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truth rather than what’s “close enough.” Walter Mischel is an example for me of definitiveness, and Geraldine Downey of how to be both kind and direct.

**To what do you attribute your success in the science?**
Great colleagues (and now students), an upbringing that encouraged me always to think for myself and be creative, hard work, and maybe a little bit of divine intervention.

**What’s your future research agenda?**
I’d like to continue with work on placebo effects and other forms of cognitive-affective interactions in the brain. One goal is to understand something about the nature of expectancies in a more formal way, bringing mathematical models to bear to describe how they behave and influence affective valuation, and to pursue further the psychological nature of expectancies. Another goal is to relate brain activity and expectancies to physiological outcome measures, and include autonomic, endocrine, and possibly immune activity into our models of brain dynamics.

**Any advice for someone just now entering graduate school or getting their PhD?**
Akira Miyake told me two things when I went off to graduate school at the University of Michigan. He said, “Do one thing at a time until you’ve finished it,” and, “Work hard.” I’d like to pass that advice along. I might also add that graduate school is difficult in unconventional ways — it (and a career in psychological research) requires self-motivation and a real inner drive, even when others seem not to care and there seems to be little external recognition of the tremendous amount of work that it (usually) takes to make even a small advance in science.

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**Jennifer Richeson**

**Northwestern University**

PhD 2000, Harvard University
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**Publication most proud of:**

I don’t exactly have a favorite publication, but this one always makes me smile because it was my first (and so far only) publication with an undergraduate student!

**What does your research focus on?**
I study how our intergroup biases and concerns about bias affect cognition, affect, and behavior. A lot of my work has focused on the influence of interracial interactions. Broadly, the work is designed to contribute to the development of harmonious and functional diverse communities.

**What drew you to this line of research? Why is it exciting to you?**
I think that the transition from my predominantly black (and all female) high school to Brown University where I was suddenly both under-represented and somewhat academically stigmatized got me interested in how social identity group memberships affect our interactions with others as well as our self-perceptions.

**Who were/are your mentors or psychological influences?**
I’ve been lucky to have so many. In college, Ruth Colwill took me into her lab and taught me the basics of ex-
perimentation. She really reached out to me and I will always be thankful for that. Similarly, Fayneese Miller, a black female professor at Brown, opened my eyes to both the possibility of becoming an academic and the possibility of folding my interests in social identity into my academics (before, these interests had been expressed through extra-curricular activities). Specifically, it had never occurred to me that I could be a professor before taking her Psychology of Race, Class, & Gender class.

In graduate school, my advisors Nalini Ambady and Herbert Kelman were incredible influences. Herb taught me that it is all right to study (and care about) societal problems. Nalini pretty much taught me everything I know about being a social psychologist! I am still trying to follow her excellent example in the mentoring of my own graduate students.

Since then, there have been many other people who have helped me along in various ways (and still do!). They include Claude Steele, Jack Dovidio, Robert Sellers, Hazel Markus, Todd Heatherton, James Jones, Jim Blascovich, Trish Devine, Galen Bodenhausen, and my collaborator, Nicole Shelton.

Ok, this is starting to read like someone's Academy Awards acceptance speech and the music is certainly beginning to play to usher me off stage! Suffice it to say, it has taken a village!

**To what do you attribute your success in the science?**
I don't feel particularly successful. I mean, I'm really just getting started. How have I made it this far? A lot of hard work, a lot of luck, a lot of mentoring from advisors and senior colleagues, and a lot of support from friends and collaborators. [Editor's Note: She is too modest to mention it, but Richeson is a 2006 MacArthur Fellow, a.k.a. a recipient of the "genius award." See Observer, November 2006]

**What's your future research agenda?**
To keep on keeping on. Like I said, I just got started!

**Any advice for someone just now entering graduate school or getting their PhD?**
One of the best pieces of advice that I got at Harvard was during the first month of graduate school from one of our professors, Richard Hackman. He told us all to find a research question that really interests us and then to consider it at one "level" above (i.e., at a more macro/sociological level) and one "level" below (i.e., at a more micro/biological level). This approach will shape a deeper understanding of the topic itself. (Apologies, Richard, if I am getting this a bit wrong).

I have really found this to be true and have benefited from learning about the sociological perspective on intergroup relations as well as about potential neural substrates of intergroup emotion and self-regulation, as well as biological stress systems.

Needless to say, I've found this approach to be incredibly rewarding!

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**Cynthia Pickett**

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**Publication most proud of:**

The publication that I am most proud of is a 2002 article on self-stereotyping that appeared in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. The studies reported in this paper demonstrated that individuals will often define themselves