

Department News

Time again for the psychology department's annual newsletter. As you will see from the faculty reports, we have had another busy and productive year.

We are very happy to welcome a new clinical psychologist to our department this past academic year. Jody Ross finished a Ph.D. in child clinical psychology at the University of Houston last August, and arrived at our door with her new degree in hand. She had just completed a yearlong internship in Ohio. She is very glad to return to Fort Wayne, where she was born and raised. She is a graduate of South Side High School and of Indiana University Bloomington for her undergraduate degree. She will be teaching Elementary Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Adolescence, and Behavior Disorders of Childhood, and doing research on interpersonal and family violence.

In 2008 department faculty published three textbooks. Professor Kenneth Bordens and Associate Professor Bruce Abbott published the seventh edition of their *Research Methods* book; Professor Craig Hill published his *Human Sexuality* textbook; and Professor Emeritus Josh Gerow, who recently returned to the department, has published *Basic Psychology*. Each of these books includes several ancillary publications such as test banks, instructor's manuals, and student study guides. Assistant Professor Dan Miller also published an instructor's manual for a social psychology textbook, and Abbott published a CD of 13 computer programs to accompany a book on perceptual control theory. Several more books have come out with 2009 copyrights, but we will list those titles in next year's newsletter.

Faculty published a number of articles and chapters this year as well. Bordens published a chapter in a conference proceeding, and Psychology Chair and Professor Elaine Blakemore,

Assistant Professor Michelle Drouin, Hill, Associate Professor Jay Jackson, Assistant Professor Daren Kaiser, Assistant Professor Brenda Lundy, and Miller published articles in research journals. A number of faculty also presented papers at various research conferences (Blakemore, Bordens, Drouin, Hill, Kaiser, Professor Carol Lawton, and Miller).

From the Faculty

Elaine Blakemore, Ph.D. Department Chair

I returned to the department full time this year, after my period of being in the Office of Academic Affairs half time for two years. I am very glad to have had the opportunity to work in that setting, but even happier to be back in psychology full time.

My *Gender Development* book (with Sheri Berenbaum and Lynn Liben from Pennsylvania State University) finally came out this year. This was a huge amount of work to put together, and I am very pleased to have it done.

Also of note in 2009, this has been my year as president of the Midwestern Psychological Association. It's not a big job. The main tasks are giving the Presidential Address and hosting the Presidential Party. The address was an overview of my research history, and I really enjoyed having the honor of doing such a talk. The IPFW students who attended also enjoyed assisting at the party.

I also had the opportunity this year to take part in the National



Conference on Undergraduate Education in Psychology at the University of Puget Sound in June. This conference, at which approximately 80 psychologists took part (selected from more than 200 applicants), resulted in an overview of the state of undergraduate education in psychology and a set of recommendations for the undergraduate major for the 21st century. The report and recommendations will be published in an upcoming book edited by Diane Halpern and published by the American Psychological Association. I also took part in presenting the results of this conference and my newly published book at the Association of Heads of Departments of Psychology in Atlanta and at the Society for Research in Child Development in Denver.

I have been very actively working on my research program on children's gender development this year. Professor Craig Hill and I have been collaborating on an extensive study of the relationship between children's gender-related knowledge and attitudes to their parents' attitudes about gender in their children. We have been assisted by seven IPFW students: Nikky Affolder, Jennifer Deffenbaugh, Susan Johnston, Levi Laskowski, Nicholas Todoran, Tracy Row, and Amanda Stryker. The research assistants have had great fun listening to the children's interesting answers to the gender-related questions.

My teaching this year has consisted of Child Psychology, Introduction to the Science and Fields of Psychology, and Gender Development of Children—the latter using my own book. I appreciated getting back into having a regular teaching load again.

On the personal side, my husband, Tom, and I have been enjoying our empty

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nest, and occasionally visiting with our son, Neil, who is in graduate school in Chicago. This summer, we plan a long trip to visit our son, Greg, who lives in Portland, Ore. Along the way, camping will be part of the experience, with a longer stop in Yellowstone National Park and some time on Vancouver Island.

Bruce Abbott, Ph.D.

The past year has been a busy one for me and a bit out of the ordinary. In addition to my usual teaching and committee assignments, I spent much of the fall semester completing a series of interactive



computer programs designed to teach important lessons relating to perceptual control theory (PCT), an approach to understanding human and animal behavior that was developed by William T. Powers. The programs reside on a CD distributed with Powers' new book, *Living Control Systems III: The Fact of Control*, which was published last December.

During the spring semester, I took a sabbatical for the purpose of developing a new textbook on learning and behavior. Having taught the subject for many years, I was already familiar with the major empirical findings, principles, and theories, but being on sabbatical allowed me to conduct the extensive review of the research literature that is needed in order to produce a book that reflects the current, rapidly evolving state of this dynamic field. It's been amazing to look back and see how much our understanding has been changed by the research of the past 20 or 30 years.

