Greetings,

We’ve ushered in the new semester in a manner consistent with our tradition — lots of FOOD. A couple of weeks ago we had our welcome party for the new students (p. 2), where we also gave out awards for grad student achievements in the past year (p. 10).

This is a special year for Stony Brook because it is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout the year. We’ve done our small part here in the newsletter by digging up some old pictures of our academic home — see pages 14 and 15. In our next issue we’d love to highlight reminiscences from the early days of Stony Brook and the Psych Department, so I encourage all of you to contribute.

There is a amazing amount of news in this edition. I hope it inspires everyone to keep contributing!

Cheers,

Nancy

P.S. I just signed up for another term as chair so expect another three years of my nagging you to contribute to the news.

ATTENTION FORMER CLINICAL STUDENTS - ENTERING CLASS OF 1986.

Join us for a 21st Anniversary Reunion in Philadelphia! We are meeting on the evening of Friday, November 16 (exact location TBA). This a great way for anyone attending the annual meeting of the Association for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies (ABCT) to meet up with old friends. If you are near Philadelphia, join us even if you are not attending ABCT.

For more details, contact Valerie Gaus at gaus@optonline.net.

Looking for Alumni — Grads of 1979:

These are people whom we haven’t located and who graduated in 1979. If you have any information that might help me locate them, please write to me at: Nancy.Squires@sunysb.edu.

For some positive results from our continuing search for alumni, see page 6.

Adrienne Blanche Casadaban  Marc Lucien Jouandet  Richard Chandler Paradise
Andrew Monteverde Elmore  Richard Kovner  Joan Marci Settin
Cheryl Fishbein  Robert Henry Lapinsky  Jeannie Irene Shu
Judith Allen Graeff  Sylvia Lifschitz  James Marshall Waters
Maritza Aminta Jonas  Fred Eugene McManus
WELCOME THE NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS FOR FALL 2007

BIOPSYCHOLOGY
Elif Duman
WenJin (Jimmy) Xu

CLINICAL
Margaret Dyson
Rachel Hershenberg
Annmarie MacNamara
Jill Malik
Emile Mulder
Anna Weinberg

COGNITIVE/EXPERIMENTAL
Robert Alexander
Matt Bezdek
Adam Congleton
Jeff Foy
Michael Greenstein

SOCIAL/HEALTH
Ceylan Cizmeli
Angel Gonzalez
LETTERS AND PHOTOS FROM ALUMNI

FROM Valerie Gaus (Clinical, 1992, Advisor: Alan Ross)

Hi, Nancy: I have really enjoyed your newsletter - thanks for all the effort you put into it. I graduated from the clinical program in 1992. I am currently in private practice and have devoted most of my time since 1992 to promoting quality mental health treatment for adults with developmental disabilities. I just finished a book on adult Asperger syndrome, which is coming out from Guilford Press next month (see link below). My training at Stony Brook was invaluable. Even though it has been 15 years since I left, I use what I learned there every day.

Thanks again!

http://www.guilford.com/cgi-bin/cartscript.cgi?page=pr/gaus.htm&dir=pp/paci&cart_id=623130.12110

Warm regards, Valerie Gaus

FROM Irwin Jankovic (Experimental, 1984, Advisors: Marvin Levine and Dave Cross)

Hi Nancy, I understand you are collecting information on alumni.

My time at Stony Brook is loaded with great memories and experiences. My only regret is that I haven’t managed to stay in touch with my friends in graduate school. This newsletter design is a great way to learn what people have been up to. Here’s what I’ve been up to:

My first position was as an Assistant Professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. After discovering the cost of rent in Los Angeles, I took a position in industry as a Market Researcher at an ophthalmic surgical company. There I was able to draw on my sensory training to learn how to do eye surgery so I could talk to Ophthalmologists between patients. Next I took a position as a Senior Engineer/Scientist at McDonnell Douglas doing Human Factors Engineering -- my cognitive background was going to be used in redesigning our country’s aviation maps; it turned out instead, I had to work on various perceptual and cognitive issues in the design of the flight displays for our then new MD-11 airplane. From there I ended up in a management consulting role within the company drawing on my research, analytical and influence skills working on Total Quality Management/Six Sigma methods. Eventually, I served as a Human Resources Director developing people strategies there.

