

# Psychology News

Fall 2008

## Highlights

### Department Receives APA Award



### Outstanding Alumnus Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008-2009 Outstanding Alum Award.

Send nomination letter and CV to [rwellens@miami.edu](mailto:rwellens@miami.edu).

### Mobile Autism Clinic

Brain-child of our own Michael Alessandri, UM-NSU CARD installed a mobile autism clinic we believe to be the first of its kind.

## A Note from the Chair

This has been an extremely active year for the Department in almost every respect. In addition to the usual high level of research productivity evidenced by our faculty and graduate students, we were also able to recruit five outstanding new faculty members who have now joined us this Fall. Given the continued growth of our undergraduate programs we have been given the nod to recruit another cadre of new faculty this hiring season to fill positions vacated by those who have recently retired or moved on to other positions.

As part of our commitment to continually review and improve our programs, we held a self-study and strategic planning retreat this summer to assess our strengths and weaknesses relative to other programs around the country. To top things off, we were very pleased to receive APA's Award for Culture of Service in the Psychological Sciences for 2008.

I invite you to read about these and other activities of the Department within the pages that follow. As always, we thank those of you who have supported us in the past and hope you will continue to do so. Best wishes for another great year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Wellens".

Professor and Chair  
Department of Psychology



College of Arts and Sciences

## 2008 Outstanding Alum Visits Department



Graduate students, faculty, and guests enjoyed the visit and lecture by **Wendy Stone, Ph.D.**, our Outstanding Alum of 2007-08. Introduced by her former mentor, **Annette LaGreca**, Stone is currently Professor of Pediatrics and Psychology and Director of the Vanderbilt Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD) which she founded in 1998. Her talk, titled "Your Child is *Artistic?*" highlighted many aspects of her professional career which began with the completion of her Ph.D. from UM in 1981. Stone has dedicated herself to educating the public and other professionals about the nature, identification, assessment, and follow up of children with autism. With 1 in 166 US children today identified with autism, Stone's work has been and will continue to be both valuable and inspiring.

### Psychology Department Wins Award for Culture of Service

If you have been keeping up with the activities here in the Department, you are well aware of the many hours that our faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates devote to service at the University and in the community. As usual, updates about the Psychological Services Center, the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, the Linda Ray Intervention Center, and Project CHRIS are provided in this issue of *Psychology News*.

And although there was an awareness that we have been busy,

it wasn't until **Chairman Rod Wellens** nominated the Department for the **American Psychological Association's Departmental Award for Culture of Service in the Psychological Sciences** that the full scope of our contributions was evident.

In addition to pursuing their own scholarly research activities, and training graduate students, Department faculty have served as Editors for seven nationally and internationally recognized scientific journals. **Herb Quay** and **Neil Schneiderman** were Founding Editors. **Chuck Carver** and **Annette LaGreca** are current editors

for two of APA's flagship journals. Faculty are members of 20 Editorial Boards and serve as *ad hoc* reviewers for over 30 additional journals. For a complete listing, have a look at the Department's web page at [www.psy.miami.edu](http://www.psy.miami.edu). In addition, both faculty and graduate students have a time-honored tradition of providing expertise on scientific review boards at the national, state, and local levels as well as contributing talent to organizations representing the psychological sciences.

For more information see <http://www6.miami.edu/news/everitas/2008-09/10-13-08.html>

### Alumni Networking Event

In March of 2007, nearly 50 local alumni and faculty gathered in a networking event held at the Bank United Center on the Coral Gables campus. In December, alumna **Amy Boyers** (Clinical Health '00) approached Chairman Wellens with the idea of having an event that would allow the local alumni to meet each other in order to support and facilitate mutual referrals in both academic and private practice settings. The event was quite a success as we spent hours chatting with old friends and new. In addition to alumni, a number of current

faculty attended the event, giving everyone a chance to learn more about what's happening in the Department these days.

