A Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the 2009 edition of the University of Washington Department of Psychology Newsletter. As the new Chair of the Department of Psychology, I am very excited to be able to use this venue to keep you up-to-date in terms of our department's activities and events, accomplishments and visions.

My recent appointment is a special honor, not only because of the privilege of leading this world-class department into a new and exciting era, but because I have been given this opportunity as an alumnus of this department. The wonderful courses and research opportunities I experienced as an undergraduate student set up a career path that has been nothing short of exciting and fulfilling. After leaving the UW, I received my Ph.D. in Physiological Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, spent some time as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and then served on the faculty in the Psychology Department at the University of Utah.

In the time since I left the UW in 1979 and my return in 2000, the UW Department of Psychology underwent major changes in personnel. However, the core value of providing the best academic training for its undergraduate and graduate students remains, as does the core value of facilitating state-of-the-art scientific inquiry into social, psychological, and biological mechanisms that underlie our behavior.

Current research areas include adult and child psychopathology and behavioral disorders, child development, social context and prejudice, implicit and explicit cognition, sensory and perceptual processes, and learning, memory, language and communication. These research areas are viewed from clinical, evolutionary, neuroscience, experimental and quantitative perspectives.

This impressive range of research interests, together with the addition of new technological facilities in our department, provide an interdisciplinary foundation and strong support that enables research programs to make innovative and new groundbreaking discoveries. Thus, despite the current economic challenges, we hope to move quickly to position ourselves to become a preeminent and integrative Psychology Department that addresses contemporary instructional, research, clinical and societal issues.

Future issues will keep you informed as to our progress. Your feedback and ideas regarding future issues are always welcome.

Sheri J. Y. Mizumori, Chair

The next issue of our newsletter will be electronically distributed. To ensure that you receive future newsletters please send/update your name and email address at:
https://web.psych.washington.edu/mail.html
Interdisciplinary Research Initiatives (IRIS)

Significant advances in technology and scientific theory have begun to change the nature of scientific inquiry in recent decades. Many traditionally disciplinary approaches are combining forces to provide new, exciting, and more integrative perspectives on the basic question of why we behave the way that we do. Our new interdisciplinary and collaborative research efforts (described below) will not only keep our research programs on the cutting edge, but they will also position us to provide an even stronger foundation for our teaching mission.

Cognition, Brain and Behavior

The study of the mind goes back thousands of years. Current technology allows us to not only evaluate experimentally cognitive functions, but it also allows us to begin to understand the underlying biological mechanisms. In recent years, Psychology faculty (led by Dr. Scott Murray) secured a $2M NSF grant to purchase a state-of-the-art fMRI scanner. By partnering with the Radiology Department, this scanner was used to establish a new Brain Imaging center for research and clinical purposes.

The scanner provides detailed images of the spatial distribution of neural activity across different areas of the brain. To provide greater temporal resolution of brain activity during cognitive processing, this year the Department of Psychology will establish an Electrophysiology Research Facility that will allow researchers to record the ongoing, continuous electrical signals of populations of neurons in the forms of an electroencephalogram (EEG) and/or specific evoked neural responses or of Evoked Response Potentials (ERP; see panel below for a more detailed description).

The Brain Imaging Center and the Electrophysiology Research Facility will be available to a wide range of faculty (e.g. behavioral neuroscience, developmental, social, cognitive, and clinical psychologists), thereby providing the resources for a strong foundation of interdisciplinary research. One of this year’s Edwards lecturers (Dr. Lee Osterhout p.10) demonstrated how EEG and ERP technology has allowed us to probe the brain mechanisms of language development and processing (pg. 10).

Department of Psychology Establishes an Electrophysiology Research Facility

UW Psychology is expanding neuroscience research capabilities through a major investment in new equipment and staff support. Neuroscience serves as the foundation for understanding the mechanisms of human behavior and UW Psychology has long been a leader in neuroscience research. As a department we recognize the need to foster new neuroscience research initiatives, expand our undergraduate and graduate training in neuroscience, and support interdisciplinary collaborations in neuroscience research. With these goals in mind, the department is establishing a new Electrophysiology Research Facility (ERF).

The ERF will house state-of-the-art EEG recording equipment that will allow researchers to record brain electrical activity at the scalp. This is a powerful technique for understanding how mental processes occur in the brain. EEG involves the placement of electrodes (anywhere from a dozen to 128) across the surface of the scalp, then amplifying and recording the underlying electrical signals. The recorded brain activity can then be correlated with mental tasks performed by the subject, ranging from simple perceptual tasks to complex memory and language processing. In addition to understanding brain processing in healthy individuals, the technique can be applied to clinical populations to understand the mechanisms underlying mental dysfunctions.

