How the Rich are Different from the Poor  

By Michael Kraus

In one conversation, F. Scott Fitzgerald noted to his friend Ernest Hemmingway “The rich are different from the poor.” Hemmingway’s response: “Yes, they have more money.” This popular recounting of a conversation (that actually never took place) is a common reaction to issues of social class—American history is filled with stories of upward economic mobility and social opportunity. In America, where the pursuit of happiness is a protected fundamental right for all citizens, social classes seem less like real social categories and more like labels that politicians use to divide Americans.

And yet, the emerging science conducted in psychology laboratories across the United States tells a different story: Social class—defined as contrasting levels of income, educational attainment, and occupation status—is a fundamental influence on our everyday life outcomes, on our health, and on the opportunities that are available to us throughout the life course. In the Champaign Social Interaction (CSI) Laboratory at the University of Illinois, where I am director, one of our primary goals is to investigate how social class shapes the ways we think, feel, and behave.

The results that we have accumulated over the years suggest that one’s social class background changes perceptions of the social environment in fundamental ways: People from relatively lower-class backgrounds—with lower levels of economic and social resources—tend to grow up and are socialized in environments where their outcomes are shaped by the external social context and other individuals. The material conditions of these environments create a contextualized self in lower-class individuals—a self that is vigilant and responsive to changes in the external environment and the behavior of others. In contrast, growing up in a relatively resource-rich environment, as is the case for people from relatively upper-class backgrounds, individuals develop a solipsistic self—a self that is less aware of the external environment and more attuned to internal goals, thoughts, and motivations.

The contextualized selves allow individuals from lower-class backgrounds to respond more quickly and accurately to significant environmental challenges. As such, we find that people from these backgrounds tend to be more aware of and accurate in reading others’ emotions during interactions than their upper-class counterparts. Lower-class individuals also tend to be vigilant of social threats—for example, interpreting an ambiguous social situation (e.g., waiting for a table at a restaurant) as a direct threat to their well-being—whereas their upper-class counterparts remain blissfully unaware of the potential threats in these social situations.

In contrast, the solipsistic selves of upper-class individuals lead these individuals to be less aware of the suffering and needs of strangers. In one set of studies, relatively upper-class individuals reported less compassion and did not exhibit changes in heart rate when watching a video showing families coping with cancer. In comparison, lower-class individuals reported elevated compassion and showed reduced heart rate—a physiological response associated with orienting to the needs of others.

This relative lack of awareness of others’ states is also reflected in upper-class individuals’ explanations for the social environment—which tend to focus disproportionately on internal forces and less on the environment. For instance, when describing social categories, people who perceived themselves as higher on the social class hierarchy tended to more strongly endorse essentialist beliefs about social class—beliefs that class categories are natural and genetically based.

These patterns in the social selves of lower- and upper-class individuals reflect the profound ways in which the material conditions of our lives influence basic psychology. The CSI laboratory is currently undertaking a number of projects that leverage what is known about social class selves to inform solutions to broad social and societal problems. The first of these social problems involves the tendency for individuals from lower-class backgrounds to vote less in national elections. Members of the CSI lab (Bennett Callaghan and Jacinth Tan) are working on ways to better understand and promote political participation amongst these individuals. We are currently testing whether pro-social messages about the function of government—that match the contextualized selves and pro-social behavioral patterns of lower-class individuals—raise voter turnout and political participation amongst people from relatively lower-class backgrounds.

(continued on page 9)
Greetings! This edition of the Psychology Newsletter contains a wealth of information about the people (undergrads, grad students, faculty, staff, and alumni) who make this department one of the best in the country. I am especially impressed by the activities of our alumni, who are featured prominently in a variety of ways in this newsletter. One of my top priorities as department head has been to strengthen the connections between the department and our alumni, because we are all members of the great Illini family. I have also relied heavily on the contributions of our many devoted alumni to improve the undergraduate experience for our current Psychology majors.

For example, on pg. 4 you will read about our 8th annual Career Information Night, which 36 alumni attended to share their knowledge and experience with our current students. Who better to show our current students the value of a Psychology degree than our successful alumni? The range of career options that are available to our students is demonstrated by the wide variety of careers represented by the alumni who participated in Career Information Night (see pg. 5). This Fall, through the amazing efforts of our Alumni Advisory Board, we will be kicking it up a notch by holding our first annual Leadership and Career Development Workshop (see pg. 8), which will focus on helping students develop the key skills that they will need in order to find good jobs after they graduate from Illinois. This new program builds on the success we have achieved with our alumni-drawn internship program (pg. 7), part of which involves mock interviews with real professionals in the local business community to help students prepare to enter the "real world."

I am continually impressed by the accomplishments of our alumni. You will read about a few of them in this edition of the newsletter, including Elizabeth Pieroth, a trailblazer in the area of sports neuropsychology; Celeste Hill, recipient of this year’s Distinguished Alumna Award from the department; Fred Volkmar, recipient of a University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award this spring; and Sam Krug, President of the educational testing company MetriTech and a member of the Alumni Advisory Board, who has kickstarted our new fundraising drive (see pg. 7) with his donation to create the Sam Krug Spirit Fund. In addition to these, I have had the pleasure of meeting many other alumni in the last year, including Jane Jukes, Larry Kanfer, Michael Kraus, Callaghan, Andrei Cimpian, Emily Dworkin, Robert Bjork, Ehsan Bokhari, Mary Kay Bonds, Ramm, Ryan Santens, Maayan Stavans, Daniel Newman, Elizabeth Pieroth, Ashley Ramen, Ryan Santens, Maayan Stavans, L. Brian Stauffer Oil News Bureau, Thompson-McClain Photography Inc., Marcia Hilde, Billy Vermeules, Nikki Wyss, Christopher Zwilling. Suggestions for future issues should be directed to Cheryl Berg, Editor.

I am deeply grateful to the tireless efforts of our Alumni Advisory Board, who have contributed countless hours in sharing their knowledge and expertise with our current undergraduates through internship, mentorship, and career counseling activities. The Board would like to meet additional alumni and so it is hosting two events in the fall. On September 14 there will be a tour of historic Graceland Cemetery in Chicago, followed by lunch at the mwatu Restaurant (see pg. 8 for details). In addition, there will be a Psychology Alumni/Networking Event featuring wine and cheese pairings at the Rittergut Wine Bar on October 16th (see pg. 8). We hope that you will be able to attend these events to learn about the efforts of the Alumni Advisory Board in helping to prepare our current students for careers after college.

Although I have focused on alumni in this edition, the newsletter contains the usual mix of information about the department, featuring the research of Assistant Professor Michael Kraus and graduate student Christopher Zwilling, the experiences of one of our outstanding undergraduate students, Nabia Arshad, and honors to faculty, staff, and students in the last year; and departures and arrivals. It is never boring here, believe me.

Please feel free to visit the department if you can. You are always welcome.

David E. Irwin
Professor and Head

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Psychology

From the Department Head

Trail Blazer in Sports Neuropsychology

By Elizabeth Pieroth

My entry into the world of psychology was likely atypical. I was a biology/pre-medicine major for my first two and a half years at Illinois but I became interested in the psychology courses I took as electives. I switched my major to Psychology in my junior year. I did not fully understand what I wanted to do after graduation because I was not interested in academia or research (my limited experience in working with lab rats solidified that for me). My psychology advisor suggested I pursue a graduate program in clinical psychology. After taking a year off and working in the “real world” I did just that.

During my year at Illinois School of Professional Psychology I was introduced to the field of Neuropsychology. I was immediately drawn to the perfect combination of my two interests, psychology and medicine. I completed my residency at Neuropsychology at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital in Chicago and loved my work in brain trauma.

After I received my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 2007, I moved to Detroit, MI for my post-doctoral fellowship in the Division of Neuropsychology of Henry Ford Hospital. It was an incredible experience for many reasons, but mostly because of the opportunity to train with Dr. Mark Lovell. Dr. Lovell is one of the world’s leading experts on sports concussion. He remains a close colleague and mentor to this day. Although I did not seek out the fellowship for sports neuropsychology training, I was offered the opportunity to work with concussed athletes during this time. In 1997 the National Hockey League started a formalized concussin program so I began my work with professional athletes and the Detroit Red Wings.

