As Chair of the Public Relations Committee, it is my privilege to provide some introductory comments to the latest edition of the newsletter. The purpose of our newsletter is to highlight the achievements of the department and provide information on recent and upcoming events. In this edition, we have included our regular columns which include the departmental research programmes (Drs. Rayleen DeLuca and Warren Eaton), accomplishments of our distinguished graduates (Dr. Janice Ristock), graduate student research (Mr. Lee Baugh and Ms. Kerri Walters), and our colloquium series. Two special features have also been included in this edition of the newsletter. First, the Adjunct Profiles are intended to provide a brief introduction to the individuals who so graciously volunteer their time and energy working with graduate students in the department. Second, in the spirit of highlighting achievements, we report on our students who received their M.A. or Ph.D. in 2006. Congratulations to each of you.

Finally, we once again call upon our friends who support the various scholarship and aid programmes. While it is the Public Relations Committee that pulls together the information for each newsletter, we owe innumerable thanks to a number of individuals without whom this newsletter would not be possible. First, we would like to thank Jill Latschislaw for the layout of the newsletter. We also want to thank the department staff who tirelessly label and mail the approximately 800 copies of the newsletter: Suzanne Beaudet, Heather Bowers, Gloria Derksen, Mary Kuzmeniuk and Jill Latschislaw.

Marian Morry  
Chair, Public Relations Committee
• **Degree Recipients 2006**

**M.A. Degrees Received in 2006**

**Brain and Cognitive Sciences Area:**
Laura Beaudoin, Maya Flat, Launa Leboe, John McVaugh, Richard Patton, Christopher Tysiaczny, and Jady Wong.

**Clinical Psychology Programme:** Syras Derksen, Chantal MacDonald, Tiffany Scott, Crystal Springer, and Bradley Zacharias.

**Social and Personality Psychology Area:** Kathleen Fortune, Tara Haynes, and Yumiko Sakamoto.

**Ph.D Degrees Received in 2006**

**Clinical Psychology Programme:** Susan Buchanan, Jason Ediger, Andrew Lubusko, and Terri Otto.

**Social and Personality Psychology Area:** Nathan Hall.

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**Department Colloquia**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9**
Dr. Niko Troje
Department of Psychology, Queen’s University
“Multiple inversion effects in biological motion perception: Evidence for a ‘life detector’?”

**FRIDAY, MARCH 2**
Dr. Joe Pear
Department of Psychology, University of Manitoba
“Psychology - Is it still the study of the soul?”

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9**
Dr. Marlene Behrmann
Department of Psychology, University of Toronto
“Is face recognition ‘special’? An examination of psychological and neural mechanisms supporting face recognition.”

**FRIDAY, MARCH 16**
Ms. Launa C. Leboe
2005-2006 Vineberg Prize Recipient
Department of Psychology, University of Manitoba
“Item-specific congruency effects in nonverbal auditory stroop.”

**FRIDAY, MARCH 23**
Dr. Lynne Honey
Department of Psychology, Grant MacEwan College
“When is dominance attractive? Examining the influence of status on mate choice.”

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**
Dr. Marvin Chun
Department of Psychology, Yale University
“The constructive nature of scene perception and memory.”
Research in my lab has shown that childhood sexual abuse often creates long term psychological difficulties. My research team, made up of graduate and undergraduate students, initially explored the sequelae of sexual abuse perpetrated against children. Our studies corroborated that depression, anxiety, low self-esteem and sexual acting out were more evident for boys and girls who had experienced sexual abuse when compared with children who had not experienced sexual abuse. In our investigations of adults who had been sexually abused as children, the results were similar, confirming that the negative effects of the abuse appeared to be long term. Our findings further indicated that adults who had experienced childhood sexual abuse also exhibited impaired social behaviour, which included fewer friends and social contacts and more social adjustment problems.

Early therapeutic intervention with boys and girls became a natural avenue to explore. Examining the effects of group treatment for boys and girls at various ages produced a number of studies in my lab confirming that group treatment was a most promising form of intervention often resulting in decreased depression, lower anxiety, higher self esteem and less sexual acting out. Moreover, the effects of individual treatment were explored and the results were similar to the results of group treatment. Our long term follow up studies have confirmed the benefit of early intervention for children who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

The motivation to study sex offenders developed from my research team’s interest in prevention. Our studies have identified certain psychological dimensions of male sex offenders with developmental delay. A review of the area of female sex offending resulted in one of the first publications in the area.

Currently my research team is focusing on components of resiliency in children who have experienced abuse. Some of the questions we are exploring include: Why do some children who have experienced abuse exhibit psychological well being, while other abused children do not? Is there a relationship between the type of abuse experienced and the form of psychopathology exhibited? Does attachment style in adulthood moderate the relationship between child abuse type and well being? Why are women who were abused as children more likely to experience abuse as adults?

