

# **2020 MPA Awards Program**

**Friday, October 2, 2020**

## **Susan T. Rydell Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to Psychology**

**Robin McLeod, Ph.D., LP**, is co-owner and the President and Chief Business Development Officer of Natalis Counseling & Psychology Solutions, with a primary practice location in Woodbury, Minnesota, and is the Director of Training of the Twin Cities Psychology Training Program, the current Chair of the Minnesota Board of Psychology, and an associate faculty member of the doctoral program in Counseling Psychology at the University of St. Mary's in the Twin Cities. Dr. McLeod is the 2016 Past President of MPA. She is active in APA, serving as the current Chair of the Committee of State Leaders, Secretary of APA's Division 31 (State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs), Minnesota representative to the APA Council of Representatives, in-coming Member-at-Large for APA's Division 42 (Psychologists in Independent Practice) and is a member of Class 9 of APA's Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology. Dr. McLeod also is active in APA's Division 35 (The Society for the Psychology of Women) where she is serving on the planning committee for the Feminist Practice Leadership Institute. Finally, Dr. McLeod serves on the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) as a member of the Exam Coordinating Committee and as an item writer for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology – Step 2.

## **Walter D. Mink Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award**

**Cari Gillen-O'Neel**, is the Assistant Professor of Psychology at Macalester College. After teaching elementary school for five years, Cari knew that she loved teaching, but she also knew that she missed psychology. Cari decided to pursue a Ph.D. in developmental psychology so she could continue working with children while also contributing scholarships to a field that she's passionate about and sharing this passion through teaching. Upon completing her Ph.D. at UCLA, Cari was delighted to join the psychology faculty at Macalester College where scholarship and teaching go hand-in-hand. Since coming to Macalester, she has had the pleasure of teaching all levels of psychology---from Introduction to Psychology to Senior Capstone---while continuing her research on identity development. Her latest study is examining how teachers and parents talk about inequality and race with children. When she's not teaching or researching, Cari enjoy spending time with her partner, Chuck, and kiddo, Peter, running, and cheering on the WNBA Lynx.

## **Outstanding Graduate Faculty in Psychology Award**

**Aimee Murray, Psy.D., LP**, is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Child & Adolescent Fellowship Director at the University of Minnesota, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences where she teaches and supervises psychiatry and psychology learners. She is also an adjunct faculty at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. Dr. Murray is a licensed psychologist in Minnesota and her clinical work focuses on early psychosis, including running a clinic that focuses on the assessment and treatment of youth at-risk for psychosis. She has a diverse research background including work in cognitive training, remote assessment and support, infant perceptual development, assessing organizational culture and equine facilitated psychotherapy with adolescent populations.

## **Outstanding Teaching of Psychology in Community/Two-Year Colleges Award**

**Jenny M. Wettersten**, is an Instructor & Program Coordinator at Itasca Community College. Jenny received a Bachelor of Science degree from Bemidji State University. After spending some time in the military (Medic and Behavior Science Specialist), she returned to Minnesota and earned a Master of Arts in Counseling and Psychological Services from St. Mary's University of MN. Jenny has been a Licensed Psychologist since 1996. Jenny was employed by Northland Recovery Center/Northland Counseling Center in Grand Rapids, MN from 1995-2011. Primary professional obligations included psychological assessments, psychotherapy, & clinical consultation for substance abuse programs. Jenny began teaching as an adjunct instructor for Bemidji State University in 1997. In 2011, Jenny accepted a full-time faculty appointment at Itasca Community College. Since 2012, she has served not only as an instructor, but also as the Program Coordinator of the Applied Psychology/Human Services program at ICC. "I am blessed to have amazing and wonderful colleagues, and students who inspire and teach me so much every day!"

## **Donald G. Paterson Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award**

**Olivia Checkalski** graduated summa cum laude from the University of St. Thomas in May with a double major in Psychology and American Culture and Difference. She also completed a minor in Women and Gender studies. Broadly, her research has combined psychology and intersectional feminism to explore issues concerning women and other marginalized identities. More specifically, she is passionate about taking an interdisciplinary approach to undersigning the objectification, and self-sexualization of women. She sees feminist psychological research and the fair dissemination of knowledge as a form of activism necessary in catalyzing authentic change. She is now pursuing those interests further in the Social-Cognitive Psychology PhD program at University of Nebraska Lincoln under the direction of Minnesota's own Dr. Sarah Gervais. In the Objectification of Women Lab, Olivia is currently assisting with a project assessing bystander intervention in situations of sexual risk using virtual reality technology and looks forward to launching some of her own projects soon.

