Chair's Report

As we begin a new academic year, the Psychology department is welcoming a new group of 17 graduate students in its six graduate programs and, as usual, a large group of new undergraduates. If numbers persist as in the past several years, about 400 of these new students will be Psychology majors and about 30 of them will be Honors majors. Our courses are all fully enrolled, but we appear to be meeting the demand for both elective and required courses. After a year resolving the “usual” moving problems in our new building, we have now gone two months with no new reports of air conditioning problems or water leaks and hope the heating system is similarly problem-free when it is engaged this fall. The move has provided much nicer space and, at the present time, it accommodates our various lab and office needs in one location. The Behavioral Neuroscience group continues to occupy space next door in Giltner Hall where they have more ample laboratory space than would be available in the Psychology Building. We invite anyone interested to visit.

We are not faced with the major budget reductions of the last several years this fall. In fact, we have received a significant increase in graduate student support. This increase was crucial as the continuing funds for graduate student support no longer allowed us to recruit competitively and did not provide adequate teaching assistant support for our undergraduate courses. We
are hoping to recruit seven new faculty members this year -- three in cognitive psychology, an applied cognitive psychologist, a social/personality psychologist, a child clinical psychologist, and a senior level person interested in leading and developing a multicultural psychology initiative. The latter position has been proposed for a number of years as a means of increasing our teaching and research expertise in this area as well as our sensitivity to the importance of diversity – both intellectual and demographic. We welcome the administrative confidence in our department represented by these hiring initiatives and the graduate student funding increase.

While these are positive and welcome signs, I believe we must recognize that general fund support for everything but salaries is nearly gone and will almost certainly disappear in the next few years. This means we will need to find alternative sources of funding for student and faculty research, special classroom needs, all supplies and services and any support for travel to conferences (we provide none for travel now). We have initiated a number of activities (e.g., offering online classes during the summer for which the university returns a portion of the tuition) that should help in providing some of these funds, but an increasingly proactive approach to generating funds will be required if we are to maintain and enhance our research and teaching objectives.

We look forward to a busy year and hope that if any of you are in the Lansing area, you will stop by. I and others will be very happy to talk with you and to show you our new space.

A New Associate Chair

Beginning January 1, 2006, Professor Cris Sullivan will take over the duties of the Associate Chair of the Psychology Department. An active researcher in the area of domestic violence, Cris joined our faculty in the Ecological Psychology interest group in 1989. She is a Spartan, through-and-through, having earned her Ph.D. at MSU, too.

After three and a half years as Associate Chair, Bob Caldwell is leaving to take the position of Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Social Science. He will remain half-time in the Department.

We all wish Cris and Bob good luck in their new positions!
**Alumni Notes**

**Peter Snyder** (Ph.D., Clinical, 1992, Lauren Harris) writes that, “After spending 7 years as the principal neuropsychologist for Pfizer Inc., I am returning full-time to academia as a professor of psychology (clinical neuropsychology and behavioral neuroscience) at the University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT). I am also the Associate Editor of the journal ‘Brain and Cognition’. Before starting full-time at UConn in January, I will be doing some field research in southern India (traveling from hospital to hospital by motorbike!).”

**Durand Jacobs** (Ph.D., Clinical, 1953, Al Rabin) was named a “Senior of Distinction” by the Plymouth Village retirement community in Redlands, CA. Durand is a diplomate in clinical psychology and has been a professor of psychiatry at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine since 1978. He has been involved in research into addictive behavior (especially compulsive gambling) for 40 years.

**Sian Beilock** (Ph.D., Cognitive, 2003, Tom Carr) was featured in the September 2, 2005 edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education as one of academic's “Rising Stars.” The article provided a nice summary of Sian’s research into why we choke under pressure. She was also the recipient of the Developing Scholar Award, given by the International Society of Sport Psychology. Sian has recently accepted a job at the University of Chicago.

