Greetings!

Just before the holidays I wrote to the alumni with the suggestion that we try to bring some cheer to each other to start off a new year that promises to bring grim financial news. I asked the alumni to send messages of cheer as well as pictures. The response has been wonderful, as you will see starting on page 2. I even received responses from some people I haven’t heard from in years, which was a special pleasure. While we’re all struggling with the effects of the financial crisis, it helps to focus on the good things in life, one of the best of which is old friends.

Nancy

Looking for Alumni — Grads of 1981:

We’ve now located about 650 of the 860 former graduate students. Many people have responded to the “Looking for Alumni” feature, which started with the first graduating class. As we get nearer to the present, there are fewer and fewer missing contacts, but there are always a few, so please keep giving us your help.

These are people who we haven’t located and who graduated in 1981. If you have any information that might help me locate them, please write to me at:

Nancy.Squires@sunysb.edu.

Eileen Kologinsky
Deborah Lovrich Schaub
In the following pages are the wonderful New Year’s messages of cheer from our alumni. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

Nancy

Richard Winett (Clinical, 1971; advisor Len Krasner)

Nancy:
Well, something a bit more cheerful from Dick Winett, Ph.D., in 1971.
Dick with granddaughter Ellie Grace Molitor who was born on 04/04/08. Ellie is the granddaughter of Dick and Sheila Winett, daughter of Emily Winett, M.D., and her husband, Josh Molitor, who live in Phoenix, AZ.

Dick

(Dick is currently the Heilig Meyers Professor of Psychology, Director of Clinical Training, and Director of the Center for Research in Health Behavior at Virginia Tech.)

Lisa Serbin (Clinical, 1972, advisor Dan O’Leary)

Hello Nancy
...that's a nice idea! My year of entry was 1968, in the clinical Ph.D. program.

"Hello everyone, I want to wish all my classmates and friends the very best wishes for a peaceful new year. Would love to hear from classmates, and to hear about we are all doing at this transitional phase of our lives and careers.....best to all, Lisa"

Lisa A. Serbin, Ph.D.
Concordia University Research Chair in Human Development and Professor of Psychology

(Lisa is now at the Centre for Research in Human Development Concordia University in Montreal)

I'm second from the right, with three of my students attending the Society For Life History Research in Psychopathology meeting, held in Bad Nauheim, Germany in Sept. 2008
MORE HAPPY NEW YEAR MESSAGES FROM ALUMNI

Linda Podbros (Biopsychology, 1981, advisor John Stamm) and James Waters (Clinical, 1979, advisor Len Krasner)

Hi Nancy,

I'm not good at sending news along, but, taking advantage of a quiet day, I thought I would send my first post. Both my husband, Jim Waters, and I began the graduate program in 1974, Jim in Clinical and I in BioPsych/Neuropsychology. Jim and I married in 1977 and are still together! We have two children, David age 26, and Sarah age 22. This past fall, our son began work on a PhD in Physics, at the U. of Utah. Our daughter graduates from college this Spring. She's the artist in our family and is graduating from the Pratt Institute, with her graduation at Radio City Music Hall. That should be a lot of fun. We are enjoying watching them shape their separate paths. Jim has always worked in developmental disabilities; he is currently directing Psychological services for a number of residences in the Boston area. I went in the clinical direction and have worked as a Neuropsychologist since finishing at Stony Brook, on the staff at rehabilitation hospitals, and have maintained a private practice for many years. We would love to hear from people; we now have a couple of empty bedrooms in our house outside of Boston and a number of kayaks at our cottage on the Cape. Our e-addresses are lpodbros@neuropsy.us and Jim.Waters999@gmail.com.

Peg Boyle (Experimental, 1996; advisor Bob Boice.)

Dear Nancy — Great idea - here is a note to pass along to the other alums - thanks for doing this. I have also attached a picture. Take care, Peg

Prósp ero Ano Novo from São Paulo! I'm in Brazil because my husband is taking his sabbatical at the University of São Paulo (we met at Stony Brook!). While here I've been volunteering at an orphanage and a community center in the city favelas. Plus, I finished a book on writing, which can be used as a textbook for dissertation writing seminars or a guide for informal writing groups. This book is called Demystifying the Writing Process: A Guide for Dissertation Writers and Writing Groups and will be published in early 2009 by Stylus Publishing. If you would like me to put you on a distribution list for when the book comes out or to send me a note, you can reach me at PegBoyle.Single@uvm.edu.

