

Psychology

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2010



Ryan McMeans graduated from Washington State University in 2006 with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. Since then, he has remained in contact with several members of the department. Recently, we caught up with Ryan and asked him to talk about his current employment, his future goals, and how he felt his experience at WSU prepared him for these opportunities. The following are Ryan's thoughts, in his own words:

At some point in our lives, we have an epiphany about our truest passions. In that moment, our dreams for the future begin to take shape. I was fortunate to realize as early as high school that I wanted to pursue a career that involved helping others. Though I would not take a psychology course until college, I knew then that psychology would be my future career.

I choose to pursue that future at Washington State University. To be truthful, I struggled at first to balance my academic responsibilities and social life, but with the support of my fraternity brothers at Delta Chi, I soon found my footing. After taking a few psychology courses, I became inter-

ested in the possibility of conducting psychological research. I joined **Dr. Frances McSweeney's** operant conditioning laboratory during my sophomore year where I conducted animal research on the habituating effects of repeated reinforcement. Eventually, I developed my own research question and designed a set of experiments to test it. I presented the results of my work at the Department of Psychology's Undergraduate Symposium in the spring of 2004. The following year, I joined both **Dr. Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe's** Cognitive Aging Laboratory and **Dr. Lisa Fournier's** Visual Attention Laboratory. In Dr. Schmitter-Edgecombe's lab, I had the



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Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

Since the last Alumni Newsletter, WSU has welcomed a new dean for the College of Liberal Arts. Dean **Doug Epperson** comes to WSU by way of Iowa State University, where he was on the faculty in the Department of Psychology. Dean Epperson has his primary academic appointment as professor of psychology. Thus, we welcome Doug as a new colleague in our department as well.

Epperson is one of the administrative leaders whose primary responsibility is to guide WSU through the current state and university budget crises. As you read the newsletter you will find that most of the usual functions of the department continue regardless of circumstances, and many of these activities are maintained at a high level of quality despite extreme budgetary stress. For example, we are pleased to welcome **Katie Witkiewitz** as a new assistant professor at WSU Vancouver. Details of Katie's professional back-

ground and accomplishments are featured in this newsletter.

Nevertheless, the conception of the public university is radically changing, in part due to economic factors and in part due to innovations of the information age in which we live. If present trends continue the next generation of college students will find an academic landscape fundamentally different from the one experienced by earlier generations. It is clear that decisions now being made are determining the shape of things to come. I hope that all of you will make your opinions known to educational and political leaders. Whatever you find desirable about the past, whatever you believe could be improved, whatever your beliefs are about the value of WSU in particular, or a liberal arts education in general, now is the time to speak. This will always be your university and your department.

—John Hinson, Professor and Chair

McMeans *continued from cover*

opportunity to conduct face-to-face assessments with adults experiencing age-related cognitive decline. In Dr. Fournier's lab, I developed my statistical skills working with large datasets. These experiences expanded my understanding of methodology and statistical analysis. They allowed me to apply what I had learned in my classes. Finally, they strengthened my confidence in my own research ability.

With the support of Dr. Fournier and her graduate students, I designed my second research project, "The sharing of codes between actions stored in memory and actions requiring immediate execution." I was awarded an undergraduate research grant to fund this project in the spring of 2006. When my project was completed, I again presented the findings at the Department of Psychology's Undergraduate Symposium as well as WSU Academic Showcase. In addition, I was selected as one of only three undergraduate students from the state of Washington to present my research at the sixth annual Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Conference in California. There I had the unique opportunity to meet and speak with leaders in the field, including the famous social psychologist Dr. Philip Zimbardo. Eventually, my research was combined with the results of two other experiments conducted in Dr. Fournier's lab and recently published in the journal *Psychological Research*.

Following graduation from WSU, I moved to Seattle and accepted a position as a clinical research assistant at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett. My appointment was in the Behavioral Health Services unit. My primary responsibility was to oversee medication and behavioral intervention trials for prescription opiate dependence. In addition to coordinating all aspects of the clinical trials, my position involved direct arbitration with the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the University of Washington Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute. As the trials were nearing completion, **Dr. Stephanie Abbott**, manager of the Clinical Research Department and fellow WSU alumna, promoted me to a permanent research coordinator position at Providence Regional Cancer Partnership where I began working with patients afflicted with cancer. That same summer, I lost my grandfather to metastatic prostate cancer. It was an emotionally devastating experience for me. And though it was difficult to continue my work with individuals who were themselves battling cancer, in the wake of my grandfather's passing, it was also very inspi-

ration. I quickly realized the importance of the research I was doing with Providence and I welcomed the increased responsibility and patient involvement it entailed.

