

Psychology

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009



Blanca Blanco

Alumna's Film to Help Open Doors of Opportunity Through Education

WSU alumna **Blanca Blanco** ('03 B.S. Psychology) has a message, and she is determined to share it with the world: Education is for everyone. That is why the 27-year-old social worker, actress, and movie producer came back to Pullman this fall to film *Cruzando Barreras* (Crossing Barriers) with Los Angeles director Albert Pedraza. Blanco took a six-week hiatus from her part-time psychotherapy practice in Los Angeles to work on the project; she hopes it will change lives when seen by children, teens, and parents throughout the country.

The movie, which stars Blanco as college-aged Lola, is based loosely on her own life story. In the film, Lola makes the perilous journey from Mexico to the United States, at the age of nine, in search of the American dream. Like Blanco, she overcomes extreme poverty and barriers of language and culture to attend college,

acquiring the education that will allow her to work to change a system that, she has learned from personal experience, can destroy people and families. Born in Watsonville, California, Blanco grew up in Lake Chelan, Washington, where her family moved when she was small to join relatives and because there were more job opportunities for her father to work in the orchards.

Blanco said her similarities with the character Lola "were about the struggles and the determination to reach a goal...the drive a very positive person has that lets them change barriers into challenges." A first-generation American and the oldest of five children, Blanco said her parents, Octavio and Margarita Blanco, moved to the United States from Tecomán, Colima, Mexico, "so their children could get an education and advance in life," but for a long time after arriving

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

Under ordinary circumstances, the alumni newsletter provides the occasion to describe the progress being made by WSU and the Department of Psychology. At the risk of stating the obvious, these are not ordinary times. Our nation is in the midst of its most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression. There has been a serious erosion of confidence in our basic financial institutions, a precipitous loss of personal wealth accumulated over many years, and a dramatic rise in unemployment. Our state government is projecting unprecedented budget deficits in the coming year. Very few of our citizens remain unaffected by these problems.

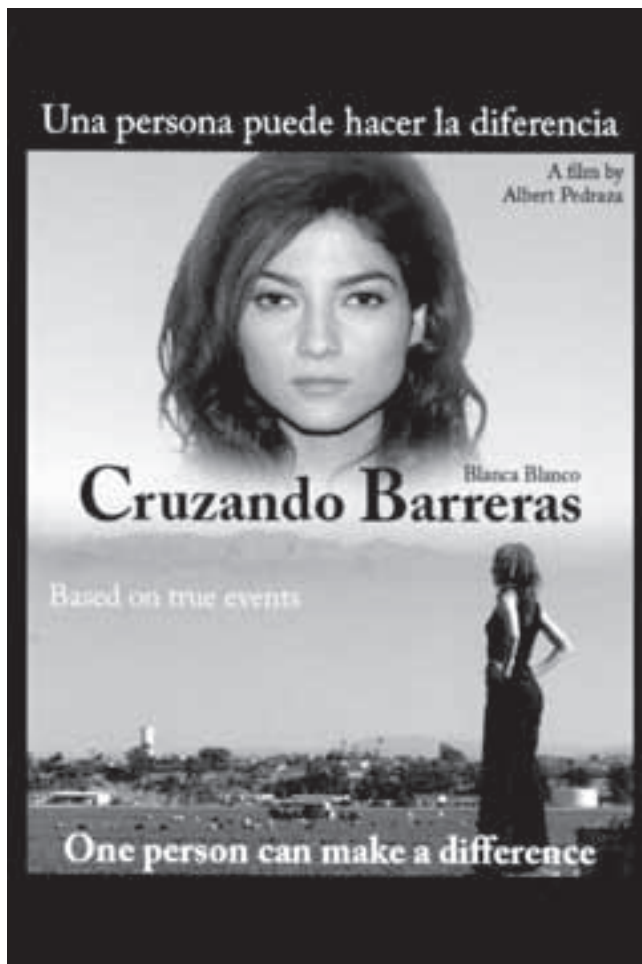
As a result of the economic crisis, WSU is facing the most serious budget reduction in its history. The budget reduction will compel fundamental changes in the University. In all likelihood

WSU will adapt by increasing its focus on strategically important programs, while eliminating or reducing peripheral or non-essential programs. The success or failure of adaptation to demands of the new economic environment will depend on the quality of leadership at WSU at all levels.