Thomas Ferraro (Developmental, 1981; advisor Herb Kaye)

Great Idea! My message should read "A special hi to Ken Dammond and Janet Fischel." My address is drtomferraro.com
MORE HAPPY NEW YEAR MESSAGES FROM ALUMNI

Michelle Kees (Clinical, 2001; advisor Zvi Strassberg)

Dear Nancy,

I so enjoy getting the Stony Brook newsletter, hearing about the department, and seeing the updates.

After Stony Brook, I did my internship at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and a 2-year fellowship at the Center on Child Abuse & Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. In 2003, I accepted an Assistant Professor position at the University of Michigan in the Department of Psychiatry. I am part-time and have a nice balance of research, teaching, and clinical activities at UM, primarily focusing on parenting and anxiety and trauma in children. I am currently working on the Welcome Back Veterans initiative through the McCormick Foundation and Major League Baseball, developing child and family programming for returning veterans.

In my personal life, I married Toby Padfield in 2004. Toby & I went to high school together way back when, and our extended families are still in southern Illinois. We have one son, Andrew, who was born in March 2006. He is our joy. In August 2007, Andrew was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive brain tumor, AT/RT. Despite a grim prognosis, Andrew has fared well through treatment and is a bright and engaging almost-three-year-old. We are grateful for each moment. For more about our family: http://www.carepages.com/carepages/AndrewPadfieldCarePage.

Thank you again for keeping the newsletters going. All the best, Michelle Kees

Janice Grackin (Social/Health, 1999; advisor Marci Lobel.) Janice is now the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Assessment and Program Review at Nassau Community College

Hi Nancy-

It's always great to hear from you and I hope all is well in the Dept. of Psychology at SBU.

It's hard to believe I am coming up on my 10 years post-PhD anniversary in May 2009! (I entered the program in September 1993.) I've been at NCC just over a year now and am very happy in my position and role here. I have satisfying professional work and collegial relationships, some of which are developing into cherished friendships. My not-for-profit work with Girls Inc. of Long Island continues to be very satisfying as well; the organization I founded is growing slowly but surely.

As we turn the page to 2009, I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, filled with the warmth of family and dear friends to share your life. David and I had our daughter and son-in-law, our granddaughter (turning 3 in February) and our son all home for an extended visit during the holidays. As I looked around at each of them, I felt blessed beyond measure. My retirement savings may have shrunk alarmingly, but I was surrounded by the truest measure of my wealth, the dear ones who are the source of deep satisfaction and contentment for me.

Warmest regards,
Janice
Forest Baker (Experimental, 1999; advisor Howie Rachlin.)

Hi Nancy,

I entered the program in 1996. I've attached a recent photo of me and my fiancée, Annie, that was taken this past summer while we were on a 7-day mt bike trip from Colorado to Utah.

Thanks for putting together this newsletter! Here are some holiday wishes for my former classmates.

Jamie – I hope that Santa left you a monkey underneath your tree and that you never stop swimming against the current of lay opinion.

Lisa – May you and your family have a life that is filled with happiness and tasty food.

David & Emily – May you never have to deal with crazy landlords again and may your oil never run out in the winter.

Michelle and Jen – I hope Santa brought you a couch, a big TV, a fridge full of food and drinks, and a bathroom – all of which you never have to share with me, your ‘fourth’ roommate.

Ted – I hope Santa gives me a copy of the video where you hooked me up with all sorts of electrodes (hilarious!) and that you never let your bike collect dust in the garage.

Danielle – If, however unlikely, you receive or read this newsletter...thanks for demonstrating that it is OK to change course.

Scott – You and Marla were the only sane, but still fun, people I knew at Stony Brook. May academia never drive you crazy.

Dave – I hope you still, from time to time, bust out some tights and jam on your guitar...with your mouth. If there is one thing that I will always cherish from my time at Stony Brook, it will be watching you and Scott play in Pumice.

Jay – May you never have to weigh another pigeon again. Give my greetings to your family!

Xotchil – I hope Santa left you a book of poetry, a CD full of great songs, good coffee, and close friends to enjoy them all. May your thirst for truth and meaning never be quenched.