As for life outside the university, my wife, Stephanie, and I have continued to watch in awe and fascination as our little granddaughter progresses steadily through the toddler stage. In the mere space of a year she's gone from simple two- or three-word sentences to singing *Beauty and the Beast*, complete with microphone. Amazing!

Michael Bendele, Ph.D.

This past year I have taught Special Topics: Memory (the second time for teaching this

course), a number of sections of Elementary Psychology (one section was part of the First Year Experience), Research Methods, the undergraduate teaching assistant course, and Introduction to the Science and Fields of Psychology (for the first time).



On a professional level, I continued with conducting workshops here at IPFW on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. I was also part of the committee that was responsible for IPFW acceptance as a CASTL affiliate (Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning); our proposal was accepted in November of 2008. The first task of the newly formed CASTL planning committee was to plan a conference. The keynote speaker for the March conference was Kathleen McKinney, an expert on the scholarship of teaching and learning. I also attended the Academy for Instructional Excellence: the Master Teachers Seminar offered through Ivy Tech Community College. The conference was unique in that the same participants would meet at three different times during a calendar year.

Kenneth Bordens, Ph.D.

The Biennial Congress of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics that Professor Emerita, Lenore DeFonso, and I organized was a great success. Participants from all over the world converged on Oak Park, Ill., for the conference. The papers presented were all very well received and our two major speakers, Robert Sternberg and Diana Deutsch (who also received awards), gave excellent talks. Everyone who attended loved the Carleton Hotel and the town of Oak Park. A major attraction in Oak Park was Frank Lloyd Wright's house. The paper that I presented at the meeting will be published in an upcoming volume of *Empirical Studies of the Arts*.



Associate Professor Bruce Abbott and I have begun work revising the research

methods text. It will be coming out in its eighth edition sometime next year. We do not plan any major changes to the organization of the book. The general psychology text, coauthored with Faculty Emeritus Josh Gerow, came out in a new edition this year.

I still enjoy motorcycling very much and plan on doing several rides this year with my club. This year the Cruiser Club had its national rally in Lancaster, Pa., and I attended, as I usually do. We are also going on a weekend ride in May to Kentucky to visit several bourbon distilleries. These are all in addition to our regular club rides scheduled throughout the riding season.

Jeannie DiClementi, Psy.D.

I kept busy all year. I completed three major research projects, all three of which were accepted for presentation at conferences—one at the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago and two at the Association for Psychological Science in San Francisco. I was on sabbatical fall semester and worked on my project developing a study of barriers to preventative reproductive health care in communities of color. I will be holding focus groups later this year as part of that project. My other current research projects include studies of hypnotizability and physical symptom perception in various populations, HIV prevention education, and methamphetamine use and HIV risk sexual behaviors. I always manage to keep a boatload of research assistants busy, so if you're interested in my kind of research, stop on by and I can put you to work.

You may have seen me with my right arm in a sling early this spring. I had shoulder surgery in March, and believe me, having to wear an immobilizer for five weeks absolutely drove me crazy. I do not recommend it. But the good news is that I got out of the sling in time for summer,



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and I am looking forward to some days in the sun.

Michelle Drouin, Ph.D.

What a fantastic year! I kind of feel like a broken record, but I'm so pleased with the accomplishments of our little lab that I'm nearly bursting with enthusiasm.



Before I begin relaying our bevy of accomplishments, I must say that "little" describes only the physical space we inhabit in Neff 375 (it's actually smaller than my bedroom closet!) and not the number of great people we have involved in our Literacy Lab work.

During the past year, Jenna Beres, Jenna Harmon, Dana Harter, Carly Landgraff, Elise Minick, and Latoda Pope have worked tirelessly on at least four different research projects. They also have presented at Midwestern Psychological Association conference in Chicago, the Indiana Early Childhood Conference in Indianapolis, the Sigma Xi Research Competition in Washington, D.C., and the Student Research Symposium at IPFW. Jenna Harmon and Dana Harter were also accepted into the Sigma Xi scientific research society on the basis of their exemplary performance at the student research competition in November.

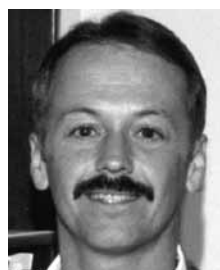
Due to the tremendous efforts of my research team, I have been quite prolific in my research and teaching. I had three articles accepted for publication in the past year and have two others out for review. Additionally, I was awarded a Multidisciplinary Faculty Scholars Grant for fall 2009, which will allow me to work with other faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences (from political science, history, and international language and culture studies) on an outreach program for middle school students. I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to collaborate with other Arts and Sciences faculty members on this very important community outreach project.

My home life has also been full of interesting and positive developments. My son Ty is now 15 months old. He's energetic and curious; he loves something

one day and hates it the next; and he LOVES to read! Surprise, surprise! When faced with the decision of a football, a hockey stick, or a book, he always picks the book. However, my husband will likely teach Ty (through reinforcement perhaps?) to love his father's hobbies (hockey and football) as much as he loves mine. Until then, I am cherishing the moments, with Ty sitting on my lap and super dogs Dangles and PC curled up beside us, reading about Spot's adventures, dinosaurs going to school, and "bad boy" Marley.

