

Dates to Remember:

December 1 – Admissions application deadline for Ph.D. Program

December 9 - Reading Day: No Classes / Final day to defend a dissertation for January 2012 Graduation

December 16 – Final day to submit final copy of dissertation & exit paperwork for January 2012 Graduation

December 12-17 - Week of Final Exams

December 19 - Fall grades due to Registrar by 5:00 PM

Dec 23 - Jan 2 - Winter Break: University Closed

January 11—OUTREACH Fellowship Application Deadline for Ph.D. Program Applicants

January 16 - Martin Luther King Day: University Closed

January 17 - Spring 2012 Courses Begin

February 1 - Deadline to apply for May 2012 Graduation

February 20 - President's Day: University Closed

March 2-3 - Ph.D. Program Interview Weekend

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Suffolk University Psychology Department Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 1

Fall 2011

The Third Decade, 1987-99: Introduction of the Doctoral Program

By Dr. Bob Webb

This is the third installment of Dr. Webb's series of articles documenting the history of Suffolk's Psychology Department. Previous installments can be found in past newsletters, found online at <http://www.suffolk.edu/college/13026.html>

In the late '80s Suffolk Liberal Arts enrollments began to climb back up again. Nationally, too, perhaps because of the shift to more relevant research topics, Psychology began a comeback, and is now once again, one of the most popular majors. But the changes from experimental remain. In 1990 Experimental became a part of "Research Methods", and the experimental lab experience was totally eliminated. Experimental as a whole is no longer thought of as a lab oriented content area as it used to be, but now is considered simply another method. The use of rating scales, questionnaires, and surveys is now probably the

most common form of research. The reason is clearly the long overdue shift to interest in people over animals. You obviously don't use these research tools with animals of the four legged kind. It was as if we had gone as far as we could go with animal models. Thus, our animal rooms became the Xerox room, and later, with no implications intended, the graduate student office.

Thinking we were doing something wrong in our classrooms, we learned that it was not us. APA reported that the number of PhDs awarded in scientific areas from '70 to '84 had dropped, while the number

of health service providers had doubled. Similarly, the APA membership, from a 50-50 split in the 60s between the academic and professionally affiliated groups, by 1981 was 65% clinical and health service providers, with experimentalists down to 35%. The national scope of the changes became confirmed in 1988 when the experimental group in APA split off to form a new association, the American Psychological Society (Association for Psychological Science)

That was the same year Dr. Lloyd left, I became Acting Chair, and we began a search for

Director of Clinical Training—Fall Semester 2011 Update By Dr. Dave Gansler

It seems that summer went by in the blink of an eye. Here we are busily and more than half-way through the fall semester. From the perspective of clinical training that means we have had a smooth transition from Dr. Sue Orsillo, our previous DCT, to myself. I should thank all the wonderful individuals who have helped orient me to the new

position, especially Jessica Festa, Tracey Rogers, and Gary Fireman.

We warmly welcome ten new outstanding doctoral students into our fold. Nine of those students are enrolled to complete their doctorate with us, while one already has the doctorate in another field of

psychology, and is re-specializing in clinical psychology. For the most part, those students are applying themselves to their academic and research pursuits. In the second year of the doctoral program those students will begin formal supervised training in mental health and health care settings

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In September of 2011, the Psychology Department was joined by Dr. Michael Suvak. I had the chance to sit down with him and get to know the new guy on the block.

Meet Dr. Michael Suvak

Interview by Lauren Vermette

How did you become interested in the field of psychology? What fascinates you the most about what you do?

For the first two years in my undergraduate career I was an engineer major. I realized engineering wasn't for me so I tried to find something that was interesting to me in addition to focusing on math/science subjects, and I stumbled upon Psychology. As to what fascinates me, it would be attempting to understand a process of developing an understanding that's eloquent

and simple but also captures the complexity of human behavior and mental processes.

What drew you to academia?

I'm a naturally curious person; I like to think about things. As a teacher, I enjoy interacting with students both in and out of class. They help me think about what I've been grappling with in a different way.

Who influenced you?

A few people come to mind: As an undergrad at Penn State,

Professor Michelle Newman encouraged me to pursue doctoral work. She told me "you're smart, you're good, you should do it." Also, although not a person, my intellectual development class such as existential philosophy forced me to think about things in a way I hadn't before and to not strictly adhere to social norms and constructs, rather dig deeper in thinking. Shortly after graduated from Penn

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Meet the New Psychology Department Staff by Jessica Festa

We are very lucky to have two new wonderful staff members that have joined our team.



Naomi Gutierrez,
Program Coordinator
An Amherst, Massachusetts native (home to UMass Amherst, Amherst College and Emily Dickinson), Naomi Gutierrez is the newest member of our Psychology Department Team. Naomi joined us in October as the new Program Coordinator. Naomi received her undergraduate degree from Skidmore College where she majored in Classics with a minor in English Literature. Naomi also holds her M.A. in Classics from Rutgers University (and yes she can translate both Latin and Greek, although don't put her on the spot, it's been a while)!

I asked Naomi a few questions so we could all get to know her better and here is what she had to say:

What made you want to work at Suffolk? And more specifically join the Psychology Department team?