*The Department of Psychology would like to hear from you. Please send us information about your professional and personal achievements.*

**E-MAIL:** detwiler@msu.edu

**or**

**fax:** 517-432-2476
On April 30, 2004 the clinical interest group hosted an Open House at the new Psychological Clinic. (We sent invitations to as many alumni as we had addresses. If you did not receive one, please contact us with an updated address and phone number.) Every student and faculty in the program pitched in to make the Open House a success. Students were able to secure donations for beverages, table cloths, and flowers. Purchased food was supplemented by delicious desserts baked by members of the interest group. A student musical group played throughout the afternoon and evening.

The celebration had several purposes. First, we wanted to showcase our new, beautiful space to the department, the university, and the community. Lots of hard work and planning went into making the new clinic a stunning, professional facility. The new clinic is housed in a separate wing of the new psychology building. The clinic has its own entrance, near a door to a parking lot with designated spaces for clients. The back door of the clinic serves as an emergency door only. This allows us to eliminate the “walk through” traffic that was a problem in Olds Hall and that compromised our ability to make the clinic its own, integral space. There is now a waiting area for clients with the receptionist’s office immediately off of this space. We have 2 large rooms for group therapy, 2 large playrooms, 2 rooms for family therapy, and numerous individual therapy rooms. In addition, there are separate testing rooms, a conference room, offices for our intake workers and Director, as well as a clinician’s workroom at the far end of the Clinic where students can relax or use computers or eat. Our only regret is that we currently do not have the funds to buy cameras and recording equipment for students to videotape their sessions.

The clinic is now directed by Daniel Greenberg. As far as I know, Dan is the first director of the clinic who is not tenure-track faculty. He works for us ½ time. He has brought lots of energy and new ideas to the clinic. The clinical faculty and students look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration with Dan.

Continued .......
At the Open House, we also celebrated two generous bequests received by the clinical interest group in 2005. The JOHN AND MARGO REISMAN AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY is a gift of $50,000 to the clinical program from Dr. John Reisman and his wife, Margo Reisman. The JOHN HURLEY ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP AWARD FOR DEDICATED STUDY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY was a planned gift of $50,000 to the clinical program from Dr. Hurley and his wife, Dr. Martha Aldenbrand. The interest from these Endowments will be given yearly, as a fellowship, to either an applicant or a student currently enrolled in the graduate program in clinical psychology. The fellowship will supplement this student’s research or teaching assistantship.

John M. Reisman is Emeritus Professor of Psychology at DePaul University in Chicago. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1958. Dr. Reisman is the author of two seminal books in the field of clinical psychology: “A History of Clinical Psychology” and “Principles of Psychotherapy with Children,” both of which were published in second editions. He has published numerous articles in scientific journals on topics such as schizophrenia, the Rorschach, psychotherapy, friendliness, and friendship. Margo Reisman holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from MSU (1956). The Reismans intend their awards to be used to recruit and retain exceptional students of unusual promise, who in turn have the potential to elevate the clinical psychology program to new levels of excellence.

John Hurley was Professor of Psychology at Michigan State University for forty-five years. He earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Iowa in 1953 and later earned a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Hurley was nationally known as a scholar of group psychotherapy. He studied T-groups, group therapy processes, interpersonal theory, leadership in groups, and interpersonal perceptions. He served as the president of the Michigan Group Psychotherapy Society. Besides his contributions to research, Dr. Hurley was also an innovative classroom instructor. He developed a unique three-tiered class format which led students from the recognition of their own group behavior tendencies (and how to research them), to the observation of group dynamics in others, and, finally, to develop and hone group leadership skills themselves. Dr. Aldenbrand is a post-doctoral graduate of the clinical psychology department at MSU. She has a private practice in the Lansing area.

Continued ..........

Margo and John Reisman pose with Anne Bogat, Dan Greenberg, and Neal Schmitt

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It is most fitting that an award, specifically for graduate students, be associated with Dr. Hurley. His former mentees remember him fondly for his kindness and keen interest in their welfare and professional careers. We are delighted that Dr. Hurley’s memory will be carried on through this Fellowship, and we are grateful that future generations of students will benefit from the kindness of Dr. Hurley and Dr. Aldenbrand.

