

# Department of Psychology Newsletter



North Dakota State University | Spring 2008

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Notes from the Chair



Dear alumni and friends,

Day to day life in the Department of Psychology is very good. We have hard working faculty, whose grant expenditures exceed two million dollars a year. They have been producing an average of forty peer reviewed publications a year, about three per person, and sit on a dozen editorial boards of professional journals. One accomplishment, of which I am especially pleased, supports our frequent contention that research and teaching go hand in hand. The average teaching rating for our Department over the last year was considerably above the mean in the College and the University as a whole a - 4.6 on a 5 point scale! Energetic and enthusiastic faculty stimulate curiosity and involvement from the students. Energetic and enthusiastic students encourage excitement and responsiveness from the faculty. It is an environment that is like a catchy tune, once it gets in your head you can't help but smile, tap your foot, and sing along.

In conjunction with the positive developments in research and teaching, we have also been blessed by a number of generous benefactors. Many of you have contributed to the NDSU Alumni Foundation in support of our students and faculty. For this I thank you.

There are currently five separate funds at the Alumni Foundation that are designated specifically for Psychology. Three of them are scholarship funds, one is a faculty development fund, and the last is a general purpose fund. Dr. Patricia A. Beatty endowed a scholarship fund with her name. Several individuals have subsequently contributed to this endowment so that the principal base is growing. This fund provides a scholarship to a promising Psychology student. We solicit nominations of strong sophomore students from the faculty. Each spring a sophomore is named as a Beatty Scholar and the student is provided with a \$750 scholarship check at the beginning of their junior and senior years.

The E. V. Estensen Memorial Fund is also a scholarship fund. Until recently, this was a relatively small fund that generated approximately \$400 of spendable interest each year. It has been used to honor the E.V. Estensen Outstanding Psychology Major and to recog-

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### Acknowledgment

Many of the photos in this newsletter were taken by University Photographer Dan Koeck.

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nize the accomplishments of two to three other students with Faculty Awards for Excellence. Stanley D. Jacobsen graduated from NDSU (then the North Dakota Agricultural College) in 1940 with a BS in Social Science Education. He apparently later developed a meaningful relationship with Dr. Estensen, who taught psychology from 1946 to 1961, as Mr. Jacobsen had consistently contributed to the fund throughout the years. Prior to his death in February, Mr. Jacobsen had established a charitable gift annuity and designated that the remainder of the funds go to the E. V. Estensen Memorial Fund. As a result of this generous act, approximately \$28,000 will be added to the fund. We are very grateful for this endowment and the support it will provide to our students.

The Psychology Department Research Fund is not an interest generating account, but any monies that go into it are spendable. Donations go directly to the support of student research, honor's theses and master's theses expenses, and student travel to present their research at conferences.

The Department of Psychology Endowment Fund (also known as the Faculty Development Fund) was initially seeded by the faculty themselves. This account currently generates about \$2000 a year of interest. Individual faculty members may write a proposal to request funds. Typically these have been requests for special pieces of equipment to be used in the class room, a piece of equipment for research, or for an educational endeavor that will improve one's instruction or research. We try as much as possible to spread these funds across faculty and to make sure that the use of the funds will generate a meaningful return to the Department as a whole and its students.

Finally, we have a general administrative fund, the Psychology Department Fund. This is not an interest bearing account either. All monies that are contributed to the Department through the Alumni Foundation, but are not designated any more specifically, are placed in this fund. We look at these funds once or twice a year to determine the best use for them. Often we use the money to support students. Sometimes, we might use the funds to help bring a nationally prominent researcher to the Department to consult with faculty and to interact with students. Sometimes, we might shift the funds from this account to one of the interest bearing accounts and thereby add to the principle base.

No matter the fund, donations are extremely helpful because they allow us the flexibility to support our research and teaching missions in ways that we simply would be unable to do otherwise. In the table below, you will note that several students were provided with \$300 to help defray the costs of attending a professional conference. This opportunity provides an invaluable experience and education for our students. Thanks again for all of your support!

### Support of Student Research

This year two undergraduate and thirteen graduate students attended national conferences with the help of Department and Foundation funds. Some of their presentations are listed below. Student names are bolded.

