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DAWG TRACKS

MAY 2006

DAWG TRACKS CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS:

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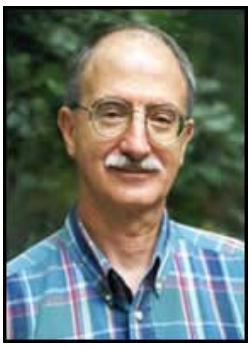


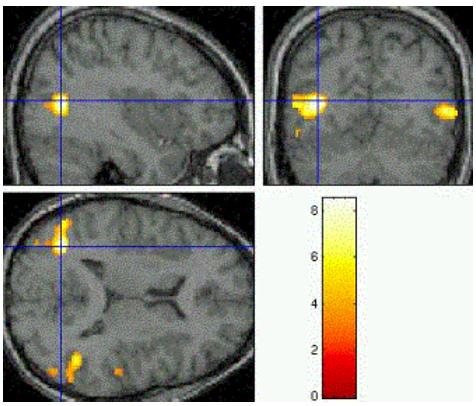
Amos Zeichner, Ph.D.

Professor

WELCOME TO THE 3RD ANNUAL UGA CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER!

Dawg Tracks is dedicated to continuing to highlight the achievements and contributions of the students, faculty, and alumni associated with the UGA Clinical Psychology program. It is our hope that the newsletter will continue to strengthen bonds of communication among all friends and affiliates of the program while providing recognition of individual and group achievements. With this goal in mind, we invite any notable contributions with regards to accomplishments, suggestions for future issues, or general feedback.

(To contribute, contact: Jordan Gilleland (Student Faculty Chair 2006-2007) at jordang@uga.edu).



FEATURED LAB: DR. ZEICHNER AND TEAM

Students strolling along the halls of the Psychology Building are often interested in what lies inside the several metal, sound-attenuated chambers located on the second floor. Two of these chambers are occupied by Dr. Zeichner's lab and are dedicated to studying antecedents that lead to aggressive behaviors. Walk inside one of Dr. Zeichner's chambers and you will find an assortment of audio equipment and a strange looking apparatus festooned with number labels, lamps, and switches. Aided by these instruments, the Zeichner team is able to examine laboratory-based aggression with the use of an innovative aggression paradigm based on earlier research by Stuart Taylor. In this paradigm, a participant is seated in front of a console containing ten shock switches and stimulus lights. The participant is led to believe that he is competing on a reaction time task against another participant (a confederate) who is seated in the adjacent chamber. The win/loss series of reaction time trials is predetermined and presented so that each participant "wins" half of the trials and "loses" half of the trials. Participants are informed that they will receive an electric shock from their opponent following "loss" trials, and that the intensities of the shocks received will be determined by the opponent. Dr. Zeichner's approach allows a participant to shock or refrain from shocking in order to make aggressive behavior more analogous to real-world circumstances. By examining participants' self-report data and reactions during the paradigm, the Zeichner lab has been able to examine the relationship between a number of personality factors and the expression of aggressive behaviors.

Dr. Zeichner's lab has most recently completed studies on the association between aggression and personality traits such as psychopathy, narcissism, and hypermasculinity. The effects of gender role stress on aggression and the association of masculinity and femininity to aggression are also studied. Finally, the team has examined effects of prejudicial attitudes toward homosexuality.

The research laboratory includes three graduate students, one of whom is on internship, and six undergraduate research assistants. Next year, Dr. Zeichner will be welcoming two new graduate students to the lab. Marc Martinez and Dennis Reidy, both third-year graduate students, describe working with Dr. Zeichner as an extremely enjoyable experience, due both to the amount of independent thought allowed in selecting research ideas pertinent to the field of human aggression and to the thoughtful guidance offered by Dr. Zeichner when constructing research projects.

ALUMNI FOCUS: DR. J. KEVIN THOMPSON

In focusing on both research and clinical experience, one of the goals of the training program at the University of Georgia is to produce graduates who are able to fuse knowledge gained from empirical study with explorations of treatment outcome. In his work on eating disorders and body image, Dr. J. Kevin Thompson has managed to combine both of these elements in studying an area that is critically relevant in world culture today.

