Welcome to our First Issue

I am pleased to provide some introductory comments in the Department of Psychology’s inaugural edition of our newsletter. When I assumed the Headship on July 1, 2005, I approached a number of my colleagues with the idea that we initiate a departmental newsletter. I am delighted with their rapid response to this suggestion.

The purpose of our newsletter is to highlight our department’s academic achievements, and provide current information on recent and upcoming developments and events to members of our internal University community as well as to our alumni and to our profession at large. With this goal in mind, the newsletter committee has asked me to provide some information about our programs of study and to provide short biographical introductions of colleagues who have joined our department during the past year.

The Department of Psychology was officially established as a separate department in 1947, although psychology courses had been taught in one form or another earlier. Prior to 1900 psychology was offered as a special course in Mental and Moral Science with students being examined on topics such as sensation, perception and memory. When the Department became a separate entity within the University there were three members of the teaching staff and a total of six courses were offered. These were listed as Introductory, Experimental, Social, Industrial and Applied, Personality, and Contemporary Psychology Theory. The Department offered an Honours program since its inception, as did other Departments in the Faculty of Arts and Science, and there was provision for students to take graduate courses “as the occasion demands.” The Ph.D. program was officially initiated in 1964. Training in clinical psychology, as a specific program, was started in 1967.

Today, our department is the largest academic unit in the Faculty of Arts. We have a long and distinguished history. I hope you will take the time to browse our web page. I am very proud of the programs we offer, the people we have on staff, and the accomplishments of academic and support staff, and graduate, honours and undergraduate students. Faculty and students have received numerous prestigious awards from within the university and from professional societies as well as significant funding from federal granting agencies.

For our undergraduate students, we offer a B.A., Honours B.A., a B.Sc. and an Honours B.Sc. We offer a comprehensive program in general psychology which includes foundation courses to many subfields of psychology. To learn more about offerings in these subfields, check out Graduate Resources on our web page http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/psychology.

For graduate students we offer an M.A. and Ph.D. Currently, our graduate program in Psychology allows students to pursue studies in the areas of Behavioural Neuroscience, Clinical Psychology and Applied Behavioural Analysis, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Personality and Social Psychology, Quantitative Methods and School Psychology. Our newest program of School Psychology, at present, offers an M.A. degree. To learn more about these speciality areas check Graduate Resources and School Psychology on our web page.

Our web page also provides information pertaining to our colloquium series, workshops, general news events and undergraduate (U.P.S.A.) and graduate (G.A.S.P.) student organizations. You can also obtain detailed information about the laboratories and research activities of our academic staff and access our general brochure. I hope you find our site useful and interesting. We look forward to hearing from you.

Harvey Keselman
Recent Additions to our Department

**Dr. Dan Bailis** received his Ph.D. and M.A. in psychology from Princeton University and B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to joining our department, he was a member of the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Studies, and the Health, Leisure & Human Performance Research Institute. Dan is a social psychologist whose research interests cross into several areas, including communication and attitude change, the self-concept and health. His recent work has examined these topics in relation to successful aging. He is also interested in the problem of matching persuasive messages to pre-existing individual differences in personality or motivational concepts, in order to encourage healthy lifestyle behaviours.

**Dr. Barry Mallin,** after a 25-year career in the public school system, has returned to the Department of Psychology to lead our new School Psychology Program. Barry graduated with a Ph.D. from the clinical psychology program at the U of M having completed his internship at the Mid-Missouri Mental Health Center in Columbia, Missouri. With an interest in community psychology, and preference for a public practice, the school system was a good match. He has worked in both languages in the St. Vital, St. Boniface, Elmwood, and Crescentwood/Riverview/River Heights areas as a clinician, and also as an administrator at the Child Guidance Clinic. He has a particular interest in measuring the outcomes of psychological interventions and the acceptability of psychological strategies to teachers.