After my fellowship, I returned to Chicago and focused my work on assessment and treatment of brain injury patients in the acute recovery stage. However, I evaluated concussed athletes as well because there were not many clinicians trained in sports neuropsychology at the time. I became Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology as well. After a few years I began my own private practice in order to balance the demands of work and a family. My husband and I are very busy with our two active sons who are now nine and five years old.

Through the years my practice became increasingly more focused on concussion and sports neuropsychology, including my official role as the concussion/head injury consultant to the Chicago Bears, Blackhaws, White Sox, Fire and Northwestern University. However, my practice has always consisted mostly of assessing youth athletes with concussion from across the state of Illinois, as well as northwest Indiana and southern Wisconsin. A significant focus of my practice has also been to provide education to those involved in youth sports, including parents, players, coaches, teachers and healthcare providers.

In July 2012 I joined NorthShore University HealthSystem as the Associate Director of their Sports Concussion Program. I am on the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of Illinois to support their work with brain injured patients and their families. I also am on the National Advisory Committee for USA Football’s Heads Up Program, which is designed to provide health education to the youth football community and reduce injuries in football.

I am a founding member of the Sports Neuropsychology Society (SNS). SNS was formed to help increase the number of neuropsychologists appropriately trained in sports concussion. I have written an neuropsychological assessment of concussion and I am involved in research on concussion in sports (fortunately, no lab rats are involved).

I fondly recall my time at Illinois and my fortunate introduction to the combination of psychology and medicine, which laid the groundwork for my career. One of my favorite pictures that I use at the end of all of my presentations is my two sons wearing their Illini football jerseys! 

Elizabeth Pieroth, PsyD, ABPP, is Neuropsychologist/Associate Director of the Sports Concussion Program at NorthShore University HealthSystem. Her practice consists entirely of assessment and treatment of children and adults with concussion injuries.

Pieroth is a Concussion Specialist with the Chicago Bears (July 2004-present), Chicago Blackhawks (August 2007-present), Northwestern University Athletics (July 2010-present), Chicago Fire (January 2011-present), Chicago White Sox (April 2011-present), Board Member, Brain Injury Association of Illinois (June 2011-present), and a Member of the USA Football Advisory Committee (April 2013-present).

Alumni Share Advice

Thirty-six psychology alumni came back to campus on Monday, February 24, 2014 to offer students insight on how a degree in Psychology can prepare them for a future career. Four of the alumni, Bradley Axelrod, Courtney Bishop, Carrie Grady, and Nicole Shields participated in an hour-long panel discussion. The alumni shared information about their career paths and experiences followed by a question and answer session. Students had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with alumni from 5-6:30pm in the Psychology Atrium. The event is special for the students as well as the participating alumni. If you are interested in participating in the department’s 2015 event, contact Cheryl Berger, Assistant Head for Alumni Relations at (217) 333-4329 or cberger@illinois.edu.

You can view a video of the panel discussion, Alumni & A, and scenes from Career Information Night at: psychology.illinois.edu/alumni/2014careerinfo/

2014 Career Information Night Alumni Participants

Bradley Axelrod (BS 1984, Psychology, Bronze Tablet, University of Illinois; PhD 1990, Clinical Psychology, Wayne State University; Staff Psychologist, Neuropsychologist, Department of Illinois’ Compact Coordinator, Illinois Department of Children & Family Services)

Courtney Bishop (BS 2010, Psychology, University of Illinois; Academy for Urban School Leadership, 10/2012-9/2013; currently enrolled in Masters in Higher Education, Loyola University; First Year Secondary Counselor/Pheonix Rising Coordinator, North Lawndale College Prep H.S.; Christiana Campus

Allison Brawn-Cazarro (BS 1992, Psychology, University of Illinois; MS 1996, Human Resources, Loyola University; Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) Certification 2001, Human Resources Certification Institute) Bryan Hill Consulting, Owner


Bradley Douglas (BS 1975, Psychology, MSW 1978, University of Illinois; Coopsworner Supervisor, Illinois Youth Center-Chicago retired

Steven Epstein (BS 1968, Psychology, University of Illinois; DDS 1972) Dentist (retired)

Laura Faynor-Ciha (BS 1983, Psychology, University of Illinois; MS 1985, Illinois State University; PhD 1995, Illinois Institute of Technology/Licensed Clinical Psychologist

The Honorable Jeffrey Ford (BS 1973 Psychology; J.D. 1976, Law, University of Illinois) Circuit Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Chicago County


Carrie Goodly (BS 1999, Psychology, University of Illinois, MEd 2010, Community Counseling, Loyola University) Human Resource Manager, Dentsitete

James E. Gunel (BS 1996, Psychology, University of Illinois; MBA 2004, Eastern Illinois University) Assistant Director for Scheduling IT User Services Research, IT Support, University of Illinois


Cleante Hill (AB 1982, Psychology, University of Illinois; J.D. 1986, Northwestern University School of Law) Partner, Claussen-Niiler PLLC

Dale Ilke (BS 1971, Psychology, University of Illinois, MS 1974, Psychology, Illinois State University) Adjunct Instructor of Psychology, Heartland Community College

Marian Karapanos (BS 1983, Psychology, University of Illinois; JD 1996, John marshall Law School) Karapanos Law Offices, Owner

Drew Kaiser (BS 2008, Psychology, Maribor December 2009, University of Illinois HR Manager, Gil North America, AGD Corporation

Sue Koller (BS 1992, Psychology, University of Illinois; Bachelor January 2011, Individual Placement and Support/Supported Employment, Dartmouth College, MSW anticipated May 2014, Specialization: Mental Health, University of Illinois, 2013-14 school year, Clinical counseling intern, University of Illinois Faculty Staff Assistance Program) August 2012-present, Graduate Assistant of Family Relations, University of Illinois

Loren Kuzuhara (BS 1985, Psychology, University of Illinois; Two years of Doctoral Studies in Counseling Psychology, University of Texas-Austin) MBA & PhD 1994, Business Administration, University of Wisconsin-Madison) Teaching Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Michael Langendorf (BS 1975, Psychology, MSW 1981, University of Illinois) Guidance Counselor, U of I Laboratory High-School

Marc Lechman (BS 1991, Psychology, University of Illinois, MS 1993, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; PhD 1996, Arizona State) Professor, Department of Health, Exercise, and Sport Sciences, Texas Tech University


Lisa Nicole (BS 1991, Psychology, 1993 MEd/Higher & Continuing Education, University of Illinois, 2002 School Guidance & Counseling, Lewis University, Type 73 endorsement (School Counseling Certification) IL Director, College Counseling/Department Chair of Student Services Office, U of I Laboratory High School

Larry Muller (BS 1974, Psychology & Economics, MBA 1976, University of Illinois) President, Amento Capital Group, Inc.

Susan Nelson (BA 1986, Psychology, University of Illinois, Masters in Child, Family, & Community Service 1999, University of Illinois at Springfield; MSW 2008, Lincoln University) Professor, Department of Physical Therapy 2007, Midwestern University) Senior Physical Therapist, Carle Therapy Services


Ronald Rothschild (BS, MSW 1984, School of Social Work, University of Illinois) Psychotherapist


Allen Shub (BS 1965, Psychology, University of Illinois, MA 1968, Social Psychology, PhD 1977, Quantitative Psychology, Loyola University Chicago) Associate Professor for Personnel & University Contract Administrator (retired), Northern Illinois University Professor, Loyola University

Sue Koller (BS 2008, Psychology, MSW 2008, University of Illinois/School Social Worker, Pre-K-5th grade, Paxton-Buckley-Loda School District Unit 10

Allen Shub (BS 1965, Psychology, University of Illinois, MA 1968, Social Psychology, PhD 1977, Quantitative Psychology, Loyola University Chicago) Associate Professor for Personnel & University Contract Administrator (retired), Northern Illinois University Professor, Loyola University

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University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award

Fred R. Volkmar, MD is the 2014 recipient of the UIAA Award which is the highest honor the Alumni Association bestows on a graduate in recognition of their extraordinary professional accomplishments.

