



UNCW Psychology



Department of Psychology • Volume 2 • Spring 2007 • Faculty Editor: Robert Hakan • Student Editor: Mary Beth McCullough



*Dr. Mark Galizio, Psychology
Professor & Department Chair*

Welcome From The Chair

It has been a busy and exciting year in the Psychology Department! Student interest in psychology has never been stronger. We now have over 600 undergraduate majors and over 50 graduate students! Our new Master's concentration in Applied Behavior Analysis is off and running and is about to have its first graduate! This new program will help address a growing national and regional need as we are training professionals to provide evidence-based

treatments for autism and mental retardation. We added two new faculty members, Dr. Shanhong Luo and Dr. Jeff Toth who are contributing to exciting new research and teaching strengths to our program. You can learn more about them in the New Faculty Profiles on page 4. Psychology faculty continue to excel in the classroom and, as a case in point, Dr. Christine Hughes was recognized as Lecturer of the Year! I am particularly proud of our department's commitment to engaging students in applied learning settings that take them outside the traditional classroom. For example, this year in psychology practicum classes nearly 100 students were placed in more than 40 different community agencies including Crisis Line, Coastal Horizons Center Substance Abuse Center, Wilmington Treatment Center, Department of Aging, Domestic Violence Shelter, New Hanover Hospital and many local schools.
(continued on page 2...)

Attention Alumni!

The Psychology Department wants to hear from you. Please visit the department's Web site at...

<http://uncw.edu/psy/>

and take a minute to fill out the alumni survey under the "what's new" heading. We would like to know what you have been doing since leaving UNCW both in psychology and non-psychology fields. Plus while you are there, you can tell us if you would like to receive a physical or electronic copy of the department newsletter for future issues.

Graduate works on "Survivor"

*Erik Whitestone pictured on
location in Utah*



Erik Whitestone graduated from UNCW in 1996 with a BA in psychology. He is now a sound recordist for film and television. His most recent job was with the CBS show "Survivor" in which he traveled to Africa, Tahiti, the Amazon jungle, Thailand, Guatemala, Japan, Fiji, Ecuador and Indonesia. He has also worked on all the Apprentice shows, some specials on the Discovery channel and has done some work with the X-games... just to name a few!
(continued on page 7...)

Welcome from the chair continued...

Practicum students get “hands on” experience in psychology as a helping profession and provide valuable service to our community. We believe that direct involvement with psychological research is one of the most critical forms of active learning that we can provide our students, and this was a banner year! More than 280 directed independent study research projects were completed last year. In these, students worked as junior colleagues with faculty on a broad range of psychological research projects. We had what must be a record number of eight students complete Honors Theses this year!

What makes this active learning possible for our students is the outstanding research activity of our faculty. This year, faculty members were involved in more than \$3 million of grant funded projects with more than \$700,000 coming in new grants. Our faculty continued to make outstanding contributions through publication of books, and scientific articles and presentations. We had 31 articles published last year with ten student co-authors and 93 papers presented at scientific meetings with 96 student co-authors. Our faculty continues to be highly visible in the field through positions of leadership in regional and national organizations, service on editorial boards of prestigious journals and appointments to federal, state and local boards.

One noteworthy milestone: Robert T. Brown retired in May 2006 after 32 years of distinguished service to UNCW. Most of the alumni reading this will remember Bob, and of course, many of you will have cut your experimental psychology teeth under his tutelage! He will be missed (but we hope to get him back in the classroom whenever we can...). Check page 7 for a brief summary of Bob's many contributions to UNCW.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and if you haven't yet checked out the department's Web site— www.uncw.edu/psy, please know that regular updates on our activities are posted there.



Dr. Puente with graduate students at Dec. 2006 graduation



Undergraduate presenting a poster for Dr. Daniel's Cognitive Psychology class



Members of Psi Chi holding their weekly bake sale

Faculty Member in Focus: Dr. Dale Cohen



Dr. Dale Cohen

Dale J. Cohen, Professor of Psychology, has been awarded a 5 year, \$700,000 grant by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NIH). His grant, “Quantifying stimulus, response, and numerical biases,” proposes to study people's intuitive sense of the quantities that numbers represent. That is, although 0.5, 1 in 2, $\frac{1}{2}$, and “one half” all refer to the same quantity, people's intuitive understanding of what these numbers symbolize is inaccurate and is surprisingly different for each format. By quantifying people's “number sense,” Dr. Cohen is laying the foundation for a detailed understanding of mathematical reasoning and innumeracy. Congratulations to Dr. Cohen and members of his lab!