When we merged with Boeing, I did the culture integration studies on the commercial aircraft side—crunching together over 100,000 employees. Since then, I have worked on a pharmaceutical Internet startup, got married and have two great kids (one off to UC Santa Barbara) and am currently the Director of Training and Organizational Effectiveness at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. An interesting career path and one that drew heavily on my Stony Brook training. We had a great Experimental Psychology faculty team, Marvin Levine, Dave Cross, Howie Rachlin, Dave Emmerich, Bill Morrison, Alan Gilchrist, great faculty in the other programs and great fellow students who all made our graduate school experience a great one. All of this is a far cry from our first day in grad school when we attended our first faculty seminar on Non-Metric Multidimensional Scaling and then left asking ourselves whether we had somehow picked the wrong graduate program to attend. Of course, a year later, many of us could talk quite coherently about the subject. We must have learned something along the way.

Irwin N. Jankovic, Ph.D.
Director - Training and Organizational Effectiveness
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda St. 10-404
Los Angeles, CA 90012
LETTERS AND PHOTOS FROM ALUMNI

From Margaret Niznikiewicz, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry Neuroimaging Laboratory, Harvard Med School (Biopsychology, 1992, Advisor Nancy Squires)

Hi Nancy, I thought I would write you a short update.

I am enclosing the picture of Mike and Magda - he just graduated from UMass Amherst with the focus on clinical neuroscience and is looking for an RA position in neuroimaging. Magda is going to 5th grade, loves science and dragons. Also rides horses.

I am writing Merit and RO1 - second resubmission, alas, - a big part of it is the fact that this grant is reviewed in heavy MD represented study group and they have the hardest time figuring out any more complex theory - it is the second time I am asked to explain what theory I mean. Well, I'll be even clearer this time. I also have joined a study group and actually enjoy the experience.

This year we went for vacation to Outer Banks in NC. It was hot, buggy and beautiful. We had campfires on the beach at night and watched the moon rising over the ocean. We took hang gliding lessons (including Magda) and enjoyed it very much.

Now, and for the next few months, I'll be mostly writing one thing or another.

Margaret

From Yueh-Ting Lee (Social, 1992, Advisor Dana Bramel), who is now Dean of Arts and Sciences, University of Toledo: http://www.utoledo.edu/as/news/NewDean.html

Dear Nancy:

Just to let you know that we just moved from ND to Ohio. My family (especially our kids) enjoy this more diverse city. Today I had a very good phone discussion with Dean James Staros. The University of Toledo was just merged with the Medical University of Ohio, which provides us with great opportunities (http://www.utoledo.edu/campus/about/index.html). We are looking for those bench mark colleges of arts and sciences. Dean Staros was very helpful. We will stay in touch.

Regards, Yueh-Ting

From Greta Massetti (Clinical, 2002, Advisor: Russ Whitehurst)

Hi Nancy,

I joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control as a Behavioral Scientist in September 2007. I am working in the Division of Violence Prevention on projects involving youth violence, particularly within school settings. We moved our family - including son Milo (4) and twin daughters Mia and Liliana (18 months) - to Atlanta and are loving the area and the city so far. We will certainly not be missing the six months of Buffalo winters!

Greta

From Janice Grackin (Social/Health, 1999, Advisor Marci Lobel) who currently has the position of Senior Educational Evaluator in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Psychology

Hello All- I am very happy to announce that I have accepted a position as Associate Dean for Assessment and Program Review at Nassau Community College. It will be an adventure for me to leave Stony Brook after so many years and I am both happy and sad. The people I have known and with whom I have worked for so many years mean a great deal to me, and I hope to be able to keep in touch with all of you.

Janice Grackin
Hi Nancy.

I have received your newsletters for some time now, and read through each one. What a great idea; thank you! I thought I should finally share some news of myself, up here in the woods of Canada. Hopefully, it will result in renewed contacts with some of my old friends. Jeff, David, Paige, Amy???? I’d love to hear from anyone of my vintage!

I left SUSB in summer 1992, ABD (Advisor Russ Whitehurst; I came back to Stony Brook briefly to defend in 1993). I got married to my long term boyfriend Phil and moved to Toronto. Unfortunately, neither lasted. I stayed in Toronto awhile and had some good years at the Hospital for Sick Children and the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, where I met my husband Chris. He was a psychiatry resident at the time. We bonded over some highly disturbing cases in the child day treatment program. We got married, moved to Vancouver and have two great kids, Sebastian, 8, and Georgia, 4. The renowned Canadian artist, author, and humourist Douglas Coupland has aptly pointed out that, while Vancouver and Seattle are so similar in many ways, Vancouver is celebrated as the warmest part of Canada while Seattle is thought of as that northern rainy outpost of the U.S. It’s all relative!