**Dr. Richard Kruk,** one of our new faculty members in the new School Psychology program, specializes in reading acquisition and reading difficulty in young children. He completed his Ph.D., focusing on reading disability, at the University of Toronto and he continued his investigations of visual sensory factors as predictors of reading difficulty in a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship in Australia. Upon returning to Canada, he taught at several universities including Regina, Bishop's, OISE, and finally the University of Manitoba, where he worked in the Psychology Department as a Professional Associate.

Richard has distinguished himself as a scholar, co-editing an influential book on visual processes in reading disability published by Erlbaum, and writing articles appearing in journals such as *Cognitive Neuropsychology* and the *Journal of Learning Disabilities*. His research program focuses on the relationships among visual sensory processes, language ability, and reading acquisition, and on how these relationships change as children grow.
Recent Additions to our Department

Dr. Maria Medved received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in Human Development and Applied Psychology. After graduation, she obtained her registration as a Psychologist in neuropsychology, clinical psychology, and rehabilitation psychology, and practiced in a Toronto hospital for a few years. At the same time, she continued working on research projects and took on a first teaching appointment at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Timothy Racine completed his graduate training at Simon Fraser University and specializes in the development of children’s understanding of the mind, in particular the role of social interaction (including language) in understanding others. Tim’s present focus is on the development of coordinated visual attention in infancy, and he is currently preparing programs of experimental and longitudinal work to investigate the origins of the pointing gesture. Dr. Racine is also co-editor of a volume in preparation entitled The Shared Mind: Perspectives on Intersubjectivity that explores the understanding of the mind from psychological, philosophical, linguistic and ethological points of view.

Welcome New Graduate Students

The Department welcomed a number of bright and talented new students to our graduate program this year.

Admitted to study in the Behavioural Neuroscience area were Lee Baugh, Loni Rhode, and Helen Rodgers.

Admitted to the Clinical program were Lisa Dreger, Jina Pagura, Chris Tysiaczny, Megan Vokey and Kate Williamson.

Admitted to study in the Cognitive area were Tamara Ansons and Lori Doan.

Admitted to study in the Social-Personality area were Tara Reich and Kelley Robinson.

Kathy Bent commenced her Interdisciplinary doctoral program of study in Psychology, Native Studies and Anthropology.

Jennifer Davies was admitted to study in the Developmental area.

Finally, we welcomed the first cohort of graduate students in our new School Psychology program: Sara Guzzo, Lyla Levy, Kristin Meyer, Jane Ritcher and Danica Rose.
Not the Last Gasp from GASP

(Graduate Association for Students of Psychology)

Kathleen Fortune, President GASP

After three years without representations, graduate students in the Department of Psychology have a GASP president, Kathleen Fortune, a Master’s student in Social/Personality Psychology.

Kathleen has already set up a GASP website, established a forum for textbook exchange and managed to find other students willing to fill most of the open departmental committee positions.

Although there is not an official executive committee, Kathleen, through her powers of persuasion, has also assembled a group of graduate student volunteers eager to help GASP realize positive change in the department. The primary objectives this academic year are to bring a sense of cohesiveness among graduate students that has been missing in the past and to give them a much-needed voice. There are over 100 graduate students in the psychology department who, as a collective, can surely make their interests heard.

In order to foster a feeling of interconnectedness among students of all disciplines in psychology, GASP plans include launching a brown-bag lunch series, field trips, fundraising and social events, establishing an email-mentoring program between graduate and honours psychology students, and creating email polls to gauge student opinions on important issues. Kathleen would personally like to encourage everyone to get involved in whatever way possible: for some it may be volunteering as a mentor, for others it might simply be taking the time to fill out an online poll. However great or small, if each student makes an effort to become more involved, we will all benefit.

Please stay tuned to the GASP website at http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~gasp/about.html for information on upcoming events and programs.

