

Newsletter

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Department of Psychology - UNCG

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Top 5 Reasons to come to the DUCK Lab

- 1 Contribution to the understanding of children's development
- 2 Helps undergraduate and graduate students develop research skills and complete degree requirements
- 3 Free T-shirt, snack, and prize for children and free coffee for parents.
- 4 An hour for mommy/daddy to relax!
- 5 Free babysitting.



In this issue, we are excited to share with you our lab updates and some recent research findings.



 Find us on Facebook

We would like to invite you to "like us" on Facebook! It is the easiest way to keep up to date on all of our current studies and to learn more about child development research findings. We also provide fun activity ideas for parents and children.

[Like us at www.facebook.com/uncgducklab/](http://www.facebook.com/uncgducklab/)

Welcome!

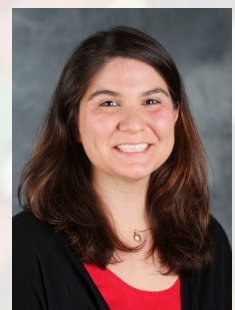


The DUCK Lab would like to announce the arrival of our newest graduate student, David Crane. David is a North Carolina native who earned his Master's degree in Experimental Psychology from Appalachian State University. He is currently settling into the lab, graduate school, and the Greensboro area. His research interests include the cognitive control of behavior, specifically as it changes throughout childhood. He currently lives in Winston-Salem with his wife and two dogs.



Where are they now?

Dr. Stephanie Miller was a graduate student in the DUCK Lab who received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology in 2012. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Mississippi, and is the principal investigator of the Cognition Underlying Behavior (CUB) Lab. Her research interests include the development of memory, the role of language in children's problem solving, and the relation between children's reasoning and their understanding of social situations. Stephanie received the UNCG Outstanding Dissertation Award in 2013 for her research examining the role of cognition and joint attention in infancy. This research, and Stephanie's career success, would not have been possible without the participation of our DUCK Lab children and parents. Thank you for your contributions!



Three and 4-year-olds trust experts, whereas
5-and 6-year-olds show a lot of optimism
about unfamiliar animals

Dr. Janet Boseovski and lab alumna Sabrina Thurman have completed the “Animals” study and it’s in press in the academic journal, *Child Development*. In this study, 3-to 4-year-olds and 5-to 6-year-olds were shown photos of unfamiliar Australian animals and given information about them from “informants” described as a zookeeper and a maternal figure. One informant provided positive information and the other provided negative information about the animal. Children were asked who was correct about the animal and were invited to touch the animal, which unbeknownst to them was a stuffed toy in a covered crate.



Younger children judged the zookeeper as correct, but reached into the crate more quickly when the maternal figure, rather than the zookeeper, gave positive testimony about it. So, these children are sensitive to expert knowledge, but they still look to a maternal figure when deciding whether to proceed in a potentially unsafe situation.



Older children tended to judge the informant who gave positive information as correct, but they did this more when such information was given by the zookeeper rather than the maternal figure, showing some sensitivity to expertise. These children’s reaching was not associated with the type of source of information provided. We conclude that an age-related “positivity bias” (tendency to view the world optimistically) interferes with older children’s ability to take into account expert information fully.

Our findings have implications for children’s safety. Knowing which type of information is most compelling to children of different ages will enable us to identify strengths and limitations in their thinking when learning new information about the world. This knowledge may inform the creation of developmentally appropriate training programs (e.g., animal awareness) and could be applied in the school curriculum more generally (e.g., teaching children about credible learning sources).



Sabrina Thurman, now a graduate student
at University of Tennessee

Thank you to all of the parents and children who participated in this study!

We also thank the office of Undergraduate Research at UNCG for providing Sabrina with funds to complete this research and the National Institute of Health for supporting Dr. Boseovski’s work.

A Student Story

Involvement in research enables students to gain many important skills, but it's also an excellent way to make long-term friends who are supportive through the challenging university years and beyond.

Daniella and Natalie met when they began working in the DUCK Lab. Natalie describes her nervousness as a newbie until she met Daniella and realized "at least I'm not the only freshman!" Natalie and Daniella worked together on many lab tasks and quickly became friends who stayed in touch throughout their undergraduate careers. Says Daniella, "Our friendship enabled us to push each other to accomplish as much as possible by continuing with psychological research, joining the honors program, and becoming President and Vice President of Psi Chi. Our friendship became a support system...I had a study buddy to keep me company on those late night library sessions and someone to share a laugh with on those rare moments of free time. Now, Natalie and I continue to be each other's biggest support as we both transition into this new phase of our lives."