So we’ve been here about 8 years, pour our heart and souls into our small ‘modern heritage’ home (and garden), enjoy our kids, and work part time. Working part time is a fairly prevalent thing here in Van. Leaves plenty of time for skiing and mountain biking! After doing the academic thing in Toronto, I now have a private practice focusing mostly on psych-ed assessments, and thank my lucky stars that I somehow fell into this rewarding and flexible career!

Cheers! Meagan Smith

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From Marie Caulfield (Clinical, 1989, Advisor Russ Whitehurst) and David Riggs (Clinical, 1990, Advisor Dan O’Leary)

Dear Nancy,

Here’s that update I promised you! Dave and I well and happy and busy. We live in Bethesda, MD, with our 8-year-old daughter, Rebecca. In August 2006, Dave was appointed Executive Director of the Center for Deployment Psychology (www.deploymentpsych.org), which is a Department of Defense center devoted to the training of military mental health professionals to deal with the mental and behavioral health issues of military service members returning from deployments. Dave has a faculty appointment at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences here in Bethesda, where the Center is located. As you might imagine, this job is keeping Dave very busy.

I have a consulting business, Extraordinary Choices Coaching and Consulting (www.caulfieldcoaching.com), through which I provide personal coaching, workplace seminars, and talks. I am currently also working part-time for a DoD contractor developing content for a behavioral health website for military service members and families. And I spend a lot of time being a third-grade mom!

Hope all is well there! Marie

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Brian O’Donnell (Clinical Psychology, 1984, Advisor Nancy Squires) is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Indiana University. Brian writes that he’s constantly “entangled in new schemes. Genomics! Animal Models! Computational Neuroscience!!”

For his website see: http://www.indiana.edu/~psych/faculty/odonell.html

Brian recently sent us this wonderful family picture: from left to right are Naomi, Molly, Nate, and Brian. The whole family continues to enjoy the many cultural opportunities that Bloomington offers, and as well as many outdoor activities and a lot of travel.
From Zenab Amin (Biopsychology, 2005, Advisor: Turhan Canli)
Hi Nancy,
I’m now working as a full time medical writer for a company that works with Glaxo Smith Kline, Pfizer, etc. and I edit scientific manuscripts part-time for an online company. I’m actually also a part-time consultant of sorts for my old lab (I’m a co-investigator on an R01 I wrote for them!), so my Yale address will work for maybe another year... depends on whether the resubmission gets funded. So I guess you could say I’m keeping very busy. All of that will probably change when Todd finds his tenure-track position, though. We’re hoping for the South Pacific... or maybe Alaska.
Zenab

Arthur Robin (Clinical, 1975, Advisor Dan O’Leary) of Wayne State University has been selected to receive the 2007 Michigan Psychological Association’s (MPA) Distinguished Psychologist Award. Dr. Robin has been a national leader on research, assessment, and treatment of ADHD and eating disorders among other things. This award is MPA’s highest honor and recognizes recipients’ outstanding professional contributions to the study and practice of psychology.

Edwin Decenteceo (Clinical, 1978, Advisor Tom D’Zurilla) was spotted in the Philippines by Jada Hamilton (Social/Health Psychology graduate student) and her boyfriend Victor Luna (graduate of the SBU Neurobiology program) while vacationing in the Philippines and giving a guest lecture at the University of the Philippines Diliman. Edwin is Professor of Psychology at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and 1978 graduate of the SBU Clinical Psychology program.

From left to right: Jada Hamilton, Victor Luna, Ph.D., and Edwin Decenteceo, Ph.D. in the Department of Psychology at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

More alumni located
Carole Jane Skinner (Clinical, 1979, Advisor Tom D’Zurilla) is in private practice in Toronto and Mississauga, Ontario. Carole writes: “It’s very nice to be in contact with you. The quality of my training at Stony Brook has stood the test of time. It gave me confidence to undertake a wide range of challenging and interesting jobs.” She suggested that we publish alumni emails so that people can get in touch, so we’ll begin with hers. I’m sure she’d love to hear from you. drskinner@rogers.com

David Karf (Experimental, 1972, Advisor Marv Levine) is a clinician in private practice in Miami.

