



Psychology Department Newsletter

Suffolk University

Volume 8, Issue 3
Spring 2006



Important Dates:

- May 1-6: Final Exam Week
- May 15: Summer I Courses Begin
- May 20: Graduate Student Commencement
- May 21: Undergraduate Commencement
- May 29: Memorial Day (University Closed)
- June 14: Research Methods Comprehensive Exam
- July 4: Independence Day (University Closed)
- July 5: Summer II Courses Begin
- August 31: Ph.D. Program Orientation

Inside This Issue:

Psi Chi Induction	1
Internship—Placements & Post-Docs	1
Graduate Student Publication Award Article	2
Edith Kaplan Tribute	2
Departmental Happenings	3 & 4
CAS Conference	5
Keeping Up With The Diversity Committee	5
Chair's Notes	6

Psi Chi Inducts Nineteen By Jessica Lillie

The Suffolk University chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology inducted nineteen juniors and seniors on April 20, 2006. They are:

Nicole Addonizio
Siti Azmi-Dubey
Heatherjean Byrne
Christopher Chartier
Elizabeth Dill
Sumner Flynn
Diana Fritts
Jason Giombetti
Katherine Jaggard
Virginia Jagodzinski
Catherine

Lamoureux
Elizabeth LoRusso
Lisa Marsland
Catlin McGee
Danielle Mulcahy
Tiffany Parcell
Kerri-Ann Snyder
Jennifer Simard
Mairim Soto

Please join us in congratulating them on this accomplishment!

The academic requirements for Psi Chi include the following:

- Junior or senior class status
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Attainment of at least a 3.3 GPA in all courses in psychology
- Completion of at least 5 courses in psychology at Suffolk University

If you would like additional information about Psi Chi or the Undergraduate Honors Program, please contact Dr. Bursik.



Internships Placements and Post-Docs for 2006-2007

All graduate students are required to complete 1600 hours of internship to fulfill advanced program requirements. The internship program must be an organized sequence of professionally supervised training experiences sponsored by a institution or agency which prepares students for the practice of professional psychology. Students eligible to apply for internship attend workshops throughout the year where they have opportunities to review the AAPIC Application guidelines for Psychology Internship Centers. The APPIC Internship Matching Program ("Match") places applicants into psychology internship positions at training sites in the United States and Canada. The Match is sponsored and supervised by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). The Match is administered on behalf of APPIC by National Matching Services Inc.

Congratulations to the Ph.D. students going on internship the 2006-2007 academic year!

- *Meredith Carter*: University of New Hampshire - Durham, NH
- *Shannon Carter*: University of Florida Health Science Center - Gainesville, FL
- *Molly Colvin*: Harvard Medical School/Mass General Hospital - Boston, MA

(Continued on Page 4)

Frida Polli Receives the Psychology Department Graduate Student Publication Award

Frida Polli was the recipient of this year's Graduate Student Publication Award. She took a bit of her time to tell us about her project:

"My dissertation, chaired by Dr. Edith Kaplan, and funded by an NIMH National Research Service Award sponsored by Drs. Manoach and Rauch of MGH, explores the neural correlates of emotional inference of cognition. Cognitive versus emotional processing depends on frontoparietal versus ventromedial networks, respectively. Activity in these two networks is inversely correlated: cognitive activity enhances frontoparietal activity and decreases ventromedial activity, while negative emotion accom-

plishes the reverse. We speculated that optimal cognitive performance requires deactivation of emotional regions, and when this does not occur, cognitive performance is impaired. Thus, cognitive errors on a task of inhibition should correlate with a failure to deactivate the emotional network. We found support for this hypothesis. This has important implications for psychiatric disorders like depression and OCD, where the emotional network is hypermetabolic, and cognition is frequently impaired. In 2005, this research was presented orally at the meeting of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping, won an MGH hospital-wide research award, and was published in the Proceedings of

the National Academy of Science U.S.A."

