The Chair’s Report

By Dr. Neil E. Rowland, Chair

With the end of the semester and the end of the year rapidly approaching, it is remarkable to look back and find, despite troubling times, the Department of Psychology at UF has continued to excel in our mission.

To say that the last few months have been financially difficult is an understatement. As most of you know, the State cut the University’s appropriation for 2008-9 by a double digit percentage. As a result, former CLAS interim Dean Glover was forced to make some painful decisions about areas in which to disinvest or economize, including loss of many staff lines and a few tenure track faculty. The prospect of further cuts for the next fiscal year is causing an atmosphere of unprecedented concern. We are very pleased that Dr Paul D’Anieri came from the University of Kansas to be the new Dean of CLAS as of July, and I know these are not the kind of challenges that he had envisioned in his first year!

The good news is that the Psychology Department not only survived these personnel cuts unscathed, but we are in the midst of two tenure track faculty searches (in Counseling and Developmental) funded by revenue from the tuition surcharge that started last year. We also added a new faculty member, Dr Gregory Webster (Social) from a faculty search last academic year – WELCOME GREG.

The reason that we have fared well in terms of replacing faculty, relative to many other units, is that our faculty and staff are among the most productive in the college. The measures of productivity entering into this analysis include undergraduate majors and the many students both in and outside of our major enrolled in Psychology courses, the large number of PhD students presently training with our faculty, and our continued success in high numbers of publications and research grants obtained. And for the staff, the demands of managing and supporting such a sizable student and faculty group yield similar indices of high productivity.

So excellent job everyone! Your continued willingness to go the extra mile during these hard times is sowing the seeds for a better collective ability to regroup and prosper as we work through this recession.

Despite the fact that we are all feeling very stretched, there have been several remarkable achievements over the past few months.

(Continued on page 2)
And now a loss will definitely leave us worse off: Dr Barry Schlenker (Social) will retire at the end of this Fall semester. Barry joined the faculty in Fall 1972; that adds up to 36.5 years of service during which time Barry has had 19 students complete their PhDs under his supervision.

Barry’s dedication, insight, enthusiasm, and good humor will be greatly missed in the laboratory as well as in the classroom. He will also be missed for his many selfless contributions to service in the department, in nurturing the Social area for so many years, and for his sound judgment on issues of departmental governance. Barry is in all ways a model Departmental Citizen. Barry – we all wish you the best for a long and prosperous retirement.

Finally, we greatly appreciate the continued engagement of our Alumni and supporters. In this newsletter, Tom Pye describes the recent and planned activities of the Advisory Board. Your enthusiasm and commitment to the department lets us know we are making a difference and keeps us energized as we strive to make a difference, notably educating the next generation of the Gator Nation.

We look forward to hearing from you and to your continued support.

Our New Doctors

Summer 2008
Sarah Bloom (Iwata)
Melinda Goodman (Moradi)
Hong Li (Albarracin)
Julie Marusch (Branch)
Clare Mathes (Rowland)
Alicia Matteson (Moradi)
Marisa Miller (Schlenker)
Anaya Mitra (Rowland)
Burhan Ogut (Fischler)
Katie Saulsgiver (Wynne)
Kimberly Sloman (Vollmer)

Fall 2008
Marin Knowles (Berg)
Hong Li (Albarracin)
Christopher Mack (Tucker)
Katherine Saulsgiver (Wynne)
Thomas J. Tieg (Heesacker)

Spring 2009 (Anticipated)
Erin McClure (Wynne)
Lisa Sontag (Graber)
Andrea Spraggings (Neimeyer)
Jacob Van Den Berg (Tucker)
Rachelle Yankelevitz (Hackenberg)
Dr. Carolyn Tucker is a Distinguished Alumni Professor and a Professor in both Psychology and Community Health and Family Medicine. Recently, she received the distinctions of becoming a UF Research Foundation Professor and the UF College of Medicine Richard and Thelma O.C. Barney Term Professor in Health Disparities.

Dr. Tucker has three passions: (a) expressing the love that she feels for her husband (Theotis Callaway), mother (Mrs. Arethea Tucker), God-mother (Mrs. Rena Brown), and extended family; (b) supporting and mentoring her students to become culturally sensitive, excellent researchers and scientist-practitioners; and (c) conducting translational community-partnered research aimed at reducing health disparities and ultimately improving the mental and physical health of minority families and low-income families. Central to her mentoring philosophy is student empowerment for career success, and central to her research approach (which is anchored in Tucker’s Health Self-Empowerment Theory) is empowerment of minorities to promote their own physical and mental health and to obtain culturally sensitive health care.