The opportunity to work in a field that has directly impacted my family is a dream come true for me. Currently, our program has 15 physician investigators in medical, radiation, surgical, and thoracic oncology, and more than 30 national trials are under way. Each study addresses scientific questions and tests new techniques in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. In addition, we are exploring new ways to improve the overall comfort and quality of life for cancer patients. The majority of my studies evaluate either new combination treatments or new chemotherapy drugs for metastatic breast and prostate cancer, lymphomas, and myeloproliferative disorders. I coordinate all aspects of these studies including patient visits, participant consent, investigational drug administration, medical chart documentation, electronic data entry, and scheduling. I also provide necessary oversight, direction, and support to the medical staff and physicians. This ensures that the procedures are done according to protocol. I perform these tasks under continuously changing circumstances due to the evolving needs of our patients, physicians, and staff. Being able to multitask and work proactively are skills I learned as an undergraduate at WSU. The opportunities I had as a research assistant provided the type of real-world, hands-on training that enabled me to develop a unique and highly marketable set of skills. I would encourage any student to take advantage of similar opportunities, as they will allow him/her to develop the skills and knowledge needed in a competitive job market. I will be forever grateful to my mentors in the Department of Psychology for the numerous ways they have helped me pursue my goals and surpass my own expectations.

When Ryan is not working, he enjoys volunteering with the Special Olympics and spending time with his girlfriend, WSU alumna **Allison Zoccola**. Ryan is currently taking night classes at North Seattle Community College to complete the necessary prerequisites for medical school. Once in medical school, he plans to specialize in oncology.

The Department of Psychology Welcomes Katie Witkiewitz



This January, the Department of Psychology welcomed its newest faculty member, **Dr. Katie Witkiewitz**, at the WSU Vancouver campus.

Dr. Witkiewitz's research focuses on the factors related to alcohol relapse. Specifically, she uses advanced statistical models to examine the patterns of drinking behavior that emerge following treatment. Based on research findings from numerous empirical studies, as well as her clinical work with alcohol-dependent individuals, Dr. Witkiewitz has proposed a model of relapse that emphasizes the role temporal influences may play in the relapse process. Specifically, she argues that relapse is best conceptualized as a fluid form of behavioral change in which the timing of particular events, and their interconnection to one another, determine the efficacy of treatment. Her cognitive-behavioral model suggests that the process of relapse does not follow a predictable course, but rather one that is highly individualistic

depending upon the temporal arrangement of specific environmental events.

Dr. Witkiewitz graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the State University of New York in 1999. She went on to complete a master's of art degree at the University of Montana with John Caruso and Michael Hufford and later a doctoral degree at the University of Washington under the direction of Dr. G. Alan Marlatt. She was an assistant professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago for two years before returning to the northwest as a research scientist for the University of Washington's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute and an affiliate assistant professor for the UW Department of Psychology. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Institute on Mental Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Cancer Institute. To date, she has authored 3 books, 29 peer-reviewed publications, 9 book chapters, 32 presentations, and 10 invited talks.

Faculty News 2009–2010

Awards, Appointments, and Grants

Rebecca Craft (professor) and **Susan Ingram** (WSU Vancouver clinical assistant professor) were awarded a Major Extramural Grant Development Award from the College of Liberal Arts titled "Estradiol modulation of PAG neuron activity." Craft was also the recipient of the 2009 Honors College Faculty Thesis Advisor of the Year award and the Women and Leadership Forum 2009 Research Faculty Mentor of the Year award. She is currently serving as the president of the Association for Faculty Women for 2009–2010.

Armando Estrada (WSU Vancouver assistant professor) was selected as president-elect of the Society for Military Psychology, Division 19, of the American Psychological Association.

Steve Lakatos (WSU Vancouver associate professor) and co-investigators **Tahira Probst** (WSU Vancouver associate professor), **Michael Morgan** (WSU Vancouver professor), and **J.P. Garofalo** (WSU Vancouver associate professor) were awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation's Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement Program to develop a problem-based learning laboratory for undergraduate statistics and research methods.

