

The Psychology Beat

Summer 2009 Newsletter

New Faculty:

In Fall 2008 the Department welcomed four new faculty: Drs. *Kent Bodily* (Experimental, Auburn University); *Pamela Feldt* (Clinical, University of Miami); *Bryant Smalley* (Clinical; Nova Southeastern University); and *Thresa Yancey* (Clinical; University of Nebraska). Dr. Bodily will be teaching courses like Research Methods, Sensation and Perception, and Introduction to Learning. Dr. Feldt (who, unexpectedly, resigned at the end of summer 2009) taught undergraduate courses in Substance Abuse and Personality as well as graduate courses in the PsyD program. Dr. Smalley will be teaching Psychology of Gender and Psychology of Adjustment as well as courses in the PsyD program. Dr. Yancey will be teaching Introductory Psychology, Human Sexuality, and courses in the PsyD program.

In fall 2009 we will welcome Dr. *Jackson Rainer* (PhD Georgia State University). Dr. Rainer will serve as the Director of Clinical Training for the PsyD program. In addition to directing the PsyD program, Dr. Rainer will teach courses in the program as well as selected undergraduate courses.

This year we also welcomed Ms. *Marsha Warren*, as our new Psychology Clinic Coordinator. Marsha comes to us with an enormous amount of experience in the community serving clients in rural areas, having worked locally in Statesboro with Pineland Mental Health and CarePartners of Georgia.

Program News

Undergraduate Program: BA phased-out; New BS program will start in fall 2009

Data indicating that the graduation rate in our Bachelor of Arts program is low was the impetus for an overhaul of our undergraduate curriculum. Essentially, the BA program will be phased out (students already enrolled in the program will be permitted to graduate) and a newly-configured Bachelor of Science program will be implemented started fall 2009. The revised BS program requires all students to take Introductory Psychology, Psychological Statistics, Research Methods, and a single course in Groups I, II, and III. The most important change is that students will select four courses and a capstone course making up a 'concentration.' Concentrations available are: General Psychology, Biopsychology, Cognitive psychology, Counseling/Clinical psychology, Developmental psychology, Health psychology/Wellness, and Social psychology. To read about the new curriculum, please read the announcement found at the following

link to our webpage:

<http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/psychology/subpages/2009FallBS.pdf>

MS program:

The MS program saw an increase in enrollment in 2008-09. The program is committed to its primary mission of preparing students to enter psychology doctoral programs. To this end, the program is now offering an optional Teaching Emphasis. The Teaching Emphasis has students take the course, Seminar in Teaching Psychology (PSYC 7621) and engage in a series of shadowing experiences with psychology faculty. The department offered the Teaching Seminar last spring and it had a healthy enrollment. We hope the program will continue to attract interested students.

Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.):

The PsyD program continues to grow. This year we welcomed 8 students into the program. The faculty continues to develop the program, establish practicum sites, and make connections with APA accreditation personnel. Our plans are still to submit accreditation paperwork to APA in the fall 2011. Currently, the program is under review for “designated” status by the National Register of Health Care Providers. Approval from the National Register would validate the program as one of quality. The 2009 admission process has just completed, and we are seeing an increase in average GPA and GRE scores of students accepted to the program.

Current Graduate Students

Psy D Students:

Fall 2007: Jennifer Wright; Forrest Rackham

Fall 2008: Alisha Polite; Brian Carlson; Christina Hyres; Brendan McCollum; Heather Lambros; James Adams; Preston Elder; Dottie Strickland

Fall 2009: Nikki Barefoot; Jennifer Frost; Sarah Ashley Mello; Neil Martin; Amanda Pellegrino

MS Students:

Fall 2008: Paul Andrews; Kareem Al-Khalil, Heather Clingenpeel; Paul Cohen, Ashley Gowgiel, Audra Grossman, Emily Nybo; Michael Pyle; Tyler Rosier; Melanie Zink

Fall 2009: These students are currently being admitted

MS Grads:

Four individuals graduated from our MS program in May: Lauren Beam (thesis advisor Jan Kennedy); Angela Legg (thesis advisor Larry Locker); Audrey Hazamy (thesis advisor Larry Locker); Lindsay Itoh (thesis advisor Jan Kennedy). The students

organized a dinner and 'Hooding Ceremony', which was held at the Beaver House restaurant in Statesboro. We wish our graduates well!