Working a corporate job made me eager to get into a position that was related to helping people further their education. Growing up in a college town, I always had the understanding that a lot of important work goes on behind those ivory-tower walls and that a huge number of people participate in making sure students can successfully pursue their goals. I also really wanted to move to Boston as I have a number of friends out here and wanted to experience living in a big city. Suffolk seemed like a really great environment to be part of, as it's not so huge that it becomes impersonal but not so small that people lack the resources to get things done.

Tell us a little about your previous job.

After finishing my master's, I worked for a company that made teacher licensure tests for fourteen states plus two national programs. My department worked on putting together committees of teachers in the states to review the tests in progress and offer feedback. This meant I got to spend a lot of time talking on the phone to people from all over the country. I got called "ma'am" a whole lot.

What is one interesting fact that we don't know about you?

My entire family is musical – my mother was a professional violinist, my father played bass, my brother plays saxophone, guitar and bass, my sister used to play viola, and I play the violin and sing in choruses when I get the chance.

When you aren't working here in the department, where can we find you? What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I'm an avid reader and can't wait to get a new library card. I write short stories and participate in a few different writing groups, both online and in person. I knit, and I love going to concerts – one of the reasons I moved to Boston was the live music scene!

What has been your favorite part of working here so far?

The constant change! Not only is there always something new for me to learn about at my job, I get to spend every day walking through Beacon Hill and seeing everybody from office workers to foreign tourists to school groups.



**Lauren Vermette,
Staff Assistant**

A recent college graduate and a native to Foxborough, Massachusetts, Lauren is no stranger to Suffolk University. Lauren joined our team in June, after receiving her bachelor's degree from our very own Suffolk in May. She is currently working towards her graduate degree through Suffolk as well in the Master's in Public Administration program.

I asked Lauren a few questions to get to know the "face of the department" a bit better, and here is what she had to say:

What made you want to work at Suffolk? And more specifically join the Psychology Department team?

During my undergrad at Suffolk, I worked part time jobs, many of which were at Suffolk. Working full time at Suffolk seemed like the perfect opportunity out of undergrad, as I was already knowledgeable of the University and comfortable with higher education. The fact that I actually was not a Psychology major drew me to the position as it is a new experience for me. I'm gaining insight on something unfamiliar to me, all the while being able to continue my education.

Tell us a little about a previous job.

During the fall of my senior year, I interned full-time in Washington, D.C. at the United States Attorney's Office, Criminal Division, Federal Major Crimes Section. My experience there was unbelievable. It gave me the opportunity to not only live in another part of the country but be exposed to such grand issues on a firsthand level that I'll never forget.

What is one interesting fact that we don't know about you?

When I was in fifth grade I was on Nickelodeon's Slime Time Live. I'm pretty much a celebrity.

When you aren't working away in the department, where can we find you? What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

When I'm not working in the

department, I'm probably in class in another Suffolk building. When I'm not on campus, I'm catching up on sleep, homework, or HBO/Showtime shows. But overall, I love spending time with my family and friends.

What has been your favorite part of working here so far?

I've enjoyed meeting everyone in the department, both faculty, staff and students. Everyone here is so driven and down-to-earth at the same time, it makes work enjoyable. Plus, every day there is something new I learn which always keeps the work day interesting.

Meet the 2011-2012 Psychology Department Student Workers



Becca Baldassari is a senior double majoring in Psychology & Sociology (Crime & Justice). In five years, she plans to be in a grad school pursuing her PhD in Clinical Psychology with a concentration in forensic psychology or a PhD/JD track allowing her to work in the court system. Although born and raised in Boston, she hates Boston sports teams but says she'll never change.



Cassie Barro is a senior Psych major, minoring in Women & Gender Studies. In five years she hopes to be in a PhD program for Child Clinical Psychology, somewhere near Denver, Colorado. She was asked to be a baby model but only if she cut her big, curly hair as "no one would believe a baby has such ridiculous hair."



Andrea Corriveau is a junior Psychology major. In five years, she hopes to have completed her masters degree and be working in a hospital setting with children, while being able to travel quite a bit. Now enjoying city life, she transferred to Suffolk her sophomore year and the courses have made her realize she wants to pursue a career in psychology.



Samantha Lamonica is a senior Psychology major, minoring in English. In five years, she sees herself working as a child life specialist, preferably still in Boston. She hopes her student loans will be paid off and can live comfortable in a brownstone on Beacon Hill. She has a collection of meaningful tattoos, some being a William Faulkner quote and a penguin.



Lorraine Tashjian is a senior Psychology/ Criminology major. In five years, she hopes to be in graduate school, possibly in Criminology or Forensic Psychology, back in her hometown Hong Kong or Berlin. When she was 15, she lived in Guam and played the alto saxophone in the Guam Territorial Band— in 2005 they performed at the Sydney Opera House, winning two gold awards.

Meet Dr. Michael Suvak (Continued)

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State, I worked for two quantitative psychologists, Dan and Linda King. Dan is a Vietnam Veteran, blinded during the war, who obtained his PhD in statistical measurements after returning from Vietnam. He met his wife, Linda, when he returned; I think she was a nurse. She got her PhD too. They were a unique combo of being rigorous academically, while being good managers and overall good people. In grad school, Brett Litz and Stefan Hofmann served as my mentors and directed me along the way. Most importantly, my mother and father's work ethic and my mother's commitment to education were also important sources of inspiration pushing me towards an academic career, and my wife's patience and support through graduate school allowed me to pursue this opportunity.