On hand for the event were Professors Emeriti **Richard Carrera** and **Leonard Jacobson**. Among the student alums were **Ketty Gonzalez**, **Ana Rivas Vasquez**, **Michael di Tomasso**, **Nicole Marcus**, **Shelly Payne**, **Tony Sabatosso**, **Tammy Sifre**, **Blanche Freund**, **Tom Bonner**, **Vanessa Archer**, **Melanie Ferber**, **Amy Schaffer**, **Roselyn Smith**, **Edward Sczechowicz**, **Alison Grossman**, **Phil Boswell**, **Barbara Boldman**, **Sally Kolitz-**

**Russell**, **Sophie Guellate-Salcedo**, **Bill Samek**, **Ami Kutler**, **Fran Kulik**, **Nancy Kirsner**, **Joan Gailles**, **Marilyn Lopez Cugnetto**, **Jeniffer Stella**, **Winsome Thomas**, **Carrie Lazarus**, **Donna Phillips**, **Janet Aiken**, **Rich Garvine**, and **Jose Sandoval**. Current staff and faculty included **Chuck Carver**, **Andre Perwin**, **Rod Gillis**, **Annette LaGreca**, **Gail Ironson**, **Judy McCalla**, **Michael Alessandri**, **Victoria Noriega**, **Maria Llabre**, **Richard Williams**, **Rod Wellens**, and, of course, **Kent Schomber**.

Stay in touch for the announcement of the next Alumni Networking Event!



# Adult Division

For the sixth year, the Adult program was directed by Chuck Carver with Sheri Johnson as Associate Director.

**Professor Mike McCullough's** new book, "*Beyond Revenge: The Evolution of the Forgiveness Instinct*," was published in April to very positive reviews. Along with his graduate students **Adam Blake** and **Benjamin Tabak**, Mike presented research at the meetings of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Albuquerque, and the Association for Psychological Science in Chicago. After six years at UM, he will be taking his first sabbatical during the 2008-2009 academic year. He is hoping to take some time to learn more about genetics and evolutionary biology during that period, but he also will be focused on writing a couple of grant applications, and finishing some articles. Although the sabbatical will involve a certain amount of travel, he will continue to oversee projects on forgiveness, religion, and gratitude that are currently underway. His student, Adam Blake was recently awarded a graduate fellowship from the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada**, freeing him from teaching assistant responsibilities so that he can devote more time to his research on religion and self-control.



**Professor Sheri Johnson** had another busy year. She has been collaborating intensively with Chuck Carver and Jutta Joormann on an elaborate project that they hope will lead to a better understanding of the role of serotonin function in psychological disorders. She has also continued to develop deeper collaborations with researchers in England. One result of this latter development was a trip to meet with colleagues and share findings at Oxford in April. Dr. Johnson continues her work on a funded project aimed at understanding the role of reward responsivity in bipolar disorder. She and grad students **Lori Eisner**, **Dan Fulford**, and **Chris Miller** are also creating an intervention intended to prevent mania, based on the reward responsivity findings. Apart from her ongoing research activities, Sheri has recently completed a new edition of an undergraduate textbook on Abnormal Psychology, co-authored with Ann Kring. Sadly for the other members of the Adult Track, and for the Department at large, Sheri has decided to accept a position at the University of California at Berkeley, beginning in January 09. Her



collaborations with several people at UM will continue, even though she will be on the other side of the country, but she will be greatly missed.



**Assistant Professor Jutta Joormann** received a **Scholarly and Creative Activities Award** from the College of Arts and Sciences in recognition of her outstanding research achievements. Her Depression and Anxiety Disorders lab has been at work studying how cognitive processes and individual differences in emotion regulation affect onset and recovery from these disorders. Several specific projects are investigating attention and memory processes, genetic factors that may underlie individual differences in these processes, and links from these processes to psychological disorders. The team has also started utilizing a new lab to investigate psycho-physiological responses to stressors and the effectiveness of different emotion regulation strategies in regulating these responses. Jutta and two of her graduate students, **Joelle LeMoult** and **Tanya Tran**, presented initial results at several meetings, including the Association for Psychological Science and the Society for Research in Psychopathology. Joelle's work focuses on biased processing of emotional material in persons with both depression and anxiety disorders; Tanya studies whether training people to interpret ambiguous situations in a positive or negative way will influence other cognitive biases and stress reactivity. **Lira Yoon**, a post-doctoral fellow in the lab, led a symposium at ABCT on memory processes in social anxiety disorder. She also submitted a proposal for NIH funding. **Catherine D'Avanzato**, who joined the lab last fall, received an honorable mention for her initial application for NSF funding. Joormann also won the **MUSE** award for Contributions to the Undergraduate Program. She is pictured above at Just Desserts with the CUP and flowers; she also received a cash award.

