

Psychology

SPRING 2008

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Department of Psychology

College of Liberal Arts

Alumna Reflects on Her WSU Experience

Amy Song graduated from Washington State University in May 2007 with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. She is currently working for comScore Inc., a large market research company, and living outside Washington, D.C. We caught up with Amy and asked her to tell us about her work as a data analyst and how her experiences at WSU prepared her for her new career. These are her thoughts, in her own words:

As a child, I dreamed of being many things when I grew up. I told my third grade teacher I wanted to be a paleontologist. In the fourth grade, I wanted to be a pediatrician, then a writer, a lawyer, an architect, and later, a businesswoman. Over the years, the list continued. I even remember thinking how interesting it would be to work with numbers all day, looking for patterns, analyzing trends, predicting future progressions. But what was that called? Was it even a job? It certainly was not something as common and glamorous as "doctor" or "lawyer." So I moved on to my next career goal.

I eventually realized that my interest in numbers and figures could indeed be a career option, but it took a while. When I enrolled at Washington State University in 2004, I planned to major in pre-pharmacy and biology. I took several psychology courses because they appeared relevant to my career path and I was interested in the material. However, I had no interest in majoring in psychology at the time, believing that there are only two options for psychology majors: either endure grueling years of graduate school to become a psychologist or pursue a job of modest mediocrity in the social service sector. I was interested in neither.

That impression changed, however, the day I attended a presentation hosted by the Psych Club. Dr. Craig Parks was invited to talk about career options in psychology that do not require multiple years of graduate training. He revealed that there are many occupations available to students with bachelor degrees in psychology. Among the options he highlighted was "data analyst." He told us that employers are highly interested in graduates with strong quantitative skills and interests in statistical analysis. This option piqued my interest and following the presentation, I researched it for myself. It was true. I could play with numbers all day and get paid to do it.

Excited about this possibility, I e-mailed Dr. Parks to arrange a meeting. The rest is history. I officially changed my major to psychology and became heavily involved as an undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Parks and one of his graduate students, Celestina Barbosa-Leiker. Under their direction, I was able to work on several projects involving delightfully large databases. I learned how to use statistical techniques to answer empirical questions, all the while gaining skills and experience that eventually qualified me for a quantitatively oriented career.

Today, I am a data analyst at comScore Inc, a large market research company. We use statistics to analyze trends in the market for more than 700 companies, with clients like eBay, State Farm, Yahoo! Sites, and Bank of America, just to name a few. In doing so, we provide information about how they are doing and how their competitors are doing. We also help them solve problems such as how to best address customer requests. It is a dream job for me and I am thoroughly enjoying my 20s living in the greater Washington, D.C., area.

As I reflect on my college education, I am utterly grateful for my time at WSU. I had so many options as an undergraduate to explore my interests and find my true passion. Along



Amy Song seen at graduation in May 2007.

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Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

The alumni newsletter is a regular opportunity to note both change and progress at WSU and the Department of Psychology. I must begin with the sorrowful notice of the passing of **Jim Whipple**, a retired professor of psychology. After receiving his doctorate at Stanford, Jim joined the WSU faculty in 1957 and served as a teacher and statistical consultant to psychology students for almost four decades. Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing Jim will remember his pointed but gentle humor, his love of language and history, and his fine palate for ales, wines, and spirits. Jim is survived by his wife Eileen, a retired faculty member in our department.

Other changes taking place at WSU include the arrival of our new president, **Elson S. Floyd, Ph.D.**, who replaces Lane Rawlings after six years of distinguished service. In addition, we will soon see the departure of Erich Lear as dean of the College Liberal Arts. Dean Lear has provided singular leadership for the College of Liberal Arts and in so doing has made the Department of Psychology a better place in which to study and to work. This year we also welcome **Michael Steele** as a new assistant professor of clinical psychology in Pullman, and **Sarah Tragesser** as a new assistant professor of experimental psychology in the Tri-Cities.

While the alumni newsletter always describes selected people and accomplishments in the Department of Psychology, I would like to mention the following items as indicative of the department's work:

- Under the guidance of Clinic Director **Doug Lane**, the Psychology Clinic continues to expand its range of services, now including clinical services for children, adolescents, and veterans.
- **Masha Gartstein** was invited to join a cooperative partnership with the Russian Children's Fund. Masha will help to establish psychological services for pediatric cancer patients in the former Soviet Union.
- **Paul Kwon** has been selected by the American Psychological Association to serve as a site visitor for the Committee on Accreditation of Doctoral Programs in Clinical Psychology.
- **Craig Parks** received the Outstanding Faculty Service Award from the WSU College of Business.
- **Samantha Swindell** was selected as one of WSU's Women of Distinction.

Once again, thanks for your support of the Department of Psychology.