News from UPSA

(Undergraduate Psychology Students Association)

From Left: S. Unrau, T. Nepon, A. Mangat, L. Unik

UPSA has begun the 2005-2006 academic year with a bang. After two years of inactivity, the new UPSA executive is determined to make this year a resounding success.

The UPSA executive consists of Lauren Unik (President), Stephanie Unrau (Vice-President), Taryn Nepon (Secretary), and Ajitpaul Mangat (Treasurer). These four students began meeting in late April of 2005 and have already established several new initiatives that will be of use to many undergraduates in psychology.

UPSA plans to provide students with academic, informational and social resources in the coming year. Academic resources include a comprehensive website that is updated on a daily basis, an undergraduate/graduate mentoring system devised by Kathleen Fortune, and a Careers in Psychology Lecture Series, in which guest speakers from the Department of Psychology will speak to students seeking more information on prospective careers in the field.

Social events will be held throughout the year. These began with a very enjoyable and well attended Wine and Cheese Social that was held on October 20th in the Psychology Lounge. For more information on upcoming UPSA events, please contact Lauren at upsa.pres@gmail.com.

The student group has also created a monthly newsletter entitled “The UPSA Update”, intended to keep members informed on upcoming events and to provide other useful information including volunteer opportunities, the honours program, and graduate school. The newsletter is available online at http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~upsa.

Paper copies will be made available through the UPSA office in P224 Duff Roblin. If you would like to submit an article or a notice to the newsletter, please contact Lauren at the address listed above.

UPSA is very excited about the coming year. The support of the faculty is truly appreciated, and the executive is looking forward to working with the department in the coming months.

Lauren Unik on behalf of UPSA.
Recent Grads

In October, 2005, a number of students received their masters and doctoral degrees in our department.

Those who received M.A. degrees were:

Lee Baugh (Advisor: M. Singer) “Readers’ Memory Representations of the Goals of Multiple Narrative Characters”


Mie Kito (Advisor: M. Morry), “Relationship Satisfaction in Dating Relationships and Same-Sex Friendships: A Comparison and Integration of Equity Theory and Attachment Theory”

Lorissa Martens (Advisors: M. Morry & B. Fehr) “Using Interpersonal Scripts and Meta-Mood to Understand the Impact of Anger on Personal Relationships and Health”


Students Awarded their Ph.D. degrees were:


Lachlan McWilliams (Advisor: M. Thomas) “Evaluating Attachment Theory as a Framework for Understanding Pain-Related Appraisals and Interpersonal Concerns”

Robert Santos (Advisor: B. Tefft) “Effectiveness of Early Intervention for Infants and their Families: Relating the Working Alliance to Program Outcomes”


Adjunct Appointments

The following persons were appointed as Adjunct Professors:

Dr. Pauline Pearson—Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Dieter Schonwetter—Faculty of Dentistry, University of Manitoba

Dr. Doug Williams—Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg

The following persons had their Adjunct appointment renewed for a three-year term:

Dr. Jim Clark—Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Beverley Fehr—Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg
Work in Progress

Members of our academic and support staff are working on a number of important projects. They include: (1) reform of the graduate and undergraduate curricula; (2) the development of three conferences which will take place during the next three years; the first one will take place on April 4-5, 2006 and is entitled The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: An Evidenced-Based Perspective; (3) preparation of a promotional document for the American Psychological Society (APS) that describes our department; APS publishes a description in each issue of Departments of Psychology across North America; (4) the creation of an Honour Roll Wall to display the many distinguished accomplishments of our staff and students; (5) webpage redevelopment, which involves potential changes to the layout of our webpage and means for optimizing Google hits to our department; (6) working on a proposal to bring a distinguished psychologist to campus either for a lecture or extended visit, or a sabbatical leave, as part of the University's Distinguished Visiting Lectureship Programs; and (7) establishing archival records for the department.