If you hadn't been a professor, what would you

be? Do you think you still would have pursued a career in psychology?

At this point in my life I wish I was a musician but I have no musical skills. Realistically, if I wasn't a professor I'd probably do something with applied psychology such as marketing research or working as a clinician.

Tell us a little bit about your current research.

There are two areas: The first is looking at the emotion processes that contribute to psycho-pathology (mental disorders). In other words, I'm interested in how emotions involve the convergence from so many different places such as information from the body, the memory, and the external world. The other area of my research interest is the adaption following traumatic experiences. I try to

understand why some people are resilient to positive adaption and what factors might facilitate positive adaption.

What brought you to Suffolk? What do you like best about teaching and working here?

The balance of teaching and research brought me to Suffolk. Although I'm not a clinician per se, I want to do clinical research and mentoring students in the PhD program gives me that opportunity. The best thing about being here is the diversity of what I do, and that the students, both undergrad and grad, are bright and down to earth.

Where did you grow up? Go to school?

I grew up outside of Pittsburg, so I'm a lifelong Steelers fan. My dad was a golf pro and I spent a lot of time working and playing at the golf course. I had aspired

to be a golf pro at one point before doing my undergrad at Pennsylvania State. When I graduated, I moved to Boston to work as a research assistant at the VA and I've been here for 13 years. I got my PhD at Boston University and during that time I married my wife, Jamie, who I had met at Penn State. We had my daughter, Austin, now six years old, at the end of my third year and my daughter Amilia, now three, when I was finishing up my dissertation. After BU, I returned to the VA to do my post-doctoral work and now I'm at Suffolk and Jamie is a licensed mental health counselor.

What are some of your favorite things to do outside of school?

I like to spend time with my family as much as possible. I enjoy listening to all different types of music, usually singer/song-writers, jazz, and I'm trying to get into classical. Right now my favorite artist is probably Amos Lee. I'm also big into reading. I enjoy classics and books on philosophy and religion.

Department History by Dr. Bob Webb (Continued)

“Dr. Demick provided the extra energy needed to pull all the details together, and the whole department was infused with new excitement and optimism.”

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from Iowa took one look at housing prices here compared to Iowa and bowed out. Fortunately we had a good second choice in Jack Demick, an academic/ clinician/ researcher already resident in the area. Not long after his arrival in 1989, we began to petition the administration for permission to begin a graduate program directed at a PhD in Clinical Psychology. Though we had considered graduate program additions in the past, they had been denied, but now the times were right, because also in 1989 David Sergeant took

over as President of the University. He had been Dean of the Law School with a long history at Suffolk, and he brought a refreshing new vision to the University. Suffolk had no PhD level programs, but he felt that to be a first rate university we needed to move in that direction. We had done our homework, and found that there was a need for such a program. The President was very receptive to our plan, and thus it was that we got the green light for Suffolk's first PhD program.

Dr. Demick provided the extra energy needed to pull all the details together, and the whole

department was infused with new excitement and optimism. We began planning, arranging for practica and placements, designing curriculum, and setting policies. However, introducing the doctoral program proved more difficult than anticipated, primarily, I think, because Suffolk had never had a PhD program before. No one from the administration had run a PhD program, and did not really understand some of the fundamental differences from undergraduate programs, so we were pioneers, selling ourselves to the administration, and setting policy for things we could hardly visualize.

Continued on next page

We rather felt our way along, with Jack urging us on to get something in place and not to worry if it was perfect. We began to add faculty, with Drs. DiBiase and Wells joining us and were ready enough by 1995 to welcome the arrival of the first graduate students.

However, the speed of the whole process began to reveal problems. Inevitable frictions arose over space restrictions, heavy work loads, uncertain responsibilities, and differences of opinion as to the proper direction of the program. Pres. Sergeant continued to be very supportive, and to address some of these difficulties, in the next five years allowed us to add seven more faculty members, more than doubling our size. We were able to add much needed space by adding temporary spaces on the 24th floor of 1 Beacon St. These offices were magnificent, with a view up the coast all the way to Marblehead, but the separation of these faculty members from the rest of the department did not help the cohesiveness problems.

In 1999, I think it was, we all got together again on the sixth floor of the Donahue Building. It felt comfortable to Dr. Katz and me as we remembered having started out on the fifth floor of Donahue in the departmental beginnings more than thirty years before. Our offices were all together again and we had staff space and even modest research space. We were finally looking like a department once again, and were very busy preparing for our accreditation visit from APA. In order to become accredited, a department had to have graduated a class, and this would happen for the first time in the spring of 2000. Dr. Basseches, though really half-time, was taking the lead on our preparations with the assistance of Dr. Harkins who was conducting the extensive self-study required. I remember Dr. Sandberg writing endless policies at a moment's notice, and Dr. Bursik shepherding the undergraduate program which was in danger of getting lost in the expansion. The big moment was approaching with all of us filled with anxieties and anticipation.

Dr. Demick gave me some tasks

involving physical spaces, since I was not a clinician and apparently did not have enough to do. I realized that we could get almost anything we needed before the visiting committee's arrival, but were likely to find it much harder after. So I went for permission to add a small graduate lounge space, since the graduate students had nowhere to go but their own offices. The request was granted in grand style, with the university's architect taking it on, and the newly acquired New England School of Art and Design at Suffolk University sending an interior designer to pull it all together beautifully. It was barely finished in time for the big visit, with some of the paint hardly dry, but the committee liked it so well they spent nearly all their time there.

