



Newsletter

October, 2025



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Wow! Lots going on in October!

We've got three Lab Spotlights (two text versions and one video link)! We have some kudos to note, and we are still looking for some research assistants. We have a final schedule for the Fall Colloquium series (add to your calendar!) We also have some fun things to do – you can attend the upcoming GASP meeting, go to the Balloon Fiesta, or attend a tailgate football party (or all of the above).

Thanks to everyone for the submittals! Keep them coming!
If I missed anything – let me know!



Research Assistance in Aisle 10!



Cassie Boness is looking for 4-8 RAs for her lab. If you know some undergrads who may be interested, contact Kara Link

Colin MaHoney is looking for at least 7 RAs for his lab. If you know some undergrads that want to get some lab under their belt, contact Reagan Fitzke



Department Committees

Margo Hurlocker is looking for graduate students to join the Climate Change Committee, which is focused on enacting change to the climate in the department. If you are interested, please contact Margo.

A new listing of Department committees is being developed. We'll get it out to you as soon as we get it. Lots of opportunities to get involved and help out!

Stay Tuned!





Oct, 2025



Upcoming Events

Conferences and Societal Meetings

National Hispanic Science Network - NHSN 25th Annual International Conference, October 23-25, 2025 (Miami, Florida) - Questions? Send to Dr. Laura Ornelas (lco2l@unm.edu). <https://the-nhsn.org/conference/annual/-conference/>

Psychonomics, Nov 20-23, 2025 (Denver, CO) - recognized as the most important international meeting of cognitive psychologists from over 40 countries with over 2300 attendees expected. Questions? Ask Mike Benson
<https://www.psychonomic.org/page/2025annualmeeting>

Society for Judgement and Decision Making, Nov 21-24, 2025 in conjunction with Psychonomics in Denver CO - SJDM is an interdisciplinary academic organization dedicated to the study of normative, descriptive, and prescriptive theories of judgments and decisions. <https://sjdm.org> Questions? Ask Mike Benson

The New Mexico Psychological Association (NMPA), Fall 2025 Conference, Friday, October 17, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites Midtown (2500 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM). During the lunch hour, there will be a poster presentation session. Poster submissions are welcome from graduate students with either clinical or non-clinical concentrations as long as the project topic is clinically focused. It is past the poster deadline, but late entries will be accepted on a rolling basis. Questions? Ask Michaela Milillo

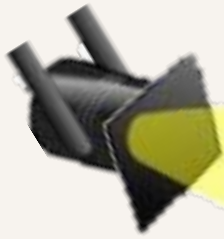
Om Mani Padme Hum

A weekly mindfulness meditation group for the Psychology community is re-starting and will meet weekly on Fridays from 8:30-9:00am in Logan Hall B14, beginning on 10/17. We will meet for about 20-30 minutes and do a brief mindfulness practice together. This is open to all psychology graduate students, staff, and faculty.

No experience or weekly commitment needed. Please feel welcome to come as you are and drop by whenever you can join.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to reach out to Ikela Moniz-Lewis or Katie Witkiewitz.

10/2025



Lab Spotlight

Mixed Methods Promoting Wellness and Recovery (MPWR) Lab

PI: Colin MaHoney, Ph.D.

Grad Student: Reagan Fitzke

RAs: Looking for at least 7 RAs for soon-to-be-launched pilot studies

Research Focus: Co-occurring PTSD and SUD following exposure to interpersonal violence (e.g., sexual assault, intimate partner violence [IPV], community violence) among women, and military trauma among veterans of all gender identities.

Recent work: Clinical PhD student Reagan Fitzke just received a F3I Notice of Award (NoA) from NIAAA to develop a protective behavioral strategies scale for normative alcohol and cannabis co-use among women sexual assault survivors to mitigate risk of revictimization!

Dr. Mahoney recently published a study on trajectories of PTSD symptoms and functional impairment among men and women veterans in the Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science with colleagues at the National Center for PTSD. Recently submitted a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal for publication focused on cross-lagged associations between perceived social support and alcohol misuse (while controlling for PTSD symptoms) among women IPV survivors. We are also preparing an R01 application for NIDA examining co-occurring cannabis use and PTSD among veterans, and launching 4 pilot studies that examine and treat PTSD+SUD among a variety of populations, including marginalized women and sexual and gender minority folx. All of our work is intended to inform, enhance, and develop integrated assessment measures and interventions for PTSD+SUD among underserved populations.

Great Job on the F3I Reagan!

More Lab Spotlight

Cognitive Rhythms Computation Lab (CRCL)

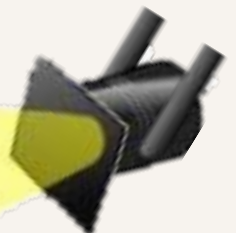
PI: James Cavanaugh, Ph.D.