Dennis Gallo (Clinical, 1974, Advisor Tom D’Zurilla) is in practice in Commack New York.

Andrew Zambelli (Biopsychology, 1974, Advisor John Stamm), who previously was chief of staff for Mario Cuomo, now works at Strategic Frameworking, Inc. See: http://www.strategicframingwerk.com/team.htm

Jennifer Christian-Herman (Clinical, 1993, Advisor Dan O’Leary), lives in LA and works in health care research as Associate Director, Health Services Research, Cerner Health Insights, Beverly Hills, CA. She is married and has one son, Jake.

Peter Leslie Marton (Clinical, 1976, Advisor Alan Ross) is a psychologist in private practice in Toronto and Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.
Luciane P. Pereira-Pasarin just graduated in Cognitive/Experimental (advisor Suparna Rajaram). She managed to find time to write while adjusting to her busy new life as an Assistant Professor at Caldwell College.

Hello Nancy, Arty and Richard, I hope you are doing well and that your semester is off to a good start. I can't begin to tell you how many new things I have learned on the job in under 3 weeks. I am doing very well here in Caldwell, NJ. My husband and I had a tiring, but successful move. We decided that this will be the last time we move ourselves and next time we will be sure to hire movers!

I had about 1 week to move in before my classes started. I have a course load of 4 classes and I am really enjoying my classes and working with the students. Students seem to have a hard time with my last name (I wonder why?) and most just call me Professor. I often get mistaken for a student. When I went to get my faculty ID, the person issuing the IDs said, "Ok, I'll take your word for it that you are faculty." I then gave him my ID number and he confirmed that I belonged here. I think it's funny to pass for a student sometimes, so I'll enjoy it while the youthful appearance lasts. We've had 2 receptions and orientations for new faculty members and both faculty and staff have been very collegial and helpful. I enjoy coming to work each day and my colleagues in the Psychology Dept have been wonderful. We live nearby the campus and I walk to work. I don't miss my 2 hr commute on the LIRR, but don't tell Suparna and Helena I said that, ha-ha! I am the 10th full time faculty member in our department. We were given our committee assignments this week and I am in the Student Life Committee. The college President announced at a campus wide faculty meeting this week about plans of starting a doctoral program in applied behavioral analysis in our department. My Chair told me there is a reason they hired someone with a strong background in research. The college is slowly modifying its policies for course load reduction to allow more time for research and professional development. I see there is a lot of room for intellectual and professional growth for me here and I feel fortunate to have had this opportunity.

I can't say it enough how thankful I am for your guidance and camaraderie throughout my years at Stony Brook. I miss you all very much and I will be sure to keep in touch.

Check out the picture I attached to this email. My heart skipped a beat when I saw my door. It finally hit me, 'This job thing is for real.'

Best wishes, Luciane
**WHERE SOME OF OUR 2007 GRADUATES WENT**

Ariel Brewer (Biopsychology, Advisor John Robinson), is now a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institut du Fer à Moulin in Paris. The lab studies the molecular basis of addiction, particularly alterations in gene transcription and neural plasticity following drug use, similar to LTP effects in learning and memory.

Ariel writes: “The people in the lab are great and things are great with Laurent (we are getting married in a few weeks!). My main problem is that my rate of French acquisition is slower than I’d like it to be. That in conjunction with the fact that this research depends on a solid molecular biology/genetics background makes it tough. Two layers of obscurity to push through.

I have to say that I do miss Stony Brook! Hope all is well! Ariel.

Nefta Mitchell (Biopsychology, Advisor Brenda Anderson) has taken a position at Wellesley College.

Zhiru Jia (Biopsychology, Advisor Nancy Squires) has post-doc position in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine with Dr. Rajita Sinha.

Calion Lockridge (Experimental, Advisor Susan Brennan) is now an Assistant Professor at Allegheny College in PA.

Luisa Ramirez (Social/Health, Advisor Sheri Levy) has a position in the National Planning Dept. in Colombia and is involved in the development of a component of a public policy to fight poverty.

Dolores Cannella (Social/Health, Advisor Marci Lobel) is the Dir. of the Behavioral Interactions course at SBU’s School of Dental Medicine. She also holds two Lecturer positions; teaching Intro. Psychology at Stony Brook Southampton, and Statistics and Research Methods at SUNY Old Westbury. She is also working on several different projects, including a follow-up study of her dissertation.