However, it was after the end of the '99/2000 year, but before the visit, that Dr. Demick left to take a job as Director of Research at UMass Medical School in Worcester. I agreed to be dusted off and installed as Acting Chair at a moments notice, and we went on with the visit. Our hard work paid off, as the Visiting Committee was enthusiastic about our program, and we were accredited for three years, the maximum possible for a new program.

Throughout the introduction of our new PhD program we had made an effort not to ignore our undergraduates. All of the faculty were teaching at least one course of undergrads, a policy we have continued, and which kept us more cohesive and inclusive of them. We had many outstanding undergrads in this decade, but a few outstanding ones come to mind. **Jeffrey Bouffard '92** went on to get his PhD at the University of Maryland in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and is presently an Associate Professor at Sam Houston University. **John Smolinsky '97** stayed on for our new program and, since getting his PhD in 2007, has been working at the Bedford VA hospital. **Cynthia Davis '98**, while en route to her 2009 PhD at Tufts University in Child Development, began teaching with us and still is. I might note here that our post-Suffolk academic achievers are certainly not the only students we are interested in, and whose careers we value, but they tend to be the ones we hear about most. Let us

hear about your lives after Suffolk. Maybe we will add a column for alumni in future newsletters.

Though I had been contemplating retirement when tapped for my new challenge, by the end of the academic year 2000-'01 I was no longer acting, and became the Chair again. But that takes us to the next and last decade, and that is for another time.

Fall Colloquia Recap

By Dr. Michael Basseches

On October 19th, Dr. John Kelly of MGH presented a colloquium containing a wealth of data indicating the effectiveness of mutual help groups in addictions treatment. The data was clearly too important to ignore, yet there is much still to figure out about exactly how to translate the findings into clinical practice. On November 30 at 2PM, our own Dr. Lis Moes will present a colloquium beginning with her thoughts on the matter, entitled Working Clinically with Substance Abuse and Addiction.

DCT Update (Continued)

Continued from page 1

which will continue for most of their tenure here at Suffolk University. On the other end of the spectrum are our students who have completed their coursework and a good deal of their practicum and research training, and are engaged in the process of applying for clinical internship. The clinical internship, along with the doctoral dissertation, is the capstone of the doctorate in clinical psychology. Twenty of our students are applying both locally and nationally to a wide range of hospital, community, counseling, and clinic settings. Soon they will receive their interview invitations, and will be traveling around the country in pursuit of the opportunities that best fit their professional goals. We wish them the best of luck in that process and know that they are excellent ambassadors for our program. Our undergraduate students are encouraged to get as much information as they can from our graduate students about graduate school.

In other news, it is with sadness that I announce that Professor David Pantalone will be leaving his position here to take a similar position across town at

UMass-Boston. Dr. Pantalone has made great contributions to the department as an instructor and highly productive scholar. He has distinguished himself and the department with his work in psychotherapy outcome, chemical dependency, and diverse populations. Dr. Pantalone's graduate instruction in psychopathology and undergraduate instruction in human sexuality will be particularly missed. Through his active mentoring role his students have developed excellent scholarship records and are well prepared for clinical internship and their careers beyond that.

“Our undergraduate students are encouraged to get as much information as they can from our graduate students about graduate school”

I am very happy to announce that Professor Michael Suvak has joined our faculty and is already making great contributions to our undergraduate and graduate programs. Dr. Suvak is an expert in psychopathology, and he will fill in admirably as the new graduate instructor for Psychopathology. Dr. Suvak is an experienced researcher with interests in borderline personality and post-traumatic stress disorder, and the role emotion plays in mental disorders. We look forward to his contributions to the department and to our field in general.

Finally, the department's October colloquium with

speaker Dr. John Kelly was a great success. Dr. Kelly is a nationally noted expert on the treatment of alcohol use disorders and gave an informative talk on the state of the art in this area. His talk was a great success and enjoyed by all the faculty,



UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

*A note from Psych Club President,
Taylor Gray '12*

The Suffolk Psychology Club is open to all undergrads that have an interest in Psychology. This spring, we will be holding regular meetings to discuss various fields of Psychology as well as what is going on in the Suffolk Psychology Department. Our aim is to help students develop their interests in Psychology, learn about the various fields available, and prepare them for future professional and educational opportunities. We also seek to form a stronger sense of community within the Psychology Department.

**Want more information? Check us out at
[http://suffolk.collegiatelink.net/
organization/psychologyclub](http://suffolk.collegiatelink.net/organization/psychologyclub)**

Undergraduate Advising: One Year into the New Procedure

Edited by Lauren Vermette.

In the summer of 2010 Dr. Wells was named Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, responsible for the academic advising of all freshmen and sophomore Psychology majors. Now a year into the process, Dr. Wells was asked to reflect.

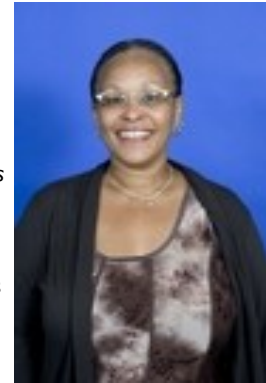
With Staff Assistant, Lauren Vermette, we have put in place a new system to help faculty keep track of advisees and give a brief record of what the student has been taking and any issues the student wants his or her advisor to keep in mind. We hope that our new on-line brief survey re-creates some of the past mentor connections between advisor and student and gives faculty a record to refer to when students have issues around advising.