Despite the profound nature of the economic challenges before us, it is my firm belief that we will ultimately emerge stronger and more vital. The Department of Psychology has always played a central role at WSU in undergraduate teaching, doctoral training, research, and public service. We will continue to make these contributions, even in these trying times.

John Hinson
Professor and Chair

Blanco continued from cover



in this country her family had very little. "People would be concerned about our safety and ask at school if we had enough to eat," said Blanco. "I would wonder why, because I didn't see myself as poor; my parents were always there for us." Blanco was born with a bookworm's thirst for knowledge and the discipline to study as many subjects as she could find hours in the day. She participated in high school sports as a distance runner on the varsity track team, played volleyball, and was active in a myriad of school clubs.

Blanco wanted to attend WSU, but didn't know how to pay for school, so she started reading. "I would not allow my circumstances to dictate my life, and I started asking questions," she said. With the help of a trusted teacher, Blanco found answers, and she arrived in Pullman, financed through a short-term scholarship from her high school. "I learned how to navigate the system, and I now want to teach [other] people how to do that," Blanco said. "I believe anyone can change their life. It is a matter of information—understanding options." Once on campus and with her outstanding academic record, Blanco worked with the WSU Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarship Services to secure the scholarships and loans she needed to complete her bachelor's degree. Blanco, who minored in Spanish, described her time at WSU as "amazing" and credits **Eloy González**, chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures, for supporting her endeavors and treating her as an individual. Blanco was also impacted by psychology professors **Samantha Swindell** and **Fran McSweeney**, who taught a course Blanco described as "the hardest class that I took and the class that I learned the most in." Blanco went on to earn her master's degree in social work from Eastern Washington University and hopes eventually to return to WSU to complete her doctoral studies. In the meantime, Blanco's time is well spent. She works with the elderly as a therapist, pursues her career as an actress, and works to better lives by sharing her knowledge, experience, and story.

Cruzando Barreras is scheduled for completion in early 2009. Blanco and Pedraza are still working to find a distributor. "The distribution aspect of the film is very important to us...We really want to get this in front of students, parents, and in the schools," said Pedraza.

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The Department of Psychology Welcomes Brendan Walker



In August, the Department of Psychology welcomed its newest faculty member, **Dr. Brendan Walker**. In keeping with his training in physiology and cognitive neuroscience, Dr. Walker's research program focuses on the neurobiology of motivational systems. Specifically, he is interested in determining how both

acute and long-term exposure to alcohol and drug abuse impacts brain reward systems that increase drug seeking and consumption. Recently, his research focus has expanded to also include the examination of negative affect systems and their potential role in the development of drug addiction. His findings suggest that brain systems involved in negative mood and depressive states, such as the dynorphin system (an endogenous opioid peptide), are recruited during the transition to dependence. Consequently, when an individual attempts to stop using alcohol and drugs, the body responds by creating a heightened negative affective state (such as depression). Because

this heightened state is unpleasant, the individual is motivated to resume his/her alcohol and drug abuse as a form of self-medication. Ultimately, Dr. Walker hopes that his work will lead to the development of better pharmacotherapies for the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction.

Dr. Walker earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology with a minor in cognitive neuroscience from Temple University (1997) before attending the University of California, Santa Barbara, for his master's degree (1999) and doctorate (2004). Prior to joining WSU, he worked as a research associate with Dr. George Koob at the Pearson Center for Alcoholism and Addition Research at the Scripps Research Institute. Dr. Walker received a predoctoral National Research Service Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (2001–2203) and a postdoctoral National Research Service Award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (2004–2007). To date, he has authored fifteen publications, eleven presentations, and nine invited addresses.