Anna Tverskoy (Clinical, Advisor Tom D’Zurilla) is traveling in Europe with her husband and is planning to apply for a job at a teaching/research hospital that would involve research, clinical work, and clinical supervision.

Erica Woodin (Clinical, Advisor Dan O’Leary) is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Victoria in Canada.

Mara Ladd (Clinical, Advisor Ted Carr) is a Postdoctoral Fellow at The May Institute in Boston, MA.

Shiri Cohen (Clinical, Advisor Dan O’Leary) is a Post-doctoral Clinical Fellow at Harvard Medical School.

Gabrielle Chairamonte (Clinical, Advisor Ron Friend) is now a postdoc in the Psychiatry Department at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City.

Sarah Ketay (Social/Health, Advisor Art Aron) is now a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Psychology Dept. at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and is involved in two different programs: The Compulsive and Impulsive Disorders Program and The Seaver and New York Autism Center of Excellence.

Bryan Jones (Experimental, Advisor Howard Rachlin) will be taking a post-doctoral position at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in the Center for Addiction Research.

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**ALUMNI UPDATES — Honors and awards**

Ken Winters (Clinical, 1982, Advisor John Neale) is currently holding a faculty position in the Department of Psychiatry in addition to being named a Senior Research Scientist at the Treatment Research Institute in Philadelphia.

Cathryn G. Pridal (Clinical, 1982, Advisor Ted Car) who is currently Associate Dean at Westminster College, has been awarded an A.C.E. Fellowship for next year and will spend the year at Middlebury College (VT).

Cheryl Woods Giscombe (Social Health, 2004, Advisor Marci Lobel) has been selected as the 2007 recipient of the Carolyn Payton Early Career Award. Her article “Explaining Disproportionately High Rates of Adverse Birth Outcomes Among African Americans: The Impact of Stress, Racism, and Related Factors in Pregnancy” contributes to a greater understanding of Black women.

Dan McCloskey (Biopsychology, 2003, Advisor Brenda Anderson) is now an assistant professor of psychology at CUNY Staten Island, as well as a new father (see page 13).

Despina Tata (Biopsychology, 2004, Advisor Brenda Anderson) has accepted a position as assistant professor of Biological Psychology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the largest university in Greece.

James Morris (Biopsychology, 2003, Advisor Nancy Squires) has been a postdoc at Duke since his graduation. He recently received an NIH Pathways to Independence award. As a part of his funded project he will be spending three weeks a month at Yale (with frequent visits to old Stony Brook we hope).

Louis Castonguay (Clinical, 1992, Advisor Marv Goldfried), a Professor of Psychology at Penn State, has just been elected President of the Society for Psychotherapy Research—an international organization of therapy researchers.
A great looking group of distinguished scientists at the Summer Linguistics Institute (sponsored by the Linguistics Society of America, hosted by Stanford University from July 1 to July 27th).

Richard Gerrig (Cognitive/Experimental) taught a course there, and very much enjoyed being back in his old stomping grounds.

The picture shows, from left to right, Alexia Galati, Tanya Kraljic, Richard himself, Anna Kuhlen, and Matt Jacovina. Alexia, Anna and Matt are current students in the Cognitive/Experimental Program and Tanya is a graduate of that program (Ph.D., 2005, advisors Arty Samuel and Susan Brennan) and currently a post-doc at UC San Diego.

Faculty News:
Ted Carr was recently interviewed for TV about a new treatment method for autism called positive behavior support. See link: [http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,295745,00.html](http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,295745,00.html)

A SAMPLING OF NEWLY FUNDED GRANTS in PSYCHOLOGY

“Advancing Women in Science: Building Engagement through Academic Transitions”

Bonita London, Marci Lobel, and Sheri Levy were recently awarded a 3 year grant by the National Science Foundation. This grant explores achievement disparities between groups, with a focus on women pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. See page 12 for more information on the London Lab and the research going on there.

“Dyadic, Skills-Based Primary Prevention for Partner Violence in Perinatal Parents”

Amy Smith-Slep and Rick Heyman have recently been awarded a 5 year grant from Centers for Disease Control for their project which aims to identify factors that may contribute to reduction in IPV and in physical and emotional aggression (e.g., communication skills, conflict behaviors, parenting expectations, quality of adult attachment, partner attributions, child abuse potential, family income, marital status, parenting stress, infant difficulties).

