Stony Brook University

Happy New Year!

Since the last (i.e., the first) newsletter, I’ve received emails from dozens of alumni, including folks who graduated as long ago as 1971. It has been wonderful hearing about what all these graduates have been doing. In this issue of the newsletter, I’ve included what many of those alumni wrote so that everyone can enjoy hearing about where the psych grads have gone, and all the interesting things they have been doing.

On December 14th we had our department Christmas party at the newly refurbished Childs mansion in Old Field. The Childs mansion is owned by the University, which has done a terrific job in bringing the sadly dilapidated home back to its old glory. It was a lovely setting for all of us to get together and to eat (a lot) of great food.

I hope you enjoy hearing about the alumni as much as I do. Keep the news coming and also those email addresses. (I’m now up to 225 addresses, which still leaves a lot of grades to find.)

Nancy Squires
1/15/02

P.S. If you are interested in what’s happening at the University, the University’s new web site now has the most exciting news highlighted on the home page:

http://sunysb.edu/

Kaleigh and Kasey Riordan, Christmas 2001

Proud father Hank Riordan (not the one in the long white beard), graduated in Biopsychology in 1992. (His advisor was Nancy Squires). He says that Kaleigh and Kasey are his “two biggest accomplishments.”

After a few years on the faculty at Dartmouth, Hank left academia and is now the Global Director of Scientific Affairs at Ingenix Pharmaceuticals where he manages a group of 15 Scientists and Medical Writers. Ingenix is a contract research firm responsible for the scientific and professional conduct of clinical research initiatives for both biotech and pharmaceutical industries. Hank’s responsibilities include protocol/strategic program design and development, as well as analysis and clinical interpretation of results for all phases of clinical development. Hank has been the primary author of a number of protocols across a wide range of indications, including over two dozen studies in CNS therapeutic areas such as Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, ADHD, schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disorder. He has recently co-authored a book entitled “Optimizing Therapeutic Development in Diabetes” and is a contributing author to “Clinical Neurology of the Older Adult” to be released this year. Hank continues to hold an academic appointment in the department of neurology at Thomas Jefferson Medical Schools.
What the faculty have been doing

Art Aron – on the Discovery Health Channel

Art was recently featured in a program on “The Science of Love.” For more about the program see:

http://health.discovery.com/convergence/scienceoflove/falling.html#advice

Below are excerpts from Art's discussion of what psychology has to say about love.

Advice for first dates - Staring gets the love message across !

Professor Arthur Aron has been exploring the dynamics of what exactly happens when two people are falling in love. Even the simple action of looking into each others eyes has a power of its own as proved in his experiments with two complete strangers. For ninety minutes he asked numerous strangers to self disclose intimate details about themselves such as their most embarrassing moment, and how they would feel if they lost a parent, as well as express what they liked about the other person. At the end they were asked to stare into each others eyes without talking for four minutes. The results were amazing in that many of the couples confessed to feeling deeply attracted and close to the other person. Two of his subjects even married six months afterwards!

More advice for first dates - Get them stirred up!

Another of Art's experiments proved that when we are with our partners on a date and experience fear, we can misattribute this fear into love. So Art's advice is to take your date somewhere scary, such as to see a horror movie, or on a rollercoaster ride, or for a walk along a stormy coastline etc. Failing to do exciting things together is a major cause of the typical decline of a relationship after the honeymoon period. Together with opening up to your partner, and staring into each other's eyes for 4 minutes without saying anything you may just speed up the whole love process and give it a nudge in the right direction! Remember its been scientifically proven to work!

Congratulations to Marci Lobel and Louis Peòa on their new baby Maya Isolde.

Maya was born on January 1st, 2002, at 1:40 am at the University Hospital at Stony Brook. She weighed 9 lbs 4 oz and she was 21 inches long.

To find out more about what Marci has been doing you can check out a recent newsletter from the UCLA Psychology alumni association where Marci was featured:

http://www.psych.ucla.edu/paa/7lobel.htm
From our alumni

Larry Riso ('94) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: Dan Klein)

Upon graduating SB, I completed my clinical internship at Brown University and a two-year fellowship at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC) at the University of Pittsburgh. I then joined the faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. While at the medical center, I was able to secure national funding for research project and was one of the founding members of the Pittsburgh Center for Cognitive Therapy. I also served as a therapist on a number of treatment outcome studies with one of them being the largest psychotherapy outcome study ever done. Soon thereafter, I became engaged and then moved with my wife to the Department of Psychology at Georgia State University in Atlanta. She is also an academic clinical psychologist and we were hired together as assistant professors. We became a dual-career couple and we now happily work down the hall from one another. We almost had offices that were right next door to each other, but the chair of the department felt that the length of a hallway was probably close enough for newly married faculty members.

