

Psi Chi Newsletter

(The International Honors Society in Psychology)

Rutgers University- Camden welcomes Professor Andrew Abeyta, a new member of the Rutgers Camden Psychology Department. Professor Abeyta teaches Introduction to Psychology and Research Methods, both of which he is passionate about. Growing up in Colorado, Professor Abeyta was a first generation college student who attended Colorado College for his undergraduate studies where he acquired his bachelor degree. He then moved on to acquire his masters in social psychology at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Lastly, he acquired his PhD in social psychology from North Dakota State University. While attending graduate school Professor Abeyta encountered much success in publishing. He currently has over 20 publications in peer-reviewed journals. He is also the most proud of his publication in a top social psychology journal for his work during his PhD on nostalgia and social interaction. Professor Abeyta continues his research currently at Rutgers University focusing on nostalgia and the meaning of life. The goal is to improving the psychological well being of people as well as building their meaning of life through the use of nostalgia.

As part of his on going research he has found that nostalgia does indeed affect a person's sense of meaning of life and their connectedness to others. His research has also shown that if there is a lack of meaning of life or nostalgic reflections then there can be a negative impact on the over all psychological well being of a person. Professor Abeyta is very passionate about his work, therefore he continues to research deeper while allowing opportunities for students to work with him in his lab. Every semester Professor Abeyta looks for students to work in his lab to gain hands on research experience. As a first generation college student from a Mexican American heritage, he understands and values how much an opportunity can make a difference in a student's life. Being able to give opportunities to students is one of his main overall goals, to be an advocate for his experiences as a first generation student and to serve as a bridge in guiding students who need it. Professor Abeyta is a positive professor who is dedicated to his work and helping give his students the skills they need for their careers and opportunities that might be crucial to their education. Although he has had much success in the past we are sure Professor Abeyta will continue to succeed at Rutgers University

Undergraduate Students Requirements:

Be enrolled as a major or minor in a psychology program or a program psychological in nature

Have completed at least 3 semesters or equivalent of full-time college coursework

Have completed at least 9 semester credit hours or equivalent of psychology courses

Have a minimum 3.5 GPA for psychology courses

The Psi Chi Society membership fee is \$55. This one-time fee pays for lifetime Psi Chi membership and a certificate of membership.

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Dr. Rufan Luo joins the Rutgers Camden community from Temple University after receiving her PhD from New York University. As far back as she can remember, Dr. Luo has had an interest in how people behave, and why they think the way that they do. Dr. Luo was born and raised in China, where she received her bachelor's degree, which began her interest in language development and bilingualism in children. Her research has indicated that early language development and positive parent-child interactions leads to greater outcomes in later development; including college success.

With Camden being a diverse and connected community, Dr. Luo decided it would be a perfect fit for her research. Dr. Luo is an advocate of community-based research, and will be working with the Early Learning Research Academy in Camden, as well as a few partners in Philly. A piece of advice Dr. Luo has for psychology students is to find what aspect of psychology interests you the most, and expand on it. Welcome to Rutgers Camden, Dr. Luo!

Dr. Jamie Dunaev (assistant teaching professor, FACS-psychology, health sciences) published a number of coauthored research articles including: "Imagine that! The effect of counterstereotypic imagined intergroup contact on weight bias," in the journal *Health Psychology*

Courtenay Cavanaugh developed and chaired a symposium for the 2017 Society for Prevention Research Conference that was selected as an "abstract of distinction" for the conference.

Ruffian Luo published, Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., Luo, R., Bandel, E., Vallontton, C., & McFadden, K. (in press).
The early home learning environment predicts children's 5th grade academic skills. *Applied Developmental Science*.

Lauren Daniel:
Daniel, L.C., Aggarwal, R., & Schwartz, L.A. (In press).
Sleep in adolescents and young adults in the year after cancer treatment. *Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology*.