Craig Hill, Ph.D.

This has been a tremendous academic year for me. One of the biggest events has been submitting my case for promotion from associate professor to professor. This process began last summer when I prepared documents to support my case for promotion. I have now received notification from all levels of the process that my promotion has been approved. I am looking forward to many more great years of teaching and conducting research.



I have been working with several students this past year on a project to develop a way of measuring implicit sexual motives. To state it more simply, this means that we are attempting to examine nonconscious reasons that people are interested in sex. The students who have been involved in this research are Jason Hoffman, Rachel Kiser, Tara Lombard, Candace McGee, Colleen Mee, Daniel Patten, and Sheila Stroh. We provided evidence to support the existence of implicit motives in the previous academic year, as well as their association with frequency of sexual behavior. This year, we have replicated those findings and have also examined the association of implicit motives with the frequency of sexual fantasy. I have been involved in research with Psychology Chair and Professor Elaine Blakemore on parents' attitudes about gender-related behaviors in their children.

I have also had two publications this year. One is a review of theory and research on the personality dimension of affiliation motivation. The other was an entry on

sexuality in the *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships*.

During spring semester this year, I taught Social Psychology and Human Sexuality. Continuing lecturer Michael Bendele and I have also continued to offer our course, PSY 392 *Undergraduate Teaching Experience*, both fall and spring semesters. This course gives students the opportunity to address issues related to teaching in psychology by supervising them in their role as a teaching assistant (TA) for an instructor of PSY 120 Elementary Psychology. Bendele and I meet with the advanced psychology majors as a group to address issues concerning practical aspects of teaching and serving as a TA. We also discuss academic articles published about such topics as helping students develop critical thinking skills, strategies to motivate students to learn, ethics involved in teaching, writing exams, and providing feedback to students. A number of excellent psychology students have participated in this learning experience during spring semester 2009: Chase Allen, Ryan Gibson, Kayla Kovach, Jacob Pullen, Ronald Ramsey, Melissa Richeson, and Megan Trachsel.

Jay Jackson, Ph.D.

I guess I've been having fun because the year went by extremely fast. My students and I have been very busy running experiments on social dilemmas, group decision making, and prejudice, and we've got some really exciting results. One set of three studies on social dilemmas was recently published and another set of three studies on group identity is undergoing final revisions for publication. The group identity studies had several coauthors, including our own Assistant Professor Dan Miller and former student, Christa Dillman. Dillman was recently accepted into the master's program in professional communication at IPFW. Way to go, Christa!



This year I served on the program committee for the Midwestern Psychological Association conference and

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moderated an MPA session on social judgment. I went to Chicago again this summer to present the results of studies conducted with some fantastic current students, Andrea Bangert and Amanda Stryker, and former student Sarah Kirkendall, who is now in the Ph.D. program for industrial/organizational psychology at Bowling Green State University.

In the classroom, I'm still mainly teaching History of Psychology, Social Psychology, Personality Psychology, and Elementary Psychology. However, I've been thinking about developing a course on "cooperation and conflict" or "group processes and social influence." What do you think? Drop me a line if you get a chance at jacksonj@ipfw.edu.

Daren Kaiser, Ph.D.

This last year was an important milestone in my career. I recently was informed that I have received promotion and tenure. Some of you know that I have been worrying about that process for some time now so it is great to have that pressure off.



On the teaching front, I have been teaching PSY 419 Psychopharmacology for the first time this semester. This is a pretty challenging course not only for the students but also for me. I have been spending a lot of time working on the materials for this course. One thing that is nice about the class is that there are only eight students enrolled. This makes for a cozy atmosphere, although sometimes I think I can hear crickets chirping in the back of the room. I have also been teaching two sections of Elementary Psychology. Melissa Richeson has been helping as my teaching assistant and has been conducting online review sessions. This makes it easier for more students to attend the review sessions, and I really appreciate the work she has put in to make this possible.

In lab, we continue to run studies examining models of animal timing. This semester, Melissa Skeel and Brian Tannehill have been helping me conduct a follow-up study to one that Amanda Austin and I

conducted about a year ago. That study will continue into at least the first summer session, and I am lucky that Skeel and Tannehill have agreed to stay on and help with running the animals this summer.

In my free time, I have been doing some fishing. I bought a canoe this spring, and I have been enjoying hanging out at Chain O' Lakes State Park and the Huntington and Salamonie reservoirs. I hope everyone has a great summer. I know I am looking forward to mine.

Carol Lawton, Ph.D.

I have been fortunate this year to have had so many excellent students work with me on my research. These include current

undergraduates, Andrea Bangert, Steffanie Bertsch, Josh Fiechter, and Lawton Hicks, and graduates who returned for further research experience, David Baker, Ashley Day, Amanda Gilbert, and Erin Uhey, and even a graduate who has continued to collaborate with me from a distance while she is in graduate school, Amanda Austin.

