

*From the Chair*

Dear Alumni and Friends of the UM Psychology Department,

As you might expect, the '06-'07 academic year was busy and filled with excitement. This edition of "On Our Minds" provides a glimpse of the activities around the Department. Many of our undergraduate and graduate students achieved acclaim within and outside the University. You will not be surprised that faculty in the top Psychology Department in the country also won awards at home and abroad. But first, I have a few words about changes within the Department.



Terri Lee

It is hard to believe that five years have passed since Dr. Richard Gonzalez (below) became the Department Chair. Rich will be remembered for many modernizations within the Department. He oversaw renovations of community-used space (e.g., library, Pillsbury Conference Room), multi-user research space and the addition of research labs in East Hall. Rich and several staff members spent countless hours developing and perfecting interactive databases and process management tools that help manage the hundreds of courses taught each term, student and faculty records, business records, and many other departmental functions. He oversaw the development of our departmental website 4 years ago, when it was acclaimed as the best such site in the country (more about this later). During Rich's tenure, the Department added a third undergraduate concentration in collaboration with the Biology Department (Neuroscience), and saw the continued growth of our undergraduate concentrators to over 2000 students.

Despite budget cuts during his five years, Rich was able to maintain our graduate program while many were shrinking. Some of Rich's most notable achievements, however, are invisible to most of us. He had great success in retaining our highly sought-after faculty; and he spent countless hours working on efforts to develop a relationship with you, our alumni; such as the newsletter and the annual tailgate event. The entire department thanks Rich for his efforts these last five years.



Richard Gonzalez

As you will no doubt notice, the newsletter this year is shorter and less colorful than the last few years, and the tailgate will be jointly sponsored with the University's Alumni Association. These changes are among many that the Department is making this summer in response to the State of Michigan's budget difficulties. You will also see the effect of this funding loss in our now aging website. We had planned a major update this summer that has been put on hold. Thus, as the new Department Chair, I come to the alumni with hat in hand to ask for your financial support. You will find in each section of the newsletter a reference to a specific need for which we seek your support. From the Chair's Office I will note that the planned website upgrade costs approximately \$30,000. The update will include more information for alumni and will be more easily navigable for students and faculty. I hope this, or other departmental projects, will encourage you to reach for your checkbook! As always, we look forward to hearing from you and about you throughout the year (*psych.alumni@umich.edu*). If you come to Ann Arbor, stop by East Hall and visit, have a tour, sit a while in our beautiful atrium and enjoy our bustling Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa M. Lee".

Theresa ("Terri") M. Lee  
Chair, Department of Psychology

## Graduate Program News

The past year has been exciting and successful for Psychology graduate students, particularly the 49 students who earned doctoral degrees. Last fall, 35 new students began their studies with us—bringing our total number of active graduate students to 203. Our students are a diverse group from all over the world with approximately 16% international students and 31% minority students. Social activities were more frequent last year. The Graduate Office organized six “Afternoon Coffee & Tea Breaks” for the Department so that everyone could socialize with colleagues. In June, the Graduate Council organized a barbecue and canoe outing at Gallup Park.



*Pat Gurin Lecture Series speakers: Tiffany Griffin, Michael Cohn and Julie Hall*

This year, the Graduate Committee designed ways to improve mentoring relationships between graduate and undergraduate students, as well as between faculty and graduate students. We also initiated new workshops to help prepare GSIs to teach. During the winter term, the Graduate Council organized Recruitment Weekend activities including a social event at Sabor Latino and stimulating presentations by **Julie Hall** (“Investigating the emotional and motivational brain”), **Michael Cohn** (“Positive emotions, mental health, and life success”), and **Tiffany Griffin** (“Gender differences in the effects of social class solo status on test performance”) as part of the Pat Gurin Lecture series.