Michael Morgan (WSU Vancouver professor) received three research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse in 2009. The first, with co-investigators S.A. Aicher (OHSU) and **Susan Ingram** (WSU Vancouver clinical assistant professor), will examine "Psychostimulants induce long-term changes in nociception." The second, also with Ingram as the co-investigator, will support work on "Cellular mechanisms of opioid tolerance." Finally, the third grant will fund research on the "Neural mechanisms of enhanced cannabinoid/opioid antinociception."

Craig Parks (professor) was awarded a WSU Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research Program Grant to conduct research on alcohol and decision making. **Sterling McPherson** (doctoral candidate) and

Kacy Pula (doctoral candidate) are co-principal investigators on this grant.

Tahira Probst (WSU Vancouver associate professor) was appointed associate editor of the journal *Stress & Health* overseeing submissions pertaining to occupational stress and health. She was also re-appointed to the editorial boards of the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology* and *Journal of Business Psychology*, and asked to serve on the board of *Military Psychology*. Probst was also nominated by an undergraduate research assistant for the WSU Outstanding Mentor Award.

Samantha Swindell was promoted to clinical associate professor.

Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe (professor) and Diane Cook (electrical engineering and computer science professor) were awarded two grants this past year. The first, "Integrative training in smart environment and health technologies," was IGERT funding from the National Science Foundation. The second, "Smart home-based health platform for functional monitoring and intervention," was funded by the Life Sciences Discovery Fund. Schmitter-Edgecombe also completed a series of interview segments for GO Cognitive: Educational Tools for Cognitive Neuroscience titled "Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe on...Alzheimer's, Dementia, and Mild Cognitive Impairment, ...Specific Memory Impairments in Dementia and Mild Cognitive Impairment, and ... Intervention Strategies for Patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia Patients." They can be viewed at goCognitive.net. Finally, she was asked to serve a three-year term as a consulting editor for the American Psychological Association journal *Neuropsychology* beginning in 2010.

Paul Strand (WSU Tri-Cities associate professor) received a grant from the Carson Kolzig Foundation to support an externship for an advanced clinical child psychology graduate student placed in the

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Tri-Cities during the 2010–2011 school year. The externship allows for placement at the Tri-Cities Neuropsychology Clinic and the Children's Developmental Center. These sites offer training in neuropsychological evaluation and the assessment and treatment of children with autism spectrum disorders. They also allow for conducting parent management groups, working with Spanish-speaking clients and working with children ages 0 to 3 with developmental delays. Strand is also the principal investigator for a MacArthur Foundation grant to study methods for reducing juvenile justice involvement by reducing school truancy.

Sarah Tragesser (WSU Tri-Cities assistant professor) served as the program chair for Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse, Division 28 of the American Psychological Association, for the 2009 convention in Toronto, Canada. Tragesser was also invited to join the editorial board for the *Journal of Research in Personality*. This journal has the fastest growing impact factor score in the area of personality over the past five years.

Brendan Walker (assistant professor) was awarded a grant from Lundbeck Research USA to fund "Kappa-opioid mechanisms of nalmefene." Walker also received a College of Liberal Arts/Office of Research Faculty Travel Grant.

Presentations and Publications

Leonard Burns (professor) published "A multitrait (ADHD-IN, ADHD-HI, ODD toward adults, academic and social competence) by multisource (mothers and fathers) evaluation of the invariance and convergent/discriminant validity of the Child and Adolescent Disruptive Behavior Inventory with Thai Adolescents" in the journal *Psychological Assessment*. Along with his colleagues Mateu Servera (University of Balearic Islands), Urbano Loenzo-Seva (Rovira i Virgili University), Esther Cardo (University of Balearic Islands), and Antoni Rodriguez-Fornells (University of Barcelona), Burns published another article in the *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology* titled "Understanding trait and source effects in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Oppositional Defiant Disorder rating scales: Mothers', fathers', and teachers' ratings of children from the Balearic Islands." Burns and his colleagues from Australia (Mirella Di Benedetto, Helen Lindner, and Stephen Kent) had a paper accepted in the journal *Psychology and Health* titled "Biopsychosocial model for depressive symptoms following acute coronary syndromes." Finally, Burns and his former graduate student, **Marcela Moura** ('04 Ph.D.), published a paper in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* titled "Oppositional defiant behavior toward adults and oppositional defiant behavior toward other children: Evidence for two separate constructs with mothers' and fathers' ratings of Brazilian children." Marcela entered our doctoral program in clinical psychology with a medical degree in pediatrics. After the completion of her degree in clinical psychology, she returned to Piracicaba, Brazil, where she is now a licensed psychiatrist.