While working in the area of child abuse poses a number of challenges, the possible benefit for children is undoubtedly the motivating factor for myself and my students. It is encouraging that therapists in other countries have replicated our clinical findings. The opportunity of working with clinical psychologists in Brazil and Venezuela, investigating treatment outcomes for children who have experienced sexual abuse, is presently being explored. The prospect of conducting cross cultural research is very exciting indeed!

Selected publications:
My current research programme is the result, not of foresight and planning, but of a chance encounter at a scientific meeting 10 years ago. I happened to see a poster about season-of-birth differences in when babies first crawl and walk. The differences between spring- and fall-born babies were surprisingly large, and I decided to pursue the issue as a secondary interest. My skepticism faded and my interest grew after we replicated the seasonality finding with a small Winnipeg sample. I then was able to obtain some SSHRC funding to start a large, prospective longitudinal study in 2001. The resulting project, the Milestones Study, included more than 700 families, most from Winnipeg, who kept daily checklists of what their babies were doing each day. The results of that project, and our experiences in conducting it, have tremendously influenced and broadened my interests to include the themes that follow.

My final theme emerged from repeated failures to attract grant funding for studies subsequent to the original Milestones Project. For grant reviewers, milestones research seems to be redolent of the 1930s, to be too far removed from the current zeitgeist in motor development research, or to be just weird. Thus, I’ve been forced to find alternative ways to continue this research. I have realized that our milestones methodology can be delivered via the web, and we are establishing what I hope will become a centre for internet-based developmental research. The Oxford English Dictionary was developed with the help of thousands of volunteers, and in a modern parallel I hope to attract thousands of web-using parents who are willing to collaborate in the mapping of the themes and variations in how infants and children develop in their customary habitats.

Selected publications:
• Adjuncts

Dr. Angela Cornick
Director ABA Program and Psychology Services, St. Amant
Field: Applied Behaviour Analysis
Specialty: Autism, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, Assessment and Evaluation of Skills

Dr. Beverley Fehr
Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg
Field: Social Psychology
Specialty: Close Relationships, Emotion, Intimacy, Love, Commitment

Dr. Ron Norton
Professor Emeritus, University of Winnipeg
Field: Clinical Psychology/Experimental Psychopathology
Specialty: Anxiety Disorders, Substance Abuse, Chronic Pain, Comorbid Psychopathology

Dr. Leslie Graff
Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Health Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba
Field: Health Psychology with Illness Related Chronic Pain
Specialty: Gastrointestinal Related Illness; Inflammatory Bowel Disease; Irritable Bowel Syndrome; Chronic Pain

Dr. Pauline Pearson
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg
Field: Vision & Visual Cognition
Specialty: Perception, Colour, Texture, Binocular Vision; Implicit & Explicit Memory

Dr. Jim Clark
Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg
Field: Cognitive Psychology
Specialty: Inhibition, Word Norms, Nature of Science

Dr. Susan Larson
Associate Professor, Concordia College, Minnesota
Field: Behavioural Neuroscience
Specialty: Sickness Behaviour Psychoneuroimmunology, Animal Learning, Behavioural Pharmacology
• Adjuncts

Dr. Robert Renaud
Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Administration, Foundations and Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba
Field: Performance Indicators in Higher Education
Specialty: Critical Thinking, Structural Equation Modeling, and Student Ratings of Teaching

Dr. Dieter Schonwetter
Assistant Professor, Education Specialist, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Manitoba
Field: Health Psychology, Personality, Social Cognition
Specialty: Student Tracking Programs, Student Learning Outcomes; Higher Education Program Assessments and Evaluations; Attribution and Locus of Control; Stress

Dr. Bob Tait
Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor of Psychology at the University of Northern British Columbia
Field: Experimental Psychology
Specialty: Learning, Motivation, and Management Systems, Pavlov Conditioning, Disaster Problems

Dr. John Walker
Professor, Department of Clinical Health Psychology, Anxiety Disorders Program, St. Boniface General Hospital
Field: Anxiety Disorders in Adults and Children
Specialty: Health Anxiety, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Epidemiology, Prevention and Early Intervention

Dr. Nora Vincent
Department of Clinical Health Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba
Field: Clinical Health Psychology
Specialty: Sleep Disorders, Eating Disorders, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Interpersonal Aspects of Depression

Dr. Doug Williams
Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg
Field: Human and Nonhuman Cognition
Specialty: Conditioning, Timing and Contingency Learning
Lee Baugh
PhD Student