**Associate Professor Amy Weisman de Mamani** published an article in April with Jennifer Kymaainen (a literature review on culture, communication deviance, and expressed emotion in family members of patients with schizophrenia) which was the feature article in APA's *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*. She also published an article with grad student **Eugenio Duarte** in the *Interamerican Journal of Psychology*, on educational attainment,



attributions, and expressed emotion in family members of patients with schizophrenia. Amy's publication is not limited to English. She, along with students **Vamsi Koneru**, **Stephanie Wasserman**, **Eugenio Duarte**, and **Radha Dunham**, also completed two Spanish language chapters for a book due out later this year. They were invited to submit these chapters following a series of talks they gave at the *Ibero-American Congress of Clinical and Health Psychology* in Costa Rica in 2006. During this past summer, **Amy**, **Radha Dunham**, **Naomi Tuchman**, and **Stephanie Aldebot** offered a workshop on Culturally Informed Treatment for Mental Illness at the *International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations* in Montreal. At the same conference. Amy gave another talk on the relevancy of incorporating spirituality into treatments for serious mental illness. During the 2008/2009 academic year Amy will be on sabbatical. Among the projects for this year will be an application for funding to continue to test her family-focused Culturally Informed Therapy for Schizophrenia.

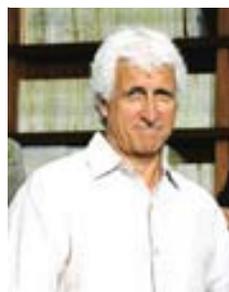
**Assistant Professor Matthias Siemer** continues to work with his grad student **Jessica Jacobson** on a number of projects on emotion regulation and psychological resilience. One project is investigating the idea—deeply embedded in everyday psychology—that people sometimes use anger in order to regulate or avoid anxiety. Surprisingly no studies on that question exist to date. Another project is studying individual differences in emotion regulation in the lab and in everyday life. Matthias is interested in finding out whether certain emotion regulation strategies work for some people but not for others. The overall goal of this work is to learn more about why some strategies do not work for everyone, and which strategies are more effective in the short and in the long run. After having spent substantial effort in setting up a psychophysiology lab, Matthias is also starting to include physiological data in his studies of emotion regulation. Jessica Jacobson has completed her master's thesis on executive functions and cognitive flexibility, with results showing that the ability to switch flexibly between the processing of affective and non-affective material seems to lie at the heart of being a resilient individual. Jessica recently presented these results at the conference of the Association for Psychological Science. Next fall the Siemer lab will be joined by a new grad student, **Katie Denny**, who comes to Miami from Stanford.

**Assistant Professor Debra Lieberman** is the newest addition to the Adult Track. Her research focuses on kinship, altruism, and disgust as an emotional experience. One project investigates how humans learn who counts as a close genetic relative, a process required for sexual aversions and altruistic motivations to develop between family members. As recently reported in *Nature*, Debra's research shows that we use at least two social cues to identify siblings: seeing one's mother care for a newborn and childhood co-residence. These two cues predict both disgust associated with sexual behavior with a sibling and sibling-directed altruism. This year,



Debra expanded this project and traveled to Israel to collect data from individuals raised from birth with unrelated children on Israeli Kibbutzim. She hopes to discover whether living with non-relatives produces similar levels of sexual disgust and altruism. Another area of Debra's research focuses on differences among types of disgust. In a forthcoming publication in the *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, Dr. Lieberman and colleagues show that different domains of disgust activate unique areas in the brain. During the coming year, she plans to continue working on kin detection and to resubmit an application to the National Science Foundation to continue studying neural, physiological, and social aspects of different types of disgust. Dr. Lieberman is being joined by two graduate students, **Robert Oum** and **Alison Aylward**.

**Professor Chuck Carver** saw the sixth edition of his undergraduate textbook in Personality Psychology appear in print this past year. Together with long-time collaborator **Michael Scheier**, he was honored in February by the Society for Personality and Social Psychology with the **Donald T. Campbell Award for Lifetime Contributions to Social Psychology**. Chuck



is currently serving his sixth and final year as editor of the *Personality Processes and Individual Differences* section of *JPSP*. His eagerness to move on to something else has found expression during the past year in an ambitious project he undertook with Sheri Johnson, Jutta Joormann, and several grad students. This project brings together molecular genetics, neurotransmitter functioning, executive control processes, and behavior, and it has potential implications for understanding depression and other sorts of problems. Busy, busy. Apart from this project, Chuck continues work on consequences of positive affect (also in collaboration with Dr. Johnson) and he continues to be involved in psycho-oncology research, in collaboration with Mike Antoni and his team, and in collaboration with new Health track faculty member **Youngmee Kim**. Dr. Carver also participated in the Sydney Symposium on Social Psychology in Australia last spring.