Grad Student: Mark Lavelle

Lab Manager: Olivia Quintana

They've upped the Game – Watch the video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijlXlbtVX4M>





Even More Lab Spotlight

The Ornelas Lab

PI: Laura Ornelas, PhD

Grad Students: Kylie Wooden (First Year, CBB Program)

Undergrad RAs: Valeria Sanchez-Garcia and Maya Glass

Research Focus: Neurobiology of PTSD and Alcohol Use Disorders

Current work: Current ongoing studies in the Ornelas lab utilize predator odor stress models to induce traumatic stress in rats and examine alcohol drinking after stressor exposure. Specifically, the lab will be investigating the role of the endocannabinoid system in regulating maladaptive stress coping behaviors and alcohol drinking.

Logan Hall is now home to 12 brand new Med Associate alcohol self-administration chambers to examine alcohol consumption in rodents (big thanks to Carlos Maestras-Olguin for helping Dr. Ornelas install the chambers this summer!) CBB faculty interested in collaborating with the Ornelas lab on experiments using these exciting new chambers, feel free to reach out to Dr. Ornelas (lco21@unm.edu).

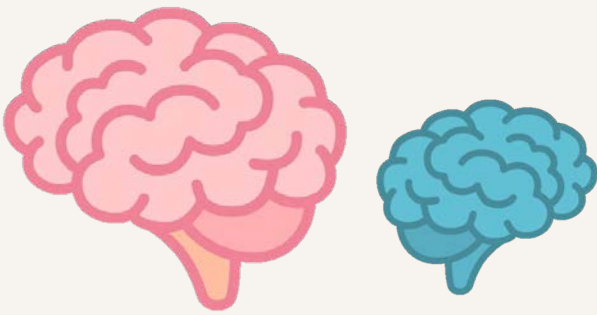



KUDOS!

Drs. Cecilia Hinojosa and Laura Ornelas have each been selected as ACNP Travel Awardees for the 64th annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) Annual Meeting being held in Nassau, Bahamas in January 2026! The ACNP Education & Training Committee reviewed over 390 applications and Drs. Hinojosa and Ornelas were each selected to receive this prestigious award. This is great accomplishment and one that should be commended. Congrats Drs. Hinojosa and Ornelas!



Oct



Fun Page! (although its all fun)

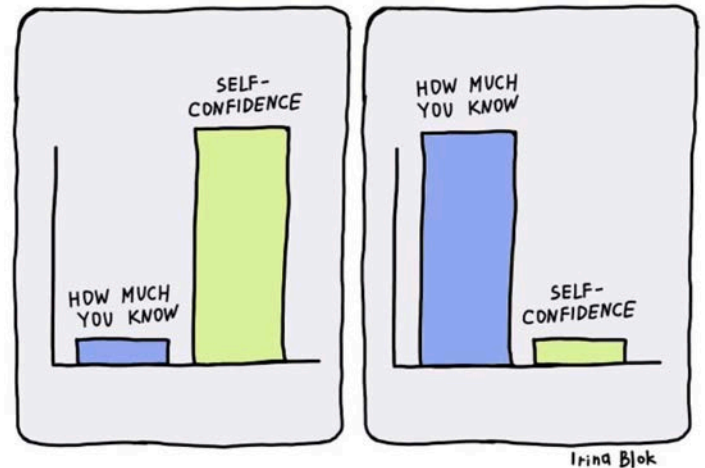
SAMPLING BIAS



"WE RECEIVED 500 RESPONSES AND FOUND THAT PEOPLE LOVE RESPONDING TO SURVEYS"

sketchplanations

self-confidence



Fun Stuff!

Beside the cartoons, fun stuff this month includes:
International Balloon Fiesta from the 4th to the 12th. Mornings are mass-ascensions, evenings are balloon glows and fireworks!

Tail-gate party! Last year, Ikela and Alex organized a tailgate before one of the football games, this year they are looking at the October 18th game vs Nevada. The game time isn't out yet so that may change things slightly, but just to put it on your calendars! Everyone is invited but to get specific details (location, time, etc) reach out to Alex (aconnolly1@unm.edu). As we get closer it would be nice to have a rough headcount just so we know for food and space, but for now just wanted to put the date out there. Hope to see you all there!





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Department NEWS!



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Colloquium Series Fall
2025

All colloquia at 9 am
in Logan Hall 125

- October 10: Fall Break
- October 17: TBA
- October 31: Martin Muller, Ph.D., University of New Mexico, Department of Anthropology
“Testosterone, cortisol and male reproductive strategies in wild chimpanzees”
- November 14: Andrew Conway, Ph.D., New Mexico State University, Department of Psychology
“What is IQ? Life Beyond General Intelligence”
- November 28: Thanksgiving Break
- December 5: Melissa Silveri, Ph.D., MHC Harvard University, Faculty of Medicine, McLean Hospital Imaging Center
“Transdisciplinary Research on Adolescence and Substance Use: Integrating Preclinical and Clinical Insights”



More KUDOS!

Congratulations to Carlos Maestra-Olguin, a graduate student in Dr. Nate Pentkowski's lab, for being awarded the Carl Storm Opportunity Fellowship for the 2025 Gordon Research Conference (GRC) Cannabinoid Function in the CNS. The Carl Storm Fellowship is dedicated to supporting the pipeline of excellent scientists attending Gordon Research Conferences. Congratulations Carlos!