Neuropsychologist Collaborates on “Smart” Homes for Independent Living

By Gail Siegel



The United States is a rapidly aging nation. By 2040 almost a quarter of the population will be 65 years of age or older, and, for most individuals, maintaining personal autonomy—to be able to live at home safely and successfully—will be a fundamental concern. For many it will present real challenges.

WSU researchers **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe**, professor of clinical neuropsychology, and Diane Cook, Huie-Rogers Chair and professor of electrical engineering and computer science, have joined forces on a project that has the potential to significantly enhance quality of life for older adults suffering from cognitive and physical limitations.

Schmitter-Edgecombe and Cook were awarded a grant of \$790,906 this fall from Washington state's Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) for their project “Smart Home-based Health Platform for Functional Monitoring and Intervention.” The LSDF was established in 2005 to support innovative research that promotes life sciences competitiveness, enhances economic vitality, and improves health and health care in the state of Washington.

A pilot project, funded through a College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Support for Major Extramural Grant Development award, laid some of the groundwork for the LSDF grant proposal and provided the opportunity to integrate Schmitter-Edgecombe's memory intervention research and her work investigating the relationship between memory deficits and capacity to perform complex activities of daily living with Cook's expertise in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and smart environments.

The long-term goal of their combined research effort is to design, implement, and test assistive technologies that will allow individuals with limitations, resulting from conditions such as early-stage dementia or physical disability, to remain in their own homes and maintain a high quality of life.

Susan Dente Ross, CLA associate dean for research, said, “This research partnership is developing the tools needed by an aging population and training the scientists of tomorrow by demonstrating the type of cutting-edge insights that arise from truly interdisciplinary approaches to the serious health concerns of our day.”

Schmitter-Edgecombe said, “My primary interest is in demonstrating that we can use smart environment technology not only to detect everyday functional limitations, but to facilitate interventions that will increase the ability of older adults to maintain independence in their homes.”

A “smart” environment is a physical area fitted with sensors for collecting data, actuators for movement control, displays that alert, and computational elements, all seamlessly embedded in everyday objects and connected through a continuous network. The pilot study took place on the Pullman campus in WSU's smart apartment, which is equipped with sensors and powerline controllers. With a focus on activities like hand washing, food preparation and consumption, telephone use, and medication use compliance, the goals of the pilot project were twofold. First was the design of algorithms—sequences of instructions that detail how a particular task is performed and from which a computer can learn a model for user activities. The second was to show that the information generated

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Focus on Faculty

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can be used to monitor the progress and completion of those activities by an individual.

One of the next steps in the research process, for which Schmitter-Edgecombe and Cook received the LSDF grant, is the development of ways to create task-related reminders using smart technology and to facilitate intervention in situations caused by uncompleted activities that may prove to be hazardous.

Schmitter-Edgecombe earned her doctorate from the University of Memphis in 1994 and joined the psychology faculty at WSU the same year. She has built a strong research program in clinical neuropsychology, rehabilitation, and traumatic brain injury and is currently conducting studies with early-stage dementia patients and the evaluation of memory compensation techniques. She has received significant grants from the National Institute of Neurological and Stroke Disorders and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and her research has been widely published in national and international peer-reviewed journals.

Cook has published more than 90 papers and a book on smart environments. The current smart environment tested at WSU builds

upon her MavHome smart home project, one of the first large-scale physical environments to be completely automated with off-the-shelf sensors and controllers.

Older adult volunteers (age 50+) are currently needed for a new study investigating the relationship between memory loss and everyday activities. The researchers hope to enroll 100 volunteers who are not experiencing memory problems, 50 who are experiencing mild memory problems, and 50 who have been diagnosed with a progressive memory disorder such as Alzheimer's disease. To volunteer or to find out more about the study, call 509-335-4033, extension 2, and leave your name and phone number. A member of the Memory in Older Adulthood and Dementia Research Program will call you back. You can also visit Schmitter-Edgecombe's Web page at www.wsu.edu/psychology/facultystaff/clinical/facultypages/schmitter-edgecombe.html.

