

Cognitive Science at Lehigh

Fall 2019

Director's Corner



Welcome to the start of the new academic year! Outside of academia, autumn probably doesn't sound much like a time of new beginnings. For those of us who live by the rhythm of the school year, though, fall is when we push the restart button. January 1 feels minor in comparison.

Our two largest contributing departments are in new surroundings this year. Computer Science & Engineering has moved out of historic Packard Lab to shiny modern facilities on the Mountaintop ("Building C"). The Psychology Department spent 14 months in temporary quarters while Chandler-Ullmann was renovated and is happy to be back home with luxuries such as an elevator and bathrooms that are bright, clean, and not in the basement.



Please stay in touch - join us on social media including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We now have a LinkedIn group called [Cognitive Science at Lehigh](#), and you can always reach me at barbara.malt@Lehigh.edu

Meet Our Majors



Meet **Emily Passalaqua '20**, who is a pre-med with a major in Cognitive Science and a minor in Sociology. She spent the summer after her sophomore year at the National University in Galway, Ireland where she was involved in several research projects on dementia. According to Emily, "New ways of helping patients with dementia and caregivers are continually being thought of and developed. Questions such as 'should caregivers be replaced by artificial intelligence' are frequently discussed." In the future, she hopes to do research related to biomedical artificial intelligence. "I think that the biomedical field could benefit significantly from A.I. by being able to treat more people and give them the extensive care

that they need. I think that A.I. is one of the more interesting topics in Cog Sci because it is so new and there is so much to be developed."

Larrisa Miller '20 is majoring in both Cognitive Science and Psychology. Larri has been involved in a study on "Negotiating Privacy Boundaries: The Collective and Social Aspect of Privacy Management," which examines the permeability of group barriers and how groups manage collective information. According to Larri, "having a background in Cognitive Science has been incredibly helpful for this project, as it requires some level of knowledge in both computer science and psychology. Overall, the interdisciplinary aspect of Cognitive Science is what attracted me to the major." Larri wants to go to graduate school to get a Ph.D. in Cognitive Science: "I would love to continue studying how humans interact with computers." Larri recently won an award for her work as our social media assistant.



News & Events

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY
Department of Psychology and the Cognitive Science Program

Dr. Lili Sahakyan
University of Illinois
Lessons Learned from Intentional Forgetting
October 18, 2019
12:10 PM
Chandler Ullmann, Rm. 133

My program of research examines how people retrieve appropriate memories and exclude inappropriate ones by focusing on the role of context processing in intentional forgetting. Because we use context to retrieve information pertaining to our past, processes that alter our representations of content can enhance or diminish our capacity to retrieve particular memories. I will review behavioral findings on intentional forgetting, which have been traditionally explained in terms of inhibition, and suggest that by taking a different theoretical perspective, we can make progress on other memory phenomena. I will also present recent evidence from the eye-tracking studies and fMRI studies examining neural signatures of intentional forgetting. Finally, I will extend the research on intentional forgetting to individual differences, including studies with older adults, and non-clinical populations with vulnerability for mental illness.

For more information contact:
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Kim Mejia '19 and Kathy Trinh '19

Our five seniors who graduated in May had incredibly diverse and interdisciplinary senior projects. They headed off to new experiences as diverse as their research: in IT and software engineering; serving the public through Teach for America and as an EMT; and working on the communication end of things seeking a job in data-journalism or reporting.

We were excited to see Cognitive Science highlighted as one of eight majors with good job prospects by U.S. News and World Report, <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2018-09-11/8-college-majors-with-great-job-prospects>. This batch of seniors proves the point!

We also have some news for future majors—we now offer a B.S. as well as a B.A. in Cognitive Science. This should meet the needs of a wider range of students and open up even more career opportunities.

Watch for future events on our program webpage, <https://cogsci.cas2.lehigh.edu/>

Spotlight on Alumni

It was great to see Michael Zurat '04 at Reunion in June! Michael left Lehigh with majors in Cognitive Science and Classics and a master's degree in Political Science. This diverse background launched him on career path that has taken many turns. Michael now works at Cognosante, a company specializing in innovation in health care technology. Michael's Cognitive Science background and research experience on robots with Prof. Hector Muñoz-Avila have served him well there, where he has worked on using robots to deliver health care information to children. Michael is fascinated by how people interact with robots and the assumptions they make about what robots can do and understand. Michael says his interest in robots and in how people communicate are what led him to Cognitive Science in the first place.



Research Roundup

Just some of the many recent faculty publications!

Brandone, A. C., Stout, W., & Moty, K. (2019). Triadic interactions support infants' emerging understanding of intentional actions. *Developmental Science*, *e12880*. doi:10.1111/desc.12880

Carlisle, N. B., & Nitka, A. W. (2019). Location-based explanations do not account for active attentional suppression. *Visual Cognition*, *27*, 305-316.

Chen, Z., Jia, H., Heflin, J., & Davison, B.D. (2018). Generating schema labels through dataset content analysis. *Companion Proceedings of the The Web Conference*, 1515-1522.

Lee, K., Yu Cho, Y.-m., and Park, M.-Y. (2018). Unmarked plurality and specificity in Korean and Japanese plural nouns: A preliminary study. In D. G. Hebert (Ed.), *International Perspectives on Translation, Education and Innovation in Japanese and Korean Societies*, pp. 121-132. New York: Springer.



Cognitive Science:
The Interdisciplinary
Study of Mind



Cognitive Science Program