Volkmar has been the recipient of the Department of Psychology’s Distinguished Alumni Award (2000), UIAA Alumni Achievement Award (2009), and he received an Honorary Degree from the University of Illinois (2013). Volkmar is the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology and Director of the Yale Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine. He is also the Chief of Child Psychiatry at Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT. Volkmar received his BS degree from Illinois in 1972, graduating with High Honors and Highest Distinction in Psychology. He received a Master’s degree in Psychology at Stanford while simultaneously receiving a Master’s degree in Psychology at Stanford while simultaneously

Distinguished Alumni Honored

The Department of Psychology honored Cleante Hill, a distinguished alumna, at our awards ceremony on May 17, 2014.

Hill received her A.B. from the University of Illinois in 1982, graduating Phi Beta Kappa with majors in psychology and philosophy. In 1986, she received her Juris Doctor degree from Northwestern University School of Law. Hill is a partner in the Chicago-based law firm of Clausen Miller P.C., where she has practiced since 1986. A counselor and trial attorney, Hill has broad experience handling complex commercial matters, including the representation of domestic and foreign markets in major property insurance disputes and the prosecution and defense of liability claims in the construction and products liability fields. Her commercial litigation expertise also includes the handling of banking and intellectual property disputes.

Hill is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and is a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel. She is currently Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association Property Insurance Law Committee of the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section. For several years, she served on the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the Chicago Bar Association.

Hill is a life member of the University Illinois Presidents Council and she has served on the Alumni Advisory Board to the Department of Psychology since its inception in 2009.
We would like to thank all of the contributors to our first fundraising campaign for making it such a success. The campaign raised $32,828 to provide need-based scholarships for unpaid internships and update classrooms with state-of-the-art audio-video technology. The campaign ended at 131% of our $25,000 objective. We applaud you for having such a positive impact on the futures of current students.

The Psychology Alumni Advisory Board has decided to launch a new Shape the Future Today Campaign. We are expanding our scope and raising the financial goal to $100,000. That is our goal as alumni—that will be our legacy.

With our university and state budgets stretched, the cost of a college education is challenging for many to afford, and the need to help our students develop the skills and competitive edge to succeed in today’s workplace, motivated the Psychology Alumni Board to launch a second campaign. Our goal can be achievable with your help and will enable the Psychology Department to:

- Award multiple need-based scholarships for undergraduate students
- Award multiple need-based scholarships for unpaid internships
- Upgrade more classrooms with state-of-the-art audio/video/internet technology
- Help the graduate student group, Students of Psychology Ally for Riveting Colloquia (SPARC)

We all recognize how costly a college education is and how an internship can lead to a student’s first job upon graduation. In addition, an internship provides skills that can give a student a competitive edge. There is growing discussion about how to measure the value of a degree from a University based upon the compensation of a university’s recent graduates.

The Psychology Department Alumni Advisory Board is committed to the success of this campaign and we have 100% participation from our members. Each donor, with the donor’s approval, will be recognized on the “Friends of Psychology” website page. We are also adding a student section to encourage our students to help each other. We believe that nurturing a spirit of giving among students will benefit them and our society as they grow in their careers.

Please help the Shape the Future Today Fund Campaign and have a positive impact on students today. It is a great feeling and a wonderful cause.

Sincerely,

Steve Wiet, President
Loren Kuzuhara, Vice President
Larry Moller, President Emeritus

Raymond B. Cattell Scholarship in Psychology

Dr. Samuel E. Krug and his wife, Marion Ethel Krug, helped kick off the Alumni Advisory Board’s new fundraising drive with their gift to create the Raymond B. Cattell Scholarship in Psychology. Krug received both his MA and PhD degrees in Psychology from Illinois and Professor Raymond Cattell served as his faculty advisor.

Krug is currently chairman and CEO of MetriTech, Inc., an educational testing company that works primarily with large-scale, state testing programs. He has published many articles, books, and tests. His articles and books all relate to issues in applied personality and educational measurement.

Krug has also worked with Advisory Board member Denise Guillen to arrange and conduct mock interviews for students in the Capstone Internship Seminar at the Champaign County Country Club. These mock interviews provide students not only with a realistic introduction to interviews in the business world, but give them feedback and suggestions so that the students can be successful as they embark on their career paths.

“I’ve been on the Psychology Alumni board since it began. In that capacity, I’ve worked each year with undergrads in the internship class that we helped shape. The quality of these students and, very often, their persistence in spite of obstacles, some financial, has uniformly impressed me. Through this scholarship we hope to make a dent in at least some of those obstacles.”
Psychology Alumni Networking Event - Rittergut Wine Bar, Chicago

Psychology’s Alumni Advisory Board is pleased to invite you to an exciting wine and cheese pairing event at the Rittergut Wine Bar on 10 South Wacker Drive from 5:30 – 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 16th. Come by after work and enjoy four intriguing wine and cheese pairings put together by the sommeliers at the Rittergut, regarded as the best new wine bar in the Loop. Learn about the nuances of these wine and cheese combinations from their wine experts. Meet and network with fellow Psychology alumni and professionals at one of the most respected wine bars in the Loop.

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2014
Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Location: The Rittergut Wine Bar, 10 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL
Cost: The event is free to Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) psychology alumni
Registration: Openings for the event are limited, so please sign up by October 14, 2014.

For more information, please contact Stephan Wier, President of the Psychology Alumni Advisory Board at sweitz@jnj.com or (973) 919-4671.

To register for this event contact: psyct-alumni@ncsu.psyh.illinois.edu

Comming September 2014

Psychology Leadership and Career Development Workshop

The Psychology Alumni Advisory Board and the Department of Psychology will be co-sponsoring a ‘career camp’ for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign psychology undergraduate students on Friday, September 12th (4-8 p.m.) and Saturday, September 13th (8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.) in the Psychology Building. This highly experiential and engaging workshop will focus on helping participants develop key skills that will enhance their ability to find good jobs after they graduate from Illinois.

The workshop will focus on enhancing career development skills (e.g., resumes, networking, communication skills, leadership and personality self-assessments, etc.) The cost of the program will be $150 which will be used to cover the cost of materials and other learning activities. Students with demonstrated financial need may qualify for a scholarship to cover the cost of this workshop.

This workshop is open to all Illinois psychology undergraduate students. However, preference will be given to seniors and juniors. For more information about the workshop, please go to: facebook.com/groups/PSCDW.

Historic Tour of Graceland Cemetery/Lunch at Tango Surf

The Psychology Alumni Advisory Board is pleased to invite you to join us for an exciting historical tour of a Chicago treasure, Graceland Cemetery, at 11 a.m. on Sunday, September 14. In a recent article published by Bottom Line Magazine, Graceland was mentioned as one of the four most historic cemeteries in the United States. You may be familiar with the large brick wall that surrounds the cemetery, but what is inside Graceland is truly amazing. It is the resting place of many distinguished Chicagoans, including Marshall Field, Daniel Burnham, Louis Sullivan, Ludwig von der Rehe, Cyrus McCormick, Allen Peckerton, George Pullman, Charles Wacker, Joseph Medill, and John Altgeld to name a few.

Experience the beautiful pathways, spectacular monuments, the lake and beautiful bird sanctuary. Walk across a wooden bridge to an island on the lake which is Daniel Burnham’s final resting place.

After a two-hour guided tour conducted by a docent from The Chicago Architectural Foundation, please join us for lunch at another Chicago treasure, Tango Surf. Located just a few blocks from Graceland Cemetery, Tango Surf is an Argentine steakhouse with a delicious Latin flair.

You can attend just the tour, the lunch or both at a fantastic value!

Date: Sunday, September 14, 2014
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Graceland Cemetery Tour, 4001 N. Clark Street (please arrive by 10:45 a.m.)
1:30 p.m. Lunch at Tango Surf, 3763 N. Southport Ave
Cost: $70 Tour Only
$50 Lunch Only
$120 Tour and Lunch
Registration: Please register by Friday, August 22, 2014.

For more information, please contact Larry Miller, Psychology Alumni Advisory Board at larry@anthemcapitalgroup.com or (847) 644-8060.

