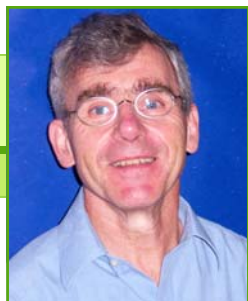


Psychology Department Update



Department of Psychology, University of Florida
www.psych.ufl.edu



The Chair's Report

By Dr. Neil E. Rowland, Chair

Here we are again at the end of an academic year, celebrating the many accomplishments of our students and faculty, and described at various places in this newsletter. I don't have to tell you that the national economic woes have seriously impacted higher education, and this has been a difficult year of reduced State funding for UF, and next year will be at least as austere.

Nonetheless, during the Fall, the Psychology Department was fortunate enough to be granted two junior faculty positions (Counseling and Developmental) to be funded from the Differential Tuition fund the purpose of which is to yield new revenue to hire faculty and advisors in areas of critical need. We conducted two excellent searches each of which brought 3 terrific candidates to campus during a hectic 3 week period in February. I thank the Search Committee Chairs Ken Rice and Julia Graber for their tireless efforts. At the time of this writing, Dr Ryan Duffy has accepted the position in Counseling and he will be featured in the fall edition.

Despite this good news, we still are treading water in terms of faculty numbers because we are bidding farewell to two of our senior colleagues. Dr Barry Schlenker retired in January after 36 years service, including many years as the Director of the Social Psychology area. Dr Tim Hackenberg is leaving us to join the faculty at Reed College; Tim has been an integral part of the Behavior Analysis program since 1990, and he will be missed greatly. We wish him every success in his new academic home.

We have just completed a very successful graduate student admissions process, for starting in Fall 2009. The pool of applicants was of unusually high quality and we look forward to 17 new students. This will keep our total number of graduate students at about 120, and with 30 tenure-track

faculty members, this means an average of 4 Ph.D. students per faculty member. This is the second highest ratio in our College, underscoring our desperate need for additional faculty to sustain this level of Ph.D. training. Research production is, of course, our primary mission.

We continue to be by far the largest undergraduate major in the College, with over 1500 majors. Again, with only 30 tenure track faculty, along with the equivalent of 5 full-time instructors or lecturers, we are truly stretched to our limit to deliver a quality education. These instructors have become a critical but often underappreciated part of our infrastructure, accounting for about 25% of the undergraduate classroom seats offered, and thereby helping the tenure track faculty devote more time to research and graduate education. I want to recognize them here and thank them for their contributions:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Dr Fred Desmond | Dr Nicole Dorey | Dr Lauren Fasig |
| Dr Christina Ford | Dr Brian Howland | Dr Ilan Shrira |
| Dr Diane Stevenson | | |

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Newsletter Staff

Editor: M. Jeffrey Farrar, PhD
Layout & Design: Amanda Foote

The Chair's Report

By Dr. Neil E. Rowland, Chair

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The above numbers attest to the fact that our faculty have been and continue to be among the most productive in the College. The fact that our faculty has come together to pull even harder in these trying times is an indicator of a remarkable and highly functional family. However, it is important to remember that none of this faculty effort would be possible without a tremendous supporting staff. Without these staff, we would not be able to collect our paychecks, manage our research accounts, have functional computers and networks, travel on business, and just about everything else you can imagine. So thanks to our primary departmental staff for their contributions to every aspect of our professional lives:

Jeremy Bright	Amanda Foote	David Fowler
Diane Harris	Michael LeGrande	Cindy Powell
Kim Robertson	Jacky Rollins	Patty Troll
Jim Yousse		

I also want to thank our Advisory Board for their efforts to provide and suggest fundraising opportunities for the Department. In particular, the efforts of Chairman of the

Board, Tom Pye, and CLAS Development Officer Norman Portillo are gratefully acknowledged. The external members of the Advisory Board are, in addition to Tom and Norman: Peter Caitlin, Gerry Green, Martha Kern, Cheryl Landy, J. David Leander, Bob Levitt, Jackie Orlando, Michael Prendergast, Wallace Prophet, Jennifer Sager, Michael Woodruff. We plan to feature them in a future issue of this publication. Keith Berg serves as a representative of emeritus faculty. Also *ex officio* on the Board, in addition to myself, are the leader of the Psychology Graduate Student Advisory Board and the President of Psi Chi -the Undergraduate Psychology Honors Society (Amber Van Matre and Juliana Peters, respectively, this past year). And thanks to Juliana for her efforts in a terrific year for Psi Chi recruitment and activities, and we wish her well in graduate school!