**Clarke, A.M.** & Rainville, S.J. (2008, May). *Motion grouping/segmentation via velocity gradients*. Paper presented at the Vision Sciences Society, Naples, Florida, USA.

**Ewing Lee, E.**, & Troop-Gordon, W. (2008, March). *Do peer processes play a role in the socialization of masculinity and femininity?* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Adolescence, Chicago, IL.

**Lystad, C. M., Stout, D. M.,** & Rokke, P. D. (2007, November). *Emotion-congruent facilitation when processing anxious stimuli*. Poster presented at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Philadelphia, PA.

**Magnan, R. E., Hinsz, V. B., Wallace, D. M.,** & **Ladbury, J. L.** (2008, February). *Disgusting images can spoil intentions to consume meats*. Poster presented at the 9th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

**Sun, H. M.,** & Gordon, R. D. (2007, November). *The effect of spatial and nonspatial contextual information on object visual memory*. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Long Beach, CA.

**Wallace, D. M.,** & Hinsz, V. B. (2008, February). *Understanding differences in group and individual optimistic bias: an analysis of group decision processes*. Poster presented at the 9th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

**Wilkowski, B.M.** (February, 2008). *Advances in personality process: an effortful control perspective*. Symposium to be presented at the 9th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Speakers: Benjamin Wilkowski, Lauri Jensen-Campbell, Gerald Matthews, Michael D. Robinson.



**Spring 2008 Psi Chi Inductees.**



*Faculty Award*

***Fred Waldron Award given to Dr. Michael Robinson***

Associate Professor Michael D. Robinson was awarded the 2007 Fred Waldron Award for Outstanding Research. This is a university-wide award given to one professor each year. Dr. Robinson received this honor based on his prolific rate of publication and achievements in the areas of editing and mentoring. Dr. Robinson studies and teaches in the areas of personality, emotion, and social psychology.

### Faculty Introductions



**Linda Langley**

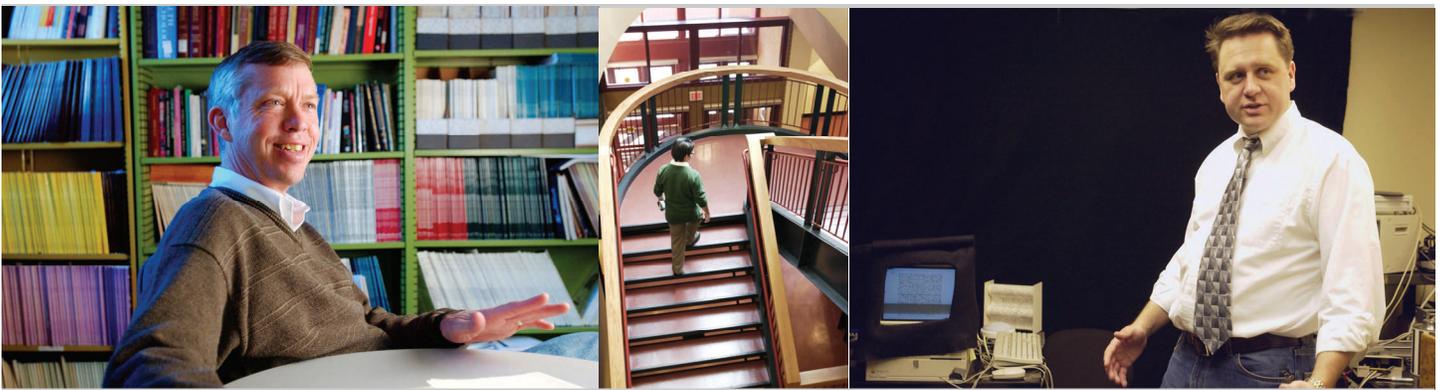
Dr. Linda Langley is an Assistant Professor in the Visual and Cognitive Neuroscience Program. Dr. Langley received her Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1998 and then held two postdoctoral positions, one in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the other in the Center for Aging at Duke University Medical Center. As a Project Director in the newly formed Center for Visual Neuroscience at NDSU (funded by a National Institutes of Health center grant) and as Director of the Cognitive Aging Lab, Dr. Langley's research focuses on patterns of cognitive functioning associated with later life. Current projects focus on (1) the cognitive mechanisms responsible for age differences in selective attention and visual search and (2) age differences in memory for emotional material. Dr. Langley teaches Psychology of Aging, Attention and Thinking, and Research Methods.

