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NDSU Department of Psychology Newsletter

Fall, 2013

Notes from the Chair

Hello everyone! There's a lot to report since our last newsletter, including a changing of the guard in the chair's office. There have been some interesting times at NDSU over the last few years, but our department has continued to grow and prosper. We have added new faculty, students, and grad programs, and are close to completing our transition into new office and lab space. You can read about some of the highlights in this newsletter, but to get a fuller picture, please visit our web page (<http://www.ndsu.edu/psychology/>) or "find us on Facebook" (<https://www.facebook.com/ndsupsychology>).

Perhaps the most exciting development for everyone is that we finally have enough space, and even a bit to grow in. When I arrived here in 1985, we had about half of the first floor, and over the years expanded to fill the entire first floor. Much of that space wasn't very nice, as you may remember – renovation was always "just around the corner," but never seemed to happen. Well, we finally turned the corner and construction began on Minard Hall in 2009. If you go to our web page and click on Minard Hall renovations, you can view the current floor plans. We are now occupying not only all of our former space on the first floor, but the first and second floors of the new extension as well.

What's more, everything is either new or completely renovated,
(Continued on page 2)



2014 Department Reunion

We are very excited to announce that the department is planning a reunion! The reunion is planned for the summer of 2014, though the specific date is yet to be determined. There have been many changes in the department; not only personnel-wise, but also the years of construction are now completed. We are hoping to see our friends, donors, former staff and faculty, grad students, and alumni. The last Psychology Department reunion was March, 2000 and was a wonderful success. We will be sending out information in the near future with the specifics. We hope you can make it!

Notes from the Chair (Cont'd)

and many of our faculty now have labs built to their specifications. We can't wait to show off our new facilities during the upcoming reunion.

In other news, our faculty continue their record of excellence on all fronts. Clay Routledge and Verlin Hinsz received the 2012 College of Science and Mathematics awards for excellence in research and mentoring, respectively. Katie Gordon and Janice Hanson received the 2013 college awards for excellence in teaching and service. Michael Robinson was named James A. Meier Senior Professor in 2013. Erin Conwell received the Peter W. Jusczyk Award for Best Paper published in *Language Learning and Development*. Verlin Hinsz and Michael Robinson have each been awarded Fellow Status in both APS and SPSP. As a whole, in the past year we have accumulated over 100 peer reviewed publications and 60 conference presentations, and have been awarded over \$1.7 million dollars in research funding. With our new facilities, new faculty, and growing graduate programs, things will only get better.



James R. Council, Professor and Chair

Faculty in the News

Our faculty continue to be sought out for their expertise, and have been showing up not only locally, but nationally.

In the *Forum*, Wendy Gordon was interviewed for articles on bullying last October. Erin Conwell got a full page on language development last April, and recently was interviewed about baby names and the role of names in early language processing. Clay Routledge had a nice interview in a *Forum* feature piece on zombies in June. During flood season this spring, Kit O'Neill was interviewed for articles on flood preparedness/resilience, and caring for emotional need of disaster workers. She was also interviewed by KVLB and WDAY television news about preparing emotionally for a flood and fostering resilience.

Our current media star is Clay Routledge, whose research on nostalgia has really caught the public's attention. His nostalgia work was recently featured by *The New Yorker*, *NPR Science Friday* and the *The New York Times*. He will also be in an upcoming issue of *Good Housekeeping*, and has been asked to write a guest blog on nostalgia for *Scientific American*. Some of these articles can be found at the following links:

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/elements/2013/05/why-a-great-wave-of-nostalgia-is-sweeping-through-china.html>

<http://www.sciencefriday.com/blogs/04/16/2013/why-do-i-get-nostalgic.html?series=28>

<http://nyti.ms/18INTOb>

Clay's blog is at <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/mind-guest-blog/2013/07/10/the-rehabilitation-of-an-old-emotion-a-new-science-of-nostalgia/>.