Currently, Dr. Tucker is conducting two research programs. One of these research programs (presently funded by a 3-year grant from the PepsiCo Foundation) is being implemented by her Health Psychology Research (HPR) Team and is focused on understanding and testing health promoting interventions to address obesity, particularly among racial/ethnic minority families and low-income families. Recent outcomes of this research include a Health-Smart DVD for use in preventing and modifying obesity, and a Motivators of and Barriers to Health-Smart Behaviors Inventory (Youth and Adult Versions) that enables customization of interventions to address obesity and promote health. Members of Dr. Tucker’s HCR Team include graduate students (Lily Kaye, Delphia Flenar, and Sarah Nolan) and 24 undergraduate students.

Dr. Tucker was recently awarded a grant from the Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida to develop a Health-Smart Church Model for increasing health-smart behaviors among African American women and their families who attend or live in communities near churches.

Dr. Tucker’s other research program (currently funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) is being implemented by her Behavioral Medicine Research (BMR) Team and is focused on assessing patient-centered culturally sensitive health care and promoting this care as well as health-smart behaviors among patients with type 2 diabetes. Recent outcomes of this research are the Tucker Culturally Sensitive Health Care Inventory, including self-evaluation versions for health care providers and office staff, a feedback version for patients, and a clinical tool version for customizing culturally sensitive health care. Members of Dr. Tucker’s BMR Team include graduate students (Dereck Chiu, Katie Daly, Jessica Jones, Khanh Nghiem, Manny Lopez, and Allysha Robinson) and 36 undergraduate students.

Dr. Tucker was recently awarded a grant from the Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida to develop a Health-Smart Church Model for increasing health-smart behaviors among African American women and their families who attend or live in communities near churches. She also was recently awarded funding from the UF College of Medicine and the UF Office of Research (with the support of CLAS and the Psychology Department) to establish a UF Program in Health Disparities that will ultimately become a UF Health Disparities Center for Promoting Culturally Sensitive Health Care and Modifying and Preventing Obesity.

When asked about the latter, Dr. Tucker said “My heart is set on establishing this Program and Center. I know that doing so will not be easy, but I am inspired, as always, by the wisdom of my grand-father, Mr. Roy Tucker, who always reminded me that anything worth doing ain’t easy, and anything worth having is worth working hard to achieve.”
**Faculty and Student Accomplishments**

**Special Recognition**

At the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association in Boston, August 2008:

**Donald A. Dewsbury**, Emeritus Professor of Psychology received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Division 26 of the American Psychological Association. He is also the incoming President (2008-2009) of Division 1 of APA.

**Franz R. Epting**, Emeritus Professor of Psychology received The Abraham Maslow Award from the American Psychological Association Society for Humanistic Psychology. He was recognized for making an outstanding and lasting contribution to the exploration of the farther reaches of the human spirit.

**Area News and Notes**

**Behavioral Analysis**

**Awards, Grants, and Recognition**


Jesse Dallery (Co-PI with C. Wong) National Cancer Institute. R21CA124881-01. Internet-based voucher reinforcement for smoking cessation. $100,000/year.

**Jesse Dallery (PI) National Institute on Drug Abuse. R03DA019467. Effects of nicotine on environmental stimuli. $50,000/year direct costs.**

Tim Vollmer (PI): University of Florida Behavior Analysis Services Program, Florida Department of Children and Families ($218,798).


Clive Wynne was interviewed and quoted in USA Today "Einstein of parrots was a feather in researcher's cap" May 12 2008; in New Scientist "Dog's bark means more than its bite" 29 April 2008; and in New Yorker "Birdbrain" May 12, 2008.

Monique Udell (advisor: Clive Wynne) was interviewed for an article in the APA Monitor which appeared in Volume 39, No. 7 July/August 2008 "Fido's inner life". She recently appeared online in the journal Animal Behaviour and The Economist interviewed her and ran a piece about it in their Oct 18th edition.

**Tim Vollmer (PI): Heartland for Children University of Florida Behavior Analysis. Heartland for Children Agency ($297,389).**
Publications


Counseling Psychology

Awards, Grants and Recognition


Bonnie Moradi gave an invited Distinguished Publication Award address to be presented at the Association for Women in Psychology Convention, Newport, RI.

Bonnie Moradi was invited to serve as Associate Editor of Psychology of Women Quarterly, 2009-2014.

Bonnie Moradi was invited to serve as Affiliate Scholar for the Michael D. Palm Center, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Ken Rice chaired and presented in the symposium: Adjustment challenges of international students and their spouses at the International Counseling Psychology Conf, Chicago, IL 2008.