To register, please visit https://apps.illinois.edu/forms/surveys/Survey/LAS/Administration/LAS_Advancement_Office/Graceland_Cemetery_Tour_and_Lunch/Survey

2014 Fall Lyle Lanier Lecture

Forgetting as a friend of learning: How we learn versus how we think we learn

Robert Bjork will be the featured speaker for the Department of Psychology’s 2014 Fall Lanier Lecture on Monday, October 13, 2014, 4:00pm at the Beckman Institute auditorium.

Professor Bjork is a 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.

Lyle H. Lanier Fund

The Lyle Lanier Lecture is supported by a fund established by L. Gene and Catherine Lanier, and Lyle Lanier, Jr., in memory of Catherine and Lyle’s father, Lyle Lanier, former head of the Department of Psychology, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and President of the Urbana-Champaign campus. The Lyle Lanier Lecture brings a distinguished psychologist to campus whose work is of interest to the general campus community.
Helen Corley Petit Scholar

Sarah Brown-Schmidt has been designated as a 2014-2015 Helen Corley Petit Scholar on the basis of her extraordinary record as an assistant professor. Helen Corley Petit, an alumna of the College of LAS who passed away in 2002, provided an endowment for the development of the scholarship and teaching of young faculty members in the College. This is a very competitive and prestigious award; winners are determined by the LAS Executive Committee following the review of all promotion and tenure diaries in the College.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Graduate Student Organization Instructional Award

The department is pleased to announce that Sarah Brown-Schmidt (left) and Andrei Cimpian (right) have been appointed associate head for graduate affairs.

Wang Appointed Associate Head for Graduate Affairs

Ranxiao Frances Wang has been appointed as associate head for graduate affairs effective July 1, 2014. Wang received her PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1999 and since then has been a faculty member in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois. Dr. Wang’s research focuses on visual and spatial cognition, including how humans perceive optic flow and make judgments about their locomotion, how people process spatial information during navigation, how the visual system temporally separates and integrates the continuous stream of optical stimulation to coherent percepts, the time course of visual sensitivity during eye movements, how people represent objects and scenes, and human visual imagination of high-dimensional objects and space. She has published over 45 articles in journals and book chapters, including Psychological Science, Trends in Cognitive Sciences, Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, & Cognition, Cognitive Brain Research, and Psychonomic Bulletin and Review. She was awarded the Graduate Student Organization Instructional Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising at the Graduate Level (1997) and the Beckman Award from the University of Illinois Research Board (2000). Gansey is a member of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Linguistic Society of America, Psychonomic Society, American Psychological Society, Society for Psychophysiological Research, and Society for the Neurobiology of Language.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Susan Gansey retired June 30, 2014 after 25 years in the Department of Psychology. Gansey received a BA in Linguistics from State University of New York at Oswego (1974) and an MA (1982) and PhD (1986) from the University of Rochester.

Gansey is an associate professor in the department’s Cognitive Division, the Department of Linguistics and Neurosciences Program, and she also has an appointment at the Beckman Institute in the Cognitive Neurosciences Group. Her research focuses on language processing: the comprehension of sentences in isolation and in discourse, the resolution of syntactic and lexical ambiguity and content effects on that resolution; the effect of proof on disambiguation; on-line techniques for measuring language comprehensions, including eye-movement monitoring and event-related brain potentials; word recognition; language brain relationships. Gansey served as an associate head of the department from 2002-2003. In the fall of 2008 she transitioned to the position of associate head for graduate affairs. In this position, she worked closely with the coordinator and staff in the department’s Graduate Student Affairs Office, and she was responsible for interacting with the nearly 170 graduate students in the department. She also served on the Graduate College’s Executive Committee and participated in their Illinois Partners for Diversity Institute. Gansey served as associate editor for Psychophysiology and guest editor for Language and Cognitive Processes. She was also an ad hoc reviewer for the most prestigious journals in her field including the Journal of Memory and Language, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, & Cognition, Cognitive Brain Research, and Psychonomic Bulletin and Review. She was also selected for the Beckman Award from the Society for Multivariate Experimental Psychology (1981), received the Jacob Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Mentoring (AAA Division 5, 2009), and is the recipient of Psychology’s Graduate Student Organization Instructional Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising at the Graduate Level (1992, 1999, 2000, 2004).


New Faculty

Monica Udin is an associate professor in the Behavioral Neuroscience and Social-Personality Division. Her work seeks to identify the genetic, epigenetic, and other biological signatures associated with risk for, and resilience to, stress-related mental illness. Major areas of current research include: delineating the epigenetic changes induced by traumatic stress; elucidating the underlying molecular etiology that links mental and physical disorders; and investigating molecular contributions to mental illness that may vary across development.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

The department is pleased to announce that Sarah Brown-Schmidt (left) and Andrei Cimpian (right) have been appointed by the Department of Psychology to be a Provost Fellow. She will be half-time in the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Office for two years working on issues of diversity, particularly as they relate to faculty and students.}

FACULTY AWARDS

Fyssen Foundation International Prize

Renee Baillargeon has been awarded the 2013 Fyssen Foundation International Prize. This is a scientific award that has been given annually since 1980 to a scientist who has conducted distinguished research in the areas supported by the foundation. This year the theme was Human Cognitive Development. The award ceremony took place in Paris in March.

Heller Named Provost Fellow

Wendy Heller has been chosen to be a Provost Fellow. She will be half-time in the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Office for two years working on issues of diversity, particularly as they relate to faculty and students.

Helen Corley Petit Scholar

Sarah Brown-Schmidt has been designated as a 2014-2015 Helen Corley Petit Scholar on the basis of her extraordinary record as an assistant professor. Helen Corley Petit, an alumna of the College of LAS who passed away in 2002, provided an endowment for the development of the scholarship and teaching of young faculty members in the College. This is a very competitive and prestigious award; winners are determined by the LAS Executive Committee following the review of all promotion and tenure diaries in the College.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Graduate Student Organization Instructional Award

This award is presented to faculty for excellence in teaching and advising at the graduate level. The 2014 recipient is Sarah Brown-Schmidt (pictured above) from the Cognition Division.

Wang Appointed Associate Head for Graduate Affairs

Ranxiao Frances Wang has been appointed as associate head for graduate affairs effective July 1, 2014. Wang received her PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1999 and since then has been a faculty member in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois. Dr. Wang’s research focuses on visual and spatial cognition, including how humans perceive optic flow and make judgments about their locomotion, how people process spatial information during navigation, how the visual system temporally separates and integrates the continuous stream of optical stimulation to coherent percepts, the time course of visual sensitivity during eye movements, how people represent objects and scenes, and human visual imagination of high-dimensional objects and space. She has published over 45 articles in journals and book chapters, including Psychological Science, Trends in Cognitive Sciences, Psychonomic Bulletin & Review, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, & Cognition, Cognitive Brain Research, and Psychonomic Bulletin and Review. She was awarded the Graduate Student Organization Instructional Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising at the Graduate Level (1997) and the Beckman Award from the University of Illinois Research Board (2000). Gansey is a member of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Linguistic Society of America, Psychonomic Society, American Psychological Society, Society for Psychophysiological Research, and Society for the Neurobiology of Language.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Susan Gansey retired June 30, 2014 after 25 years in the Department of Psychology. Gansey received a BA in Linguistics from State University of New York at Oswego (1974) and an MA (1982) and PhD (1986) from the University of Rochester.

