Look What’s New in the Department of Psychology!

Welcome to our annual newsletter, now to appear every summer around the close of the academic year. Join us on a quick tour of the many changes the psychology department has experienced!

Straub Hall Remodel and Expansion

As detailed in the last newsletter, Straub Hall underwent an extensive remodel for 18 months, totaling about $44 million. This provided necessary updates to heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical systems; seismic enhancements; alterations to achieve compliance with current American Disability Association regulations; and a brand-new, 520-seat, two-level lecture hall. All the work was done while preserving the historic nature of Straub Hall, including retaining the original tiling and woodwork in many places. A beautiful blend of old and new can be found throughout the building.

New Website

The psychology department website (psychology.uoregon.edu) was rebuilt from the ground up. It launched in fall 2014. The new website features a streamlined layout to improve accessibility to key information and resources for current undergraduate students, as well as current and prospective future graduate students. New professional photographs of faculty members now adorn the people pages, some of which had not been updated in many years, meaning that less recent graduates can finally see what their former professors and

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Straub Hall Remodel and Expansion

Continued from front page
Welcome, New Faculty Members!

**Dasa Zeithamova-Demircan** comes to the UO from the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned her doctorate and worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Learning and Memory. Before that, she completed a master’s degree at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. She now directs the UO Brain and Memory Lab. Her research interests include using learning instances to inform novel decision-making, prefrontal and hippocampal contributions to learning and memory, interactions between memory systems during learning, and using computational modeling and multivariate analyses with functional MRI. She has been recognized with awards from the National Institute of Mental Health, the Society for Neuroscience, and the Cognitive Neuroscience Society. She recently taught a graduate seminar on brain decoding analyses with fMRI. Zeithamova-Demircan says: “I am excited to put the high resolution hippocampus imaging capabilities of the Lewis Center for Neuroimaging’s scanner to the test. I’m also enjoying the wonderful greenery of Eugene and ditching the car in favor of a walking ‘commute.’”

**Nick Allen** joins the UO as the Ann Swindells Professor of Clinical Psychology. He previously worked at the University of Melbourne where he earned his PhD in clinical psychology and worked as a professor. He has also worked with the Oregon Research Institute since 1997, making Eugene a familiar place already. His research takes a developmental psychopathology approach to understanding critical junctures in the lifespan, specifically childhood to adolescence, and the factors that contribute to mental health. His work has been funded by the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, as well as the National Institute of Mental Health. He recently taught an undergraduate course in psychopathology and a graduate practicum in individualized psychopathology.

**Matt Smear** comes to the UO from Janelia Farm in Ashburn, Virginia. He completed his PhD in neuroscience at the University of California at San Francisco and a postdoctoral fellowship at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Since 2008, he has been a visiting scientist at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Janelia Farm. He studies the neural mechanisms of olfactory function in mice as a means of understanding how neural networks lead to complex behaviors. Previously, he had studied neural mechanisms such as vision and motion in zebrafish. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the American Heart Association, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He has published his research in high-profile journals including *Nature, Nature Neuroscience,* and *Neuron.* He recently taught a biopsychology course to undergraduate students. Smear says: “In the lab, I’m most excited to make mice smell light (we have transgenic mice that express ChannelRhodopsin-2 (a light-sensitive ion channel) in their olfactory sensory neurons (making their nose excitable by light)). Outside the lab, I was thrilled by the arrival of my first child in June!”

**Caitlin Fausey** joins the UO after a postdoctoral fellowship at Indiana University where she studied cognitive development. Prior to that, she completed her PhD at Stanford University. Her research interests include early visual environments of infants and toddlers, early object experience and word use, and constructing agency. She studies these topics by mounting cameras on babies’ heads (not directly!) so she can see what they see. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She has taught courses in statistics, developmental psychology, cognitive psychology, and language, and recently taught a cognitive development course for undergraduates at the UO.