Calvin continues to guard the Department, occasionally extending his watch from his outpost on the fourth floor to oversee the numerous denizens inhabiting the other floors of the Flipse Building. Various individuals delight as they deliver treats-as-payment for his services, keeping us all safe in this time of change and uncertainty.

# Child Division



**Alexandra Quittner** continues to serve as Director of the Child Division. Her research focuses on the development of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) instru-

ments for chronic respiratory conditions. Her HRQOL instrument for cystic fibrosis (CF) has now been translated into 25 languages and is being used in national and international trials. For the first time in history, this tool was used as the primary outcome in a clinical trial of a new inhaled antibiotic which will be approved this fall by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Quittner also received a grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to conduct an epidemiological study of depression and anxiety in patients with CF and their parent caregivers. This study is now international, involving the UK, Italy, France, Germany and Australia.

Alexandra is also beginning a new, NIH funded study of quality of life for children with intersex conditions and their parents. This will be the first study to examine the impact of disorders of sex development (DSDs) on parents and young children. Her research on adherence is now in the *translational* phase, with a new study comparing two adherence interventions for adolescents with CF at 18 Centers across the US. Dr. Quittner was also co-chair of the National Conference on Child Health Psychology sponsored by Div. 54 of the APA and the Departments of Psychology and Pediatrics at UM.

**Professor Daniel Messinger's** Early Development Lab is tackling new projects in typical and atypical development with a full complement of graduate students, post-docs, and numerous undergraduates. A recent graduate student paper shows, for the first time, that infants at risk for autism

have trouble flexibly shifting their attention during naturalistic interactions with a parent. We are expanding our use of automated software measurements to document gaze shifts and facial expressions in these interactions. New projects include a collaborative grant on autism risk with Wendy Stone, Ph.D., and new work to understand development from the bottom up from an engineering perspective.



**Annette LaGreca** was appointed by APA President, Alan E. Kazdin, to chair a Presidential Task Force on *PTSD and Trauma in Children and Adolescents*, which was highlighted in the October issue of the APA Monitor. Several products are likely to result, including a congressional briefing sheet, tips for professionals dealing with traumatized youth, and a special section of the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. Annette was elected to chair the APA Council of Editors, and begins her term as Chair-Elect this fall. The NICHD pediatric research training grant, which Annette Co-Directs (with Alan Delamater), was refunded for 5 years. **Annette, Alexandra Quittner, Alan Delamater, Anna Maria Patino-Fernandez, and Danny Armstrong** were the key organizers of the 2008 National Conference in Child Health Psychology, which took place in April. Finally, Annette continues her community-based research on adolescent peer victimization and also her work on the effects of disasters on children and adolescents, including a continuing project funded by NIDA, that focuses on adolescent survivors of Hurricane Katrina.



**Heather Henderson** and her research group are studying individual differences in children's social behavior and emotional functioning in both typically developing children and children with autism. Using psychophysiological techniques (EEG/ERP) and behavioral measures, they are interested in cognitive and attentional processes that help children regulate their behaviors and emotions. Based on their ongoing work observing young children's interactions with peers, they recently designed a peer interaction assessment for children with autism which allows them to relate their basic measures of cognition and attention to everyday behaviors that occur in social interactions.



**Associate Professor Kristin Lindahl** welcomed grad student **Hallie Bregman** to the Family Study Lab to focus on the Family Interaction and Treatment Outcome project, examining family factors related to child maladjustment, the relative effectiveness of parent counseling vs family therapy approaches at reducing symptomatology in children, and improving parent-child and family relationships. NICHD funding will commence on Parental Acceptance and Child Functioning in LGB Youth: A Family Stress Perspective (**Neena Malik and Kristen**, Co-PIs.) which will address the family climate of teenagers who are coming out as gay or lesbian to their parents and friends. The object is to understand how families from multiple ethnic groups manage the stress associated with a child coming out as gay. These youth are identified as high risk for suicidality, family and peer rejection, and victimization.