Gansey is an associate professor in the department’s Cognitive Division, the Department of Linguistics and Neurosciences Program, and she also has an appointment at the Beckman Institute in the Cognitive Neurosciences Group. Her research focuses on language processing: the comprehension of sentences in isolation and in discourse, the resolution of syntactic and lexical ambiguity and content effects on that resolution; the effect of proof on disambiguation; on-line techniques for measuring language comprehensions, including eye-movement monitoring and event-related brain potentials; word recognition; language brain relationships. Gansey served as an associate head of the department from 2002-2003. In the fall of 2008 she transitioned to the position of associate head for graduate affairs. In this position, she worked closely with the coordinator and staff in the department’s Graduate Student Affairs Office, and she was responsible for interacting with the nearly 170 graduate students in the department. She also served on the Graduate College’s Executive Committee and participated in their Illinois Partners for Diversity Institute. Gansey served as associate editor for Psychophysiology and guest editor for Language and Cognitive Processes. She was also an ad hoc reviewer for the most prestigious journals in her field including the Journal of Memory and Language, Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, & Cognition, Cognitive Brain Research, and Psychonomic Bulletin and Review. She was also selected for the Beckman Award from the Society for Multivariate Experimental Psychology (1981), received the Jacob Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching and Mentoring (AAA Division 5, 2009), and is the recipient of Psychology’s Graduate Student Organization Instructional Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising at the Graduate Level (1992, 1999, 2000, 2004).

FACULTY OBITUARY
WILLIAM GREENOUGH: A LIFE REMEMBERED
Retired prof recalled as gifted, passionate

By JULIE MURTHA, jwurth@ news-gazette.com

Throughout your life, your brain literally changes based on everything you learn and experience. That concept, known as "plasticity," underlies our basic assumptions about learning, memory, early childhood education, even stroke recovery. But it wasn't always accepted.

"Bill Greenough was a towering figure in neuroscience for many years," not just on this campus but around the world, said Neal Cohen, UI professor of psychology, one of many scientists recruited here by Mr. Greenough. Starting in the late 1960s, Greenough explored the neural basis of learning and memory and the effects of aging, exercise, injury and environmental enrichment on the brain, using rats as his subjects. His work on sensory and motor systems of the brain overcame early views that sensory and motor systems of the brain were predetermined. "At the time the prevailing view was that intelligence was inherited and that your class sort of represented your potential," she said. Mr. Greenough's research proved that environment, exercise and training continue to shape the brain throughout life, Cohen said.

He went on to identify the mechanisms and signals that regulate those changes in the brain. His work led to new insights into how these functions can go awry in conditions such as Fragile X syndrome, the most common cause of inherited mental impairment, he said. Mr. Greenough changed fields from psychiatry to anatomy to neurology — anything to do with the nervous system, said Klein.

Mr. Greenough was born in Seattle but grew up in Gearhart and Saugus, Ore. He finished his undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Oregon at age 19, earned a doctorate in psychology at the University of California at Los Angeles and joined the UI faculty just before his 24th birthday.

He was often referred to as the "boy wonder," said Juraska, who described him as "a vortex of ideas and energy." "He really was gifted," Klein said. "People used to have to stop him all the time and say, 'Wait, my brain doesn't work like yours.'" Yet he had an easygoing teaching style that "made this mental powerhouse that he was," he said. Still, his passion for his work always came through, as when he led a briskly during class or smack the screen with his pointer to emphasize a concept, Cohen said.

Greenough took a special interest in the undergraduate students in his lab and won teaching awards. "He liked bringing them to a place where they could explore things on their own," Juraska said. "Not many professors even think of that way." By the time he retired in 2009, Mr. Greenough held a Swanklund Endowed Chair and appointments in psychology, psychiatry, and cell and developmental biology. He served as director of the Neuroscience Program and the Center for Advanced Study.

He played a key role in the establishment of the UI Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, recruiting top scientists who shared his mission of interdisciplinary, collaborative research.

He was one of the first two associate directors and led its biological intelligence research theme. He was active on the national front, lobbying Congress to invest money in specific research areas and taking leadership roles in major scientific organizations, Klein said. He was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

He was also a passionate sailor and birder. The crawl irony of the disease that led to Mr. Greenough's death saddens his colleagues. "He was very aware of what this was," Juraska said. "For a while he was hopeful he could outman, it but it wasn't so. It was tragic."

He is survived by his mother; Maryon Greenough; sister, Mary Kerwin; brother, Thomas Greenough; daughter, Jennifer Greenough; son-in-law, Jorge Jimenez; and two grandchildren, Alexander and Matéo Greenough.

If we can obtain research results about human decision-making in the present, results that would normally require analyses lasting 10 years, 20 years or longer, is this science-fiction or science faster?

Consider the following: in order to process, analyze and interpret experimental decision-making data typically collected in the Regenwetter Decision Making Laboratory®, we would require a single desktop computer to run continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year for about a decade! Pity the PhD student taxed with a project requiring a decade between experimental inception and scientific publication!

Fortunately our lab has access to a supercomputer, which reduces the time required for our analyses from years to mere weeks. In 2011 we were awarded a 450,000 Service Unit allocation on the Blacklight** supercomputer housed in Pittsburgh, PA. A Service Unit, or SU, is one hour of computing time on one core of a supercomputer. What does a 450,000 SU allocation on Blacklight mean? This is equivalent to running a single-core desktop or laptop computer, nonstop, for half a century! But with the supercomputer we expect to use all 450,000 SUs in about one year. During that time we will have analyzed data for several studies. Thus, for a set of several studies, we can reduce the time between experimental inception and published research from decades to a few years!

Risky choice decisions are one type of decision-making we study. In a risky choice experimental framework, a decision maker expresses his or her appetite for uncertainty and some amount of reward. For instance, suppose a friend offers you a share of stock in one of the hypothetical companies, Orange or Worst Buy. With Orange, you have a 70% chance of earning $25 per share and a 30% chance of earning $10. With Worst Buy, you have a 55% chance of earning $50 and a 45% chance of earning $5. Which do you pick? If you prefer Orange, you are less willing to take a risk because you have a larger chance — 70% — of gaining some money and a 30% chance of gaining nothing. In Worst Buy the stakes are higher: the chance of winning is lower, but the reward higher. For some studies in our lab, we ask participants questions roughly similar to this one. After we collect these data, we test predictions of decision theories that have been proposed in Economics, Psychology, and related disciplines.

One prominent theory of risky choice decision making is Cumulative Prospect Theory, or CPT. Psychologist Daniel Kahneman won the Economic Sciences Nobel Prize in 2002 for work on CPT. According to CPT, a person either prefers Orange or Worst Buy, depending on their appetite for risk. Imagine that you give us 10 index cards and ask you to write your preference on each card: Orange or Worst Buy.

Part of the instruction is that we will randomly pick one card and give you what is written on it. According to CPT, you will write the same thing on every card, because CPT treats preference as "deterministic," or unchanging. However, if you are uncertain about what you prefer, then you might write "Orange" on one card and "Worst Buy" on the other two, for instance. This reflects your strong leaning towards "Orange," but you are not completely sure. Your preference is "non-deterministic," or changing, in this case. CPT, in its standard form, cannot make a prediction where preference changes.

Our lab specializes in recasting theories like CPT, which make "deterministic" predictions. We create models that also allow for "non-deterministic" predictions about human choice behavior. More generally, we model various cognitive processes that could explain why and how you are uncertain about what to choose. The construction and testing of these models require elaborate mathematical derivations and complex statistical analyses, all of which are computationally intensive. Without the assistance of a supercomputer, we might wait until 2030, 2050 even 2050 to get results. But thanks to Blacklight we are obtaining important results now, in 2014. That is science faster — and not science-fiction!

**Blacklight supercomputer is one of fifteen such systems in the United States, part of the National Science Foundation funded consortium called XSEDE (Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment). Blue Waters supercomputer, housed on the campus of the University of Illinois, has recently joined XSEDE.

Christopher Zwilling is a 5th year graduate student in the Quantitative Division. He holds a BS in Statistics from the University of Illinois and an MA in Cognition and Neuroscience from the University of Missouri. He works with three groups on campus. Dr. Michel Regenwetter's Decision Making Lab, an interdisciplinary collaboration called the Cognitive and Algorithmic Decision Making (CADM) group and Dr. Michelle Wang's Computational Neuroscience and Neuroimaging Lab. Dr. Michelle Wang is his doctoral thesis advisor. His primary research goal is to use computational statistics to integrate theoretical predictions and empirical findings from behavioral, mathematical and neural models of higher-order cognitive functioning, such as decision-making and memory.
Jeffrey Dallenbach Fellowship

The Jeffrey Dallenbach Fellowship is awarded to a graduate student conducting basic research in experimental psychology. The fellowship was awarded to Anna Madison, a 4th year student in the Human Cognition & Human Performance Division.