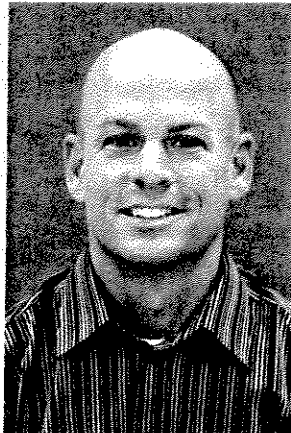
John Hinson

Professor and Chair

Focus on Faculty

Focus on Faculty: Michael Steele

Michael Steele's research addresses the growing problem of pediatric obesity from a variety of angles. First, he is interested in validating existing assessment tools (e.g., self-report, observational measures) used to measure child health issues. He is also interested in using those tools to identify the specific variables (e.g., self-efficacy, decisional balance, readiness to change) that best predict treatment outcomes for interventions designed to treat obese children. Finally, he hopes to use this information to develop an empirically-sound, family-based treatment program for pediatric obesity.



Michael received his master's and doctoral degrees in clinical child psychology from the University of Kansas in 2004 and 2007, respectively. Before joining the WSU faculty in the fall of 2006, he completed a pre-doctoral internship in pediatric and clinical child psychology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center. Michael was recognized for excellence in teaching in 2004 with the McNeil Teaching Award from the Clinical Child Psychology Program at the University of Kansas and received the Outstanding Student Award from the same program in 2006. To date, Michael has authored six journal articles and made 13 presentations at professional conferences.

Focus on Faculty: Sarah Tragesser

Sarah Tragesser's research focuses on the relationship between personality characteristics, emotional regulation, interpersonal problems, and alcohol use. She is particularly interested in how impulsivity and affective instability contribute to these issues. Working from a dimensional perspective, Sarah samples both normal and clinical populations, and uses a variety of techniques in her research, including neurocognitive measures, ecological assessments, vignettes, and longitudinal designs. Her work is currently supported by a grant from the University of Missouri Research Council.



Sarah earned her master's degree in experimental psychology from Western Washington University in 2002. She completed her doctorate at Colorado State University in 2005 before moving to the University of Missouri for a postdoctoral fellowship with the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. To date, Sarah has authored 11 journal articles. Her most recent papers appear in the *Journal of Personality Disorders* and *The Journal of Cross Cultural Psychology*. In addition, Sarah has made 28 paper and poster presentations at professional conferences. She was the recipient of the Carol Lynne Baird Memorial Scholarship in 2004 and the Western Psychological Foundation Student Scholarship in 2005.

Publications and Presentations

Leonard Burns was the lead author of the article “Measurement and structural invariance of parent ratings of ADHD and ODD symptoms across gender for American and Malaysian children” and coauthor of “Oppositional defiant disorder toward adults and oppositional defiant disorder toward peers: Evidence for two separate constructs.” Both papers were published in the journal *Psychological Assessment*. Len also wrote a chapter for M. Eid and E. Diener (eds.), *Handbook of Multimethod Measurement in Psychology*, titled “Clinical psychology: Construct validation with multiple sources of information and multiple settings.” It was coauthored by S.N. Haynes (University of Hawaii).

An article by **Rebecca Craft**, **James Clark** ('02 B.S. Psychology, Pharm.D. candidate), Stephen Hart (junior, Education), and **Megan Pinckney** ('04 B.S. Psychology), “Sex differences in the effects of morphine on locomotor activity,” was published in *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*. Craft also published a paper entitled, “Modulation of pain by estrogens” in the journal *Pain*.

Lisa Fournier's paper, “Conjunction benefits and costs reveal decision priming for first- and second-order features,” was published in *Perception and Psychophysics*. It was coauthored by **Bob Patterson**, B.P. Dyre (University of Idaho), **Matt Wiediger** (Ph.D. candidate), and R. Winters ('03 B.S. Genetics and Cell Biology). Fournier also published a paper in the *Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging*. It was titled “The effects of soy milk and isoflavone supplements on cognitive performance in healthy, postmenopausal women” and coauthored by T.A. Ryan-Borchers, L.M. Robison (both members of the WSU Department of Food Science, M. Wiediger (Ph.D. candidate), J.S. Park, B.P. Chew, M.K. Mcguire, D.A. Sclar, T.L. Skaer, and K.A. Beerman (all members of the WSU Department of Food Science).

Masha Gartstein authored an article entitled, “A cross-cultural study of infant temperament: Predicting preschool effortful control in the United States of America (U.S.) and Russia,” in the *European Journal of Developmental Psychology*. **Masha Gartstein**, H.R. Slobodskaya (Siberian Branch of Medical Sciences State Research Institute of Physiology), S.P. Putnam (Bowdoin College), **Kyra Davies** ('06 B.S.), **Albert Hsu** ('07 B.S.), and **Ekaterina Burduli** (senior) gave a poster presentation entitled “Cross-cultural differences in the development of behavior problems (Russia and U.S.): A longitudinal evaluation” at the Society for Research in Child Development meeting in Boston.