#### Recent Publication:

Langley, L. K., Fuentes, L. J., Vivas, A. B., & Saville, A. L. (2007). Aging and temporal patterns of inhibition of return. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 62B, P71-P77.

#### Mark Brady

Dr. Mark Brady joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor in 2004. He earned an M.S. in Mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1983, and subsequently worked in mathematical computing and computer vision research and development for the major automotive manufacturers, Kodak, and 3M. Inspired to learn new algorithms for computer vision systems, he turned to neuroscience for inspiration, earning his Ph.D. in 1999. He did Post Doctoral research at the University of Minnesota with Dan Kersten and Gordon Legge. At NDSU, Dr. Brady's approach to research is based on the realization that natural image structure is critical to an understanding of human vision. His typical approach involves psychophysical experiments on human subjects viewing natural images, statistical modeling of subjects' information processing, followed by a computer implementation of that model.



*E. V. Estenson Award Winners**The Outstanding Psychology Majors of 2008**Roger Feltman*

Roger is a senior at North Dakota State University majoring in Psychology and will receive his B.S. in the Spring of 2008. Roger has spent two years conducting research with Dr. Michael Robinson. Their work has spanned many areas including mindfulness, emotions, personality, and attention. Prior to beginning his Senior year at NDSU, Roger designed and conducted an Honors Thesis on whether mindfulness moderates the associations between neuroticism and depression and anxiety. In addition, Roger collaborated with graduate students in the Health/Social Ph.D. program to develop and run studies examining how the metaphorical nature of language impacts cognitions. Roger is an officer of the Psychology Club and will be attending the University of Rochester to pursue a Ph.D. in Social Psychology.



funded Center for Visual Neuroscience. Her work with Dr. Chris Kelland Friesen has involved examining volitional (intentional) and reflexive shifts of spatial attention in response to various environmental cues. For example, during her junior year Annie designed and conducted an Honors Thesis project on volitional orienting to gaze, arrow, and symbolic cues in human subjects. She presented this research at the departmental colloquium series, and is currently designing a follow-up experiment. Annie has expanded her research experience by also working as a research assistant in a pathogenic microbiology laboratory at NDSU. Last summer she joined a molecular neuroscience laboratory at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota as a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow. Annie is the current president of the Psychology Club, vice president of the Biotechnology and Microbiology Club, and an active member of Habitat for Humanity. Annie is currently serving as the student representative for the NDSU Institutional Review Board and will complete the NDSU Honors Scholars Program this spring. Annie will be attending the Ph.D. program in Neuroscience at the University of California, Irvine.

*Does the picture below look familiar?*

This is the way our main office used to look. It may be familiar to many who have been here within the last 30 years.

*Annie Vogel-Ciernia*

Annie is a senior at North Dakota State University and will complete a dual major in psychology and biotechnology this spring. During the last three years she has conducted several research projects in the Department of Psychology's NIH-



### *Faculty Additions*



#### **Brian Ostafin**

Dr. Brian Ostafin joined the NDSU Psychology department as an Assistant Professor in 2006. Dr. Ostafin received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Boston University (advisor: Tibor Palfai) in 2004 and then completed a two year postdoctoral fellowship in the University of Washington Psychology Department (advisors: G. Alan Marlatt and Tony Greenwald). Dr. Ostafin's research focuses on: (1) automatic cognitive and affective processes in substance use behavior, and (2) the efficacy and mechanisms involved in mindfulness as an intervention for substance use. Dr. Ostafin teaches Behavior Therapy and Assessment and History and Systems of Psychology.

**Recent Publication:** Ostafin, B.D., & Marlatt, G.A. (in press). "Surfing the urge: Experiential acceptance moderates the relation between automatic alcohol motivation and hazardous drinking". *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*.

#### **Clay Routledge**

Dr. Clay Routledge is an Assistant Professor in Social Psychology. He attended university at Missouri Southern State University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 1999. He worked for a couple of years in an outpatient mental health treatment center before starting a Ph.D. program in Social Psychology at the University of Missouri – Columbia in 2001. After completing his Ph.D. in 2005, he began a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Southampton in the UK. After one semester as a fellow, he was offered and accepted an assistant professorship at the University of Southampton. He joined the Psychology department as an Assistant Professor here at NDSU in the fall of 2007. Clay is still an international affiliate of the Research Centre on Self and Identity at the University of Southampton. Clay is an experimental social psychologist by training and most of his research focuses on the psychological and physical health consequences of defenses against self-related threats. His research touches on many topics of social life such as prejudice, personal relationships, self and identity, social cognition, attitudes, culture and belief systems, and health and well-being.