We have been working on projects on gender differences in attention to landmarks in virtual environments, effects of gender and cerebral lateralization (measured by handedness) on spatial perception, cross-cultural effects on gender differences in spatial ability, effects of music on spatial perception, and the role of visual cues in remembering spatial locations.

In addition to my usual courses this year, I have also had the pleasure of supervising Josh Fiechter's honors thesis on whether the insertion of humorous items on a test affects students' performance (something professors would like to know!). I spent last summer writing a chapter on gender and spatial ability for a book that is due to be published this summer, and I also attended conferences in Chicago and the Netherlands. I am looking forward to attending three conventions this summer and (more personally enjoyable) a trip to the Netherlands for my son's wedding.



Brenda Lundy, Ph.D.

Wow! This year has really flown by! I am in the process of beginning a new study this summer. I am also rewriting a National Science Foundation grant proposal to seek funding for my research program.

My research involves studying fathers' contributions to children's early socio-cognitive development. I took part in the American Psychological Association's Advanced Training Institute on structural equation modeling in longitudinal research in Virginia last June. My research assistant, Melissa Skeel, and I presented research at the Midwestern Psychological Association conference in Chicago this May. Melissa Skeel, Christie Wentland, and Tracy Row will be working with me as research assistants this summer. I may be looking for more RAs for fall semester.



Daniel Miller, Ph.D.

Hello, all! Well, it is my fourth year at IPFW. Where does the time go? I presented my research at two conferences in 2008. In

February, I attended the Society for Personality and Social Psychology's (SPSP) annual meeting in Tampa, Fla. While at the meeting, I presented the results of several studies on fear as an inhibitor of collective protest. Also, I was able to see a real pirate ship while in Florida (not the scary Somali kind, but the fun Disney kind). In May, I traveled to Chicago for the Midwestern Psychological Association's annual meeting. This was my eleventh MPA conference; I haven't missed a meeting since my first year of graduate school. I presented the results of several studies while at the meeting (again, on the effect of fear on collective action). I also went to Giordano's



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for a slice. I've said it before, and I will say it again: best pizza ever!

I and several colleagues had a paper accepted for publication in the journal, *Group Process and Intergroup Relations*. The paper demonstrates that feelings of fear inhibit collective protests. You may have noticed a theme; I have been pretty busy exploring how feelings of fear impact protest behavior.

This summer I am going to teach two summer courses. In addition, I imagine I will spend some time fishing. Although, I am not a big fan of fishing—I know Professor David Young and Assistant Professor Daren Kaiser will find this hard to imagine—my five-year-old daughter Miah cannot get enough of it. We will probably go fishing again on Lake Erie for walleye. Last year we caught around 20 on a five-hour trip. Miah was in heaven.

Jody Ross, Ph.D.

My first two semesters at IPFW have gone so fast. I am thrilled to be back in Fort Wayne with my family and friends after completing my degree at the University of Houston and my internship last year in Cleveland. My position here at IPFW actually started the very same week my internship ended.



Since coming to IPFW, I have taught multiple sections of Elementary Psychology, and so I've had the chance to meet many students from a variety of majors. I hope to see some of these same students next year in one of my upper-level classes. I'll be teaching PSY 532 Psychological Disorders of Childhood in the fall 2009 and PSY 350 Abnormal Psychology in the spring 2010. I've also had the pleasure of getting to know some of the majors in the psychology department, including my teaching assistants from the last two semesters, Joel Sprunger, Chase Allen, and Megan Trachsel. In addition to teaching, I've also been working on research and am hoping to recruit a few student research assistants to work with me in my lab starting this fall. My research involves interpersonal violence, particularly in the context of romantic relationships.

Since coming to IPFW last fall, I've had one article published in the *Journal of Family Psychology*. I have another paper "in press" with the *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma*. Also, I have also started collecting data as part of a five-year, longitudinal study designed to look at the development of various relationships and conflict behaviors over time, starting in young adulthood. So far, more than 200 students have participated in this study. I am also collecting data for a classroom research project investigating variables that might affect student engagement in large classes. It's been a busy year, and I'm looking forward to many more.

Lesae Rae Vartanian, Ph.D.

Greetings, everyone! Hope you have had an enjoyable and productive year. I am composing this newsletter blurb on the heels of the annual Midwestern Psychological Association conference in Chicago. For students who have not yet had the chance to attend, mark your calendars for next May. What a great opportunity to learn about new and exciting research in the field, meet new and exciting people with similar interests and goals, and...did I say it was in Chicago?



I was honored to work with two wonderful undergraduate teaching assistants this past year, Jenna Harmon and Shem Hinkle. Harmon and I presented our latest data regarding students' experiences with the online exam review sessions we run for PSY 120 Elementary Psychology and PSY 235 Child Psychology at MPA. As far as I'm concerned, we rocked!