For more about Larry see: http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwpsy/faculty/riso.htm

Sandra Yacobozzi Kerr ('91) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: John Neale)

I am currently the chairperson of the Department of Psychology at West Chester University in West Chester PA.

For more about Sandra see: http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas.psy/faculty.htm - kerr

Andrew Slifkin ('95) - Biopsychology program 1995 (Advisor: Jasper Brenner)

Upon graduation, I started my first post-doc, under an NIH NRSA, in the Departments of Kinesiology and Biobehavioral Health at the Penn State University. My second post-doc, under a Fyssen Foundation fellowship, was at the CNRS et Université de la Méditerranée in Marseille, France. I’m currently a new Assistant Professor of Psychology at the Cleveland State University.

For more about Andy see: http://www.csuohio.edu/psy/

Lee Wurm ('96) – Experimental Psychology (Advisor: Arty Samuel)

Let’s see: I’m an assistant professor at Wayne State U. In June I gave an invited talk about my research in morphology and spoken word recognition at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. I’m going back as a Visiting Scholar next summer. I guess those are the highlights. Everything else is pretty routine (struggling to get grants, mad at my underachieving students, etc.).

Melanie Greenberg ('92) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: Arthur Stone)

My daughter’s name is Sydney Ann Hilbush. She’s 4 months old. I’m an Associate Professor in Clinical and Health Psychology at Alliant International University in San Diego. My research focuses on how emotional expression and coping affect adjustment to trauma and chronic illness. I’ve studied these issues in the recently unemployed, women with fibromyalgia, and gay men with HIV. I’ve also written some theoretical papers. I teach graduate courses in Behavioral/Social Learning Theory and Cultural Aspects of Health. I love living in San Diego, which has a similar climate/lifestyle to my birthplace, South Africa. My husband is in management at a biotech firm here, so we’re trying to do the two career and parent combination.
From our alumni - continued

Anne Marie Yali ('98) – Social/Health Psychology (Advisor: Marci Lobel)

After a two year (1998-2000) post-doctoral appointment with Dr. Andy Baum (an SB alum by the way!) at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, I accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Psychology at the City College of the City University of New York.

I teach both undergraduate and masters level social and health psychology and am working on research with the CUNY/American Health Foundation Collaborative and with the CCNY/Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Collaborative. I was recently invited to join a research team on campus assessing changes in local travel behavior as a result of the terrorist attacks. Of course I am continuing to explore the research topic that is nearest and dearest to me: religious/spiritual coping including prayer, forgiveness, and searching for meaning. In addition to teaching and research, I am on a committee to develop a masters curriculum for a special track in prevention research and I am the faculty sponsor/advisor for the CCNY Student Psychology Association. To top it all off, I am currently supervising three masters student thesis projects, with another potential student in the wings. whew.

Doug Vakoch ('96) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: Marv Goldfried)

After completing my internship at UW-Madison Hospitals, I continued the line of research I had started at Stony Brook with Marv Goldfried—examining differences between cognitive-behavioral and psychodynamic therapists, specifically, differences due to the philosophical assumptions and worldviews underlying each orientation. After a two-year NIMH postdoc in the Psychology Department at Vanderbilt University, I decided to make a career out of a field that I’ve worked on in my spare time over the past twenty-five years: the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). I’m now the Interstellar Message Group Leader at the SETI Institute <www.seti.org> in Mountain View, California, and also affiliated with the UC-Davis Psychology Department. My wife, Julie Bayless, is an artist making a transition from graphic design to animation.

Instead of comparing worldviews of psychotherapists, I now attempt to anticipate the worldviews of extraterrestrial intelligence. Lee Wurm and I continue to collaborate on our evolutionary model of speech perception, and I’m currently principal investigator for a major project on designing interstellar messages that describe altruism from sociobiological, evolutionary psychological, and philosophical perspectives. For a quick overview of this project, see an article at::

My special thanks go to Stony Brook faculty—especially Marv Goldfried, Bob Liebert, Ed Katkin, Dan O’Leary, and Susan Brennan—who encouraged me find my own path, even when it was unorthodox.

In the next couple of years, we expect to begin a follow-up project at the SETI Institute in communicating basic psychological concepts through interstellar messages. If there are any Stony Brook psychologists in academia out there who may be interested in consulting on the project, please contact me at <vakoch@seti.org>.
From Scientific American:

Babies Know Early On Where Words Begin and End

Distinguishing where one word ends and the next begins is a skill essential to understanding language, and new research suggests that it is one that we pick up long before we can speak. According to findings presented in the June issue of the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, babies as young as eight and a half months can sense word boundaries.