Faculty Highlights

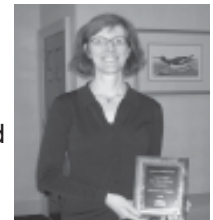
- **Carrie Clements** headed up the evaluation component of the “Safe Schools/ Healthy Students” program which attempts to reduce violence and abuse in regional schools. **Anne Hungerford** and **Rich Ogle** serve as consultants with the program. This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$1,000,029 over three years. Dr. Clements also edited the book “*Best Practices in University Teaching*”, which included essays by department members **Len Lecci** and **Carol Pilgrim**.
- **Karen Daniels** co-authored a book chapter on *Cognitive Aging* with **Jeff Toth** and a journal article in *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*.
- **Steve Dworkin** was President of the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis. He presented an invited address on nicotine and caffeine self-administration to the Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.
- **Mark Galizio** was appointed to a four year term on the National Institutes of Health Biobehavioral Regulation, Learning and Animal Behavior grant review panel. He was elected to Fellow Status in Division 6 (Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology) of the American Psychological Association and published four journal articles.
- **Christine Hughes** won the Center for Teaching Excellence Lecturer of the Year Award. She also served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior* and published an article in the same journal.
- **Ruth Hurst** was elected Vice President of the North Carolina Association for Behavior Analysis. She also published a book chapter on research design in applied behavior analysis.
- **Andy Jackson** is President of the North Carolina Psychological Association.
- **James Johnson** co-authored a major paper with **Len Lecci** on the perception of racism and racist attitudes using a questionnaire methodology (the Johnson-Lecci Scale) developed at UNCW. Johnson also served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.
- **Julian Keith** continued his 5-year NIH grant (\$1.3 million) on adult neurogenesis, the creation of new neurons in the adult brain. He also served on the Editorial Board of *Debates in Neuroscience*. He also co-authored a paper on the psychopharmacology of spatial learning.
- **Len Lecci** and **Dale Cohen** presented a paper on psychological aspects of bioterrorism in a Special Symposium on Bioterrorism at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Society. Lecci also published a book chapter on mood states and served on the Editorial Board of *Counseling and Clinical Psychology Journal*.
- **Bryan Myers** served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice*.
- **Nora Noel, Andy Jackson** and **James Johnson** continued research on their NIAAA grant (\$605,000 over 5 years) on alcohol and sexual assault.
- **Ray Pitts** received a University of Canterbury Erskine Fellowship for distinguished academics to support his travel and summer research program in New Zealand. He published four articles in the field of psychopharmacology this year and served on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*.
- **Tony Puente** served as Editor for the *Neuropsychology Review*. He published four articles bookchapter, all on neuropsychological assessment.



Kate Bruce



Karen Daniels



Christine



Julian Keith



Len Lecci



Andy Jackson

New Faculty Members



Dr. Shanhong Luo

Dr. Shanhong Luo joined the psychology department in the fall of 2006 as an Assistant Professor. She recently completed a Ph.D. in Personality and Social Psychology from the University of Iowa in 2006, where she was awarded a Dissertation Research Award from the American Psychological Association to support her doctoral studies on the psychology of romantic love. Before moving to the US, she completed a master's degree in psychology at Beijing University in 1999. Her honors thesis involved testing infant attachment styles of Chinese infants to see if they have similar or different attachment styles when compared with American infants.

Dr. Luo is interested in many facets of romantic relationships including initial attraction, partner selection, relationship consolidation, and relationship dissolution. She has several ongoing research projects at UNCW, including a "speed dating project" which imitates speed dating services that many people use. Her goal is to see *how* people decide who to date and who not to date. Her other research projects include an early dating longitudinal study and a study to assess how biased we are in perceiving our partners. When Dr. Luo is not busy researching and teaching, she enjoys spending time with her five-year-old son, Robert. She also enjoys watching Iowa football, singing Karaoke and watching movies. She is currently teaching Intro to Statistics and is enjoying her time at UNCW.