Other activities include (1) hiring two 225/226/363 laboratory instructors; (2) interviewing candidates for openings in our Clinical, Developmental, and School Psychology programs during the months of January and February, 2006; and (3) planning for a formal external review of our graduate program in 2007.

Kudos ‘Korner’

Since September 2005, we have been collecting information from members of the department about their research, teaching, and service accomplishments in order to more widely publicize these achievements within the department and beyond. Below is a sampling of the department’s recent accomplishments.

Student Accomplishments

Nathan Hall—was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

Heather Tiede—was awarded a Studentship from the Manitoba Health Research Council.

The following students have been awarded a Manitoba Graduate Fellowship:

♦ Katherine Fradette
♦ Mie Kito
♦ Jina Pagura
♦ Robert Stupnisky

Lachlan McWilliams—received the 2004/05 Alumni Clinical Psychology Student Research Award.

The following students received a Certificate of Academic Excellence from the Canadian Psychological Association:

♦ Carole Beaudoin
♦ Shay-lee Belik
♦ Darren Campbell
♦ Matthew Derksen
♦ Karina O’Brien
♦ Nancy Robinson
♦ Wanda Snow
♦ Brenda Stoesz
♦ Heather Tiede

Faculty Accomplishments

Warren Eaton—received a University of Manitoba Outreach Award in recognition of his project, “Gateway to Web-based Resources for Parents of Infants and Young Children”.

Lorna Jakobson—received the Department of Psychology’s Teaching Award.

Ed Johnson—was elected President-Elect of the Canadian Council of Professional Psychology Programs.

Joanne Keselman—was appointed to the BioMed City Leadership Council.

Jonathan Marotta—received a Canada Foundation for Innovation Award for: “Neuropsychology of Vision: Perception and Action Laboratory” (http://perceptionandaction.com)

Garry Martin—received the Faculty of Arts Professor of the Year Award.
Where our Graduate Students Have Been in 2005

2005 was a busy year for many of the graduate students in our department who have been attending a variety of national and international scientific meetings to present research papers.

These include students who presented or co-authored papers at the following meetings and conferences:

- The American Educational Research Association meeting in Montreal (I. Clara, K. Fradette, J. Grivell, and N. Hall)
- The Western Psychological Association meeting in Portland (N. Hall, N. Newall, R. Stupnisky, T. Haynes and L. van Winkel)
- The Bi-Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Atlanta (J. Richter and B. Walling)
- The International Conference for the Association for Behavior Analysis in Chicago (K. Campbell, R. Hiebert, H. Simister-Firth, S. Spevak, G. Schnerch, J. Thorsteinsson, A. Verbeke, K. Walters and K. Wirth)
- The Canadian Association on Gerontology Meeting in Halifax (N. Newall)
- The Animal Behavior Society Meeting in Salt Lake City (T. Wereha)
- The International Conference on Research and Applications in Developmental Disabilities in Winnipeg (P. Kelso, S. Spevak, J. Thorsteinsson, A. Verbeke, and K. Wirth)
- The Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science in Montreal (D. Rothman)
- The Bi-Annual Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Atlanta (J. Richter and B. Walling)
- The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association in Montreal (K. Fortune, C. Harasymchuk, M. Kito, L. Mak, L. Martens, J. Volk, B. Walling, and B. Zacharias)
- The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science in Montreal (H. Tiede)
- The Auditory, Perception, Cognition and Action Meeting in Toronto (L. Leboe, D. Shen, and C. Tysiaczyn)
- The Annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting in Washington, DC (K. Hartle)
Spotlight on Research

One of the main objectives of research carried out in my laboratory is to answer basic science questions about the development of perceptual, cognitive, intellectual, and motor abilities in typically-developing children, and in those with or at-risk for neurodevelopmental problems. Much of our work focuses specifically on children born prematurely at extremely-low-birthweight (<1000 g). These children are at high risk for early brain injuries that can have a profound impact on long-term outcome. We have shown that such injuries affect the development of auditory temporal processing abilities, and the development of visual motion processing subsystems in the brain. We have gone on to show that deficits in these two areas (respectively) are associated with problems in the acquisition of reading and spelling abilities, and in a range of high-level visuospatial and visuomotor functions. In addition to contributing to our understanding of brain-behaviour relationships, these findings may help to inform the development of specific tests that could be incorporated into early screening batteries designed for use with high-risk infants and toddlers. They may also help to inform the development of effective early intervention programs designed to improve the outcomes of these children.