Researchers from Johns Hopkins University looked into the matter using the so-called head turn preference procedure. The child sits on a caretaker's lap inside a booth, which features a green light in front of the infant and red lights to each side. Initially, the green light is lit. Then, when the experiment begins, one of the red lights is turned on to attract the child's attention. Next, a loudspeaker behind the red light plays words or text passages. An observer notes how long the infant pays attention to the recording, using the baby's gaze in the direction of the red light as an indicator.

For this study, the researchers first "taught" the infant a word by having a singsong female voice repeat the word over and over again. They then played text passages that contained the word, didn't contain the word or anything resembling the word, or contained a "misparsed" passage in which the sound sequences making up the target word occur between two successive words. After familiarizing an infant with the word "dice," for example, the researchers then played a "target present" passage containing the phrase "two dice" and a misparsed passage containing "weird ice." Control group passages featured totally unrelated sounds.

Intriguingly, the children exhibited a listening preference for the target-present passages. "Infants seem to be more interested when they can pick up something they recognize as familiar amidst the new words of the passages," team member Sven Mattys remarks. "It's as if you heard your name in a conversation at a table next to yours." —Harald Franzen

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From our alumni - continued

Sussie Eshun ('96) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: Fred Levine)

Well, I am currently working as an Associate Professor of Psychology at the East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania in the great Poconos. I have been here since 1996 and recently received tenure. I love the Poconos with all the tourist resorts and unique scenery. ESU is one of PA's State system of higher education's (SSHE) colleges. Aside from my full-time teaching load, I have been teaching as an adjunct professor for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's PsyD program. I am also actively conducting research on cross-cultural issues in Clinical/Health Psychology. My greatest challenge now is balancing all of this with family (I have 2 daughters, 5 years old and 4 months old) and my part-time private practice.

Sven Mattys ('97) – Experimental Psychology (Advisor: Arty Samuel)

I did a postdoc at Johns Hopkins (97-99) with Peter Jusczyk, who unfortunately died of a heart attack last summer. Then I went on to the House Ear Institute, in Los Angeles, to work on speech perception and deafness (99-00). I now have a faculty position in England at the University of Bristol. Here, we call it "lecturer," which roughly means assistant professor. I'm still doing research on speech perception and spoken word recognition (as I did with Arty). A paper I coauthored with Jusczyk and which was released last June in Europe, India, and Indonesia (it's basically an APA release cribbed over and over again). It's about how prelingual infants (<16 months) manage to learn words from the speech signal they are exposed to, and how, surprisingly, they didn't seem to mistake speech fragments straddling word boundaries with real words (like "dice" in "old ice")."

For more about Sven see: http://psychology.psy.bris.ac.uk/psybris/SvenMattys.html
From our alumni - continued

Chris Smith (’98) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: Ted Carr)

Thanks for sending me the newsletter. I found it very interesting and informative. I also received it from a few other graduates.

Currently I am working for Rutgers University as an Autism Consultant. I have been consulting to schools in New York and New Jersey for Rutgers. I am also doing some private consultation work with private schools that are providing services for students with autism in the New York City area. I am also involved in setting up home-based education programs for children birth through three with special needs for an agency in Brooklyn.

Andres Ranieri (’91) – Experimental Psychology (Advisor: Howie Rachlin)

It’s very nice to hear from you. Thanks for the psychology newsletter. I hope everything is going well for you and everybody else at Stony Brook and your families.

I am married, 2 children, and through these last 7 years have taught myself Organizational Behavior and Organizational Change, courses which now I teach in a full time position at a very good business school here in Chile. I am also doing research in those topics in local companies.

I have the best memories from Stony Brook.

Regards and Happy Hollidays,

Andrés Raineri

Clinical Psych in Top Ten – according to US News and World Report:


Bob Siegler (Clinical Psych graduate of 1974) makes an interesting comment in response to the last newsletter: “I enjoyed reading the newsletter; it’s good to see that Stony Brook alums have done so well. As high as the ratings among clinical programs are, they may understate the impact of the program, because some clinical students, such as myself, are in non-clinical academic programs. Of course, that may be true of other programs too, but I think the relatively porous boundaries between areas at Stony Brook probably make this more likely than at other schools.

Bob is now at Carnegie Mellon University, studying cognitive development. He’s going to write to us about himself for the next issue.
Richard A. Winett ('71) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: Leonard Krasner)

Dr. Winett is the Heilig-Meyers Professor of Psychology at Virginia Tech where he directs the Center for Research in Health Behavior and also the Clinical Psychology program. Dr. Winett has received Virginia Tech’s highest research award, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Research in 1999. Dr. Winett’s research primarily focuses on disease prevention and health promotion particularly for cancer and heart disease risk reduction. The research has used a range of intervention strategies, from those involving Internet delivered tailored programs to community based interventions, and more recently combinations of modalities. Special expertise is in nutrition, physical activity, and exercise. During his career, Dr. Winett has received about $11 million in funding, primarily from the National Institutes of Health, and has published about 180 research articles, books, and chapters. He has also chaired 35 students to the completion of their doctorate. In addition, Dr. Winett is the owner and publisher of Master Trainer (www.ageless-athletes.com).