One particular advantage of EEG measurements is that they provide very precise timing of brain activity related to mental events. The measure nicely complements the spatial resolution obtained with fMRI measurements. One of the central goals of the ERF will be integrating the measurements obtained from EEG with MRI measurements to obtain a detailed temporal and spatial characterization of brain processes underlying complex human behavior.

Another way to view brain responses with sufficiently sophisticated temporal resolution is to link neural function to cognitive processes to record the evoked response of large number of neurons to specific stimuli or task operations. These types of responses are referred to Evoked Response Potentials (ERP). An example is shown in the adjacent figure. With this measure, subtle changes in cognitive processing or attention result in detectable changes in the ERP. Mapping such ERPs across the brain have led to new insights into (e.g.) language processing by the brain.
Addictive Behaviors

Understanding the psychological and biological basis of behavioral control is a major challenge not only for the field of psychology, but also for society in general. Addictive behavior is an example of how behavioral control goes awry. A cross-disciplinary group of UW Psychology faculty are currently investigating the neural-and experience-dependent behavioral mechanisms that could generate addictive behavior, as well as the clinical manifestation and evidence-based treatment for affected individuals. Since it appears that mechanisms underlying addictive behaviors reflect alterations of natural brain mechanisms for the coding of reward, it is clear that progress in our understanding of addictive behaviors will impact our understanding of non-addictive behaviors as well. Dr. G. Alan Marlatt is one of our leading researchers in this very important field, and he was featured as one of this year’s Edwards Lectures (pg. 10).

Diversity Science

The interests in diversity of faculty and students of UW Psychology take many forms. We seek to promote diversity and cultural competence in research, teaching, professional training, and representation among faculty and students. We are working to increase participation by members of under-represented or disadvantaged groups in our programs and in the science, practice, and teaching of psychology. We seek ways to facilitate the optimal development of people from groups that have been historically disadvantaged or oppressed. We are also working to develop UW Psychology as a center for research on Diversity Science. As part of this effort, the Diversity Science group has established an interdisciplinary seminar series of local and invited speakers.

Global Issues in Psychology

A number of our faculty are involved in international research and instructional projects. The research projects vary from study of wasps and other social insects in Costa Rica, to studies on the impact of culture on medication compliance by chronically ill patients (e.g. HIV patients) in the US and other countries of the world, to studies in conservation biology and emerging infectious diseases. Faculty who are involved in such international research programs provide unique opportunities for our undergraduate students. For example, UW Psychology majors are able to obtain research training in the field. Upon returning from the field, these students communicate information that they learned not only to other undergraduate students, but also to a more broad community in the K-12 grades.

Our department has also participated in the University of Washington Exploration Seminar Program where undergraduate Psychology students spend a month abroad learning about particular public health-related issues in a foreign country.

Dr. Jaime Olavarria led a group of students to explore Chile last summer. More details can be found on pg. 4.
Undergraduate Initiatives

Chile Exploration Seminar

“Nothing could replicate the experience of exploring, learning, and interacting with a culture different from my own. In Chile, I was experiencing different customs that at times reminded me how far I was from my home.” – Allison Lamb (History major)

Those ‘different customs’ hit at least one student right in the face on his first night in Santiago, Chile. Psychology major Taylor Wise was treated to a special 20th birthday celebration that kicked off the Chile Exploration Seminar in August of 2008—complete with an assisted face plant in the birthday cake! Taylor and 17 other UW undergraduates had just traveled over 15 hours and crossed two seasons—but surprisingly only one time zone—to begin a four-week study of the public and mental health systems of Chile.

Having grown from five programs in 2003 to over 40 in 2008, Exploration Seminars—perhaps more than any other study abroad opportunity—give increasing numbers of UW students the chance to get out into the world. These two-to-four-week international study programs allow students to explore important and emerging questions in locations where these issues are most relevant. Though he was originally nervous about making the leap from the classroom to a far off field experience, Psychology Associate Professor Jaime Olavarria is now sold on the idea. “I started the seminar a bit afraid, not knowing how it would turn out,” he remembers. “It ended up being a memorable experience that has left me very enthusiastic about study abroad programs and with plans to continue organizing them. It was especially enjoyable interacting with students beyond what on-campus teaching typically affords, and I feel I have made long-lasting friendships.”

With a focus on how profound political changes and recent health reform initiatives are reshaping public and mental health care delivery in Chile, Professor Olavarria brought together top physicians, educators, and national policy makers to work with the UW students. Tours of medical facilities and the ability to interact directly with patients and health care providers gave students a hands-on experience that exceeded their best hopes. Geography major Marijke Schwarz Smith explains, “The most poignant and memorable experience was during our hospital tour in Santiago. The direct patient access was something we would never have had in the States without attending medical school.”