On a side note, I’ve attached two additional pictures that I thought you might be interested in seeing. Ever since I earned my PhD, I’ve had a major issue with Stony Brook and its Alumni Association, which I think these pictures demonstrate nicely. Don’t worry; you’ll notice in the second picture that I do recycle.

Thanks, Forest

NOTE from Nancy: I told the Alumni Association about this problem and they’ve promised to fix it. We’ll see.
Stacey Storch (Clinical, 2004; advisor Russ Whitehurst)

Happy New Year to all my former classmates and professors! My husband Charlie, our two girls, Quinn (2 yrs) and Harper (6 mos), and I moved to central NJ this past summer when Charlie took a job with Johnson & Johnson. I continue to consult for the Research & Validation department at Scholastic, while trying to keep up with our two active girls. We are enjoying life back in the Northeast, though we miss the North Carolina weather and close proximity to Duke!

Elena Rozen Hannah (Social, 1970.; advisor Dana Bramel.)

Hello Nancy,

Happy Holidays to you too. What a nice idea, our very own Facebook! My daughter took this picture of me as we were opening presents on December 25th. I joined the program in 1968, SB was quite new. Some of my classmates were Michael Grand, Cherie Phillips, Barbara Goldberg, Ian Lubeck, Ted Hannah, Ray Rosen, Terry (gosh, having a senior moment here, can’t remember his last name, also from South Africa) Joel Wapnick, Lisa Serbin, and a few others whose faces I can see very clearly but it would take me a while to search for their names in my overloaded memory.

I left SB in 1970 to come to Memorial University here in St. John's, and have been here ever since, teaching various courses quite successfully but not doing much in the way of research in the last two decades.

I hope everyone from the “good old days” is doing well and planning to be very active old people in the next three decades! If anyone would like to visit Newfoundland, I have plenty of space in my house.

Best,
Elena
MORE HAPPY NEW YEAR MESSAGES FROM ALUMNI

Helena Blumen (Cognitive/Experimental, 2008; advisor Suparna Rajaram)

Hi Nancy. I hope my new years wishes are not arriving too late for your newsletter. Below are also my new years wishes to everyone. It was hard to find a recent picture of me (most pictures we take these days are of my soon to be 5 year old daughter Linnea J - born and bred in graduate school) but attached is one that I was forced to crop a bit.

Happy New Year Everyone at the Department of Psychology at SBU!!! Extra cheer to Suparna, Arty, Richard and the rest of the cognitive group. I miss you all and our weekly brown bag discussions in particular. Extra cheer also to Adam, Sarah and the other graduate students, particularly the first-year students who are wondering if they are cut out for this research stuff (you can do this!!!). I am enjoying my postdoctoral position here at Taub/Sergievsky/Columbia University Medical Center (way too many names I know, but just like in research methods…the specifics are important) and is thankful for all the valuable information that I learned as a graduate student at SBU.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy 2009, despite the financially tumultuous world that we live in. I miss you all very much.

Cheers, Helena

Morgan Tini Rafferty (Social/Health, 2003; advisor Everett Waters) writes:

Hello to all Stony Brook alumni and faculty! Happy 2009! I am doing well raising my two young daughters. Reagan, 4, and Sloane, almost 2, keep me busy. I am teaching at Anna Maria College in MA as an adjunct.

I miss all my Stony Brook friends.

Morgan Tini Rafferty

OTHER ALUMNI NEWS

Stephanie Sohl (Social/Health, 2008, advisor Anne Moyer) is doing a postdoc in Cancer Prevention and Control in the Oncological Sciences Department at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Sarah Knapp (Social/Health, 2008, advisor Anne Moyer) is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts! She writes: “I absolutely love it here! Western Massachusetts is beautiful and we are really close to Amherst and Northampton, which are very artsy and fun! I am replacing a faculty member who is on sabbatical this year, so I will be teaching four courses; Social Psychology, and the lab course in Social Psychology in the Fall, and Health Psychology and a seminar course in the Psychology of Stigma in the Spring, and hopefully recruiting some bright undergraduates to participate in my research!”

Tom Olino (Clinical, 2008, advisor Dan Klein) started a post-doc with Erika Forbes and Ron Dahl at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in September. He is learning fMRI methods to assess reward in the context of risk for depressive disorders.