**Professor Daryl Greenfield** and his team of graduate students, **Elizabeth Bell, Ximena Dominguez, Janna Fuccillo, Ariela Greenberg, Michelle Maier, and Virginia Vitiello**, are involved in several projects related to school readiness in low-income preschoolers. One area of focus has been the school readiness domain, approaches to learning, which includes learning behaviors such as initiative, curiosity, persistence, and problem-solving flexibility. This domain has the potential to impact development in all other school readiness domains and so is a potentially important point of intervention. Graduate students are engaged in individual research projects examining factors that influence and are influenced by children's approaches to learning. The lab is also excited to contribute to this area of research by



beginning the development of an observational measure of approaches to learning. For the past three years, Darryl has directed UM's **Interdisciplinary Training Grant in Education Research and Advanced Statistical Methods**. The program is

one of 10 such programs in the nation funded by IES. The emphasis of UM's IES program is the in-depth study of educational issues and risk-factors associated with poverty, developmental disorders, bilingual education, and chronic health conditions. The Greenfield lab is continuing work on a project funded by the IES involving a classroom-based preschool science program. In collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Head Start/Early Head Start Program and the Miami Museum of Science, the research team is in its third year of development of an IRT-based preschool science assessment. They plan to conduct a randomized field trial of the science curriculum and to expand the science assessment to an adaptive computerized assessment system. Current students funded through the IES training grant include **David Barker, Elizabeth Bell, Dolores Farhat, Ann-Marie Faria, Janna Fuccillo, Ariela Greenberg, Camilla Hileman, Christine Hughes, Shira Kolnik, Michelle Maier, Olga Moas, Sandy Romero, and Virginia Vitiello**.

**Assistant Professor Jill Ehrenreich** received her Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi in 2002, where she gained a strong foundation in applied behavior analysis and childhood anxiety. She completed her clinical internship at the University of Chicago, where she was able to explore her interests in treatment-oriented research in the course of investigations for a wide range of child psychopathology issues. She then worked as a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at



Boston University and was Associate Director of the Child and Adolescent Fear and Anxiety Treatment Program at the Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders, then directed by Dr. David H. Barlow. It was there she developed her current grant-funded investigations and interests in disseminating evidence-based or "gold-standard" interventions for child and adolescent anxiety to community settings. Dr. Ehrenreich has a Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to develop and evaluate the feasibility of a transdiagnostic approach to the treatment of anxiety and depression in adolescence. This treatment approach has a strong basis in emotion regulation theory and presents adolescents and their families with evidenced based treatment components formatted to be applicable across multiple types of anxiety and depressive disorders. Dr. Ehrenreich is also the co-author of a cognitive-behavioral treatment (CBT) for adolescent panic disorder and is funded by NIMH to investigate optimal modes of clinician training in this treatment approach.



**Assistant Professor Rebecca Bulotsky Shearer** is a child clinical and school psychologist by training and has worked both as a practitioner and researcher with very young children and families living in impoverished urban areas for the past 15 years. Her research interests are in early childhood mental health and the

relationship between early behavior problems and school readiness, specifically in community-based agencies that serve diverse low-income families, such as Head Start. Before coming to UM she worked as a research analyst in the Office of Early Childhood Education, Chicago Public Schools and as a research scientist at Erikson Institute, a Graduate School of Child Development. She graduated from the U Penn, in 2004 with a Ph.D. in School, Community, and Child Clinical Psychology. While a graduate student and an employee for the School District, she worked directly with Head Start and other prekindergarten programs to develop a classroom based assessment of preschool emotional and behavioral adjustment. She also collaborated with a taskforce to create feedback and professional development training for teachers around classroom-based mental health concerns. She especially enjoys conducting research in school systems in partnership with teachers, administrators and parents where research can be applied to direct practice and program improvements that benefit children and families.

Here at UM Rebecca plans to develop a community-based research agenda that focuses on identifying behavioral problems that interfere with children's opportunities to learn within early childhood educational settings and the development of reliable and valid measures that can inform programmatic interventions.

# Health Division

**Professor Neil Schneiderman** continues to Direct the Health Division and direct the Miami Field Center of the NIH multi-center Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL), and the NIH Program Project Grant “Bio-behavioral Bases of CHD Risk and Management.” Neil was an invited plenary speaker at Witwatersrand University in South Africa and at the 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Stress Management Association of Brazil. Neil is most pleased with the hiring of two new faculty members, featured below.