Traveling from the nation’s capital and principle urban center of Santiago to the southern lakes region and the cities of Villarrica and Puerto Montt, Professor Olavarria and his students had the opportunity to compare public health services in urban and remote areas, as well as in wealthy and poorer communities. Psychology and political science major Brandon Greger fondly recalls his favorite professor/tour guide, “You could always tell that Jaime was having a blast showing us his home country. His energy was clear to the students and it certainly made our experience all the more powerful and enjoyable. He was the right man for the job!”

The group selected by Professor Olavarria to embark on the first psychology focused Exploration Seminar was also just right for the job. Students majoring in such fields as psychology, biology, Latin American studies, public health, and chemical engineering came together to work hard. Novice travelers and globetrotters alike summoned their spirit of adventure to explore a country rich in culture and natural beauty. Young people from diverse backgrounds made lasting friendships… and, made each other laugh. Brandon Greger perhaps best sums up the experience, “Real life is just about as good a teacher as it gets, and you never learn more than when you’re with a smart group of good people who care about something.”

Essence of Success

As a department, we introduced the study of psychology to 15 high school seniors as part of the Essence of Success Conference. This conference is a partnership between the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity and the Office of Admissions and encourages African-American students from all over the state to apply to UW. This was our first time participating and we are looking forward to continuing to support this event and other similar programs.

In a quick two hours, we were able to showcase many of the wonderful things about the UW psychology program to these high school students. They particularly enjoyed learning about the undergraduate program and about careers for psychology majors. Many of the high school students were interested in understanding more about how psychology research is conducted. Fortunately, we were able to offer them a tour of three different labs, giving them a strong exposure to the breadth of the field.

In total, the students were able to meet with three undergraduates, five graduate students, two professors and an academic adviser.
Undergraduate Accomplishments

Cady Stanton received a Mary Gates Research Scholarship to fund her study “The Potential for Robots to Aid in the Social Development of Children with Autism.” Her advisor is Peter Kahn.

Christina Rainey and Robyn Laing were awarded scholarship funds from the Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Award Program to support their research projects.

Kristyn Sakiko Funasaki and Cady Stanton were co-winners of the 2007 Guthrie Prize in Psychology. Kristyn’s paper, “Examining the Relationship between Sensation Seeking and 21st Birthday Alcohol Use,” sponsored by Psychiatry Assistant Professor Clayton Neighbors, was chosen as best empirical research paper. Cady’s paper, “The Potential for Robots to Aid in the Social Development of Children with Autism,” sponsored by Associate Professor Peter Kahn, was chosen as the best theory/review paper.

Jennifer Mao, a senior in Psychology, taught the course “Develop: Production of a Photoby O’Donnell’s lab on caste differences in brain system on hippocampal-dependent learning.

Kelsey Smith received a Mary Gates Undergraduate Research Scholarship to fund her study “The Potential for Robots to Aid in the Social Development of Children with Autism.” Her advisor is Peter Kahn.

Kayla Helem was awarded the Edith Lucena Riehl endowed scholarship for Fall 2008. She will be doing independent research in Sean O’Donnell’s lab on caste differences in brain development of dampwood termites.

Undergraduate psychology majors who were invited to join Phi Beta Kappa in the 2007-2009 academic years:

Benjamin Ady  Dylan Antovich  Layne Brower  Matthew Bennett  Phaedra Boyle  Darren Branning
Karli Casto  Andrew Cate  Jill Collymore  Tom Carpenter  Natividad Chavez  Katey Davis
Joseph Darda  Aditya Ganapathiraju  Alecia Dudgeon  William Giardino  Hillary Havlina  Carolyn Higuchi
Mark Forman  Elizabeth Korte  Peter Hong  Dana Kamara  Irina Kolobova  Robyn Laing
Andrew Klatt  Amy Moretti  Ngoc Le  Alfred Lam  Glenn Larson  Svenja Kempin
Jessica Leung  Alex Norton  Kaitlin Morrison  Jessica Leung  Marielenka Lotz  Tracy Spohn
Aaron Norr  Johanna Stern  Carolyn Thayer  Jason Poon  Ursula Whiteside  Susan McKay
Cady Stanton  Megan Valencia  Jennifer Mao  Dana Kamara  Mandy Owens  Josephine Quitiguera
Danielle Ung  Ashley Hirst  Angela Lee-Winn  Anique Thieme  Andrea Sugar  Anique Thieme
Tanya Test  Spencer Coates  Jeffrey Milton-Hall  Tracey Ward  Danielle Ung  Lynne Wiedey
Erica Waliser  Jeffrey Girard  Kathryn Howell  Yuri Yano  Shannon Wiedey
Robert Fox  Svenja Kempin  Rika Reid  Tanya Test  Kai Chi (Sam) Yam
Alyssa Takatsuki  Irina Nikolayev  Sterling Thomason

The invitation is based upon the students’ excellent academic records and interest in the liberal arts.