For those clinical program alumni who have not seen our new space, we enthusiastically invite you to visit us. I would love to show you the new clinic as well as the new faculty and student offices and our research space. Please also consider making a gift to the clinical program. Endowments are always welcome, but so are smaller gifts. All the money will be used for the clinical program, whether that is to support student travel or research, purchase assessment instruments, etc. I encourage you to contact me should you wish to discuss a gift, or feel free to visit our web page and donate on-line. If you go to http://psychology.msu.edu/Alumni/OnlineGiving.asp, you will see a hotlink for the “Clinical Psychology Fund.”

But most importantly, please stay in touch. I’d love to hear from you.

Anne Bogat
Professor and Director of Clinical Training

Direct Giving Now Possible

Higher education faces a fiscal crisis and MSU is no exception. Now, more than ever, we need the financial support of our friends and alumni. If you visit our web page (http://psychology.msu.edu), you will see a new link for Direct Giving. When you click this link, you will be on your way to a secure, encrypted, University Development page that will allow you to make a credit card donation to the Psychology Department at MSU. You can give to the department or to one of the six funds to support a specific interest group. These funds are described in more detail on the Direct Giving page.

Thanks for your generosity.
We lost three former faculty members in recent months…

Dr. Donald Johnson died on May 1st, 2005 in Santa Barbara, CA. at the age of 95. Don was a Professor of Psychology at MSU from 1949 until his retirement in 1976. He was the author of several books and many research papers on the psychology of thought. He was a fellow of the APA and past president of the Michigan Psychological Association. In his 90th year he published a book entitled, The Psychology of Humor and Wit. One of his daughters, Paula Diggs, sent the following note with his obituary, “My dad wanted me to be sure to inform his friends and faculty in MSU’s Psychology Department. He felt that his years there were his happiest and most productive.”

Dr. Henry Clay Smith died on July 15th, 2005 in Marlborough, MA. For 38 years he was a Professor in our Social/Personality program, although his interests and writing spanned the I/O program as well. Among his publications were three major textbooks and numerous articles in the areas of personality development, predicting behavior, and industrial psychology. His son, Woollcott Smith, sent the following paragraph about his father, “Henry stove to achieve a richly balanced life in the manner of his idol, Thomas Jefferson. As a scientist, writer, husband, father and grandfather, intellectual, amateur architect, and farmer, he…proclaimed himself to be a happy and fortunate man and an optimist about the human race.”

Dr. Charles Hanley died on September 9, 2005 in East Lansing, MI. He was a Professor of Psychology at MSU from 1954 - 1987. According to his children, he said that never in his life did he imagine that he would be paid for doing something he enjoyed so much! He published his work on personality assessment, child development, and measurement in a variety of journals. Charlie and his wife, Marilyn, were active members of the department and community, often organizing social events welcoming new faculty members and graduate students to MSU. Gourmet cooks, their dinner parties were famous for fabulous food and stimulating conversation. His humor enlivened many of our department meetings and we miss his keen intelligence and quick wit.
After getting my undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College in Maine, I moved to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to conduct my graduate work in personality psychology. I completed my Ph.D. in 2000, and moved to MSU in 2001. I joined a very small interest group (there were only two faculty members who had been at MSU for more than a year), but these colleagues provided a great deal of support, so I quickly settled in. During my four years at MSU, our group has grown. We added two more faculty members in 2003, and we hope to hire one more this year. We now have a strong and energetic group of social and personality psychologists, and I think this is a particularly exciting time to be here.

My research focuses on the factors that lead to stability and change in emotional well-being. I approach these questions from a personality-theory perspective, and I have two main lines of research. First, I investigate the links between personality traits and emotions. When we think about the things that can make people happy, we usually think about the events that occur in people’s lives. People hope to win the lottery or to avoid serious illness; and they often want these things because they believe these external circumstances will affect their happiness. Yet, when researchers examine the factors that correlate with happiness, they often find some surprising results. For example, it seems that the external conditions in our lives only play a small role in determining how happy we will be. Psychologists have conducted a number of studies to examine the effects of various demographic characteristics on well-being, and these studies consistently show that factors such as income, age, education, and even health have only small associations with subjective reports of happiness. In fact, one very famous study even showed that people who won hundreds of thousands of dollars in the lottery were only slightly happier than a group of matched controls. Thus, the external conditions in a person’s life often tell us very little about that person’s happiness.