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Faculty News 2008–2009

Awards, Appointments, and Grants

Rebecca Craft (professor) was awarded a grant from the WSU Alcohol and Drug Abuse program, titled "Anabolic-androgenic steroids ameliorate pain via opioid activation."

Armando Estrada (assistant professor, WSU Vancouver) was appointed editor in chief of the American Psychological Association's Division 9 journal, *Military Psychology*, and selected as a fellow for the American Psychological Association in 2008.

JP Garofalo (associate professor, WSU Vancouver) is a co-investigator on a grant from the WSU Cancer Prevention and Research Program to study "Yoga for Breast Cancer: Role of Cytokines in Immune and QOL Responses."

Michael Morgan (professor, WSU Vancouver) was awarded support to prepare a National Institutes of Health grant proposal to study intracellular signaling mechanisms underlying morphine tolerance.

Robert Patterson (professor) is on a two-year leave of absence from WSU to serve as a task leader for research and development on the design of immersive (virtual reality) decision environments for the Air Force Research Laboratory in Mesa, Arizona.

Tahira Probst (associate professor, WSU Vancouver) was appointed associate editor of the journal *Stress & Health*.

Paul Strand (associate professor, WSU Tri-Cities) is a co-investigator on two recently funded grants, including "Alternatives to formal processing and secure confinement: Truancy Project, Models for Change, System Reform in Juvenile Justice" funded by the MacArthur Foundation, and "Community Partnership Thrive by Five Grant" funded by the Washington State Department of Early Learning. He also coauthored a grant from the Carson Kolzig Foundation that releases clinical child graduates from teaching to engage in intensive autism-related training at the Tri-Cities Children's Developmental Center.

Brendan Walker (assistant professor), **Rebecca Craft**, and **Jay Wright** (both professors) received a shared-equipment grant from the WSU Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program to enhance the addiction neuroscience research facilities in Johnson Tower.

Presentations and Publications

Celestina Barbosa-Leiker ('08 Ph.D.), **Marylynn Kostick** ('08 B.S.), **Bryan Borgeson** ('08 B.S.), **Bruce Wright** (director, Health and Wellness Services), **Tim Freson** (associate director of research, Health and Wellness Services), **John M. Ruiz** (assistant professor), and **Heidi Hamann** (assistant professor) were authors of the poster "Confirmatory factor analysis of the perceived stress scale in a college population" presented at the annual Scientific Conference of the American Psychosomatic Society. Members of this research team also presented multiple posters at the conference:

- "Lung function, perceived stress, and metabolic syndrome in a young population," by **Tyler William Chavez** ('08 B.S. neuroscience), Freson, Barbosa-Leiker, Ruiz, and Hamann.
- "Perceived stress and coronary heart disease risk in young adults" by Freson, Barbosa-Leiker, **Ashley Jean Miller** (research study coordinator, Health and Wellness Services), Wright, Ruiz, and Hamann.
- "Cardiovascular fitness, anxiety, depression, and insulin resistance in a young population" by **Amy Jemelka** ('08 B.S. kinesiology), Freson, Barbosa-Leiker, Wright, Ruiz, and Hamann.
- "Correlates of waist circumference in healthy young adults" by Wright, Barbosa-Leiker, Freson, Ruiz, Hamann, and Miller.
- "Predictors of interleukin 10 in healthy young adults" by Wright, Freson, Barbosa-Leiker, Ruiz, and Hamann.

- “Individual differences in social vigilance: measurement and associations with psychosocial risk factors, daily experience, and lab reactivity” by Ruiz, Miller, Hamann, **James Hutchinson** (doctoral candidate), Wright, and Freson.
- “Social vigilance and cardiovascular response: Moderating effects of the social target’s affiliative behavior and relevance” by Ruiz, Hamann, Wright, and Freson.