“The Role of Frontostriatal Circuits in Multimodal Response Inhibition”

Hoi-Chung Leung has received a grant from the National Institutes of Health I-Start Program for a project aimed at revealing the contribution of prefrontal cortex, striatum, and thalamus as an integrated circuit in

“Personality Disorder and Suicide”

David Klonsky has received a grant from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for a project aimed at identifying pathological personality traits that dispose individuals to consider and attempt suicide.

“Minority status and the academic achievement gap: Assessment of the social, cognitive and health markers of stereotype threat”

Suparna Rajaram’s and Bonita London’s recent grant from The Russell Sage Foundation aims to understand how social cues of threat and marginalization experienced within academic settings can impair the cognitive processes of learning.
More Faculty News:

The *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* (the leading clinical psychology journal in terms of Citation Impact) just published two articles in a section, Family Aggression, and all of the authors are from Stony Brook. These publications are based on data collected from 453 mothers and fathers who were randomly selected for participation via random digit dialing. This data collection and research effort represents the culmination of over 7 years of effort. The articles are as follows: Multivariate Models of Mother’s and Father’s Aggression Toward Their Children by Amy Slep and Susan O'Leary
Multivariate Models of Men’s and Women’s Partner Aggression by Daniel O'Leary, Amy Slep and Susan O'Leary.

And Faculty Books:


Faculty Honors and Awards:

Brenda Anderson has been named a member of the Pediatrics Study Section at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

David Klonsky was appointed Chair of the Committee on Science and Practice, as well as Chair of the Task Force on Promoting Science in Clinical Psychology, by the Society of Clinical Psychology (Division 12, American Psychological Association)

Joanne Davila received Stony Brook’s Hispanic Heritage Month Faculty Award (November 2006)

Ted Carr was appointed to the Panel of Professional Advisors, Autism Society of America.

Art Aron was given the Distinguished Career Award from the International Association for Relationships Research.

Stony Brook University Department of Psychology Awards

2007 Award for Excellence in Research (2nd Year Research)
**Anna Kuhlen**
(Experimental, Advisor: Susan Brennan)
Title: “Anticipating Distracted Addresses: How Speakers’ Expectations and Addresses’ Feedback Influence Storytelling”

2007 Award for Excellence in Research (Advanced)
**John Pachankis**
(Clinical, Advisor: Marvin Goldfried)
Title: “The mental health implications of concealing a stigma: A cognitive-affective-behavioral model.”

2007 Award for Excellence in Research (2nd Year Research)
**Alice Blackshear**
(Biopsychology, Advisor: John Robinson)
Title: “Intracerebroventricular Administration of Galanin or Galanin Receptor Subtype 1 Agonist M617 Induces c-Fos Activation in Central Amygdala and Dorsomedial Hypothalamus”

2007 Award for Excellence in Teaching
**Anna Floyd**
(Social/Health, Advisor: Anne Moyer)

More Graduate Student Honors and Awards:

John Pachankis (Advisor: Marvin Goldfried) was chosen as the winner of the Division 44 Distinguished Contribution by a Student Award for 2007.

Lisa Starr received an NRSA Fellowship from NIH on her first submission for her research titled “Mechanisms and Gender Differences in Anxiety-Depression Comorbidity”.

Athena Yoneda has received a $1000 award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.
UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

John W. Perry Endowed Scholarship in Psychology

The Department of Psychology has been the very grateful recipient of a generous gift from the family of one of our graduates.

The endowment honors the memory of John W. Perry who was killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Mr. Perry earned his BA in Psychology at Stony Brook in 1985 followed by a JD from New York University. According to the family, at Stony Brook he majored in Psychology because “he viewed the understanding of the human mind to be the primary cognitive tool for change and self-improvement.” John was a part of the legal department of New York City Police and had just resigned on September 11th when the first airplane was reported. He chose to postpone his resignation to help as an off-duty police officer on that horrible day.

The Perry Scholarship provides for an annual $500 award to a full-time undergraduate majoring in Psychology who demonstrates potential and eagerness to learn, displays a zest for life and interest in many subjects, and demonstrates compassion for others.

