Stony Brook University

Message from the chair

To alumni, faculty, and students:

This is the first of what we hope will become a series of newsletters, keeping you up to date with what is going on in the Stony Brook Psychology Department, and, hopefully, encouraging you to keep in contact with us.

After many retirements, and a shrinking in the size of the faculty, we are now in a period of growth. Two new faculty members joined the Social/Health Program in 1999/2000, and this year three more new assistant professors have joined our ranks. (See the article on page 6.) At the same time, the number of Psychology majors continues to increase, and the University continues to grow in quality and influence, as indicated by our recent invitation to join the prestigious Association of American Universities.

In future issues we hope to highlight the accomplishments of our alumni, so please send us information about yourself, and help us locate as many of our graduates as we can.

Over the summer, our previous chair, Russ Whitehurst, took a leave from Stony Brook to work in Washington D.C., in the Department of Education. (See page 3.) I took over as chair of the department, with the able assistance of Susan Brennan, our new Director of Graduate Studies, and Marci Lobel, our new Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Please keep in touch, send us news about yourself, and let us know what kind of news you want to hear!

Happy Holidays!

Nancy Squires

Nancy Squires, Chair

Susan Brennan, Director of Graduate Studies

Marci Lobel, Director of Undergraduate Studies
Recent Retirements

Last spring we had a retirement party for five faculty members who have left for greener pastures: Jasper Brener, David Emmerich, Ed Katkin, John Neale, and Paul Wortman.

Dave, Ed, and Paul still live in the local area, and are still active around the department. (Dave even taught grad stats just last year.) Although Jasper has retired to Padua, Italy, he spends half the year in New York and still mentors graduate students. John has retired to Hilton Head – and we’re all envious. All the retirees except Jasper were able to come to the party. It was held at the Old Field club. We had a great dinner, many recollections, and many laughs. Sue O’Leary did a great job in organizing this celebration.

The retirees graciously agreed that instead of receiving the traditional retirement gifts, they would prefer to have the money used to start a dissertation fellowship fund. We really appreciate their help for the new generation of Ph.D. candidates.

If you would like to help keep this dissertation-fellowship fund going, your contributions would be most welcome. Please send all contributions to:

Judith Thompson, Department of Psychology, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11794-2500

Or contact Judy for more information: judith.thompson@sunysb.edu
Howie Rachlin is presenting a talk to the Nobel Committee in Stockholm at the Behavioral and Experimental Economics Nobel Symposium on December 3, 2001. His talk is entitled “Behavioral Analysis, Cognitive Analysis, and Economics”. The discussant will be previous Nobel winner George Akerlof of Berkeley.

Professor Whitehurst Named Assistant Secretary of Education

From the Stony Brook Happenings – August 2001

Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, swore in Dr. Grover “Russ” Whitehurst, Lead Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology, as Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education. He is a nationally recognized authority on early childhood education and language development.

In his new position, Whitehurst will serve as Director of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), which provides essential support for the improvement of American education by building knowledge about teaching and learning and by helping to stimulate improvements in development, and dissemination activities and the statistics and assessment programs of the National Center for Education Statistics.

“Russ Whitehurst brings a wealth of experience to our research and improvement office, a part of our department that President Bush has singled out as being essential to our goal of creating a system of schools that leaves no child behind,” Secretary Paige said. “His Leadership will be invaluable as we seek to produce quality research on teaching and learning and share it with educators and the public.

Whitehurst is the second scientist/administrator with Stony Brook ties chosen to serve in the Bush Administration. Over the summer, Dr. John Marburger, the University’s former President and the Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory, was nominated to serve as the President’s National Science Advisor.

“We at Stony Brook are so very proud of Russ Whitehurst,” said President Kenny. “He is a shining example of how our extraordinary faculty not only teach, but also benefit the community, the region, and the nation with their scholarship and commitment.”

President Bush formally nominated Whitehurst on April 30, and the Senate confirmed the nomination on July 12.

Whitehurst has conducted extensive research into Head Start programs and was one of the first investigators to link reading success in elementary schools among disadvantaged youth to pre-reading skills they developed in such programs. His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health.
From: On the Origins of Clinical Psychology Faculty:
Who is Training the Trainers?