Dr. Thompson earned his Ph.D. at UGA in 1982, studying under both Henry Adams and Karen Calhoun. His areas of research while at UGA included behavioral medicine and neuropsychology. While studying the former topic, Dr. Thompson says, his work with Greg Jarvie on obesity sparked an interest in weight, health, and body image. Later, clinical work with an anorexic patient cemented his interest in eating disorders and body image disturbances.

Dr. Thompson states that his training at the University of Georgia was "excellent" as preparation for his later program of research, particularly the research methods course he took with Rex Forehand and the research supervision he received from Karen Calhoun. Dr. Thompson has been a professor at the University of South Florida since 1995. His responsibilities there have been primarily to perform research and train doctoral-level graduate students. For the past 20 years, Dr. Thompson has focused on studying risk factors for eating and body image disturbances in adolescents, both males and females. His studies in this area have been wide-ranging, covering obesity and appearance feedback, cross-cultural correlates of body image disturbance, and, more recently, an NIH-funded examination of appearance motivation and tanning behavior.

Looking ahead to the future, Dr. Thompson says that he is continually drawn to examine body image in different areas. One of the areas Dr. Thompson has examined recently is the effect on college women of websites which promote eating disorders. Dr. Thompson has found that 5% of women in college report visiting such "pro-ana" (promoting anorexia) and "pro-mia" (promoting bulimia) websites, and that these same women report greater levels of body dissatisfaction and body image disturbance. Another area Dr. Thompson is continuing to focus on is body image disturbance in males. With the increased popularity of the "metrosexual" style and the muscular ideal, Dr. Thompson says, there are indications that men may be just as appearance-conscious as women, and so just as vulnerable to body image distortions. Hopefully through further empirical exploration of this topic, Dr. Thompson can shed light both on the antecedents of body image distortion in men and women as well as on potential treatments for those suffering from body dissatisfaction.

Dr. J. Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.

"The issue of examining body image in different areas is always appealing ."

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT FOCUS

Fayeza Ahmed was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh. She attended undergraduate programs at Saint Louis University and Washington State University before coming to UGA. Fayeza's research interests lie in Neuropsychology and in research on children with Asperger's Disorder. Fayeza is part of Steve Miller's lab, and her thesis project is designed to investigate the relationship between Executive Function and Theory of Mind.

Kathy Chen is from Shi Shou, a small town in South China. Kathy received both her undergraduate and Master's degrees from Peking University in China before coming to study psychology at UGA. Kathy is currently working with Nader Amir on two projects, one evaluating a short version of a speaking performance rating scale and another investigating attentional biases in social anxiety.

Jessie Dreifuss is originally from Washington, D.C. Jessie attended undergrad at Duke University and worked for a research firm in North Carolina before coming to join Steve Beach's lab at UGA. Jessie is interested in how information processing biases affect married couples. She is currently working on a study to pilot the use of a computerized intervention to retrain maladaptive marital attributions in women.

Carlos Faraco is a native Floridian; he was born in Miami and graduated from Florida International University. Carlos works with Steve Miller, and his research interests center on schizophrenia and cognitive deficits. He is currently working on a project using a Stroop task and fMRI.

Kameron Franklin was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and attended both Mt. Holyoke College and Johnson C. Smith University for undergrad. Kameron's research interests include African American marital relationships, racial identity, and cross-cultural/international research. She currently works with Steve Beach on the Program for Strong African American Marriages (ProSAAM), a program that looks at the effects of skill-based interventions and intercessory prayer on African American marriages.

Jordan Gilleland is an Athens girl at heart. Born not too far away in Lawrenceville, Georgia, she attended UGA as an undergraduate. Go Dawgs! She chose to stay in Athens and work in community mental health before coming back to UGA for the clinical psychology program. Her research area of interest is child health psychology, and she is part of Ron Blount's lab. She is currently working on her thesis project which examines psychological influences and health care utilization in children with chest pain.

CLINICAL PROGRAM FUNDRAISING

As part of our efforts to increase support for the Clinical Psychology Program, two new opportunities to contribute have been recently established!