Today, both ladies have gone on to very successful positions as research associates with ultimate plans to become clinical psychologists. Daniella is a Research Assistant at the Center for Addiction, Personality, and Emotion Research at the University of Maryland, and Natalie is a Research Assistant at the Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Department at Meharry Medical College. Says Daniella about her experience with Drs. Boseovski and Marcovitch in the DUCK Lab, "I learned that professors can have a tough persona in the classroom, but they really are kindhearted people who can motivate you to accomplish more than you ever thought possible." From Natalie, "...they are fun, caring, and intelligent people who push their students to achieve their best and benefit from college in both academic and personal advancements." We were glad to be a small part of Daniella and Natalie's journey and we wish them all the best in the future.



Featured Ducklings



Oliver (left) "My favorite thing about the duck lab is playing games and solving puzzles"

Wyatt (right) "My favorite thing about the duck lab is playing with the train."

Welcome MDLaB to UNCG!

We are pleased to welcome the Memory Development Lab (MDLaB) to the Psychology Department at UNCG and excited to announce our partnership between the DUCK and the MDLaB. Together, with your help, we can gain a better understanding of cognitive development.



Meet the MDLaB!



Dr. Jeni Pathman, Director

Jeni has worked with children and families in Durham (Duke University), Atlanta (Emory University), and Davis, California (UC Davis) to learn about memory and cognitive development.



Ieva Razhas, Lab Coordinator

Ieva has worked with children and families in San Diego, California (UCSD) to learn about how children learn language.

What do we study at the MDLaB?

We study how children learn and recall past events, children's memory for when and where events occurred, and how brain development affects memory across childhood.

What do children do in the MDLaB?

Children watch pictures on a computer screen, participate in staged events with the researcher, or photograph events in a museum. Immediately, or after a delay, researchers ask children about their memories for these events. The memory games that we play are fun for children (and researchers!). On the right, Ashley is showing Jeni what she remembered about a toy.



Meet the DUCK Lab!

Directors

Dr. Janet Boseovski

Dr. Stuart Marcovitch

Lab Manager

Angela Dyson

Doctoral Candidates

Naomi Chatley, M.A.

David Crane, M.A.

Candace Lapan, M.A.

Master's Candidates

Chelsea Hughes Maicus, B.A.

Research Assistants

Morgan Jewells

Kimberly Marble

Nicole Pocchiari

Phillip Sheldon

Jenn Schiermeyer

Nick Schoeppner

Sam Wathen

Thank you parents, children, school staff, and administrators!

A Child's World, Apple Tree Academies, Apple of His Eye Learning Center, ArtQuest, Beginning Visions, Bnai Shalom Day School, Bright Minds Academy, Brown Recreation Center, Canterbury School, Cardinal Childcare and Development, Centenary School, Child Care Network, Children's Friend, Childtime Learning Center, Cogie Cathedral Daycare, Covenant Christian Day School, College Hill Childcare, Cornerstone Baptist Wee School, Craft Recreation Center, Creative World, Excel Christian Academy, Fairfield Enrichment Center, Faith Wesleyan Child Care, First Baptist Preschool, First Lutheran School For Young Children, First Presbyterian Weekday Preschool, Friendly Avenue Christian School, Forsyth Science Center, Glenwood Recreation Center, Greensboro Cultural Center, Greensboro Motessori School, Greensboro Public Library, Greensboro Science Center, Greensboro Youth Soccer Association, Guilford Prep Academy, Hayes-Taylor YMCA, Hester's Creative School, High Point Friends Preschool, Holy Trinity Day School, Huntington Tutoring Center, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Irving Park Preschool, Jo's Home Center, Kids Ahead Afterschool Program, Kids R Kids, La Leche League, La Petite Academy, Lindley Park Recreation Center, Little Feet Learning Center, Little Mouse Playhouse, MOPs, Mt. Pleasant Day Care Center, Muirs Chapel Christian Playschool, Music Academy of NC, Myra's Learning Kids Academy, Our Children's House, Our Lady of Grace, Partners in Childcare, Pleasant Garden Child Care Center, Proehlfic Park, Ragsdale YMCA, Ruggles Street Learning Center, Spears Family YMCA, St. Francis Day School, St. Pius X, Starmount Preschool, Sylvan Learning Center, The Sunshine House, Tabernacle Weekday School, Triad Christian Academy, Tumblebees, UNCG Child Care Education Program, Warnersville Recreation Center, Wee Care Child Development Center, Weekday Early Education, West Market Methodist Church Early Childhood Center, Y.E.S.S Learning Center, YMCA KidSpace, YMCA High Point, YMCA Greensboro