Undergraduates who participated in the Spring 2008 Research Symposium:

Matthew Bennett  Dylan Antovich  Layne Brower
Tom Carpenter  Andrew Cate  Jill Collymore
William Giardino  Aditya Ganapathiraju  Alecia Dudgeon
Dana Kamara  Elizabeth Korte  Peter Hong
Alfred Lam  Amy Moretti  Ngoc Le
Jessica Leung  Alex Norton  Kaitlin Morrison
Jason Poon  Johanna Stern  Carolyn Thayer
Anique Thieme  Megan Valencia  Jennifer Mao
Andrea Sugar  Jeffrey Girard  Angela Lee-Winn
Danielle Ung  Ashley Hirst  Jeffrey Milton-Hall
Shannon Wiedey  Spencer Coates  Kathryn Howell
Yuri Yano  Robert Fox  Rika Reid

To find their presentation time or poster location, go to http://tinyurl.com/5shuny and search for Psychology students.
Graduate Accomplishments

2007-2008 Graduate Student Service Awards for consistent service to the department and graduate student community: Jon Howe, Behavioral Neuroscience, advisor Jaime Diaz, Erin Hunter, Adult Clinical, advisor Lynn Katz, Hilary Mead, Child Clinical, advisor Ted Beauchaine, Briana Woods, Child Clinical, advisor Mary Larimer.

Research Grants and Awards

Jennifer Wang received a National Science Foundation Fellowship, “Person-centered approach to race-based rejection and emotional well-being,” Social/Personality, advisor Janxin Leu

Clara Wilkins received a National Science Foundation Fellowship, “Positive Feedback to Minorities: A Threat to Ingroup Belonging?,” Social/Personality, advisor Cheryl Kaiser

Lori Wu Malahy received a National Science Foundation Fellowship, “Behaving Is Becoming: Consequences of Stereotype Disconfirmation,” Social/Personality, advisor Cheryl Kaiser

Nicholas Nasrallah received an NIH Kirschstein National Research Service Award predoctoral fellowship, “Adolescent Alcohol Exposure and Risky Decision-Making Revision,” Behavioral Neuroscience, advisor Ilene Bernstein

Keren Lehavot, Adult Clinical, advisor Jane Simoni and Eric Pedersen, Adult Clinical, advisor Mary Larimer, received the 2008 American Psychology Association Travel Award

Cognition and Perception students Serap Yigit-Elliott (Advisor: John Palmer) and Sung-jun Joo (Advisor: Geoff Boynton) both received the 2008 Elsevier/Vision Research Travel Award (VSS Student Travel Award) to attend the 2008 Annual VSS Meeting in Naples, FL.

Dellanira Valencia-Garcia (5th year, Adult Clinical) was awarded the 2008 Student Scholar Latina/Hispanic Woman Award from the Society for the Psychology of Women (Division 35). This award honors the scholarly contributions of a Division 35 student member who has conducted research and/or scholarly work that advances the psychology of Latina/Hispanic women. Her advisor is Jane Simoni.

Clara Wilkins received a Clara Mayo Award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues to support her research on ethnic minorities’ reactions to positive feedback from Whites. This grant program supports research on aspects of sexism, racism, or prejudice. Clara works in Cheryl Kaiser’s lab. Clara also received an SPSP Diversity Award and she and Cheryl were awarded an IESUS grant.

Jennifer Wang is one of ten recipients of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues’ Diversity Committee’s 2008 Diversity Travel Award to help her attend the SPSSI conference in Chicago in June. Her advisors are Janxin Leu and Yuichi Shoda. She also received the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship.

Lindsey Sterling was awarded the Autism Speaks mentor-based fellowship, a two-year fellowship to support her dissertation. She is a 5th year Child Clinical student who was working with Geri Dawson.

Andrada Neacsu received the Wagner Award and presented two talks at the American Psychological Association annual convention, Boston, August, 2008.

Kelly Koo was awarded a travel award to participate in the NIAAA/NIIDA Early Career Poster Session during 2008 American Psychological Association Convention in Boston, MA.