COBRE News

Mini-Conference – The 2012 IDeA States Mini-Conference on Visual and Cognitive Neuroscience (CVCN) was held at the Avalon Events Center in Fargo, ND on July 18-20, 2012. Organizing this mini-conference was one component of the current COBRE grant. As a COBRE-sponsored activity this conference was meant to draw attention to the excellent scientific work being done at NDSU by CVCN faculty and students, and to showcase the multi-user Core Facilities that the COBRE has allowed us to create, such as the High-Density EEG Lab, the High Dynamic Range Imaging and Display Lab, the Driving Simulation Lab, and the Immersive Virtual Reality Lab.

Another purpose of the mini-conference was to establish good lines of communication between ourselves and prominent researchers in the IDeA states with whom we might collaborate. For example, the University of Nevada Reno has just been awarded a COBRE with a scientific theme (Integrative Neuroscience) similar to ours, and this conference resulted in concrete plans for inter-COBRE collaborations with researchers at UNR.

A final goal of the conference was to draw interest and participation in our research from other ND colleges and universities and from others in our geographical region, from which we draw the majority of our graduate applicants. By establishing our reputation with those regional scientists we hope to begin to build a pipeline of talent into our graduate program. Thirteen invited speakers were drawn exclusively from IDeA/EPSCoR eligible states (KS, LA, NV, KY, NH, DE, and RI), and twenty-three poster presentations were made by NDSU and regional scientists. Of the 62 registered attendees about 25 took a 2.5 hour guided tour of individual faculty and Core Facility laboratories after the conference concluded.

“By establishing our reputation with those regional scientists we hope to begin to build a pipeline of talent into our graduate program.”

Dr. Routledge and Nostalgia Research

Dr. Clay Routledge is considered to be one of the leading experts on the psychology of nostalgia. He has published dozens of papers on nostalgia in premier psychology journals and is currently writing a book on this subject. In addition, his research has been prominently featured in the media (e.g., New York Times, Men’s Health, CNN, BBC, NPR, MSNBC, CBS).

We asked Clay to tell us how he became interested in this field of study:

When I was in graduate school, I became interested in the concept of temporal consciousness and specifically, the social psychological implications of people’s ability to think about future mortality. I conducted a number of studies that involved having people think about death. Of course, in addition to thinking about what will one day happen, people can also think about what has already happened. This got me thinking, what if instead of having people think about the future, we had them think about the past? This was the genesis of my work on nostalgia.

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Bayesian Data Analysis comes to NDSU



John Kruschke, Ph.D.

"...the workshop was a success, most notably because numerous department researchers are already using Bayesian methods in addition to null-hypothesis significance testing."

NDSU Department of Psychology and Center for Visual & Cognitive Neuroscience presented a workshop on Bayesian Data Analysis by Dr. John K. Kruschke, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Adjunct Professor of Statistics at Indiana University. The two-day workshop, held in the Atrium of the Alumni center on March 21 and 22, was limited to 100 participants. More than half of the participants came from departments and colleges from across campus. Participants learned the basics of Bayesian statistics, and how to use the "R" and "Jags" software packages to accomplish their own data analyses. By all accounts the workshop was a success, most notably because numerous department researchers are already using Bayesian methods in addition to null-hypothesis significance testing.

Dr. Kruschke, the author of *Doing Bayesian Data Analysis: A Tutorial with R and BUGS* (2011, Academic Press / Elsevier), began the workshop with a campus-wide colloquium entitled "Bayesian estimation supersedes the t-test" in the Century Theater. From the talk description. "Sciences from astronomy to zoology are changing from 20th-century null-hypothesis significance testing to Bayesian data analysis. Dr. Kruschke will illustrate how Bayesian analysis provides complete information about the relative credibilities of all parameter values for any descriptive model of the data, using the familiar test for context. This talk is intended for a broad audience of researchers from specialty areas throughout the university."

The workshop was sponsored by the Center for Visual and Cognitive Neuroscience; the Psychology Department; the College of Science and Mathematics; the Graduate School; Distance and Continuing Education; the Department of Human Development and Family Science; the Office of the Provost; the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; and the College of Human Development and Education.

