GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR-ELECT
TRISH DEVINE

Hello former students, colleagues, and friends! It’s been some time since we have been in touch and there have been many changes in the department in recent years. In this and subsequent newsletters, we will try to bring you up-to-date on what’s new in the Department. One upcoming change is that I will become chair of the Department in January of 2009. As a member of the Department since 1985, some of you may remember me from your Introductory Psychology class, a Psychology 411 class, or as a member of my research lab. Still others may have taken graduate courses with me. I’m very excited to be the Department’s Chair-elect and look forward to serving the Department in this new role.

Over the last 8 or so years, we have had to say our goodbyes to some of our faculty and staff by way of retirement (they will be featured in upcoming newsletters), while others have taken jobs elsewhere. Fortunately, however, we have hired several exciting and outstanding new colleagues who will help to ensure that the University of Wisconsin maintains its eminence as one the world’s great psychology departments. Profiles of our current faculty and students can be found in our department website. During this time period, after 37 years of dedicated service, Arlene Davenport retired as the Department’s undergraduate advisor. Arlene shepherded generations of students through the major and she left some pretty big shoes to fill. Though we were all sad to see Arlene retire, we welcomed two dynamic and talented individuals, Stephanie Osborn (a graduate of our Department) and Melanie Jones (a graduate of the UW Educational Psychology Department), who share the advising responsibilities. Against this backdrop of change, however, it is important to note that some things remain constant. For example, our Department continues its preeminence in psychological science. As articles in this and upcoming newsletters reveal, our faculty and students are conducting cutting-edge, award-winning research that is at the forefront of discoveries in the field – research that both defines and shapes the future of psychological science. In addition, faculty, lecturers, and graduate students maintain their dedication to high quality and rigorous education of our students in the classroom and beyond. Over the years, I have felt tremendously fortunate to be part of such an exciting and vibrant Department and I look forward to working to ensure that the Department maintains its excellence in our research and teaching missions.

One of the first things I wanted to do as Chair-elect was to reinstate our newsletter and make a commitment to our alums that we will be in more regular contact. Without you, and the students who will follow in the tradition of excellence you helped to establish, we would not have the extraordinary Department that we do. While you were here, we were privileged to be a part of your educational journey and we were proud of your accomplishments. Let me close by asking you to return the favor; please get in touch with us. We would love to learn where you are and what you are doing. We hope that you will share with us memories of your time in the Department. Until the next Update, please feel free to contact me directly at chair@psych.wisc.edu and please visit our website to learn about the latest Department news!
DISCOVER Our New Look

We are proud to unveil the new look (and name) of our Psychology newsletter, *The Update*, and our Department website. The image to the left is the centerpiece of the new website design. It’s often said that a picture is worth a thousand words and the image instantly evokes a variety of reactions that capture our approach to psychological science and to the teaching and learning of psychology.

At the heart of our science is the drive to discover new knowledge. To this end, our faculty and students engage in cutting-edge research. In the classroom, students continually traverse the stepping stones of knowledge acquiring the tools that will enable them to become informed and active citizens of the 21st century. With the support of our committed staff, we strive to create a balance between nurturing the intellectual curiosity of our outstanding students and the demands of furthering our science. Together we collaborate in promoting psychological science as a cumulative and unending process of discovery and together we reach new heights.

In the Department’s tradition of collaboration among our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends, we invite you to visit our classrooms, research labs, offices and the new website to be part of the discovery.

On Wisconsin!

A MESSAGE TO OUR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

“In times of change, the learners shall inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.” - Eric Hoffer

This quote reminds us that every moment in time is a time of change. Part of our mission is to prepare students to be lifelong learners, equipped to deal with the ever changing world in which they participate. Learning is the springboard of discovery and innovation, not an end in and of itself. Time is not static. Learning is not static. They are dynamic and ever evolving.

ALUMNI SHOUT OUT!

Do you have fond memories of your experiences in the UW Psychology Department? We’d love to feature you in our alumni story, “How UW Psychology Made a Difference.” Also, please keep us informed about your recent events through “Alumni Connections.”