I've also enjoyed working with Jerry Etnier and Noah Riehl in my lab on a project regarding "helicopter parenting." We hope that project will take off (sorry, I love bad puns!) later this summer. My "baby" Stella is now four years old and enjoying preschool. I am eagerly awaiting summer and some "time off" before teaching in the second summer session and then gearing up for fall. I look forward to seeing those of you I already know soon, and to meeting those of you I don't next year.

David Young, Ph.D.

Greetings to all from almost "sabbatical land." After teaching the field experience course this summer at Parkview Behavioral Health, I will be on sabbatical this fall semester. Part of the time will be spent as a visiting professor with the Resiliency Solutions Group in the psychology department of Arizona State University. Fighting the idea that only misery is intellectually rigorous, I hope to inject the findings of the positive psychology movement and focus on strengths into the clinical curriculum. Eventually, these explorations should culminate in a new course, Advanced Abnormal Psychology, with a focus on patient health and resiliency.



The academic year has been satisfying for me in a number of ways. I have continued to build the field experience course to include larger numbers of students placed in increasingly diverse helping settings: the Allen County Juvenile Justice Center, the American Red Cross, The Senior Center, Crossroads, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and beyond. Our course at the acute care psychiatric hospital continues to provide not only a great educational experience for our students but post-course employment as well.

On a personal note, the Youngs survived their realty show summer in Alaska, complete with multiple bear close-encounters involving gunplay on the Russian and Kenai rivers as well as rough seas while halibut fishing out of Seward. Some aboard have sworn never to go offshore again. We will see if that holds true as we head to the Outer Banks of North Carolina soon. My wife, Mary Ellen, continues with her success as a vision therapist (she even helps me find things around the house). My son, Jacob, is still employed in television comedy in Los Angeles. My son, Benjamin, works in hospital administration in Indianapolis. Both are involved in "serious" relationships. Finally, I want to thank all of the former

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students who still keep in touch. It is wonderful to hear from you.

Emeritus Faculty

Josh Gerow, Ph.D.

Yes, I am back, full time, teaching PSY 120 Elementary Psychology, and loving every minute of it. There are many new organizations and programs on campus now that were not here when I “retired” in 2001.

One is administered by the Division of Continuing Studies and is referred to as IPFW’s School-Based Program. This program reflects a long tradition of seeking “articulation” or “cooperation” between institutions of higher education (i.e., IPFW) and area high schools. Since my return, I have been serving as faculty representative or liaison between the psychology department and local high schools that want to be in the SBP. We have developed a (rather rigorous) set of criteria for approving high school teachers.

For all intents and purposes, once a teacher is approved, he or she is permitted to teach our Elementary Psychology class to students in their high school who qualify and pay (reduced) tuition. We had three high schools involved during the 2008–09 academic year (Wayne, Bellmont, and Heritage). Next year, we will add Carroll and Lakeland (LaGrange, Ind.) high schools. My role is largely one of support, making sure that our high school teachers have all the materials and means they need to offer a college-level psychology course.

I meet with the psychology class at the high schools at least once a term. All high school psychology teachers are required to come to the IPFW campus each summer for a one-day conference and workshops on teaching in their disciplines. Faculty representatives meet regularly with Continuing Studies program administrators, as we soon will begin the process of applying for national accreditation for our program.

Psychology Faculty and Students at the Honors Banquet



Front row, L–R: Rachel Kiser, Colleen O’Brien, Jenna Harmon, Jennifer Deffenbaugh, Melissa Skeel
Back row, L–R: Carol Lawton, Ph.D., Elaine Blakemore, Ph.D., Michelle Drouin, Ph.D., Joshua Fiechter, Brenda Lundy, Ph.D., Jeannie DiClementi, Psy.D., Ken Bordens, Ph.D.

2008–09 Psychology Honorees

Outstanding Senior

Each year, the psychology department presents the Outstanding Senior Award to a student who demonstrates academic excellence, as well as a commitment to involvement in extracurricular activities such as research or clinical applications. This year, we had two honorees, Jennifer Deffenbaugh and Joshua Fiechter.

Jennifer Deffenbaugh

After graduation, I am taking the summer off to enjoy some time with my family and friends. I will be going to France in July, which will be my first overseas trip. After returning from my trip, I plan on searching for a job related to psychology. In the next few years, I would like to return to IPFW for graduate school, focusing on counselor education and family therapy.

Joshua Fiechter

I’m currently planning to work after graduation, though at the moment I’m

uncertain as to what kind of position. I eventually plan to apply to a graduate program, most likely either in cognitive or industrial/organizational psychology.

William James Award

This is an award the psychology department gives on occasion to an outstanding student. This year’s recipient is Jenna Harmon.

Jenna Harmon

After graduation, I plan on taking a year off to be a wilderness therapy guide or youth counselor for a therapeutic adolescent treatment program. During this year, I hope to gain more life and field experience so that I am better prepared to apply to graduate school. My goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in clinical or counseling psychology so that I can work in an adolescent treatment facility and also become a psychology professor.