John Kruschke is a Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Indiana University. He earned his Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology at the University of California at Berkley in 1990. His area of study is Cognitive Science and his research topics include the science of moral judgment, Bayesian data analysis. He has been published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology, Psychology Review, and Trends in Cognitive Science.

Meet the Graduate Students



Front row: Dustin Elliott, Carol Huynh, Allison Minnich, Nick Kuvaas, Samantha Myhre, and Darren Carter

Second row: Katsumi Minakata, Nora Gayzur, Jessica Holmin, Chris Kuylen, and Ai Ni Teoh

Third row: John Ranney, Andrew Abeyta, Christina Roylance, and Tianwei Liu

Not pictured: Adam Fetterman and Ryan Boyd

Kevin McCaul's New Role as Department Senior Advisor

Kevin D. McCaul returned to the department in 2012 after six years in the Dean's office as Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. Saying things like "Six years is long enough," and "Change is good for organizations," McCaul also pointed out that he missed his students. "Most of the time," he said, "my student contact was only with students coming in to complain about one thing or another—that's a Dean's life!" Dr. McCaul, who has been with the department since 1978, came back on a less than full-time (60%) appointment as a professor and Senior Advisor. In the latter role, he is advising all first- and second-year psychology majors and is a part of the professional advisors group at NDSU—a relatively recent organization with more than 20 advisors campus-wide. McCaul also teaches the first-year experience courses for incoming majors, and he has developed an online introductory psychology course. Asked how he feels about leaving the Dean's office, McCaul said "Really—I miss many things about being Dean just as I missed much about being a professor. But I'm delighted to be back with lots of student contact and with my colleagues in the department."



Introductions



Laura Thomas

Laura joined the department in the fall of 2011. She received her Ph.D. in 2008 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. From 2008-2011, Dr. Thomas was a postdoctoral fellow in the Perception, Attention, and Control Lab at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Thomas' research incorporates approaches from embodied cognition and vision science to study the ways in which physical actions affect key components of cognition such as problem solving, memory, and attention.



Erin Conwell

Erin received her Ph.D. from Brown University's Department of Cognitive and Linguistic Science in 2009. She joined the faculty at NDSU in January of 2011 and will be making the transition to tenure track this August. Dr. Conwell studies the various cues used by children as they learn their first language and how sensitivity to those cues changes during development. Dr. Conwell was just awarded an NIH R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award for \$299,999 direct costs over 3 years. The grant will support research on how children learn about homonyms by examining children's natural experience with homonyms, including whether homonym pairs are perceptually distinguished by speakers.



Robert Dvorak

Rob joined the department in August 2012. Rob attended Northern State University where he earned a BA in Sociology. He then joined the military, where he served for ten years (including 13 months in Iraq). He then returned to school, after earning a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Dakota during which time he also spent a year on Clinical Residency at Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Rob's research examines the role of cognitive, behavioral, and emotion self-regulation in maladaptive behaviors (e.g., alcohol use, smoking, risky sex, self-harm, etc.). You can learn more about Rob's research by visiting his lab web page (<http://www.robdivorak.net>).

Introductions

Jeffrey Johnson

Jeff received his Ph.D. in 2008 from the University of Iowa. From 2008-2012 he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and joined our department in August, 2012. The overarching goal of Dr. Johnson's research program is to characterize the psychological and neural systems underlying attention and working memory and to identify how these systems are coordinated to promote stable, flexible, and adaptive visually-guided behavior.



Debra McDonough

Deb joined the Psychology Department in July 2011 as the Administrative Assistant, working with the department budget and pay. Before coming to the Psychology Department, Deb worked for the North Dakota Bar Examiners Office in Bismarck, and prior to that was the Legal Assistant to the General Counsel here at NDSU. Deb retired from the military after 21 years of service and moved to the Fargo area since this is where her family is located, and she has worked at NDSU since 2001. She is a notary for the State of North Dakota, and earned her Bachelor's in Accounting and Master's in Human Resource Management from the University of Phoenix.