Heidi Hamann's paper, “Interpersonal response among sibling dyads tested for BRCA1BRCA2 gene mutations,” is in press at *Health Psychology*. This paper was coauthored by T.W. Smith (University of Utah, Psychology), K.R. Smith (University of Utah, Family Studies), **John Ruiz**, J.C. Kircher (University of Utah, Education), and J.R. Botkin (University of Utah, School of Medicine)

Michiyo Hirai wrote a chapter for P. Watkins and G. Clum (eds.), *Handbook of Self-Help Therapies*, entitled “Anxiety Disorders” (New York, NY: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates). The chapter was coauthored by G. Clum (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University).

Paul Kwon's article “Rumination and dysphoria: Moderating role of defense style maturity” was published in *Personality and Individual Differences*. This paper was coauthored by **Megan Olson** ('07 Ph.D.)

Brett Parmenter attended the INS meeting, where she presented a poster entitled “Sex differences in verbal memory in multiple sclerosis.” It was coauthored by Douglas R. Denney (University of Kansas) and Sharon G. Lynch (University of Kansas, Medical Center).

Bob Patterson is the first author of three published papers this past year. The first, titled “Binocular rivalry and head-mounted displays” and coauthored by M. Winterbottom (U.S. Air Force), B.J. Peirce (U.S. Air Force), and R. Fox (Vanderbilt University), was published in the journal *Human Factors*. The second, “Human factors of 3D displays (review article)” was published in the *Journal of the Society for Information Display*. The third, titled “Unresolved issues in stereopsis: the visual processing of dynamic disparity information” will appear in the journal *Spatial Vision*. Bob was also the coauthor of a fourth paper, titled “Depth of focus and visual recognition of imagery presented on simultaneously viewed displays: Implications for head-mounted displays” in the journal *Human Factors*. It was coauthored by M.D. Winterbottom, B.J. Pierce, C. Covas, and J. Winner (all from the U.S. Air Force).

Tahira Probst co-guest-edited a special issue on 25 years of job insecurity research for the journal *International Studies of Management and Organization*. Tahira was also the lead author on three publications in 2007. The first, “A preliminary evaluation of SOLVE: Addressing psychosocial problems at work” was published in the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*. It was the first publication resulting from the ongoing collaboration between Probst and researchers at the U.N.'s International Labor Organization. The second, titled, “Organizational safety climate and supervisory layoff decisions: Preferences versus predictions” was published in the *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* and coauthored by **T.L. Brubaker** ('00 B.S. Psychology). And the third, titled “Productivity, counterproductivity, and creativity: The ups and downs of job security” appeared in the *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology* and was coauthored by S. Stewart (University of Puget Sound), M.L. Gruys (Wright State University), and **B.W. Tierney** (senior, Vancouver). This final paper received both national and international attention and was highlighted in feature articles in *The Columbian*, the *British Psychological Society*, and numerous online media sources.

John Ruiz's paper, coauthored by J.L. Smith (Montana State University, Psychology) and titled “Interpersonal orientation in context: Interpersonal circumplex and five-factor model correlates and effects of social match and mismatch on intrinsic motivation and cardiovascular responses,” was published in the *Journal of Personality*. Ruiz has another paper currently in press at *Personality and Social Psychology*, titled “For better or worse: Social influences on coronary heart disease.” It was coauthored by **James Hutchinson** (Ph.D. candidate) and **Alexandra Terrill** (M.S. candidate). Finally, Ruiz coauthored a chapter with B.N. Uchino (University of Utah, Psychology) and J. Holt-Lunstad (Brigham Young University, Psychology), titled “Stress,” that will appear in D. Sanders and K.R. Scherer (eds.), *Oxford Companion to Affective Sciences*.

Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe authored three papers this year. The first, titled “Feeling-of-knowing in episodic memory following moderate-to-severe closed-head injury” appeared in the journal *Neuropsychology*. It was coauthored by Jonathan Anderson (Eastern Washington

University). The second paper, "Effects of aging and divided attention on memory components derived for the category exemplar generation task," was published in *Aging, Neuropsychology and Cognition*. It was coauthored by **Ellen Woo** ('06 Ph.D.). The third, titled "Fractionation of the Dysexecutive Syndrome in a heterogeneous neurological sample," was published in *Brain Injury* and coauthored by **Naomi Chaytor** ('04 Ph.D., University of Washington Regional Epilepsy Center). In addition, **Schmitter-Edgecombe**, Jonathan Anderson, and **Scott Creamer** (M.S. candidate) presented a poster entitled "Very mild dementia and feeling-of-knowing in episodic memory" at the 35th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) in Portland, Oregon. Schmitter-Edgecombe was also the coauthor of a presentation made at the Assisted Cognition Workshop in Rochester, New York, titled "Smart environment support to assist elder adults and people with disabilities." This presentation was coauthored by D. Cook (EECS) and A. Crandall (EECS). Finally, Schmitter-Edgecombe gave a workshop in Spokane, Washington, in October titled "Dementia and communicating with people with cognitive disorders" and an invited talk at NDSU in September entitled "Early stage dementia: Memory, everyday activities, and intervention."