Leonard Burns (professor) coauthored an article, “Initial psychometric properties of a treatment planning and progress inventory for adolescents who sexually abuse,” published in *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*; “Invariance and convergent and discriminate validity between mothers’ and fathers’ ratings of oppositional defiant disorder toward adults, ADHD-HI, ADHD-IN, and academic competence factors within Brazilian, Thai, and American children,” published in *Psychological Assessment*; and “Parent ratings of oppositional defiant disorder symptoms: Item response theory analyses of cross-national and cross-racial invariance,” published in the *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*.

Rebecca Craft (professor), Catherine Ulibarri (associate professor, VCAPP), **Michael D. Leidl** (’05 B.A. neuroscience), and **Jean Sumner** (doctoral candidate) published an article, “Dose- and time-dependent estradiol modulation of morphine antinociception in adult female rats,” in the *European Journal of Pain*. Another paper by Craft and Leidl, titled “Gonadal hormone modulation of the behavioral effects of $\Delta 9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol in male and female rats,” was published in the *European Journal of Pharmacology*. Craft published two papers, “Modulation of pain by estrogens” and “Studying sex and gender differences in pain and analgesia: A consensus conference report,” in the journal *Pain*; “Estradiol-sertraline synergy in ovariectomized female rats,” in the journal *Psychoneuroendocrinology*; and “Sex differences in analgesic, reinforcing, discriminative and motoric effects of opioids” in the journal *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*. In addition, Craft gave the keynote address at the Canadian Pain Society Annual Meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, titled, “Sex differences in pain and opioid analgesia.”

Armando Estrada (assistant professor) is lead author of the article “Ethnic differences in the perception of equal opportunity climate among military reservists,” published in the *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, two posters presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (“Job and psychological effects of exclusion in a Swedish organization” and “Health and psychological effects of harassment and discrimination for women in the Swedish armed forces”), a paper presented at the same conference titled “Harassment and discrimination on outcomes in the Swedish military,” and another paper titled “Society for military psychology strategic plan: Update III,” presented at the annual mid-year meeting of the Society for Military Psychology in Fairfax, Virginia.

Lisa Fournier (associate professor) organized and chaired a paper session titled “Perception and action” at the 49th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, held in Chicago in November. Fournier presented a paper, coauthored by **Matthew Wiediger** (doctoral candidate), at that session titled “An action sequence held in memory can delay execution of some visually guided actions.” Fournier is also coauthor of a paper with colleagues in Food Science and Human

Nutrition titled “Effect of dietary and supplemental forms of isoflavones on thyroid function in healthy postmenopausal women.” It was published in *Topics in Clinical Nutrition*.

Michiyo Hirai (assistant professor) coauthored a paper titled “A preliminary investigation of the efficacy of disgust exposure techniques in a subclinical population with blood and injection fears,” published in the journal *Behaviour Change*, and a chapter with George A. Clum, entitled “Anxiety disorders,” for the *Handbook of Self-Help Therapies*. She was also lead author of “Psychometric properties of online anxiety measures,” a poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies in Orlando, Florida, in November.

Robert Patterson was invited to give a presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for Information Display titled “Human factors of stereo displays.” He, along with **Lisa Fournier**, had two papers accepted for presentation this summer at the Naturalistic Decision Making conference in London, England: “Modeling the dynamics of recognition-primed decision making” and “Decision priming in an air-to-ground attack decision scenario.” Patterson is also lead author of the articles “Unresolved issues in stereopsis: dynamic disparity processing,” published in *Spatial Vision*, and “Immersive stereo displays, intuitive reasoning, and cognitive engineering,” published in the *Journal of the Society for Information Display*, and coauthor of “Oculomotor contribution to the change in perceived speed with viewing distance,” published in the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*.