Jamie Morris (Biopsychology, 2003; advisor Nancy Squires) joined the faculty of the Psychology Department at the University of Virginia in January. His wife Jess has a position in the Medical School. Jamie brings with him his NIH Pathways to Independence grant, so he has reduced teaching at the outset and can focus on setting up his research program which incorporates both multiple brain imaging modalities.
Bianca Acevedo (Social/Health 2008; advisor Art Aron) is now a post doctoral fellow at Albert Einstein. Her dissertation on brain activity, love, and age has been getting a great deal of attention in the press. Here is one example.

November 17, 2008

Proof's in the brain scan: Romance doesn't have to fade  By Sharon Jayson, USA TODAY

The honeymoon doesn't have to be over just because you've been together for years, new research suggests.

Popular wisdom would have it that romance fades over time. But new brain scans of people who say they are still in love after being married for decades are similar to scans of those who have just fallen in love, leading researchers to conclude that long-term relationships can be just as passionate and romantic as new love.

"We're confident it's real," says psychologist Arthur Aron of the State University of New York-Stony Brook, one of the researchers involved in the study. "That's what the brain scans are telling us. People can't fake that."

The study, presented Sunday at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C., represents a dramatic shift in thinking.

"A lot of other research always suggested romantic love is over by 12 to 15 months. This suggests that may not have to be the case," says Richmond Thompson, an associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at Bowdoin College, who was not involved in the study.

The findings are based on functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) which scanned the brains of 10 women and seven men who said they were still intensely in love with their spouses after an average 21 years of marriage. When they viewed photos of their partners, their brains reacted.

"If you ask people around the world whether romantic love can last, they'll roll their eyes and say 'probably not,' and most textbooks say that too. We're proving them wrong," says anthropologist Helen Fisher of Rutgers University, a co-author.

Lead author Bianca Acevedo, who has worked with Aron and now works with neuroscientist and study co-author Lucy Brown of Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, N.Y., says the findings are similar to earlier research they did on 10 women and seven men who had fallen in love within the previous year. The number of study participants is typical for fMRI studies, researchers say.

Findings show long-term relationships don't have the obsession and anxiety of new love; instead, they show increased calm and attachment, Fisher says. Couples view partners as central to their lives; they continue to want connection and engagement and maintain a sexual liveliness.

Elaine Hatfield, a University of Hawaii psychology professor who did not participate in the study, says the studies are a "wonderful addition" to the love research, "a promising beginning … not the last word in our understanding of passionate love."


Gabrielle Chiaramonte (Social/Health Psychology, 2007; advisor Ron Friend) is now a postdoctoral fellow at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University and Clinical Fellow at New York-Presbyterian Hospital was invited to speak at a conference sponsored by the Cardiovascular Research Foundation. The talk was on the role of stress in cardiovascular disease in women. It has received a lot of press. Among other places, a review of her talk appeared in the NY Times, Wall Street Journal, and Newsweek.

http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/27272


William Pelham (Clinical Psychology, 1977; advisor Alan Ross) receives inaugural presidential award

Now a University of Buffalo Distinguished Professor in the departments of Psychology, Pediatrics and Psychiatry, and one of the leading experts in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Bill been named the inaugural recipient of Buffalo's Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence.

The award recognizes a UB faculty member who has achieved the highest degree of excellence as a scholar, community citizen and educator.

In explaining his choice of Pelham to be the first recipient of this award, Buffalo's president Simpson noted that it came as no surprise, given UB's extraordinary faculty, that the call for nominations attracted a large pool of distinguished, eminently qualified nominees from across campus.

"Bill Pelham stood out as a truly exemplary candidate, even among this august group," Simpson said. "As one of the world's principal authorities on ADHD, as a generous and effective mentor to graduate students and young researchers, and as an educator of the first order, he is the epitome of the well-rounded faculty member—equally accomplished, dedicated and influential in the areas of research, teaching and service.