Senior Excellence

This award honors students who have shown outstanding academic performance, as well as involvement in either the campus

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or the community. This year, Melissa McFadden Skeel was recognized with this award.

Melissa McFadden Skeel

I am very excited about my future academic plans. This summer, I am conducting research for my honors thesis in conjunction with Assistant Professor Brenda Lundy's study that investigates fathers' influence on the cognitive development of their children. After the summer, I plan on applying to graduate programs for cognitive neuroscience, and by the grace of God, I will get accepted the following spring. Thank you, IPFW psychology department!

Senior Scholarship

The senior scholarship is given to psychology majors for use in their senior year. It is presented to students who demonstrate academic excellence and involvement outside the classroom in research or application. This year, the awards were given to Rachel Kiser and Colleen O'Brien.

Rachel Kiser

My long-term goals are to get a Ph.D. in developmental/social psychology and do research. My areas of interest include the development of gender identity, sexual identity, and sexual orientation, as well as the influence of religion on these areas.

Colleen O'Brien

Fort Wayne became my home in 2005 after retiring from a 20-year business career. I started at IPFW in 2006. While business had been an excellent career path as a younger woman, I wanted to do something with a socially redeeming value for the next stage of my life. Psychology had always been fascinating to me, and since helping people was my goal, counseling psychology became my interest. After completing IPFW's bachelor's program in psychology, I will apply to the master's program in marriage and family therapy at IPFW. My husband, Mark, and two children (Connor, 13, and Maddy, 11) are the lights of my life and have been a wonderfully supportive force during my educational pursuits.

Psi Chi—The National Honor Society in Psychology

By Melissa McFadden Skeel
President

This academic year was a great one for the National Honor Society in psychology. Joel Sprunger was president for fall semester 2008. He created the first Psi Chi Google group and YouTube video channel, which posts annual club meetings and events. Psi Chi also orchestrated a group of members to participate in the Walk Now for Autism at Foster Park. Psi Chi, in conjunction with the Psychology Club, hosted information booths at both the Mental Health Day and the Great American Smoke Out events.

The second half of the academic year was full of exciting events. A new president was elected, Melissa McFadden Skeel, as Sprunger focused on his honors thesis. At the beginning of the second semester, Psi Chi introduced healthy concession snacks in the Psi Chi office. In February, Psi Chi had two social events, one in which we put together Valentine's Day gift bags for the veterans hospitalized at the Veterans Hospital in Fort Wayne. The veterans were so pleased with the gift bags; we decided to



Psi Chi officers at the Induction Dinner – Joel Sprunger and Melissa McFadden Skeel

put together more goody bags for the vets in April.

Finally, at the end of the semester, Psi Chi went out with a bang by having eight members attend the Midwestern Psychological Association conference in Chicago. Department Psychology Chair and Professor Elaine Blakemore was president of the MPA this year, and because of her duties as president, she graciously bestowed the IPFW's Psi Chi members the coveted job of bartending at the highly exclusive President's Party. Psi Chi would like to thank the faculty and staff for such a wonderful year! Have a great summer.

Psychology Club

By Sherie Noble, President

Psychology Club is an organization where all students, regardless of their major, can meet other students who are interested in psychology and also volunteer for projects in the Fort Wayne area. Psychology Club has been off to a slow start this year, and we are in the process of trying to initiate a new interest in this club. Sherie Noble is the new Psychology Club president this year, and she is very excited to get the club moving. Gina Shepherd is the new vice president, and Julie Kintz is the new treasurer. We are still currently looking for someone for the secretary position.

Some of the topics that we are interested in covering as a club include the different types of degrees and careers that are available in psychology. We are looking forward to bringing in guest speakers who will discuss the various opportunities that are available with psychology department faculty in research opportunities and teacher assistant positions.

We are also planning to partner with Psi Chi and have various joint activities with that organization as well as other organizations that are available at IPFW. Meetings will take place on a monthly basis, and we will provide free food and drinks. Psychology Club meetings and parties are open to all IPFW students. Some of the organizations we are interested in volunteering for include Habitat for Humanity, Park Center, Hospice, and Community Harvest Food Bank. The Psychology Club helps out with events at IPFW such as Eating Disorders Week, Depression Awareness Week, and IPFW's Health Fair, among others. The Psychology Club participates in Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) at the beginning of each academic year; we also have fundraisers throughout the year to raise support for the Psychology Club.

There are multiple advantages with becoming a member of the Psychology Club. Being involved in our club will give students an opportunity to meet new

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people, serve the community, and have a great time in the process. Psychology Club is a great place to explore and gain new information about psychology, establish relationships with other students, and become better acquainted with the amazing professors and staff of the psychology department, for which we are so fortunate to have at our university. We are so excited about meeting all of the students this fall and making Psychology Club a dependable resource for students and staff at IPFW.