Fausey says: “I led an exciting grad seminar this fall that led to three new active research projects with outstanding developmental graduate students. Also, Tom Akers wins the Make-It-So award for helping me track down and purchase all the remaining baby-appropriate head-cameras on the face of the earth. Looking forward to using them next term! Also, I realized mid-December that the most recent day in which I arrived to work via vehicle was pre-Eugene! Over three months of daily walking/biking, love it! Also, knew I was well on my way to being a local when, while waiting outside Meiji for a friend, a patron inside lifted up the window to tell me: ‘Great jacket, where’d you get it?’ about my super-duper reflective and red-flashing-light adorned waterproof jacket.”
Celebrating the Life of Norman Sundberg

After some 60 years of association with the psychology department, Norman Sundberg died peacefully on December 6, 2014. His unfailing thoughtfulness and his ability to stir up questions and aspirations leave a great loss for his family and for his many colleagues and students.

Norman was born September 15, 1922, in Aurora, Nebraska, to a farming family. He attended a one-room country school, walking to and from in all weather (including, classically, through the winter snowdrifts). His father died when he was seven, a trauma that was the first impetus toward his lifelong interest in people and their motives, and in how situations influence behavior. From high school, Norman won a scholarship to the University of Nebraska, where he excelled in psychology. During World War II, he served as an artillery liaison pilot in Germany.

With the help of the GI Bill, he finished his bachelor’s degree at Nebraska, and then took up PhD studies at Minnesota with Hathaway, Schofield, Meehl, Patterson, Elliott, and others. Early in his training he received a scholarship to study in Germany at the University of Marburg, where he translated the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory.

While there he met Donna Varner, whom he married in Paris. During this lifelong partnership, four boys were born: Charlie, Greg, Scott, and Mark. He is survived by sons Charlie, Greg, and Mark—Scott predeceased him in 2004, and his wife in 2013.

The PhD completed, he settled at Oregon in 1952, where he soon founded the University Child Guidance Center, later broadened to be the University Psychology Clinic, from which the Oregon Social Learning Center emerged. He developed Oregon’s clinical psychology PhD program, accredited in 1958. Many an idea arose from the informal seminars and meetings in the Sundberg home, including, early on, the issue of “fake” assessment reports, (those written entirely on the basis of stereotypes).

With Leona Tyler, he published the 1962 textbook Clinical Psychology: An Introduction to Research and Practice. A major milestone in the field, it offered a more coherent, comprehensive, and systematic view of the field than had theretofore existed. It brought clinical psychology squarely into the empirical camp, to rest on quantified, validated assessments and interventions. Though such assertions seem commonplace today, 50 years ago they were bold steps for the field. Three revisions of that work were published in 1973, 1983, and 2002. Later, a National Institute of Mental Health fellowship with Jack Block at (the then) Institute for Personality Assessment and Research, laid the groundwork for his 1977 book Assessment of Persons.

Norman maintained his interest in person assessment and the influence of situations continued with a chapter in the Annual Review of Psychology, and other work on personal competence and incompetence in life situations. With Tyler, he continued his interest in the influence of situations, exploring cultural issues—examining Dutch, Indian, and Oregon adolescents and their awareness of choices, values, family cohesiveness and autonomy, and problem-solving abilities.
When Oregon received a major grant to establish a Lila Acheson Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs, Norman was named to be its first dean, a post he held for five years. The school gave him opportunity to guide numerous students and faculty to form a bridge from the studies of persons in their situations to projects and programs to increase the opportunities.

He was, in all senses, a “pioneer of personality science,” as Strack and Kinder named him. Colleagues and students mourn his passing. At the same time, we joyfully celebrate that we knew this warm, gentle, and kind scholar who recognized, nurtured—and occasionally pushed us toward—the potential he saw in us. We are seriously indebted to him.

With simple tools, affirmation, inquiry, rigor and often humor, but in such uncommon proportions, he led students to glimpse the fascination and worth and challenge of psychology. In short, he took us seriously and treated us as colleagues. He led us to see our own potential in the field, and even glimpse what we, too, with his generosity of spirit, might become. He leaves a legacy of deep affection and boundless gratitude.

Faculty News

Ulrich Mayr was selected to receive the Humboldt Research Award from the Humboldt Society (sponsored by the federal government of Germany). This is an international interdisciplinary award “granted in recognition of a researcher’s entire achievements to date to academics whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements in the future.” The President of Germany presented this award to Ulrich in a castle in Berlin!

Mary Rothbart was appointed as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. This is a special honor, reserved for the best in the field.