So have a good summer, enjoy reading this newsletter, and look for the next one in about 6 months. As always, if you have suggestions for or want to share stories or information, I will be more than pleased to hear from you.

2009 Spring Banquet

The Psychology department's annual spring banquet was held on April 23, 2009 in the Reitz Union. Dr. Neil Rowland provided opening remarks and provided a synopsis of this year's activities and accomplishments. Special recognition was given to the department's retiree: Dr. Barry Schlenker. Dr. Julie Graber was the master of ceremony and announced and handed out the awards for this year's undergraduate and graduate students. The recipients of these awards are listed below. Congratulations to all the award winners for their exceptional records of achievement.

Undergraduate Student Awards 2008-2009

Thomas G. Pye Award, 2009

Winner: Jennifer Gorman

Thomas G. Pye Award is given annually to the outstanding UF undergraduate psychology major (GPA of 3.5 or above) who plans to pursue a career in the mental health professions (rather than academia).



University Scholars 2008 - 2009

Max Thomas [Abrams] Shannon Wolfman [Devine]
Brandon Velez [Cottrell]

University Scholars 2009 - 2010

Chirag Kulahalli [Dallery] Shan Wong [West]
Caitlin Lewis [Cottrell] Kyle Sandell [Rice]
Adam Reid [McNamara in Psychiatry]

The Columbia University Amgen Scholars Program

Shannon Wolfman [Devine]

9th Annual Undergraduate Research Forum Winners

Max Thomas [Abrams] Sena Moran [Price]
Naveen Reddy [Berg]

Leighton E. Cluff Award for Aging Research

Kimberly Gold [Bluck]

Institute for Learning in Retirement Award for Aging Research

Priya Palta [West]

(Continued on page 3)

2009 Spring Banquet

Howard Hughes Medical Institute sponsors

Undergraduate Science for Life Fellowships

James Morrison [Wynne] Laura Helmcamp [White]
Nathan Hall [Wynne]

Graduate Mentor Program

Amanda Bosch [Vollmer] Monique Udell [Wynne]

Science for Life Mentor Award

Bonnie Moradi, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Graduate Student Awards 2008 – 2009

Pearson Education Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, 2009



Winner: Austin Nichols (Cottrell)

This award is given to one doctoral student in the Department of Psychology each year whose distinctive instructional accomplishments demonstrate excellence in undergraduate education.

The David Robert Ferguson Memorial Award, 2009

Winner: Huan "Jacqui" Ye (Rice)

The David Robert Ferguson Award is designed for non-Florida residents, including non-US residents, who are Psychology graduate students and were undergraduate Psychology majors. David Ferguson was an out-of-state Psychology student. The award is merit-based, meaning more academically accomplished and outstanding students will be selected over less accomplished and less outstanding students. The award is meant to defray out-of-state tuition and related expenses for non-Florida students.



Henry C. and Audrey S. Schumacher Fellowship Fund

Winner: Amber Van Matre (Devine)

This fellowship fund is to benefit graduate students in the Department of Psychology. The award honors the Outstanding Dissertation in the department of Psychology. \$1000



Pioneer Psychology Faculty Fund Award

Winner: Alissa Dark-Freudeman (West)

The Pioneer award winner is selected on the basis of excellent academic performance and promise in the conduct of research in the science of psychology. This award is made to commemorate



the memory of Dr. Elmer D. Hinckley and those other early faculty members who pioneered the development of the Department of Psychology at the University of Florida. It is the department's most prestigious award as it honors the overall best doctoral student of the year.