Leah Irish

Leah is our newest faculty member, joining us this August. Leah's research investigates the complex interplay between stress, sleep, and waking behaviors in the context of health and illness. She received her Ph.D. in health psychology from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Sleep and Chronobiology Center at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Leah loves to travel and enjoys spending her free time with friends and family, especially her husband, Matt, and their 2 year old son, Alex. Leah and Matt both grew up in Wisconsin, and are excited to return to the Midwest (and yes, they're big Green Bay Packer fans!).



Research from our Doctoral Programs*

Gayzur, N.D., Langley, L.K., Saville, A.L., Vachal, K., Alvarez Vazquez, E., & Gordon, R.A. (2012, November). *Impact of Road Signage on Driving Performance of Older and Middle-Aged Adults on Rural Highways*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Diego, CA.

Myhre, S.K., Murphy, J.W., Siyaguna, T., Saxton, B.T., & Rokke, P.D. (2013). *Individual Differences, Attentional Control and the Influence of Arousal During Positive Affect*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

Saxton, B.T., Siyaguna, T., Murphy, J.W., **Myhre, S.K.**, & Rokke, P.D. (2013). *Arousal Level Within Positive Affect Influences the Attentional Blink*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

Minnich, A.M., Cmier, D.L., **Kwan, M.Y.**, Gordon, K.H., & Troop-Gordon, W. (2013, May). *The Impact of Gender on the Manifestation of Impulsive Behaviors in the Presence of Trait Negative Urgency*. Poster presented at the International Conference on Eating Disorders, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Kwan, M.Y., **Minnich, A.M.**, Gordon, K.H., & Troop-Gordon, W. (2011, May). *The Interaction Effect of Perfectionism and Weight-Related Teasing in the Prediction of Eating Disorder Symptoms*. Post presented at the International Conference on Eating Disorders, Austin, TX.

Kuvaas, N., Dvorak, R.D., & Pearson, M.R. (2013). *Differences in Emotional Functioning Across Drinking Classes*. Presented at the American Psychological Association conference in Honolulu, HI.

Kuvaas, N., Dvorak, R.D., & Pearson, M.R. (2013). *The Five-Factor Model of Impulsivity and Emotional Liability in Aggressive Behavior*. Presented at the American Psychological Association conference in Honolulu, HI.

Abeyta, A.A., Pyszczynski, T., & Routledge, C. (2013). *Finding Comfort in Meaninglessness? The Impact of Existential Threat on the Existentially Indifferent*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in New Orleans, LA.

Ranney, J.D. & Troop-Gordon, W. (2012, March). *Problem-focused Talk with Friends: How Co-ruminated Face-to-Face and Online Related to Adjustment During the College Transition*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Vancouver, B.C.

Troop-Gordon, W. & **Ranney, J.D.** (2013, April). *Predicting Trajectories of Same-sex and Cross-sex Elite Social Status: Differences in the Perceptions of Teachers and Students*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.

Troop-Gordon, W. & **Ranney, J.D.** (2013, April). *Children's Expectations for Their Teacher's Responses to Students' Aggression: Does Teacher-Child Relationship Quality Matter?* Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.

*Graduate students names shown in bold.

Our Graduate Alumni

Our Graduate students have been enjoying much success after graduating. Here is what some of them have been doing:

Maya Sosa Machado	Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Washington, DC. Ph.D., 2012
Nora Gayzur	Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK.. Ph.D. 2013
Kevin Betts	Social Scientist at Food & Drug Administration, Washington DC. Ph.D. 2012
Adam Fetterman	Post Doctoral position in the Knowledge Media Research Center, Tübingen, Germany. Ph.D. 2013
Jacob Juhl	Research Fellow in the Centre for Research on Self and Identity at the School of Psychology, University of Southampton, Southampton, England. Ph.D. 2013
Elizabeth Sand	Pursuing a Master's in School Counseling, NDSU School of Education. MS 2013