Helen Neville was elected to the National Academy of Sciences as a foreign associate.

Jeff Measelle received a Williams Fellowship for professors who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to undergraduate education by challenging their students academically, creating an engaged learning environment, striving to improve the learning process, and fostering interdepartmental collaboration (williamsfund.uoregon.edu/content/years-recipients).

Nash Unsworth received the Richard E. Bray Faculty Fellowship for “demonstrated excellence in teaching, superior scholarship, and dedicated service” from the University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences.

Phil Fisher, Jennifer Freyd, and Sara Hodges received Faculty Research Awards from the University of Oregon.

Ed Vogel received the University of Oregon Fund for Faculty Excellence Award.

Dare Baldwin and Paul Dassonville each won an I3 (Incubating Interdisciplinary Initiatives) award from the University of Oregon Research Development Services.

Jennifer Freyd received the William Friedrich Memorial Child Sexual Abuse Research, Assessment and/or Treatment Award from the Institute on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma Alliant Educational Foundation.
On February 9, 2015, the Second Annual Symposium for Mindfulness and Society was held at the University of Oregon Ford Alumni Center, with mindfulness workshops the following day. The symposium included presentations by two pioneers in mindfulness research, Richard Davidson and Clifford Saron. Davidson is the founder of the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and gave the keynote lecture titled “Change Your Brain by Transforming Your Mind: Neuroscientific Studies of Meditation.” His bestselling book The Emotional Life of Your Brain was this year’s Undergraduate Studies Common Reading book, provided to all first-year students to spark a conversation, while also introducing them to UO’s risk community of researchers and scholars. Saron is the director of the Shamatha Project at the University of California at Davis, and he opened the research symposium with a talk on “Minding Mindfulness: Findings and Issues in the Scientific Investigation of Contemplative Practice.”

Professor Emeritus Michael Posner set the stage for this high-powered symposium by lecturing two weeks prior, on the “Neuroscience of Integrated Body Mind Training.” The research symposium also featured three of our very own researchers from the Department of Psychology, including Professor Nicholas Allen, postdoctoral fellow Christina Karns, and graduate student Benjamin Nelson. Allen presented a clinical and neurodevelopmental perspective on how dispositional mindfulness can be considered a unique psychological strength. In a neuroimaging study of neurotypical late adolescents, he showed that those who were more mindful exhibited differential trajectories of cortical thinning in the anterior insula, a structure implicated in self-regulation. In another study of youth with major depression, he found that mindfulness is distinct from other emotion regulation strategies, and associated with less depression, anxiety, rumination, and dysfunctional attitudes. Allen concluded that a greater tendency to use mindfulness as an emotion regulation strategy is associated with positive mental health outcomes and better quality of life. Next, Karns presented on the ways in which specific facets of mindfulness correspond to gratitude. She found that stable (trait) levels of attentional control and nondistractibility were more related to experiencing gratitude frequently than attributes such as being open and observant to present-moment perceptions. Finally, Benjamin Nelson presented on how parental interpersonal mindfulness or the bringing of moment-to-moment awareness to the parent-child relationship may buffer against postpartum depression and parental stress in a way that more general qualities of mindfulness do not.

“I believe that fundamentally this work is going to be relevant to understanding what the origin of certain kinds of psychopathology might be.”
—Richard Davidson

“Paying attention to good things may be where gratitude begins.”
—Christina Karns

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—Richard Davidson

“Paying attention to good things may be where gratitude begins.”
—Christina Karns
Graduate Student Awards

Ben Nelson and Jessica Flannery each received an Honorable Mention for the 2014 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Persistence pays off: the next year, Jessica Flannery was awarded a 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship!

Zhen Cheng received a John Templeton Grant Award with Carissa Sharp (former postdoctoral fellow with Assistant Professor Azim Shariff), entitled “Gods in Minds: The Science of Religious Cognition.”

Alicia Ibaraki received a two-year fellowship from the American Psychological Association’s Minority Fellowship Program.

Rosemary Bernstein received a Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being.

Leslie Roos received a two-year fellowship for emerging research in child maltreatment with Professor Phil Fisher from the Children’s Bureau/ Administration for Children and Families.

Jennifer Gomez was awarded a 2015 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.

