



Faculty

Sara Beck *Assistant Professor of Psychology*

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

My research centers on how children's active engagement with music and media can facilitate prosocial behavior and inclusion. As a lifelong musician and a firm believer that everyone can "do" music, I am interested in how making music with others fosters social bonding in both children and adults. I have examined preschool-age children's sharing and helping following brief musical interactions, and I continue to investigate how synchronous movement and perceptions of synchrony during music making affect social bonding in children and adults. Additionally, I have a line of research focused on school age children's thinking about gender in the context of a children's show featuring a genderless android. I view research as an inherently collaborative process, and I particularly enjoy the process of working alongside students to develop and refine research questions.

Beck, S. L., Rieser, J., & Erdemir, A. (2017). Singing without hearing: A comparative study of children and adults singing a familiar tune. *Psychomusicology: Music, Mind, & Brain*, 27(2), 122-131.

Beck, S. L., Hains, R., & Johnson, C. R. (2017). "PAL can just be themself": Children in the US Respond to *Annedroids'* Genderless TV Character. In D. Lemish & M. Götz (Eds.), *Beyond the Stereotypes: Boys, Girls, and Their Images* (pp. 225-236). Göteborg: Nordicom.

Dennis Goff *Charles A. Dana Professor of Psychology*

B.S., Lynchburg College; M.S., Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

I remain fascinated by the interplay between Psychology and Biology. Early in my career, I wanted to know how prenatal insults like exposure to alcohol, valium, or environmental hazards could affect the behavior of infant humans and other animals. Lately my interests are captured by the emerging ideas about how evolution has influenced human behaviors. I hope advances in the next decade or so will focus on developmental explanations that connect evolutionary influences with behaviors seen in adults. My real joy in research is mentoring students as they conduct their own first research projects. I enjoy working with students as they struggle to mold their initial ideas into testable hypotheses and collect their data. The most exciting part comes near the end of the projects when we analyze those data and find out if their hypotheses are supported.

Schwartz, B., Wilson, J. H., & Goff, D. M. (2019). *An Easyguide to Research Design & SPSS*, 2nd ed., Sage: Los Angeles.

Poudyal, S., Mason, L., & Goff, D. (May, 2015). Pitch of voice and type of pick-up line both affect desirability. Poster presented to Association for Psychological Science, New York NY.

Elizabeth Gross *Assistant Professor of Psychology*

B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of Virginia

I research how we see the world around us. Consider the steepest paved road in the Blue Ridge Mountains. It looks as if we are staring at a 45° angle but by law, the steepest road in Virginia is only 9°. Why would our visual system misrepresent and exaggerate the slopes of hills? I believe the answer is that the function of our visual system is not to represent the world accurately, but to represent our ability to act in the world. Even more surprising, our social environments, or friendships, can also alter how we see the world around us. My research focuses specifically on how individual differences, such as personality traits or attachment styles, interact with our social environments to affect visual perception. More broadly, I am interested in general questions of embodied psychology. For example, I use virtual reality to investigate how risk taking is related to measures of disgust and morality.

Gross, E. B. & Proffitt, D. R. (2013). The economy of social resources and its influence on spatial perception. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 7, 772.

Oishi, S., Schiller, J., & Gross, E. B. (2013). Felt understanding and misunderstanding affect the perception of pain, slant, and distance. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 4(3), 259-266.

Holly Tatum Professor of Psychology, Mary Sabel Girard Chair in Psychology

B.A., Mary Baldwin College; M.A., Ph.D., University of Tennessee

My research interests are diverse and span several different areas of psychology. I am interested in how personality traits correlate with stress, coping, and health. I have studied how feelings of revenge are related to illness symptoms and how sense of humor predicts physical and psychological well-being. I also conduct research on the scholarship of teaching and learning. I have examined how gender influences the college classroom experience of students and faculty. More recently, I have studied the efficacy of honor codes in reducing academic dishonesty. My interest in academic integrity was piqued by Randolph's longstanding student-run honor code. Our psychology curriculum is research-based which provides opportunities for students to engage in collaborative research projects with faculty. Many years of experience mentoring research students led to a collaborative book on the ethics of conducting psychological research with undergraduate students.

Corts, D. & Tatum, H. (2019). *Ethics in Psychological Research: A Practical Guide for the Student Scientist*. Sage: Los Angeles.

Tatum, H., Schwartz, B., Hageman, M., & Koretke, S. (2018). College students' perceptions and responses to academic dishonesty: An investigation of type of honor code, institution size, and student-faculty ratio. *Ethics & Behavior*, 28 (4), 302-315.

Randolph's Academic Offerings

- Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology
- Minor in Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The department offers study in a broad range of the fields of psychology, including courses in sensation and perception, cognitive, developmental, social, biological, personality, health, and evolutionary psychology.

The emphasis within these areas is to prepare our students to evaluate evidence about behavior and mental processes critically with a strong emphasis on research design and interpretation of data. The knowledge and skills acquired in our liberal arts program enable students to pursue a career in related areas or to continue their education at the graduate level.

Psychology majors enjoy the use of a contemporary laboratory to conduct research projects or collaborative research with faculty. Virtual reality was recently been added to the collection of laboratory equipment.

Randolph College's psychology laboratory was the first at a college or university in the American South. This tradition of a laboratory-based education continues in the current academic program.

Both research and practical experience are vital preparation for graduate school and most careers. The psychology program at Randolph College offers collaborative research opportunities with other students and faculty. The senior seminar is an opportunity to explore an empirical topic of your own interest in depth and then to present your findings.

The Psychology Department chartered a chapter of **Psi Chi**, the international honor society in psychology, in April 1993. Psi Chi is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science.

What Do Psychologists DO?

- Conduct scientific studies of behavior and brain function
- Identify psychological, emotional, behavioral, or organizational issues and diagnose disorders
- Research and identify behavioral or emotional patterns
- Write articles, research papers, and reports to share findings and educate others

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook* <https://.bls.gov/ooh> average annual wages for psychologists in May 2017 was \$87,200.