Frida was nominated for the Graduate Student Publication Award by Dr. Elisabeth Moes.

The full reference of Frida's publication is:

Polli F.E., Barton J.J.S., Cain, M.S., Thakkar K.N., Rauch S.L., Manoach, D.S. (2005). Rostral and dorsal anterior cingulate cortex make dissociable contributions during antisaccade commission. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences: U.S.A.*, 102(43), 15700-15705.

Symposium Honors Dr. Edith Kaplan for a Lifetime of Achievement in the Field of Neuropsychology

By Kim Keough & Nicole Robbins-McLaughlin

A symposium to honor Dr. Edith Kaplan was held at the 34th Annual International Neuropsychological Society (INS) Meeting on Friday, February 3rd, 2006, in Boston, MA. At the conclusion of the tribute, Dr. Kaplan was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the field of neuropsychology. She has dedicated herself to the field and this was evident by the sea of supportive faces in the audience. The size of the crowd, estimated to have been more than 400, filled with those who have been touched by Edith in some way, was so large that the tribute had to be moved into a larger room, where there was standing room only.

Clinical psychology doctoral student Nicole Robbins-McLaughlin attended the event and noted that "a feeling of profound respect permeated the presentations for our esteemed faculty member who has served as a mentor, supervisor, and role-model for hundreds of neuropsychologists and students during her lifetime."

Dean Delis, PhD, a colleague and friend of Edith's, was the organizer of Edith's tribute. He, along with other long time friends and colleagues, each presented a topic of their interest during the symposium.

These included: Dr.

Dean Delis' presentation entitled *Contributions of the Process Approach to Neuropsychological Test Development*, Dr. Kenneth Heilman's *Cognitive Motor Disorders: The Apraxias*, Dr. Deborah Fein's *Studies in Autism*, Dr. William Barr's *Historical Influences on the Boston Process Approach*, and Dr. William Milberg's *Further Adventures in Clinical Applications of Clock Drawing*.



Dr. Edith Kaplan celebrates with some of her interns, past & present.

Additionally, Dr. Kaplan's work was addressed in two symposiums during the conference titled *Rethinking Post-Concussion Syndrome: Lessons Learned from Sports Concussion Research and Assessing the Contribution of Vascular Disease in Demented and Non-Demented Patients: The Paradigm of Vascular Load*. Dr. Kaplan's work was also presented in a paper session on *Neuropsychology and Aging*.

Departmental News & Happenings!

Presentations

Dr. Alice LoCicero presented "Adolescent and Adult Development: One Process, Many Perspectives" at the International Conference of the Society for Research in Adult Development meetings in San Francisco, April 4 - 9, 2006.

Psychology Department students presented at the International Neuropsychological Society, Boston, MA in February:

Nicole McLaughlin, M.A. presented the following poster: McLaughlin, N.C.R. & Westervelt, H.J. (February 2006). *Olfactory Identification Deficits in Frontotemporal Dementia*. Presented at the International Neuropsychological Society, Boston, MA.

Vanessa V. Fazio, M.A. presented a poster entitled: Fazio, V., Pardini, J.E., Lovell, M.R., & Collins, M.C. (2006, February). *A Comparison of the Diagnostic Utility of the SCAT and IMPACT Assessment Systems in Sports Concussion*.

Justin Sinclair, M.A. & Dr. Alice LoCicero presented 2 posters at the American Psychological Society, May 25-28, 2006 in New York City. The first was "Using Cognitive-Developmental Theory to Assess the Risk Posed by Osama bin Laden." The second was entitled, "Do Fears of Terrorism Predict Trust in Government?"

Irene Piryatinsky, M.A. and Dr. Debra Harkins will present a poster at Narrative Matters conference at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, May 27, 2006. The presentation is entitled, "Immigrant narratives: Exploratory study of mother-child storytelling in Russia, and Israel."