Please send your stories, updates, or new E-mail address to Melanie Jones, mjones@wisc.edu.

PSYCHOLOGY FRIENDS LEND A HELPING HAND

A variety of forces came together to shape what has become the look and feel of our newsletter and website. But in bringing these projects to fruition, we owe a debt of gratitude to a longtime friend of the Department, Dave Weiner. Over the years, Dave, the founder and CEO of Marketing Support, Inc. and author of popular psychology books, has been very generous in his support of our department and our science. When we needed both creative and financial help, Dave was ready to lend a helping hand. While we had many ideas about the message we wanted our website to convey, our web design skills were not up to our aspirations. After consulting with Dave about our vision for the website, he put one of his bright and creative stars, Kayanna Nelson, to work on this project. Kayanna listened carefully to our words and, as artists do, she transformed our ideas into an awe-inspiring image, an image that captures the many facets of our approach psychological science. We are delighted with the site and we want to express our gratitude to Dave for his ongoing support of the department and to Kayanna for applying her artistic talents to our web design.
We have all witnessed the burgeoning interest in autism by our communities, the media, and scientific research. Perhaps no one has followed this trend more closely than psychology Professor Morton Ann Gernsbacher. Gernsbacher, a Vilas Research Professor and the Sir Frederic Bartlett Professor, is both an internationally recognized cognitive scientist and the proud mother of an autistic son.

When Gernsbacher entered the field of autism, just a short time after her son was diagnosed, she was taken aback with the tendency and tenor of the previous research. Virtually every study had envisioned autism only from the perspective of pathology: autism was frequently conceptualized as a horrific disease to be cured, and autistic individuals were consistently characterized by solely their deficits and impairments.

Gernsbacher reflected on a contrasting model for scientific inquiry, one which she knew had been highly successful in a parallel realm, aging. Whereas twenty years ago, most researchers had conceived of old age from only the perspective of pathology, the MacArthur Network on Successful Aging had transformed that view. Researchers radically reoriented their approach so that rather than focusing on only the problems associated with aging, they began to examine how and why people aged well.

Here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Gernsbacher is radically reorienting the scientific study of autism, just as researchers in the MacArthur Network on Successful Aging radically reoriented the scientific study of aging. Gernsbacher’s goals are to understand autism as a biological difference that results in atypical modes of perceiving, thinking, and feeling; to empirically identify the strengths and competencies that autistic individuals possess; and to provide the scientific answer to how autistic individuals can live successfully.

The Undergraduate Teaching Fellows program was developed by Professor Jenny Saffran, a Distinguished Professor of Psychology, in response to two perceived needs amongst her undergraduate students. The first need was an opportunity for students in her large undergraduate course on Child Development to have an opportunity for discussion sections. Due to limited TA support, the course did not have sections, which meant that students had no opportunity for small group discussion and projects. The second need was for advanced undergraduates interested in teaching to have a chance to gain experience in the classroom. Many of our students are interested in becoming teachers at some level, but we provide no experiences in our department for these budding leaders.

Following an interview process, 8 Teaching Fellows are selected and teamed together to lead optional discussion sections in the Child Development course. These undergraduate students receive hands-on training and mentoring as they learn how to lead peer discussion sections. Feedback from the Fellows suggests that this experience was often the most important learning opportunity they received in college; for some students, it changed the course of the careers they chose to pursue. The students in the discussion sections enjoyed the more casual learning environment provided by their peer leaders, and feedback suggests that they very much benefitted from the experience.

Professor Saffran is currently recruiting Teaching Fellows for the Spring, 2009 semester.
FAREWELL TO OLD FRIENDS, HELLO TO NEW FACULTY

Dr. Art Glenberg retired from the Psychology Department in 2007, after teaching statistics to many undergraduates and sponsoring many students in his lab. He has gone on to a faculty position at Arizona State. Dr. Tim Baker retired from the Department in 2007 after serving for many years as Co-Director of the Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention (CTRI) and Director of Clinical Training. He now is a Professor of Medicine in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and continues to do research on addictive disorders.