Authors: Ilardi, Rodriguez-Hanley, Roberts, Siegel; University of Kansas


This report is about one measure of program achievement, namely program efficiency in training graduates to assume clinical psychology faculty positions. Degree granting institutions and year of degree completion were obtained for 1,529 individuals listed as core faculty at 150 university-based clinical psychology Ph.D. programs accredited by the American Psychological Association. Leading programs are identified for having the largest number of graduates assume faculty positions across two periods. The two periods are across the past thirty years and across the last decade. The top 10 programs from both periods are noted below. Stony Brook is proud to note that we appear second over a 30 year period and first over the last decade!

The Last 30 Years
1. University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign
2. State University of New York at Stony Brook
3. University of Michigan
4. University of Minnesota
5.5 University of Georgia
5.5 University of Wisconsin at Madison
7.5 Indiana University
7.5 University of Texas at Austin
9. University of California at Los Angeles
10. University of Pittsburg

The Last Ten Years
1. State University of New York at Stony Brook
2. University of California- Los Angeles
4. University of Georgia
4. McGill University
4. University of Washington
6. University of Minnesota
7.5 University of Michigan
7.5 University of Wisconsin-Madison
10. University of Pittsburg
10. University of Southern California
SBU Professors Awarded for their Achievements

From the Statesman – October 2001

Two Stony Brook professors, Edward G. Carr and Gilbert Kalish, have recently been selected as recipients of prestigious awards. Carr, a member of the Psychology department, recently received the 2001 Applied Research Award at the convention of the American Psychological Association held in San Francisco this past September.

Carr is nationally recognized as a pioneer in research involving the mentally handicapped, especially those who have trouble communicating. According to Carr, receiving the award, which recognizes contributions to solutions for psychological problems, reveals a new attitude towards the mentally handicapped.

“In the past, people focused on the problems. Now the focus has shifted to a desire to see people with disabilities as people who deserve a better quality of life,” Carr said.

“The focus should be on improving life as opposed to seeing them as a burden.”

In the past, Carr’s research has had a tremendous impact on the treatment of handicapped individuals. For instance, as a result of his work, federal law now states that all children treated for behavioral problems in public schools whose behavior meets disability criteria must undergo a detailed assessment.

Carr, who received his Ph.D. from the University of California-San Diego, has received many honors in the past as a result of his contributions. The Association of Retarded Citizens of the United States presented him with the Distinguished Research Award in the past. In addition, Carr also holds the position of Director of Research at the Developmental Disabilities Institute in Smithtown.

Marvin R. Goldfried – APA 2001 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Knowledge

From the APA: American Psychologist, October 2001

CITATION

“Marvin R. Goldfried has made significant and continual contributions to the science and practice of clinical psychology. He has written or edited defining works in the areas of the Rorschach, cognitive-behavioral psychotherapy, and psychotherapy integration.

His contributions to psychotherapy research were recognized by his election to the presidency of the Society for Psychotherapy Research. He was the founding editor of In Session. His most recent book, How Therapists Change (2000), captures the immediacy of clinical work. He is now developing a network for family members of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people and, by doing so, is demonstrating the social responsibility that has marked his career from the start.”
New Faculty Members

Sheri Levy joined the Social/Health area in Fall 1999. She earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1998. Her research examines how the different frames of references adults and children hold influence prejudice. Levy has examined lay theories, ideologies, and basic perceptual tendencies. Assuming that these frames of reference are dynamic, Levy explores how they develop with age and personal experience.

Dr. J. Lee Westmaas came to the Social/Health program in Fall 2000. He earned his Ph.D. in 1996 at the University of California, Irvine in Health Psychology. He completed post-doctoral training at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, University of Toronto, and at the Tobacco Research and Intervention Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Research Center at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Dr. Westmaas' current research focuses on how personality, social/interpersonal and cognitive variables, or their interaction, predict one's own or others' responses to stressors. Recently, Dr. Westmaas has applied this perspective toward understanding the process of smoking cessation.

Dr. Turhan Canli joined the Biopsychology program in Fall 2001. Trained in behavioral neuroscience at Yale (Ph.D., 1993), and cognitive and affective neuroscience at Stanford, Dr. Canli's laboratory focuses on the neural basis of individual differences in affect and personality. Current work looks at depressed patients and individuals suffering from social phobia, as well as healthy individuals. Research uses non-invasive human brain mapping approaches such as functional MRI and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS). In collaboration with investigators at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, England, upcoming studies will evaluate the link between brain activation patterns and molecular genetics.

