As we begin the 2002-03 school year, we are experiencing the usual changes in personnel, students, and programs. We welcome four new tenure-line faculty members (Buchanan in Clinical, Lonstein in Neuroscience, Oliva and Passarotti in Cognitive). Cathleen McGreal, an MSU developmental Ph.D., has returned to teach six of our large undergraduate courses. We have 19 new graduate students, four of whom have university fellowships. We now have about 1400 Psychology majors, 90 Honors majors, and most of our undergraduate courses are filled to room capacity. Our faculty members continue to receive about $5,000,000 in research grants on an annual basis. This fall we are also learning how to interact with a graduate student union. We believe more standard evaluation procedures, feedback, and TA training stimulated in part by unionization will serve the whole department. We have also initiated a new exchange program with the University of Applied Sciences in Lueneburg, Germany; we are expanding our use of undergraduate teaching assistants; and we are offering new undergraduate courses in Human Sexuality, Aging and Cognition, and Visual Cognition this next spring. Professors Wood and Barclay have retired this past year and we were all saddened by the death of Professor John Hunter who was a faculty member in our department for over 35 years. I am sure that the many undergraduate and graduate students with whom these three long-term members of our faculty interacted appreciate the impact of these individuals on their academic progress and their careers. These and other developments are discussed in more depth elsewhere in this newsletter.

What are not usual for us as we begin this year are the plans for our move to the old Physics and Astronomy building. In the last newsletter, I outlined something of the history of our department’s problems with space and the preliminary plans for the renovation of Physics. These plans are now
Chair’s Report Continued.....

relatively firm and SSOE, a design/engineering firm based in Troy, is working with university officials and departmental faculty members with the goal of beginning construction in January. The target date for moving into this facility is August, 2003, though the building’s current appearance suggests this date may be optimistic.

Funds are now earmarked for renovation that will include central air-conditioning, which is essential if our labs are to be functional, and the space usable during the summer months, especially as the current large classroom-type labs are divided into the smaller spaces we need in our research programs. It is anticipated that windows will be replaced, floor and ceilings will be redone along with asbestos removal, and the construction necessary to divide large classrooms and laboratories into smaller offices, observational labs, and testing/interviewing rooms will be undertaken. Several fire code and access problems will also have to be addressed in the renovation.

As in any 75-year-old building, it is likely that renovation will reveal other problems that have not been addressed as the previous occupants of the building made plans to relocate to the new Science building. One such problem was the fact that the engineering firm reported that the roof has served its life expectancy and will likely need to be replaced or repaired. Currently, we have no funds to furnish this building, though the engineering firm is charged with providing an estimate of these expenses as well.

This building will eventually house the entire department with the exception of the Neuroscience program. The eight Psychology faculty members in this program are now in the process of moving into Giltner Hall space next door to Physics. While they will acquire significantly more space than they had for their research labs and offices in Psychology Research Building and scattered elsewhere across campus, there have also been significant renovation problems in this building as well. The usual clean-up, painting, and repair needs are being met, but there are more significant concerns about appropriate climate control and leaking roofs.

We are excited about the opportunity to centralize our faculty and graduate students in two contiguous buildings and the extra space these two facilities will eventually provide. In the short term, though, the time required to plan space changes and the need to identify the resources to make this facility an adequate home for our labs and offices is a challenge for university administrators and departmental personnel. As usual, we welcome visits to campus and input, help, or ideas about the renovations described above and our other academic and research activities.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the MSU Department of Psychology!

Neal Schmitt
Professor and Chair

The Future Home of the Psychology Department!
Fellowship Winners

Over the years, the Department of Psychology has been very successful in attracting excellent graduate students. One measure of this excellence is the number of our graduate students who are awarded the two University sponsored graduate fellowships. The University Distinguished Fellowship (UDF) is offered by The Graduate School to students who have demonstrated academic excellence and evidence of leadership potential.

The Competitive Doctoral Enrichment Fellowship (CDEF) is also offered by the Graduate School to outstanding new ALANA graduate students. This year the Psychology Department welcomes two new CDEF winners, Resche Hines and Kimdy Le, and three UDF winners, Alyssa Friede, Stephanie Merritt, and Smriti Shivpuri. These excellent students join 19 other Psychology CDEF winners and 9 UDF winners in the last five years. Congratulations to our newest winners!

