University of Michigan - Department of Psychology

ON OUR MINDS...

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PSYCHOLOGY

exploring the mind

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Letter from the Chair

The long summer days are already beginning to shorten in Ann Arbor, a sure sign that students will be returning very soon, and the pulse of the city will again quicken with their enthusiasm. Despite the difficult economic situation in the state of Michigan, the University, through careful planning and the support of the state, continues to offer a superior educational opportunity. Psychology remains at the forefront of that opportunity, once again ranked in a multiple tie with a few top departments nationally. We maintain this top ranking for several reasons. For example, the faculty, during these difficult times, continues to win grants that permit some of the best research in the country. For example, the Army just awarded two very large contracts to study the pre-disposing factors for suicide among recruits and to develop interventions that might be used to avoid such outcomes. Professor Peterson and new faculty member Nansook Park are key members of the research team. The faculty continues to also win major national and local awards for their research and teaching, including our newest National Academy of Science member, Professor David Meyer. The educational opportunities offered to our undergraduates continue to improve, particularly in the area of research and community service. For example, many faculty participate in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program that places mostly first and second year undergraduates into research settings. Within Psychology, these students frequently become concentrators, and continue to do research throughout their undergraduate career, a boon if they decide to continue their education in graduate or professional programs. Locally, our graduate students and some faculty received teaching and mentoring awards that reflect the deep engagement that the department maintains for providing a

superior educational experience. Psychology continues to lead the University in a variety of efforts in addition to teaching. For example, Rackham and other college departments are working with Professor



Sellers (Assoc Chair and Chair of Diversity Committee) to replicate Psychology's success in attracting and recruiting superb faculty and students from under-represented communities. Such continuing efforts help maintain the vitality and diversity of our department. Thus, despite the difficult economic times, we are working hard to maintain our excellent academic and research programming. This is where you, our alumni and friends, can continue to be of great help to us. The budget-tightening is creating greater need among our students for assistance in graduate summer funding (Veroff Fund), graduate/undergraduate traveling to meetings and funds for research costs. Similarly, our faculty are working hard to maintain funding in a climate of reduced sources. It is particularly difficult to generate the preliminary data needed for the next research proposal with reduced funding in current grants and reduced funding from University sources. The ability to host visitors for talks is reduced, and class sizes are growing due to reductions in the number of teachers. Thus, your donations will provide much needed support for departmental functions. And, as always, thank you for your support and interest!

Theresa ML

Theresa "Terri" M Lee Chair, Department of Psychology

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

The Psychology Undergraduate Program continued to offer tremendous opportunities to our busy and excited students during the 2008-09 academic year. We had 1,956 declared concentrators at the end of the Winter 2009 term. In addition to formal course work, many students are active members of the department's community outreach programs or faculty research labs, as well as participants in educational forums organized by peer and student groups.



2009 Undergraduate Research Forum

Research played a focal role for the 67 Honors students who completed theses during the year. These students had an opportunity to present their research at the Department's fourth annual Undergraduate

Research Forum, a conference-style poster session at which 62 students presented their work, nearly twice as many as last year. The level of the work being done by these students continues to be of the highest order. Panels of judges interviewed the presenters and reviewed the posters before selecting the most outstanding work in several disciplines: **David Altshuler** (Biopsychology), **Jenna Stein** (Clinical), **Tracy Ederer** (Cognition and Perception), **Jennifer Hartsell** (Personality and Social Context), **Akshaya Varghese** (Social/ Organizational), and **Daniel Kessler** and **Jennifer Morack** (Developmental). These students and other students who completed senior research projects were honored along with award winners at the Department's Honors Ceremony on Friday, May 1st.



2009 Honors Ceremony Award Winners





Katherine Martin, Theresa Lee, John Hagen

Katherine Martin

was the recipient of the Muenzer Memorial 2007, Tanner Memorial 2008 and Pillsbury 2009 Awards. She is a BBCS Honors concentrator, Spanish and Linguistics minor, part of the Residential College and studied abroad in Spain dur-

ing the summer of 2008. She received these awards for her work in collaboration with Professor Nick Ellis on a study of phonological, working memory and grammar learning. Ultimately, Katherine plans to pursue a doctoral degree in second language acquisition.

