finding opportunities to balance clinical practice in my career as well.

Melissa Oran

Hello! My name is Melissa Oran and I am a first year Clinical Psychology student. I am from Indianapolis Indiana and I earned my BA at the University of Indianapolis. I majored in Psychology and minored in Criminal Justice with a concentration on Law Enforcement. During my undergrad I completed an internship in the corrections community and then went to work with at-risk youth in residential treatment; finally working with offenders at a community mental health center before returning to school. I am strongly interested in the successful re-entry of offenders, criminal/deviant behavior, media violence, addiction and serial murder. Upon completion of my Masters at Ball State I plan to obtain my PhD in Clinical Psychology.

Carin Smith

Hi! I'm Carin and I am a first year student in the Clinical Psychology program. In May, I graduated from Ball State University with a B.A. in psychology. As an undergraduate I assisted in various research topics involving cognition and was a teaching assistant for a few classes including the Sexual Psychology class. My honors thesis focused on the impact of video on procedural learning. While I have experience in several subsections of psychology, my main research interests revolve around interpersonal relationships and what influences the dynamics of the relationship. In the future I also hope to explore more about what role relationships play in different settings. I am currently a Graduate Assistant for Dr. Gentry and Dr. Gaither, assisting with classes and research. I am also working with Dr. Butler on expanding my undergraduate honors thesis, "The Lego Experiment." When I complete the Master's Program, I hope to earn my PhD in Counseling or Clinical Psychology.

Alyssa Spurling

Hello! My name is Alyssa Spurling and I am a first year Clinical Psychology student. I have my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Hannibal-LaGrange University in Hannibal, Missouri. During my undergrad I was able to do an internship and an externship. The internship was at Quincy Medical Group where I worked with speech and occupational therapy. The externship was at Washington University in St. Louis's Department of Neurology where I worked in the Center of Excellence for Huntington's Disease. At HLG, I was able to do two research studies. The first was a study on human sexual behavior and the second was a thesis that focused on the complex facets of marital satisfaction. Here at BSU I am blessed to be a GA for Dr. Wallace and Professor Brown. After BSU I plan to get my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, where I can work towards my ultimate goal of being a researcher and professor in area of human sexual behavior.

Keisha Woodall

Hello all! My name is Keisha and I am a Clinical student. I am originally from St. Louis, Missouri and graduated with a double major in Psychology and Sociology from Missouri State University. Since graduation, I have spent three years working in community mental health facilities with clients diagnosed with severe mental illnesses and substance abuse. In 2012 I accepted a research position with the IU Psychotic Disorders Program in Indianapolis assisting with clinical trials studying cortical erosion early stage psychosis. Additionally, I served seven years in the US Air Force. Currently, my research interests include Neuropsychology as it relates

to psychopathology. My goal is to attain a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Neuropsychology so I can become a Clinical Neuropsychologist.