Our graduate students continued their record of excellent teaching. **Lee Newman** (from Cognition & Perception area; Dr. Thad Polk is mentor) and **Derek Nee** (from Cognition & Perception area; Dr. John Jonides is mentor) were selected as two of 20 Outstanding GSIs by the Rackham School of Graduate Studies. In addition, **Julie Hall** (from Personality & Social Contexts area; Dr. Oliver Schultheiss is mentor) won a prestigious NSF Fellowship. We are pleased that 38 new graduate students will join us in Fall '07. We are as eager to hear from our graduate as our undergraduate alumni, so please contact us!



*Lee Newman*



*Derek Nee*



*Julie Hall*

For approximately 10 years, our department has been able to promise students five years of continuing financial support and freedom from concern about tuition or fees. With the decreasing funds available over the last five years, summer support has been reduced. Because our graduate students spend much of the academic year taking classes (years 1-2) or teaching classes for four terms (Years 3-5), much of their research is completed during the summer. Summer stipends provide students with 4 months of full-time research. Full summer support for a single student is ~ \$6,000. Donations to start an endowed, named fund, for which students compete, would be a lasting gift that would reap generations of benefits!

## *Undergraduate Program News*

The Department's undergraduate program continued its unprecedented growth this year, crossing the 2000 concentrator mark for the combined three undergraduate degrees. This year, even with new higher GPA requirements for an Honor's Thesis, 60 students from the graduating class of 850 successfully completed their theses and were honored at our annual graduation celebration on April 27th. The previous week these students, along with other seniors who had completed significant independent research projects, presented posters about their research at the second annual Undergraduate Research Forum. The event drew students and faculty from across the department for a festive afternoon. The stories of two such students are described below.



*2007 Honors Program Award Winners*

**Patrick Bissett** received the Eli Lilly Research & Travel Award (December 2006) that allowed him to attend a research meeting in the spring, and the Tanner Memorial Award (April 2007) to support his ongoing research. Patrick is a third-year Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science concentrator. At the beginning of his second year at UM, Patrick began to work with Dr. John Jonides on research examining how the human brain correctly resolves different forms of interference. His first two studies were presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Houston, Texas. He expects to see this work published shortly. Patrick then joined Dr. Christopher Monk's lab, and through behavioral and fMRI work is attempting to better understand autism in adult and developing populations. In addition to his research experience, Patrick is the copresident of the Undergraduate Psychological Society. After obtaining his undergraduate degree, he plans to earn a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology.



*Undergraduate Research Forum*

**Mariko Sweetnam** graduated in April 2007 with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. This year she worked with Dr. Stephanie Rowley on an Honor's Thesis studying perceived advantage and associated guilt in multi-ethnic children, an area she is very passionate about. She received a Tanner Memorial Award in 2006 that helped support her research costs. She plans to continue her education back home in Canada, in the field of Counseling Psychology, specifically focusing on identity formation.

Our most pressing need in the Undergraduate Program is for funds to support student travel for the purpose of data collection and/or presenting research at meetings. This year, Eli Lilly Company provided the Department with funds to help three students with travel expenses. A growing number of our students are carrying out research for multiple years during their undergraduate career, and their work is very advanced. Attending a national meeting is a terrific career builder and helps many decide to pursue a career in Psychological Science. Wouldn't you like your donation to help a student travel next year? Tiffany Chao, who attended the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology meeting at Asilomar, CA in June 2007, with help from Eli Lilly, said "presenting my thesis project at this meeting is the most exciting thing I have ever done – I'm definitely going to graduate school!"

## Faculty News

**Dr. Fred Morrison** is a key scientist in the NICHD Childcare Network that published an article in the journal *Science* this year about factors that influence learning in America's class-



*Fred Morrison*

rooms. This is but one article exploring in great depth a large data base on American education. The *New York Times* included an interview from Dr. Morrison in the July 2007 article, "When should a kid start kindergarden?"

The article presents evidence about the effect on classroom dynamics of an increasing number of children starting kindergarten a year later than their birth date would allow, often to shield the child from difficulties that can occur with an earlier transition.