Graduate School Admissions:

Below is where some recent psychology graduates are continuing their education:

Nick Blackstock:	Univ Alabama (Fall 2008): Masters of Public Health
Jennifer Belding:	The Ohio State University (Fall 2009); PhD in Social
Angela Legg:	University of California, Riverside (Fall 2009); PhD in Social/Personality
Ona Ilozumba:	Emory University (Fall 2009); Masters of Public Health
Laura Felder (Mullis)	Masters in Social Work at Valdosta State University
Nikki Barefoot	Georgia Southern University, (Fall 2009); PsyD in Clinical Psych
Katy Hurteau	Community Counseling here or Western Carolina
Kellye Lewis	Augusta State Application passed committee and moved to the Chair's Office
Candace Irvin	Masters in Social Work at Kennesaw State University
Kylie Williams	Georgia Southern University, MS in Experimental Psych

Please, if you are an alumnus of our program and continued your education let us know so we can list your name in future newsletters.

2009 Student Awards:

Congratulations to the following student award winners!

Georgelle Thomas Award: *Kat Briley*

Psychology Award: *Nikki Barefoot*

Departmental Service Awards: *Jennifer Belding, Kyle Johnson, and Amanda Lewis*

Georgelle Thomas Memorial Scholarship: *Angela Legg*

Faculty Awards:

Dr. Janice Steirn was the recipient of the 2008 Award of Excellence for Teaching, from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Dr. Janice Kennedy was the recipient of the 2008 Ruffin Cup Award, the most prestigious honor bestowed by the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

Faculty Accomplishments:

Below is a partial list of recent faculty publications:

- Katz, J. S., **Bodily, K. D.**, Wright, A. A. (2008). Learning Strategies in Matching to Sample: If-then and Configural Learning by Pigeons. *Behavioural Processes*, 77(2), 223-230.
- Bodily, K. D.**, Katz, J. S., Wright, A. A. (2008). Set-size Expansion in Matching-to-sample with Pigeons. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Animal Behavior Processes*, 34(1), 178-184.
- Sturz, B. R., **Bodily, K. D.**, Hernandez, M., Schmidtke, K., Katz, J. S. (2008). Animal Cognition. In S. F. Davis & W. Buskist (Ed.), 21st Century Psychology: A Reference Handbook. (pp. 285-293). Thousand Oaks, CA.
- Hackney, A. A.** (2008). The Diversity Monologues. In R. Gurung and L. Prieto (Ed.), Getting Culture: Incorporating diversity across the curriculum. Sterling, VA: Stylus.
- Wilson, J. H., Locker, L.** (2008). Immediacy Scale Represents Four Factors: Nonverbal and Verbal Components Predict Student Outcomes. *Journal of Classroom Interaction*.
- Sevinc, M., **Locker, L., Murray, J. D.** (2009). Automation vs. Human Intervention: Is There Any room Left for the Analyst in the Data Mining Process?. In D Jemielniak, L. Kozminski, J. Kociatkiewicz (Ed.), Handbook of Research on Knowledge-Intensive Organizations. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
- Nielsen, M. E.**, White, D. (2008). Men's grooming in the Latter-day Saints Church: A qualitative study of norm violation. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 11(8), 807-825.
- Randolph-Seng, B., **Nielsen, M. E.**, Bottoms, B. L., Filipas, H. (2008). The Relationship Between Ethnicity, Christian Orthodoxy, and Mental Health. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 11(8), 795-805.
- Randolph-Seng, B., **Nielsen, M. E.** (2008). Is God Really Watching You? A Response to Shariff and Norenzayan (2007). *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 18(2), 119-122.
- Foster, P. S., Drago, V., **Webster, D. G.**, Harrison, D. W., Crucian, G. P., Heilman, K. M. (2008). Emotional Influences on Spatial Attention. *Neuropsychology*, 22(1), 127-135.
- Wilson, J. H.**, Wilson, S. B. (2008). The first day of class affects student motivation: An experimental study. *Teaching of Psychology*.

Clinic News:

Our Psychology Clinic is now located in the “cottages” across from the Child Development Center on the Georgia Southern campus. The clinic serves as a training facility for our PsyD students and is available to adults (and now children and families!) in the Statesboro and surrounding communities at a sliding scale fee. All student therapists are supervised by licensed clinical faculty members. Recently, Georgia Southern’s department of human resources selected the clinic as a mental health

referral source for its Employee Assistance Program. For more information about the clinic, please call 912-478-1685.

Let us hear from you:

We love to hear from our alumni and friends. Please send us a note via snail mail or email (JMurray@georgiasouthern.edu). Of course, you can always phone the department at 912-478-5539.

Please Consider Supporting Psychology Financially:

If you wish to donate to the Psychology Department, you can direct your gift to any of our programs, the Psychology Clinic, student/faculty research, or whatever aspect of our program that you choose. To do so, please go to the following website:
<http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/psychology/support.php>