We have also set up group advising times in order to be sensitive to students needs to increase availability and efficiency. These have been popular and help faculty clear a number of students at once. Something of an advising fair complete with doughnuts, the group advising sessions turn out to be the place where students can get a little bit of everything they need. There are other students who know how to access the MySuffolk system well. The Chair might drop in and offer advice on future plans after graduation. Other faculty offer back-up so this is a good time to meet advisors other than Dr. Wells and students can run necessary errands such as seeing the Dean for a signature, dropping of a major or minor change form with the registrar, or attending to a financial aid issue with the advisor right there in the room so they can come back and consult further if necessary.

Challenges will continue, as we try to provide the desired one-to-one face time for all undergraduates. Students can help the process by coming early and preparing well with their program evaluations and visiting their advisors at times other than registration. The Office of Undergraduate Advising is a good place to go to get a run down on just how to obtain the program evaluation and operate the wish list.

I would like to thank all Psychology majors who have met with their advisors for the Spring 2012 registration either face to face or in group advising sessions. I want you to know that you can still come and meet with me to talk about anything pertaining to your plans to complete the major or your general plans for what to do post-graduation. Please e-mail me for an appointment in the coming weeks. It is never too late to talk about your plans in Psychology. In addition, Gary Fireman, the Chair of the Psychology Department, invites all students who wish to meet to email him and set up a time: gfireman@suffolk.edu

I would also like to thank the Chair of Psychology, Gary Fireman and other faculty members who have gone over their advising quotas to meet the needs of Psychology majors this advising season.



For more information about undergraduate advising, visit our webpage: <http://www.suffolk.edu/college/43415.html>

Psychology Dissertation Research Award

The Psychology Department plans to acknowledge outstanding academic achievement of a graduate student engaged in dissertation research through a new Psychology Dissertation Research Award. This is a meaningful opportunity for alumni, parents, and friends to contribute to the success of a deserving Ph.D. student. You can be confident that your donation of \$25 or more will directly benefit the Department's award winner, to be announced in March. If you have already made a contribution, THANK YOU! If you have not, but would like to, please see the link below to make your gift online. Under "Area of Giving" please select OTHER and enter: **Psychology Award**.

<https://www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=suffcont>

If you prefer to send a check by mail, please indicate "Psychology Award" on the MEMO line and remit to:

Suffolk University
Office of Advancement
8 Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Alumni Highlight: PhD Program

Dana Wiebe Moore '07

Dr. Dana Wiebe Moore is a 2007 graduate of Suffolk University's Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology. While at Suffolk, she concentrated in neuropsychology and was part the Brain Image Analysis lab under the mentorship of Dr. David Gansler. Her pre-doctoral research involved the use of neuro-imaging to identify brain structures that play a role in various cognitive and emotional processes, and her dissertation focused on brain bases of creativity. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York, where she is now an Instructor of Neuropsychology in the Department of Neurology and Neuroscience. Dr. Moore's current research is in the use of advanced neuro-imaging techniques to further our understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of neurologic conditions such as Alzheimer's Disease and Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH), and she is a current recipient of the Hydrocephalus Association's Young Investigator Award. In NPH, cerebral spinal fluid can build up in the brain and cause serious neurologic complications. Dr. Moore is helping to develop state-of-the-art imaging tools neurologists can use to better diagnose and determine response to treatment in NPH patients. Dr. Moore also continues to collaborate with colleagues here at Suffolk on projects involving the study of the brain and creative thinking. She is author on a number of publications and was recently honored by the university when she was selected to receive the Suffolk University Young Alumni Award.



Dr. Moore is joined by Drs. Dave Gansler and Irene Piryatinsky after receiving the Suffolk University Young Alumni Award

Moira Creedon '11

While born in Cleveland, Boston has become a home to Dr. Moira Creedon after 12 years. She moved to attend Boston College and has stayed since then. Moira worked for a few years at Children's Hospital in research before entering graduate school at Suffolk. After completing her internship and post-doc at Cambridge Health Alliance and completing her dissertation, she accepted a staff clinician position at the Manville School at Judge Baker Children's Center, a therapeutic day school for children between the ages of 6-16. Manville was her first practicum site and she is thrilled to return! Moira is providing individual, group, and family therapy with some assessment experiences as well. Aside from the professional info, Moira is married and enjoys BC football games, going to the Cape, and reading, now that she finally has time to not read for school!



What is your favorite memory of Suffolk?

"My favorite memories are Suffolk include speaking at Commencement which was such an incredible honor, hearing Dr. Ray call me "Dr. Creedon" just after my dissertation defense, and some relaxed bonding time with my classmates at the 21st after Stats class on Fridays."

Do you have any advice for current graduate students at Suffolk University?

"My advice for current students is to develop good relationships with faculty and cultivate good connections with fellow trainees, supervisors, and mentors at your community practicum or research sites. Keeping in touch with people you've enjoyed working with and respect is incredibly enriching. Supervisors and mentors at Suffolk and in the community were always available for career advice at each step of the process. It's through these relationships that I found my way back to working at Manville!"