**Dr. David Winter** has been named the 2007-2008 International Development and Security Fellow. As a Fellow, Dr. Winter will teach a course on "Psychological Aspects of War and Peace," a topic that reflects his interest in political psychology and the psychological factors in war and peace.

Several of our faculty will be featured at this year's American Psychological Association convention in San Francisco. **Dr. Toni Antonucci** will chair a Presidential symposium, "Integrative Health Care for an Aging Population: Report on a Presidential Task Force." **Dr. Patti**



*Patricia Reuter-Lorenz*

**Reuter-Lorenz** will give an invited address for the Division on Adult Development and Aging; **Dr. Vicky Mays**, a former student, is receiving the APA award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy.

**Dr. Denise Sekaquaptewa and Dr. Amy Kiefer**, Ph.D. '05, co-authored an article in *Psychological Science* (and picked up in the media) examining some of the reasons that college women do not choose a career in Mathematics or related fields. They found that women with a high female gender identity and high implicit stereotyping about gender roles performed worse on final exams in Calculus than women who scored low on these variables. The data suggest that part of the problem with keeping women in such fields is that their self-identity is not congruent with such a career, despite having done well in Mathematics prior to college.



*Denise Sekaquaptewa*

The most recent research improvement in the Department is the Central Assay Facility which will allow hormone assays to be carried out on



*Oliver Schultheiss*

samples from any bodily fluid (e.g., saliva, blood, etc.) for studies with humans or animals.

**Dr. Oliver Schultheiss**, who studies the interaction of personality variables and hormonal changes on perception, worked very hard with Dr. Rich Gonzalez's help to bring this assay laboratory into existence. **Dr. Jacinta Beehner**, a new Assistant Professor who studies how males joining and leaving a female social group of Gelada monkeys in Ethiopia alters their stress and reproductive hormones, will oversee the start-up of the facility and the training of the new staff member.

## Faculty News, continued

**Dr. Terry Robinson's** appointment to the Elliot S. Valenstein Collegiate Professorship in Behavioral Science has been renewed for a five-year term.

The College of Literature, Science and the Arts (LSA) Presented **Dr. Jennifer Crocker** with one of the highest honors the College and University can bestow upon an eminent member of the faculty by naming her the Claude M. Steele Collegiate Professor of Psychology.



Jennifer Crocker

pilot funds from the Department, in collaboration with the College and University's Office for Research. As you can imagine, given the local tight budget, these funds have become much more limited than they once were. Thus, your donation to the Department of Psychology could be designated for assisting faculty research, and you could be instrumental in starting a new research program.

Research performed by many of our faculty members appears in news outlets around the globe. To learn more, visit:

[www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/news/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/news/)

Much of the fine research that increases our understanding of all aspects of behavior and human interactions for which our faculty are leaders in their fields was started with small

## Welcome To Our New Faculty



**Dr. Robin Edelstein** is a new Assistant Professor affiliated with the Personality and Social Contexts area beginning September 2007. Robin earned her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley (1997) and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of California, Davis (2005). She comes to us from the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Edelstein studies how individual differences influence defensive responses to threat, the interpersonal and intrapersonal elicitor of such responses, and the cognitive, emotional, and physiological processes and consequences involved in these responses.



**Dr. Brandon Aragona** is a new Assistant Professor affiliated with the Biopsychology area beginning September 2008. Brandon earned his B.A. in Psychology from West Virginia University (1999), M.S. (2001) and Ph.D. (2004) in Neuroscience from Florida State University. He comes to us from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Aragona's research interests are focused on associative processes essential for individual and species survival.



**Dr. Ethan Kross** is a new Assistant Professor affiliated with the Social Psychology area beginning September 2008. Ethan earned his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania (2001), M.A. (2004) and Ph.D. (2007) in Psychology from Columbia University. Dr. Kross examines the effectiveness of different strategies of adaptively coping with unwanted impulses and unwanted emotions that can undermine one's current goals and well-being.