"He fully embodies the qualities the provost and I intended this award to honor, combining outstanding interdisciplinary scholarship with a commitment to using his research and talents to serve the public while educating and mentoring a new generation of scholars and clinicians," he added. "As the inaugural recipient of this well-earned award, he sets the bar very high indeed." Pelham joined the UB faculty in 1996 after a 10-year stint on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh, where he directed the Attention Deficit Disorder Program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dolores Cannella, (Social/Health, 2007; advisor Marci Lobel)

Hi Nancy,

Here is the update that I promised you. In September, I accepted a tenure-track position at Stony Brook's School of Dental Medicine, and just this week, was named Director of Behavioral Sciences. I am doing all the things that Assistant Professors do; teaching, conducting research, and sitting on committees (and committees, and committees:) Currently, I am the Coordinator of the Preventative Services Program, that provides outreach to disadvantaged women and children in undeserved communities and training opportunities for residents. I am also participating in a two-year Fellowship program in Medical Education. It's wonderful being down the road and seeing everyone when I can "pop in". Wishing you good health and spirits in 2009! Best, Dolores

In response to a previous newsletter, we had an email from the sister of Richard LaFemina (Clinical Psychology, 1978, advisor James Calhoun). Richard is now teaching at a university in Hawaii and has recently written a book entitled:

"In The Shadow of our Father"

"...a story about the impact of an unusual man on his brood of unwanted, hapless children. It is a story told through the memories of his second son; a son who followed, in more ways “than he would admit, in the frenzied steps of this stranger called Dad."
Pitt Names Inaugural Holder of the Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education and First Director of Its Center for Urban Education

Louis M. Gomez, Aon Professor of Learning Sciences and Professor of Computer Science at Northwestern University, will fill the post

PITTSBURGH- The University of Pittsburgh School of Education has announced that Louis M. Gomez, Aon Professor of Learning Sciences and Professor of Computer Science at Northwestern University, will be the inaugural holder of the Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education at Pitt and the first director of Pitt's Center for Urban Education.

In addition, Gomez, who will join the University in January 2009, will serve as senior scientist in Pitt's Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC).

Prior to joining the Northwestern faculty, Gomez was director of Human-Computer Systems Research at Bellcore in Morristown, N.J. At Bellcore, he pursued research programs to investigate techniques that improve human use of information-retrieval systems and techniques that aid in acquiring complex computer-based skills.


Gomez received the BA degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1974 and the PhD degree in cognitive psychology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1979.

The Faison Chair was established in 2006 to honor Pitt alumnus and emeritus trustee Faison, a trailblazing educator who earned all her degrees in Pitt's School of Education—the BS degree in 1946, the MEd degree in 1955, and the PhD degree in 1975.

The first fully endowed chair in the 98-year history of the School of Education, the Faison Chair was funded through gifts from the Buhl Foundation, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and the Grable Foundation, with additional support from the Falk Foundation.
A BELATED WELCOME TO THE NEW GRAD STUDENTS FOR FALL ‘08

Biopsychology

Jamie Ferri
John Borghi
Diane Kim
Michael Menezes
Joseph Noel

Clinical Psychology

Patricia Driscoll
Nadia Samad
Alexis May
Caitlin Walsh
Autumn Kujawa

Cognitive/Experimental

Julie Riederer
Greg Perryman

Social/Health Psychology

Lilyl Grey
Alberto Herrera
June Kim
Borah Lee
Sandra Skinner
Stefan Schneider
Natalie Nardone
Debbie Campani, Grad Coordinator for many years, and now blissfully retired in Florida, writes: “I do miss my graduate students and wish them all well in their careers and personal lives.” She also sends these pictures to show how she is spending her time.

Dina Vivian (Clinical, 1986, advisor Dan O’Leary) becomes Director of the Krasner Psychological Center.

“Upon graduating from the clinical program I continued conducting research for several years here at Stony Brook, initially as a Research Assistant Professor and subsequently as a Research Associate Professor in the area of marital therapy and spouse abuse. During that time period I was also collaborating with Dan O’Leary in clinical teaching and serving as the Associate Director of the University Marital Therapy Clinic; my research efforts were supported by a First Award NIMH Grant. Subsequently, I became involved in outcome research with Dan Klein in the area of Chronic Depression. In fact, for the better part of the past 13 years, I have had the privilege of working in close collaboration with him, as well as with an outstanding team of psychologists and psychiatrists across the country in the course of two large collaborative outcome studies designed to treat chronic depressives with a new cognitive-behavioral model of therapy. One of the primary roles I had in these studies was that of clinical instructor and therapy supervisor for the Stony Brook site. Lastly, since graduating I have also maintained a clinical private practice and I specialize in the treatment of adult disorders, including couple-related problems and mood disorders."