Ilana Licht, M.A. and Dr. Christopher Recklitis presented "Screening Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer with the Distress Thermometer: A Comparison with the SCL-90-R" at the Third Annual Conference of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society, Amelia Island, Florida, February 16-19, 2006.

A number of Psychology Department faculty and students will present at American Psychological Association in New Orleans, August 10-13, 2006:

Dr. Alice LoCicero and Samuel Justin Sinclair, M.A. will present a symposium with Michael Commons entitled "Addressing Terrorism From a Developmental Perspective." The title of the presentation is "Leadership During Terrorism: Contradictions of Common Sense and Social Science."

Simone Ascher, M.A., Dr. Sukanya Ray & Kate Jaggard will present "Offline characteristics and online preferences among internet

users."

Vanessa Fazio, M.A. will present two posters: Rousch, R., Pardini, J.E., Fazio, V., McClincy, M., Schenberg-Ott, S., & Lovell, M.R. (2006, August). *The relationship of amnesia to cognitive impairment following sports related concussion*. The oral presentation won the Harcourt Student Research Award.

Schenberg-Ott, S., Pardini, J.E., Fazio, V., Lovell, M.R., & Collins, M.C. (2006, August) *The Relationship Between Region of Injury and Neuropsychological Deficits in Concussed Athletes*. Poster presentation accepted at the meeting if the American Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Alice LoCicero presented at the Columbia Teachers College Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology and Education in New York, February 15 - 18, 2006. The symposium was entitled "The Price of Multiculturalism is Still Vigilance: 100 Years of Teaching and Training Mainstream and Minority Students." It included participants from Harvard University, Boston University, and Boston College.

Dr. Richelle Stackert and Dr. Kris Bursik presented a poster at the Eastern Psychological Association conference in Baltimore in March, 2006. Stackert, R., & Bursik, K., (2006, March). *Predictors of subjective quality of life in patients involved in community mental health services*. (See picture below)

Gudrun Opitz, M.A. and Dr. Kris Bursik co-authored a presentation given at the Society for Personality Assessment annual conference in San Diego. Opitz, G. M., & Bursik, K. (2006, March). *Cross-method discrepancies of the Rorschach and MMPI-2: Are ego development and response bias moderators?*

Publications

After satisfying a seemingly endless number of reviewers, Dr. Kris Bursik and Dr. Tim Martin published the lead article in the current edition of the Journal of Research on Adolescence: Bursik, K., & Martin, T. (2006). *Ego Development and Adolescent Academic Achievement*. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 16, 1-18.

Coyne, L. W., Miller, A. L., Low, C., Seifer, R. & Dickstein, S. Mothers' empathic understanding of their toddlers: Associations with maternal sensitivity and depression. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. In press.

Coyne, L. W., Freeman, J. B.,

Garcia, A. M. & Leonard, H. L. Obsessive compulsive disorder in children. (2005). In G. O. Gabbard (Ed.) *Treatments of DSM-IV-TR Psychiatric Disorders*.

Freeman, J. B., Choate-Summers, M. L., Moore, P. S., Garcia, A. M., Coyne, L. W., & Leonard, H. L. Adapting cognitive behavioral treatment for young children with obsessive compulsive disorder. *Biological Psychiatry*. In press.

Dempsey, J. P., Fireman, G. D. & Wang, E. (In Press). Transitioning out of peer victimization in School Children: Gender and Behavioral Characteristics. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*.

Dinn, W.M., Aycicegi-Dinn, A., Robbins, N.C., Harris, C.L. (2005). Migraine headache and obsessive-compulsive symptoms in a student sample. *Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology*, 15(4), 174-181.

Domar, A.D., Penzias, A., Dusek, J.A., Merari, D., Nielsen, B. & Paul, D. (2005). The stress and distress of infertility: Does religion help women cope? *Sexuality, Reproduction and Menopause*, 3. 45-51.

Miarmi, L. G. & DeBono, K. G. (in press). The Impact of Distractions on Heuristic Processing: Internet Pop-Up Ads and Stereotype Use. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*.