Area Awards

E. F. Malagodi, Jr. Memorial Scholarship



Behavioral Analysis

Winner: Brian Kangas (Branch)

Awarded annually to the student in the behavior analysis program who best exemplifies Dr. Malagodi's dedication to the conceptual, theoretical, and empirical foundations of a science of behavior.

Behavioral Analysis Research Award

Winner: Jennifer Hammond (Iwata)

Area sponsored award to acknowledge student achievements



Robert A. and Phyllis Levitt Award Behavioral Neuroscience

Winner: Vincent Costa (Bradley)

This award was established by Robert A. and Phyllis Levitt and is awarded annually to a graduate student for outstanding achievement in research in psychobiology. This year's competition identified 2 outstanding student achievements whose dedication to research and work ethic make them worthy recipients of this award.



E. Porter Horne Memorial Scholarship Cognitive Psychology

Winner: Keith McGregor (White)

This award was established as an everlasting memorial to Professor E. Porter Horne's commitment to the study of psychology. It is awarded annually to an outstanding graduate student pursuing the study of sensory processes, perception, and/or cognitive psychology.

The Ted Landsman Award for Counseling Psychology



Winner: Jessica Jones (Tucker)

Dr. Landsman was the 1st Director of our APA accredited counseling psychology program in psychology here at UF. This award is conferred annually upon a doctoral student in counseling

(Continued on page 4)

2009 Spring Banquet

psychology whose projects or initiatives promise to promote an understanding of or contribution to positive human growth.

The Outstanding Counseling Psychology Student Award

Winner: Cirleen DeBlaere (Moradi)



This award is presented annually to an advanced counseling psychology student who has demonstrated distinction and excellence in her/his professional work. The UF recipient of this award is nominated for the national award from the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Gerber Developmental Psychology Research Award

Winner: Lisa Sontag (Graber)



This award is conferred annually upon a doctoral student in the department of psychology in recognition of outstanding merit in research in the area of developmental psychology. In particular, the award honors a specific article or presentation that has made a significant contribution to science.

Gerber Social Psychology Outstanding Research Award

Winner: Darya Melnyk (Shepperd)



This award is conferred annually upon a doctoral student in the department of psychology in recognition of outstanding merit in contributing to the area of social psychology.

McKnight Brain Institute Graduate Student Holiday Award

Sridhar Srinivasan, (Hermer)

International Student Outstanding Achievement Awards

Huan "Jacqui" Ye (Rice) Michael Parent (Moradi)

American Psychological Association Dissertation Award

Natalie Dautovich (McCrae) Amber Van Matre (Devine)
Cirleen DeBlaere (Moradi)

McLaughlin Dissertation Fellowship

Erin McClure (Wynne)

Ellin Bloch & Pierre Ritchie Honorary Scholarship (APA)

Tana Bleser (White)

APA Advanced Training Institute on Research Methods with Diverse Racial and Ethnic Groups

Virginia Tompkins (Farrar)

The Kinsey Institute Student Research Grant Award

Michael Parent (Moradi)

APA Division 44 Bisexual Foundation Scholarship Award

Melanie Brewster (Moradi)

Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award; NIH

Vincent Costa (Bradley) Julie Marusich (Branch)
Alissa Dark-Freudeman (West) Amber Van Matre (Devine)
Carla Lagorio (Hackenberg) Bethany Raiff (Dallery)

VA Pre-doctoral Associated Health Rehabilitation Research Fellowship

Keith McGregor (White)

Faculty Awards 2008 – 2009

Graduate School Doctoral Mentoring Award

Marc Branch, Ph.D., Professor

Institute for Learning in Retirement and Network for Biobehavioral and Social Research in Aging Research Mentor Award

Robin West, Ph.D., Professor

Anderson/CLAS Faculty Scholar-Teacher Honorees

Lise Abrams, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Darragh Devine, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Association for Women in Psychology Distinguished Publication Award

