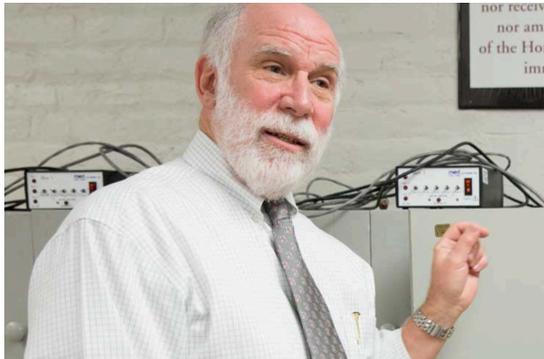


## **Psychology**—by Ivo I. Gyurovski '09

As another year passes, the Department of Psychology continues to embody Hampden-Sydney's highly personal approach to education and our College's values in their entirety. Therefore, our faculty remain focused on pursuing research objectives and supporting student learning through independent projects as well as across our course offerings. The Department will graduate 10 majors in the Spring of 2020, and it is proud to serve the needs of 16 majors for the Spring of 2021. Alumni of the Psychology Department succeed in a variety of fields spanning from academia to industry.



Dr. Robert Herdegen retired in 2020 after 39 years at H-SC.

The department recently restructured the Psychology Major, where research experience and expertise in quantitative methods are highly emphasized. These new opportunities will be fully implemented in the 2020/2021 academic year. The newly developed Neuroscience Minor combines an interesting set of biology and psychology courses, and it has quickly gained popularity among the students.

The past year has been characterized by changes in the psychology faculty. **Professor Dan Weese** will soon begin a yearlong Sabbatical. He will be collaborating with Joshua A. Burk, chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences and member of the Neuroscience Program faculty at the College of William and Mary. The research will focus on the role of the neurotransmitter orexin (released by neurons originating in the lateral hypothalamus) in the regulation of attention via its connections with the basal forebrain area. Tasks requiring rats to engage in

sustained attention or focused attention in the presence of distractions will be used. **Professor Jennifer Vitale** will be returning to full-time teaching in the department after serving the College's needs in her position as an Associate Dean of the Faculty. **Professor Robert Herdegen** will be retiring in the Spring of 2020 having served the college in a variety of roles, primarily as a faculty member in the Psychology Department, but also as the Dean of the Faculty. His courses centered on understanding the psychology of Learning and Motivation. Some of his popular topics courses included a seminar on the Psychology of Hunger, Eating, and Food. After having served as a Visiting Assistant Professor for three years, **Ivo Gyurovski '09** is joining the department as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in the Fall of 2020. His area of specialization is Social Psychology and Social Neuroscience.

New course offerings in the department include Leadership and Personality, taught by Professor Vitale, as well as two courses taught by Professor Gyurovski - Judgment and Decision Making and Social and Affective Neuroscience.

**Professors Dan Mossler** and Gyurovski are excited to continue their line of research on the spread and impact of disinformation campaigns on social media. Their research focuses on identifying the cognitive and social factors that make individuals more susceptible to disinformation. The team including three students (**Tyler Frink '20**, **Kevin Hood '20**, and **Evan Lester '21**) has been especially productive. Several waves of data collection have generated interesting findings to be disseminated at the annual meetings of the *Eastern Psychological Association* and the *Association for Psychological Science*.

During the past year Professor Gyurovski presented two papers centering on consumer finance – one at a conference sponsored by the *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau* and another at the *Center for Financial Planning*.