**Recent Publication:** Routledge, C., Arndt, J., Sedikides, C., & Wildschut, T. (2008). "A blast from the past: The terror management function of nostalgia". *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 44, 132 - 140.

## *Alumni News*

**Doug Davidson, B.A. 1994**, is currently a postdoc at the F.C. Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging in The Netherlands. As an undergraduate student, Doug double majored in psychology and economics. He was also a McNair Scholar who worked with Dr. Verlin Hinsz on issues of judgment and decision making, as well as goal choices for task performance. Upon completing his undergraduate degree, Doug received his doctorate in cognitive psychology from Michigan State University and spent two years as a postdoc at the Beckman Institute in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. His current research examines people's language comprehension and production, as well as second language acquisition. Some of his recent findings demonstrate that differences in wave patterns in response to feedback are associated with people's ability to learn a second language. Doug credits much of his current success to the training he received at NDSU, including his work with Dr. Hinsz, his participation in a journal club run by Drs. Bill Maki, Ruth Maki, and Odette Gould, and the statistical training he received from Dr. Ruth Maki.



**Sharon Berry, B.S. 1975, M.S. 1983**, is currently the Director of Training for the Accredited Internship Program at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota. As an undergraduate student at NDSU, Sharon double majored in psychology and social sciences education. She was also the President of the Psychology Department's Psi Chi chapter, which was first created while Sharon was a student. She also worked as a peer counselor on the NDSU campus and as a volunteer probation officer. She returned to NDSU six years later to receive her masters in Clinical Psychology. Afterward, she received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Florida State University and took a position at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She currently works with children and teenagers who have medical problems or problems with depression or anxiety. She also oversees the training of interns studying pediatric psychology. Sharon believes that some of the best training she received as a pediatric psychologist was obtained through her work as a graduate student at NDSU.

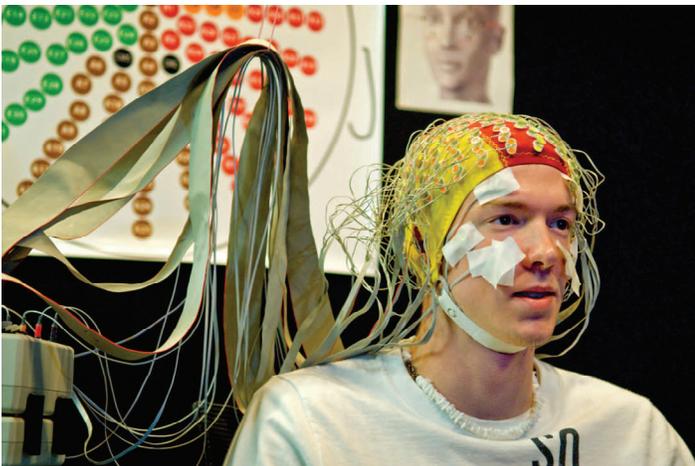
### *The transformation began last summer!*

This picture was taken during the remodeling of Minard 115. It is taken from the same perspective as the picture on page 8.



*Summary of Development Foundation Funds for Psychology*

Fund Name	Interest Bearing	Purpose
▶ Dr. Patricia A. Beatty Psychology Endowment	Yes	Scholarship
▶ E. V. Estensen Memorial Fund	Yes	Awards
▶ Psychology Endowment Fund	Yes	Faculty Development
▶ Psychology Department Research Fund	No	Support of Student Research
▶ Psychology Department Fund	No	Feeder to above funds and miscellany, e.g., faculty and staff recognition, colloquium support, Red River Undergraduate Conference.

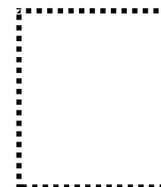


*Welcome to Minard 115!*

The main office of the Department of Psychology has finally been remodeled. It is now open, nicely furnished, and more welcoming than ever. (Note this is still from the same perspective.)



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