1) Clinical Psychology Program Support Fund.

This fund has been set up as part of our continuing effort to gain recognition as a Center of Excellence in Clinical Psychology. The great advantage of this fund is it can receive gifts of any size. All donations will support the Program, its students, its training efforts, and outreach to alumni. Please help keep the UGA Clinical Program in the top tier of training programs. State funds are tighter than ever and many uses are restricted. Your generous gifts will make it possible for us to bring in guest speakers, hold alumni receptions, offer workshops on cutting edge techniques, assist students in a variety of ways, and help keep the program one our graduates can be proud to claim. Remember that donations are tax deductible.

Checks may be made payable to the "Arch Foundation", with "Clinical Psychology Support Fund" on the memo line of the check. They can be mailed to:

The Franklin College Development Office
300 New College
Athens, GA 30602

2) If you are interested in making a Major Gift, please remember that we are raising money to match the $100,000 challenge grant so generously donated by a program graduate who wishes to remain anonymous. These donations will establish an endowed professorship within the Clinical Program.

Please contact the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Development Office:

Russell Keen (rkeen@franklin.uga.edu) or

Sarah Baines (sbaines@franklin.uga.edu) at 706-583-0825 or 888-268-5442 for information.

Or you can ask **Karen Calhoun** (kcalhoun@egon.psy.uga.edu).

Your support is greatly appreciated!

INCOMING STUDENTS 2006-2007

Erin Burns (Dr. Jackson)

Lauren Few (Dr. J. Miller)

Eric Gaughan (Dr. J. Miller)

Megan McCormick (Dr. Blount)

Alana Siebert (Dr. Zeichner)

Colleen Sloan (Dr. Zeichner)

Lauren Schnare (Dr. Calhoun)

2006-2007 STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

Courtney Beard	Brown University/Medical School, Providence, RI
Katie Devine	University of Florida Health Sciences Center, Gainesville, FL
Max Gunther	Vanderbilt/DVA Consortium, Nashville, TN
Marc Martinez	University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN
Jenna McCauley	Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
Meghan Mitchell	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK
Amie Peloquin	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK
Dennis Reidy	Dorothea Dix Hospital, Raleigh, NC
Russell Shearer	Hines Veteran's Affairs Hospital, Chicago, IL

WELCOME CINDY SUVEG, PH.D.!

Dr. Suveg received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from The Pennsylvania State University and her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology (Developmental/Clinical specialization) from The University of Maine.

For the past three years, Dr. Suveg has been working as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Child and Adolescent Anxity Disorders Clinic at Temple University under the mentorship of Dr. Philip Kendall.

Dr. Suveg's research examines the role of emotion in the etiology, maintenance, and treatment of child psychopathology.

Cindy Suveg will join the Clinical faculty in the Fall of 2006.

ADDRESS FROM THE DCT

Hello everyone from the UGA Clinical Psychology Program! It has been a busy and wonderful year, with a number of exciting occurrences in our program.

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I became Director of Clinical Training in August of 2005, and it has been a wonderful experience to date. I want to thank the excellent work of Drs. Karen Calhoun and Joan Jackson for their superb leadership as the most recent DCTs, and I hope that as I grow in the position I can continue representing our program at the level attained by these excellent faculty members. I have been a member of the program faculty since 1991 so I feel I have a good sense about our history as well as our future needs and aspirations. I hope that you will take the time to read about the many activities occurring in *your* program as we continue to graduate excellent clinical scholars, place our students in fine internships and postdoctoral positions, and maintain excellent incoming classes and a devoted faculty whose mission remains to provide the very best in clinical and research training for our students.

I also want to encourage you to keep in contact with the program. We are incredibly proud of the many accomplishments of our graduates and want to hear from you. Whether it is just to let us know where you are and what you are doing, or if you have ideas or suggestions for the program, or if would like to come and visit, please take a moment or two to maintain or renew your connection with us. Don't forget the Departmental website, which can also help keep you up-to-date with what is happening at your alma mater: http://www.uga.edu/psychology/index.htm.