We are very proud to announce the first recipient of this award,

Deidra Mascoll (Class of 2008)

Deidra is a 2004 graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School. As a Psychology major with a minor in Child and Family Studies and a member of PSI CHI (the Psychology Honors Society) Deidra spends quite a bit of time in the Psychology buildings.

As if a great academic record and membership in the Honor Society were not enough, last year Deidra was elected to the position of PSI Chi’s Research Conference Coordinator. She did an incredible job in organizing the annual PSI CHI scientific conference, which is part of the campus-wide URECA celebration. (URECA—Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities.) We’ve been told that this was the best research conference PSI CHI ever had — largely thanks to Deidra.

This year Deidra moved up to the presidency of PSI CHI. In addition to her active role in PSI CHI, Deidra was a Research Assistant in the Slep/Heyman Family Translational Research Group last year and is now an RA in Joanne Davila’s lab which studies interpersonal functioning in teens.

Off-campus, Deidra has worked as an intern at Maranatha Human Services, a company that tends to the needs of those with developmental disabilities. Her current internship is within the Psychology Department’s undergraduate advising office as a peer advisor. Deidra remains very active in human rights issues and loves to travel and see new places. Her future plans are to attend graduate school in clinical psychology, focusing on family relationships, especially how those relationships are affected when a child has a developmental disability.

We are very proud of Deidra, and we believe she embodies the qualities of zest for life and compassion for others that the Perry family wants to recognize with their gift.

URECA UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS:

Roberto Ramalhete, Vanessa Gopez and Diana Shustarovich, all working with Peter Thanos of Brookhaven National Laboratory, have each received a URECA Travel Grant for their upcoming research presentations at the Society for Neuroscience 2007 meeting in San Diego.

Irina Tartakovsky, working with Art Aron, has received a URECA Travel Grant for her upcoming research presentation at the 2008 Society for Personality & Social Psychology (SPSP) conference in Albuquerque, NM.
Each issue will feature a different lab. This issue puts the spotlight on...

Social Process of Identity, Coping, and Engagement Lab  
(Director: Bonita London)

The goal of the research conducted in the Identity, Coping and Engagement lab is to study the role of social identities (particularly of traditionally marginalized groups) in academic achievement, social interactions, health and well-being, and coping outcomes. Research on prejudice and discrimination has documented a shift from more overt forms of stereotyping to more subtle and ambiguous forms. These subtle slights and biases, though less overt, can have a strong and lasting effect on the confidence, comfort, and success outcomes of individuals. Therefore, understanding how, when, and for whom subtle social cues of marginalization may strain intergroup interactions, and undermine successful engagement is the goal of the lab’s research.

Using experimental and psychophysiological methodologies, several ongoing projects that manipulate social cues of threat experimentally and measure task performance, stress, and sustained engagement are currently being conducted. One of the main projects of the lab is a longitudinal, multi-institution study of the transition to law school. This research uses experience sampling methodologies (aka diary research) to track the daily and weekly experiences of women entering highly competitive and historically exclusionary law schools.

The Identity, Coping, and Engagement research lab recently received two grants to fund new research.

Funded by a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation Cultural Contact program, a new series of studies aimed at uncovering the underlying social, cognitive, and physiological mechanisms associated with the academic performance difficulties of members of traditionally marginalized groups is currently underway. This research aims to understand how social cues of threat and marginalization experienced within academic settings can activate physiological arousal associated with stress and threat, and subsequently impair the cognitive processes of learning. PI’s: Drs. Bonita London & Suparna Rajaram.

A recently awarded National Science Foundation grant also attempts to explore achievement disparities between groups, with a focus on women pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. A series of longitudinal studies using experience sampling methodologies (aka diary methodologies) to follow female and male STEM students throughout their college careers began this fall. Targeted intervention studies in collaboration with the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) group are also being planned, and an Advisory Board consisting of University scholars and community leaders was formed to support the dissemination of this research. PI’s: Drs. Bonita London, Sheri Levy, and Marci Lobel; Study Coordinator: Lisa Rosenthal (2nd year Social/Health doctoral student).

This year, the lab welcomed a new lab manager (Natalie Hadad), a first year graduate student (Angel Gonzalez), an Honors College and Psychology Honors student (Marianna Kong), and a great team of energetic and dedicated undergraduate research assistants.
These are some of the babies born to members of the Psychology Department recently.