Rebecca Craft (professor) and Catherine Ulibarri (VCAPP associate professor) published "Sexual differentiation of rat reproductive versus opioid antinociceptive systems" in the journal *Gender Medicine*. Craft also presented a symposium titled "Sex differences in exogenous opioid analgesia" at the International Narcotics Research Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Lisa Fournier (associate professor), **Matthew Wiediger** (doctoral candidate), **Ryan McMeans** ('06 B.S. psychology), **Paul S. Mattson** (doctoral candidate), **Joy Kirkwood** ('09 B.S. psychology, '09 B.A. Spanish), and **Theibot Herzog** ('09 B.S. neuroscience) published "Holding a manual response sequence in memory can disrupt vocal responses that share semantic features with the manual response" in the journal *Psychological Research*. Fournier presented two papers at the 48th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Boston: "Compatibility interference occurs regardless of how action plans are mentally represented" and "Presentation frequency of a stimulus event can influence compatibility interference." Both were coauthored by Kirkwood, Mattson, and Herzog.

Paul Kwon (professor) and **Daniela Hugelshofer** ('06 Ph.D.) published an article titled "The protective role of hope for lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals facing a hostile workplace climate" in the *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*.

Robert Patterson (professor) and **Lisa Fournier** had two papers presented at the Proceedings of the Naturalistic Decision Making conference in London, England. The first, "Modeling the dynamics of recognition-primed decision making," was coauthored by Bryon Pierce (Air Force Research Laboratory), Marc Winterbottom (Air Force Research Laboratory) and **Lisa Tripp** ('09 M.S.). The second, "Decision priming in an air-to-ground attack decision scenario," was coauthored by Winterbottom, Pierce, and L. Williams and R. Amman (L-3 Communications). Patterson and Fournier also had a paper titled "System dynamics modeling of the recognition-primed decision model" published in the *Journal of Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making*. It was coauthored by Pierce, Winterbottom, and Tripp. Finally, Patterson has been invited to present a paper at the 2010 Sensory Coding in the Natural Environment Gordon Research Conference, in a session titled "Human interaction with artificial environments." Gordon Research Conferences have been recognized as one of the world's premier scientific conferences, where leading investigators from around the globe meet to discuss their latest work and future challenges in an interactive format.

Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe (professor), **Shital Pavawalla** ('09 Ph.D.), **Joni Howard** (doctoral candidate), **Lisa Howell** ('09 Ph.D.), and **Alicia Rueda** (doctoral candidate) published "Dyadic interventions for persons with early-stage dementia: a cognitive rehabilitative focus" in R.R. Bougham, editor, *New Directions in Aging Research: Health and Cognition* (Nova Science Publishers). Geetika Singla ('09 M.S. computer science), Cook, and Schmitter-Edgecombe published "Tracking activities in complex settings using smart environment technologies" in the *International Journal of BioSciences, Psychiatry, and Technology* and "Recognizing independent and joint activities among multiple residents in smart environments" in the *Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing*. **Jonathan W. Anderson** ('06 postdoctoral fellow) and Schmitter-Edgecombe published "Predictions of episodic memory performance following moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury" and "Very mild dementia and feeling-of-knowing in episodic memory" in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. Schmitter-Edgecombe, **Ellen Woo** ('06 Ph.D.), and David Greeley published "Characterizing multiple memory deficits and their relation to everyday functioning in individuals with mild cognitive impairment" in the journal *Neuropsychology*. Schmitter-Edgecombe and **Chad Sanders** (psychology master's candi-

date, '08 B.A. sociology, '07 B.S. psychology) published "Task switching in mild cognitive impairment: Switch and nonswitch costs" in the *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. Finally, Schmitter-Edgecombe and students from her lab presented multiple papers at the 37th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Atlanta, Georgia, including "Profiling activities of daily living using pervasive sensing in a smart environment" coauthored by Sanders, **Leticia Andersh** ('08 B.S. psychology), and Cook; "Analysis of verbal fluency in Alzheimer's disease" coauthored by **Randi McDonald** (postdoctoral fellow), **Andrea Mytinger** ('09 B.S. neuroscience), and **Alyssa Hulbert** ('09 B.S. psychology); and "The recovery of time estimation following moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury" coauthored by Anderson and **Valerie Coukoulis** ('08 B.S. psychology).