Professor John Hunter passed away on June 26, 2002. After doing his undergraduate work at the University of New Mexico, Professor John Hunter earned his Ph.D. in Psychology and Mathematics from the University of Illinois, Urbana and joined the Department of Psychology at Michigan State University in 1964. Professor Hunter made numerous contributions to the teaching, service, and research programs of the Department of Psychology. He served on boards of review for the State of Michigan, American Psychological Association, National Academy of Science, and the Central Intelligence Agency. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his research publications, The Michigan State University Distinguished Faculty Award, and Fulbright Award Distinguished Lecturer to India. Professor Hunter was a fellow in the American Psychological Association, the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and the American Psychological Society. He served as the president of the Midwestern Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology and for the Society of Multivariate Psychology. There was a private service for immediate family June 27. Donations in the name of Professor Hunter can be made to the Lansing Public Libraries in his memory.

In Memorium: Professor John Hunter

Alumni Notes

Please use the last page of this newsletter to send us personal and professional updates that we can share with your classmates. In response to our last newsletter we heard:

Carol Ellstein (Ph.D., 1989, Clinical) has recently moved to northern Michigan. She is affiliated with a group practice in Petoskey specializing in disorders of childhood and adolescence. She also reports that she has taken up golf and gardening!

Robert Green (Ph.D., 1975, Clinical) has received two national awards – The 2001 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Family Systems Research from the American Family Therapy Academy and the 1998 Award for Significant Contributions to the Study of Family Diversity from APA Division of Family Psychology.

Russell Doré (M.A., 1960) has joined the firm of Lee Hecht Harrison as a vice president and senior consultant. He provides career counseling, assessment, and executive coaching.

Karen O’Quin (Ph.D., 1980, Social/Personality) was promoted to Full Professor in 1999 and has now been appointed Associate Dean of Natural and Social Sciences at Buffalo State College.

Leonard Handler (Ph.D., 1964, Clinical) is the President-Elect of the Society for Personality Assessment and serves on two APA committees (Committee on Internet Testing and Committee on Tests and Assessment). He has also won two prestigious awards from the University of Tennessee (The Research & Creative Achievement Awards from both the Chancellor and from Arts & Sciences). His edited book, Teaching and Learning Personality Assessment was published in 1998.

Congratulations to each of these Spartans for their accomplishments!
**New Faculty**

**Aude Oliva**

B.Sc (1990) and M.Sc (1991) in Psychology from the University of Grenoble, France.


Cognitive Interest Group

I have just joined the Cognitive Science Program in the Department of Psychology. From 1995 to 2002, I conducted research in various laboratories, specializing in cognitive psychology and computational vision (UK, Japan, France, US). My work on facial recognition has been incorporated into two visual art exhibitions and books in Germany and the UK. My research interests lie in naturalistic scene and space perception, human and machine scene recognition, visual memory, and the dynamic aspects of attention and visual search in scene processing. My research continues to integrate diverse domains linked to image and space recognition (e.g., architecture, cognitive psychology, image processing, computer graphics). My most recent projects have implications for the development of artificial systems designed to interact with real world environments. (e.g., recognize a known or new environment, find the appropriate object in a specific scene context).

**NiCole Buchanan**

Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2000

Clinical/Community Psychology

Clinical Interest Group

Broadly, my research focuses on violence and victimization with particular emphasis on contextual factors, such as the relationship between the victim and perpetrator, which influence the nature of the event itself and the manner in which targets respond. Theoretically, it incorporates many disciplines, including clinical, community, and social psychology, feminist and critical race theory, and Black feminist thought.

Much of my work to date has focused on sexual harassment and how sexual victimization intersects with issues of race, ethnicity, and culture. Research questions include, “Is harassment perceived differently when the perpetrator is from the same ethnic group rather than an outgroup member?” “Do targets of abuse use coping strategies that are specific to their cultural group or general across groups?” “Is harassment different, in both the nature of the harassment itself and in how it is perceived, depending on the ethnicity of the target?” These questions led me to a construct that I have called Racialized Sexual Harassment (RSH), which encompasses harassment that is both racial and gendered simultaneously. My work with African American women demonstrates that the manner in which they are sexually harassed is often interwoven with subtle, and not so subtle, elements of racism. For example, women in my study reported harassment that drew upon the history of slavery and sexual stereotypes of Black women. In addition to sexual harassment, future endeavors will focus on other forms of interpersonal violence, such as sexual assault and violence among intimate partners.
New Faculty

Alessandra Passarotti
Ph.D, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1999.
Cognitive Interest Group

My area of research is developmental cognitive neuroscience. I study the development of the brain systems involved in cognitive functions such as attention, visual and spatial processing, in healthy children and clinical populations. Although cognitive and neural functions develop hand in hand, very few studies have addressed both of these aspects of development. To tackle this problem, I combine behavioral paradigms with a new and powerful research tool: fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging). fMRI uses hemodynamic aspects of brain functioning to look at patterns of brain activation while participants perform certain cognitive tasks. Hence, it gives us a very clear picture of the working brain, in vivo.