**Graduate Commencement 2011
Student Speaker
Moira Creedon, PhD Clinical Psychology '11**

Alumni Highlight: Undergraduate Program



Cynthia R. Davis, Ph.D., graduated cum laude from Suffolk University in 1998 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Philosophy. She went on to study human development and psychology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where she worked with Dr. Stuart Hauser examining resilient functioning. She earned her Master's degree from Harvard in 2002. From there, Cynthia served as the editorial assistant for the *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, and worked as a research assistant in the Lifespan Developmental Psychology laboratory with Dr. Margie Lachman at Brandeis University. She received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development at Tufts University in 2009. While at Tufts, she worked with Dr. Ann Easterbrooks on an evaluation Healthy Families Massachusetts. Healthy Families is a program for young mothers funded by the Children's Trust Fund and the State of Massachusetts that promotes positive parenting and educational attainment for mothers aged 20 and under, while aiming to reduce rates of child abuse and neglect, as well as early repeat pregnancies.

Cynthia is now the project director of the Paths Over Time and Across Generations Project, a longitudinal study, founded by Stuart Hauser in 1979. The project, currently headed by Dr. Judith Crowell, is now in its 32nd year, and the original participants, who were in their early teens at its onset, are now in their mid-40s. The current phase examines psychosocial predictors, including attachment relationships, ego development, and experiences with racism and discrimination, of metabolic syndrome (risk for cardiovascular disease, Type II diabetes, and stroke), and is actively recruiting a new sample of African American and Black Caribbean participants from the greater Boston area.

Cynthia is also a part-time lecturer at Suffolk University, teaching courses in General Psychology, Behavioral Statistics, and Research Methods. Several of her former Suffolk students also work with her on the Paths Over Time project as research assistant interns. Cynthia's own research interests include resilient functioning and psychosocial development across the lifespan, adolescent developmental theory, child development in diverse family constellations, and research and statistical methodology. Cynthia now resides in Wakefield, with her husband, Steve, and her 16 month old daughter, Millie. She still sees many of her Suffolk alumni friends quite frequently, and she has been a member of Suffolk University's College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board of Directors

What is your favorite memory of Suffolk?

"It's hard to pick one favorite memory of Suffolk. However, a study abroad trip to London and Prague in 1996, would probably be near the top. I was only 19, and I had never been to Europe before. Needless to say, the experience was both humbling and enlightening. Not only did I learn so much about European history, its culture, the transitions it was undergoing at the time, but the trip allowed me to develop a new, broader world view. I also met a group of wonderful individuals on that trip who remain dear friends even to this day.

As an undergraduate, I also enjoyed participating in various student activities. I was a member of the psychology club, and I served as an orientation leader for two summers. However, when I think about what impacted me most during my time at Suffolk, it was without a doubt the mentorship I received working as a research assistant with Associate Dean Kris Bursik and as a student in her class. She set the bar high in terms of her expectations and had faith in me during my undergraduate studies. I still have a wonderful relationship with Associate Dean Bursik, and she continues to serve as a truly inspiring role model and supportive mentor in both my research and teaching."

Do you have any advice for current undergraduate students at Suffolk University?

"If I were to offer advice to students it would be to really tap into the resources that Suffolk has to offer. It is easy in some schools to get lost in the shuffle and coast on by, but at Suffolk, I found it was easy to make a name for myself if I put forth the effort. There is no doubt in my mind that I am where I am today because of my experiences at Suffolk. Get involved in activities, in the classroom, and with your fellow students. Each has the potential to serve you in both your professional life and your personal life well in the future."

Personal Announcements

Susie Michelson is now engaged to Lee Margolis.

Lauren Mizock got married October 1, 2011 to Daniel Flis, MD in Massachusetts.

Kerry Silvia and husband, Justin welcomed their son, Desmond Thomas Silvia, on September 3, 2011 (6 lbs., 12 oz., 18 ½ in.).

Tristan Guarini married Sara Leckey on October 9, 2011



Desmond Thomas Silvia

in *Elle Magazine* and the *Shambhala Sun*. Furthermore, reviews of Drs. Roemer and **Orsillo's** book *Mindfulness and Acceptance-Based Behavioral Therapy in Practice* were published in *Human Givens Journal* and the *Journal of Mental Health*.

Johnny Lee, Ph.D. is now a Morgan Postgraduate Fellow at Northwestern University

Shelley L. Rattet, Ph.D. is currently the senior neuropsychologist at the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, where she supervises and runs training seminars. **Dr. Rattet** also opened a private practice in Natick, MA a few years ago and is enjoying the combination of clinical work and teaching.

Dolly Sadow, Ph.D. was the 2011 recipient of the Mike Neale Award from Division 18.

Christina Theodore-Oklota, Ph.D. is now a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Anesthesiology at Stanford University Medical Center.

Professional Announcements

Stephanie Czech became a Champions of Excellence Employee Recognition Nominee of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center.

Stacy Horner, MA and **Gary Fireman, Ph.D.** Won the Best Article Award from the Journal of School Psychology and the Society for the Study of School Psychology.

Maddie Karpel, MA received a dissertation award from the David Caul Graduate Research Grant Committee of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation.