Paul Strand (WSU Tri-Cities associate professor) presented his research findings on the development of effective methods for reducing truancy and court involvement with youth to the Washington State Senate Human Services and Corrections Session on December 4. The research was funded by the MacArthur Foundation. In addition, Strand's paper "Religion as schedule-induced behavior" was published in *Behavior Analyst*.

Sarah Tragesser (WSU Tri-Cities assistant professor) published a paper in the *Journal of Personality Disorders* titled "The role of affective instability and UPPS impulsivity in borderline personality disorder features." It was coauthored by R.J. Robinson (senior, psychology). She has a second paper in press in the same journal, titled "Longitudinal associations in Borderline Personality Disorder Features: Diagnostic interview for Borderlines-Revised (DIB-R) scores over time" and coauthored M. Solhan, W.C. Brown, R.L. Tomko, C. Bagge and T.J. Trull (all from the University of Missouri). In addition, Tragesser has papers in press in *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* ("Specificity of P3 event-related potential reactivity to alcohol cues in individuals low in alcohol sensitivity" coauthored by B.D. Bartholow and S. A. Lust from the University of Missouri), *The Clinical Journal of Pain* ("Borderline Personality Disorder features and pain: The mediating role of negative affect in a patient sample" coauthored by D. Bruns and M. Disorbio, both in private practice), and *Substance Use & Misuse* ("Differences in illicit drug use rates among Oklahoma and Non-Oklahoma Indian youth" coauthored by F. Beauvais, P. Jumper-Thurman and M. Burnside, Colorado State University). Finally, Tragesser was the coauthor of a presentation titled "Alcohol Use Disorder-Personality Disorder Comorbidity: Reanalysis of NESARC Data" at the 9th Annual Samuel B. Guze Symposium on Alcoholism in St. Louis, Missouri.

Brendan Walker's (assistance professor) paper "Appetitive motivational experience during adolescence results in enhanced alcohol consumption during adulthood" was published in *Behavioral Neuroscience*. It was coauthored by Cindy L. Ehlers (Scripps Research Institute). Walker also published three papers in the journal *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* with his former colleagues at Scripps Research Institute, including "Milk consumption during adolescence decreases alcohol drinking in adulthood" coauthored by Jerry P. Pian, Jose R. Criado, and Ehlers; "Age-related differences in the blood alcohol levels of Wistar rats" coauthored by Ehlers; and "The alpha-1 adrenergic receptor antagonist prazosin reduces heroin self-administration in rats with extended access to heroin administration"

coauthored by T.N. Greenwell, P. Cottone, E.P. Zorrilla and G.F. Koob. Finally, Walker was the invited symposium speaker for the 2009 Research Society on Alcoholism meeting in San Diego. His presentation was titled "The effect of alpha-1 adrenergic receptor antagonism on excessive alcohol self-administration during acute withdraw in dependent rats."

Bruce Wright (clinical associate professor) and **Celestina Barbosa-Leiker** (research assistant professor) coauthored several posters presented at the 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society in Portland, Oregon, including "An examination of anger and stress as predictors of between-person variation in the longitudinal development of C-reactive protein," coauthored by Trynke Hoekstra (VU University, Amsterdam), **Virginia Ferent** (doctoral candidate), and **Sterling McPherson** (doctoral candidate); "Assessment of tracking coefficients for the development of C-reactive protein with stress and depression as predictors," coauthored by Hoekstra, **Ashley Miller** (WSU College of Nursing) and Jos Twisk (VU University, Amsterdam); "Assessment of tracking coefficients for the development of Interleukin 6 with stress and depression as predictors," also coauthored by Hoekstra, Miller, and Twisk; "Anger predicts metabolic syndrome abnormalities," coauthored by Ferent; and "Vital exhaustion and cardiovascular disease: New insights from longitudinal data of apparently healthy participants?" coauthored by Hoekstra, Lando Koppes (VU University, Amsterdam), and Twisk. Wright and Barbosa-Leiker also coauthored papers presented at the 8th International Conference on Occupational Stress and Health in San Juan, Puerto Rico ("Police officers vs. non-police officer status and perceived stress as longitudinal predictors of cardiovascular risk factors" with Hoekstra), the 117th annual meeting of the American Psychological Association (Division 38) in Toronto, Canada ("Perceived stress and chronic inflammation" with Ferent), and the 74th Annual and 16th International Meeting of the Psychometric Society at St. John's College, University of Cambridge, England ("Longitudinal measurement invariance and latent growth modeling applied to the metabolic syndrome" coauthored by **Leonard Burns**, **Craig Parks**, and **Paul Strand**). Finally, Barbosa-Leiker coauthored a paper with Hoekstra and Twisk titled "Applying a piecewise latent class growth mixture model on epidemiological data" that was presented at the 1st UK Meeting of Mplus Users at the University of Bristol in Bristol, England.



