

Student-Faculty Lunchtime Conversations

Psi Chi and the Department of Psychology are hosting a series of noontime lunches giving undergraduates an opportunity to talk with faculty about career paths, what the life of a professor is really like, how faculty view undergraduate teaching, and many other possible topics.

Each lunch group will be one professor and 6 undergraduate Psychology majors (3 Psi Chi and 3 non-Psi Chi Psych majors). Students can sign up for as many lunches as they desire, but you are not allowed to attend more than one lunch during the semester. For Psi Chi members, attending a lunch can count as **one of the three required meeting points for the semester**.

If you are interested in attending a lunch, please send an email to agnesmvarghese@gmail.com with “**Student-Faculty Lunchtime Entry**” in the subject line and include in the text which lunch you are requesting, your name, email address, phone number, and whether or not you are a member of Psi Chi.

Some rules before signing up:

- 1) Students may not sign up for lunch with a faculty member if they already work in his/her lab.
- 2) If you opt to attend the lunch, but do not show up, you will be charged the cost of your plate at the lunch.

The next lunch will be:

Wednesday, April 29th - Dr. Jude Cassidy (Developmental)

As with a number of our faculty, Dr. Cassidy's career path was not a straight line to her current position in our department. After her B.A. in English from Duke, she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree, and worked as a dancer and as an independent film producer specializing in biographical and historical documentaries. She then switched career paths, received her doctorate in developmental psychology at the University of Virginia, and moved to the psychology faculty at Penn State. Dr. Cassidy has been with us since 1996.

Dr. Cassidy's lab studies the many aspects of close relationships between individuals, with a particular emphasis on the way children form attachments early in life and how those attachment experiences affect their behavior throughout life. She looks at these questions from both the child's and the parent's perspective. A few of Dr. Cassidy's many publications:

A link between maternal attachment style and responses to adolescents' negative emotions.
The first bonding experience: the basics of infant-caregiver attachment.
Loneliness and peer relations in adolescence.
Incarcerated individuals and their children viewed from the perspective of attachment theory.

Dr. Cassidy is a 2014 recipient of the highly prestigious University of Maryland Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award.

Each semester, Dr. Cassidy's lab personnel include a large number of undergraduate research students. In addition to helping collect and analyze data on children's behavior, students can take part in a course, PSYC 416, that focuses on the theoretical side of the lab's research questions.

Dr. Cassidy's son, a talented musician, is currently a college student, so she has a view of the undergraduate experience from both a parent's and an educator's perspective.

Followed by:

Wednesday, May 6th - Dr. Nazish Salahuddin (Counseling)