In contrast, there is strong evidence that how happy we are has a lot to do with our personality. Psychologists know that happiness levels tend to be quite stable over long periods of time, even if many different life events have occurred during the intervening period. In addition, twin studies show that identical twins that were reared apart are actually quite similar in their levels of happiness. Finally, personality researchers have consistently shown that stable personality traits are among the strongest predictors of subjective reports of happiness.

Continued .............
For about 10 years, I have been investigating one particularly strong association, the link between extraversion and positive emotions. Research shows that extraverts—those individuals who are outgoing, gregarious, active, and assertive—report more frequent and more intense positive emotions than do introverts. In my research, I investigate why that might be. For instance, some people have suggested that extraverts might simply be happier than introverts when they spend time with others, whereas introverts might actually be happier than extraverts when they’re alone. To test this possibility my students and I asked participants to carry handheld computers with them for an entire week. At random intervals, these computers would sound an alarm, and when that alarm sounded, participants would complete a survey about what they were doing and how they were feeling. Our results showed that both extraverts and introverts reported more positive emotions when they were with others than when alone. And contrary to many people’s expectations, extraverts were still happier than introverts even when they were alone.

Our research suggests that extraverts have a temperamental predisposition to experience positive emotions that cannot be explained by their greater amounts of social contact. In fact, my colleagues and I believe that extraverts’ greater positive emotionality, rather than their greater sociability, may be their defining characteristic. My students and I are conducting studies to determine whether positive emotions actually make people more sociable. This is part of a larger program of research designed to examine the functions of positive emotions. As part of this larger project, my colleague Brent Donnellan and I are using nationally representative longitudinal studies to see whether happy people make more money, have better health, and even live longer than unhappy people.

My second line of research concerns the ways that people adapt to life events. Using the nationally representative longitudinal studies described above, my colleagues and I have looked at how life satisfaction changes when important life events occur. For example, past research consistently shows that married people are happier than single people, who in turn are happier than widowed and divorced people. One intuitive explanation of this effect is that marriage causes people to be happier and that widowhood and divorce causes them to be less happy. However, our research shows that people who will eventually marry are actually happier than average even before they get married. Furthermore, people do not get a lasting boost in happiness after they get married. Instead, they get a temporary increase, followed by relatively quick return to their initial levels of happiness. Thus, it appears that marriage does not make us happy (though it does have other important benefits)—happy people tend to get married.

I’ve very much enjoyed my first four years at MSU. I feel privileged to be able to conduct research on the topics that fascinate me while being surrounded by interesting and energetic students and colleagues.
Grants - Fall 2005

Cheryl Sisk received three grants from the National Institute of Health. The first one funded her study, “Pubertal organization of brain and behavior.” They also funded her related research, “Steroid hormones during puberty and the organization of reproductive behavior.” Finally, the NIH gave her a grant to fund the “Interdisciplinary training program in Neuroscience.”

Tony Nuñez, along with colleague Lyn Clemens, received a grant from the National Institute of Health to study “Male sex behavior and the development of the pelvic ganglia.”

Juli Wade received three grants from the National Institute of Health. The first grant funded her research “Developmental regulation of brain structure and function.” The second grant was for her study entitled, “Sex differences in brain and behavior development.” Finally, they also funded a project on, “Neural substrates of learning: memory and perception.” Juli also received funding from the National Science Foundation for her work in the “Neuroendocrine regulation of behavioral differences” and to fund and organize the “Ninth and tenth annual meetings for the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology.”

Cynthia Jordan received a National Institute of Health grant for her research in “Androgen targets in a simple behavioral system.”

Marc Breedlove received a grant from the National Institute of Health to study “Hormonal effects on behavior and spinal cord morphology.”