Sarah and Sofia were born to faculty members Sheri Levy and Tony Freitas on 6/27/07, weighing 6 lbs 14 oz and 5 lbs 4 oz. Big brother Max is delighted.


Grace Ella McCloskey, daughter of Dan McCloskey (Biopsych, 2003, advisor Brenda Anderson) was born on August 16th, 2007. 6lbs 12 oz. 20 inches.

From Catherine Eubanks-Carter (Clinical graduate student, advisor Marv Goldfried): Reese Collins Carter, arrived on August 4th, 2007. 21 inches, 9 pounds, 2.2 ounces.

Patti Fritz (Clinical, 2005, advisor Dan O'Leary) writes: “Rachel Charlene Fritz was born on 6/29/07 at 1:50 p.m. (Good thing my last day of work in Windsor was on the 28th)! She weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz and was 20.5 inches long at birth.”
We have some wonderful pictures of the construction of our buildings thanks to Nancy Franklin (faculty member in Cognitive/Experimental) who (somehow) got copies from the university archives. So, to add to the celebration of SBU’s 50th anniversary, here are “then and now” pictures of the Psychology Buildings.

As some of you know, “Psychology A & B” were originally “Social Sciences A & B,” housing all of the social science departments. In the late 70’s the rest of the social science departments moved into a new building, leaving Psych as the sole occupant of the original two buildings.

For a few years there was considerable confusion on campus between the Social and Behavioral Sciences building (the new SBS building) and the Social Sciences Buildings (SSA A & B). After a few years of this the SSA and B were renamed Psy A & B. Thank heavens we could quit explaining the difference between SBS and SSB!

I’m sure that many of you have memories of the period shown in these “before” pictures, and we’d love to hear about them during this 50th anniversary year.
What looks like the beginnings of PSY B….

… and the development of our wonderful courtyard (hidden in the middle of PSY B where only we know that it’s there).
Distinguished Professors
Goldfried, Marvin, Ph.D., 1961, University at Buffalo. Clinical Psychology.

Professors
Aron, Arthur, Ph.D., 1970, University of Toronto, Canada. Social/Health Psychology.
O’Leary, Susan G., Ph.D., 1972, University at Stony Brook. Clinical Psychology.
Samuel, Arthur, Ph.D., 1979, University of California, San Diego. Experimental Psychology.
Squires, Nancy K., Ph.D., 1972, University of California, San Diego. Chair. Biopsychology.
Waters, Everett, Ph.D., 1977, University of Minnesota. Social/Health Psychology.
Waters, Harriet Salatas, Ph.D., 1976, University of Minnesota. Social/Health Psychology.
Whitaker, Patricia, Ph.D., 1979, University of Toronto. Biopsychology. Undergraduate Director.
Wortman, Camille B., 1972, Duke University. Social/Health Psychology.

Associate Professors
Canli, Turhan, Ph.D., 1993, Yale University. Biopsychology.
Davila, Joanne, Ph.D., 1993, UCLA. Clinical Psychology.
Franklin, Nancy, Ph.D., 1989, Stanford University. Experimental Psychology.
Lobel, Marci, Ph.D., 1989, UCLA, Social/Health Psychology.

Assistant Professors
Freitas, Antonio, Ph.D., 2002, Yale University. Social/Health Psychology.
Hajcak, Greg, Ph.D., 2006, University of Delaware. Clinical Psychology.
Klonsky, E. David, Ph.D., 2005, University of Virginia. Clinical Psychology.
Moyer, Anne, PhD., 1995, Yale University. Social/Health Psychology.

Lecturers

Research Faculty
Heyman, Richard, Ph.D., 1992, University of Oregon—Research Professor.
Slep, Amy, Ph.D., 1995, Stony Brook University—Research Associate Professor.
Grackin, Janice , Ph.D., 1999, Stony Brook University—Research Assistant Professor.

Post Doctoral Fellows
Casillas, Katherine — Clinical
Jones, Bryan - Experimental
Snarr, Jeffery — Clinical
Swets, Benjamin — Experimental
Tserdanelis, Georgios — Experimental

Personnel
Thompson, Judith — Assistant to the Chair
Wollmuth, Marilynn — Graduate Student Coordinator
Bieselin, Jean — Account Clerk
Carlson, Carol — Academic Advisor
Hildenbrand, Donna — Student Coordinator
Zimmerli, Cindy — Research Coordinator
Urbelis, Pat — Psychological Center Administrator