Keren Lehavot received scholarships from the First International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Psychology Summer Institute, Departments of Psychology and Women’s Studies, University of Michigan; the Pride Foundation, including Associates in Behavioral Health Scholarship, McFarffels Scholarship for Social Justice for Women, and the Pride Foundation Community Scholarship; Lesbian Studies, National Women’s Studies Association; and Making Feminism Relevant: Across the Generations, Division 35 and APAGS Annual Prize for Psychological Research on Women and Gender Studies, AWP and Division 35, American Psychological Association.

In the news

Dellanira Valencia-Garcia, (5th year, Adult Clinical) was interviewed by the local Spanish TV station, Univision, about her study on social capital and mental health among Latinas. The show aired on the morning program Rico Amanecer on July 6, 2008. She was also invited to do a live interview the same day at the Spanish radio station, Enterate. Her advisor is Jane Simoni.

Andrew Fleming (3rd year, Child Clinical), was a member of Team USA in the World Flying Disc Federation’s 2008 World Ultimate & Guts Championships in Vancouver, BC. His team won Silver, coming in second to Canada in the final round, after winning all of their matches. Congratulations to Andrew and the team!
Faculty Accomplishments

One of our very own, Ana Mari Cauce, Earl R. Carlson Professor of Psychology, is now Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Cauce, part of child clinical psychology, specializes in understanding factors surrounding at-risk children, adolescents, and families. As Dean, she oversees the College of Arts and Sciences, of which Psychology is a member. The College provides a liberal arts education to more than 25,000 students and is comprised of more than 70 academic departments, centers and programs and 940 academic faculty. Of the approximately 7,500 bachelor's degrees earned at the UW each year, more than 70 percent are from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Awards

Two of our faculty have recently received national attention with Early Investigator Awards from national/international organizations:

Cheryl Kaiser, in our Social Personality area, and Geoff Boynton, in our Cognition and Perception area. Specifically, the Foundation for Social and Personality Psychology announced that Dr. Kaiser is the 2009 recipient of the SAGE Young Scholars Award. The award annually recognizes an outstanding young researcher who has demonstrated exceptional individual achievements in social and/or personality psychology, conducting research that places them at the forefront of their peers. Dr. Kaiser’s work examines prejudice and intergroup relationships, particularly from the perspective of groups that are targets of discrimination. Her work highlights reasons why individuals do not speak up about discrimination, even when they notice it and are bothered by it.

Geoff Boynton was elected to the Society of Experimental Psychologists and given the Early Investigator Award, recognizing his strong contributions to the field of experimental psychology. Dr. Boynton’s work focuses on neural correlates of human visual perception, using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging or fMRI to better understand dynamic brain changes. His work uses fMRI to determine where and how the brain responds by making fMRI measurements in the visual cortex of human observers while they view various visual stimuli.

Eliot Brenowitz, of our Animal Behavior faculty, was recently elected as a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). AAAS is the largest international general science society and publishes the journal Science. Fellows are recognized for meritorious efforts to advance science or its applications. Dr. Brenowitz was cited for his distinguished contributions to the fields of neuroethology and animal behavior, particularly for successfully integrating behavioral, endocrine, neural, and comparative approaches to the study of animal communication. Dr. Brenowitz was also elected as a fellow in the American Psychological Association.

G. Alan Marlatt, a clinical psychology faculty, recently received the Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Clinical Psychology Award from the Society of Clinical Psychology, a division of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Marlatt was honored for his exemplary contribution to the field of addictive behaviors, based on his pioneering work in harm reduction, brief interventions, and relapse prevention.

Jaime Olavarria, a Behavioral Neuroscience faculty member, received the 2008 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Jeansok Kim, one of our Behavioral Neuroscience faculty, received the 2009 supplemental sabbatical award from the Jane McKeen Cattell Fund in alliance with the Association for Psychological Science (APS).

Grants

In the last year, we are proud to see a number of faculty receiving new grant awards from major granting institutes.

National Science Foundation:

Peter Kahn, on the social and moral interaction patterns with a personified robot; Cheryl Kaiser, on group identity and experienced prejudice and their implications for diversity; Scott Murray, received a career award, on the neural mechanism of object size perception; Yuichi Shoda, on the effects of the 2008 U.S. presidential election on implicit race categorization.

National Institutes of Health:

Sheri J.Y. Mizumori, on dopamine regulation during context processing (National Institute of Mental Health); Jane Simoni, on addressing depression and medication adherence in HIV+ Latinos on the US-Mexico border (National Institute of Mental Health); Jeansok Kim, Effects of Stress, (National Institutie of Mental Health); Marsha Linehan, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Curriculum, (National Institute of Mental Health); Jessica Sommerville, on early learning mechanisms underlying infants’ tool use in science and technology (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development).