Bonnie Moradi, Ph.D., Associate Professor

UF Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars

Greg Neimeyer, Ph.D., Professor

Colonel Allan & Margaret Crow CLAS Term Professor Award

Tim Vollmer, Ph.D., Professor

Advisory Committee on Minority Health Appointed Member USPHS Dept of Health & Human Services

Carolyn Tucker, Ph.D., Professor

UF Research Foundation Professor and The Richard and Thelma O. C. Barney Term Professorship for Health Disparities

Carolyn Tucker, Ph.D., Professor

Faculty Spotlight

By Dr. James Shepperd



Dr. James A. Shepperd is the R. David Thomas Endowed Legislative Professor of Psychology. He hails from central Texas and received a bachelor's degree from Southwestern University, a Master's degree from the University of Texas, and a doctorate from the University of Missouri. He now is the director of graduate training in social psychology at the University of Florida.

Dr. Shepperd is the R. David Thomas Endowed Legislative Professor of Psychology.

Dr. Shepperd is a traditional social psychologist who explores people's expectations about the future and how people respond to challenging information. His research falls into three broad areas.

First, Dr. Shepperd explores comparative optimism, the tendency for people to believe that they are less likely than others to experience negative outcomes and more likely than others to experience positive outcomes. Comparative optimism occurs for a variety of events including judgments of risk for car accidents, cancer, and suicide.

Dr. Shepperd's research explores when and why people display comparative optimism and the consequences of comparative optimism for affect, cognition and behavior. He has received funding from the National Science Foundation to study optimism among children and adolescents and a Fulbright Fellowship to collaborate in research on the topic with colleagues in Belgium and France.

Although people are generally optimistic about the future, in a second line of research Dr. Shepperd finds that people will shelve their optimism when they anticipate a challenge to their rosy outlook. The shift from optimism sometimes reflects a response to new information, but often reflects a recognition that events may not turn out as hoped.

Dr. Shepperd's research reveals that people are most likely to brace for bad news when feedback is imminent, when the outcome is serious or consequential, and when it is easy to imagine the undesired outcome. He currently has funding from the National Cancer Institute with collaborators at Duke University in which he applies these ideas to smokers' expectations regarding genetic testing.

Finally, Dr. Shepperd has explored a number of strategies people use to deal with unwanted and threatening information, allowing them to sustain desired self-views. Most notable is recent work on information avoidance in which people avoid information they would rather not know.

Although knowledge can be valuable and important, people do not always seek it and sometimes appear to take great pains to avoid it, preferring to remain blissfully ignorant. Examples can range from the mundane to the extraordinary.

For example, people often do not want to learn that someone else got a better deal on a recent, expensive purchase, or that they gained weight after the holiday season, or that their sports hero used steroids. More importantly, evidence suggests that people will sometimes avoid learning frightening health information such as their HIV status. Dr. Shepperd's research explores when and why people avoid information.

In summary, life can present some pretty hard knocks. Dr. Shepperd's research explores how people think about, prepare for, and respond to these hard knocks.

Life can present some pretty hard knocks.

His research on optimism suggests that people often anticipate that they are less likely to experience life's hard knocks than are other people, which can be problematic to the extent that people perceive they are not at risk and thus engage in risky behavior or fail to take adequate precautions.

His research on future outlooks suggests that people can be quite responsive to the situation and will shift from optimism when the situation requires. This flexibility in future outlooks can diminish the pain of life's hard knocks.

Finally, his research on maintaining desired self-views suggests that people may be poor learners of life's lessons to the extent that they dismiss and distort unwanted information. They may even engage in actions such as information avoidance that places them at risk for even harder knocks in the future.

Noteworthy Area Accomplishments

Behavior Analysis

Awards, Grants, and Recognition

C. D. L. Wynne "Why dogs love us so: Theories, minds and theories of mind." Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Savannah, GA, April 2009. Invited keynote speaker

Cara L. Phillips, 2009 recipient of the Sidney W. and Janet R. Bijou Fellowship, Association for Behavior Analysis International (Advisor: Vollmer).

