



MARCH 2021

Dr. Rhonda Amerson (Education) was invited to judge Bleckley County's "Teacher of the Year" competition. Two of the four finalists are MGA Elementary Education/Special Education graduates, and Dr. Amerson proudly reports she taught both of them.

Dr. Elaina Behounek (Sociology) is serving as chairperson of the University-wide Diversity Committee. She reports that the diversity committee has received several outstanding nominations for the diversity award, and looks forward to highlighting the winner in April.

Dr. Paul Gladden (Psychology) co-authored an entry in the *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. In that entry, he and his co-author argue the following:

"Contrary to claims, both Evolutionary psychological and radical behavioral approaches are selectionist approaches, which both reject the false dichotomies of nativism versus environmentalism and of internal versus external causes of behavior, and are both grounded in philosophical pragmatism. In contrast, modern Cognitive Psychology embraces an instructionist (anti-selectionist) information-processing approach and is grounded in a philosophical realism that assumes we can meaningfully divide the proximate causes of behavior between "prearranged" external informational categories and internal information-processing programs (complex sets of instructions instantiated in the brain) that enable the brain to interpret those hypothetical environmental categories reliably and correctly."

Jacobs W.J., Gladden P.R. (2020) Selectionist Models: Implications for Behavior. In: Shackelford T., Weekes-Shackelford V. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-16999-6_317-1

Dr. Rebekah Hazlett-Knudsen (Social Work) is proud to share that the BSW faculty and students took part in a successful Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) candidacy visit on February 16th. This visit represents a year's worth of work and is only a *first step* in obtaining program-specific accreditation. Dr. Hazlett-Knudsen notes accreditation work is truly a labor of love.

Dr. Scott Hinze (Psychology) reports that he co-authored a paper in the journal of *Memory & Cognition*:

Salovich, N. A, Donovan, A. M., Hinze, S. R., & Rapp, D. N. (2021). Can confidence help account for and redress the effects of reading inaccurate information? *Memory & Cognition*, 49, 293-310. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13421-020-01096-4>

Ms. Courtney Stavely (Psychology) has been conducting a series of positive parenting sessions which are free and open to the community. She recently held a two-part session on challenging behaviors and had 30 people attend. Ms. Stavely hopes parents will learn ways to empathize, manage their own emotions and teach their children ways to handle and express emotions as well. This approach involves learning to use rewards/reinforcements instead of punishment.

It is clear that 2021 is off to a great start for our School - congratulations to all for your creative and passionate work!

- David Biek, Dean