By studying children with neurodevelopmental problems, my graduate students develop an appreciation for the processes underlying normal neurodevelopment and the remarkable plasticity of the human brain. As recruitment of children with disabilities can be difficult, however, I have often opted to have undergraduate students in my lab study another model of brain plasticity. In particular, these students have carried out a number of studies documenting relationships between early and extensive music training and superior performance on a range of non-musical, perceptual and cognitive abilities that overlap, to a considerable extent, with abilities that tend to be impaired in premature children, including auditory temporal processing, visuospatial processing, drawing, and so-called “executive” functions involved in high-level reasoning and planning. Through this work we are gaining important insights into the impact that environmental enrichment and specialized forms of training can have on brain organization and functioning. As such, this work may have many practical applications in areas of child rearing, education, and rehabilitation.

In addition to the work described above, my students and I are part of an emerging team of investigators in Winnipeg with an interest in functional neuroimaging. Through the use of this cutting-edge technology, we hope to gain new insights into how the brain processes visual information and uses it to support conscious perception, and the control of visually-guided movements.

Selected relevant publications:


These concerns with evaluation lead to inhibited and disrupted interaction behavior in the moment, and perhaps because they are exhausting -- prompt a desire to avoid such interactions in the future.

My most recent work, conducted together with my graduate and honours students, has focused on identifying means of reducing evaluative concerns. In one line of work we are examining the extent to which such concerns are affected by various types of intergroup contact experiences. In another, we are testing how different kinds of messages designed to improve intergroup relations affect evaluative concerns and behavior in the context of actual intergroup interactions.

It is my hope that the knowledge gained from this research will pave the way for maximally effective framing of messages and interventions designed to promote positive intergroup relations. In particular, our preliminary work suggests that some commonly used messages may have unintended negative consequences as a function of enhancing individuals' evaluative concerns. Such negative consequences may often go undetected because evaluative concerns are only operative during actual intergroup interaction, which has rarely been examined in research.

Selected relevant publications:

Vorauer, J. D., & Sakamoto, Y. (in press). I thought we could be friends, but...Systematic miscommunication and defensive distancing as obstacles to cross-group friendship formation. *Psychological Science*.


Grants Held in 2005

Our Psychology faculty has been extremely successful in obtaining research grants, with 19 faculty members holding grants in 2005.

The total amount received by the faculty in 2005 was $1,622,530.

The total amount received during the duration of these grants is $4,128,045, with total amounts from Canadian Institutes of Health Research of $1,470,150, National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of $599,917, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of $771,071, and other sources of $1,286,907. The following is a sampling of the grants of 2005:

John Adair

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), The Internationalization of Psychology. (2004-2007)

Jessica Cameron

SSHRC, The Impact of Signal Amplification Bias on Social Support Requests and Provision. (2005-2007)

Judy Chipperfield

Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Psychological and Behavioural Determinants of Healthy Aging. (2005-2006)

CIHR, Activity Level and Health in Later Life. (2003-2007)


SSHRC, (Co-investigator), A Study of Successful Aging in Manitoba. (2005-2008)

CIHR, (Co-investigator), The Epidemiology of Persistent Good Health in Older Adults. 2005-2007.