Evelyn Hobson Fellowships in Psychology

Evelyn Hobson was a graduate of Harvard, Wellesley, and Columbia. She was a noted child psychologist in the Los Angeles area, taught at UCLA, and started the Department of Psychology at Pomona College. Evelyn and her husband, Bill Hobson, had a keen interest in higher education and through the years provided generous support to many of the finest institutions in the country. Among them are: Stanford, Caltech, Harvey Mudd, Pomona, Brigham Young, and Occidental. The generous gift from Evelyn and Bill Hobson allowed the department to offer fellowships to Vijay Rajan, (1st year) and Ehsan Bohrani, (3rd year), students in the Quantitative Division.

Charles Hulin Fellowship

The Charles Hulin Fellowship was established in 2000 by students, colleagues, and friends of Professor Charles L. Hulin, who is credited with developing the Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology program at Illinois. The fellowship was awarded to Rachel Arneilin, a 1st year student in the I/O Division.

J. McVicker Hunt Award for Excellence in Graduate Research

The J. McVicker Hunt Award was established in 2005 to honor the contributions of J. McVicker Hunt to the field of developmental psychology. Hunt was a faculty member in the Department of Psychology from 1951-1974. Hunt’s book, Intelligent and

Nancy Hirschberg Memorial Award

Nancy Hirschberg was a member of the psychology department here in Champaign from 1964 until 1996, when she joined the psychology faculty at the U of I Chicago campus. Shortly after her death in February 1997, her friends and colleagues at both campuses met to establish the Nancy Hirschberg Memorial Fund to create a living remembrance with the hope that her memory will serve to encourage others to attain their full potential. The result is the Nancy Hirschberg Memorial Award that is presented each year to a psychology graduate student who, during that year, has performed outstanding original research or scholarship in an area related to Professor Hirschberg’s interests. These areas include individual differences, personality, human judgment, and multivariate analysis. The award consists of a cash prize and inscription of the recipient’s name on a plaque which is kept on permanent display on the third floor. The award was established in 2005 by the department and the University of Illinois Foundation.

Frederick & Ruby Kanfer Award

Frederick H. Kanfer, a member of the Department of Psychology from 1973 until 1995, was a pioneer in the behavioral therapy movement and a founding father of self-management therapy. To honor his legacy, his family established the Frederick and Ruby Kanfer Award, to be presented to a psychology student whose scholarship and/or service in the field of clinical/community psychology is aimed at improving the psychological lives of all individuals. Ehsita Manjrekar received the 2014 award for her integration of science and practice, with the goal of improving people’s lives. Research and interventions are part of Manjrekar’s long-term career goals which are to develop, test, and refine interventions for addressing emotions in psychological health, particularly weight-related problems.

Sarah C. Mangelsdorf Graduate Award in Psychology

The Sarah C. Mangelsdorf Graduate Award in Psychology was established in 2008 to honor Mangelsdorf for her achievements and contributions to the U of I. Mangelsdorf served as associate head of the Department of Psychology 2000-2001, associate provost for the campus 2001-2003, head of the Department of Psychology 2003-2004, interim dean of LAS 2004-2006, and dean of LAS 2006-summer 2008. Mangelsdorf served as dean of the Weldon College of Arts & Sciences at Northwestern University Fall 2008-summer 2014. She accepted the position of provost at the University of Wisconsin-Madison fall 2014.

Herbert Woodrow Fellowship

The Herbert Woodrow Fellowship is awarded to the most promising graduate students in the Department of Psychology doing basic scientific research in the field of psychology. The fellowship was awarded to Sean Collins, a 3rd year student in the Behavioral Neuroscience Division.

Jennifer Monti,

Kyong-Sun Flores received the fellowship for the 2013-14 academic year.

Sarah C. Mangelsdorf

Graduate Award in Psychology

Herbert Woodrow Fellowship

The Herbert Woodrow Fellowship is awarded to the most promising graduate students in the Department of Psychology doing basic scientific research in the field of psychology. The fellowship was awarded to Sean Collins, a 3rd year student in the Behavioral Neuroscience Division.
Congratulations to Melanie Tannenbaum (Social Personality Division) who was the 2014 recipient of the Department of Psychology, College of LAS and Campus Teaching Awards.

Tannenbaum was an instructor in PSYCH 201: Introduction to Social Psychology for the fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters. Tannenbaum’s faculty supervisor, Caroline Tenenbom, said “the range of Melanie’s teaching can be attributed to her: (1) innovative teaching methods; (2) ability to provide current and stimulating examples of social psychology; (3) understanding how social media can be used as a tool to engage the active and curious, and observant minds of students; and (4) the effort she makes to connect with her students on a personal level.”

Tannenbaum was on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent each semester she taught and also earned the distinction for being among the top 10% of instructors. She received a Graduate Teaching Certificate in Spring 2013 after just two semesters of teaching, demonstrating a strong motivation to learn more about pedagogical research, receive feedback on her teaching practices, and show commitment to her professional development.

She wrote the “Apply Your Knowledge” questions for the e-book that accompanies the Social Psychology textbook that is used in PSYCH 201; led a micro-session “Bringing Blogs & Social Media Into The Classroom” at the Fall 2013 TA Orientation; led a class about history, literature, pop culture, current events, social relationships, and complex social issues; and (4) the effort she makes to connect with her students on a personal level.”

Congratulations to Emily Dworokin (Clinical Community Division) for receiving the College of LAS and Campus Teaching Awards. Dworokin was the instructor for the service-learning course PSYCH 304/341: Community Advocacy Project (CAP) for years 2011-2013. She served as a teaching assistant for the course in 2010-2011. In the four semesters she taught CAP, Dworokin was on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent every semester.

Dworokin’s supervisory faculty member, associate professor Nicole Allen stated, “Effective instruction in this class is imperative—in this case, the stakes are quite high. Clients often present with complex needs and safety issues—all of which must be carefully engaged throughout the intervention. Emily was adept at every facet of this teaching role. This requires instructing on many sensitive topics including domestic violence, sexual assault, children witnessing domestic violence, racism, sexism (structural inequality) and effective intervention.”

Dworokin was responsible for selecting and training undergraduate advocates and student supervisors, supervising undergraduate research assistants assisting with the evaluation of this effort, and providing ongoing and intensive supervision as undergraduates engaged in community-based work.

“My teaching philosophy places great importance on the role of the classroom context on the promotion of student learning through 1) attention to class climate; 2) the use of innovative teaching strategies in lecture classes, and 3) the translation of class learning into real-world impact.”

Undergraduate Student Awards

Julie Sutton-Osgood Psychology Award
The Julie Sutton-Osgood Award in Psychology was established in 2008 by family and friends in memory of Sutton-Osgood whose career goal was to become a practicing physician. Sutton-Osgood trained as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and worked summers for an ambulance company while she continued to work full-time. After graduation she completed a paramedic course and worked for Superior Ambulance Company and became their EMT coordinator through Christ Hospital and Hope Children’s Hospital. A few years later she attended physician assistant school while she continued to work full-time. Sutton-Osgood fulfilled her goal to become a licensed Physician’s Assistant. The Julie Sutton-Osgood Award in Psychology is intended to help students realize their dreams of becoming either a physician or another type of medical practitioner.

The 2014 Julie Sutton-Osgood Award in Psychology was awarded to Hannah Toms who will obtain certification as a nursing assistant before entering a physician assistant program in the fall of 2015.

Hannah Toms (left) & Mary Kay Bonds (mother of Julie-Sutton-Osgood)

Janet Tritzch Memorial Award
The Janet Tritzch Memorial Award, established in memory of this enthusiastic participant in undergraduate research, was presented to Ashley Masnik, for her senior thesis, “The effects of fructose consumption on body composition, behavior, and adipose cellularity in mice.”

Congratulations to Emily Dworokin (Clinical Community Division) for receiving the College of LAS and Campus Teaching Awards.