Moradi, B. & Rottenstein, A. (2007). Objectification theory and Deaf cultural identity attitudes: Roles in Deaf women’s eating disorder symptomatology. Journal of Counseling Psychology, 54, 178-188. This paper, with undergraduate Amy Rottenstein (now at Univ. of Michigan) has won the 2008 Association for Women in Psychology's Distinguished Publication Award.

Melanie Brewster (advisor: Bonnie Moradi) received a Scholarship Award from the APA Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues Foundation, August 2008.

Melanie Brewster and Cirleen DeBlaere (advisor: Bonnie Moradi) received awards to travel to the annual conference from the American Psychological Association Science Directorate, 2008.

Cirleen DeBlaere (advisor: Bonnie Moradi) received an APA Science Directorate Dissertation Fellowship.

Paul Perrin (advisor: Marty Heesacker) was the recipient of the APA Rehabilitation Psychology Division's 2008 Student Poster Award a presentation at the August 2008 APA meeting in Boston. Paul was presenter or co-presenter on two other posters from the Heesacker lab.

**Publications**


Developmental Psychology

Awards, Grants, and Recognition


Graber, J.A. (PI). 2008 Provost E-learning Initiative. University of Florida Provost Funds. 5/7/08 – 5/4/09. ($20,000 total funds). The goal of this project was to develop and launch a fully online version of DEP3053 in collaboration with the Center for Instructional Technology and Training.


M. J Farrar, & J. Tamargo had a paper delivered at an invited presentation at the 2008 Symposium in Language and Theory of Mind in Children Learning English and Korean at Youngnam University, South Korea.

Keith Berg gave an invited lecture on The Impact of Childhood Development and Adult Aging on Tower of London Performance." at Wake Forest University.

Bluck, J. A. Issued Press Release with UF News Office conducted radio and print interviews. Sarah Ainsworth, Leighton Cluff Award for Research in Aging and Undergraduate Research Award, APA (Division 20).

Kim Anderson received a scholarship to attend the 2008 Riken Brain institute Summer Lecture Series on Developmental Neurobiology in Japan. (mentor: Keith Berg).

Kristi Cordell-McNulty (Developmental and Ed Psych co-major, advisors Ashton & Miller) was selected to attend the Division 15 dissertation seminar at the APA meeting in Boston, August.

Tesia Marshik (co-major program, mentors Ashton & Graber) Nominated for Graduate Student Teaching Award.

Kristi Cordell-McNulty (co-major program, Ashton & Miller) Selected to participate in APA Division 15 Grad Student Seminar (included a travel award).

Publications


Neurobehavioral and Cognitive Sciences

Awards, Grants, and Recognition

Keith White (as Co-PI with Bruce Crosson) has received a 2 year VA research contract for an fMRI and psychophysics study of Gulf War syndrome. The ~$2M study involves VA hospitals in Atlanta, Dallas, and Gainesville as well as the imaging centers at Emory, Univ. of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and UF.


Keith McGregor has been awarded a VA pre-doctoral grant to support his dissertation research as a full-time VA employee. This also qualifies him to seek future VA funding as an academic investigator (mentor, Keith White).

Anastasia Ford completed an internship at NIH/NINDS. Anastasia has also been invited to speak to the Department of Neurology, University of Miami, Nov. 13-14 (mentor: Keith White).

Tana Bleser. American Psychological Association of Graduate Students scholarship (mentor Keith White).

Mark Eckert (Ph.D., 1998, Leonard, mentor) won the Developing Scholar award at the Medical University of South Carolina.

**Publications**


Area News and Notes


Social Psychology

**Publications**


Dr. Gregory D. Webster joined the UF Psychology Department as an Assistant Professor in August of 2008 following a two-year NIMH-funded postdoctoral fellowship in quantitative methods for behavioral research in the Psychology Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Greg received a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2006, an MA in General Experimental Psychology from the College of William & Mary in 2001, and a BA in Psychology from Colorado College in 1997. Greg was born in Woodstock, New York and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma when he was eight, where he graduated from Holland Hall High School in 1994.

Greg studies prosocial and aggressive behavior from an evolutionary social psychological perspective. His prosocial research examines within-family resource allocation as a function of genetic relatedness and the extent to which this relationship is mediated and moderated by social psychological variables (e.g., cohabitation, social interaction, emotional closeness). Greg’s aggression research examines the relationships between different domains of self-esteem and aggression using a variety of different methods (e.g., experiments, daily diary studies).

Dr. Webster studies prosocial and aggressive behavior from an evolutionary social psychological perspective.