Sarah Tragesser was the lead author of three articles this past year. The first, entitled "The role of affective instability and impulsivity in predicting future BPD features," was published in the *Journal of Personality Disorders*. The coauthors of this paper were M. Solhan, R. Schwartz-Mette, and T.J. Trull (all from the University of Missouri). The second paper, "Parental monitoring, peer drug involvement, and marijuana use across three ethnicities," appeared in *The Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*. It was coauthored by F. Beauvais, R.C. Swaim, R.W. Edwards, and E.R. Oetting (all from Colorado State University). The third paper, titled "Personality disorder symptoms, drinking motives, and alcohol use and consequences: Cross-sectional prospective mediation," appeared in *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*. It was coauthored by K.J. Sher, T.J. Trull, and A. Park (all University of Missouri). Finally, Tragesser was the coauthor of a fourth paper in 2007. It was titled, "Dimensional models of personality disorders: DSM-V and beyond" and published in *Current Opinion in Psychiatry*.

Paul Whitney, John Hinson, Aaron Wirick (Ph.D. candidate), and **Heather Holben** ('03 B.S. Psychology) published a paper in *Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience* titled, "Somatic responses in behavioral inhibition."

Jim Wise gave three invited presentations at three conferences during the summer of 2007. At the Environmental Design Research Association meeting in Sacramento, California, he presented results of his recent DARPA study on "Space syntax and interiors inference," which reported the results of inferring the interior layouts of unknown foreign buildings using limited external views of the structure and its location. That study resulted in the creation of a new Space Syntax Analysis engine, named 'PySSis,' now in use at WSU Tri-Cities. At the Psychology-Ecology-Sustainability Conference at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, Wise gave a presentation on "The biological bases of biophilic design and green building benefits," which provided an overview of diverse research results on "occupant benefits" and "restorativeness" of nature views integrated with his own research on structural coupling of perceptual and environmental structures using fractal modeling. Finally, at the Design Plus Science Symposium at Kingston University, United Kingdom, Wise delivered the keynote address on "The use of fractals and space syntax in designing restorative environments." He also served as visiting professor in the Faculty of Art, Design, and Architecture for the week, helping critique students' final projects and working with doctoral students starting their dissertation investigations.

Grants and Contracts

Rebecca Craft was awarded a one-year grant from the Peter F. McManus Charitable Trust for her project "Does opioid activation contribute to cannabinoid dependence?"

The Washington Institute for Mental Illness Research and Training (WIMIRT)—in the form of Casey Jackson (research associate, WIMIRT, WSU Spokane), **Paul Kwon**, and Terrie Ashby-Scott (director, Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement [MESA] program, WSU Spokane)—was awarded a contract from the Washington State Mental Health Transformation Project. The researchers will develop a Web-based training and assessment tool for governmental and private agencies to enhance cultural competency among employees.

Awards, Recognitions, and Promotions/Appointments

Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe was promoted to full professor in 2007.

John Wright received the 2007 Faculty Excellence Award for the WSU Psi Chi chapter.

John Wright, Joseph Harding (professor, VCAPP), and John Masino ('03 Ph.D. Genetics and Cell Biology) received an award from the WSU Research Foundation for their U.S. Patent #7,118,747, entitled "AT4 Receptor Ligands as Angiogenic, Anti-angiogenic, and Anti-Tumor Agents."

Alumna Reflects... continued from front page

the way, I gained knowledge and skills that made me competitive in the job market immediately after I graduated from WSU. I am indebted to Dr. Parks and Celestina, two people who changed the course of my life by opening doors I did not even know existed. I realize now that I considered those other careers simply because

they were popular, or lucrative, or someone else made them seem interesting. But at WSU, with the support and help of dedicated teachers and mentors, I found my true calling and the resources to achieve it.

Dan Balliet ('07 Ph.D.) was awarded a GPSA/Grad School Travel Grant to travel to the APS National Conference in Washington, D.C. Dan has since accepted a position at the Singapore Management University.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as recipients of the Marchionne fellowships: **Scott Creamer** (M.S. candidate), **Virginia Ferent** (M.S. candidate), **Starlyn Hawes** (Ph.D. candidate), **Dan Hurley** (Ph.D. candidate), **James Hutchinson** (Ph.D. candidate), **Mercedes Lavoy** (M.S. candidate), and **Zach Tollman** (M.S. candidate).