Jorge Reyes, 2009 recipient of the Applied Dissertation Award. American Psychological Association. Division 25 (Advisor: Vollmer).

Amanda Bosch, 2009 recipient of the G.A.T.O.R. mentoring fellowship (Advisor: Vollmer).

Publications

Bolhuis, J. J. & Wynne, C. D. L. (2009). Can evolution explain how minds work? *Nature* 458, 832-833.

Wynne, C. D. L. (2009) What's the secret of the Wolf Park wolves? *Wolf Park News*. Winter 2009. 8.

Developmental Psychology

Awards, Grants, and Recognition

Keith Berg gave an invited address at the symposium, La "Tour d'Hanoi", un casse-tête mathématique d'Édouard Lucas (1842-1891) - [The Tower of Hanoi, a mathematical concern of Édouard Lucas (1842-1891)] in Paris, France.

Jeff Farrar gave an invited address *Theory of Mind and Phonological Awareness* at a symposium on Cognitive Predictors of Early Literacy. National Reading Conference, Orlando, Florida.

Bluck, S. Investigator, Wisdom and the life story: How life experiences foster wisdom. Arete Initiative, University of Chicago and John Templeton Foundation, 2008-2010. Principle Investigator: Judith Glück, University of Klagenfurt, Austria. Total: \$98,434.

Publications

Baron, J.M., & Bluck, S. (2009). Autobiographical memory sharing in everyday life: Who tells better stories? *International Journal of Behavioural Development*, 33, 105-117.

West, R. L., Dark-Freudeman, A., & Bagwell, D. K. (2009). Goals-feedback conditions and memory: Mechanisms for memory gains in older and younger adults. *Memory*, 17, 233-244.

Virginia Tompkins gave an invited address /Narratives and emergent literacy/ at an invited symposium on Cognitive Predictors of Early Literacy. National Reading Conference, Orlando, Florida (Advisor: Farrar)

Noteworthy Area Accomplishments

Counseling Psychology

Awards, Grants and Recognition

Bonnie Moradi, Guest editor for January 2009 Special Issue of the Journal of Counseling Psychology on theory and research about sexual minority issues

Bonnie Moradi, Invited Distinguished Publication Award address given at the Association for Women in Psychology Convention, Newport, RI, for project co-authored with Adena Rottenstein (former UF undergraduate student)

Ayseneur Kavas was awarded a Fellowship by Scientific HR Development Program from the Turkish Government (Advisor: Neimeyer)

Melanie Brewster UF Rainbow Alliance Research Award (Advisor: Moradi).

Cirleen DeBlaere Accepted tenure-track Assistant Professor position in APA accredited Counseling Psychology program at Lehigh University (Advisor: Moradi).

Publications

Moradi, B., Mohr, J. J., Worthington, R. L., Fassinger, R. E. (2009). Counseling psychology research on sexual (orientation) minority issues: Conceptual and methodological challenges and opportunities. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 56, 5-22.

Moradi, B., van den Berg, J.* , & Epting, F. (2009). Internalized lesbian and gay threat and guilt: Links with intrapersonal and interpersonal identity stressors. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 56, 119-131.

Moradi, B., & Huang, Y. P.* (2008). Objectification theory and psychology of women: A decade of advances and future directions. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 32, 377-398.

Cummings-Robeau, T. L., Lopez, F. G., & Rice, K. G. (2009). Attachment-related predictors of college students' problems with interpersonal sensitivity and aggression. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 28, 363-390.

Neimeyer, G. J., Rice, K. G., & Keilin, W. G. (2009). Internship placements: Similarities and differences between clinical and counseling psychology programs. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 3, 47-52.

Rice, K. G., Choi, C.-C., Zhang, Y., Villegas, J., Ye, H. J., Anderson, D., Nestic, A., & Bigler, M. (in press). International student perspectives on graduate advising relationships. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*.

Noteworthy Area Accomplishments

Neurobehavioral & Cognitive Sciences

Awards, Grants, and Recognition

Lise Abrams 2008-2009 Psi Chi / Psychology Club Professor of the Year Award

Linde Hermer was Organizer, chair and speaker at American Chemosensory Society annual meeting symposium, April 24th, 2009: "Reciprocal interactions between early cortical areas and higher cognitive processes". She delivered a talk: *The primary olfactory and motor cortices play an active role in decision-making* at the conference.

Neil Rowland. *The global obesity epidemic: a neurobehavioral analysis.*
Invited seminar given at Virginia Tech, April 2009.

Keith White, Army Research Office, \$112,585, classifying the effects of mild traumatic brain injury on postural sway with analysis of nonlinear dynamics

Keith White (Crosson, Bruce PI) NIH/NIDCD \$150,000, An fMRI model of naming in Alzheimer's disease.

Keith White (Wittenberg, G., PI) VA/RR&D \$358,200, Biological Prediction and Correlation of Response to Robotic Arm Therapy.

Publications

Atalayer D, Rowland NE, Meal patterns of mice under systematically varying approach and unit costs for food in a closed economy, *Physiol Behav* (2009), :10.1016/j.physbeh.2009.04.016/

Abrams, L. (2009). Exploring the generality of retest effects: Commentary on "When does age-related cognitive decline begin?" *Neurobiology of Aging*, 30, 525-527.

Don Dewsbury edited the February 2009 issue of the *American Psychologist* entitled "Charles Darwin and Psychology, 1809-2009" in honor of the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th of the publication of Origin of Species.

He also wrote the lead article:

Dewsbury, D. A. (2009). Charles Darwin and Psychology at the Bicentennial and Sesquicentennial: An Introduction. *American Psychologist*, 64, 67-74.

Dewsbury, D. A. (2009). Samuel Fernberger's rejected doctoral dissertation: A neglected resource for the history of ape research in America.. *History of Psychology*, 12, 1-6.

Hermer-Vazquez, R. 1, Hermer-Vazquez, L. 1, & Srinivasan, S. (2009): A putatively novel form of spontaneous neural coordination. *Brain Res Bull.* 2009 Apr 6;79(1):6-14.

Dewsbury, D. A. (2008). Reflections of a Departing Division Historian/Archivist. *The Behavioral Neuroscientist and Comparative Psychologist*, 23(3), 5-8.

Noteworthy Area Accomplishments

Hermer-Vazquez, L. & Moshtagh, N. (2009): Motor skill learning in rats: Insights into the evolution of motor sequence learning. *Behav. Proc.*, E-pub Feb. 22, 2009.

Ihssen, N., & Keil, A. The Costs and Benefits of Attending to Emotional Stimuli during Rapid Serial Visual Presentation. *Cognition and Emotion*. 2009: 23, 296-326.

Keil, A., Sabatinelli, D., Ding, M., Lang, P. J., Ihssen, N., & Heim, S. Re-entrant projections modulate visual cortex in affective perception: Directional evidence from Granger causality analysis. *Human Brain Mapping*, 2009:30, 532-540.

Li, R., Keil, A., & Principe, J. Single-trial P300 estimation with a spatiotemporal filtering method. *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*, 2009: 177, 488-496.

Margolin, S. J., & Abrams, L. (2009). Not may not be too difficult: The effects of negation on older adults' sentence comprehension. *Educational Gerontology*, 35, 306-320.

A. Mitra, K. Alvers, E. Crump, & N.E. Rowland. Effect of high-fat diet during gestation, lactation, or postweaning on physiological and behavioral indexes in borderline hypertensive rats. *American Journal of Physiology Regulatory Integ Comp Physiol* 296: R20-R28, 2009.

Schweiger-Gallo, I., Keil, A., Mc Culloch, K. C., Rockstroh, B., & Gollwitzer, P. Strategic automation of emotion regulation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 2009: 96, 11-31.

Peyk, P., Schupp, H., Keil, A., Elbert, T., & Junghoefer, M. Parallel processing of affective visual stimuli. *Psychophysiology*. 2009; 46:200-208.

