

College of Arts and Sciences

(<http://artsci.case.edu>)

Department of Cognitive Science  
(<https://cognitivescience.case.edu/>)

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# Alumni Newsletter

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## Newsletter

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**May 30, 2019 | Issue: Spring 2019**

Edited by Eric Tolliver

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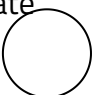
Alumni Updates

### **Letter from the Chair**

Dear Alumni and Friends of Cognitive Science,

How time flies! It seems like just yesterday that the Department was founded and welcomed its first class

of students (Fall 2006). In these past 13 years, the Department has seen about 350 majors graduate



from CWRU, most of whom, as the information below attests, have gone on to build fruitful careers in industry, academe, and the professions.

Our faculty continues to teach and produce world-class research in the cognitive sciences, and we are

quite proud of the strong history of mentoring and supporting student research in the Language & Cognition and the Distributed Red Hen laboratories.



The Department continues to be a venue for cutting edge research in the cognitive sciences, and the Cognitive Science Student Organization (CSSO) is as vibrant as ever. On the 26th of April, we hosted the Symposium on “Narrative Blending and Scientific Communication” organized by Visiting Researcher, Rosana Ferrareto, Language Professor at the Federal Institute of Science & Technology in Sao Paulo, Brazil, after which, the Department will convene for its annual end-of-the-year party.

The Department of Cognitive Science welcomes any donation you might consider making. See links below. Your donations will aid the next generation of cognitive science students.

Sincerely,

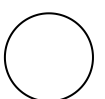
Todd Oakley, Chair and Professor of Cognitive Science

## Colloquia

Symposium on Narrative Blending and Scientific Communication took place in the College of Arts and Science in Crawford Hall, Room 618 on Friday, April 26, 2019 at 2:30pm. Please check our site for upcoming events.

## Philanthropy

Case Western Reserve University harnesses the power of philanthropy and the vision of our caregivers to take bold steps that will make a positive difference in the lives of students.



The strength of our program has much to do with our alumni, like you, who have paved the way for our

current students to follow. You are also the key to the future of our program, as your continued support

is crucial to our ability to move the department ahead. Your investment helps our program in numerous

ways, including:

- > Increasing the funding to support graduate education through tuition credits and fellowships;
- > Providing funding for the growing Cognitive Science Student Organization, which enables
- > students to network and collaborate outside of the classroom;
- > Enabling us to bring in speakers while also allowing for students and faculty to travel to attend conferences; and support research opportunities.

I hope that you will consider renewing your gift to the Department of Cognitive Science today. Thank you for making it possible for us to deliver a transformative education to all of our students. Your ongoing generosity helps us provide the highest quality education for every student, every day.

Please click here (<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1526/gid1/interior-2colb.aspx?sid=1526&gid=1&pgid=452&cid=1131&dids=164.10.24&bledit=1&sort=1&appealcode=18HH13EG>) to visit our donation page.

## Faculty Notes

Red Hen Lab (<http://www.redhenlab.org/>) with five years of funding from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, through an Anneliese-Maier Research Prize awarded to Professor Mark Turner



(<http://markturner.org/>), ran the 2017 International Conference on Multimodal Communication, with 150 participants from five continents, including faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars from our department. Red Hen Lab additionally funds two graduate fellowships. Red Hen Lab has published in a wide range of venues, including journals such as *Linguistics Vanguard* and *Künstliche Intelligenz* (the German journal for Artificial Intelligence), and edited

volumes from major university presses. For five years in a row, RedHen Lab has received Google Summer of Code funding.



Vera Tobin (<https://cognitivescience.case.edu/faculty/vera-tobin/>) analyzes plot twists and surprises in movies in this episode of the NPR podcast Hidden Brain (<https://www.npr.org/2018/10/29/661878959/spoiler-alert-the-psychology-of-surprise-endings>). In Vera's recently published book Elements of Surprise (<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674980204>), she explains how our brains conspire with stories to produce those revelatory plots that define a "well-made surprise." Vera was also recently featured in the CWRU artsci (<https://artsci.case.edu/magazine/2018/when-stories-surprise-us/>) magazine and THINK (<http://case.edu/think/fall2018/surprise.html#.XAVhpSZZPOQ>) magazine.

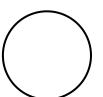


Peter J. Whitehouse MD-PhD (<https://cognitivescience.case.edu/faculty/peter-whitehouse/>) will be teaching a new independent course this fall, COGS 399: Wishing Up.



Peter has a primary appointment as Professor of Neurology, with secondary positions as Professor of Psychiatry, Cognitive Science, He is also currently Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto, an incoming fellow at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, and President of Intergenerational Schools International. He received his undergraduate degree from Brown University and MD-PhD (Psychology) from The Johns Hopkins University (with PhD work at Harvard and Boston Universities), followed by a Fellowship in Neuroscience and Psychiatry, Neurology Residency, and faculty appointments at Hopkins. He has served in national

and international leadership positions in neurology, geriatrics, and public health. Neuroscience, and Organizational Behavior, and former appointments (but current interests) in Psychology, Bioethics, History, and Nursing at Case Western Reserve University.