Finally, I want to thank the students, Charlie Kamen, Jordan Gilliland, and Marc Martinez for developing, managing, and providing this year's newsletter. From the start it has been a student initiated and student driven forum and they have done an excellent job with it, and I hope you agree!

Thank you again from all of us and keep in touch!

Sincerely,

L. Stephen Miller.

2005-2006 AWARDS

The Boardman-Forehand-Jackson Award: **Lisa G. Seri**

The Herbert Zimmer Research Award: **Laura E. Simons**

The Florene M. Young Award: **Katie A. Devine**

The Henry E. Adams Memorial Research Award: **Jordan L. Gilleland**

The Outstanding Contribution to the Tone of the Program: **Alyssa Clark**

The Outstanding Mentorship Award: **Joan Jackson**

The Outstanding Teaching Award: **Steve Beach**

Graduate School Outstanding Mentor Award: **Ron Blount**

Study in a Second Discipline Award, 2006 Fellow: **Ron Blount**

2006 GRADUATE PLACEMENTS

Tanja Mani: Neuropsychology postdoctoral fellowship, Methodist Rehabilitation Center, Jackson, MS

Charity Hammond: Postdoctoral fellowship, Deer Oaks Behavioral Health, Houston, TX

Monique Harris: Postdoctoral fellowship, Dallas Veteran's Affairs Hospital, Dallas, TX

Lisa Seri: Postdoctoral internship, TEACCH/University of N. Carolina Children's Hospital, Chapel Hill, NC

Laura Simons: Postdoctoral fellowship, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

Seoka Salstrom: Postdoctoral fellowship, Clinical Health Psychology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Maya Gupta: Developing a non-profit animal rescue organization, Athens, GA

Heide Klumpp: Postdoctoral fellowship, Stress and Anxiety Clinic, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Jason Elias: Postdoctoral fellowship, McLean Hospital OCD Institute, Belmont, MA

Amy Selvig: Postdoctoral fellowship, Department of Psychiatry, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Renee Schneider: Research fellowship, Palo Alto Veteran's Affairs Hospital/Stanford University, CA

SAMPLE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS 2004-2005

Amir, N. & Beard, C. (2004). Inhibitory difficulties and anxiety sensitivity. *Cognitive Therapy and Research, 28*, 283-292.

Devine, K., Benoit, M., Simons, L. E., Cheng, P. S., Seri, L. G., & Blount, R. L. (2004). Psychological interventions for acute pediatric pain. *The Suffering Child*, 6, Article 2.

Biedenharn, P. J., Casstevens Moeller, H., Garcia, C., & Peloquin, A. (2004). Acculturation and attitudes toward nursing homes in older Mexican-Americans. *The Gerontologist, 44,* 462.

Benoit, M. (2004). Multimedia supplement to Psychology and the Challenges of Life by Jeff Nevid. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Michels, K., Cohn, A., & Zeichner, A. (2004). When process meets empiricism: The link between clinical intuition and evidence-based treatments. *Georgia Psychologist,* 19.

Hittner, J. B., & Seth, P. (2004). Psychosocial predictors of female drinking patterns. *Psychology and Education, 34,* 4-16.

Amir, N., & Selvig, A. (2004). The role of implicit memory in clinical research. In A. Wenzel & D. Rubin, (Eds.). *A Guide for Applying Cognitive Research to Clinical Populations.* Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. 153-171.

Simons, L. E., Hubbard, A., Campbell, R. M., & Blount, R. L. (2005). Reductions in parental separation anxiety and self-reported anxiety in pediatric heart patients who attended a one-week pediatric camp. [Abstract]. Cardiology in the Young, 15, 95-108.

Beach, S. R. H., Kim, S., Cercone-Keeney, J., Gupta, M., Arias, I., & Brody, G. H., (2004). Physical aggression and depressive symptoms: Gender asymmetry in effects? *Journal of Social & Personal Relationships, 21,* 341-360.

Spitalnick, J. & McNair, L. (2005). Couples therapy with gay and lesbian clients: An analysis of important clinical issues. *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy, 31,* 43-56.

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