The *Psychology Alumni Newsletter* is published annually by Washington State University, PO Box 645910, Pullman, Washington, 99164-5910. Spring 2010 issue, volume 7, issue 1, 130305

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Accomplishments and Awards

The following graduate students completed significant program milestones during the past year: Master's theses: **Kate Geiger**, **Kristin Onorati**, **Kacy Pula**, and **Lisa Tripp**. Preliminary exams: **Carly Anderson**, **Virginia Ferent**, **Maja Graso**, **Kimberly Lanni**, **Sterling McPherson**, **Robert Packer**, **Kristine Olson**, **Zack Tollman**, **Alexa Wakley**, **Brandi Whitaker**, and **Brandi Young**. Doctoral degrees: **Alan Boydston**, **Lisa Howell**, **Daniel Hurley**, **Jennifer McDonald**, **Heather Truelove**, **Aaron Wirick**, and **Dina Wirick**.

Carolyn Anderson (doctoral candidate), **Kristine Olson** (WSU Vancouver doctoral student), **Adriana Seelye** (doctoral candidate), **Jennifer Self** (doctoral candidate), **Alexandra Terrill** (doctoral candidate), and **Xiaojing Xu** (master's candidate) all received GPSA Travel Awards for spring 2009. Anderson, Terrill, Xu, Sterling McPherson (doctoral candidate), and **Adrianna Seelye** (doctoral candidate) received Graduate and Professional Student Association Registration Awards in 2009.

Lee Daffin (doctoral candidate) was awarded a Teaching Assistant Excellence Award by WSU's Graduate and Professional Student Association in 2009.

Maja Graso (doctoral candidate) took first place in the fall 2008 Wiley Research Exposition in the Social and Administrative Sciences division.

Jillian Laggart ('09 B.S. psychology) was awarded an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program Undergraduate Research Fellowship to study "Sex differences in CB2-receptor mediated analgesia."

Sterling McPherson (doctoral candidate) was the recipient of the Department of Psychology's Graduate Student Excellence Award in April 2009. McPherson was also the statistical consultant on several grants during the past year, including an NSF grant to set up the Visualization and End User Programming Lab (awarded to Christopher Hundhausen, Ph.D., School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science), National Swimming Pool Foundation grant to study the "Effects of Exercise on Physiological and Psychological Parameters in an Asthmatic Population" (awarded to Kasee Hildenbrand, Ph.D., Department of Kinesiology), and an NSF grant to study the "Effects of Ethnicity, Gender, and Socio-economic Status on Gender Stereotyping of IT Careers" (awarded to K.D. Joshi, Ph.D., Department of Information Systems).

Kristine J. Olson (doctoral candidate, WSU Vancouver) received the 2009 Division 19 (Military Psychology) Student Travel Award to present her paper titled "Examining the Psychometric Properties of the SEQ-DoD with Swedish Data" at the American Psychological Association meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Jennifer Stevenson ('09 Ph.D.) received the John E. Carr award from the University of Washington Internship Program for Outstanding Achievement in Empirically Supported Psychotherapies.

Adrianna Seelye (doctoral candidate) received the AACN student poster award for her poster presentation entitled "Memory self-awareness and self-monitoring in persons with Alzheimer's disease" at the seventh annual meeting of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology. This poster was coauthored by **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe**.

Heather Lynn Swanson (doctoral candidate) and **Nicholas J. Zaharevich** ('09 B.S. psychology) were among the recipients of the 2009 WSU President's Awards, recognizing undergraduate and graduate students who exemplify exceptional leadership and service

to the University and the community. Students are selected based on leadership and engagement consistent with the University's values of inquiry and innovation, character, teamwork, and diversity.

Kimberly Tremblay (master's candidate) won the Department of Psychology's prestigious Laura Asbell Essay Award, which carries a \$2,500 summer stipend for four years.

Alexa Wakley (doctoral candidate) was awarded an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program Research Fellowship to study "Sex differences in behavioral effects of i.c.v. THC."

Corissa White (senior, psychology) was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the WSU Pharmacology and Toxicology Program to study the "Effects of antidepressant medications in normally cycling female rats."