Meredith Klump recently learned that her article "Posttraumatic stress disorder and sexual assault in women," was accepted for publication in the *Journal of College Student Psychotherapy*.

(Departmental News & Happenings continued on Page 4)



Eastern Psychological Association - Baltimore, MD
Richelle Stackert/Dr. Krisanne Bursik - March 2006

Departmental News & Happenings! (continued)



Dr. Alice LoCicero & her dog Zeke celebrate New Year's Day with a stroll by the Suffolk University centennial ice sculpture!

Thesis & Dissertation Defenses

Congrats to all of the second year students who presented their Early Research Projects!

Nicole Robbins-McLaughlin successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on April 21, 2006. It is entitled: Working Memory, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, And The Prefrontal Cortex: A Structural Analysis.

Josh Smith successfully defended his Master's thesis on May 10, 2006. It is entitled: Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment of Quality of Life in Childhood Cancer Survivors Following a

Survivor Program.

Undergraduates Recognized

The following undergraduates were honored on Recognition Day Award Ceremony on April 25, 2006:

This year's recipient of the Elizabeth Williams Award/Outstanding Senior Psychology Major went to Virginia Jagodzinski.

Alison Waites was awarded the Academic Achievement Award.

The following students all received the High Academic Achievement Award:
Ashley Duquette, Jason Giombetti, Virginia Jagodzinski, Courtney Mann, Shannon McNeill, and Jennifer Simard.

Social Announcements

Dr. Lisa Coyne's son Rory turned 1 and started walking on April 5th! The family got a new Portuguese Water Dog puppy named Marco, who will guest star in next Fall's Learning and Reinforcement Class as he goes through his Obedience and Canine Good Citizen Training.

Meredith Klump and her partner, Kate were engaged in February! They are planning a wedding in summer 2007.

April 2006 marks the 6 year anniversary of Isabelle Eckelhofer's match as a Big Sister with little sister, Samantha. Samantha was 11 years old and a very shy sixth grader when Isabelle was first matched with her in April of 2000. Samantha is now almost 18 years old and about to graduate from high school. Isabelle remains her Big Sister, and their six-year mentoring re-



lationship - which has spanned her entire teenage years - honored at the Big Sister's annual appreciation breakfast in April. Samantha will be attending Salem State College starting this summer, and hopes to become a psychologist or maybe a lawyer.

On April 12, 2006 the Psychology Department hosted a baby shower for Dr. Elisabeth Moes. We welcome Alejandra and congratulate Lis and Carmen on their new arrival! (See photo above.)

Suffolk graduate, Dr. Ami Antonucci and her husband Vito welcomed Meilan Michael Antonucci into the world on Monday, April 10, 2006 at 11:32pm! He weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. They are all doing well.

Dr. Kris Bursik is pleased to announce that her twins, Adam & Zak Leonard, will be going to college this fall. Zak is headed to Brown University with a History major/Archeology concentration. As of press time, Adam is still on the fence between Brown and Middlebury, attempting to decide how badly he wants to continue his career as a long-stick lacrosse defenseman while pursuing a Biochemistry/pre-med degree.

Internships Placements and Post-Docs for 2006-2007 (continued)

- *Erin Gibbons*: Aurora Mental Health Center - Aurora, CO
- *Neena McConnico*: Wediko Children's Services (non-APA approved) - Boston, MA
- *Frida Polli*: Boston Consortium in Clinical Psychology - Boston, MA
- *Veronica Sanchez-Varela*: Boston Medical Center/Boston University - Boston, MA
- *Terra Schmookler*: St. Elizabeth's Hospital - Washington, DC
- *Justin Sinclair*: Harvard Medical School/Mass General Hospital - Boston, MA
- *Dana Wiebe*: Mount Sinai School of Medicine - New York, NY

Congratulations also to the following Ph.D. students with post-doc placements:

- *Jessica Benetti-McQuoid* - Will be completing an assessment post-doc at the Children's Evaluation Center in Newton, MA starting in September.
- *Ryan Haggarty* - Will have a position through Brown University working for the psychosocial research program at Butler Hospital in Providence, RI. Will be involved in a project looking at family interventions for mood disorders with a focus on minority families.
- *Jennifer Markey* - Will be completing her post-doc at the Menninger Clinic in Houston, TX.
- *Gudrun Opitz* - Will be doing a two year post-doc at the New York Presbyterian Hospital at the Payne Whitney Cornell Westchester Division.
- *Nicole Robbins-McLaughlin* - Will be working with Paul Malloy at Butler Hospital, through Brown Medical School, in a two year Neuropsychology Fellowship.
- *Megan Spencer* - Will be completing a two year clinical post-doc with Brown University. She will be working out of Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket, RI and the RI Center for Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy in Kingston, RI.

Discovery, Boundaries, & Connections: The College of Arts and Sciences Conference by Kim Keough

On March 30, 2006 Suffolk University held its' annual academic conference entitled *Discovery, Boundaries and Connections*. The conference featured an extensive series of faculty presentations across all three schools, offering attendees an excellent opportunity to experience the fascinating range of research and scholarship currently underway at Suffolk University.

The goals of the conference were:

- Discovery - To explore the intellectual reach of the University
- Pride - To experience firsthand the excellence of the Suffolk faculty
- Community - To celebrate collaboration and multidisciplinary inquiry
- Involvement - To engage a large portion of the Suffolk community

The Psychology Department was well represented with numerous posters and presentations from both faculty and graduate students.

Several students collaborated with Dr. Alice LoCicero to present their topic: *Counseling Court-Involved Youth: Development of a Best Practice Model through a University/Community Partnership*. All ten students who have done practicum placement at the Juvenile Court Clinic participated in preparing the symposium. The current four students Shana Dangelo, Lauren Mizock, Katia Roth and Samantha Samberg, along with Amy Allgair, M.A. and Joshua Smith participated in the actual presentation. The other four students who have been in the court clinic practicum assisted in the preparation.

They include Lisa Iguchi, M.A., Shelby Stephan, M.A., Justin Sinclair, M.A., and Anne Miller, M.A.

Their presentation focused on sharing the goals, mission, and hard work dedicated to the free, one to one counseling the Psychology Department has offered for adolescents in the Suffolk County court system. They discussed the importance of being community liaisons and providing counseling for underserved populations.

Drs. Debra Harkins and Sukanya Ray presented their topic entitled *Bridging Courses and Communities Through Collaboration*. The aim of their talk was to present the need for integration of knowledge and service for students. They hallmarked the community empowerment model which provides opportunities for building collaborations across institutions, agencies, professional, trainees/students, and communities through structured educational training, advocacy, collaborative service strategies, community action research, strengthening communities through connections and access to resources.

Dr. Harkins presented how the community empowerment model presented opportunities for students in her course Psychology of Self and Identity (Psychology 324). Service learning was integrated into this course during Spring 2006 with the generous support of a mini-grant from the SOULS office. Students were required to engage in six hours of service learning during the semester working with a community or organization whose identity is different from themselves. Students provided reflections of their practical and theoretical learning through

weekly journal writing and an end of the semester experiential paper.

Dr. Ray discussed her methods for building the bridge across knowledge and service through students' engagement in community service projects in her Cyberpsychology (Psychology 347) course. The opportunity for this project was also made possible by a seed grant from the SOULS office. Students enrolled in Dr. Ray's Cyberpsychology course were exposed to two experiential/service learning projects in collaboration with selected community service agencies. The first project focused on working on an internet based educational and professional skill development training program for women from diverse underprivileged communities. The second project focused on assessing the needs of service agencies to compile internet based resources lists to develop websites that would serve their clientele. Students provided a write-up reflecting on their insight of the needs and challenges of communities and service agencies.