**Associate Professor Youngmee Kim** received her Ph.D. in Social and Personality Psychology from the University of Rochester and completed a postdoc fellowship at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. She then served as Director of Family Studies at the American Cancer Society. Youngmee studies various aspects of quality of life of cancer survivors

and their family and close friends, such as psychological and spiritual adjustment, coping with caregiving stress, gender, relationship quality, and cancer preventive behaviors. She hopes to develop programs and services to assist them in meeting their needs and to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors among cancer survivors as well as their family and friends.

**Assistant Professor Monica Webb** is a clinical health psychologist whose research interests are in health behavior change, with an emphasis on cancer-related behaviors. Her research has largely focused on theoretical, behavioral, experimental, and applied investigations of tobacco use, cessation, and relapse prevention. Monica’s program of cancer prevention is focused on interventions for smoking cessation, and the psychological mechanisms that underlie their efficacy.



Monica earned her B.S. degree from UM and was part of PRIME. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of South Florida before becoming an Assistant Professor at Syracuse University. She was recently awarded a Mentored Research Scholar grant from the American Cancer Society to conduct a randomized controlled trial testing the efficacy of a highly personalized smoking cessation intervention. Monica has two of her graduate students, **Elizabeth Baker** and **Denise Rodriguez**, to carry out research on minority health and smoking-related health disparities. She recently published in *Health Psychology* the first meta-analysis of smoking cessation interventions among African Americans.

**Research Associate Professor Marc Gellman** is Co-Director of the Health Division and Program Manager of the HCHS/SOL as well as two projects on the NIH Program Project grant: (1) Community Approach to Lifestyle Modification for Diabetes and (2) Community Health Approaches to Reducing Risk in the Metabolic Syndrome. During the

past year, much of Marc’s efforts have gone into getting the above projects, and other Behavioral Medicine Research Center projects in the new Clinical Research Building (CRB). He managed the hiring, training, and housing of over 20 nurses, medical assistants, dietitians, dental hygienists, psycho-social assessors, recruiters and an outreach coordinator. Marc recently participated in symposia at the Society of Behavioral Medicine meeting on the HCHS/SOL and at the International Congress of Behavioral Medicine on improving the relevance of multi-center health research.



**Professor Michael Antoni’s** research at the Behavioral Medicine Research Center brings together multi-disciplinary teams of investigators from across UM to investigate the effects of stressors, stress responses processes and stress management interventions in persons dealing with chronic medical conditions. Mike’s NCI research (funded continuously since 1993) tests the effects of group-based cognitive behavioral stress management (CBSM) intervention on psychosocial adaptation, neuroendocrine, and immunologic functioning, and treatment-related symptoms in women being treated for breast cancer. Mike also works with Drs. Penedo and Schneiderman testing the effects of CBSM on quality of life and management of treatment-related symptoms in men treated for prostate cancer. This year they published a set of empirically validated stress management materials tailored for men undergoing treatment for prostate cancer. Mike also examines the effects of CBSM on psychosocial functioning, immune status and health outcomes in men and women living with HIV infection. During the past year Mike published, with Drs. Ironson and Schneiderman a set of empirically validated stress management materials tailored for persons with HIV. Finally, Mike is leading an NINDS-funded R01, which tests the effects of a telephonically delivered CBSM intervention on fatigue and related symptoms, di-urnal cortisol production, and inflammatory indicators in men and women dealing with chronic fatigue syndrome.

**Professor Phil McCabe**, Associate Chair, was elected as President of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research (ABMR) for 2009-10. Phil has served as the Secretary for ABMR since 2005. He continues to serve as the Director of the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program, an elite major with over 200 majors. Phil welcomed a new graduate student, former UM undergrad, **Crystal Noller**.



**Professor Maria Llabre's** interest in the consequences of war exposure on children's mental and physical health took her to Lebanon where she worked with others on a study of over 6,000 children who were exposed to the 2006 Lebanese-Israeli war. Maria participated in a workshop on latent variable modeling with Mplus at the University of Florence, Italy. She has incorporated the skills

learned into a second course in structural equation modeling to be offered in 2009. She presented a training session on latent growth models at the American Psycho-somatic Society annual meeting and a workshop on longitudinal designs to minority investigators, sponsored by the NCI. She continued her collaborations with colleagues in Health and began a new collaboration with the Biostat Division at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Maria is Statistical Editor of *Psychosomatic Medicine*.