We welcome outstanding new faculty! Dr. Vanessa Simmering just completed her PhD at the University of Iowa in Developmental Science, specializing in cognitive development. She has already scored impressive publications in journals such as Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance. Dr. Wen Li earned her PhD in Personality and Clinical Psychology at Northwestern University in 2004 and has just completed a postdoc there in cognitive and affective neuroscience. Her research interest is anxiety and she has published in excellent journals such as Psychological Science. Dr. Catherine Auger earned her PhD in neuroscience and behavior from the University of Massachusetts and then completed a postdoc at Johns Hopkins before joining our faculty in 2007. Her research focuses on the hormone progesterone and its effects on behavior. Dr. Yuri Miyamoto earned her PhD at the University of Michigan and joined us in Fall, 2007. Her specialty is cultural psychology and she studies culture and cognition in Japan and the United States.

Awards and Honors

Over the past two years many of our Psychology faculty have been recognized for their outstanding achievements in research, teaching, and service.

Lyn Abramson: 2008-09 Association for Psychological Science’s James McKeen Cattell Fellow Award • Leonard Berkowitz: Lifetime Achievement Award, International Society for Research on Aggression • Christopher Coe: 2008 Patricia Barchas Award from the American Psychosomatic Society for excellence and sophistication of research in sociophysiology • John Curtin: 2008 APA Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology; 2008 UW H. I. Romnes Award for Research Excellence • Richard Davidson: 2007 “Person of the Year” by Madison Magazine • Patricia Devine: Publication Committee, Association for Psychological Science (2008 - ); Board of Directors, Association for Psychological Science (2005 - 2008); Favorite Instructor Award, University Residence Halls, UW-Madison Fall, 2006 & 2007 and Spring 2007 • Morton Ann Gernsbacher: 2007 President, Association for Psychological Science & William James Distinguished Lecturer in Psychological Science • Arthur Glenberg: 2007 Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Teaching • Diane Gooding: 2008 UW Van Hise Outreach Distinguished Teaching Award • Janet Hyde: 2008 American Psychological Association (APA) Award for Distinguished Service to Psychological Science • Carol Ryff: 2008 Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation appointment as Marie Jahoda Professor of Psychology; 2007 Merit Award, National Institute on Aging for her grant, “Midlife Health in Japan (MIDJA) and the U.S. (MIDUS)”; 2007 Matilda White Riley Award, which honors multidisciplinary research in aging, granted by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institutes of Health

Discover What UW Psychology Can Do For You

“Through challenging courses and undergraduate research while a psychology major at UW, I learned to think critically and on my feet. Both of these skills are essential to my job now working with troubled teenagers in a wilderness setting.”

-Ben Rosen, B.A., 2006
Students Engage in Service in and out of the Classroom

Students at UW-Madison are well known for their commitment to serving the University and community, and our Psychology students volunteer many hours helping those in need. A handful of students combine their desire to serve with their desire to learn through service learning experiences. One student, Andrew Winter, spent last semester working in transition programming for students with autism spectrum disorder and pervasive developmental disorder. Combined with readings related to his work, Andrew describes his experience as, “practical learning that could never be achieved in the classroom.” Indeed, the opportunity was so life changing for Andrew that he accepted a job as a special education teacher in the Fall.

Many other Psychology students choose to devote some of their time in service to the Department. We were delighted to honor Kelly Balk, Brittany Gresl, Stephen Mack, Andrew Quackenbush, and Amanda Riek with the Department’s Excellence Award, recognizing students who have made outstanding contributions to the Department through their leadership roles. Kelly, Brittany and Andrew are credited with bringing together Psych Club, while Stephen and Amanda were instrumental to the success of Psi Chi. Together, these students dedicated their time and efforts in support of our two student organizations, both as independent groups and collaborators.

Call for Alumni!