If we want to successfully interact with the world around us, we must accomplish a number of things. First, we must be able to attend and fixate visual regions of interest around us. Next, we have to identify and retrieve information about objects in sight related to our current goals. Finally, we must be able to program and control actions directed at those objects. Previous research has shown that two cortical visual pathways have evolved to process the information required for each of these quite distinct tasks. The ventral (perception) stream, projecting from early visual areas to the temporal lobe, processes visual information that allows us to identify and attach meaning to our surroundings. The dorsal (action based) stream, projecting from early visual areas to the posterior parietal cortex, transforms visual information into online information that is used to mediate the visual control of action. Much research has focused on the roles each of these streams plays in our daily lives, but the extent of collaboration between the two is often overlooked. It is in examining this interaction that the Perception and Action Lab’s current research is aimed. Viewing window tasks, in which degraded images of objects are revealed within a user controlled window, inherently requires visuomotor processing which can be manipulated to illuminate the interactions between the ‘perception’ and ‘action’ based cortical visual streams. Capitalizing on this, I plan on examining spatial and perceptual distortion effects in object recognition, the effects of aging on visuomotor control, and various disorders of spatial representation.

Kerri Walters
PhD Student

Since September 2004, I have been working on my Master’s degree in Applied Behaviour Analysis under the supervision of Dr. Yu.

My Master’s thesis is concerned with learning more about how children with autism learn to take the perspectives of others, which is an important skill in social interactions. Many children with autism have difficulty taking another person’s point of view. Current methods to measure this skill require speech. In my research I am evaluating two alternative methods that do not require speech (i.e., non vocal tasks). I hypothesize that children with limited speech may do better on the non vocal tasks. I am currently analyzing the data and I plan to complete my thesis soon.

Research training is a significant part of my graduate programme and I’ve been involved in a variety of projects at the St. Amant Research Centre. In addition to my thesis, my research interests include helping individuals with developmental disabilities make choices, enhancing their independence, and how best to help them use their skills in a variety of situations. I’m grateful for the graduate fellowships I have received from the University of Manitoba and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and for the support from the Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research grant, funded jointly by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and National Alliance for Autism Research. In addition to my graduate training I am gaining valuable applied experience through working with children with autism in the St. Amant Applied Behaviour Analysis Program directed by Dr. Angela Cornick.

I started my doctoral programme in January 2007 and plan to continue my research with children with autism.
Dr. Janice Ristock is Associate Dean (Research) and Professor of Women’s Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Manitoba

I completed my BA (Hons.) at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Lorna Sandler was the advisor for my honours thesis project on “The psychosocial factors effecting women’s breast self-examination practice”. I also worked as a research assistant with Dr. John Adair in his social psychology lab. My experiences as an honours student were extremely positive. I have fond memories of participating in an active undergraduate psychology club, Friday afternoon wine and cheese parties, and even a few baseball games with faculty and students. In the honours programme I received a very solid foundation in research that made the transition to graduate school a relatively easy one. That said, in my undergraduate years, I struggled with trying to reconcile contradictory experiences between my life outside the university with my studies in psychology.

For example, I worked at a sexual assault centre where I witnessed the trauma and resilience of women who had been raped, yet I encountered psychological research and theorizing that described female victims of sexual assault as masochistic and sexually provocative. (This was the early ‘80s). I completed my MA in Applied Social Psychology at the University of Guelph and then a PhD in Community Psychology at OISE/University of Toronto. My time at OISE was particularly gratifying because I was exposed to the perspective of feminist psychology and worked closely with Jeri Dawn Wine, a pioneer in the field. Today I feel privileged to be in the Women’s Studies Programme at the University of Manitoba. More recently I have taken on the role of Associate Dean (Research) and feel fortunate to have the opportunity to support social science and humanities researchers.

My own research is not that far removed from the topic of my honours thesis. I engage in community-based, qualitative research in the area of health, sexuality, and gender. More specifically my work has focused on issues of relationship violence, the impact of homophobia and other forms of oppression, and programme evaluations of social service agencies. I have three new research grants in these areas: A CIHR project (with Randy Jackson, Canadian Aboriginal Aids Network) entitled, “Two-Spirit Women’s Experience of Homophobia in the Context of HIV/AIDS Service Provision”; A CIHR project on “Vulnerability and Resilience among Sexual Minorities in Canada” and a SSHRC project, “Understanding Women’s Perceptions of Risk for Intimate Partner Violence with an Intersectionality Framework: The Case of Disabled, Separated and Lesbian Women in Canada”.

I currently serve on the editorial board of the Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health and was Associate Editor from 2000-2005. I also serve on the advisory board for the Sexuality Studies Series, University of British Columbia Press, and am an expert panel member for the violence panel of The Canadian Health Network.

I have received a number of awards from the University of Manitoba including a Faculty of Arts Outstanding Achievement award and an Outstanding Teaching award, a University of Manitoba Outreach award, an Rh award for Outstanding Contributions to Interdisciplinary Scholarship and Research, a YWCA/YMCA Woman of Distinction Award, and a Book award for No More Secrets: Violence in Lesbian Relationships from the American Psychological Association.

Selected publications:


