University of Florida
Department of Psychology:
A short history of the faculty

This slide show was compiled in 2007-8 by Dr. Rowland (chair). It is designed to give very brief biographies of the principal faculty in the history of the department. Emeritus professors Dewsbury, Pennypacker and Webb selected criteria for inclusion of faculty in this history, including length of service and/or significance of their contribution. Current faculty are excluded. The information and pictures were obtained from Dr Dewsbury’s archive, as well as from Dr Anderson’s 1980 History of the Department. We hope that this will give our current faculty and students an opportunity to appreciate our past, and give our alumni and friends an opportunity to recall the professors who made a difference in their lives. (Please send suggestions for additions or edits to Dr Rowland).
Elmer Dumond Hinckley
Ph.D. 1929 University of Chicago
UF 1926-retirement in 1963
Founding Department Chairman 1930-1957

- Taught courses in Personality Theories, Dynamics of Adjustment, Abnormal Psychology, Sensation and Perception, Learning, and in applied/clinical topics
- In 1931, appointed Director of legislatively-created Bureau of Vocational Guidance and Mental Hygiene (BVGMH) on UF campus, the first psychological clinic in the southeastern region: mainly testing and counseling
- First President of the Florida Psychological Association
- The Pioneer Psychology Faculty Fund is established in Hinckley’s name to honor our top graduate students
Osborne Williams
Ph.D. 1926 University of Chicago
UF 1927-retirement in 1959

• Taught Experimental, Physiological and Comparative, History and Systems, and the Psychology of Exceptional children
• Served at the "Florida Farm Colony for the Feebleminded and Epileptic," later called the Sunland Training Center, and now Tacachale, as a consulting psychologist
Charles I. Mosier
Ph.D. 1937 University of Chicago
UF: 1934- deceased 1951

- Joined Hinckley and Williams to be the third faculty member from the University of Chicago
- Published research in psychometrics and psychological measurement
- University Examiner
- Leave of absence starting in 1941 to assist the war effort by serving in various government offices in Washington DC; did not return to UF.
Stanley Eugene Wimberly
Ph.D. 1944 University of Michigan
UF: 1941-resigned in 1965

- Research on test inventories
- 1949 Assistant Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
- Acting Department Chair, 1957-58
- 1965 left UF to become Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Florida Atlantic University
- Died in 1969 as Vice President FAU

Reaction time testing in Wimberly’s lab in the 1940s.
Richard J. Anderson
Ph.D. 1950 University of Michigan
UF: 1943-retirement in 1979

• Hired initially by BVGMH for clinical work; moved to Psychology payroll in 1950.
• Taught General Psychology, Statistics, Testing, Personality, and History and Systems
• Research projects included work in Guatemala and construction of the first series of 12 examinations for drivers' licenses in Florida
• 14 publications on topics ranging from the taste of water to analysis of school dropouts
• 1980: Authored 50 year History of Department
Henry S. Wunderlich
Ph.D. 1937 University of Texas
UF: 1947-passing in 1958

- His hiring coincided with start of the doctoral program in Psychology in 1947
- Principal courses in Abnormal and Gestalt Psychology; humanities interests
- Started first journal club which served as a forum to present research ideas
- The “Wunderlich room” was created in building E after his death as an informal meeting place for faculty and students

Exterior of building E, home to Psychology (& other departments) from 1948 until the move to the present building #749 about 1971.
Dorothy Adelaide Rethlingshafer
Ph.D. 1938 University of North Carolina
UF: 1947-retirement 1970

• One of the first female faculty appointments at UF, and probably the first in the College of Arts & Sciences
• Wrote a total of 3 textbooks in motivation and comparative psychology
• Author of 28 articles including two in the *Psychological Review*
• Fellow of APA Divisions 1 and 6
Justin Edwards Harlow
Ph.D. 1952 University of Florida
UF: 1948-passing in 1962

• Came to UF in 1948 in clinical-counseling
• In 1952, was the first recipient of a PhD from the Psychology department, under the supervision of Dr. Elmer Hinckley
• Bureau of Vocational Guidance and Mental Hygiene renamed the Counseling Center in 1948; Harlow later became its director
• Published on Wechsler test scores
E. Porter Horne
Ph.D. 1938 University of Iowa
UF: 1949-retirement in 1976

• Hired in Experimental Psychology area

• In 1955 chaired PhD committee of first female UF Psychology PhD, Elizabeth Faulk: “The effects of certain tyrosine derivatives on maze performance and activity level of the white rat”

• Empirical research and publications in sensation and perception, notably vision

• The E. Porter Horne Scholarship is given annually to the top graduate student in Sensory Processes or Cognitive areas
James Cannon Dixon
Ph.D. 1949 University of North Carolina
UF: 1949-retirement in 1979

• Hired as Director of Clinical Training, a position he held into the 1960s.
• International work in Costa Rica and Columbia
• Spanned academic and professional aspects of the department

Building E (foreground) was home to Psychology and other departments from 1948. It was an army barrack from Camp Blanding; the site now is the parking lot North of Little Hall.
Roland Hays Waters

Ph.D. 1928 University of Chicago
UF: 1952-retirement in 1964

• Joined UF as senior faculty member in Experimental psychology
• Taught comparative, physiological, and experimental psychology
• Waters, Rethlingshafer and Caldwell text in comparative psychology, 1960
• Published 59 articles dealing mainly with learning in humans and animals

Inside “building E”: it housed the experimental and counseling programs for almost 25 years
Albert K. Kurtz
Ph.D. 1930 Ohio State University
UF: 1953-retirement in 1964

• Came to UF as a senior faculty member, at age 49, to help manage the dramatic post-war increase in student numbers
• Worked in applied areas and psychometrics
Audrey Sims Schumacher
Ph.D. 1942 Western Reserve University
UF: 1957-retirement in 1976

• One of our most-published faculty of this era, mainly in field of motivation
• The Henry C. and Audrey S. Schumacher fellowship is awarded annually the student submitting the best doctoral dissertation
Sidney M. Jourard
Ph.D. 1953 University of Buffalo
UF: 1958-passing in 1974

- Initially hired by the new College of Nursing to develop a role for psychology in nursing
- Charismatic, individualist, humanist; well known for popular articles and paperbacks
- Self disclosure and the open personality as aids to the healthy growth of personality
- Sudden death in the prime of his career was a severe shock to students and colleagues
Wilse B. Webb
Ph.D. 1947 University of Iowa
UF: 1958-retirement in 1989
Department Chair 1958-1969

• First chair appointed from outside UF (Lab head at Pensacola Naval Air Station), was recruited especially to build up research

• Oversaw substantial growth in faculty numbers and research productivity, shaping the modern form of the program

• Pioneering research program in sleep

• Instrumental in garnering extramural funds for new building, completed late 60s

• Webb conference room dedicated 1997
Ted Landsman
Ph.D. 1950 Syracuse University
UF: 1958-retirement in 1990

- Initially hired in College of Education
- Later was jointly appointed with the Counseling psychology area, providing important links to Counselor Education
- The Ted Landsman award annually honors the best graduate student in Counseling Psychology
Bradford Noble Bunnell

Ph.D. 1958 Carnegie Mellon University

UF: 1958 – left in 1966

• Combined comparative and physiological approaches in study of animal behavior

• Established the behavioral neuroscience program at UF

• Early co-founder of Center for Neurobiological Sciences

• Later of faculty of Univ. of Georgia
Marvin Evert Shaw
Ph.D. 1953 University of Wisconsin
UF: 1959-retirement in 199x

• Established the Social Psychology program
• Established the graduate proseminar system, replacing the previous model of comprehensive preliminary exam
• Served, with others, as Acting Chair in 1969-70 and 71-72, during the move from building E to 749
Judson Seise Brown
PhD, Yale University, 1940
UF 1960-1962

- PhD supervisor Neal Miller
- Pivotal in establishing a credible experimental psychology program
- Seminal articles on emotion, frustration, approach-avoidance conflict, conditioned fear, & acquired drives
- President, Midwestern Psychological Assn. & APA Division 3; Board of Governors, Psychonomic Society
- Member, Society of Experimental Psychologists
Henry Sutton Pennypacker
Ph.D. 1962 Duke University
UF: 1962-retirement in 2003

- Early research on classical conditioning
- Founded the Experimental Analysis of Behavior program
- Distinguished career of research and teaching in applied behavior analysis
- One of the principal architects during the 1960s of the present psychology building
- Founder & CEO of Mammatech Corporation
C. Michael Levy
Ph.D. 1965 University of Wisconsin
UF: 1965-retirement in 2003

- Original identification in Experimental psychology, later the Cognitive area
- Developed new undergraduate Psych program in which students were required to do research projects to receive Honors
- Developed the first undergraduate computer teaching lab in the department
Henry Allen Grater  
Ph.D. 1958 Pennsylvania State University  

UF: 1965-retirement in 1997

• Hired as Director of the Counseling Center
• 1973 was named Head of the Department of Behavioral Studies, which was within the University College
• 1976 named Dean of the University College; this was assimilated into a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1978.
• Member of Counseling Psychology area
Donald Allen Dewsbury
Ph.D. 1965 University of Michigan
UF: 1966-retirement in 2007

• Acting Chair, Spring, 1980
• Area head of Psychobiology & Graduate Coordinator
• Research in comparative psychology early (NSF-funded) and history of psychology later
• Over 350 articles & chapters plus 16 books
• President of APA Divisions 1, 6, & 26 and Animal Behavior Society
• Animal Behavior Society Exemplar Award, 1998; Div. 6 Morgan Award, 1998
Franz R. Epting
Ph.D. 1967 Ohio State University
UF: 1967-retirement in 2003

- Instrumental in moving the Personality interests in the Department to within the Counseling area
- Emphasized personal construct theory and the work of George Kelly
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Constructivist Psychology Network
- Humanistic psychologist; studied psychology of death and dying
- Authored or co-authored 4 books
Edward F. Malagodi
Ph.D. 1967 University of Miami
UF: 1968-passing in 1996

- Second member of the behavior analysis program, emphasizing the “Skinnerian” approach
- Research used animal subjects – initially housed in the Surge area buildings before the move to new building 749.
- The E.F. Malagodi scholarship is awarded annually to the top graduate student in the Experimental Analysis of Behavior
Molly Harrower
Ph.D. 1934, Smith College
UF: 1968-retired in 1976

- Worked with Kurt Koffka, Kurt Goldstein, & Wilder Penfield
- Early clinical psychologist & Gestalt psychologist
- Developed group Rorschach
- Studied Nazi war criminals
- Noted for poetry & the therapy of poetry
- About 140 books, chapters, & articles
Robert L. Isaacson
Ph.D. 1958 University of Michigan
UF: 1968-1977

- Came from Univ. of Michigan left for Binghamton University
- Co-director Center for Neurobiological Sciences
- Instrumental in developing Psychobiology program, and its relation with the new Medical school Neuroscience department
- Research field in neurobiology of memory; especially noted for work on the function of the limbic system, & recovery of function
- President, International Behavioral Neuroscience Society
Robert C. Ziller
Ph.D. 1956 University of Michigan
UF: 1970-retirement in 200x

• Served briefly as Chair
• Recruited from outside UF (Univ of Oregon)
• Social psychologist studied conflict resolution and photography as a research tool
Carol Jean VanHartesveldt
Ph.D. 1968 University of Rochester

UF: 1970-resigned in 2002

- Hired during formative years of Physiological Psychology program
- Research in developmental psychobiology
- Co-Principal investigator (with faculty from the Dept Neuroscience) on long-running NIH training grant in Neurobiological Sciences; this provided many graduate student stipends and supported numerous activities
- Left late in her career to become a program officer at the National Science Foundation
Patricia H. Miller
Ph.D. 1970 University of Minnesota
UF: 1970-resigned in 2002

• Came from U. of Michigan; later department head Univ. of Georgia

• Developmental psychologist interested in cognitive development during childhood, social cognitive development, theories of development, and gender

• Area head, developmental area

• Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 1995-1999.
Dorothy Dobbins Nevill
Ph.D. 1971 University of Florida
UF: 1971-retirement in 2000

- As part of the Counseling Psychology program, played a key role in practicum and supervision
- Graduate coordinator, 1986-2000
- President, Division 17 of APA, 1996
- Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, 1973-1975
Lawrence J. Severy
Ph.D. 1970 University of Colorado
UF: 1971-retirement in 2006

• Area head, social psychology program
• Interested in population psychology, sexual behavior, transmission of sexual diseases, contraception, & reproductive health
Merle E. Meyer
Ph.D. 1963 University of Washington
UF: 1972-passing in 2005
Department Chair 1972-1988

• Meyer was the third chair recruited from outside the department (Western Washington State). Ushered in with the new building.

• Reassembled Counseling program under direct departmental control; formed Developmental area

• Obtained State Quality Improvement money to build the animal research programs

• Broad research interests in experimental psychology and behavioral neuroscience
Richard A. Griggs
Ph.D. 1974 University of Indiana

UF: 1974-retirement in 2007

• Cognitive psychologist
• Major contribution as master teacher; was a principal instructor for General Psychology
• Published in teaching of Psychology
• His text book “Psychology: A concise introduction” was published in 2006
Yvonne Brackbill
PhD Stanford University, 1956
UF circa 1976-early 1990s

• Graduate Research Professor of Psychology and Obstetrics and Gynecology

• Formerly at U. of Denver & Georgetown U. Medical School

• Studies development of learning in infants

• Regarded as world expert on behavioral effects of obstetrical mediations
Walter R. Cunningham
Ph.D. 1974 University of Southern California
UF: 1974-retirement in 2003

• Member of the developmental psychology program with interest in gerontology
• Author, *Gerontology: The Psychology, Biology, and Sociology of Aging*
• Especially interested in age-related changes in intellectual abilities
• Known for use of multivariate techniques
David M. Green
Ph.D. 1958 University of Michigan
UF: 1985-retirement in 1995

- UF Graduate Research Professor; Psychophysicist; foundational research in signal detection theory
- Studied uncertain signal frequency, sequential observations and speed-accuracy tradeoffs, critical bands, internal noise, masking with tones and noise, sound localization, temporal acuity, and frequency discrimination
- Acoustic Society Gold Medal Award, 1994; Warren Medal; Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a William James Fellow, American Psychological Society; Member, Society of Experimental Psychologists, Nat. Acad. Sci.
Robert D. Sorkin
Ph.D. 1965 University of Michigan
UF: 1988-2007
Chair: 1988-1995

• Sorkin was the fourth chair recruited from outside of UF (Purdue)
• Developed first computer network (“webb”) within the building and hired the first IT staff
• Research interests in decision making and auditory psychophysics
• Leave of absence 2002-7 to be program officer with the Air Force Research (AFOSR and ARFL) programs
Elizabeth D. Capaldi

- PhD University of Texas, 1969
- UF 1988-2000

- Studied learning, especially in food preferences
- President American Psychological Society (2000-01)
- President Midwestern Psychological Assn (1991)
- Served as University of Florida Provost
- Left to become provost at University of Buffalo