Front Row (L-R): Neyoung Kim, Yanping Li, Han Zhu, Chengxi Xu, Nalaya Arshad
Back Row (L-R): Mirea Zuckoski, Chubanekele Angundade, Ashley Masnik, Daniel Reihman-Johnson, Stephen Fleming, Brandon Mitchell, Tayaana Panova

(Not pictured: Paula Bucko)

Undergraduate Student Awards continued

2013 James E. Spoor Scholarship Recipients
Thirteen undergraduate students received a James E. Spoor Scholarship based upon their outstanding academic achievements.

James E. Spoor is a distinguished alumnus of the Department of Psychology and the University of Illinois (B.S. ’84). The scholarships are a gift by his wife, Mrs. Nancy Spoor, to honor her husband and help worthy undergraduate students.

James had a very successful career that exceeded more than 25 years in human resources, line management and global HR operations with several respected Fortune 500 corporations in the energy, high tech, and food-processing industries. During his career, James earned a reputation as a respected visionary, pioneer, and innovator who focused on exploiting technology to address strategic business issues. In 1994, James founded SPECTRUM Human Resources Systems Corporation. With his passion for HR and technology, SPECTRUM established itself as a leading provider of HR, benefits administration, talent acquisition, and training and development systems to high expectation mid-market organizations.

In recognition of his achievements, the department presented James with a Distinguished Alumni Award at the department’s awards ceremony on May 13, 2007.

Honors in Psychology

The Honors Program, coordinated in 2013-14 by Professor Frances Wang, is a three-semester sequence of courses designed to offer outstanding undergraduates an opportunity to do sustained scholarly work on a specific research project, culminating in the preparation of an undergraduate Bachelor’s thesis, and a poster presentation at the Honors Program Fair. Students who complete the program graduate with “Honors in Psychology.” Thirteen students presented their research at the Honors Program Fair on April 24, 2014.

Front Row (L-R): Frances Wang (faculty coordinator), Yanping Li, Mirea Zuckoski, Heey Young Kim, Marie Heffernan (graduate TA)
Middle Row (L-R): Han Zhu, Paula Bucko, Tayaana Panova, Chengxi Xu
Back Row (L-R): Nalaya Arshad, Chubanekele Angundade, Ashley Masnik, Brandon Mitchell, Daniel Reihman-Johnson, Stephen Fleming

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DIVISION AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Your generous gifts to the Partnership for Psychology Fund bolsters our funding of awards for outstanding undergraduate research and academic accomplishments.

BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE
Donald G. Hebb Award: Stephen Fleming
Karl Lashley Award: Rachel Haake

BRAIN & COGNITION
Michael Coles Award: Alexander Semeter
Manny Donchin Award: Ian Kaltiras

CLINICAL/COMMUNITY
Angela Ramro Outstanding Clinical-Community Student Award: Andrea Lupas, Andrea Theotikos

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS
Psych 290: Research Experience in Psychology

I continuously worked to keep myself involved with the campus community and pursuing a degree in Psychology definitely encouraged me to do so. The biological and social aspects of psychology never failed to amaze me. During my years at Illinois, I attempted to immerse myself in its diverse fields and explored social, cognitive, clinical, personality, and child psychology. I was fortunate to spend my sophomore year in Assistant Professor Andri Cimpian’s Cognitive and Development lab, as part of the Psych 290: Research Experience in Psychology, studying the developmental features of children from the ages of 3 to 8. Interacting with the children and conducting child studies allowed me to gain a unique understanding of the relationship between cognition and age.

As a pre-medicine student I had to take many rigorous courses in preparation for medical school, such as organic chemistry, biochemistry, anatomy and physiology, microbiology, etc. In order to further explore the medical field, I believed it was important to delve into additional research opportunities at Illinois. Dr. Galvez’s ‘Learning and Memory’ Lab piqued my interest as it studied the fusion of Biology and Psychology—Neuroscience. I was eager to learn more about the fragile X syndrome being studied in his lab. I began this Psych 290 research experience my sophomore year, and worked my way up as an honors student by the end of my senior year.

Honors Program
As an honors student, I had the opportunity to begin developing my own thesis with the assistance of Dr. Galvez. My thesis is titled ‘Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Expression and the Fragile X Syndrome.’ What is the Fragile X syndrome? It is a genetic disorder that leads to cognitive and developmental impairments. It affects males more adversely than females. I out of every 4,000 males is affected. Unfortunately, there is currently no known treatment to completely cure the disorder. Consequently, I was extremely eager to participate in conducting a study that would lead to acquisition of more knowledge about the symptoms and causes of the syndrome at the molecular level. My study explored the Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF), which is commonly suggested to be associated with increased blood vessel growth. I presented my research at the Honors Program Fair on April 24, 2014.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Lights, Camera, Action!
One of the first student organizations that spoke out to me on campus was the Illini Union Musicals. As the founder of Drama Club at my high school, I was eager to get involved with a theater opportunity on campus as the Assistant Stage Director for Illinois spring musical, “Seussical the Musical.” I really enjoyed my experience, and as a freshman, it was the perfect means to gain confidence, meet new people, and express the creativity within me.

(continued on next page)
Exhibit Preparation Assistant
I began working at the Spurlock Museum my freshman year. My three years as an Exhibit Preparation Specialist were extremely enriching. I had the opportunity to learn about ancient civilizations, diversity, and culture. This position also strengthened my attention to details, interpersonal skills, and helped me develop a strong work ethic.

LAS 101 Intern
As a senior I was able to take my passion for helping others, especially my younger peers, and translate it into a teaching experience as an LAS 101 Intern. I was given the task of guiding 24 freshman students, and assisting them with their transition into college experience from high school. I loved introducing the various opportunities on campus to the freshman students, answering their questions, advising them one-on-one, and facilitating their adjustment to Illinois.

I-Connect Facilitator
After instructing freshman students as an LAS 101 Intern, I really enjoyed my interactions with the students and felt that I could communicate with them easily. Consequently, at the end of my first semester as a senior I interviewed for a position as an I-Connect Facilitator, and graciously accepted the position. The Office of Inclusion & Interethnic Relations run a program called I-Connect. The program is directed towards freshman students, and facilitates discussions in regards to diversity. The purpose of the program is to allow students a safe space to discuss the beauty of diversity, while offering a better grasp on the concept of inclusion on campus. Since the University of Illinois is such a large campus, I felt that it was my duty to promote inclusion and introdue the benefits of taking advantage of the diversity on campus to other students.

Muslim Student Association
Along with psychology, I have always been interested in spiritual revival and religion as well, which is why I have been involved with the Muslim Student Association (MSA) since my freshman year. As the Vice President of MSA I have learned a great deal about leadership, teamwork, and commitment. I was fortunate to work with ten student organizations on campus this past fall and lead them in organizing the Illinois KSO-A-Thon. The purpose of the event was to spread awareness of world hunger, and encourage students on campus to fast from noon until sunset. In collaboration with the other student organizations, we were able to raise enough funds to donate to the Wyclef food pantry and to construct a well in West Africa via Zakat Foundation. I also helped to organize MSA’s annual service trip this past thanksgiving break. MSA members, including myself, traveled to Atlanta, GA, and partnered with the Islamic Circle of North America Refit USA to build a women’s shelter.

Social Coordinator: Avicenna Community Health Center
My passion for the sciences directed me towards several inspirational health opportunities on campus. I served as the Social Coordinator for a student organization, Avicenna Community Health Center, which provides free health care services throughout the Urbana Champaign community. I had been involved with Avicenna since my freshman year. The opportunity to provide care to those who cannot afford it has been a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

ER Volunteer
For my last semester at Illinois, I volunteered in the Emergency Department at Carle Foundation Hospital. I was extremely grateful for the chance to serve, learn from, and establish a bond with the patients. My academic and extracurricular experiences have highlighted my true passion for medicine, my concern for the health of others, and my intrinsic conviction in becoming a doctor. I hope to utilize my past and present experiences to positively impact society and the lives of others as a physician. I thank my parents for instilling within me a strong appreciation and value for knowledge and the learning process.

Arshad graduated May 18, 2014 and plans to attend A.T. Still University, Kckville College of Medicine, fall 2014. She was the recipient of the Department of Psychology’s James E. Speer Scholarship, a James Scholar, on the Dean’s list, and an Honors Program student.