Dr. Jeffrey Toth

Dr. Jeffrey Toth is also a new member of the psychology team, joining the psychology department in the fall of 2006 as an Assistant Professor. He received his B.A. in Experimental Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and went on to complete his M.A. and Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Toth received postdoctoral training at McMaster University, the Rotman Research Institute and Washington University in St. Louis. Before coming to UNC Wilmington, he was an Assistant Professor in the School of Psychology at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Fourteen years after leaving North Carolina, he returned to Wilmington in 2004 to become an Adjunct Professor and in 2006 an Assistant Professor at UNCW. His most recent research focuses on the development of techniques to increase memory and attention skills in older adults. Based on this research, Dr. Toth developed a computer game called "Art Dealer" which uses powerful and effective training techniques to enhance cognitive functioning. It is an exciting development because it combines science-based training principles with an enjoyable game experience. This research is one of the motivations behind the development of the Aging & Cognitive Training (ACT) Lab at UNCW, where more training projects are currently in development. Dr. Toth spends his free time at the beach, hiking, kickboxing, playing tennis, video games and the guitar. He also plans on learning to surf in the near future. Dr. Toth appreciates how genuinely nice and accommodating everyone in the psychology department has been to him since he joined the team.

Awards & Honors

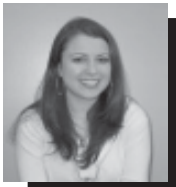


Graduate student receives national honors...

Chrissy Engle Raver, graduate of the UNCW psychology masters program in '05, received "The Student Paper Competition Award" in 2006. This award is a national honor from the Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior, a Special Interest Group within the Association for Behavior Analysis (ABA). This group has a student paper submission contest every year, where students submit papers that focus on human behavior. The papers are reviewed and critiqued by researchers in the field. Chrissy won the contest by submitting a shortened version of her thesis entitled, "Aging and Categorization - Using Generalized Equivalence Classes and Their Characteristics to Compare Older and Younger Adults."

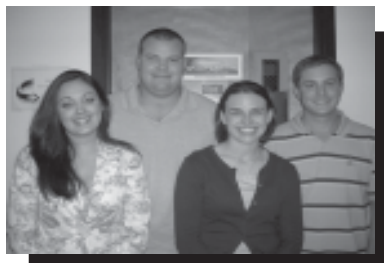
Chrissy is appreciative of her time at UNCW and in Wilmington, "The highlight of my time at UNC Wilmington was my lab group and advisors, Dr. Galizio and Carol Pilgrim. I learned a lot from them, and they provided me with the most support while I was finishing up my research and trying to write about what I found. I love the town of Wilmington, the beach and everything about it." Chrissy is currently living in Charlotte with her husband, Todd and "awesome yellow Labrador named Maddy". She is working at the corporate headquarters for Family Dollar, providing data analysis about buying and selling patterns in their inventory department.

Undergraduate Psychology Awards



The Williams-Kowal Award is named for Professor Emeritus Williams who was the first chair of the Department of Psychology and Professor Emeritus Kowal. It is awarded to a student interested in basic science research. **Tess Young** and **Kathleen Walsh** received the Williams-Kowal Award this year. The Michael Bradley Award is named for Professor Emeritus Bradley. It is awarded to a student interested in applied research. **Katie Gallagher** was awarded the Michael Bradley Award. The Cape Fear Area Psychological Association Award is for basic or applied research done by a student who is interested in pursuing graduate work in applied areas such

as one of the mental health professions. This award was given to **Renee Sanders**.



Several undergraduate students also received a Chancellor's UNCW Undergraduate Student Research and Travel Award for the 2006-2007 school year. Two undergraduates in Dr. Simone Nguyen's Cognitive Development Lab received the CSURF Chancellor's Gold Travel Award, **Kristen Wilfong** and **Tess Young**. They received funding to attend the Society for Research in Child Development Conference in Boston, Massachusetts in March 2007. In Dr. Len Lecci's lab, **Emily Anne Hanks** received the award to attend the American Psychological Society's National Convention in Washington, DC in May 2007. Dr.