### **Outstanding Early Career Psychologist Award**

**Bryana H. French**, earned her PhD in Counseling Psychology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and she completed predoctoral internship at the University of Maryland Counseling Center. After interning at the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, she began her career at the University of Missouri with a joint tenure-track position in Counseling Psychology and Black Studies. She then joined the faculty at the Graduate School of Professional Psychology at the University of St. Thomas and is now a licensed psychologist and tenured Associate Professor. Dr. French has a passion for social justice. She teaches courses on multicultural and social justice counseling and helps mentor Black, Indigenous, and People of Color students. She provides multicultural consultation for St. Thomas' Counseling and Psychological Services and serves as one of the first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) faculty fellows for the university. She has a coauthored chapter in *Teaching Race: How to Help Students Unmask and Challenge Racism*, edited by Stephen Brookfield, and assists faculty with enhancing DEI in their classes. Her research has explored the psychological and sexual health correlates and impacts of adolescent sexual coercion and sexual scripting, using a Black feminist framework. She has published in many journals and her research has been featured in several news outlets. More recently, her work has focused on healing from racial trauma. She has held multiple leadership roles in the American Psychological Association and is currently APA Council Representative for Division 17: Society of Counseling Psychology. She was recently co-chair the Division 45 Presidential Task Force: Promoting Healing through Social Justice and the task force now has a standing blog on Psychology Today from the "Psychology of Radical Healing Collective". Dr. French's work has been recognized throughout her career, including her past fellowship with the APA Minority Fellowship Program. She is also active in the local community, having served on the Board of Directors for the Sexual Violence Center and currently Board President for First Universalist Church.

### **Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year**

**Erika Brink** is a Doctoral Candidate at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and is currently pursuing her predoctoral internship at Washburn Center for Children in Minneapolis, MN. Her involvement with MPA began as the Student Division Co-Chair and developed into a role within many committees. Her largest achievement to date has been the development and implementation of a leadership program through MPA which will launch January 2021. Erika attributes much of her training and experience outside of academia to her mentor Dr. Robin McLoed and the MPA Governing Council.

### **Trisha A. Stark Community Involvement Award**

#### **Walk-In Counseling Center**

Fifty years ago, a number of newly minted psychologists created Walk-In Counseling Center. And since then, Walk-In has provided free, anonymous, no-appointment-needed mental health counseling for people with urgent needs and few resources or limited access. Approximately 160 volunteers, mostly clinical counselors and team consultants (psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists), provide the service each year. Walk-In just completed 50 years of service, the value of the volunteer contribution of some 3,000 people is estimated at, conservatively, \$28 million over that time. Walk-In's founding members were all psychologists, and they are so grateful for the work they have done at Walk-In as volunteers, and in the community as professional clinicians, over all these years!

### **BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya Distinguished Elders Award for Leadership in Minnesota Psychology**

Dr. John E. Brose, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, recently named Minnesota 2020 Gerontologist of the Year, is the founder and Clinic Director of Associated Clinic of Psychology (ACP). Under his leadership, ACP has become a large mental health organization in the Twin Cities. Dr. Brose's long-term mission is to reduce human suffering. He continues to see many clients each week in long-term care and for outpatient psychotherapy in the Minneapolis clinic. Dr. Brose performs medical/psychological evaluations for spinal fusion, disc replacement, neuro spinal stimulator implant, and bariatric surgery candidates. He regularly sees pain clients for opioid risk assessment and provides pre-entrance evaluations for US Military applicants. Dr. Brose lectures locally and nationally and serves on several advisory boards addressing multiple issues around the integration of medical and behavioral health. In addition to his professional career, Dr. Brose is an avid sailor, equestrian, and plays in the local classic rock group, The Emily Marrs Band.

### **Thomas P. Carrillo Leadership in Diversity Award**

**Phyllis C. Solon, Psy.D., LP**, is a clinician, consultant and trainer in South Minneapolis and a professor at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Dr. Solon is a 58-year-old White, lesbian born and raised in the US on the Southside of Chicago in an Irish Catholic working-class neighborhood within an Irish-Polish-Catholic family. She has lived for the last 30 years in South Minneapolis in a racially, ethnically and economically diverse neighborhood in which George Floyd was recently murdered and national uprisings were sparked. Dr. Solon started the work of understanding racism and other forms of bias and oppression at the age of 10 when noticing the "wrongness" of cartoons and "jokes" about Black and Jewish people circulating in her all white neighborhood. She has taught doctoral students, administrators, teachers, clinicians, clergy and others about systems of oppression and privilege for over 25 years. She believes that every individual has the capacity for being awake and taking responsibility for the world we share. Also acknowledging that not all people make the choice to do the difficult work of understanding their dominant statuses and using their unearned privileges to create a more just society. Dr. Solon is a developmental psychologist, a mom and auntie, a friend and community member, a teacher, consultant and therapist and generally a warrior for the elimination of racism and misogyny and the empowerment and uplifting of those who have most been denied.

**Presidential Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Psychology**

**Dana Fox, Ph.D., LP**, is recognized by 2020 MPA President, Dr. Willie Garrett, for her outstanding service and assistance to the practice of psychology during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis transition to telehealth.

**Presidential Medallion**

**Susan McPherson, Ph.D., ABPP, LP**, is awarded with the 2019 Presidential Medallion for her many contributions to MPA during her presidency and in her current role as Immediate Past President and involvement on several MPA committees.