“Since I began working as the Director of the Psychological Center (PC), I have been heavily involved with multiple areas of clinical training that take place at the PC, in addition to spending time in familiarizing myself with administrative aspects of the day-to-day functioning of the PC and getting acquainted (or re-acquainted) with the members of the clinical program. Thus far, one of the most enjoyable and invigorating aspects of this position has been getting to know and working closely with a large number of clinical students. In the future I hope to be able to create new venues to extend training opportunities for clinical students at the PC by reaching out to potential sources of clinical referral both within the University and in the community and by creating new treatment programs."

Debbie, working at the Whitney Bank Club—Tropicana Field World Series. She and her husband George volunteer on a regular basis. George’s other hobby is growing fruit trees in their yard.

Debbie’s other hobby is caring for granddaughter Alessi shown here at one year of age.
The following are some of the most recent grants awarded to members of the psychology department.

**Ted Carr** (Clinical) was named a fellow of Division 54 (Pediatric Psychology) of APA.

**Marci Lobel** (Social/Health) has been named a fellow of APA Division 38 (Health Psychology)

**Joan Kuchner** (Director of the Child and Family Studies Minor) was the recipient of the Dialogues Across Differences Award for 2008-2009. This is an award sponsored by Stony Brook University's Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action. The theme for this year is “Dreams Deferred.” Her award is for programs focusing on “Time Disordered Parenthood: Reshaping Generational Dreams.” She has received a Dialogues award for outreach programming each year since joining the Department of Psychology.

**Marv Goldfried** is the 2009 President of the Clinical Division (Div 12) of APA.

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**A SAMPLING OF RECENT GRANTS in PSYCHOLOGY**

The following are some of the most recent grants awarded to members of the psychology department.

**“Multidimensional Impact of Pain on Individual and Family Functioning in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).”**

Edward Carr has received an award from the Autism Research Institute for his research on Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**“Dev. of a Scientist-Practitioner Program of Excellence in Exposure-based Interventions for Anxiety Disorder.”**

Greg Hajcak (PI), Joanne Davila and Marvin Goldfried (Co-PIs), received a 5 year NIH grant for their project to develop an evidence-based training program at SBU for treatment of exposure-based interventions for anxiety disorders.

**“Using the internet without using the eyes: Models of online transactions for non-visual interaction”**

Susan Brennan, working with I.V. Ramakrishnan of Computer Science, received a 4 year NSF grant for a project with the goal to empower people with visual impairments to lead completely independent lives with the help of the internet.
Tolerance Over Race Can Spread, Studies Find  

By BENEDICT CAREY

November 7, 2008

This was supposed to be the election when hidden racism would rear its head. There was much talk of a “Bradley effect,” in which white voters would say one thing to pollsters and do another in the privacy of the booth; of a backlash in which the working-class whites whom Senator Barack Obama had labeled “bitter” would take their bitterness out on him.

But lost in all that anguished commentary, experts say, was an important recent finding from the study of prejudice: that mutual trust between members of different races can catch on just as quickly, and spread just as fast, as suspicion.

In some new studies, psychologists have been able to establish a close relationship between diverse pairs — black and white, Latino and Asian, black and Latino — in a matter of hours. That relationship immediately reduces conscious and unconscious bias in both people, and also significantly reduces prejudice toward the other group in each individual’s close friends.

This extended-contact effect, as it is called, travels like a benign virus through an entire peer group, counteracting subtle or not so subtle mistrust.

“It’s important to remember that implicit biases are out there, absolutely; but I think that that’s only half the story,” said Linda R. Tropp, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts. “With broader changes in the society at large, people can also become more willing to reach across racial boundaries, and that goes for both minorities and whites.”

Mr. Obama’s election notwithstanding, institutional and individual prejudice still infects many areas of modern life, all experts agree. And this year, worries about the economy may have trumped any persistent concerns about race.

Yet to the extent that race played a role at all, it seemed to break more in Mr. Obama’s favor than against him. In voter surveys, most of the 17 percent of white voters who said race played some part in their decision pulled the lever for Mr. McCain; but among all voters who took race into account, Mr. Obama won the majority.

“I’m a Republican, and for me to vote for Obama I had to have a certain level of trust, that he was going to do the right thing, that he wasn’t going to be small-minded, that he wasn’t going to take care of one group of people over another,” said Nelson Montgomery, 50, a white sales executive in Buffalo who lived in a black neighborhood in Houston early in his career.