Dr. Hoi-Chung Leung joined the Biopsychology Program in Fall 2001. Her main research interests are to understand the roles of the prefrontal cortex in different cognitive processes and how abnormality of the prefrontal cortex affects cognitive functioning. She uses functional MRI to study brain activation during cognitive interference (using the Stroop task) and working memory tasks. In the future, she will study the interactions of prefrontal cortical areas with posterior brain regions and the relationship of prefrontal deficits to mental illnesses such as thought disorder.

Dr. Anne Moyer joined the Social/Health program in Fall 2001. She received her Ph.D. in 1995 from Yale University. Her research concerns questions within the areas of psychosocial oncology and medical decision-making. She focuses on the experience of breast cancer and breast cancer risk, particularly the impact of decisions regarding surgical treatment and genetic testing. She is also interested in research synthesis and questions regarding research methodology, such as how investigations that randomize versus do not randomize participants to treatment differ in terms of their samples, study characteristics, and outcomes.
Alumni News

- Lisa Geraci, who graduated in Cognitive/Experimental in May 2001, was awarded the APA dissertation award. (Her advisor was Suparna Rajaram.)
- Jeff Epstein, who graduated in Clinical Psychology in 1994, has taken over the Directorship of the ADHD Program at Duke from Keith Conners (of the Conners Teacher Rating Scale). (Jeff’s advisor was Russ Whitehurst.)
- Mark Durand, who graduated in Clinical Psychology in 1985, is now Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at S.U.N.Y. Albany. (His advisor was Ted Carr.)
- John Richters, who graduated in Developmental Psychology in 1986, is now Head of Disruptive Behavior Disorders Section at NIMH. For the campus’ recent 45 year anniversary John was recognized as one of our “Distinguished Graduates.” (Everett Waters was his advisor.)
- Tricia Lawrence, who graduated in 1999 in Social/Health Psychology is now the Philanthropic Coordinator for the Credit Suisse First Boston Foundation. (Everett Waters was her advisor.)
- Christine Colon-Downs, a graduate of the Social/Health program in 1997 now works for the Suffolk County Dept. of Social Services securing state and federal grants to fund a wide variety of programs. (Christine’s advisor was Everett Waters.)
- German Posada, a graduate in Developmental Psychology in 1989, continues his cross-cultural work on infant-mother attachment. He has given seminars and invited lectures in Portugal, Peru, Columbia, and Mexico. He has a Commentary on cross-cultural research in press in the American Psychologist. Along with these accomplishments, he has moved from the Univ. of Denver to Purdue. (His advisor was Everett Waters.)
- Celene Fyffe, a 2000 graduate in Social/Health Psychology, is now Captain in the US Air Force where she serves as a clinical psychologist. (Everett Waters was her advisor.)
- Heather Bortfeld is a new Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University, after doing a post-doc at Brown University. Heather worked with Susan Brennan and graduated in 1997.
- Louis G. Castonguay, who graduated in clinical psychology in 1992 and is an Associate Professor at Penn State University, has been elected as President of the North American Society for Psychotherapy Research. Marv Goldfried was Louis’ advisor.

Martha Stout (’79 Ph.D. with Harry Kalish) is a clinical psychologist in Boston and an instructor at Harvard Medical School. She attracted the attention of the Greensboro News and Record as a result of her latest project. Stout specializes in memories, and she is currently researching a book about the effect of a historic public shooting on the residents of the small town of Thomasville, North Carolina. In 1921, the town’s well-liked physician, Dr. J.W. Peacock, shot the town’s less popular Police Chief, John Taylor, in broad daylight in front of several bystanders, including Stout’s grandfather, Will Stout. As Ms. Stout explained to the reporter from the News and Record, “I’m using the Peacock story to hang a book about memories – how this event functions in the memories of people and groups of people.” Stout recently published another book, The Myth of Insanity, with Penguin Putnam. She attended the University of Pennsylvania before earning her doctorate at Stony Brook.