Marcia Huipe (Ph.D. candidate), **Jeremiah Brown** (Ph.D. candidate), **Paul Mattson** (Ph.D. candidate), **Dina Olave Wirick** (Ph.D. candidate), **David Hurley** (Ph.D. candidate), and **Jennifer Self** (Ph.D. candidate) successfully defended their master's theses in 2007.

Michelle Langill (Ph.D. candidate) and **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe** presented a poster at the 33rd annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis in San Diego, California. The title of the poster was "Memory notebook training for very mild dementia."

Paul Mattson (Ph.D. candidate) presented a paper entitled "Maintaining an action plan through articulatory rehearsal is not necessary for compatibility interference" at the 46th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Long Beach, California. The paper was coauthored by **Lisa Fournier**, J. Kirkwood (senior), T. Herzog (junior) and J. Balatbat (senior).

Shital Pavawalla (Ph.D. candidate), **Matt Wiediger** (Ph.D. candidate), **Aaron Wirick** (Ph.D. candidate), **Celestina Barbosa-Leiker** (Ph.D. candidate), **Alan Boydston** (Ph.D. candidate), **Blythe Duell** (Ph.D. candidate), **Michelle Langill** (Ph.D. candidate), **Jennifer Stevenson** (Ph.D. candidate), and **Jutta Tobias** (Ph.D. candidate) successfully completed their preliminary exams.

Martina Rodgers ('07 Ph.D.) and **Wendy Wilson** ('07 Ph.D.) successfully defended their dissertations in 2007.

The following posters were presented by members of **Masha Gartstein's** lab at the Society for Research in Child Development annual meeting in Boston: **David J. Bridgett** ('07 Ph.D.), **Kristin Ramsay** ('07 B.S.), **Erin Iddins** ('07 B.S.), **Anna Rittmueller** ('07 B.S.), **Danielle Wald** ('07 B.S.), **Christopher Robertson** ('06 B.S.), **Sarah Schlect** ('06 B.S.), **Lindsey Yake** ('07 B.S.), **H. Kendall** (senior), and **Masha Gartstein**, "A latent growth examination of maternal predictors of the development of temperament based regulatory processes in infancy"; **Albert Hsu** ('07 B.S.), **Kyra Davies** ('06 B.S.), **Masha Gartstein**, **Emily Dahm** ('07 B.S.), and

Jennifer Self (Ph.D. candidate), "Effect of temperament in infancy on sleeping/feeding behaviors in toddlerhood"; **Kristin Ramsay**, **David Bridgett**, and **Masha Gartstein**, "Gender differences in preschool effortful control"; and **Danielle Wald**, **Anna Rittmueller**, **Kristin Marty** (senior), **Haley Kendall** (senior), **David Bridgett**, **Kristin Ramsay**, **Erin Iddins**, **Robin Waits** (M.A. candidate criminal justice, '05 B.S. Psychology, '05 B.A. Sociology), **Jessica VanVleet** ('07 B.S. Psychology), and **Masha Gartstein**, "The impact of infant temperament on symptoms of maternal depression 8 months postpartum."

Brandi Henson ('07 Ph.D.) completed her internship and has been hired permanently at the Loma Linda VA Medical Center as a staff psychologist specializing in PTSD and trauma.

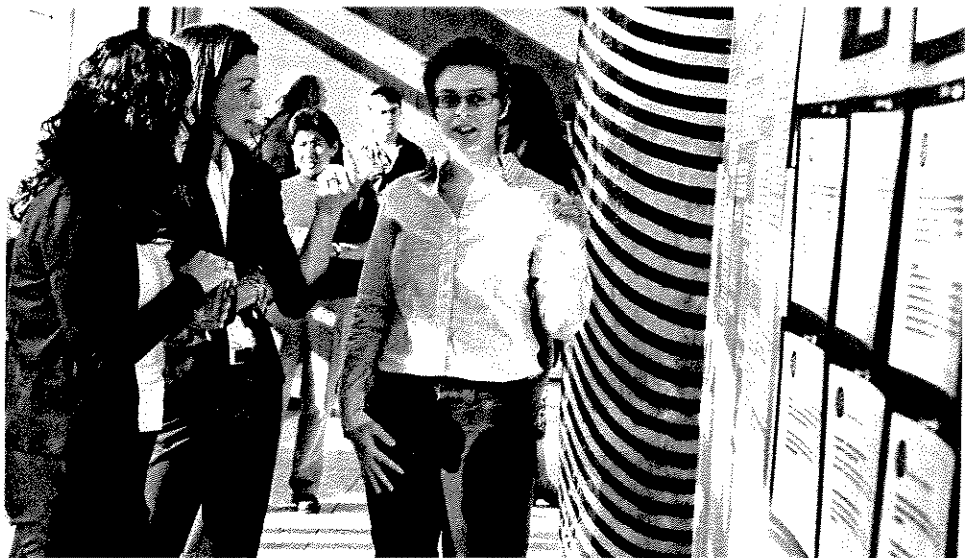
Mercedes LaVoy (M.S. candidate) and **Michiyo Hirai's** poster "Exposure to disgust and fear-evoking stimuli and emotional processing in specific phobia" was presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies in Chicago.