Spring, 2009 will mark the first annual “Meet our Alumni Career Dinner.” We are currently recruiting local alumni to meet with our undergraduate students to discuss career paths. If you would like to volunteer your time to talk about your professional work, provide mentoring to our undergraduates, and receive a free meal (though donations are always welcome), please contact our undergraduate advisors at advisor@psych.wisc.edu.
The UW Psychology Department drew Autumn to Madison in 2002. As an undergraduate at a small liberal arts school in Georgia, she had worked in a chimpanzee lab studying handedness and gestural communication for several years. This early research experience convinced her to pursue graduate school, and her interests in language and gesture led her to the lab of UW professor, Martha Alibali.

Autumn began investigating her research interests right away with her first year project, which attempted to distinguish between two competing theories regarding how manual gestures facilitate speech production. Her first year committee was skeptical that the project would work, and encouraged her to simultaneously collect data for another study investigating individual differences in gesture production. Eighteen months later, Autumn had two sets of publishable results. As a result, her biggest piece of advice to students early in their graduate careers is to “get as many things going as you can! Some things might not work out, so the more fires you have going, the better off you’ll be when it comes time to find a job.”

Autumn’s interests in gesture continued to evolve throughout graduate school. As part of her preliminary exam requirements, she wrote a theoretical review paper that considers gestures as reflections of embodied cognition. This paper is currently in press, and became the basis for her dissertation. Autumn has accepted a job as Assistant Professor at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. She is very excited about the opportunity to involve undergraduates in research that will hopefully spark their own intellectual journeys.

We’d like to congratulate our graduate students for their many recent accomplishments!

Melissa Brandon: East Asian & Pacific Summer Institute 2008 Summer Research Fellow, NFS & Australian Academy of Science • Katherine Cronin: Honorable mention for Best Student Paper Presentation, International Primatological Society • Rebecca Gloria: Miriam Schwartz Research Grant: University Graduate Peer Mentor Award • Richard Holden: 2008 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship/Traineeship, Institute of Clinical and Translational Research; 2008 Best Paper Selection, International Medical Informatics Association; 2008 Derjani-Bayeh Industrial and Systems Engineering Graduate Scholarship for Marcroergonomic Research, UW-Madison; 2007 College of Engineering Bollinger Student Support Fund Scholarship • Katherine Kortenkamp & Jessica Shackman: Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Dissertation Grant • Christine Moberg: Tursky Award for outstanding poster, Society for Psychophysiological Research • Myeshia Price: Research with Janet Hyde featured in USA Today • Sarah Romens: Abramson Award for Cognitive Approaches to Psychopathology; Collaborative Research Award • Sarah Sahni: Inducted into the UW Teaching Academy as a Future Faculty Partner; Hertz Foundation Award for Collaborative Research • Christian Stilp: Marian Schwartz Fellowship in Experimental Psychology, National Research Service Award Fellowship from NIH (NIDCD) • Nicole Strang: Miriam Schwartz Fellowship Award • Vera Tsenkova: Institute on Aging New Investigator Award, 2007; American Psychosomatic Society Young Scholar Award, 2008 • Helen Weng: 2007-08 Hertz Foundation Research Fellowship Award; 2007 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship – Honorable Mention; 2006 Francisco J. Varela Memorial Grant Award Winner; Mind and Life Institute Predoctoral Fellowship NIMH Training Program in Emotion Research • Brooke Wilken: Collaborative Research Award • Leah Zinner: Grants-In-Aid Award, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

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Congratulations, New PhD Recipients!

2007: Paige Brazy, Amanda Brodish, Katharine Graf-Estes, Christopher Hulleman, James Keidl, Sean Shiverick  
2008: Shawn Bodman, Olga Godes, Autumn Hostetter, Joanne Hogle, Erin Jonatis, Sara Lindberg, Kristin Olesen, Melissa Rosenkranz, Alexander Shackman, Sheree Shrager, Snezana Urosevic, Leah Zinner
For recent psychology graduate Emily Rothwell, the attraction early on was a fascination with the origins of human behavior. Her brother Patrick (B.S. ‘04), also a UW psychology graduate, shared similar interests, so she came to UW with a familiarity of the terrain. Her interests led her to Chuck Snowdon’s lab, which studies cotton-top tamarins, a remarkable population of squirrel-sized monkeys that practice cooperative breeding and other highly social behaviors.