Additional new grants

John Baer, Computer-Adapted Standardized Patients Instrument (Talaria, Inc); Brian Flaherty, Measurement and Smoking Patterns in National Data (American Legacy Foundation and Alcohol Dependence and Prazosin); Scott Murray, The Influence of Three-Dimensional Context on Early Visual Cortical Processing (Whitehall Foundation); Andrew Melzoff and Patricia Kuhl received an AM Life Science Discovery Fund grant to purchase a magnetoencephalography machine to study the developing mind at their Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (ILABS).

In the news

Andrew Melzoff and John Gottman participated in the panel discussions with the Dalai Lama during his visit to Seattle in April, 2008 which was televised on UWTV.

Ted Beauchaine, Sheila Crowell, and Adrianne Stevens’ research on negative mother-daughter relationships was featured in University Week. “Mother-daughter conflict, low serotonin level may be deadly combination”.

Sean O’Donnell and graduate student Yamile Molina’s research was featured in University Week. “Social dominance or big brains? Wasps may answer question of which came first, research shows”.

Peter Kahn, Rachel Serverson, Batya Friedman, Jennifer Hagman, Erika Feldman and Anna Stoylar co-authored a study that received media coverage in the U.S., Canada, Spain, England, the Netherlands, and Poland. “Scenes of nature trump technology in reducing low-level stress.”

Jaime Olavarria, recipient of a 2008 UW Distinguished Teaching Award, was featured in Arts & Sciences Perspectives.
In the media continued...

I-LABS was featured in Arts and Sciences Perspectives for its research involving non-invasive technology for examining brain activity and in University Week with Andrew Meltzoff and Rechele Brooks quoted in the article. “Do you see what I see? Babies can tell”.

Eliot Brenowitz and Biology graduate student Christopher Thompson’s work with neurons in brains of one songbird species was featured in University Week. “Stayin’ alive: Researchers foil seasonal programmed brain cell death in living birds”.

Janxin Leu was lead author on a study that has received coverage in the largest Chinese newspaper in North America, along with NW Asian Weekly, Medical News Today, and Science Daily. “Asians who immigrated to U.S. before age 25 have poorer mental health than older immigrants”.

Sean O’Donnell’s work in Panama and Costa Rica was featured in University Week. “Parasitic fly influences nocturnal bee behavior”.

Ted Beauchaine, as reported in University Week, carried out the first study of conduct problems in children that included a significant number of aggressive girls. “Cause of conduct problems among girls appears to be different than in boys”.

Tony Greenwald was interviewed by a Seattle Times staff columnist. “Will Obama’s race matter?” Also “Polls may underestimate Obama’s support by 3 to 4 percent”.

The Implicit Association Test (IAT) received front page coverage on the Seattle PI, and Tony Greenwald was interviewed for “Doctors in study prefer whites to blacks: UW researchers take a look at physician biases”.

Jeansok Kim and graduate student Lauren Jones presented “Our stressed-out brains” at a press conference connected with the Society for Neuroscience’s annual meeting.


Marsha Linehan is a leading expert in the diagnosis and treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder. She was recognized as such in Time Magazine (Jan 8, 2009 issue) where she described the root causes and conditions that could lead to the disorder.

Sapna Cheryan’s work on gender and ethnic stereotyping was featured in a 15 min segment on National Public Radio (April 2008). The coverage concerned the consequences of gender bias and participation in the field of computer sciences.

Staff Accomplishments

Carrie Perrin (Director of Student Services) was quoted in the recent University Week. “Two new councils bring UW advisers together to collaborate, consult”.

Graduate student Erika Feldman, Senior Academic Advisor Vicky Burke, and Media Lab Director Jon Hauser created a Web site giving students a big picture view of the psychology major that was highlighted in University Week. Beth Kerr is quoted in the article. The site is among the projects featured at the May 6, 2009 Symposium on Teaching and Learning. “Learning goals projects among 41 poster presentations at Symposium on Teaching and Learning.”

Jon Hauser (Media Lab Director), Shannon Ford (Program Coordinator) and Amanda Patrick (Program Coordinator) were nominated for the 2009 University of Washington Distinguished Staff Award Team for the Psychological Services and Training Center. Michele Jacobs (Administrator) was nominated for the UW 2009 Distinguished Staff Award.

Clinic Wins National Award

For more than half a century, the UW clinical psychology program has had a national reputation for the strength of its research productivity and clinical training. With 65 students and 15 full-time faculty members, the program has nationally recognized subprograms in both child and adult clinical psychology. It is a leading center for the development of new treatments for psychological problems, and many of its faculty are internationally known for their contributions to the field of mental health.