Tahira Probst (associate professor, WSU Vancouver), **Bruce Wright** (director, Health and Wellness Services), **Barbosa-Leiker**, **Virginia Ferent** (master’s candidate), and **C.H. Mielke** (Health Research and Education Center, WSU Spokane, retired) authored “Preliminary results from the Spokane Heart Study: Testing links between occupational stress and coronary artery calcification,” presented at the 2008 Work, Stress, and Health Conference in Washington, D.C. Probst is the lead author of “A preliminary evaluation of SOLVE: Addressing psychosocial problems at work,” published in the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*. She also coauthored “Organizational underreporting of injury rates: An examination of the moderating effect of organizational safety climate” with **Ty Brubaker** (’00 B.S.) and Anthony Barsotti (Temp Control Mechanical Corporation), published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, and “Charting the course of self evaluations and social comparisons over time,” a chapter for K.P. Hofmann’s edited volume *Psychology of Decision Making in Economics, Business, and Finance*. Probst, **Armando Estrada** (assistant professor, WSU Vancouver), and **Jeremiah Brown** (M.S. psychology) published “Harassment, violence and hate crimes in the workplace” in K. Thomas’s edited volume *Diversity Resistance in Organizations: Manifestations and Solutions*. Probst and Estrada also authored “Accident under-reporting: The moderating effect of organizational safety climate,” presented at the SIOP symposium “Safety in Organizations: Moderators and Mediators of Safety Climate.” Probst presented another paper, “Beyond intro to I/O: Tackling controversial workplace diversity topics” at the SIOP symposium “Experiential Learning: Grounding Ourselves in Research.” Probst wrote a chapter titled “Job insecurity, unemployment, and organizational well-being: Oxymoron or possibility?” for S. Cartwright and C.L. Cooper’s edited book *The Oxford Handbook of Organizational Well-Being*, and another

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titled “Job Insecurity” for C. L. Cooper and J. Barling’s *Handbook of Organizational Behavior*. Finally, Probst gave an invited presentation titled “Psychosocial predictors of accident underreporting” at the Northwest Occupational Health Conference in Seattle, Washington, and two papers at the annual Institute of Behavioral and Applied Management conference in Orlando, Florida: “Job insecurity and accident under-reporting” and “Organizational communication: A buffer in times of job insecurity?”

Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe (professor) and **Alicia Rueda** (doctoral candidate) published “Time estimation and episodic memory following traumatic brain injury” in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. **Ellen Woo** ('06 Ph.D.), Schmitter-Edgecombe, and **Jill Fancher** ('08 Ph.D.) published “Memory prediction accuracy in younger and older adults: A cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis” in *Aging, Neuropsychology, and Cognition*. A paper by Schmitter-Edgecombe, **Joni Howard**, **Shital Pavawalla**, **Lisa Howell**, and Rueda (all doctoral candidates), “Multi-dyad memory notebook intervention for very mild dementia: A pilot study,” was published in the *American Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease & Other Dementias*. Schmitter-Edgecombe coauthored two posters presented at the International Neuropsychological Society meeting in Waikoloa, Hawaii: “Attentional control and variability following closed-head injury,” coauthored with Jonathan W. Anderson (Eastern Washington University) and “Efficacy of a memory notebook intervention for persons with early-stage dementia,” coauthored by Pavawalla, Howell, Howard, and Rueda, as well as papers presented at the AAAI Workshop on Spatial and Temporal Reasoning in Chicago (“Incorporating temporal reasoning into activity recognition for smart home residents”) and the 10th Annual Rehabilitation Psychology Conference in Tucson (“Memory deficits, everyday functioning, and mild cognitive impairment” and “Analysis of verbal fluency in early recovery from traumatic brain injury”).

Paul Strand (associate professor, WSU Tri-Cities) is lead author of the article, “Shyness and emotional processing skills in preschoolers: A 6-month longitudinal study” published in the journal *Infant and Child Development*, and a chapter titled “Behavioral conceptualization” in D. Reitman’s edited book *Handbook of Assessment, Conceptualization, and Treatment, Volume 2: Children and Adolescents*. Strand gave an invited presentation at the bi-annual meeting of the Washington State Association of Head Start and ACEAP titled “Cultural and emotional influences on academic and social learning.” Finally, Strand coauthored articles published in the *Journal of*

Early Intensive Behavioral Interventions (“The effectiveness of emotion recognition training for young children with developmental delays”) and the journal *Clinical Case Studies* (“A person-centered, strength-based treatment of aggression and sexually inappropriate behavior in mental health”).