During her sophomore summer, Rothwell landed an apprenticeship grant from the honors program to get fully immersed in a research project with the tamarins. Her research was furthered again by a study-abroad experience in Ecuador, where she had the chance to do field work with primates. Finally, Rothwell launched her own independent undergraduate thesis studying the role of relationship quality in buffering monkeys when faced with novel situations. “I feel like it hasn’t been dumb luck for me to end up where I’ve wanted to be,” Rothwell says. “The psychology department has created all these steps that ultimately led me here.”

For Rothwell’s part, the lab work was an eye-opening experience. She presumed she wouldn’t enjoy either lab or field research and was pleasantly surprised on both fronts. “I’m really, really passionate about it now that I know what it’s all about.”

She even found a way to convince her skeptical grandparents of the value of her up-close work with the tamarin colony. “I explained that I got to use creativity, think outside the box, not accept what anyone tells me or what’s previously been written, and believe in my own observations. I can get published in a journal and evaluate what other people have done. Now the only meaningful way that I can obtain information is through this process,” Rothwell says. “I have a lot of faith in this process.”

Rothwell is spending the upcoming year conducting research at the San Diego Zoo’s Center on Reproduction of Endangered Species before attending graduate school.

Charlene Muehlenhard (PhD, 1981) is a Professor at the University of Kansas, where she holds a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. She co-directs the new Human Sexuality Minor at KU and is on the Board of Directors for the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. Contact her at charlene@ku.edu.

Ben Rosen (BA, 2006) is a senior group leader at the New Dominion School for Boys in central Virginia, a wilderness therapeutic school for at-risk boys with emotional and behavioral problems. His job is to teach the boys more effective ways to process their emotions, learn personal responsibility and accountability, and to develop deeper and more positive relationships with their peers and authority figures.

Jennifer (Zerbst) Martin (BA, 1993) completed her PhD in social psychology from Ohio University in 1997 and is currently a consultant with MRAC, a research and consulting company that aids businesses and government agencies by bridging the gap between academia and applied research. Contact Jennifer at danjenmartin@comcast.net.

Caitlin Williams (B.A. 2007) completed her first year of a Clinical Psychology Psy.D. program at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. In the fall she will begin a practicum at the Kane County Diagnostic Center in Batavia, Illinois, where she will be providing intellectual, personality, and neuropsychological assessments for individuals in county jails and prisons. Contact Caitlin at cgwilliams@uwalumni.com.

Please send your alumni news and email address updates to mjones@wisc.edu.
Most of us think of the University of Wisconsin as a public university supported by the State of Wisconsin, and in a literal sense that is true. It is also true that State support for the University has declined dramatically in the last two decades, so that currently State funding makes up only 19% of the University budget. In addition, federal support for research funding has leveled off, making it more difficult for faculty to secure research grants that are essential for supporting graduate students and providing the money needed to conduct research. Our Department has been hit hard by these budget cuts. The alarm sounded (loudly and consistently) throughout the University is that to maintain our excellence, we must seek other sources of funding. In this regard, we need your help.

We have a long history of excellence in teaching and research in this department. If we are to maintain and build on this tradition, it is crucial that we obtain funds from alumni and other friends to help us support our students and faculty.

Below we identify examples of our needs and the ways you can give. Any amount is welcome; even a $10 donation will help us to achieve these goals. You can specify how you would like your donation used or you can designate your gift for unrestricted use, which means it will be used where it is most needed.

- **Endow a fellowship for a graduate student**
- **Provide support for undergraduate initiatives**
- **Endow a chaired professorship for a faculty member**
- **Help us build a new home for our Department**

For more information on how you can help, please visit psych.wisc.edu and click “Giving Opportunities” or contact Professor Janet Hyde, jshyde@wisc.edu, (608) 262-9522.