This story was provided by SBU’s Advancement Office, which is on the lookout for news about SBU alumni.
From recent graduates

Robyn Stein DeLuca:

After graduating in May 1999, I became a part-time faculty member in the Psychology and Women's Studies Departments here at Stony Brook. Since then, I've taught courses in Social Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, The Psychology of Women, Introduction to Women's Studies in the Social Sciences, and Introduction to Women's Studies in the Humanities. As of Fall 2000, I was appointed as the Faculty Director of the Living Learning Center in Human Sexual and Gender Development, where I've developed courses such as Gender and Health, as well as organized campus programs like the student/faculty discussion held after the theatre department's presentation of the "Vagina Monologues" last Valentine's day. I still live in Setauket with my husband Tony, and my fabulous children Caroline and Jamie, who are now 9 and 6 respectively. I have become an active member of Temple Isaiah in Stony Brook, and am now pursuing one of my "life after dissertation" goals by studying Hebrew.

Janice Grackin:

Since completing my Ph.D. in 1999, I have been working at Stony Brook University's new Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, with the title of "Research, Grants, and Assessment Specialist." My position allows me a great deal of latitude in choosing projects, and lots of autonomy in carrying out my work. Since both of these are high on my list of "must haves" for employment (and life!), I am very content. I am PI or co-PI on a number of grants, including two NSF grants, and have been invited to review proposals for NSF in January. Those of you who know me (and my passions!) well will not be surprised to learn that I chair the annual Blueprint for Gender Equity in Education conference held at SBU, or that I was recently invited to join the board of directors of the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls, as well as United Way of Long Island's Success By 6 committee.

The past year has been pretty eventful for me, from a personal perspective. My open-heart surgery in April went well, but put me out of commission for an extended time. I'm glad to say I'm pretty much back to normal now, but it was a long recovery. Daughter Jennifer graduated from Bryn Mawr College in May, and is living in Delaware and working for MBNA. I never thought my little rebel would go into banking and finance, but she loves it! Son Bryan graduated from Sachem High School in June (National Honor Society, Student Government President). He is now attending George Washington University in Washington, D.C., planning to major in biochemistry with a minor in ethics. Of all the things I have achieved in the past few years, I am proudest of having successfully launched my two bright, beautiful, happy, and competent babies into the world. I am also proud to say that David and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary with a trip to Hawaii last October. It was perfectly wonderful and romantic, and I highly recommend it!

Julie Juola Exline:

I'm now in my second year as an Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychology (with links to Social Psychology) at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. My current research is primarily in the area of virtues (especially forgiveness and humility) and religious issues. My husband, Bill, and I were blessed with a daughter, Cecily Rae, in February 1998.
Psychology Department Faculty in Fall 2001

Distinguished Professors


Professors

Aron, Arthur, Ph.D., 1970, University of Toronto, Canada. Social/Health Psychology.
Friend, Ronald, Ph.D., 1969, University of Toronto, Canada. Social/Health Psychology.
Goldfried, Marvin, Ph.D., 1961, University at Buffalo. Clinical Psychology.
O’Leary, Susan G., Ph.D., 1972, University at Stony Brook. Clinical Psychology.
Samuel, Arthur, Ph.D., 1979, University of California, San Diego. Experimental Psychology.
Squires, Nancy K., Ph.D., 1972, University of California, San Diego. Chair. Biopsychology.
Waters, Everett, Ph.D., 1977, University of Minnesota. Social/Health Psychology.
Waters, Harriet Salatas, Ph.D., 1976, University of Minnesota. Social/Health Psychology.
Whitaker, Patricia, Ph.D., 1979, University of Toronto. Biopsychology.
Wortman, Camille B., 1972, Duke University. Social/Health Psychology.

Associate Professors

Franklin, Nancy, Ph.D., 1989, Stanford University: Experimental Psychology.
Lobel, Marc, Ph.D., 1989, University of California, Los Angeles. Social/Health Psychology.
Undergraduate Program Director:

Assistant Professors

Moyer, Anne – Lecturer, Social/Health Psychology
Westmaas, Lee, Ph.D., 1996, University of California, Irvine. Social/Health Psychology.

Research Faculty

Heyman, Richard – Research Associate Professor
Slep, Amy – Research Assistant Professor

Personnel

Thompson, Judith – Assistant to the Chair
Polak, Janet – Secretary to the Chair
Campani, Deborah – Graduate Program Coordinator
Bieselin, Jean – Account Clerk
Carlson, Carol – Undergraduate Advising
Hildenbrand, Donna – Staff Assistant, Undergraduate Office
Doret, Wendy – Director of the Psychological Center
Urbelis, Pat – Psychological Center Secretary