Lana Castor won the 2009 Muenzer Memorial Award. Lana is a Psychology Honors and Sociology double concentrator and is currently studying abroad at John Cabot in Rome, Italy. Lana will be continuing her work in Professor Sandra Graham-Bermann's lab. Her research will revolve around traumatic stress in preschoolers exposed to domestic abuse.



Lana Castor

The Psychology Department offered the first annual **Psychology Career Fair** in March of 2009. Students had the opportunity to speak with representatives from graduate programs around the university as well as other institutions. They also shared information with potential employers, such as the Target Corporation and City Year, and connected with Psychology alumni. If you are interested in participating in our Psychology Career Fair and talking with students about Psychology-related career paths, please email **psych.saa@umich.edu** with your contact information!



GRADUATE NEWS

The 170 active students in the graduate program continue to excel in research and teaching. 24 students earned doctoral degrees during the past year. The 2008 cohort was made up of 35 students in Psychology, Combined Program in Education & Psychology, and the joint programs in Women's Studies, and Social Work. In Fall 2009, a group of 37 new students coming from Canada, Korea, Ukraine, Turkey, China, and the United States will join the program.



Mary Askren, Jerel Calzo, Theresa Lee, Brent Rosso

Over a thousand Graduate Student Instructors teach LSA classes in any given semester, but only 20 of them received the **2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award.** Of the elite twenty, three were from the Department of Psychology. Undergradu-

ate students, graduate student colleagues, and faculty advisors nominated and wrote letters in support of **Jerel Calzo** (Developmental), **Mary Askren** (Cognition & Perception), and **Brent Rosso** (Organizational). They were honored at a ceremony at Rackham in April.

Vicente Martinez, a graduate of the Biopsychology PhD Program, was honored by the New York Academy of Sciences with the James McKeen Cattell Dissertation Award. Vicente was the advisee of Martin Sarter. This is the 38th year for the award which recognizes high standards of dissertation research. Vicente is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington.



Vincente Martinez

Jamaal Matthews (CPEP) received the Walter M. Pillsbury Award and a Rackham Research Grant for his research on gender differences in achievement among African American



Jamaal Matthews

and Latino students in inner-city settings. **Kathryn (Katie) Howell** (Clinical) received a Barbara Perry Roberson Award, a Barbara Oleshansky Award, an Edward S. Bordin Research Award, and an IRWG Graduate Student Research Award. Katie's research is focused on the impact of intimate partner violence (IPV) on women and children.



and Desi Rios.

Chao Liu (Dev) received a Rackham International Research Award and a Rackham Predoctoral Research Award. Chao's research looks at ERP and fMRI correlates of English and Chinese speakers in linguistic tasks. The **Clyde Hamilton Coombs Scholarship in Mathematical Psychology** was awarded to two students this year—Daniel Brickman

(Soc) and JoonKoo Park (C&P). **Rackham Predoctoral Fellowships** were awarded to Jesse Chandler, Courtney Cogburn, Mesmin Destin, Chao Liu, Nicola Curtin

Diane Betz (Social), **Josh Carp** (Cognition & Perception), and **Elan McCollum** (CPEP) were awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships in May 2009.

This year was an extremely successful one for the **Latina/o Student Psychological Association (LSPA)**. For the second year in a row, they put together the Hispanic Heritage Month's Student-Faculty Research Symposium, where Latina/o psychology graduate students and faculty gave presentations of their current research to an audience that consisted of undergrads, graduate students, and faculty across the university. This year's symposium covered topics on community-based research, ethnic socialization and identity, sexual harassment, and eating disorders. In line

with their goal to build community beyond the academy, they sponsored 47 middle school students from Clippert Middle School in Southwest Detroit to a full day of activities related to the collegegoing process. In particular, students were provided with a campus tour, an informational college session, and an informal luncheon with LSPA



members. Moreover, in spring 2008 LSPA was a recipient of the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students-Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (APAGS-CEMA) Grant to fund a project that would enhance the training of ethnic minority graduate students in psychology.



FACULTY NEWS

Welcome New Faculty!