Presentations and Publications

Scott Creamer's (doctoral candidate) master's thesis was published in *Neuropsychology*—"Narrative comprehension in Alzheimer's disease: Assessing inferences and memory operations with a think-aloud procedure." It was coauthored by **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe**. This paper was also presented at the 37th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Atlanta, Georgia.

Kate Geiger (doctoral candidate) presented a paper titled "Rumination and Depression: Implicating hope as a moderator" at the American Psychological Association's annual meeting in Toronto, Canada. This paper was coauthored by **Paul Kwon**.

Paul Mattson (doctoral candidate) presented his paper "Presentation frequency of a stimulus event can influence compatibility interference" at the 48th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Boston. This paper was coauthored by **Lisa Fournier**.

Sterling McPherson and Jeff Joireman (associate professor, marketing) published a paper titled "Death in groups: Mortality salience and the interindividual-intergroup discontinuity effect" in *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*. McPherson and **Craig Parks** presented a poster titled "Fearing 'The Others': A Measure of Xenophobic Orientation" at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida.

Brittany M. Navarre ('09 B.S. neuroscience), **Jillian Laggart** ('09 B.S. psychology), and **Rebecca Craft** published "Anhedonia in postpartum rats" in the journal *Physiology & Behavior*.

Alicia Rueda (doctoral candidate) and **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe** published "Time estimation abilities in persons with mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's Disease" in the journal *Neuropsychology*. Rueda, **Carolyn Parsey** (master's candidate; '09 B.S. psychology; '09 B.A. sociology), and Schmitter-Edgecombe presented "Clock drawing in healthy aging and mild cognitive impairment" at the 37th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Atlanta, Georgia.

Adrianna Seelye (doctoral candidate), Schmitter-Edgecombe, and J. Flores (undergraduate, University of Idaho) published "Episodic memory predictions in persons with amnesic and non-amnesic mild cognitive impairment" in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. This paper was also presented at the 37th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Atlanta, Georgia.

Linda J. Thompson, **Sharon Sowell** (master's candidate), and **John M. Roll** (associate dean of research, nursing; '94 Ph.D.) published the chapter "Effects of methamphetamine on communities" in *Methamphetamine Addiction: From Basic Science to Treatment* (Guilford

Press, 2009), edited by Roll, Richard A. Rawson, Walter Ling, and Steven Shoptaw.

Tori Smith ('09 B.S. psychology) presented a poster titled "The development and initial validation of nutrition and physical activity knowledge questionnaires in a sample of preadolescents" at the Midwest Conference on Pediatric Psychology in Kansas City, Missouri.

Alexandra Terrill (doctoral candidate) presented a poster entitled "Dispositional optimism and cardiovascular reactivity to social vs. non-social stressors" at the American Psychosomatic Society conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Alexa Wakley (doctoral candidate) and **Rebecca Craft** presented a poster titled "Antinociceptive and motoric effects of i.c.v. THC in male vs. female rats" at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence in June 2009.

Brandi Young (doctoral candidate) presented a poster titled "Investigating the relationship between knowledge of healthy eating and physical activity, weight loss specific self-efficacy, and body mass index: A moderational model" at the Midwest Conference on Pediatric Psychology in Kansas City, Missouri.

Interest Articles

Undergraduate Research Symposium Continues to Grow

In 2009, the Department of Psychology celebrated the seventh year of its Undergraduate Research Initiative and Undergraduate Research Symposium. Six undergraduate students were awarded grants in 2009 to conduct original research under the direction of psychology faculty. Dr. David Strayer from the University of Utah was the guest speaker for the symposium. His presentation, "Multi-tasking in the automobile: Are we being driven to distraction?" was well attended by people from across the university. Following the presentation, several undergraduate students presented the results of their research at the poster session. Projects covered a variety of topics, including the following:

"The commonalities between PTSD and BPD features: The role of affective instability." **Nick Zaharevich** (grant recipient, '09 B.S. psychology) and **Sarah Tragesser** (assistant professor).

"Mindfulness, communication apprehension and negative affect." **Timothy Lyons** (grant recipient, '09 B.S. psychology), **Michiyo Hirai** (assistant professor), and Jaak Panksepp (professor, VCAPP).

"A comparison of scoring systems for the Clock Drawing Test in healthy aging, mild cognitive impairment, and Alzheimer's disease." **Carolyn M. Parsey** (grant recipient, '09 B.S. psychology, '09 B.A. sociology) and **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe** (professor).