# Cognitive Science Alumni and What They're Up To Now!

Recently we reached out to our Cognitive Science alumni to share news on what they are doing with their Cognitive Science degree. Please check out with our alumni had to say.

## ***Katie Kriegshauser class of 2009***

I am a Cognitive Science and Psychology major and after completing my BA at CWRU I went on to complete my MS and PhD in Clinical Psychology at Saint Louis University, where I graduated in 2014. I then relocated to Kansas City where I completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in anxiety disorder treatment and research at the Kansas City Center for Anxiety Treatment, P.A. (KCCAT). I now serve as the Director and majority owner of KCCAT, which is a specialty anxiety treatment, research, and training facility.

In addition to overseeing the business aspects of our center, my primary responsibilities lie in providing evidence-based treatment for anxiety disorders and running our research program. I currently am the Primary Investigator on a NIMH-funded study looking at ways to utilize technology to disseminate evidence-based early intervention strategies for childhood anxiety and related mental health issues. More information about the study can be found at [anchorsawayanxiety.com](http://anchorsawayanxiety.com) (<http://anchorsawayanxiety.com/>). The study is currently recruiting, so any alums with kids ages 6-11 may be interested in checking it out!

## ***Laura Wolford (née Germann) class of 2010***

I was a triple major in communication disorders, cog sci, and psych. These days, I'm a faculty member at Midwestern University in the speech-language pathology department. I research voice and swallowing disorders.

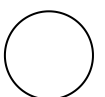
## ***Esther Erb Atkins class of 2008***

I've spent the last 10 years since graduation as follows:

2008-2010 – Fulbright Teaching Scholar in Vienna, Austria teaching English to Austrian students.

2010-2013 – Full time professional runner for ZAP Fitness in Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

2013-2015 – Assistant Coach at Rider University and blossomed into one of the top 10 marathoners in the country, marked by my win at the 2014 US Marathon Championships and spot on the 2015 World Championships team.



2015-2016 – Assistant Coach at Appalachian State University, 11th place at the US Olympic Marathon Trials, 11th place at the NYC Marathon.

2016-2018 – Private Coach for adults of all ages and abilities with McKirdy Trained, qualified for my 3rd US Olympic Trials. (2012, 2016, 2020)

I am constantly seeking out new information in all areas of research to improve my own performance and that of my athletes. One of the most important things I ever learned about running came from the Cognitive Science classroom. The goal of an elite athlete is to manipulate the mind and the body to maximize performance. And there are so many tricks that we learned in Cognitive Science courses that taught me how to self-assess and affect my mental outlook. From the use of specific language to priming to bottom-up processing, all of these topics apply directly to my line of work both as an athlete and as a coach.

Over the last 7 years, I have raced the marathon 11 times, and every performance has resulted in a time within a 5-minute range, regardless of the conditions. My degree in Cognitive Science gave me a leg up on my peers at being able to assess factors in myself, others and our environment, that many aren't even aware of. And this level of perception and self-awareness has made me one of the most consistent performers in the sport.

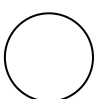
### ***Caitlin Dawson class of 2011***

I earned my PhD in Psychology last December from the University of Helsinki. I'm now working as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Reading in England, investigating linguistic and musical pitch processing in autism spectrum disorders, amusia, and tone languages. I credit the Case cognitive science department for introducing me to the combination of linguistics, music, and cognitive science and preparing me for a future in this very exciting field!

### ***Sean Dwijendra class of 2012***

I graduated in Spring 2012 with a dual-degree major in Biochemistry [BS] and Cognitive Science [BA]. After graduating, I worked as a high school science teacher in Chicago for 2 years via Teach For America, followed by 4 years of medical school at Rush Medical College in Chicago. I am currently in the middle of my internal medicine residency year; next year, I'll transition to diagnostic radiology residency training, all in Chicago. Cognitive Science has been quite helpful during my medical training, helping me to detect and formulate treatment plans in response to subtle mental status and personality changes in patients during their hospitalizations.

### ***Garrett Camaren class of 2012***



Life for me has been good and my major in cognitive science has served me well, both in my personal growth and in my career. Since graduating from Case Western in 2012, the career highlights for me are working as a social worker with Schizophrenia/Bipolar Disorder for 2 years and working in Finance for 1 1/2 years. In the fall of 2017 I started my MBA at Notre Dame. I'm set to graduate in May of 2019. Right now I'm interviewing with various healthcare companies as I plan to return back to some of the goals I first developed as a social worker. I'll provide an additional update once I am employed.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We are continuing our efforts to expand our relationships with alumni of the Department of Cognitive Science. We are interested in learning about what you are doing and how your cognitive science background has impacted your career experiences and choices.

If you have news you would like to share in a future newsletter, please send it to the department administrator Eric Tolliver ([eric.tolliver@case.edu](mailto:eric.tolliver@case.edu) (<mailto:eric.tolliver@case.edu>)).

The department also has a twitter (<https://twitter.com/CWRUCogSci> (<https://twitter.com/CWRUCogSci>)). Become a member of the community and post your own news. We want to know! The department will be posting here regularly too; news of colloquiums, readings, etc.



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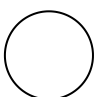
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## SOCIAL MEDIA



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