The following posters were presented in

very mild dementia"; and **Shital Pavawalla** (Ph.D. candidate), Jennifer Wiens (senior, neuroscience), and **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe**, "Monitoring behavior on a time-based prospective memory task following traumatic brain injury."

Adrienne Tucker's (M.S. candidate) paper "Trait inter-individual differences in the sleep physiology of healthy young adults" was published in the *Journal of Sleep Research*.

The following posters were presented by members of **Paul Kwon's** lab at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco, California: **Daniel Hurley** (Ph.D. candidate) and **Paul Kwon**, "Prediction of positive outcomes through savoring and positive events"; **Dina Olave Wirick** (Ph.D. candidate) and **Paul Kwon**, "Anxiety and depression: Interactive effects of personality and attachment style"; **Dina Olave Wirick** and **Paul Kwon**, "Attachment and personality: When an insecure attachment can be adaptive"; and **Megan Olson** ('07 Ph.D.) and **Paul Kwon**, "Ruminative perfectionism: Interactive



Laenna Huffaker ('07 B.S.) presents her research at the Department of Psychology's Undergraduate Research Symposium (see page 6).

February by members of **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe's** lab at the 35th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) in Portland, Oregon: **Alicia Rueda** ('01 M.S. New York University) and **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe**, "Time estimation in healthy older adults and very mild dementia"; J. Anderson and **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe**, "Memory predictions for episodic memory tasks in early recovery following severe traumatic brain injury"; **Michelle Langill** (Ph.D. candidate), **Chad Sanders** (senior), and **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe**, "Task switching in

diatheses for depression."

Congratulations to the following clinical students who received clinical assistantships:

Clinic Adult: **Joni Howard** (Ph.D. candidate), **Daniel Hurley** (Ph.D. candidate), **Dina Olave Wirick** (Ph.D. candidate)

Clinic Assessment: **Alicia Rueda** ('01 M.S. New York University)

Med Psych: **Jennifer Stevenson** (Ph.D. candidate)

Counseling Services: **Mercedes Lavoy** (M.S. candidate)

Stepping Stones: **James Hutchinson** (Ph.D. candidate)

Psychology Dominates at Wiley Graduate Research Exposition

Each year, graduate and professional students are encouraged to present their scholarly work at the Dr. William R. Wiley Exposition of Graduate and Professional Studies. Students may submit entries in a number of categories. Each entry is evaluated by faculty judges using a number of criteria, including originality, quality, and presentation. This year, graduate students in the Psychology Department swept the top three places in the Humanities, Arts, and Education division. Our congratulations to **Joni Howard** (Ph.D. candidate, 1st place), **Celestina Barbosa-Leiker** (Ph.D. candidate, 2nd place), and **Jutta Tobias** (Ph.D. candidate, 3rd place).

Department Loses Treasured Faculty Member

Sadly, 2007 marked the passing of one of the Department of Psychology's important contributors. Retired Professor of Psychology **James Whipple** passed away on December 5, 2007, at the age of 82. Jim earned his master's degree from Ohio State University and his doctoral degree from Stanford University in 1956. Immediately after graduation, he was employed by the military as a civilian and worked on technical training in their guided missiles program. He was recruited to WSU by Jim Elder in 1957. During his 34 years with the Department of Psychology, he researched a variety of areas, ranging from concept formation in pigeons to computer programming. The majority of his work, however, involved mathematical modeling and multivariate analysis. In an interview in 2003, Jim indicated that he appreciated the flexibility he was afforded as a faculty member and the opportunity to collaborate with his colleagues. After retiring from academia in 1991, Jim enjoyed traveling with his wife, Eileen, and competing in local bridge tournaments.

Graduate Students Recognized for Excellence Locally and Nationally

Joni Howard (Ph.D. candidate) was the winner of the 2007 WSU Association for Faculty Women Founder's Award. Howard was honored for her tremendous efforts in the area of psychological risk factors affecting heart disease. She was presented with the award at the Student Awards ceremony last April at the Lewis Alumni Centre. Howard also received the American Psychosomatic Society Scholar Award to attend the 2007 annual meeting in Budapest, Hungary. She gave a formal press release describing her work to a list of journalists and science writers in advance of the meeting. The title for her poster was "The relation of anger expression-out to coronary artery calcification in an older subsample of participants aged 50 years and above." Congratulations Joni!