Award Winning Undergraduates (2012-2013 Award Recipients)

Faculty Excellence Award This award is given by the Psychology Department faculty to recognize seniors for academic excellence, research involvement, and department service.	Kellam Barta Kayla Hauser Kelsey Kraft	Marcus Mahar Kya Wisnewski
Sophomore Academic Achievement Award This award is given annually to the sophomore Psychology majors who show the best evidence of being an outstanding scholar and is primarily based on GPA.	Jocelyn Converse Lacey Harper Andrew Hellmann	Tess Kilwein Lynsey Kissinger Matthew Scott
Junior Academic Achievement Award This award is given annually to the junior Psychology majors who show the best evidence of being an outstanding scholar and is primarily based on GPA.	Heidi Bartosh Peter Erickson	
Junior Research Achievement Award This award is given annual to junior Psychology majors who have conducted research with faculty and show excellent achievement and promise in their development as psychological researchers.	Jessica Bair	
Dr. Patricia Beatty Scholarship This award is given annually to outstanding Psychology juniors. Criteria for this scholarship include attaining junior status during this academic year, maintaining full-time status with satisfactory progress (GPA at least 3.0), and continuing to be a Psychology major.	Lacey Harper	
E.V. Estensen Outstanding Psychology Major Award Awarded annually to a Psychology major judged to be the outstanding senior major of the year. Criteria include demonstrated excellence in academic work, interest in performance of research, and participation in departmental activities an organizations.	Zachary Leonard	

Travels with Verlin

Verlin Hinsz was on developmental leave beginning August 1, 2012, and has just returned for the Fall 2013 semester. The major objective of his leave was to assess the interest of university researchers from around the world to develop a consortium for team performance research. In this fashion, it may be possible for researchers to collaborate in conducting cross-cultural team research. As work becomes more collaborative and international, a much better understanding of cross-cultural team interactions and multi-national teams will be needed. Verlin submitted a grant proposal to the Army Research Institute as part of this effort.

For the year, Verlin has been headquartering out of Glyfada Greece (a southern suburb of Athens). In Greece, he has had discussions with researchers at the Athens Laboratory for Business Administration and the American College of Greece. In the fall, he went on a long tour of Spain and Italy and passing through the Mediterranean coast of France and Monaco. In Italy, Verlin attended a conference with a number of team researchers in Varenna, on Lake Como just south of the eastern Italian Alps. In Spain, Verlin visited with researchers at the University of Valencia, the Autonomous University of Madrid, and Carlos III University in Madrid. Potential collaborations with team researchers emerged from these meetings.

In the spring of 2013 (the long winter of 2013 back in Fargo), Verlin traveled to Singapore, New Zealand, and Australia. He was invited to spend a week at the Singapore Management University (SMU). In addition to a presentation, Verlin met with faculty members to discuss research and teaching. As a function of his visit at SMU, a collaborative application to fund team performance research was made to the Singapore Ministry of Education. In New Zealand, Verlin visited the University of Otago at Dunedin on the south island where Tamlin Connor is on the faculty. Tamlin was a candidate for a position in psychology at NDSU and is now one of the top health psychology researchers in New Zealand.

Verlin's travels in Australia were extensive. He spent about a week in Melbourne discussing research with cross-cultural researchers at LaTrobe University and the University of Melbourne, where he gave a talk. He also presented some of the collaborative research he did with NDSU graduate students at the Society of Australasian Social Psychologists in Cairns. Verlin returned to Greece in time to observe the orthodox Easter celebrations. Now that he's back, Verlin is resuming his usual research and service activities, and has also accepted a one year appointment as Interim Director of the Center for Social Research in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.



