



WPA OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

**CHRISTOPHER ABERSON**

WPA EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD

**BIRGIT KOOPMANN-HOLM**

WPA SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD

**DELIA SAENZ**

WPA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**ROBERT AND ELIZABETH BJORK**

WPA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

**TERRY CRONAN**

## OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD



### **CHRISTOPHER ABERNSON**

Dr. Abernson received his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Claremont Graduate University in 1999. Dr. Abernson is a full professor at Humboldt State University.

Dr. Abernson teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes. Most of the classes

he teaches are on statistics and research methods. He is known to be an excellent teacher as evidenced by his teaching evaluations. He has also mentored an impressive number of students over his career. Dr. Abernson has 44 publications and has published two editions of a book entitled *Applied Power Analysis for the Behavioral Sciences*. He has presented over 150 workshops, posters, and papers at professional conferences. He was a major contributor to the development of the Web Interface for Statistics Education ([wise.cgu.edu](http://wise.cgu.edu)) focused on teaching of statistics, which received the Merlot Classic Award. Dr. Abernson has given more statistics workshops for WPA than anyone else, and, for the past 8 years, he has been the Coordinator the he WPA Statistics Workshops. These workshops focus on the latest statistics methodology, and provide WPA students and faculty with cutting-edge statistical techniques. Dr. Abernson served widely in editorial roles with *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, and *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* while also contributing to numerous editorial boards including *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology* and *Teaching of Psychology*.

## EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD



### **BIRGIT KOOPMANN-HOLM**

Dr. Birgit Koopmann-Holm received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 2013 and is currently an assistant professor at Santa Clara University. Her research focuses on the intersection between culture,

emotion, and sympathy/compassion (and other responses to suffering). Her work is important because little is known about how culture shapes compassion. Dr. Koopmann-Holm's research examines the role that culture plays in shaping how desirable or undesirable negative emotions are, and how this affects expressions of sympathy and compassion in response to others' suffering as well as how people conceptualize compassion.

Dr. Koopmann-Holm has published 11 articles in top-notch refereed journals, including the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, as well as the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. Additionally, she has written two chapters, one book, and has authored 45 presentations of her work at professional conferences. She recently received a research grant from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Dr. Koopmann-Holm serves as an Ad-hoc reviewer for a number of journals and is a consulting editor for *Emotion*.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD



### **DELIA SAENZ**

Dr. Delia Saenz is a professor in the Department of Psychology and currently serves as Chief Diversity Officer for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University. Throughout her career, her research, teaching and service have focused on improving the welfare of others by promoting understanding and amelioration of phenomena such as underrepresentation, gender and ethnic bias, class privilege, and exclusion. She has also addressed health care delivery issues faced by women of color, educational and classroom challenges among Latinx children, and equity in participation of women, people of color, and those with disability in STEM disciplines. This work has been supported by agencies such as NSF, NIH, USAID, the W.T. Grant Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

More recently, Dr. Saenz's efforts have focused on encouraging academic institutions to diversify their administrative staff, faculty, and students, and to promote fairness and equity in structural and procedural domains. She has received recognition for her contributions to these areas, including the Kenneth & Mamie Clark Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Professional Development of Ethnic Minority Graduate Students from the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students; Outstanding Faculty Award from the ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Association; Outstanding Mentor Award from the ASU Women's Faculty Association; and Excellence in Education Award from the Ronald McDonald Charities National Scholarship Association. Additionally, from 1994 to 1997, Dr. Saenz received the ASU Student Affairs Recognition Award for outstanding commitment and contributions to students.

Dr. Saenz has had a remarkable, and highly influential career as a leader, scholar, teacher, and practitioner in the fields of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her work has enriched WPA over many years as a notable leader. She began her affiliation with WPA in 1993, as program chair, has served on numerous committees, and was WPA president in 2012.



**DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE AWARD  
TERRY CRONAN**

Terry Cronan is Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University. She has received over fourteen million dollars in grant funding over the years, published 98 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and authored over 300 conference presentations, almost all of them with student co-authors. She has taken hundreds of students to WPA, where several have won awards. Dr. Cronan is a Fellow in the Western Psychological Association, Society for Behavioral Medicine, and the American Psychological Association (Divisions 1 and 2). She received the WPA Outstanding Teaching Award in 2015 and was the WPA President in 2018. She now serves as the Chair of the WPA Awards Committee.

# WPA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



## ROBERT AND ELIZABETH BJORK

**Robert A. Bjork** (PhD, Psychology, Stanford; BA, Mathematics, Minnesota) is Distinguished Research

Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses on human learning and memory and on the implications of the science of learning for instruction and training. He has served as Editor of *Memory & Cognition* and *Psychological Review*, Co-editor of *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, Chair of a National Research Council Committee on Techniques for the Enhancement of Human Performance (1988-1994), and Chair of the UCLA Department of Psychology (2003-2010). He is a past president or chair of the American Psychological Society (APS); the Western Psychological Association; the Psychonomic Society; the Society of Experimental Psychologists; the Council of Editors of the American Psychological Association (APA); and the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology. He is a recipient of UCLA's Distinguished Teaching Award; the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Scientist Lecturer Award, the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Service to Psychological Science Award; the American Physiological Society's Claude Bernard Distinguished Lectureship Award; the Society of Experimental Psychologists' Norman Anderson Lifetime Achievement Award; and, together with Elizabeth Bjork, the James McKeen Cattell Award ("for outstanding contributions to applied psychological research"), the Mentoring Award from the Association for Psychological

Science, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Psychological Association. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was selected to give the 120th Faculty Research Lecture at the University of California, Los Angeles, during February 2016.

**Elizabeth Ligon Bjork** (PhD, Psychology, University of Michigan; BA, Mathematics, University of Florida) is Research Professor of Psychology in the Psychology Department at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she has also chaired UCLA's Academic Senate and received UCLA's Distinguished Teaching Award. Her main area of research has been the study of human memory; in particular, the role that inhibitory processes—such as those underlying goal-directed forgetting and memory updating—play in creating an adaptive human memory system. A focus of her recent research has been the study of how principles of learning discovered in the laboratory can be applied to enhance instructional practices and self-directed learning. One theme of this research is how best to use "desirable difficulties"—such as testing, particularly multiple-choice testing—to enhance not only the learning of the explicitly tested information but also of related information, and additionally, how to use testing to potentiate the initial study and learning of both these types of information. She is a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists, a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, and has served on Editorial Boards and Review Panels for NIMH. Together with Robert A. Bjork, she is a recipient of the James McKeen Cattell Award ("for outstanding contributions to applied psychological research"), the Mentoring Award from the Association for Psychological Science, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Psychological Association.



## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD SHARI YOUNG KUCHENBECKER

**Dr. Shari Young Kuchenbecker** is the Associate Director and Co-Founder of the Western Positive Psychology Association (WPPA) at Claremont Graduate University, an organization dedicated to supporting student/faculty research within and between educational institutions, building the science of positive psychology. She received her bachelor's degree from Stanford University and Ph.D. in developmental psychology from UCLA. She began her research/teaching career at Chapman University, where she was awarded tenure at the age of twenty-nine.

Dr. Kuchenbecker first presented at Western Psychological Association (WPA) in 1974 and, over the years, she has coauthored many WPA poster and paper sessions with her students. In 2018, she served as the WPA Student Council Advisor. For the past 5 years, Dr. Kuchenbecker has volunteered at the WPA Annual Conference as the Event Photographer. She has captured our vibrant students and their proud faculty beaming at her camera. She loves being a part of WPA, and WPA is proud of her and her photographs!