Jennifer Stevenson (Ph.D. candidate) was awarded an American Psychological Association Minority Fellowship. This prestigious award acknowledges Stevenson's innovative efforts this year to provide mental health treatment for the Coeur d'Alene tribe, as well as her prior work at Emory University studying the association between depression and health problems (i.e., hypertension and diabetes) in the Chippewa and Menominee Indian Tribes. Congratulations Jennifer!

Jutta Tobias (Ph.D. candidate) was the recipient of the 2007 President's Award. For more than ten years, this prestigious award has

recognized the top 1% of the total student population, highlighting students who have distinguished themselves in leadership and service to the WSU campus and community. Congratulations Jutta!

Psychology Department Highlights Undergraduate Research

(Reprinted with permission from The Chronicle, College of Liberal Arts)

Undergraduate research was the focus at Washington State University in April 2007 at the fifth annual Department of Psychology Undergraduate Research Symposium. Student researchers, some of them undergraduate grant recipients, displayed posters and answered questions about their research projects. Recipients of 2007 research grants were **Graham Ulmer** ('06 B.S.), **Laena Huffaker** ('07 B.S.), **Danielle Smith** (junior), **Marylynn Kostick** (senior), and **Carl Martensen** ('07 B.S.).

"Requiring students to go through the grant process and write research proposals creates a form of 'real-life' competition for the awards," said **Samantha Swindell**, director of the department's undergraduate program and organizer of the student research symposium. "The end result of the grants and the symposium has been a dramatic increase in the scholarly value of student research projects."

Student researchers conduct research under the guidance of faculty mentors. Huffaker, a senior from Pullman, Washington, worked with **Michiyo Hirai** (assistant professor, psychology) on a research project titled "The Role of Disgust in People's Attitudes toward Homosexuality." "I've learned so much about the research process," said Huffaker, who is finalizing graduate school plans but hopes to earn a doctorate in clinical or counseling psychology. Huffaker believes projects such as this will strengthen her graduate school application. "Research experience is very highly valued by graduate school programs. Being the primary investigator of a grant-awarded research project isn't something every undergraduate can put on her vitae," Huffaker said.

"I have learned how to become a leader and have learned to handle the responsibility of ensuring the project's completion," said Dani Smith, a junior from Clarkston, Washington, majoring in psychology with a minor in pre-genetic counseling. "It is amazing to see a project grow from an idea to data collection to the final results," said Smith, who plans to pursue a master's degree in genetic counseling. "I feel much more confident in my ability as a researcher and have hands-on experience of what is needed to execute a research project." Smith's project, "The Role of Inhibitory Control in Impulsivity," was conducted with mentor **Paul Whitney** (professor, psychology; associate dean, College of Liberal Arts). "Hands-on research allows students to become close with a faculty advisor and graduate students," said Smith. "Having these personal connections and the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and responsibility allows you to prepare for the future. By demonstrating responsibility, one shows to those around them that they are capable of pursuing a higher education."

Timothy Smith, professor of psychology at the University of Utah, presented the keynote lecture, "Marriage and the Heart: Behavior during Marital Conflict Predicts Coronary Artery Disease." Smith is a member of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, former president of the American Psychological Association's Division of Health Psychology, and recipient of the University of Utah Distinguished Research Award.

Alumni Notes

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the passing of the following individuals who touched our lives both personally and professionally. They will be sincerely missed.

Dale Noyd ('55 Psych.), 75, January 11, 2007, Wenatchee.

James Whipple (See story on page 6)

Alumni News

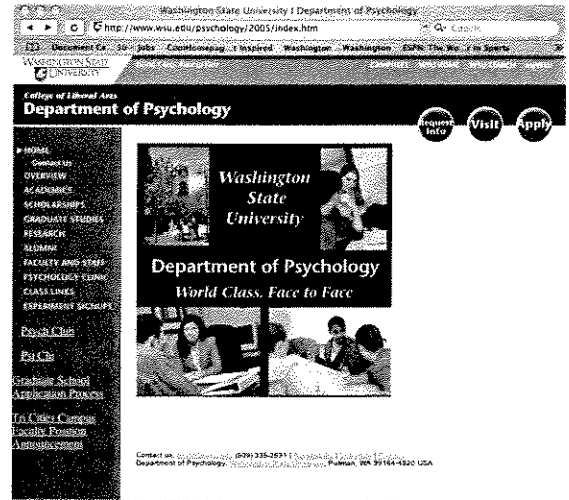
Scott Bernal ('00 M.S.), **Michael Morgan**, and **Rebecca Craft** published an article, "PAG mu opioid receptor activation underlies sex differences in morphine antinociception," in *Behavioural Brain Research*.