Wayne Aldrido





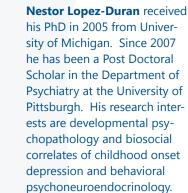
Promotion & Retirement



Nansook Park

Wayne Aldridge received his PhD in 1979 from the University of Toronto. He spent twenty six years with the Department of Neurology at the University of Michigan and has been an adjunct professor in our department since 1992. His research interests include neural mechanisms of movement and reward, the neuronal basis of neurological disorders, and coding and computational properties of neuronal networks.

Ioulia Kovelman received her PhD in 2006 from Dartmouth College. For the past two years she was a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research interests are in language and reading development, particularly in those who are monolingual and bilingual.



his PhD in 2005 from University of Michigan. Since 2007 he has been a Post Doctoral Scholar in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests are developmental psychopathology and biosocial correlates of childhood onset psychoneuroendocrinology.







Rachel Seidler



Cheryl King

Julie Boland (Cognition & Perception) Promoted to Professor of Psychology, with tenure and Professor of Linguistics, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Rachel Seidler

(Cognition & Perception) Promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and Associate Professor of Kinesiology, with tenure, in the School of Kinesiology.

Oscar Ybarra (Social) Promoted to Professor of Psychology, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Cheryl King (Clinical)

Promoted to Professor of Psychiatry, with tenure in the Medical School and Professor of Psychology, without tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. She has also accepted the position of Director of the Institute for Human Adjustment in the Rackham Graduate School.

Marilyn Shatz (Developmental) Professor Emerita of Psychology and Linguistics

Professor Shatz received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. She has been with the University of Michigan since 1977 when she began her career as an Assistant Professor of Psychology. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1979 and Professor in 1984. In 2001, she received an additional appointment as Professor of Linguistics. Professor Shatz is a well-known and highly



respected scholar, whose research integrates linguistic, cognitive, and social aspects of child development. She was a pioneer in expanding the field of language acquisition. Her research has been published in an impressively large number of books, chapters, and journal articles, many of which are widely cited.

FACULTY AWARDS

David Meyer was elected to the **National Academy of Sciences** in April of 2009. The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. It was established in 1863 by a congressional act of incorporation

signed by Abraham Lincoln that calls on the Academy to act as an official adviser to the federal government, upon request, in any matter of science or technology. In addition, Professor Meyer has been appointed as the Clyde H. Coombs and J.E. Keith Smith Collegiate Professor of Mathematical and Cognitive Psychology. In April 2009, Professor Meyer made the keynote presentation at a week long interdisciplinary sci-



David Meyer with His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama

entific conference on Attention, Memory, and The Mind with His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, in Dharalsala, India.



Ramaswami Mahalingam was chosen as the winner of the 2009 SPSSI Teaching Award for Graduate Institutions. He received this award based on his extraordinary work as a mentor, scholar and teacher. He is also the recipient of the 2008 Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award, an award to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching.

The 2009 A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert Award for Distinguished Educator in Clinical Psychology from the American Psychological Association was received by **Eric Bermann**. The APA also honored **Lorraine Gutierrez** with an award for Contributions to Communities of Color in Clinical Psychology.



Norbert Schwarz received the Best Article Award from the Journal of Consumer Research & Association for Consumer Research. He is also the recipient of the Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award of the Society for Consumer Psychology (APA Div 23) and the 2009 Wilhelm Wundt-William James Award.

Theresa Lee was honored by Rackham Graduate School with the Distinguished Graduate Mentoring Award for her exemplary mentoring and teaching in the classroom.

Edward Chang received the UROP Recognition Award for Outstanding Research Mentorship.



Catherine Lord was named Michiganian of the Year by the Detroit News. She won the Distinguished Speaker award at the International Meeting for Autism Research-IMFAR and the Distinguished Service to the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) award.



Daphna Oyserman was honored with the 2009 Humboldt Research Award. The award is granted in recognition of a researcher's entire achievements to date to academics whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements in the future.

Jacque Eccles has been named a 2009 Distinguished University Professor. It is one of the highest honors the University can bestow upon a member of the faculty and will be formally celebrated in October of 2009.



Tabbye Chavous was selected as the recipient of the 2009 Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award. It recognized University of Michigan faculty on the Ann Arbor campus who have exhibited outstanding leadership in the area of cultural diversity.