Sarah Tragesser (assistant professor, WSU Tri-Cities) and Joe Robinson (B.A. senior, psychology) authored “The role of affective instability and UPPS impulsivity in Borderline Personality Disorder features,” in press with the *Journal of Personality Disorders*. Tragesser coauthored the article “Affective instability: Measuring a core feature of Borderline Personality Disorder using Ecological Momentary Assessment,” published in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*. She is also lead author of “Differences in illicit drug use rates among Oklahoma and Non-Oklahoma Indian Youth,” in press with *Substance Use & Misuse*; “Borderline Personality Disorder features and cognitive, emotional, and predicted behavioral reactions to teasing,” published in the *Journal of Research in Personality*; and “Drinking motives as mediators in the relation between personality disorder symptoms and alcohol use disorder,” published in the *Journal of Personality Disorders*. Finally, she was lead author of “Personality and drinking motives as mechanisms of familial transmission of alcohol use disorder in emerging and young adulthood,” a poster presented at the 8th Annual Samuel B. Guze Symposium on Alcoholism, held in St. Louis, Missouri.

Brendan Walker (assistant professor) is lead author of the paper “Pharmacological evidence for a motivational role of kappa-opioid systems in ethanol dependence,” published in the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*; “Age-related differences in the blood alcohol levels of Wistar rats,” published in *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*; “Dissociable effects of ethanol consumption during the light and dark phase in adolescent and adult Wistar rats,” published in *Alcohol*; and “ α_1 -noradrenergic receptor antagonism blocks dependence-induced increases in responding for ethanol,” published in *Alcohol*. He is also the coauthor of “Effects of adolescent ethanol exposure on sleep in adult rats,” published in *Alcohol*; “Electrophysiological effects of dizocilpine (MK-801) in adult rats exposed to ethanol during adolescence,” published in *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*; “The α_1 adrenergic receptor antagonist prazosin reduces heroin self-administration in rats with extended access to heroin administration,” published in *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*; and “Differential effects of acute alcohol on EEG and sedative responses in adolescent and adult Wistar rats,” published in *Brain Research*.

Undergraduate Research Symposium Continues to Grow

The Psychology Department celebrated its sixth annual **Undergraduate Research Symposium** in April. The event began with a presentation, “Mindfulness and Recovery from Addiction,” by guest speaker Dr. Alan Marlatt from the Addictive Behaviors Research Center at the University of Washington. A record number of students presented the results of their research at the poster session following Dr. Marlatt’s presentation.

Alumni News

Lawrence Mahuna ('72 Psych.) retired from the Hawaii County police department on the Big Island in December. He joined the department in 1973 and, prior to becoming chief in 2002, served as a detective and assistant chief in charge of the administrative bureau.

Becky (Staley) Reid ('00 Psych.) and her husband Jeff, of Olympia, welcomed the birth of their first child, William Garrison, on August 15, 2008.

Memoriam for Jim Whipple

In last year's newsletter, we announced the passing of **Jim Whipple**, a beloved faculty member who served the Department of Psychology from the 1950s to the early 1990s. In response to that announcement, we received the following letter from **Jeffery Weatherly**, professor and chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of North Dakota. Weatherly had read about Whipple's passing and wished to express how this very special teacher and researcher impacted his life as a graduate student.

We Would like to Hear from You

We are very interested in hearing from our alumni. To make it easier for you to contact us, we have established an alumni link on the Department of Psychology Web site at www.wsu.edu/psychology. This site provides information relevant to alumni. You may view the alumni newsletter online, submit your news for future newsletters, and obtain information about how to make a financial contribution to the Department of Psychology or the College of Liberal Arts. Please take a moment to visit us—we look forward to hearing from you!