Brianna Hailey Delker received the Western Psychological Foundation Student Scholarship Award.

Dorianne Egan-Wright, Michelle Fong, and Arian Mobasser each received a Freeman Foundation Internship Fellowship from the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies to help fund their travels to Laos, working with Professor Jeff Measelle.

Rose Maier received a Michigan Summer Program in Quantitative Methods award, of which there is only one issued for all of Developmental, Child, and Family Psychology.

Kathryn Jankowski received a prestigious two-year Dennis Weatherstone 2015 Predoctoral Fellowship, awarded by Autism Speaks.

Kristen Reinhardt, April Lightcap, Marina Rosenthal, and Carly Smith each received a Graduate Student Research Support Grant from the University of Oregon Center for the Study of Women in Society.

Brian Clark (2014) and John Flournoy (2015) each received a Gary E. Smith Summer Professional Development Award.

Marie Conley, Jennifer Lewis, and Rose Maier (2014) and Kathryn Jankowski and Jennifer Lewis (2015) received the Carolyn M. Stokes Memorial Scholarship from the University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences.

Jessica Flannery (2014) and Alicia Ibaraki (2015) received the Henry V. Howe Scholarship from the University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences.

Funding News

From January to December 2014, the Department of Psychology maintained 23 grant awards and submitted 48 applications to fund research, graduate dissertations, and community intervention support. Most applications were submitted to either the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the National Science Foundation (NSF), while the next largest percentage of submissions was to private foundations. The department’s grant submission success rate is slightly more than 20 percent, which is also the rate of applications selected for awards by NIH and NSF annually. Finally, seven awards for doctoral fellowships or dissertation research funding were won by our doctoral students. Psychology grants range in scale from $2,500 to $900,000 per year and most include at least one GTF position. The department’s new grants administrator, Rebecca Roby, estimates that one new grant was submitted every week during the 2014–15 academic year. By June 2015, members of the psychology faculty received eight new major research grants, including the following:

Elliot Berkman (NIH): “Reducing Craving for Cancer-Promoting Foods Via Cognitive Self-Regulation”

Pranj Mehta (NSF): “The Social Neuroendocrinology of Status”

Mike Posner (Department of Defense/Office of Naval Research [DOD/ONR]): “Toward a Neural Model of Human Skill Learning”

Nick Allen (NIH): “Depressed Mothers’ Parenting of Adolescents: Social-Cognitive and Neural Mechanisms”

Helen Neville (NSF): “Effects of Early Adversity on Autonomic and Neural Mechanisms Underlying Self-Regulation”

Jennifer Pfeifer (NIH): “Puberty, Neural Systems for Social Processes, and Early Adolescent Mental Health: A Longitudinal Neuroimaging Study”


Nash Unsworth (DOD/ONR): “Improving Cognitive Performance by Detecting and Correcting Attentional Lapses”

Psychology Grant Activity

[Graph showing grant activity from 2011 to 2014]
Freyd Visits White House

Professor Jennifer Freyd visited the White House twice last spring related to her work regarding sexual violence on college campuses. During her visit in late March, she met with Lynn Rosenthal, the White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, to discuss her research on campus sexual assault. Among the data she presented included those from the study Freyd conducted with her graduate student Carly Smith. Smith and Freyd (Smith, C. P. and Freyd, J. J. (2013). Dangerous Safe Havens: Institutional Betrayal Exacerbates Sexual Trauma. Journal of Traumatic Stress, (26, 119–124) found that institutional betrayal following sexual assault increased negative psychological outcomes in survivors. These findings highlight the need for examining institutional factors that may contribute to a hostile environment for sexual assault survivors on college campuses.

Freyd returned to the White House just over a month later in April to attend the release of Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Regarding her visits to the White House, she remarked, “I am so glad I went . . . it was inspiring and very educational.” Freyd continues to collaborate with lawmakers on Capitol Hill to address issues of sexual violence on college campuses.

“I am so glad I went [to the White House] . . . it was inspiring and very educational.”

—Jennifer Freyd

Graduate Student Awards continued from page 7

John Flournoy, Alicia Ibaraki, Kathryn Iurino, Matthew Robison, and Jilena Santillan all received the 2014 Clarence and Lucille Dunbar Scholarship from the University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences. Kathryn Iurino received this award again in 2015!