Laura Wray ('91) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: Ted Carr)

For myself, I am the Geropsychologist at the VA Western New York Healthcare System. I came here for internship in 1990 and never left. My research productivity has been much less than I would like it to be due to the clinical demands of my position. I was briefly an administrator, but hated it so much that I resigned that role to return to being a psychologist. You'll be happy to know that I put my neuropsychology training to good use and hold full privileges in neuropsychology here in the hospital. Assessment cases make up at least 75% of my workload. I also work extensively with families of patients with dementia. You can tell Ted that my dissertation work in decreased efficiency of communication and behavior problems applies to cognitively impaired elderly as well as it did to language delayed kids. Though I'm sure he would have predicted as much!

I am now the Director of Psychology Training and in charge of our APA accredited internship program. Send me your applicants please!

In my personal life, I have two daughters, Katelyn (born at Stony Brook), now age 13, and Alaina, age 8. They are doing well in school and developmentally they're both on track! ;)

Cory Newman ('87) – Clinical Psychology (Advisor: Marv Goldfried)

Here's a brief, shamelessly self-promoting blurb. I'm the Director of the Center for Cognitive Therapy and an Associate Professor of Psychology, in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. I've been here since I did my postdoc in 1987 and I hope to spend my entire career here at Penn. I am the lead author on a recently published book entitled BIPOLAR DISORDER: A COGNITIVE THERAPY APPROACH, (APA Books, 2001), and I've become a frequent international lecturer on cognitive therapy. On the side, I still fanatically play ice hockey (I play for the Philadelphia Roadrunners in an amateur men's league), and classical piano (I give a recital here at Penn every year). My 9 year-old daughter Lindsey is the star of my life.

From Alan Rosenbaum:

Gene Pekarik passed away last April. He was on the faculty at Antioch New England in Keene, New Hampshire and was also the founder and director of the Center for Research on Psychological Practice (CROPP) at Antioch.

Gene graduated in 1977. His advisor was Bernie Tursky.
Amazingly, three of our graduates are now on the faculty at MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY – MANKATO.

Yueh-Ting Lee sent us the following information about himself, and directed me to the MSU website; the information about Rosemary and Nancy is from the MSU website: http://krypton.mnsu.edu/~leey/leey.html

Yueh-Ting Lee ('91) – Social Psychology (Advisor Dana Bramel)

is an immigrant from China. He received his Ph.D. in Personality and Social Psychology in the Department of Psychology at State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1991 (with Dana Bramel and Victor Ottati). Then he had his post-doctoral training and research (with Albert Pepitone, Martin E. P. Seligman and Clark McCauley) at University of Pennsylvania. Before he was hired as a chairperson and a faculty in the Department of Ethnic Studies at Minnesota State University in 2000, he was an assistant and associate professor at Philadelphia University and Westfield State College of Massachusetts. Both cross-culturally and experimentally, he enjoys teaching and doing research on such ethnic and cross-cultural issues as stereotypes and stereotyping, person perception, social justice and identity, intergroup conflict, individual differences and nationalistic characteristics, immigration, and paleo-psychological beliefs. He has authored or co-authored over 50 scientific articles in referred journals and also has 5 scholarly books (two of which were “Stereotype accuracy: Toward appreciating group differences” by APA in 1995 and “Personality and person perception across cultures” by LEA in 1999).

For more info, please see the website:

http://krypton.mnsu.edu/~leey/leey.html

Rosemary Krawczyk (Advisor: Dale Hay)

Professor, Department Chair, Ph.D. State University of New York at Stony Brook (1984)

Specialization – Developmental Psychology; Psychology of Women; Research Interests - Social development of infants and toddlers; gender socialization; early childhood education.

Nancy Fenrick (Advisor: Alan Ross)

Professor, Ph.D. State University of New York—Stony Brook (1979).

Specialization - Clinical Psychology Developmental Disabilities; Research Interests- Behavioral interventions with developmentally disabled children and persons in schools and residential programs.
Psychology Department Faculty in Fall 2001

**Distinguished Professors**


**Professors**


**Associate Professors**


**Assistant Professors**


**Research Faculty**

Heyman, Richard, Ph.D. – Research Associate Professor Moyer, Anne, Ph.D. – Lecturer, Social/Health Psychology Slep, Amy, Ph.D. – 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, Ph.D. – Director of the Psychological Center Urbelis, Pat – Psychological Center Secretary