Henry Wellman will be named the Harold W. Stevenson Collegiate Professor of Psychology, September 1, 2009. He is also the recipient of the Rackham Distinguished Faculty

Achievement Award. **Kent Berridge** was named the James Olds Collegiate Professorship in Psychology and Neuroscience. **Jill Becker** was appointed the Patricia Y. Gurin Collegiate Professor of Psychology.

Cindy Lustig was chosen to receive the 2010 Henry Russel Award. This award recognizes both exceptional scholarship and conspicuous ability as a teacher. It is one of the highest honors the University bestows to junior members of its faculty.





Richard Nisbett was honored with the 2010 Henry Russel Lectureship. It is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior faculty member. He will deliver the 2010 Henry Russel Lecture on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

The Inaugural recipient of the "Henry Towes Award for Exceptional Contributions as an Emerging Leader in Ethnic Minority Psychology" from the Council of National Psychological Association for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests for 2009 is **Joseph Gone**.

Congratulations to the following faculty who were recently elected American Psychological Society Fellows!

Brad Bushman, Richard Gonzalez, Theresa Lee, Steve Maren, Jacqui Smith, Oscar Ybarra



Psychology Alumni 6th Annual Homecoming Tailgate

Saturday, September 26th, 2009

Oosterbaan Fieldhouse • 9AM-12PM • UM vs IN Kickoff Noon

The Department of Psychology is pleased to invite all of our alumni and their families to join us in celebrating Homecoming! We have once again joined forces with the Alumni Association to bring you the best homecoming tailgate around. Food, fun, football and that GO BLUE! spirit - the way homecoming was meant to be!

Feast on breakfast, lunch, snacks or sweets - we will have it all! Entertainment abounds whether it's old school arcade games, Nintendo Wii or being blown away by the Michigan Marching Band. There is something fun for every member of the family.

Tickets Prices:

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FREE Children under 5

RSVP by Friday, September 5th • www.lsa.umich.edu/psych • Tailgate '09 Info Questions? Contact us at (734) 764 7429 or psychtailgate@umich.edu

A Mind Without Coordinates

Letter from Richard E. Nisbett Professor of Psychology University of Michigan

Bob was brilliant, of course, but in a way I've never seen in anyone else and never managed to understand despite knowing him for 37 years. He constantly surprised me with his reactions to things and with the ideas he would come up with over lunch or in PhD orals. Speaking of which, he did manage sometimes to terrorize students with his odd connections: he might ask apropos of a dissonance dissertation, "How does this relate to Schimmelpinnick's theory of resistance to extinction?" I once complained to Hazel Markus that he had a mind without coordinates!

That impenetrable mind was responsible for some of the cleverest, and most important, research in all psychology. His work was characterized by its creativity and by the fact that there was no apparent common thread among the research questions for which he is most famous. His resolution of the puzzle about why the presence of others sometimes improves and sometimes impedes task performance was not tied in any obvious way to his text on animal

ROBERT B. ZAJONC 1923–2008



psychology, which was not linked clearly to his work on the effects of mere familiarity, which in turn was

seemingly unrelated to his demonstration that birth order is related to intelligence, which certainly didn't predict his subsequent work showing that emotion sometimes precedes cognition, which was independent of his work on the effects of facial expression on thermal regulation of the brain. Any one of those contributions would have been considered sufficient to make him a highly respected researcher.

Bob once told me that he "never knew where it was going." A problem would suggest itself and he would just begin exploring it, learning from his data to a degree that is unusual and following the trail wherever it led. This surprised me because I always knew where it was going with my research. (Never mind that I was usually wrong.)

Bob was funny, unflappable, gregarious, generous, and a born leader. Any event where he was present was an occasion. Any ISR or psychology department occasion from which he was absent was a diminished event. He took care of his students and colleagues in way that evolutionists argue is one of the surest ways to guarantee survival of one's genes. He provided resources for others who willingly gave more resources back to him. His ideas are going to be memes that will survive long after his passing.



Robert B. Zajonc was born in Lodz, Poland, on November 23, 1923.

He dedicated four decades of his life and career to the University of Michigan, serving many roles including Professor, head of Social Psychology, Director of the Research Center for Group Dynamics and the Director of the Institute for Social Research. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1955.

For more information on his life and research, articles are available at www.nytimes.com and in the April 2009 issue of the Observer at www.psychologicalsicence.org/ observer.

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