Lauren Mizock, Ph.D. is currently completing a 2-year research fellowship at the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation at Boston University. She has a book in press with **Debra Harkins, Ph.D.** with Information Age Publishing, entitled, "Research Race: Social Constructions in the Research Process." Lauren also

published 4 articles in the past year.

Sue Orsillo, Ph.D. served on two grant review panels: A Special Emphasis Panel for the National Institute of Health on Conflicts and Eating Disorders and the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology Innovative Grants Program. **Dr. Orsillo** and alumnus **Christina Theodore-Oklota, Ph.D.** submitted a grant entitled *Developing and Piloting Project Compass: A Web-based Program Aimed at Reducing the Prevalence and Consequences of Relational Aggression* to the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The language rights to **Dr. Orsillo's** book *The Mindful Way Through Anxiety*, co-authored with Liz Roemer have been sold to be translated in Spanish, German and Finnish, and it has been awarded the Self-Help Seal of Merit by the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Reviews of the book have been published

Departmental Happenings

Publications

Crosby, K., **Fireman, G.D.**, Clopton, J. (2011) Differences between non-aggressive rejected children and popular children during problem-solving. *Child & Family Behavior*

Czech, S. J., Katz, A. M., & Orsillo, S.M. (2011). The effect of values affirmation on psychological stress. *Cognitive Behaviour Therapy*

Fuchs, C., **Lee, J.K.**, Roemer, L. & **Orsillo, S.M.** (in press). Clinical considerations in using acceptance and mindfulness-based treatments with diverse populations. *Cognitive and Behavioral Practice*.

Katz, A. M., Czech, S. J., & Orsillo, S. M. (2011). *Putting values into words: An examination of the text characteristics of*

values articulation. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Huang, K. & Ayoub, C. (2011). Crooked Trees Growing Straight: The Experiences of Boys Transitioning off the Streets of La Paz, Bolivia. In H. Fitzgerald, K. Puura, M. Tomlinson & C. Paul (Eds.), *International Perspectives on Children and Mental Health: Development and Context* (pp. 1-34). Santa Barbara: Praeger.

Jackson, M. A., Pantalone, D. W., Andrasik, M. P., & Simoni, J. M. (2011, August). *Factors facilitating the initiation of abusive partnerships among HIV-positive sexual minority men*. Poster presented at the 2011 American Psychological Association Conference in Washington, D.C.

Garcia Coll, C., & **Marks, A. K.** (2011).

The Immigrant Paradox in Children and Adolescents: Is becoming American a developmental risk? Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

McLaughlin, N.C.R. & Greenberg, B. (2011). Other Biological Approaches to OCD. In: G. Steketee (Ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of Obsessive Compulsive and Spectrum Disorders*. Oxford University Press: New York, NY.

Yeterian, J. D., Dow, S. J., & Kelly, J. F. (in press). Ensuring retention in longitudinal studies: A practical evaluation of an intensive follow-up protocol and suggested adaptations. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*.

Kelly, J. F., & **Yeterian, J. D.** (in press).

Empirical awakening: The new science on mutual-help and implications for cost containment under health care reform.

Substance Abuse.

Levin, R., **Fireman, G.**, Spendlove, S. & Pope, A. (2011). The relative contribution of affect load and affect distress as predictors of disturbed dreaming. *Behavioral Sleep Medicine*, 9, 1-11.

Professional Presentations

Asher, Y., Horner S., Fireman, G., & Swenson, L. (2011). *College students' perceptions of cyber-bullying versus traditional bullying*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society, Washington, DC.

Coyne, L. W. (Chair) (2011, July). Translating research to practice: exploring act constructs in youth and families, and informing interventions. Symposium accepted for presentation at the Association for Contextual and Behavioral Science (ACBS) Annual Conference, Parma, Italy.

Coyne, L. W., Hayes, L., Livheim, F., & Pergolizzi, B. (July, 2011). ACT for kids, adolescents, and families: state of the art and future directions. Panel discussion accepted for presentation at the Association for Contextual and Behavioral Science (ACBS) Annual Conference, Parma, Italy.

Coyne, L. W., Shea, S. E., Thompson, A., Boudrow, A. & Martinez, E. R. (2011, November). The role of maternal experiential avoidance in child internalizing behaviors and parent-child dysfunction in a preschool sample. In P. Chan (Chair) and L. Roemer (Discussant), from *Reducing Child and Youth Anxiety Through Mindfulness and Acceptance-Based Treatment Components: Linking Research to Practice*. Symposium accepted at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy (ABCT) Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada.

Coyne, L. W., Hayes, L., McHugh, L., Cairns, D., & Allen, R. (2011,

October). ACT, RFT, ABA: Extensions with Parents. In L. W. Coyne (Chair), *Australia and New Zealand acceptance and commitment therapy convention*. Panel Discussion conducted at Brisbane, Australia.

Coyne, L. W., Kashdan, T., Ciarrocchi, J., Bond, F., McHugh, L., & Atkins, P. (2011, October). ACT & RFT: Advances in the Literature. In L. W. Coyne (Chair), *Australia and New Zealand acceptance and commitment therapy convention*. Panel Discussion conducted at Brisbane, Australia.

Coyne, L. W., & Hayes, L. (2011, September). One-Day ACT Workshop: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Children, Teens, and Families: Getting Experiential in Family Work. In L. W. Coyne (Chair), *Australia and New Zealand acceptance and commitment therapy convention*. Workshop conducted at Brisbane, Australia.