Clay Routledge and Nostalgia Studies (continued from page 3)

With my graduate advisor, I started conducting research examining the effects nostalgic reflection. Unbeknownst to us, there was a group of social psychologists in England at the University of Southampton that were also just getting interested in nostalgia. When they heard of our work, I was offered a fellowship in their research center. The timing was perfect because I was about to graduate and needed a job. So, with my wife and two small children, I moved to England. After a semester, I was offered and accepted a faculty position at Southampton. The move to England was always planned to be a temporary one so after two years I accepted a position at NDSU and have been here since. While at Southampton, I conducted numerous studies on the intrapsychic features that characterize nostalgia, the stimuli that elicit nostalgia, and the psychological consequences of engaging in nostalgia. I have continued this line of work since joining NDSU in 2007.

Around the Department



The new department conference room boasts an overhead projector that can be accessed wirelessly by laptops within the room. (Top left.)

We now have that “wow factor” in the main office when guests come to our department for the first (or second or third) time for information or assistance. (Above)

First floor break-out room. There is also a break-out room on the second floor. These spaces can be used for small meetings or just relaxation. (Left)

New Spaces

The Minard construction project is expected to be completed in July, 2013. This has been ongoing for the past 3 1/2 years. The psychology department main office, which had been located on the first floor, has now moved to the north side addition on the second floor. The department will occupy the entire first floor of the building and part of the second floor.



The new north end addition.



The south end which had the roof and the fourth floor completely removed.



The main stairs when entering from the east doors.



First floor facing north. The main office had been located on the right.



The view from the Dean's office which is now located in second floor Minard.



Many original tin ceiling tiles were salvaged and reused, such as these in the new Dean's office conference room.

Summary of Development Foundation Funds for the Department

Dr. Patricia A. Beatty Psychology Endowment

- ◆ Scholarship for undergraduates

William W. Beatty endowment Fund

- ◆ Undergrad and graduate professional development through research

E. V. Estensen Memorial Fund

- ◆ Student awards for academic excellence

Kevin & Harriette McCaul Psychology Endowment

- ◆ Student travel to scientific conferences

Psychology Endowment Fund

- ◆ Faculty development

Psychology Department Research fund

- ◆ Support of student research

Psychology Department Fund

- ◆ Feeder to above funds and miscellany, e.g., faculty and staff recognition, colloquium support, Red River Psychology Conference

You can make your gift to support the NDSU Department of Psychology:

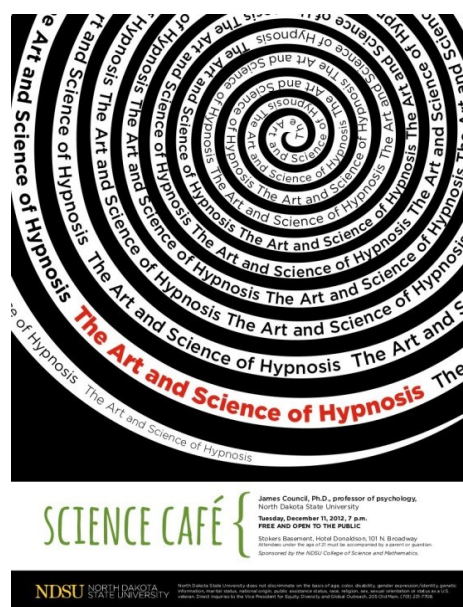
-online: www.ndsufoundation.com and click on "Give Now"

-by mail: NDSU Development Foundation, PO Box 5144, Fargo, ND 58105 (please make checks to NDSU Development Foundation)

-or call: 701-231-6844 and ask for Jen Moun.

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. If you are considering a substantial donation, please inquire about the NDHE Challenge Fund, which permits a 1:2 match for gifts over \$50,000.

NDSU Faculty in the Community



Department of Psychology
Dept. 2765
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Keep in touch!

Mailing Address:
NDSU Dept. 2765
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Main Office:
232 Minard Hall
1210 Albrecht Blvd.

Phone: 701-231-8622

Fax: 701-231-8426

E-Mail: NDSU.psych@ndsu.edu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ndsupsychology>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NDSUPsychology>