Psychology Club officers

Sherie Noble, President
Gina Shepherd, Vice-President
Julie Kintz, Treasurer

Psychology Major Receives Grant for Undergraduate Research

Senior psychology major Joel Sprunger was recently awarded a full summer stipend in support of his honors thesis research, which is sponsored by the IPFW Office of Research and External Support. Sprunger's description of his research follows:

Hypnosis. The word alone brings to mind images of swinging pocket watches and stage shows. Even though many people conceptualize hypnosis in this way, the efficacy of clinical hypnosis has a solid and expanding base of empirical support. In the area of attention, suggestions have been effective at eliminating irrelevant information from awareness in highly hypnotizable individuals. This narrowing of attention reduces the errors that would normally result from competing information, allowing for more efficient performance on tasks such as the Stroop Test.

Emotion is another aspect of attention. Hypnotic suggestion has been shown to constrict the subjective emotional experience in highly hypnotizable individuals. This hypnotic emotional numbing eliminated emotional arousal when the individuals were presented with normally arousing images, causing neutral responding on a measure designed to assess emotional reaction. My study will explore the efficacy of the delivery conditions for suggestions, so I will be looking at the power of a suggestion for emotional numbing delivered during a relaxation

exercise compared to delivery of a suggestion during a naturally alert state of awareness.

I will begin data collection during the summer semesters and use the support funds to finance my enrollment.

Psychology Majors Attend MPA Conference

By Joel Springer and Rachel Kiser

Research is a cornerstone of psychology as a science. Part of the research process is dissemination of the results so that others may benefit from a great knowledge base. The undergraduate research experience at IPFW allows for the opportunity to present results from projects at the Midwestern Psychological Association, one of the largest psychological science conferences in the country.

Each year, the MPA sponsors its annual meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago. The activities span the course of three days, with research presented in any of four formats: posters, presentations, invited talks, and panel discussions. IPFW was represented well in each mode of presentation.

Poster sessions involve displaying your research project graphically on a poster and fielding questions from those who stop to view your work. At the MPA conference, each poster session had an overarching theme, which dictates which posters will be displayed during a particular session. IPFW was represented during the poster sessions by students Melissa Skeel, Jenna Harmon, Elise Minick, Dana Harter, Jenna Beres, Latoda Pope, Andrea Bangert, and Amanda Stryker, who presented research they had completed in collaboration with faculty members Michelle Drouin, Brenda Lundy, and Jay Jackson.

Presentations and invited talks were divided similarly; each room contained information on a specific area of study. The presentations and invited talks were similar in the sense that a study and its results are presented, but the lengths of time allotted for each is different. Invited talks were provided with 30-minute time limits, while presentations were given 15 minutes at the podium. IPFW was represented with invited talks by faculty members Michelle Drouin, Lesa Rae Vartanian, Jeannie D. DiClementi, and Carol Lawton.

Contributions

The Department of Psychology needs your support. Please show your alumni pride by making a contribution to the Department of Psychology Gift Fund. We genuinely appreciate the gifts that come from our former students. Your gift will help support scholarships, research grants, and other awards for our current students. Thanks for helping the department and the students. We appreciate it!

Make the check payable to the Indiana-Purdue Foundation, and indicate "Psychology Department Gift Fund" on the memo line.

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The MPA conference also had panel discussions and symposia with various topics ranging from current themes in Mexican American psychology to how to get your research published. IPFW's own Assistant Professor Jody Ross was featured in the discussion "Entering the Academic Workplace," while Assistant Professor Dan Miller was featured in a symposium with the theme "Collective Response to Disadvantage."

The current president of the MPA is our very own Psychology Chair and Professor Elaine Blakemore. She gave her Presidential Address on the Friday afternoon of the MPA conference, reviewing her work, exploring how gender correlated with behavior around infants and toy preference. It was very informative, with video vignettes of actual participants that allowed for further illustration of her findings in the studies. Later that evening, she hosted the Presidential Party, which is an invitation-only event. Our group of undergraduate students was invited to take part in this exclusive party and rub elbows



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with some of the big shots in psychological research.

This extremely rare opportunity allowed for a priceless networking experience that was enjoyed by all. The undergraduate student experience at the MPA conference is always educational and fun, with great talks and the exciting Chicago nightlife. To participate in research as an undergraduate and then to present your research at a major conference, such as the MPAs, is a wonderful and fairly unique opportunity we enjoy at IPFW. For those considering graduate study in psychology, taking advantage of this opportunity is a fun and essential way of making yourself stand out in the crowd.

Current and Recent Grads News

Megan Ayres, B.A. '09

Ayres has been accepted into the master's program in clinical psychology at Ball State University.

David Baker, B.A. '08

Baker has been accepted into the master's program in social psychology at Western Kentucky University.

Jenny Buford, B.A. '09

Buford has been accepted into the master's program in marriage and family counseling at IPFW.

Ashley Day, B.A. '08

Day will be attending the master's program in mental health counseling at Saint Francis University.

Christa Dillman, B.A. '04

Dillman has been accepted into the master's program in professional communication at IPFW.

Christopher Fisher, B. A. '08.

Fisher has been accepted into the doctoral program in Brain and Cognitive Science at Miami University of Ohio.