Coyne, L. W. (2011, September). ACT for Children and Families: Skill Building for Work with Challenging Clients. In L. W. Coyne (Chair), *Australia and New Zealand acceptance and commitment therapy convention*. Workshop conducted at Brisbane, Australia.

Coyne, L. W. (2011, October). ACT for Children, Tents & Families. In L. W. Coyne (Chair), *Australian Psychological Society's child, adolescent and family psychology interest group*. Two-Day workshop conducted at Adelaide, Australia.

Coyne, L. W. (2011, July). One-Day ACT Workshop: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Children, Teens, and Families. In L. W. Coyne (Chair), *Association for contextual and behavioral science (ACBS) annual conference*. Workshop conducted at Parma, Italy.

Coyne, L. W. (2011, June). Finding the Joy in Parenting: Doing What Matters. In L. W. Coyne (Chair), *Cluster parent to parent day*. Keynote Address conducted at the Action for Boston Community Development South End, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. **Forbes, H. E., Bursik, K., & White-Ajmani, M.L.** (2011, August). Differential predictors of relational aggression and prosocial behavior. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Massie, K., & Bursik, K. (2011, May). Affective reaction to first coitus and future sexual behavior in college women. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

Roemer, L. & **Orsillo, S.M.** *Acceptance-based behavioral therapies in practice*. A workshop presented at the University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, Connecticut.

Dissertation Defenses

Noreen Donovan successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on August 18, 2011 entitled: Reading Styles of Mothers of Children with Autism: Can Video Modeling Improve Mothers' Encouragement of Attention and Imitation During Picture Book Reading?

Amy Schropp successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on May 27, 2011 entitled: Substrates of Aggression Among Juvenile Offenders.

Joshua Smith successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on August 12, 2011 entitled: Development of Mixed Emotions: Can Young Children Integrate Opposite Valenced Emotions.

Thomas Smithyman successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on August 18, 2011 entitled: The Long-Term Psychosocial Adjustment of Elementary School Victims of Bullying.

Peter Vernig successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on June 21, 2011 entitled: Drinking Motives and College Alcohol Problems: A Prospective Study.



Dr. Lisa Coyne and her Australian Collaborator, Dr. Louise Hayes

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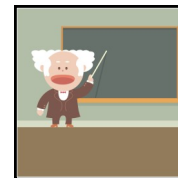
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This Newsletter was
brought to by you:
Lauren Vermette,
Editor-in-Chief

Chair's Notes by Dr. Gary Fireman



With Thanksgiving upon us, it is a busy time of the semester with activities and studies in full swing yet new applicants visiting campus and contacting the department to learn about the opportunities available in psychology. Our efforts continue to be directed at creating a supportive atmosphere where students develop friendships, collaborate on projects, provide service to the community, and have opportunities to grow. It is important to recognize that according to a recent Wall Street Journal report, Psychology is the 5th most popular major in the Nation's Colleges and Universities, and here at Suffolk University it is one of the top 3 in terms of Undergraduate Majors. Our Undergraduate Majors combined with our large Doctoral Program creates a vibrant departmental community with wonderful opportunities for interaction and learning. A review of this newsletter tells the story of the impressive activities and accomplishments of our students and faculty just over the past 6 months. Clearly, the Psychology Department is an exciting place to be at Suffolk University.

As seems to be the case in every newsletter there has been personnel change in our department again. Most of this change has occurred with the staff. Pamela Petras, our amazing Program Administrator for many years, has moved to Hawaii! Her skill, grace, and leadership will be missed. But we can all smile knowing how happy she is in fulfilling her dream to live in Hawaii. We can also smile and have confidence moving forward as Jessica Festa was promoted to be our new Program Administrator. We all know that Jessica has already made so many notable contributions to functioning of the department and we are thrilled she has been promoted to a position of greater leadership and management. This promotion is well deserved. Speaking of leadership, Jessica had to hit the ground running as we also hired two new staff whom she has been training and supporting. Early in the summer Lauren Vermette joined the team and then this Fall Naomi Gutierrez came on board. Both have already made a great impression and have demonstrated extraordinary talents. Both Lauren and Naomi are introduced in this newsletter. Please join me in welcoming them to the department.

We also have a new Faculty member to welcome, Dr. Michael Suvak. He comes to us after obtaining his doctorate in psychology from Boston University and has been working on research examining the impact of being exposed to trauma events at National Center for PTSD located in the VA Boston Healthcare System (Jamaica Plain Campus). He already has an impressive record of 29 publications and brings expertise in the areas of Trauma, Emotion, Psychopathology and Research Methodology. Although he happens to be a Pittsburgh Steelers fan we are still thrilled that he has joined our faculty. He has already demonstrated a wonderful commitment to the students and to supporting the department.

Finally, let me anticipate another major change in the department of which I will write about more fully in our next newsletter. This is the last semester for Professor Bob Webb who will be retiring at the end of this year. Bob is the longest serving faculty member in our department as he arrived in the 1960s! He has served the department and University in many capacities including Chair for many years and has touched the lives of countless students. You have recently seen his interesting accounts of the history of the department through this newsletter. Please join me in this early and heartfelt Thank You to Professor Bob Webb for all his contributions to Suffolk University and the Psychology Department.