On a broader theoretical level, Greg is interested in integrating social and evolutionary approaches to psychological phenomena. He also has strong secondary interests in research methods and data analysis/modeling, as well as in the emerging field of the psychology of science (http://www.psychologyofscience.org).

Greg has been fortunate enough to have published dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles, and is anticipating the possibility of early-career burnout with terror and trepidation. Nevertheless, he is confident that his new friends and colleagues in UF’s Psychology Department, and the resources they have graciously provided for him, will allow his research to continue to blossom in the coming years. (Now if only there was something they could do about the miserable winter weather here!)

Further information on Greg’s background, research interests, and extra-academic life (if you can call it that) can be found in his 2006 autobiographical sketch in American Psychologist (Vol. 61, pp. 871-874).
Graduate Program News

By Dr. Robin West, Graduate Coordinator

Neuroscience is an expanding field in psychology. At the University of Florida as well, the Department has brought together its cognitive and neurobehavioral scientists to form an expanded new graduate program, called Neurobehavioral and Cognitive Sciences. Neuroscience centers on these goals: 1) to describe the human brain and how it functions normally, 2) to determine how the nervous system develops, matures and maintains itself through life, and 3) to find ways to prevent, attenuate, or cure neurological and psychiatric disorders.¹

As can be seen in the myriad approaches to neuroscience used by UF psychologists, the tools of neuroscientists include behavioral measures, and cellular, molecular and structural brain analyses designed to uncover patterns that will help us to understand the relationship between neural activity and observed behavior. In the Neurobehavioral Track, students learn how to apply a variety of techniques, ranging from molecular biological to gross behavioral analyses, to problems of the brain and behavior. In the Cognitive Track, students explore the brain’s ability to process information by studying the underlying processes and structures. Cutting edge research opportunities await students who enter this field at the University of Florida:

The Department has brought together its cognitive and neurobehavioral scientists to form an expanded new graduate program, called Neurobehavioral and Cognitive Sciences.

Lise Abrams investigates memory and language processes in young adults and in normal aging. Her laboratory focuses primarily on tip-of-the-tongue states – naturally-occurring retrieval failures, characterized by a temporary inability to recall a known word – and language errors, such as production of spelling errors and detection of spelling errors during reading.

Margaret Bradley’s research focuses on the psychophysiological measurement of emotion and attention in perception, imagination, learning, and memory. Together with other researchers at the NIMH Center for the Study of Emotion and Attention (CSEA), her goal is to understand emotional and attentional engagement as it is expressed in the body and brain, with a translational aim of assessing and treating psychopathologies such as fear and anxiety.

Research in Darragh Devine’s laboratory is focused on the consequences of acute and chronic stress exposure, and the neurobiological basis of self-injurious behavior. For stress, they examine changes in biochemical regulation of neurotransmitters, receptors, second messenger systems, and hormones that participate in behavioural and physiological responses to stress. They are also examining endophenotypes and biochemical regulation factors that confer increased or diminished vulnerability to self-injury.

Andreas Keil examines visual perception and cognition in human participants using behavioral studies, electrophysiology, and functional neuroimaging. His research group is particularly interested in studying the conditions under which emotional media capture and hold attention, in healthy and highly anxious observers. Among other topics, costs and benefits of automatically attending to emotional stimuli are examined with respect to concurrent cognitive tasks (e.g., working on an essay with the television set on).

In the Behavioral and Systems Neuroscience Laboratory of Linda Hermner-Vazquez, multi-site, multi-electrode recordings in rats and mice record neural activity as the animals learn and execute decision-making and memory tasks. The ultimate goal is to understand how the interaction of different neural networks leads to high-level behavioral performance. This research has also been extended to study the pre-clinical neurophysiological markers of Alzheimer’s Disease.
The research in Neil Rowland’s laboratory focuses on the physiological basis of motivation in animals, including the study of overeating and obesity. For example, they are examining meal patterns and total consumption in both normal and genetically obese mice, models of acute overeating (binges) and potential pharmacological control of overeating, and weight gain after cessation of exposure to nicotine.

Ongoing research in David Smith’s laboratory concerns peripheral olfactory mechanisms involved in the perception of real world complex odorants. These studies employ psychophysical and behavioral paradigms in humans and genetically-engineered mouse models. Among other goals, this work seeks to understand how, under "natural" conditions, fruits and vegetables might be engineered to increase the detectability of volatiles that signal the presence of nutrients.

Don Stehouwer’s laboratory focuses on the maturation of the nervous system and how that relates to developmental changes in behavior, e.g., investigating ontogenetic changes in spinal motor control in the rat. Through these studies they hope to better understand the complex functioning of the basal ganglia and how dysfunction results in the motor disorders that accompany many pathologies of development and aging.