The Psychology Department is proud of these amazing contributions to the department and the University! A large thank you goes out to everyone who attended, participated, and presented at the conference.



Keeping Up With the Diversity Committee!

The Diversity Committee's OUTREACH Fellows Lauren Mizock and Renee Morant did a wonderful job this semester organizing and hosting a Diversity Committee event. Below is an event recap of both great events. Thanks to the Diversity Committee!

OUTREACH Event organized by Lauren Mizock:

"As an Outreach Fellowship recipient, I have invited various speakers in the last two years to come to the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program and speak about mental health concerns of a population that is underserved in the medical field. The third talk of this series took place on Friday, March 31, 2006 and was entitled, "Supporting Families in Recovery: with a focus on Serving Hispanic/Latino populations in a residential setting." Luana Morales-Ramos, Program Manager of Casa Esperanza, Inc., Program Manager gave the talk and discussed the history of her organization, their treatment approach, aspects of drug culture, and cultural sensitivity recommendations for therapists when working with Latino/Hispanic clients. Feel free to send an email requesting full notes from the talk at lauren.mizock@suffolk.edu. For more information about Casa Esperanza, Inc., visit their website at www.casaesperanza.org. I am grateful to the Diversity Committee faculty, Dr. Bob Webb, my fellow Outreach recipients, and the staff administrators for continuing support and encouragement of this series."

OUTREACH Event organized by Renee Morant:

On April 12, 2006, the Diversity Committee sponsored a viewing of the Academy Award winning movie "Crash" which was then followed by a discussion. The movie itself aims to challenge current preconceived notions of race and race relations in American society. For two days in Los Angeles, a racially and economically diverse group of people pursue lives that collide with one another in unexpected ways. These interactions are always interesting, and sometimes quite unsettling. The film explores and challenges your ability to judge books by their covers. Moviegoers were encouraged to bring an ethnic food and this request was well received. Pizza, hummus, quesadillas, honey cookies were representations of food featured from several ethnic groups. After the movie, the discussion ranged from topics such as the psychological culture of the movie to favorite characters and scenes.



We're on the Web!
<http://www.cas.suffolk.edu/psychology>

Suffolk University

Psychology Department
41 Temple Street
Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 617-305-6361
Fax: 617-367-2924
Email: kkeough@suffolk.edu

This Newsletter was brought to you by:
Kim Keough, Editor-in-Chief
Jessica Lillie, Editor
Pamela Petras, Editor

A Final Note from the Chair By Dr. Robert Webb

As we go to press, the daffodils are out once again, and we have just completed accepting our graduate program class for next year. Every year becomes a bit more competitive with a few more applicants. This year, in a process that took more than three months of hard work, we evaluated 254 applications before accepting 13. In our evaluation we use a twelve category system that includes GPA, GRE scores, and an interview, but also looks at experience in research and clinical work as well. Each year we find ourselves in the unhappy position of turning down more very well qualified students.

I am sometimes asked where the magic number 13 came from, and it is really not very mysterious

at all. We originally designed the program for 12, since that was the number that we felt could be accommodated in a seminar. More than that makes a seminar unwieldy and less loses money. After a few years the trustees agreed to create two more slots as fellowships, but they were to be add-ons, not replacements. We tried this for a year or two, but the total of 14 proved to be too many, as we had anticipated. We compromised on the number 13 that we have today.

This year's class comes from schools in eight states, have an average combined GRE score of 606 (verbal), 649 (quantitative), and 5.0 (writing), and represent four ethnic groups. It also includes four students who have done graduate work at Harvard and the University of Chicago. In short, a most

impressive class.

They will join some cohorts that are impressive in their own right. For instance, 90% of this year's internship applicants went through the MATCH system successfully, which compares quite favorably with the national average of 77%. Their internship sites include some excellent programs at top rated schools.

Congratulations to both our new class and our "old timers".