Brian Cox

CIHR, Population-Based Approaches to Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. (2003-2006)

CIHR, Psychosocial Investigations in Anxiety Disorders and Depression using a Nationally Representative Sample. (2003-2005)


SSHRC, Longitudinal Study of Psychological Vulnerabilities to Emotional Stress in Representative Community-Based Samples. (2002-2005)

Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre, Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Psychiatric Epidemiology with a Focus on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. (2004-2006)

Cam Huynh


Tammy Ivanco


Fragile X Research Foundation Grant, An Examination of the Neuroanatomical Consequences of Methylphenidate and Amphetamine Treatment in the fmr1 KO Mouse. (2005-2006)

National Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Discovery Grant, Activity Dependent Plasticity – Learning and Reorganization. (2004-2009)

University of Manitoba on Aging Faculty-Graduate Student Collaborative Research Grant, Hartle K (Co-investigator), Consequences of Early Damage on Normal Aging. (2004-2005)

University of Manitoba Centre on Aging Research Fellowship, Research Fellowship Award. (2004-2005)

Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) – Infrastructure operating fund, Lifespan Brain Plasticity. (2002-2007)
Grants Held in 2005 (cont’d)

Lorna Jakobson


Ed Johnson

Harvey Keselman

Richard Kruk


Jason Leboe


University of Manitoba/SSHRC Travel Grant


Centre on Aging Faculty-Graduate Student Collaborative Grant, H. Tiede, Co-investigator, *The Effect of Aging on Source Monitoring*. (2005-2005)

Centre on Aging Faculty-Graduate Student Collaborative Grant, H. Tiede, Co-investigator, *The Effect of Study Repetition on Predictions of Future Recall in Young and Old Adults*. (2004-2005)

Jonathan Marotta


University of Manitoba Start Up Funds (2004-2006)


Marian Morry


University of Manitoba, Department of Psychology Travel funding, *The Attraction-Similarity Model: Friendship and Dating Studies*. (2005)


Grants Held in 2005 (cont’d)

Joe Pear

University of Manitoba, Faculty of Arts Proposal Development Fund, A Computer-aided Integrative Study of the Development of Higher-Order Thinking. (2005)


Ray Perry

SSHRC, A Longitudinal Analysis of Career Uncertainty and Psychological Literacy on Motivation, Achievement, and Attrition of University Students. (2003-2006)


Murray Singer

NSERC, Cognitive Mechanisms of Language Comprehension and Discourse Memory. (2002-2007)

Jacquie Vorauer

SSHRC Operating Grant, Fears of Rejection as a Barrier to Reaching Out Across Group Boundaries. (2003-2006)

CIHR, Transdisciplinary Inter-institute Training Program in Autism Spectrum Disorders. (2003-2009)

Dickie Yu


Murray Singer

NSERC, Cognitive Mechanisms of Language Comprehension and Discourse Memory. (2002-2007)

Jacquie Vorauer

SSHRC Operating Grant, Fears of Rejection as a Barrier to Reaching Out Across Group Boundaries. (2003-2006)

CIHR, Transdisciplinary Inter-institute Training Program in Autism Spectrum Disorders. (2003-2009)


Departmental Colloquia

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

Dr. Frédéric Guay
Canada Research Chair on Motivation and Academic Success, Université Laval

Title: “Academic Motivation of Elementary School Children: The Effects of Age, Gender, Parents and Teachers.”

*Colloquium to take place from 7:30-8:30 in the Faculty of Education.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Dr. Chris Friesen
Department of Psychology, North Dakota State University

Title to be announced

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Dr. Marion Aftanas, Department of Psychology, University of Manitoba

Title “Rating self-report ratings: A measurement process analysis of ‘rating-scale’ assessments.”

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Dr. Norman Spear
Department of Psychology, State University of New York at Binghampton

Title to be announced

Unless otherwise noted, all colloquia will take place from 3:00-4:00 pm in Room P412 Duff Roblin Building.

Prior to each talk, members of the department will have an opportunity to meet speakers over coffee between 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm in the Department of Psychology Lounge.