Gregory Goodrich ('68 Psych., '74 Ph.D. Psych.) is supervisory research psychologist and optometric clinical research fellow program coordinator at the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center, at the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System. A researcher in the field of blindness and low vision, his current projects are in low vision reading and mobility, low vision devices, and eccentric viewing.

Sherill (Lambruschini) Zemek ('81 Psych.) graduated with a master's degree in organizational psychology in 2005 from Antioch University-Seattle. She is currently a staff analyst doing internal consulting at the Boeing Company.

Megan Olson and **Paul Kwon's** paper, "Brooding perfectionism: Refining the roles of rumination and perfectionism in the etiology of depression" was published in the journal *Cognitive Therapy and Research*.

Robert Pagliarini ('95 Psych.) is celebrating the success of his book, *The Six-Day Financial Makeover*. He recently appeared on ABC's *20/20* to provide a financial makeover for a family struggling with its finances.

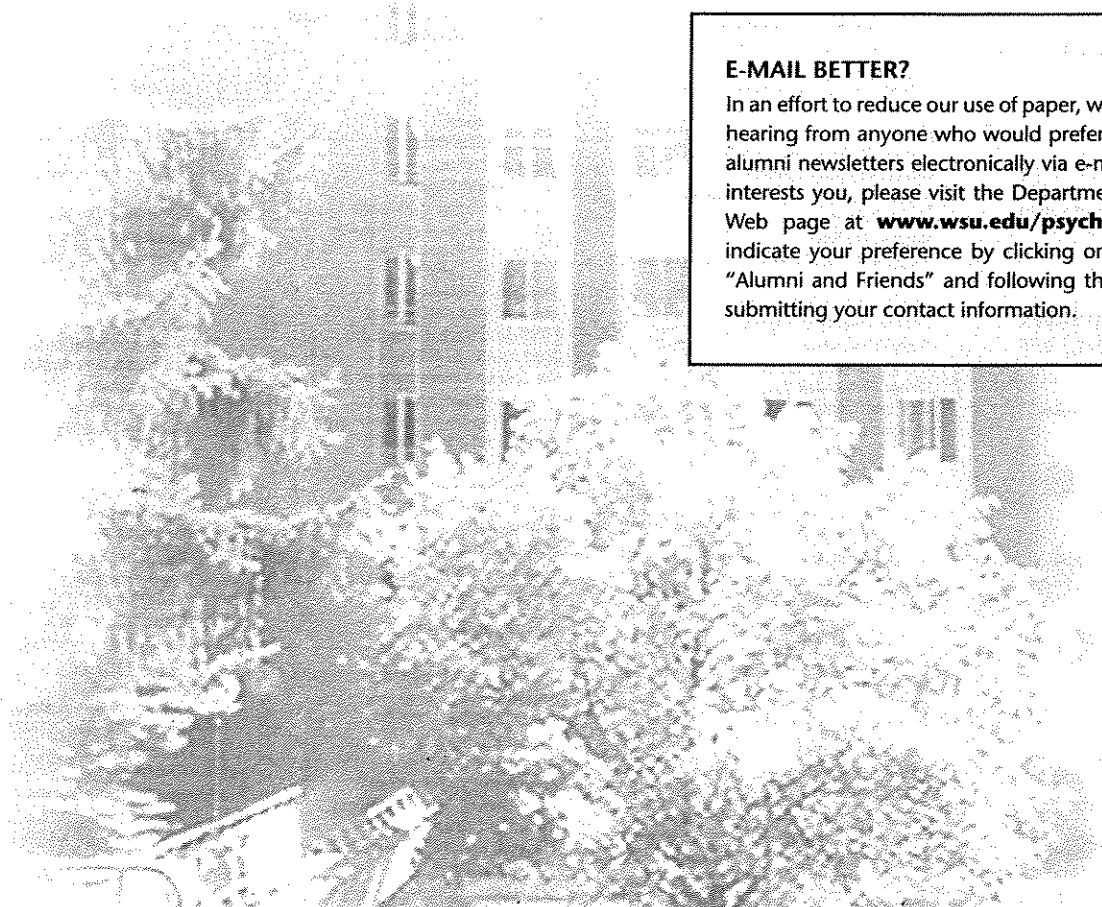


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In an effort to reduce our use of paper, we are interested in hearing from anyone who would prefer to receive future alumni newsletters electronically via e-mail. If this option interests you, please visit the Department of Psychology Web page at www.wsu.edu/psychology. You can indicate your preference by clicking on the link labeled "Alumni and Friends" and following the instructions for submitting your contact information.



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