Social Psychology

Awards, Grants, and Recognition

James Shepperd received a \$675,000 grant from the Templeton Foundation.

Publications

Sweeny, K., Shepperd, J. A., & Carroll, P. J. (2009). Expectations for others' outcomes: Do people display compassionate bracing? *Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin*, 35, 160-171.

Carroll, P. J., & Shepperd, J. A. (2009). Preparedness. In K. Markman, W. Klein, & J. Suhr (Eds.). *The Handbook of Imagination and Mental Simulation*. Psychology Press.

Graduate Program News

By Dr. Robin West, Graduate Coordinator



The University of Florida Graduate School has made a significant commitment to diversity on campus through its admissions and funding process. Diversity enhances our education by “facilitating human enrichment through cross-cultural, cross-generational and international contact.” (UF website). To enhance diversity in graduate training, special support is given to graduate students from underrepresented minorities through several mechanisms. Depending on the funding mechanism, this “underrepresented” category includes all or some of these students: first generation college graduates, non-traditional students (e.g., females in engineering), and students from ethnic minorities (Hispanic American, African-American, Native American, Native Alaskan, Pacific Islander).

Diversity enhances our education by “facilitating human enrichment through cross-cultural, cross-generational and international contact.”

It begins with the Office of Graduate Minority Programs visitation program. Twice each year, the office brings in highly qualified and motivated underrepresented students to find out more about the UF campus, and our graduate offerings. Housing and meals are paid by the university, as well as partial travel expenses. These students get an overview of campus services and financial resources at UF, and information about UF admissions policies and procedures. During the two-day visit, students get the opportunity to visit the psychology department and see research labs and computer facilities, talk to faculty and students in their research areas of interest, and discuss funding options, including grants, assistantships, and other financial aid. <http://gradschool.ufl.edu/diversity/cvp.html>.

In the actual admissions process, in addition to department assistantships, students can apply for funding from a McKnight Doctoral Fellowship which provides stipends for many African-American graduate students and some Hispanic students. African-American students are also eligible, depending on their undergraduate status, to apply for the FAMU Feeder Program for Florida A & M graduates, and the McNair Graduate Assistantship. The McNair program is meant to assist students coming to UF who have completed the McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement

Program at any institution.

Support for underrepresented students does not end with admissions. <http://gradschool.ufl.edu/diversity/introduction.html> Students can also apply for special funding from the BOE Summer Fellowship Program, which gives each qualifying student a stipend and a tuition waiver to enroll in four summer credits. This program allows students to get acclimated to UF in the summer before graduate school. The Summer BOE program provides an early mentoring experience in graduate school, and gives students a chance to enhance their knowledge of research, statistics, and writing.

In addition to the funded programs discussed above, OGMP has made a commitment to mentoring all students and offers regular workshops on writing and publication, passing qualification examinations, making the most of professional meetings, and applying for research funding.

The Office of Graduate Minority Programs has made a commitment to mentoring all students

Finally, advanced students may be able to get assistance in finishing their degree through the Delores Auzenne Award. This is a one-semester program which pays tuition and a stipend to students who are in the final stages of their dissertations, freeing them from the duties of an assistantship and allowing them to focus on full-time writing to complete their degrees.

Students who are interested in exploring all that UF has to offer to graduate students from underrepresented minorities should consult the UF Office of Graduate Minority Programs (OGMP) website <http://gradschool.ufl.edu/diversity/introduction.html#ogmp>.

Questions and comments regarding the Graduate Program are welcomed and can be directed to **Amanda Foote** (anfoote@ufl.edu) or **Dr. Robin West** (rwest.geron@gmail.com).