In recent years, the clinical program has received a number of prestigious awards. The Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies bestowed its 2003 Distinguished Program Award in recognition of the UW’s long-term research prominence and the quality of its graduates. In 2008, the program received the Innovations in Graduate Training Award from the American Psychological Association for its recent attempts to achieve a stronger integration of scientific and clinical training. In addition to curricular innovations and an enhanced training in multicultural competence, the program developed a computerized data collection system in which clients in its training clinic complete an individualized set of psychological measures prior to each session that can be used to track this data during the course of treatment and provide ongoing feedback to both the client and therapist.

This system will also create an extensive database for student and faculty research. Finally, in a reflection of its national standing among directors of clinical psychology programs, the UW’s program tied with two other programs (UCLA and Wisconsin) for the number one ranking in the 2009 U.S. News and World Report ratings of the nation’s 239 accredited clinical psychology programs.

The Clinic provides psychological services at reduced cost for the public. For more information please call 206.543.6511.
Undergraduate Internships and Community Outreach

Junny Kim gets to have an amazing experience in psychology—she gets to see it in practice. Junny volunteers at the Evidenced Based Treatment Center of Seattle, where clients receive treatment for Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). She finds Dialectical Behavior Therapy, the treatment developed by UW Psychology’s own Dr. Marsha Linehan, “absolutely fascinating—I learn more each day about different areas of psychology because of the hands-on exposure that I get through doing an internship.” This field experience has the potential to turn into a job for Junny when she graduates in June 2009 with her BS in psychology. The clinical and research experience she’s gaining will also give her an advantage when applying to graduate programs in clinical psychology.

Another psychology senior, Skyler Leonard, has been interning at Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center where he works with adults and children “absolutely fascinating—I learn more each day about different areas of psychology because of the hands-on exposure that I get through doing an internship.” – Junny Kim (Psychology major)

with developmental and physical disabilities. He has learned a great deal about people with disabilities, their families, and the obstacles they face, and has gained a tremendous respect for all of his students. Most importantly, says Skyler, “I have made friendships that will last a lifetime.” Skyler’s work at Little Bit confirmed his interests in education and developmental psychology, which he’ll be pursuing next fall as a corps member in Teach for America.

Junny and Skyler are two of the 52 lucky students who are participating in the Psych 497 Internship/Fieldwork program this winter quarter. Through this opportunity, students can partner with campus and community organizations to serve as interns. Students have the chance to gain valuable training and work experience in the fields of counseling, social services, criminal justice, education and human resources. In conjunction with the field experience, the Psych 497 program helps students to further define their educational and career goals by encouraging the exploration of larger academic questions which relate to the work they are doing at their internship sites.

“I have made friendship that will last a lifetime” – Skyler Leonard (Psychology major)

Psychology majors are working in such diverse community based settings as Ryther Child Center, The Children’s Museum, Crisis Clinic and the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. Students also volunteer through UW campus organizations such as the Experimental Education Unit and the Pipeline Project, both of which allow volunteers to work with children in formal and informal educational settings. In just winter quarter 2009 alone, these students are volunteering and interning a total of 1220 hours.

Partnering with the Community: Early Childhood Education

During 2008 Fall quarter, our Allen Edwards Endowed Lectureship in Psychology partnered with the Evergreen School to host two exciting public lecture series on the UW campus.

In October, renowned developmental psychologist Alison Gopnik (Professor, University of California, Berkeley) discussed a theory of mind approach to the study of cognitive development. In particular, she described how children use probabilistic evidence to infer causality. Carol Dweck (Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology, Stanford) discussed the role of children’s mindset on motivation, and the impact this has on learning and achievement.

In a second lecture series, held in November, Rena Subotnik (Director of the Center for Gifted Education Policy, APA’s Education Directorate) discussed policy issues relevant to the development of programs and services to gifted youth. Also, Mary Helen Immordino-Yang (Assistant Professor of Psychology at the Brain and Creativity Institute; Assistant Professor of Education at the Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California) focused on her interdisciplinary work that connects study of the mind and brain during development.

All of these speakers spent additional time visiting the Psychology Department as well as the Evergreen School. This proved to be a wonderful way to connect psychological science with important educational issues facing our community. http://www.evergreenschool.org/
Fourth Annual  
Allen L. Edwards  
Psychology  
Lecture Series

Research Serving Humanity

The Allen L. Edwards Psychology Lectures bring prominent, nationally recognized psychologists to the University of Washington to co-present with faculty experts from the UW Department of Psychology. This year, the series focused on addiction prevention and treatment, social interaction, and human language. These and prior Edwards’ lectures can be viewed on UWTV and online at: http://tinyurl.com/bpqobh. This free, public series is made possible by a generous bequest from Professor Allen L. Edwards. Next year’s lecture series will be held on February 17, 24, and March 3, 2010—so please save those dates!!