"Sub-chronic and chronic antidepressant treatment during the 'postpartum period' in HSP rats." **Jillian Laggart** (grant recipient, '09 B.S. psychology) and **Rebecca Craft** (professor).

"The effects of sucrose habituation on sucrose preference in postpartum rats." **Jessica Rogers** (grant recipient, '09 B.S. psychology, '09 B.A. criminal justice) and **Rebecca Craft** (professor).

"A new angiotensin analogue that overcomes spatial memory loss in rats." **Katherine Bittinger** (grant recipient, senior, psychology), Joseph Harding (VCAPP), and **Jay Wright** (professor).

"The development and initial validation of nutrition and physical activity specific questionnaires in a sample of preadolescents."

Tori R. Smith ('09 B.S. psychology), **Ashley Paintner** (master's candidate), **Brandi Young** (doctoral candidate), and **Michael Steele** (assistant professor).

"Temperament and school readiness: Do infant temperament characteristics predict core academic abilities in preschool-aged children?" **Rachel Kliever** ('09 B.S. psychology) and **Masha Gartstein** (associate professor).



"Examining the relationship between pet ownership and human health." **Misty Green** ('09 B.S. psychology) and Michael Steele (assistant professor)

"Analysis of verbal fluency in Alzheimer's dementia." **Alyssa Hulbert** ('09 B.S. psychology), **Randi N. McDonald** (postdoctoral fellow), **Andrea Mytinger** ('09 B.S. neuroscience), and Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe (professor).

"Influence of methamphetamine on head-shake habituation." **Audrey Jensen** (senior, neuroscience) and Jay Wright (professor).

"Maternal attribution biases about children's peer relationships: An observational study." **Melissa Martin** (senior, psychology) and Nicole Werner (associate professor, Human Development).



Alumni News

Donald B. King ('54 B.S. psychology) gave the main banquet address at a castle in Bamberg, Germany, on the history of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law, which he founded in the early 1980s. King is currently a professor of law emeritus at Saint Louis University in Missouri.

Josh and Shawna (Geier) Labberton ('03 B.S. psychology) welcomed their daughter Kira Cosette on September 1, 2009.

Michelle Langill ('09 Ph.D.) was awarded a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Neuropsychology Pacific Parkinson's Research Centre and the Institute of Mental Health at the University of British Columbia.

Wesley McMahon ('05 B.S. psychology) received his juris doctor degree from New England Law/Boston last spring. He is hoping to practice in New York.

John M. Roll (associate dean of research, nursing; '94 Ph.D. psychology) and **Joni T. Howard** (doctoral candidate) published "The relative contribution of economic valence to contingency management efficacy: A pilot study" in the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

Jutta Tobias ('08 Ph.D.) presented a paper titled "The role of entrepreneurship on conflict

reduction in the post-genocide Rwandan coffee industry" at the UNU-WIDER project workshop "Entrepreneurship and Conflict" in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The UNU-WIDER is the United Nations University's World Institute for Development Economics Research. Tobias also participated in a capacity-building assignment in Ethiopia last February, supporting WSU's International Programs Research and Development, Associate Director Tom Byers, and Project Associate Colleen Taugher in a workshop series for Ethiopian government officials in the telecommunications sector.

James Van Domelen ('06 B.S. psychology) has been hired by Aeon Amity Corporation to teach English to children in Tokyo, Japan.

Matthew J. Wright ('06 Ph.D.), **Ellen Woo** ('06 Ph.D.), **Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe**, Charles Hinkin, Eric Miller, and Amanda Gooding published "The item-specific deficit approach to evaluating verbal memory dysfunction: Rationale, psychometrics, and application" in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. These same authors presented "To introduce and evaluate the Item-Specific Deficit Approach (ISDA), a novel method for characterizing memory deficits" at the 37th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Atlanta, Georgia.

We Would like to Hear from You

We are very interested in hearing from our alumni. You can find us at www.wsu.edu/psychology. Just click on the Alumni & Friends link. 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.

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.

Loring Gary Calkins Jr. ('49 psychology), 85, February 5, 2009, Bothell.

Mona Marie Frauenholtz Early ('81 psychology), 49, December 20, 2008, Marysville.

Barbara Ruth Day Lorch ('46 psychology, '47 M.A. sociology), 84, December 16, 2008, Muncie, Indiana.

John T. Regan ('86 psychology), 49, October 20, 2008, Seattle.

Mary Kay Curran Tomko ('75 psychology) 55, January 18, 2009, University Place.