Graduate College Clean Energy Education Fellowship
Faith Shin (Social-Personality Division) was awarded a two-year fellowship for her work on how specific facets of religiosity impact attitudes towards the environment and how to increase pro-environmental behaviors using religion.

Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowships
Nathan Hudson (Social-Personality Division) “The Impact of Attachment Anxiety on Susceptibility to False Memories,” and Jennifer Morris (Developmental Division) “Maternal Depression and Trajectories of Youth Depression During Adolescence: Moderation by Youth Responses to Interpersonal Stress,” received the fellowships for their proposed dissertations.

Undergraduate Spotlight: Continued

Student and Staff Awards
The following students and staff were recognized for excellence during the past year.

Arnie Miller and Barb Bremer Memorial Scholarship
Angelina Walden (Clinical/Community Division was selected by the Champaign Area Psychological Society (CAPS) to receive the scholarship based on her internship experiences and research which have primarily focused on clinical and community-based interventions with juvenile justice-involved youth.

Graduate College Clean Energy Education Fellowship
Faith Shin (Social-Personality Division) was awarded a two-year fellowship for her work on how specific facets of religiosity impact attitudes towards the environment and how to increase pro-environmental behaviors using religion.

Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowships
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Herman Eisen Award
Emily Dvorakin (Clinical/Community Division) was nominated for her outstanding work as an advocate, teacher, and researcher. Her commitment to the community exemplifies the principles of the Eisen Award.

Ed Scheiderer Memorial Research Award
Luiz Flores (Clinical/Community Division) received the award for his first-authored paper entitled “Desired emotional closeness and psychological distress,” which is currently under review.

Robert P. Larsen Grant for Research in Career Development
Mengyang Cao (I/O Division), Larissa Hussak (Developmental Division), and Wei-Ming “Jonathan” Phan (I/O Division) are the 2013 recipients of the Robert P. Larsen Grant for Research in Career Development. They presented their research at the Larsen Symposium on May 2, 2014.

Mengyang Cao “Improving the Measurement Efficiency of Vocational Interest Measures: The Perspective of the Ideal Point Model”
Larissa Hussak “Procedural Only ‘Gifted’ How Trait-Based Beliefs About What is Required for Success Act as a Barrier to Women in the Workforce”
Wei-Ming “Jonathan” Phan “The Importance of Dislikes: Considering the Duality of Individual Preferences in Vocational Interests”
ALUMNI NEWS

1970
Ronald Rozensky (BS ’73) was awarded the 2013 American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Career Contributions to Education and Training in Psychology, and the American Board of Professional Psychology/Distinguished Contribution to Professional Psychology Award.

1980

1990
Thomas Bradley (PhD ’90, psychology) has co-authored the book Love Me, Slimmer; published in February by Simon & Schuster. Dr. Bradley is a psychology professor at UCLA and runs the Relationship Institute there with his co-author, Dr. Benjamin Karney. Drawing from extensive studies, Love Me Slimder offers solutions to couples that have trouble losing weight and keeping it off.

2000
Allison Burns (BS ’91) has been named partner in the national law firm Wilson Elser. She concentrates her practice in general liability matters, with a focus on construction and trucking litigation along with product liability in Illinois and Indiana. Burns graduated cum laude from the University of Illinois.

Ying ‘Alison’ Cheng (PhD ’94) received tenure in the Department of Psychology at the University of Notre Dame. She also received the 2014 National Science Foundation Career Award to conduct a five-year project to investigate computerized adaptive testing of AP statistics that is built on undimensional IRT models, bifactor models, and cognitive diagnostic models.

Urmitapa Dutta (PhD ’12) was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Dissertation by the International Association of Qualitative Inquiry. She is an assistant professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

Nathan Helwig (PhD ’13) won the 2014 AERA Division S Distinguished Dissertation Award. This award recognizes a distinguished dissertation that was completed in the previous three years and addresses a topic in curriculum, evaluation, measurement, research methods, and/or statistics. Helwig is currently a visiting assistant professor in Statistics at the University of Minnesota effective Fall 2014.

Jennifer Raza (BS ’04) is a research staff associate at The Center for Social Policy and Practice in the Workplace (Workplace Center) at Columbia School of Social Work.

Jeremy Lacocque (BS ’11) is entering his senior year of medical school at Midwestern University in Chicago and he is applying for residencies in emergency medicine.

Erin O’Sullivan (BS ’04 Psychology & History) won a Fulbright to pursue a one-year master’s in history at University College Dublin. She earned a master’s in fine arts degree in creative writing prose at Oregon State University (’10).

Rachael Rubin (PhD ’10) is the 2014 recipient of the Carle Foundation Hospital-Beckman Institute Fellowship.

Kevin Schultz (BS ’11) attended the University of Michigan’s School of Social Work and graduated with an MSW degree April 2014. He concurrently counseled clients at Catholic Social Services. Schultz worked for one-year as a Children’s Protective Services investigator in Michigan’s Ingham County Office prior to attending graduate school.

Xidong Xu (PhD ’04), a systems engineer at Boeing, was presented with the 2014 Research Leadership Award at the 28th Annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards STEM Conference in February. The conference is a multicultural event that brings together a broad cross section of individuals in an effort to increase diversity in the country’s technical and scientific workforce.

Xu was recognized for his critical role in the development of the Go for Zero Enterprise-Wide Integrated Safety Management System Framework to improve workplace safety at Boeing, and his leadership in hazard analysis for the safety of the United States Rent Generation Air Transportation System (WestGen), as well as his extensive aviation human factors research.

Yue “Sherry” Yuan (BS ’14 English Literature & Psychology) won a Fulbright and has been selected for the English Teaching Assistantship in Taiwan. She plans to pursue graduate studies in foreign policy and international affairs after the completion of the Fulbright.

New Staff Join Department

Nikki Wynn joined the undergraduate advising office in October 2013 as an academic advisor. Prior to joining Psychology, she worked at Heartland Community College for five years. In that position, she coordinated a Student Support Services Program, advised/counseled students who were planning to transfer to four year institutions, and managed a First Year Experience Program. Wynn earned her A.A degree from Danville Area Community College, and her B.S. and MS degrees from Eastern Illinois University.

Jane Jukes joined the staff June 2014 as office manager in the head’s office. Jukes is familiar with the department since she worked part-time in Psychology’s business office and for two faculty members, Professors Peggy Miller and Michel Regenwetter, several years ago. She then worked full-time at the Champaign County YWCA until she returned to the University in August 2012. Jukes worked as an office support specialist in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement (2012-2014). Jukes earned an A.S degree in Liberal Arts from the University of the State of New York.

Billy Vermillion joined the department as an Academic Advisor in June 2014. He previously worked as an Admissions and Records Representative in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Academic Affairs Office. Vermillion earned a BA, summa cum laude and with High Distinction in the Humanities, from the U of I (’08). He then went on to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned his master’s degree (’10) and a PhD (’14) in Communication Arts. Vermillion has taught public speaking and film courses at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ripon College, Northwestern University, and the U of I, and has worked as a marketing and acquisitions assistant at the University of Wisconsin Press.

Staff Departure

Ryan Santens served as the assistant director of the Psychological Services Center from February 2015 through March 7, 2014. He currently provides the provider relations director at Chaters, Inc. located in the Champaign-Urbana community.

Terry Davis retired June 30, 2014 after serving 30 years on the U of I’s campus. Davis worked in the Department of Microbiology (1964-1993), College of LAS Dean’s Office (1993-2001), Department of English (2001-2008), and as office administrator to the head of the Department of Psychology (2008-2014). She received the Psychology Department Head’s Discretionary Award twice (2009 & 2011), College of LAS Staff Award (2006), and Secretarial Office Professional of the Year Award (2009 & 2011).

Staff Retirement

University of Illinois
Longitudinal Social Psychology Study on Institutional Pressure to Behave Unethically

Smile for the hidden camera!
Invest in the Future of the Department

The Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois has a reputation for excellence. The ability to maintain a challenging and dynamic environment is the key to continued excellence.

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