In the laboratory of Keith White, the focus is on vision and altered visual perceptions in individuals with neurologic or psychiatric disorders. They conduct functional neuroimaging (fMRI) and white matter tractography in studies of normal aging, as well as research on rehabilitation of aphasia and voluntary movements in stroke patients, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, and Gulf War syndrome.

---Robin West, Graduate Coordinator

1 adapted from the Society for Neuroscience website
This semester has been a busy one for the Psychology Undergraduate Advising Office. Since taking over as Undergraduate Coordinator, July 1, I have attempted to learn and master the many responsibilities that this position requires. Although a bit overwhelming at times, I am enjoying the challenges of this position, one of which is to bring improvements to the undergraduate program in Psychology.

One of my first tasks was to establish a website specifically for psychology advising, [http://www.psych.ufl.edu/~undergrad](http://www.psych.ufl.edu/~undergrad). The purpose of this website is to make information more accessible to students, to provide answers to frequently asked questions, and to announce opportunities of interest, such as research opportunities, applied experiences in psychology, scholarships, and study abroad programs. Students’ responses to the website have been uniformly positive. In addition to the emails I have received from students acknowledging the website’s usefulness, there seems to be regular access of the website, indicated by over 4000 unique hits since the website’s inception. I plan to continue updating the website on a regular basis so that it remains a beneficial resource for both students and faculty.

The Advising Office would not function without the assistance of my knowledgeable staff: Jacqueline Baron, Brittany Brucato, and Lana Tolaymat.

The current number of Psychology majors is 1543, which explains why we have a steady stream of students that come to the Psychology Advising Office. Students require advising on a variety of topics, including requirements of the major, degree audits, course selection, assistance with course registration issues, and questions about graduate study in Psychology. To see an advisor, students can walk in during hours that the Advising Office is open, and the advisor who is working at that time will meet with them. It is important to acknowledge that the Advising Office would not function without the assistance of my knowledgeable staff, which consists of three graduate student advisors: Jacqueline Baron, Brittany Brucato, and Lana Tolaymat. I am indebted to them for the hard work, helpfulness, and professionalism that they bring to the Advising Office each week. I also would like to acknowledge the many years of hard work of my predecessor, Dr. Keith Berg, who established a strong precedent of competence and efficiency in the Psychology Advising Office that I hope to continue.

I am indebted to them for the hard work, helpfulness, and professionalism that they bring to the Advising Office each week.

In addition to advising, the advisors and I are working on a number of projects to improve students' access to information. This semester, we are working on organizing and restructuring the two bulletin boards, the one in the lobby of the Psychology Building and the one across from the Advising Office. We are also working on making our list of approved PSY4949 agencies more detailed. Currently, this list contains agencies where students can volunteer and earn course credit, along with contact information. We are adding descriptions of each agency, along with websites when available, to help students in finding the most appropriate outlet for them to pursue community work.

A third project involves updating our list of acceptable course substitutions for students who have taken courses at other colleges and universities and posting this list on the website. Having this list more current and accessible will be especially helpful to transfer students in planning their course schedules.

I need to thank the Undergraduate Studies Committee, who has been instrumental in helping me to recommend several curriculum and policy improvements. For example, following their input, the Faculty decided to establish a new course, "Teaching in Psychology," for undergraduates who want to serve as teaching assistants in a course.

Another issue on which we are working is the establishment of explicit criteria for determining whether a student earns high or highest honors in Psychology. We are also beginning to discuss ideas for revision of the Psychology major curriculum, which hasn't been significantly modified for many years. I look forward to sharing these changes as they are implemented.
Greetings to all the friends and alumni of the Department of Psychology of the University of Florida. My name is Tom Pye and I am honored to serve as the Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Department. Our mission as board members is to:

- Serve as ambassadors of the Department of Psychology and its programs.
- Work with development staff in their efforts to develop private sources of funding.
- Take the lead in certain types of outreach efforts, such as hosting fundraising and outreach receptions, etc.

It is my pleasure to have the honor of serving with such distinguished board members. I’d like to take this opportunity and space to introduce to you the current members of the board. We are currently seeking additional members of the board who are in various geographic areas of Florida and the nation. If you have any interest at all, please contact me at pyelaw@bellsouth.net.

Here are our 2008–2009 Board Members:

**Dr. Jennifer Sager**

Dr. Jennifer Sager is a licensed psychologist in private practice at The ITM Group in Gainesville Florida. She received her doctoral degree from The Pennsylvania State University, her masters’ degree from the University of Oklahoma and her undergraduate degree from the University of Florida.