Fernanda Ferreira received a grant from the Public Health Service to study the, “Effects of disfluencies on language comprehension.” Along with Joyce Chai she also received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study “Eye gaze in salience modeling for robust spoken language understanding.”

Anne Bogat and Shallimar Jones received a grant from the National Institute of Health to study “Maternal cortisol as a mediator of prenatal stress and infant temperament.” Anne also received a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health entitled “Undergraduate Medical Education Enhancement.”

Fred Dyer, along with Psychology colleagues Fernanda Ferreira and John Henderson received continued funding from the National Science Foundation for their IGERT training grant, “Sequential decision making as a unifying theme in cognitive science.” John Henderson also has funding from the Army Research Office for his study, “Human gaze control during real world scene perception.”

Richard Lucas and Brent Donnellan received a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for the project “Does emotional well-being promote successful aging?”

Norb Kerr received an award from to study “Group processes and motivation gains.”

Joseph Lonstein received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study “Hormonal influences on differentiation of brain and behavior.”

Deborah Kashy received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study “Collaborative research; Adapting and evaluating online material for undergraduate statistics using LON-CAPA technology.”
Grants (continued)

**Rose Zacks** received a grant from the University of Toronto to study, “Aging: Inhibition and the contents of working memory.”

**Joel Nigg** was funded by the University of Michigan for his research into the “Neurocognitive risks and consequences of smoking.” Along with colleague Karen Friderici, Joel also received a grant from the National Institute of Health for a project entitled “Genetics of ADHD: Haplotype and endophenotype approaches.” Also from the National Institute of Mental Health he received a grant to study “Hormones and sex-different psychopathology.” Finally, he received a grant from NIAAA for the project “Family Study of Neuropsychological Risk for Alcoholism.”

**Hi Fitzgerald** also received a grant from the University of Michigan for his project “Family study of risk for alcoholism over the life course.”

**Ann Marie Ryan** received funding from the American Psychological Foundation for her project entitled, “Sexual orientation harassment in the workplace.”

**William Davidson** received money from Ingham County, MI, to fund his program, “Ingham County adolescent diversion project.”

**Kevin Ford**, along with colleague Michael Moore, received a grant from the Michigan Civil Service to fund the project, “Partnering and consulting capacity development for State of Michigan.” Kevin also is an investigator on a National Institute of Justice project entitled “Problem solving officer training grant.”

**Dan Ilgen**, along with College of Business colleague John Hollenbeck, received a grant from the U.S. Air Force ETTAP to develop, “Squadron Officer School: Leadership development course.” Dan also received a grant from the Office of Naval Research to fund the study, “Organizational structures and adaptation strategies for command and control teams.”

**Robin Miller** received a grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to fund “ATN coordinating center.”

**Cheryl Kaiser** received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study “Racialized explanations: Consequences for intergroup and intragroup processes.”

**Linda Jackson** received a grant from the National Science Foundation for her project, “An ecological systems theory approach to examining the impact or information technology use on children’s cognitive and social development.”

**Sharleen Sakai** received a grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and Ohio State University to study the “Reticulospinal control of reaching.”

**Steve Kozlowski** (along with K. Kline and Y. Xiao) received funding from the Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences for their work “Leadership: Enhancing team adaptability in dynamic settings.” Along with MSU colleague **Rick DeShon** he also received funding from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research for two projects, “Dynamic resource allocation and adaptability in teamwork” and “OPTIMA Lab: Dynamic resource allocation and adaptability in teamwork.”
Homecoming 2005

Professors Bill Davidson and Bob Caldwell greeted alumni at the Psychology table.

The tent was located on the east side of Munn Ice Arena. Food, entertainment, and door prizes made the morning a lot of fun.

Zeke the Wonderdog stopped by the tent on his way to the stadium. In addition to Zeke, Dean Marietta Baba, Provost Kim Wilcox, and President Lou Anna Simon also stopped by to chat with Social Science alumni.

A jazz band of MSU students added to the festive atmosphere.

Our display highlighted our graduate and undergraduate programs.
Thanks to all the contributors who have generously donated to the Psychology Development Fund. Listed below are September 2004 through August 2005 donors.

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