Lecci's lab is researching juror biases and juror susceptibility to influence during a deliberation process. Emily will be presenting a poster on their findings at this conference. **Kelly Weiland**, a member of Dr. Bruce's lab, received a CSURF award to travel to the Comparative Cognition Conference in Melbourne, Florida in March 2007. She presented a poster with graduate student Brooke Poerstel entitled, "Evaluating Olfactory Identity Matching-To-Sample (MTS) in Rats Using an Open-field Apparatus". Four undergraduates in Dr. Nora Noel's Behavioral Examination of Alcohol, Caffeine and Health Laboratory (BEACHLAB) received funding to attend the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies convention in Chicago in November. **Shahena Dar**, **Gerald Benton** and **Benjamin O'Brien** received CSURF Chancellor's Gold Travel awards through the UNCW Honors program to attend the conference. Senior Psychology major, **Katie Gallagher**, was one of only three students from UNC Wilmington to win a statewide 2006 Summer Research award from the UNC General Services Administration. The \$3500 award allowed her to conduct research over the summer on women's alcohol use and sexual assault risk. In addition, it provided her with travel funds to attend the conference.

New Scholarships for UNCW



DeAnne Carroll

In December, philanthropists Mark Griffis and David Robertson donated \$1 million dollars to establish 20 new scholarships at UNC Wilmington. Their gift is the largest single commitment that donors have made to scholarships at one time in UNCW history. One of these scholarships has been established to recognize psychology department alumnus DeAnne Carroll. As a student at UNC Wilmington, DeAnne Carroll fought through many adversities to graduate. She worked two part-time jobs and relied on financial aid to pay her tuition and living expenses. It was a challenge for DeAnne, who remembers at times barely having anything to eat. She graduated with a B.A. in psychology in 1990 and attributes this to the support and encouragement of the faculty in the psychology department, in particular Dr. Sue Lamb, Dr. Mark Galizio and Dr. Andy Jackson.

After graduation, DeAnne became a vocational rehabilitation counselor at the state division. As a rehab counselor, she assists people with disabilities in finding a career and helps people with drug addictions find the path to sobriety. She is very passionate and devoted to helping people, and this is evident in the many success stories that she can tell about her clients. She has been very successful in her career and currently has a very large mental health caseload serving around 200 people. To add to her long list of accolades, she just finished a master's degree in counseling in August 2005!

Mark Griffis and David Robertson were aware of DeAnne's work in the community and wanted to recognize her for the many lives that she has changed and continues to impact every day. They endowed a \$50,000 gift entitled "DeAnne Carroll Just Believe Scholarship". This scholarship will be awarded to students at her alma mater, Eastern Wayne High School who have at least a 3.0 grade point average. It will amount to around \$1,500 per year for four years. DeAnne explains, "This scholarship is based on more than financial need and academics. It is based on the whole person and what they have done for their school and the community." DeAnne's mission is to make it fully funded so that at least one student will have a full ride to UNC Wilmington for four years. She is planning on raising money for this endowment by throwing a concert that not only features her music and other bands, but one that sends a message. She will be having speakers from various programs in the community spreading awareness of drug abuse and ways to cope with disabilities. This concert is being arranged now with Eastern Wayne High School and is being scheduled for September 2007.

The scholarship sparked a fire in DeAnne who will continue to raise money to help more students in the community of Eastern Wayne achieve their goal of graduating from UNC Wilmington. DeAnne said that before she was recognized with this honor, she used to ask herself, "How can I make it matter that I was here? How can I make such a difference that people will remember my name in 200 years?" DeAnne Carroll's name will certainly be remembered for her accomplishments and by helping students through her "Just Believe" scholarship more than 200 years from now.

Griffis and Robertson also designated one of their scholarships to an outstanding psychology major and dedicated it to the Nielsen family. As Griffis and Robertson put it: "Family is the psychological foundation of young adulthood." Susan, Sandra and Sharon Neilsen were, and are, that family for Dave Robertson. This endowment is in recognition and thanksgiving of them in his life and an extension of that love and support to its recipients. On behalf of UNC Wilmington and future generations of students, we are tremendously grateful to Mark Griffis and Dave Robertson for their generosity.