Dr. Sager’s interests include multiple identities, specifically the intersection of race, sex, and sexual orientation. She has published articles and presents nationally on multicultural issues, including the Multicultural retention programs and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered issues.

In the Gainesville Area, she has trained and advised the University of Florida Police Department, Division of Housing and Student Affairs Division on Trans Issues.

**Michael L. Woodruff**

Michael L. “Mike” Woodruff holds two degrees from UF. He held faculty positions at UF and Middlebury College in Vermont before joining the Quillen College of Medicine (QCOM) at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) where he taught Clinical Neurosciences, Cell and Tissue Biology and a variety of graduate courses. He is presently Professor Emeritus of Anatomy and Cell Biology at ETSU.

Prior to his retirement in August of 2008 he served as VP for Research at ETSU for 13 years. During that period of time funding for research and sponsored programs increased from $9.7 million to $43 million.

Because of his leadership in establishing the ETSU Innovation Lab, which was the first university-based business incubator in the State of Tennessee, and in securing funding for its expansion, ETSU named an 11,000 sq. ft. addition to the incubator the Michael L. Woodruff Wing in May of 2008.

**Dr. Robert Levitt**

Dr. Levitt grew up in Miami, attending Miami Senior High School and then attended the University of Florida, receiving a BS in Pharmacy and a Masters and PhD in Psychology.

After completing his formal education, Dr. Levitt spent two years at the University of Pittsburgh, ten at Southern Illinois University and five at the University of Alabama in Birmingham where he Chaired the Psychology Department and one in Neurology at the Medical College of Georgia.

After a 20-year academic career, Dr. Levitt spent 15 years in the private practice of Clinical Neuropsychology in Fort Lauderdale. More recently he and his wife, Phyllis, have been retired, living in Gainesville and he have become a full time Gator alumnus.

**Gerry Green**

Gerry graduated from the University of Texas with a Masters Degree in Nursing while teaching Nursing at John Peter Smith Hospital School of Nursing and Baylor University in Dallas. Her education includes post-graduate work at FSU, with all but her dissertation.

Ms. Green has held many state and national offices in Texas as well as Florida in the Nursing Field, including President of the Florida Nurses Association. She held a Nursing faculty position at Santa Fe Community College for 10 years and then was selected as Coordinator of the Nursing Programs. She retired as Director of Nursing and Health Related Programs in 1993.

After she retired, Gerry continued her own part time Private
Advisory Board Update

By Thomas Pye

Practice as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Mental Health, until 1999. In 2007 she was licensed as a Real Estate Agent and has her own business with her partner at Coldwell Banker, MMParrish.

Dr. Wallace W. Prophet

Dr. Wallace W. Prophet enrolled at the University of Florida in 1945 and, after military service with the U. S. Air Force, received the PhD in Psychology from UF in 1958. After graduation, he joined the Human Resources Research Office (HumRRO) of The George Washington University to take part in aviation psychology research studies of U. S. Army helicopter training at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

After retirement, Dr. Prophet consulted with various government and industry groups. During the period 1990-1994, he served as a member of the U. S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. He has actively supported UF and the Psychology Department and was responsible for establishing the UF Pioneer Psychology Faculty Award, given annually to an outstanding UF graduate student.

His wife of 59 years, the former Sarah Helen Dale, holds the MEd degree from UF. In 2007, they moved back to Gainesville where they now reside.

Michael G. Prendergast

Mike Prendergast received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in 1980 and graduated, with honors, from the University of Florida College of Law in 1983. Upon graduation, Mike moved to Jacksonville and joined the law firm of Coffman, Coleman, Andrews & Grogan, P.A., where he became a partner in 1989. In July of this year, Mike joined GrayRobinson as a shareholder in the firm’s Jacksonville office.

Mike specializes in labor and employment law. A large part of Mike’s practice involves defending employers in employment discrimination and wrongful termination cases pending before state and federal courts and administrative agencies.

Mike is Past-President of the Jacksonville Bar Association and the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville. He is also active with the United Way of Northeast Florida, serving on United Way’s Resource Management Cabinet and leading its Early Childhood Success Team. Mike currently serves as Chair-elect of the Jacksonville Urban League Board of Directors.

J. David Leander

J. David Leander graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a B.S. in Psychology and then earned a M.A. in Psychology from Western Washington State College (now Western Washington University). He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Psychology, University of Florida in 1971.

Following his doctorate, David joined the Pharmacology Department of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, beginning as a Post-doc and leaving as a tenured Associate Professor.