“What it came down to,” Mr. Montgomery said, “is that we’re so polarized right now, we’re only hearing from the fringe on either side, and we need more than anything to build trust. And I felt he could do that.”

In studies over the past few years, researchers have demonstrated how quickly trust can build in the right circumstances. To build a close relationship from scratch, psychologists have two strangers come together in four hourlong sessions. In the first, the two share their answers to a list of questions, from the innocuous “Would you like to be famous? In what way?” to the more serious, like “If you could change anything about the way you were raised, what would it be?”

In the second session, the pair competes against other pairs in a variety of timed parlor games. In the third, they talk about a variety of things, including why they are proud to be a member of their ethnic group, whether Latino, Asian, white or black. Finally, they take turns wearing a blindfold, while their partner gives instructions for navigating a maze.

Trivial as they may sound, those exercises create a relationship “that is as close as any relationship the person has,” said Art Aron, a social psychologist at Stony Brook University who developed the program with his wife, Elaine N. Aron.

The new relationship can last months or longer, and it almost immediately lowers a person’s score on a variety of prejudice measures. Moreover, it significantly reduces anxiety during encounters with other members of that second group, as gauged by stress hormone levels in the saliva.

In a series of studies, Art Aron and others have found that, by generating a single cross-group friendship, they can quickly improve relations between cliques that have been pitted against one another in hostile competitions. In a continuing study of some 1,000 new students at Stony Brook, Dr. Aron has found that merely being in the same class where other interracial pairs were interacting can reduce levels of prejudice.

The reason such changes emerge, some psychologists argue, is that people have a selfish urge to expand their own identities through others — to make themselves a part of others’ lives, and vice versa, as lovers, parents, colleagues, friends. Studies find that that is exactly what happens in a relationship: people are not merely aware of their closest friends’ problems but to some extent feel the sting, the humiliation, the injustice.

Psychologists can manipulate this need for self-expansion. In one recent experiment, led by Stephen Wright, a psychologist at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, researchers had 47 students describe their workloads and activities and made each student feel either overextended or in a rut, based on bogus personality tests.

“It’s easy enough to do, because students always feel both overwhelmed and in a rut,” Dr. Wright said. Those led to feel in a rut, he went on, “were more interested than the others in having a friendship with someone that is clearly from a minority group.”

This impulse pushes against any implicit or subconscious bias a person may have. When larger issues are in play, race can shrink quickly in importance. In the late 1960s, when the black politician Richard G. Hatcher was vying to become mayor of Gary, Ind., one neighborhood near the steel mills was running nearly 90 percent against him, said Thomas Pettigrew, a research professor in social psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, who helped do the polling. It turned out that many people there were most concerned about a nearby city dump that cast a bad smell over the neighborhood.

After he was elected, Mayor Hatcher closed the dump, and the next election he got nearly 40 percent of the vote from the neighborhood.

“A lot of people living there cared a lot more about the dump than the color of their mayor,” Dr. Pettigrew said. About Mr. Obama’s election, he added, “the economic crisis I think has had the same impact.”
Markus Maier

Markus is a new faculty member in the Social/Health program and in PEP (the University's Professional Education Program). He writes:

“In my labs we are investigating the influence of motivational goals on all kinds of automatic behaviors. In one project we explore the relationship between the color red, avoidance motivation and attentional processes. In another project we are investigating the context specific variation of the meaning of different colors on motivation and performance. Furthermore, in a third project we study the unconscious nature of Internal Working Models of Attachment by using different priming tasks. In future research we would like to use these findings to design an implicit reaction time based method for the assessment of automatic motivational tendencies in achievement and relationship contexts.”

Christian Luhmann

Christian is a new faculty member in the Cognitive/Experimental Program. He writes:

“My work focuses on how people make decisions in the face of incomplete, inconsistent, ambiguous, or uncertain information. I am particularly interested in the cognitive and neural processes that underlie people’s ability to anticipate and make predictions about events in the future. My work combines behavioral, computational, and neuroimaging methods to explore the operation of such processes and how they support learning and decision-making.”
Local high school student **Naureen Osman** has been selected as a semi-finalist for the Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS), which is America’s most prestigious pre-college science competition. Naureen worked with **Grag Hajcak** on a project titled:

“Effect of Cognitive Load and Depressive Symptoms on Heart Rate Variability”

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**Graduate Fellowships & Awards**

**Kristin M. Davies** ((Social/Health Psychology, advisor Art Aron) was the winner of a Spring 2008 Grants-in-Aid Award for a project entitled “Identifying Key Themes in Cross-Group Friendship Formation.”