February 18, 2009  
Addiction and the Mind

Addiction is one of the nation’s major health problems, as evidenced by the high rates of smoking and drinking as well as the widespread use of legal and illegal drugs. Dr. Marlatt discussed the results of a treatment study designed to prevent relapse in patients in substance abuse programs. The treatment program combines mindfulness meditation with cognitive-behavioral coping skills.

Dr. Brewer focused on the neurobiology of addiction including how stress plays a role in relapse and how mindfulness-based relapse prevention training affects the brain and the addictive process.

G. Alan Marlatt  
Professor and Director, Addictive Behaviors Research Center  
Department of Psychology  
Adult Clinical Program  
University of Washington

Judson Brewer  
Medical Director, Yale Therapeutic Neuroscience Clinic  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry  
Yale University

Sean O’Donnell  
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology  
Animal Behavior Program  
University of Washington

Jennifer Fewell  
Professor, School of Life Sciences  
Co-Director, Center for Social Dynamics and Complexity  
Arizona State University

February 25, 2009  
Social Networks: How Simple Parts Make Complex Systems

Drs. O’Donnell and Fewell share an interest in the division of labor among members of social groups. Both focus on social insects as model research systems for exploring how individual behavior is integrated to yield complex, adaptive behavior at the group (colony) level. Their talks covered recent advances in exploring how the behavior of complex systems results from interactions among simple parts. This approach seeks unifying themes in systems ranging from groups of friends and business partners, neurons in a nervous system, birds in a flock, and arrays of computers on the internet. It also looks at how we can use network models to understand a wide range of complex systems that impact our daily lives.

Lee Osterhout  
Professor, Department of Psychology  
Cognition and Perception Program  
University of Washington

Karen Emmorey  
Professor, School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences  
Director, Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience  
San Diego State University

March 4, 2009  
Language and The Brain

Human language allows us to convey a seemingly unlimited set of meanings to other people. This remarkable ability underlies many of our species’ most distinctive behaviors. Drs. Osterhout and Emmorey are trying to understand how the human brain enables us to learn and use language so effectively. In this lecture, they discussed how they are investigating this question through non-invasive brain imaging and by studying brain function in both hearing and deaf people.

About Allen L. Edwards

Professor Allen L. Edwards was affiliated with the University of Washington Department of Psychology for half a century, from his arrival in 1944 as an associate professor until his death in 1994. He was an outstanding teacher, researcher, and writer, credited with changing the way modern psychological research is done by introducing statistical techniques to the science.
Support UW Psychology

We need your help to maintain and improve our programs and service to students and society. Your gift can help fund these top priorities.

Support top graduate students
Every year, we compete with the other top Psychology departments in the country for the nation's best graduate students. The biggest problem we face in this competition is a lack of summer support and research fellowships to allow our graduate students to pursue innovative research and service projects—and survive the high cost of living in the Seattle area. You can help by contributing to any of the graduate support funds listed below.

Improve undergraduate education
Our Psychology major is one of the best in the country, offering students opportunities to work at internships, participate in community fieldwork, and work with faculty on cutting-edge research projects. We also offer support to our undergraduates through Honors Program research funding, the Psychology Writing Center, the Statistics and Methodology (SAM) Lab, SmartPsych website, Psychology Study Center, Psychology graduation ceremony, and workshops throughout the year. We also provide various social and learning opportunities to our students, such as workshops on careers in Psychology, how to apply for graduate schools, and the Psychology majors graduate ceremony. These activities all require scarce departmental funds from budgets that have been repeatedly cut over the past few years. You can join us in supporting these programs by contributing to the Friends of Psychology Fund.

Attract and retain the best faculty
Our continued success depends on attracting the best new faculty. The cost of recruiting the best prospects is high and only partly covered by our regular budgets. You can help by contributing to Friends of Psychology. Because of the accomplishments of our existing faculty, they are heavily recruited by other institutions. Both graduate support funds and endowed professorships help to retain our best faculty and make them most productive.

You can help us accomplish departmental goals by contributing to one of the funds listed. Visit our website and use your credit card on the UW secure online donation system or mail a check to: University of Washington, Department of Psychology, Box 351525, Seattle WA, 98195. If you are interested in supporting specific faculty research projects, endowing a professorship, or making a donation to a cause not mentioned here, please contact Psychology Chair Sheri J. Y. Mizumori at (206) 685-9660 or mizumori@u.washington.edu.

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