After leaving UNC, David was employed in Neuroscience Discovery Research at the Lilly Research Laboratories of Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, Indiana. At Lilly, David had many varied leadership roles and was active in the success of Lilly with many successful products in the neuroscience pharmaceutical area. Early in his career at Lilly, David also obtained an MBA from Indiana University School of Business.

In 2002, David retired from Lilly and started Skagit Neuropharm Consulting, a company that consults with small, start up pharmaceutical companies and the venture capital firms that support them.

Martha Kern

Martha graduated University of Virginia with BA in physics & cognitive science. Immediately after college, she became a physics and mathematics teacher at a high school in Norfolk, Virginia. After two years, she decided to change careers and enter the world of financial services.

As an agent for New York Life Insurance, she helps business owners and professionals prioritize, organize and simplify their financial matters in order to take care of the people they love and provide for their future needs. In January 2008, Martha earned her Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) designation. In August 2008, she celebrated her 4 year anniversary with New York Life.

Martha is the current Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Greater Gainesville and she is also an avid volunteer of the Alachua County Humane Society. Martha lives in Alachua with her husband Ryan.
Advisory Board Update

By Thomas Pye

W. KEITH BERG

W. Keith Berg received his undergraduate training at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1965. His graduate training came at the University of Wisconsin where he received his Master’s degree in 1968 and Ph.D. in 1971, both in the field of psychology with a focus on development and psychophysiology.

Dr. Berg’s current research interests focus on changes in complex cognitive process across the life span based on assessment of behavior, cardiac and brain activity. Previously he was recognized for his work in attentional processes in infancy. Dr. Berg considers his most important and fulfilling accomplishment the supervision and mentoring of 18 Ph.D. students, 18 Master’s students, and hundreds of undergraduate research assistants.

Dr. Berg is currently a Emeritus Professor at the Department of Psychology, University of Florida. He currently continues an active research career at UF, supervising the work of two graduate students and numerous undergraduate assistants. He and his wife of 41 years, Dr. Kathleen Berg, continue to reside in Gainesville, Florida, and enjoy the lifestyle of this fine city.

Amber Muehlmann

Amber is a sixth year graduate student in the Neurobehavioral and Cognitive Sciences program. She graduated from San Diego State University in May 2002 and entered the graduate program in Psychology at the University of Florida in 2003.

Amber works in Dr. Darragh Devine’s laboratory and is focused on elucidating neurobiological mechanisms that underlie the self-injurious behaviors seen in many neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders.

Amber has received fellowships from the National Alliance for Autism Research and from the National Institute of Mental Health and is also very involved with professional service organizations, serving as the Chair of the Graduate Student Advisory Board and President of the Psychology Graduate Student Organization. She also represents the Psychology Department on the Graduate Student Council and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty Council.

Juliana Peters

Juliana Peters is a fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Florida, where she is double majoring in Psychology and Spanish. She holds the position of President for the UF chapter of the Psi Chi National Honor Society and the Psychology Club.

Currently, Juliana is in the process of applying to Cognitive Psychology graduate programs. She intends to pursue a PhD studying the relationship of bilingualism and cognition.

Jackie Orlando

Jackie Orlando has 35 years experience as a psychologist. She received her PhD from the University of Florida and taught as a faculty member in the Family Practice Residency program at UF College of Medicine. Her private practice includes treatment for anxiety, depression, PTSD, relationship and medical problems, pain management, pre-surgical evaluations, and aging issues.

Thomas G. Pye (Chairman)

Mr. Pye majored in Psychology and minored in English and Political Science graduated with his Bachelor’s Degree in 1979 from the University of Florida. He then entered law school at the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.

Upon gradation from Mercer Law, Mr. Pye relocated to South Florida to begin his legal career. He took the Florida Bar exam in 1982 and passed right away. He already had begun his career by clerking for Miami-Dade County Circuit Judge Fredericka G. Smith in the criminal division of the circuit court in and for the 11th Judicial Circuit. Eventually, Judge Smith rotated into Circuit Civil, and Mr. Pye received further legal experience in that realm of the law.

As Mr. Pye became more involved with his Alma Mater, the University of Florida; he was spending more and more time in Gainesville, Florida. It became evident that it would be wise to expand the Pye Law Firm, PA. to the Gainesville area.

It was in 2001 that the Pye Law Firm, PA opened its office in Gainesville, Florida.
1992: I was a member of the PsiChi Psychology Club. We had an incredibly close-knit group in those years. I remember playing intramural softball, Adopting a Highway, initiating a can recycling program in the Psychology building, "tunnel runs" near Norman Hall and most of all, the very fun parties. These infamous parties will live in my memory since I met my husband at the Psychology Club Halloween party at Hawaiian Gardens in 1991.