One area that I have been studying is the development of the two main neural pathways in the brain, called the “What” and “Where” systems, because they are specialized for object and spatial processing, respectively. For example, I have found that even for fundamental cognition, like face and location processing, children show a somewhat different pattern of neural activation as compared to adults. Another area of my research is the study of how interaction between different brain systems affect attention and working memory functions. For instance, I am currently looking at how attentional functions may be affected by efficient communication strategies between the left and right hemispheres of the brain.

Joseph S. Lonstein
Ph.D., Rutgers University, 1997
Neuroscience Interest Group

The general focus of my research program examines the sensory, neural, and hormonal mechanisms involved in the display of parental behaviors in animals. One specific area of research is devoted to understanding how the hormones of pregnancy and lactation alter neurotransmitter activity in the female rat brain in a manner that allows them to act parentally towards their offspring. Some of my research has suggested that changes in activity of the neurotransmitter dopamine occur within areas of the brain that control maternal behavior around the time that females give birth and begin acting maternally. I am now investigating the neuroanatomical pathways by which dopamine reaches these areas of the brain. A new area of research that I hope to begin soon will investigate how hormones affect emotionality in lactating rats. It is well-known that lactating rats are less anxious and fearful than virgin females, and I hope to be able to identify how and where hormones act in the brain to affect these behaviors. Considering that postpartum changes in mood can detrimentally affect some lactating women, I hope that understanding how hormones interact with the brain to influence emotionality in lactating animals will be an important scientific contribution. My last area of research is devoted to understanding how exposure to hormones during early development alters the display of sex differences or similarities in parental behavior in prairie voles - a highly gregarious, monogamous, and biparental rodent species. I also examine how the voles’ early social environment affects their later parental behavior, and have found that female voles that are have extended contact with their own parents during adulthood are more responsive to pups than females that do not have this continued contact. By using a variety of animal species and directions, it will be possible to better understand the maternal brain.
The faculty and graduate students of the Psychology Department have received many awards and grants during the past six months. Here is a sampling of some of these accomplishments. Congratulations to all involved. Way to go!

New funding received this year

Professors Fernanda Ferreira and John Henderson (Cognitive) received funding from the Army Research Office to conduct a conference held here this summer on what eyetracking research contributes to our understanding of the relationship between language, vision, and action.

Hannah Professor Dan Ilgen (Industrial/Organizational) received notification of the continuation of his grant from the Office of Naval Research to continue his work on team structure.

Professor Norb Kerr (Social/Personality) received NSF funding for his proposal “Jury nullification: When and how juries disobey the law.”

Professor Debby Kashy (Social/Personality) received an NSF award to investigate the manner in which technology affects gender equity in science education.

Professor Kelly Klump (Clinical) received two awards from NIH – one for her work on the familial transmission of eating pathology and sex hormones and the second for a study on the genetic and environmental risk for eating disorders.

Matt Lovern (Behavioral Neuroscience graduate student) received support from NIH for his work on the endocrine regulation of sexually dimorphic development. Professor Juli Wade is his faculty mentor.

Professor Richard Lucas (Social/Personality) received NIH funding for his project exploring the relationship between extraversion and positive affect.

Allison Schettini (Clinical graduate student) received an NRSA fellowship for her work on parents, peers, and health risk behavior in adolescence. Her faculty mentor is Professor Susan Frank.

Professor Laura Smale (Behavioral Neuroscience) received NSF funding for her proposal on the “neuroendocrine determinants of mating.” Laura also received NIH funding for her work on the psychobiology of rhythms in diurnal mammals.

Faculty Recognition

Hannah Professor Dan Ilgen (Industrial/Organizational) was awarded the Heneman Career Achievement Award by the Human Resources division of the Academy of Management this August.

Professor Linda Jackson (Industrial/Organizational) and her colleagues received the Gordon Allport award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues for the best paper on intergroup relations. The paper appeared in Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin and was titled “The racial attitudes of blacks and whites: An integrated threat theory analysis.”

In an attempt to make the Alumni Newsletter more timely and current, we are planning on sending it out over email in the near future. In order for this to work, we need your email address. If you would like to receive future newsletters, please take a moment and send us your email address. The easiest way to do this is to send an email message to Julie Detwiler at detwiler@msu.edu. You can also fill out the back page of the newsletter with your current email address. Don’t be left behind - join us in the 21st century! Send us your email address today.
Contributors

Thanks to all the contributors who have generously donated to the Psychology Development Fund. Listed below are January, 2001 through September 2002 donors.

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Thank you for your support!

I am a Psychology Alumnus !! I support Psychology.

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