Undergraduate Program News

By Dr. Lise Abrams, Undergraduate Coordinator



As this semester comes to a close, I have taken some time to reflect on the changes that we as a department have made to the undergraduate program. From my perspective, it has been an amazingly productive semester: We have made significant progress in disseminating information to our majors, increasing awareness of opportunities and activities relevant to psychology, and clarifying procedures to facilitate course registration. Let me detail some of these accomplishments more specifically:

- The psychology advising website, <http://www.psych.ufl.edu/~undergrad>, which was established last August, continues to be a strong resource for students. The website averages 2000 unique hits each month. We also have noticed that students are coming into the advising office better prepared, with more informed questions, because of the information that they are able to obtain from the website.
- The department has established a new course, PSY 4940, Introduction to Teaching in Psychology. This course will provide students with the opportunity to learn about college-level teaching in psychology by serving as undergraduate teaching assistants. The course will be available for registration some time this summer.
- The faculty voted in support of specific criteria for determining whether a student earns high or highest honors in psychology following completion of a senior honors thesis. Both the written thesis and oral defense should be considered when voting about high vs. highest honors, and highest honors should be awarded in cases where the thesis is of "publishable quality", as determined by the thesis committee. These guidelines emphasize that the designation of highest honors should be reserved for the truly outstanding theses.
- The psychology advising office has organized and restructured the two bulletin boards, the one in the lobby of the psychology building and the one across from the advising office. In addition to greater visual appeal and better communication of information, the bulletin boards feature photos of undergraduates engaged in psychology-relevant activities.
- The undergraduate studies committee approved several new agencies for which students can volunteer and earn course credit via PSY 4949, Community Work in Psychology. These agencies are the Whale Watch internship at Sea World, the Women's Center of Jacksonville, and the Gainesville Wilderness Center, a non-profit alternative school for adjudicated troubled youth.

All of these accomplishments are supplemented by the commitment and energy of the graduate student advisors who work in the advising office, helping students on a daily basis. This fall, there will be some changes in the advising office staff.

Brittany Brucato, who has served as an advisor for three years, will be moving to Tampa to begin her predoctoral internship at the University of South Florida Counseling Center.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Brittany's many contributions to advising over the years; we will miss her greatly and wish her well in this new endeavor.

However, we are excited to welcome a new advisor, Amanda Rone, who is a fifth-year graduate student in the Applied Behavior Analysis program. Amanda's research interests include the assessment and treatment of problem behavior in individuals with developmental disabilities, and she will serve as a much-needed resource to students who are interested in these topics.

I am also grateful to my returning advisors, Jacqueline Baron and Lana Tolaymat, for their outstanding work and efforts on the behalf of students over this past year.

Advisory Board Update

By Thomas Pye



The Psychology Department Advisory Board has been very active of late. The board established the "Chairman's Discretionary Fund" in January through the generous donations of board members Mike Woodruff, Jackie Orlando and Thomas Pye. This fund will be used for worthwhile purposes that the Department Chair selects. The Board has already participated in the Annual Staff Excellence Award for 2009, recognizing the selection of Amanda Foote. The advisory board members will fund the fund each year.

The Board had its Spring Semester meeting prior to the Department Award's Banquet on April 23, 2009. It was a wonderful meeting attended by all but one of our board members. This in and of itself is a great accomplishment since we have out of town board members and the meeting was mid-day, mid week. We thank everyone for their dedication and support of the department.

At the meeting Dr. Rowland gave us the department update, accomplishments and budgetary issues. The Board asked questions and follow up on some of the issues. Board Member Mike Woodruff shared with the group his experiences with governmental relations and obtaining earmarks etc. Board Member Martha Kern shared with us her recent experience with regard to bringing our college dean to her local Rotary group in an Outreach.

Our group brainstormed on ideas with the input from our grad school, undergraduate and faculty liaisons. Many useful ideas were shared and we look forward to implementing. One idea that came from that brainstorming that was already implemented is the establishment of the **Facebook Page** for our group and it is called: *University of Florida Psychology Alumni and Friends*, it is an open group, please find us there and join us. It is a gathering place for all things having to do with the Department of Psychology at the University of Florida. Friends, Alumni, graduates and undergraduates of the department, also including faculty and staff, etc.

Our next meeting will be during Summer semester, if you have any interest in joining us, please contact me at tom@pyelaw.com.