I entered the experimental psychology doctoral program in the fall of 1992, the final year in which Jim Whipple would teach the first statistics course in the program's curriculum. Two things were clear to me at the time. First, I was the greatest thing since sliced bread. Second, I doubted that any of my courses/instructors could teach me anything that I either did not know already or that I was not capable of learning on my own. I suspect I was just like many of the other students who have ever entered the program.

One particular lecture of Jim's has long stuck in my mind. At the beginning of the 50-minute period he began with a relatively simple proposition, something like: "Let's assume that the probability of an event is..." From there, he moved on to a series of assumptions, all the while writing formulas on the blackboard. Once it was filled, he would erase a portion of the board and continue on with his lecture.

At the time, my thought was "Where is he going with this?" In hindsight, it is clear to me that I had dismissed the exercise as one that was beneath my need to attend to. About 10 minutes into the lecture, I started to basically pass notes to the object of my personal attention, a young lady who I would, several years later, call my wife. I was a seasoned student by then, so I engaged in the appropriate "paying attention" behaviors on a semi-regular basis in an attempt to cover my inappropriateness. Whenever I did, I recall having a similar reaction to my initial one, "Where is he going with this?" If Jim noticed, he certainly did not let on. He kept stating his assumptions, writing his formulas, and building on the conclusions of the previous calculations.

With about five minutes left in the lecture I returned my full attention to what Jim was saying. At this point, I was pretty much lost because I had not taken the time to follow his lecture. However, I found that some of the terms and concepts he was referring to were familiar to me. My interest was piqued. I still was not sure where he was going, but I had a sinking feeling that I should.

With about a minute left in class, Jim tapped the chalk on the board a final time and turned to the class. Then he said something like, "And that's where the F ratio comes from." I cannot be sure that that lecture had the same effect on my classmates as it did on me. Perhaps they followed all of it. Perhaps they (and many others) could give the same lecture. But I was in awe. I remember staying in my seat as my classmates filed out. Something very special had just happened, it had happened for my educational benefit, and I had been too adolescently ignorant to realize it until it was too late.

I walked out of that classroom knowing two things. First, Jim Whipple knew much more than I did. Second, I had a lot of hard work ahead of me if I was ever going to get to that level, both personally and intellectually.

In the coming years, I tried to act on both things. After completing the second statistics course, I (and several of my classmates) thought we could benefit from a course on multivariate statistics. We approached Jim about teaching the course. He agreed to do so (and may have even done so gratis). The following semester, a classmate and I asked if he would consider teaching a course on non-parametric statistics. Again he agreed. Because there were only two of us, Jim suggested that we hold class in his office rather than a classroom. A chalkboard was installed in his office and off we went.

I would be lying if I claimed that I remember everything that Jim lectured on, or even the exercises he had me (us) complete in class. I do remember quite a bit of it, however. I know that when I tell my graduate students what statistical tests they should (or should not) be using, that confidence comes from the instruction I received from Jim.

I did not know Jim Whipple in every facet of his life. From my experience, Jim was a very intelligent man. He was a delight to converse with. He gave of himself beyond anything that I would expect to be given. He touched the lives of many students who came through the department during his 30+ years at WSU. I am extremely proud to say that I am one of those students. His passing saddens me greatly.

I would like to say that I am a better psychologist, and indeed a better person, for what Jim taught me. For any grain of truth that lies in that statement, I am eternally grateful. If I ever provide the positive influence to a single student like Jim provided to me, I will consider myself a success. Thank you, Jim. Rest in peace.

—Jeffrey N. Weatherly '96 Ph.D.

Department of Psychology Honor Roll of Donors

We are proud to report the names of those who contributed to the Department of Psychology or the College of Liberal Arts during the past year. Your generosity enables us to build programs of distinction and provides direct support for our students and faculty. We extend our warmest thanks to our donors and hope others will join them. If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the Department of Psychology or the College of Liberal Arts, you can find the necessary information online at www.wsu.edu/psychology/alumni.

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