Sixteen years later, I remember those days as if it were yesterday.

1992: Ed Malagodi teaching in a classroom, smoking a cigarette with his arm out in the hall, so it wasn't in the classroom technically. I know it's not an academic or politically correct memory, but there it is.

1994: I really enjoyed time in Dr. Heesacker's research lab. Honestly, the best time memory was when I found enough courage to discuss a research idea with Dr. Heesacker and he was supportive. As an undergraduate student, it can be frightening to share a research idea/theory with faculty. His openness to listen was what encouraged me to continue my education.

1994: All-night meetings of the Dead Psychologists Society; Dr. Dewsbury's History & Systems exams; Psi Chi social functions; the annual Psi Chi Halloween party and the annual Psi Chi Road Rally

1995: After just becoming a Psychology major, I remember how Dr. Fischler used a video camera to remember all of his students' names in his Cognitive Psychology class. Of course, I was extremely impressed with his amazing memory when I was a student in his class, but I think I am even more impressed with his ability now that I am a Psychology professor and I have such difficulty remembering the names of my students!

1996: Of the many outstanding moments during my time at UF, the most memorable was organizing, with two classmates, a protest of the Exxon Valdez disaster as the final project for Ed Malagodi's undergraduate seminar on Behaviorism & Contemporary Society. The course had a profound influence on our lives. During those 16 weeks, Ed inspired the three of us to pursue academic careers. To this day, I aspire to emulate Ed’s ability to engage students through masterful orchestration of class discussion.

1999: I believe it's worth sharing how valuable my degree has been in my career. As I've climbed the ladder, people seem surprised my degree isn't in PR or Marketing, but they always remark "that makes sense", or "I can see that in you" when I tell them my degree is in Psychology. That could just have been something inherent to those of us who choose the major, but I believe it speaks more to the knowledge acquired at UF.

1999: I remember thinking about behavioral psych- "Wow! I could really use this in real life!" That's not a 'slam' on theory, but behavioral psych has been useful to me every day since that time. I have been able to logically approach behavior issues and help others to make good decisions.

1999: I liked the opportunity to take various courses in psychology. I didn't realize then how to take advantage of my degree but later understood the different avenues you can take.

2000: Physiological Psychology was my favorite class at UF as it introduced me to the biological aspects underlying psychology and triggered my pursuit of a career in the Neurosciences.

2001: Every experience at UF was great. Overall, I find that even though I didn't continue my education in psychology and went down a different career path, I use a lot of what I learned about human behavior in my everyday interactions, both professionally and personally.

2001: I was a member of Psy Chi, and my best memories were going on a snow ski trip to North Carolina, making an overnight camping trip, and attending the psychology convention in New Orleans.
2001: Dr. Pennypacker invited our whole class to his house for a party at the end of our semester. His classes and labs were great experiences that changed the way I thought of Psychology.

2003: While it was one of my toughest psych classes, I always enjoyed Dr. Severy's lectures in Social Psychology. Specifically, I remember him always talking about wanting to participate in a jury but never was able as soon as they learned of his profession. When I think back on my lectures at UF, his are the most vivid and the ones that have stuck with me.

When I think back on my lectures at UF, (Dr. Severy’s) are the most vivid and the ones that have stuck with me.

2003: The morning of my qualifying exam, I arrived at my graduate student office 30 minutes early. I quickly checked my space to make sure the bookcase was covered, the desk drawers were empty of any notes or texts, and my area was sufficiently "clean" of any contraband materials. I had brought in a small cooler with water, juice, and snacks to see me through the next eight hours of sweat-inducing writing. I then settled down for a few minutes of meditation to soothe my nerves, lighting a candle and burning a bit of sage to set a calming atmosphere. Shortly thereafter, my office door flew open as my advisor arrived to conduct a surprise inspection. Detecting the unfamiliar scent of sage in my darkened room, his eyes locked on the burnt bundle of herb and he tensely demanded "What are you doing in here!?" It took a few minutes to convince him that it was not a giant doobie.

2003: Dr. Moradi's Psychology of Women class was exceptional. As I graduated UF and joined Teach For America, the introspection and insights gained with the help of Dr. Moradi dramatically increased both my effectiveness and more importantly my empathy within my own classroom.

2006: My best memories of psych at UF are the feelings of accomplishment that I took with me upon succeeding (As) in Dr. Spector and Dr. Rowland’s classes!

Alumni, we want to hear from you! Please send in your professional and personal accomplishments for us to include in our newsletter. Please include your degree and graduation year and send your announcements to: nrowland@ufl.edu.