Michelle Fong (2014) and Jessica Flannery (2015) each received the Miller Family Graduate Award in Technology and Science from the University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences.

Nicole Lawless DesJardins (2014) and Leslie Roos (2015) each received the Marthe E. Smith Science Memorial Science Scholarship from the University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences.

Christina Gamache Martin (2014) and Kathryn Jankowski (2015) each received the Beverly Fagot Memorial Dissertation Fellowship.

Jason Isbell (2014) and Naomi Aguiar (2015) each received the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Kathryn Iurino and Rose Maier (2014) and Rosemary Bernstein and Nicole Lawless DesJardins (2015) each received the Gregores Award.

Zhuo Job Chen (2014) as well as Brian Clark and Michelle Fong (2015) each received the Norman D. Sunberg Award.

Atushi Kikumoto and David Sutterer each won a Graduate Student Award from the Cognitive Neuroscience Society.

Jenny Mendoza won the UO Women in Graduate Sciences Travel Award.

Carly Smith received the prestigious 2015 Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award from the Graduate School.

Devon Howington received the 2015 Julie and Rocky Dixon Graduate Student Innovation Award/Fellowship.

Alicia Ibaraki received the Asian American Psychological Association’s Dissertation Research Grant.
The vitality and success of our department are due, in large part, to the ongoing financial support of our alumni and friends. Your generous support will continue to advance psychological science and ensure our faculty members and students continued success.

To make a donation, mail your check directly to the UO Foundation. Your check should be made payable to the **UO Foundation**. Be sure to specify “Psychology” in the memo line.

To discover whether your company has a matching gift program, visit the UO Foundation website at [isupport.uoregon.edu](http://isupport.uoregon.edu). For gifts of property or other assets, gifts with life income, or to set up your own endowment for a special purpose, please call **David Welch** at the College of Arts and Sciences Development Office, **541-346-3950**.

Your donation, whether it is large or small, is greatly appreciated!

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advisors look like now. High-resolution images of the kinds of methods used by research labs across the department now rotate through the home screen. The landing page for information about the research conducted within the department includes a word cloud generated from a comprehensive collection of the abstracts published by all faculty members during the last several years. This helps convey the relative expertise and interests in the department. In addition, research areas are now depicted using an interactive network analysis, where each dot (a “node,” in network terms) represents a faculty member (color coded by traditional “area”—clinical, cognitive-systems neuroscience, developmental, social-personality), and each line (an “edge,” in network terms) connects two faculty members. The weight of the edges reveals how much two faculty members collaborate with each other on research projects, grants, as well as linkages facilitated by doctoral students through advising committees, thesis and supporting area research projects, and prelims and dissertation committees. Thick lines represent faculty who collaborate often. This analysis helps visualize the research “networks” that exist within the department.
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Visit psychology.uoregon.edu/giving to find links to the mail-in and secure online donation forms

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Greetings! After one year of construction and a successful move over the holiday break, our 14th edition of Psychology News comes to you from our new/old home in Straub Hall, back on the University of Oregon campus.

Straub Hall looks the same from the outside, but on the inside it has received a total systems upgrade, a seismic retrofit, and is 30 percent more energy efficient (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold–level certification)! Most important for us: the interior layout has been redesigned with the needs of a modern research institution in mind—not more dorm-style restrooms and old faucets in oddly shaped faculty offices. Instead: spacious hallways, as well as wonderful research and teaching facilities. If you have the opportunity to visit campus, please do drop by and see all the changes for yourself!

Last year also saw a major influx of new, outstanding faculty members. With Nick Allen as a senior hire in our clinical area, along with Caitlin Fausey (developmental), Matt Smear (systems neuroscience), and Dasa Zheitamova (cognitive neuroscience) as junior hires, we are comfortably on track to maintain our high standing in research and teaching excellence. In this newsletter we want to share with you these and other exciting developments at UO psychology.

As always, we welcome your comments, as well as news about significant events or activities in your own lives. Please contact us via the new website (psychology.uoregon.edu/contact-us) or write to the newsletter editor at Department of Psychology, 1227 University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403-1227. You can also find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/uopsychology.

Best wishes for the coming year!

Ulrich Mayr
Department Head