**Samara Tetenbaum** (Clinical, advisor Ted Carr) received an award of $2,000 from the Organization for Autism Research

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**Undergraduate News:**

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**Administrative Update:**

The administrative staff of the psychology department put their paperwork aside and kicked off their shoes for an evening of dancing at our research coordinator’s wedding in September. The rumor of a Stony Brook line-dance team is spreading.

Top row:
Jean Bieselin (Account Clerk)
Carol Carlson (Undergraduate Advisor)
Cindy Forman (Research Coordinator)
Marilynn Wollmuth (Graduate Coordinator)

Bottom row:
Donna Hildenbrand (Undergraduate Coordinator)
Judy Thompson (Assistant to the Chair)
Danielle Mitnick Provenzano (Clinical; advisors: R. Heyman & A. Smith-Slep) welcomes Alexandra Jane Mitnick. She was born 7/15/08 at 7 lbs, 3 oz, and 19 inches.

Amy Smith Slep (Research Associate Professor and an alumna of the clinical program, 1995) has a new baby girl. Mikayla Celeste Slep was born 9/5/08. She was 6 lbs 14 ozs and 20.5 inches long.

Tony Weaver’s daughter Catherine, who we welcomed in the last newsletter, is introduced to Amy’s daughter at the holiday party. (Tony is in the Cognitive program; his advisor is Susan Brennan).

Grad student Hyejin Yang (Cognitive, advisor Greg Zelinsky) welcomes daughter Amber, born 10/27/08. She is seen here with big sister Irene who is 3 years old.
In 2008, the psychology department adopted the two turtles pictured above from a local turtle rescue shelter. These turtles would have a disadvantage in the wild due to arm and leg damage, but are now at home (and hopefully hibernating) in the center courtyard of the psychology building - a safe haven where they can retire in peace. Since our courtyard is enclosed, they are safe from other wild animals (other than squirrels), and yet still have a large natural habitat.

This year, befitting the hard financial times, instead of having our holiday party catered, everyone pitched in and brought a dish representing their ethnic origin. As you can see below, the array of food (especially desserts) was totally competitive with any caterer, and the holiday cheer overflowed. Many thanks to the organizers:

Pat Whitaker, Doreen Olvet, and Vinnie Grande.
Department of Psychology

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CHAIR: Dr. Nancy Squires
Email: Nancy.Squires@sunysb.edu

Psychology Personnel

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.
Freitas, Antonio, Ph.D., 2002, Yale University. Social/Health Psychology.
Lobel, Marci, Ph.D., 1989, UCLA. Social/Health Psychology.

Assistant Professors
Hajcak, Greg, Ph.D., 2006, University of Delaware. Clinical Psychology.
Klonsky, E. David, Ph.D., 2005, University of Virginia. Clinical Psychology.
Maier, Markus, Ph.D., 2000, University of Regensburg, Germany. Social & Health Psychology.
Moyer, Anne, PhD., 1995, Yale University. Social/Health Psychology.

Emeritus Faculty in Residence
Levine, Marvin, Ph.D., 1959, University of Wisconsin. Cognitive/Experimental Psychology.

Distinguished Professors
Goldfried, Marvin, Ph.D., 1961, University at Buffalo. Clinical Psychology.

Lecturers
Kuchner, Joan F., Ph.D., 1981, University of Chicago, Director of Child & Family Studies.

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

Post Doctoral Fellows
Casillas, Katherine — Clinical
Snarr, Jeffery — Clinical

Personnel
Thompson, Judith — Assistant to the Chair.
Wolmuth, Marilynn — Graduate Student Coordinator
Bieselin, Jean — Account Clerk
Carlson, Carol — Undergraduate Advising
Hildenbrand, Donna — Student Coordinator
Zimmerli-Forman, Cindy — Research Coordinator
Vivian, Dina, Ph.D. — Director of the Psychological Center
Urbelis, Pat — Psychological Center Administrator

SBS Shops
Glenn Hudson—Electronics shop manager
Ralph Molaro—Computing and technical support
Bob Chorley—Machine shop manager
Michael Antoszyk—Building manager