# UM Psychology Alumni *4th Annual Tailgate*

You are invited to the UM Psychology Alumni 4th Annual Homecoming Tailgate on October 13th at 9:00 AM! **Dr. Rich Gonzalez**, outgoing department chair, will join the new Department Chair **Theresa Lee** in greeting you. This year we will be part of the Alumni Association tailgate event at the Indoor Track Building. All are welcome—you need not be a member of the Alumni Association. In addition to a buffet filled with your favorite tailgate fare, there will be all kinds of goodies, like popcorn, hot pretzels and caramel apples. There will also be activities for the kids, like an inflatable climbing wall. Join us with your family and your **Wolverine spirit!**

*Tickets for the tailgate are \$25 for Alumni Association members; \$35 for non-members; \$15 for current students and children aged 5-12; and the event is free for children younger than age 5. We have football tickets available for \$55 (face value). You're welcome to purchase as many game tickets as tailgate tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. Please RSVP online by October 5th. For more information and to make your reservation, visit the Psychology Dept. website at [www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/) and click the **Tailgate'07 Info quicklink**. Email: [psych.alumni@umich.edu](mailto:psych.alumni@umich.edu). Phone: Jessica Brown, AB'04, 734.647.8104.*

**:: OCTOBER 13, 2007 : TAILGATE : 9:00AM - 12:00PM ::**

**:: HOMECOMING : Michigan v PURDUE : KICKOFF NOON::**

Photo ©UM Photo Services, Bill Wood

## *Alumni News*

**David W. Shwalb** (Developmental Psychology, Ph.D. '85) and **Barbara J. Shwalb** (Combined Program in Education and Psychology, Ph.D. '87) are co-organizers of the February 2008 annual conference of the Society for Cross-Cultural Research ([www.sccr.org](http://www.sccr.org)), to be held in New Orleans. David has been named president-elect of SCCR, an organization dedicated to interdisciplinary research on human behavior. The Shwalbs (now at Southeastern Louisiana University) most recently published "Respect & Disrespect: Cultural and Developmental Origins" for the New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development series.



**Solomon 'Sonny' Cytrynbaum, Ph.D. '71, Professor Emeritus Richard 'Dick' Mann, Ph.D. '58, Adjunct Associate Professor Jerome 'Jerry' Miller, Ph.D. '75,** celebrating 40 years of Project Outreach at the '06 Tailgate.

**Tom Greening** is still practicing psychotherapy in the same office in Los Angeles he went to after receiving his Ph.D. in 1958. He also is on the faculty of Saybrook Graduate School, which has an existential-humanistic orientation, and is a Clinical Professor of Psychology at UCLA where he supervises in the department clinic and facilitates a support group for graduate students. After 35 years as Editor of the Journal



Tailgate '06

of Humanistic Psychology he retired last year but continues as International Editor. He keeps in touch with **Arthur Kovacs** and **Lew Goldberg**, also 1958 classmates.

**Eugenia Patru** (A.B.'69, A.M.'71, M.S.W.'77) was pleased to participate in the Project Outreach newsletter piece (2006). She notes that many of the participants of Project Outreach went on, as she did, to serve young children. She wrote that, "One of my most rewarding professional consultations involved Regina Coeli Child Development Center. This Head Start program serves more than 1,000 children in the five-parish area directly north of New Orleans. Its long term and recently retired Executive Director was instrumental in highlighting this program as one of the very best in the nation. Thus, Project Outreach truly reaches out and enriches the lives of young children well beyond the years during which Project Outreach undergraduates complete their training."



Tailgate '06

## Honor Roll of Donors

**Individual donors to Psychology from July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007**  
*Thank you for your generous gifts! We apologize if any recent donors do not appear; they will be listed in our next issue.*

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*Thank you for supporting Michigan Psychology!!*

## On Our Minds

University of Michigan  
Department of Psychology  
530 Church Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1043

# SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Fourth Annual Psychology Alumni Homecoming Tailgate**  
**Saturday, October 13, 2007 • Indoor Track Building**  
**9:00am—12:00pm.**

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