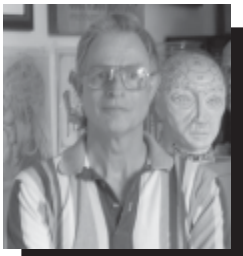
“Survivor” (continued from page 1)

As a student, Erik worked closely with Dr. James Johnson and Dr. Robert Hakan, both of whom he keeps in touch with to this day. “I was an average student who cared more about surfing than school when Dr. Johnson recognized something in me.” Dr. Johnson involved Erik in many projects, and they eventually published an article together entitled, “Justice is Still Not Colorblind. Differential Racial Effects of Exposure to Inadmissible Evidence.” He also worked closely with Dr. Hakan, helping him set up a behavioral observation lab of *Anolis carolinensis* (small lizards native to southern North Carolina). Apart from research and school, Erik enjoyed living and surfing at Wrightsville Beach and helped found the club lacrosse team at UNC Wilmington.

After graduation, Erik interned on a film at Screen Gems Studios and worked on films and television shows in Wilmington for two years. “I knew right away the film industry was a great match for me.” After his stint in Wilmington, he decided to move to New York to work on different projects and pursue other opportunities.

Erik has been a sound recordist for film and television in NYC for seven years. He has been very successful working on shows such as *Survivor*, *the Apprentice* and *the X-games*. “I have been exposed to places and people I would have never had the opportunity to meet otherwise.” When asked how his degree in psychology has helped him in his current field, he answered, “It’s not so much the degree itself that helped as much as it is the classes I took. Working in the film industry exposes you to all kinds of people. On some of my jobs, the crew comes from as many as 20 different countries. The classes I took certainly have helped with understanding people and their differences.”

Erik was recently married in September and continued his world travels with a honeymoon in Brazil. Erik and his wife currently reside in New York City. He would eventually like to come back to Wilmington to work with “some of the best people that I’ve ever worked with.”



Dr. Robert Brown

Honoring Dr. Robert Brown

Dr. Robert T. (Bob) Brown has assumed the title of Professor Emeritus of Psychology, but he is far from retired. He continues to be active at UNCW as a consultant to the Randall Library and teaching courses for our department. For almost four decades, Dr. Brown has served the UNC system and enhanced the lives of his students. He came to UNC Wilmington in 1974 after having taught at the College of William and Mary and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dedication to science, scholarship and the intellectual development of his students are the hallmarks of Dr. Brown’s career at UNCW. He introduced a number of courses to the curriculum including the Psychology of Exceptional Children and Science and Pseudoscience. Dr. Brown was heavily involved in a number of publishing projects including the Plenum series on individual differences. He was author and editor of books, chapters, and encyclopedia entries on such varied topics as bias in psychological testing, the nature of creativity, logical errors in decision making, chromosomal anomalies and the understanding of exceptional children. An emphasis on critical thinking and the application of the scientific method is reflected throughout his teaching and scholarship. Dr. Brown’s students have long benefited from his insistence that they be appropriately skeptical and critical as scholars and citizens. Perhaps this influence on his protégées is Dr. Brown’s greatest continuing legacy.



UNCW Psychology



Graduate Student Welcome Party

The new graduate students of Fall 2006 were warmly welcomed by the returning graduate students and faculty members at a party held at the house of Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Sally MacKain.



Returning graduate students Heather Mozier (left) and Racheal Cushing (right) with Dr. Ruth Hurst (Center).



New graduate students Gina Greene, Jill Cowan, Sara Algood, and Deb Kemp



New graduate student Steve Manna with Dr. Mark Galizio

Help Us Grow !

We wish to sincerely thank the department's alumni and friends who have been so generous in their support over the years. We continue to need support. Donations and gifts to the Department of Psychology may be allocated to support merit scholarships for undergraduate students, faculty and student research or our departmental speaker series. Since the inception of the psychology department we have continued to strive for excellence and you can help us reach that goal.

In appreciation of your support, the department would like to place you on our newsletter mailing list so that you can continue to stay abreast of what is happening in the department. Also, we would like to recognize your donation on our Web site and in future issues of the newsletter. Of course, if you would like your donation to remain anonymous then please indicate that to us and we will accommodate that request.

Please consider contributing to the Psychology Department's continued excellence and growth. Your gift will qualify as a charitable donation. You may designate how your donation will be allocated by indicating your choice on the form below and sending this form in with your donation. Also, you may visit the Web site and under the tab "Alumni and Friends" print out the same donation form.

Psychology Department

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