Ryan Greene, B.A. '09

Greene has been accepted into the Psy.D. program in clinical psychology at Wheaton College.

Kylee Hervey, B.A. '09

Hervey has been accepted into the master's program in school counseling at IPFW.

Kim Hollman, B.A. '08

Hollman has been accepted into the University of Akron's industrial/organizational psychology program with a full scholarship and teaching assistantship.

Michael O'Rourke, B.A. '03

O'Rourke has completed a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Toledo. He has accepted a position at the Veterans Hospital in Fort Wayne as a staff psychologist, working in the PTSD clinic for returning vets.

Erin Uhey B.A. '08

Uhey has been accepted into the master's program in clinical psychology at Ball State University.

Publications in 2008

Books

Bordens, K. S., & Abbott, B. B. (2008). *Research design and methods: A process approach* (7th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Hill, C. A. (2008). *Human sexuality: Personality and social psychological perspectives*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Miller, D. A. (2008). *Instructor's manual for Baron, Branscombe, and Byrne: Social Psychology* (12th ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

Powers, W. T., & Abbott, B. B. (2008). *LCSIII demonstrations of Perceptual Control Theory (PCT) models and simulations*. Bloomfield, NJ: Benchmark Publications.

Journal Articles

Babcock, J. C., Roseman, A., Green, C. E., & Ross, J. M. (2008). Intimate partner abuse and PTSD symptomatology: Examining mediators and moderators of the abuse-trauma link. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 22, 809–818.

Blakemore, J. E. O., & Hill, C. A. (2008). The Child Gender Socialization Scale: A measure to compare traditional and

feminist parents. *Sex Roles*, 58, 192–207.

Drouin, M. A. (2008). The relationship between students' perceived sense of community and satisfaction, achievement, and retention in an online course. *Quarterly Review of Distance Education*, 9, 267–284.

Jackson, J. W. (2008). Reactions to social dilemmas as a function of group identity, rational calculations, and social context. *Small Group Research*, 39, 673–705.

Kaiser, D. H. (2008). The proportion of fixed interval trials to probe trials affects acquisition of the peak procedure fixed interval timing task. *Behavioural Processes*, 77, 100–108.

Nadel, J., Martini, M., Field, T., Escalona, A., & Lundy, B. (2008). Children with autism approach more imitative and playful adults. *Early Child Development and Care*, 178, 461–465.

Schmitt, M. T., Miller, D. A., Branscombe, N. R., & Brehm, J. W. (2008). The difficulty of making reparations affects the intensity of collective guilt. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, 11, 267–279.

Proceedings

Bordens, K. S. (2008). The effects of contextual information and artistic style on the definition and perception of art. In *Proceedings of the 20th Biennial Congress of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics* (pp. 16–20): International Association of Empirical Aesthetics.

Presentations at Meetings

Austin, A. R., & Kaiser, D. H. (2008, March). *Timing performance in rats is disrupted by an increased attentional load*. Paper presented at the Tristate Animal Learning and Behavior Conference, Lexington, KY.

Blakemore, J. E. O. (2008, November). *A report from the national conference on undergraduate education in psychology*. Paper presented at the Association of Heads of Departments of Psychology, Atlanta, GA.

Blakemore, J. E. O., & Hill, C. A. (2008, April). *The Child Gender Socialization Scale*. Poster presented at the Gender

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Development Research Conference,
San Francisco, CA.

Blakemore, J. E. O., & Hill, C. A. (2008, May). *Constructing the Child Gender Socialization Scale*. Invited paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Bordens, K. S. (2008, August). *The effects of contextual information and artistic style on the definition and perception of art*. Paper presented at the 20th Biennial Congress of the International Association on Empirical Aesthetics, Chicago, IL.

Davis, C., & Drouin, M. A. (2008). *Relations between specific and general word learning*. Poster presented at the Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading Conference, Asheville, N.C.

Drouin, M. A., Harmon, J., Pope, L., Kuhnle, J., & Harter, D. (2008, May). *Are preschool reading attitudes related to*

vocabulary or letter knowledge? Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Drouin, M. A., Harter, D., & Price, A. (2008, May). *Is reading fluency a key to academic success in college?* Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Kaiser, D. H. (2008, May). *Reinforcement following probe trials and acquisition of the peak procedure*. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Kaiser, D. H., & Austin, A. R. (2008, May). *Timing performance in rats is disrupted by increased attentional load*. Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Lawton, C. A. (2008, June). *The role of context and gender in spatial reasoning*. Poster

presented at the annual meeting of European Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Utrecht, Netherlands.

Lawton, C. A. (2008, May). *Gender differences in attention to global landmarks in a virtual maze*. Poster presented at the Annual meeting of American Psychological Society, Chicago, IL.

Miller, D. A. (2008, February). *A dual-pathway approach of collective action: The multiple routes of two classic correlates of collective action*. Poster presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Albuquerque, NM.

Miller, D. A. (2008, May). *Priming courage moderates the suppression of the relationship between anger and collective action by feelings of fear*. Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.



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