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Psychology Department

Term: Spring | Issue 2 | Date: February 17, 2020

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: SULY BONILLA

1. What year are you?

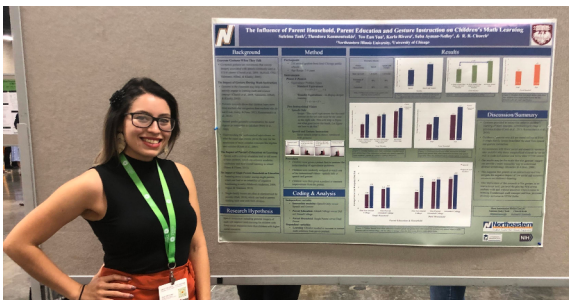
I am currently in the last semester of my senior year

2. What has been your favorite psychology class?

My favorite class has been child development lab

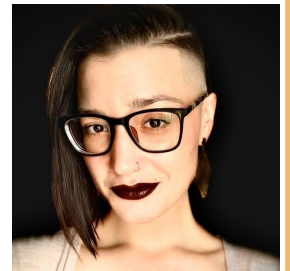
3. What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation I will be doing an Applied Behavioral Analyst Masters Program through Ball State University and continue working on my research, while striving to get into a PhD program.



PUBLICATION

Congratulations to Rebekah Monroe, current student, for having her research titled, "The Relationship Between Religious Trauma and Gender Roles of Adults within the Gender Spectrum in the United States Using Social Identity Theory" accepted in the 2020 edition of The Undergraduate Journal of Psychology at Berkeley.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mental Health Stigma Research Talk

Date: Thursday, February 20th

Time: 1:45pm- 3:00pm

Location: BBH 101

Event : Hindsight 2020

Date : Monday, February 24th

Time: 3:45PM- 5PM

Location: Alumni Hall South

GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFESSOR: DR. CHURCH

1.What are some of your hobbies?

Believe it or not because I do not have any artistic skill at all--I love art of any kind; fine, theater, dance and music—I try to attend some kind of art event as often as possible. Linked to this I guess is my love for interior design and home décor and fashion (although you would never guess it from my outfits). I am always rearranging my home and my friends' homes when I need a break from academics.

2.If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Paris of course

3.What is your favorite movie?

So many for different reasons but movies that convey themes of humanity: "It's a wonderful life"—best director ever—Frank Capra, "Parenthood"; Director, Ron Howard—another genius to capture the humanity of raising a family and virtually all the Toy Story movies—Pixar keeps tapping the human heart with these movies—and with nonhuman characters—the irony.

4.If you were not a professor, what job do you think you would have?

I can't even imagine since I have planned this profession since I was a child...but if there was some weird riff in the universe I suppose I would be some kind of *behind the scene* theater professional—costumes, prop person, etc. But actually, I see my current profession as more of a scientist or researcher. Teaching classes is really just a way to pass scientific training onto the next generation.

5.What's the best piece of advice you've received?

When someone shows you who they are, believe them.



PRESENTATION

Dr. Hollis -Sawyer participated in a panel talk in NYC. The focus of the discussion was about the "crossroads" between aging women's issues and feminism. This event occurred on Friday, January 31, 2020.



ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to Lynda Gibson for accepting a pediatric trauma psychologist postdoc position at the University of Chicago! Turn the page to learn more about Lynda and her academic journey!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LYNDA GIBSON

1. What year did you graduate?

I graduated in May 2011. In addition to being a Psychology major, while at NEIU I was in the University Honors Program and McNair Scholars Program. During my time at NEIU, I made a conscious effort to participate in activities and select courses that would help me move toward my long-term goal, which was to become a clinical child psychologist and conduct research that focused on risk and resiliency factors for minority families. For my capstone, I worked with David Farmer to complete a research project at the Institute for Juvenile Research/Disruptive Behavior Disorder's Clinic. I strongly believe that having this early research and clinical experience was extremely helpful when applying to graduate programs.



2. What graduate program are you in?

After graduating from NEIU, I enrolled in the dual Master's/PhD Clinical Psychology program at Illinois Institute of Technology. While in graduate school, I also worked at the University of Illinois Chicago on a grant-funded project that focuses on the implementation and dissemination of trauma-informed protocols. As part of my dissertation research, I created the Preschool Community Violence Awareness Project which is a program designed to evaluate the impact that community violence exposure has on early child development. As part of the last requirement for my PhD program, I am currently completing my pre-doctoral internship placement with the Dallas Independent School District. I am also in the process of interviewing for postdoctoral fellowship positions within academic medical center settings where I can continue my research and clinical work focused on early development, trauma exposure, and child psychopathology.

3. How did NEIU prepare you for graduate school and/or work?

I doubt that I would be where I am today without the people and opportunities that were available at NEIU. The ongoing mentorship that has been provided by several of the faculty in the psychology department has been extremely valuable in helping to chart my next steps and make long-term career decisions.

4. What advice would you give undergraduate students?

The best advice that I can give is to build multiple connections within the department and throughout the campus. While in undergrad, I completed research projects with several faculty and participated in activities across the university. Building these relationships has proved to be beneficial when applying to graduate school, looking for jobs, etc. One of the things that I have enjoyed the most about being an alum of the psychology department is being able to work with current students. Most recently, I have had students work with me on some of my own projects as a way to get early research experience. In addition, I have been fortunate to work with a few programs throughout the university to serve as a mentor for first-generation minority college students who are interested in attending graduate school.

DEPARTMENT EVENT: HINDSIGHT 2020



The department held the first of the Hindsight 2020 series on January 26th. The theme was alumni who have either completed or who are currently enrolled in Psy. D or Ph.D. programs. The alumni talked about their previous/current graduate programs and how their undergraduate experience prepared them for a Psy. D/ Ph.D. program. During the Q & A session, the biggest piece of advice that the alumni panel gave current undergraduate students was to become involved with research in order to gain necessary skills that are required for a Psy. D and Ph.D. program.

The second Hindsight 2020 event will take place on February 24th. The theme is alumni who either completed or are currently enrolled in a Masters in Social work program.

VOLUNTEER: MALIK JOHNSON

Malik is a Psychology major at Northeastern Illinois University, with an interest in LGBTQ studies. He enjoys meeting new people and engaging in different cultures. Known for his unmistakable smile and personable demeanor, Malik believes the key to cultivating a community of caring individuals is "to practice being unapologetically honest with ourselves and love one another, especially in our differences." Malik has volunteered with Masjid Al-Rabia for two years. Masjid Al-Rabia is an Islamic Community Center that provides an inclusive, affirming space for marginalized Muslims, offering Friday prayer service, weekly community involvement and free religious materials. As the Prison Outreach Coordinator, Malik communicates with incarcerated communal members via mail or phone who seek pen pals, religious doctrine and rulings, Islamic materials such as Qur'ans, kufis, hijabs, prayer rugs, and prayer beads. He also educates about conflicting spiritual matters and advocate on behalf of women, queer & transgender people, and marginalized Muslims.



Get Involved:

Masjid Al-Rabia's mission is to foster an Islam that leaves no one behind in their spiritual walk or relationship with God. Those wanting to get involved may donate money, religious materials for incarcerated and local communal members, or volunteer during weekly or monthly programming. [Signup or donate here.](#)