**Associate Professor Frank Penedo** was the 2008 Program Chair of the Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine in San Diego. Frank also presented a plenary address on psychosocial intervention in chronic disease at the Chilean Congress of Psychology. He also spoke at the meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research where he joined one of our graduate student alumni, **Paige McDonald**. Both spoke on the biobehavioral bases of health disparities in cancer. Frank also chaired and participated in a symposium at the International Congress of Behavioral Medicine in Tokyo. His research efforts focus on understanding biobehavioral, sociocultural, and psychosocial determinants of health and disease activity in prostate cancer.

**Professor Barry Hurwitz's** research at the Behavioral Medicine Research Center on the Medical Campus has recently focused on HIV disease progression. Barry and former graduate, **Jeff Greeson** recently published a paper in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Medicine* showing enumerative and functional alterations in killer lymphocytes mediate the relationship between higher levels of psychological distress (defined by perceived stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms) and greater HIV disease severity (defined by HIV-1 viral load and T-helper cell count), independent of standard demographic and various HIV-related factors. This research is a step toward understanding how the psychological distress of disease may play a role in driving pathological mechanisms linked with disease progression. Barry and his team, including former graduate student **Joanna Klaus**, have also conducted a randomized trial of 262 patients that indicated that supplements of the micronutrient selenium appear to be useful as an adjunct therapy to suppress HIV viral load and increase CD4 count. Information about this study can be found in the *Archives of General Medicine*. In addition to replicating these findings, future research will examine ways to improve the effectiveness of this powerful antioxidant.

**Associate Professor Patrice Saab**, together with **Judith McCalla**, is collaborating with the Miami Museum of Science to develop *Heart Smart*, an interactive museum exhibit on cardiovascular health designed to educate the public about cardiovascular disease and its prevention, underscoring the message that behavior and healthy habits



matter. The project involves conducting a randomized controlled trial to assess the effectiveness of a museum-based informal learning curriculum and its impact on student knowledge, attitudes, and behavior. With graduate students, **Katie Chipungu**, **Amanda Countryman**, and **Stephanie Fitzpatrick**, Pat and Judy are developing a *Heart Smart* discussion activity designed to be played by small groups of students to reinforce the exhibit content. This work is supported by an NIH NCRR Sciences Education Partnership Award. It extends Pat's primary prevention work with teenagers to the broader community.

**Professor Gail Ironson** directs the Positive Survivors Research Center and is the PI on two multimillion dollar NIH grants oriented toward exploring why some people thrive and others deteriorate rapidly when faced with life threatening illness. There are several projects in her lab.

First is Psychobiological Processes in HIV/AIDs, directed by Research Associate **Elizabeth Balbin**. Using psychological assessments, they examine the predictive power of both traditional psycho-social variables (such as coping and depression) and newer variables such as proactive behavior, optimism, meaning in life, the doctor-patient relationship, spirituality, emotional expression, and distress tolerance. Biological variables such as cortisol, norepinephrine, and natural killer cell activity are also being explored. Other members of the group include **Annie George**, **Nathaniel Kieval**, and **Jonathan Atwood**.

Second is a randomized controlled trial exploring the effect of emotional disclosure through writing in people with HIV. This study is directed by postdoctoral fellow **Joanne Fordiani**. Results are exciting (it helps certain subgroups but not others) and are being presented and submitted for publication this year. We are examining the effect of this writing intervention on symptoms of PTSD and depression, markers of disease progression, physical symptoms of HIV, and neuroendocrine stress measures. Team members include **James Blount**, **Rachel Kuhn**, and **Jennifer Meister**.

Yet another study in Gail's lab, funded by the Metanexus/Templeton foundation, focuses on spirituality. She and Scientist **Heidemarie Kremer** have authored numerous publications demonstrating the potentially positive association of various aspects of spirituality and spiritual transformation.

# Alumni News and Notes

## Doctoral Degrees

1967

### Stuart R. Ellins

I and my wife have recently retired and are enjoying our travels to Patagonia, Las Vegas, California, and New York.

1969

### Edith Anne Fiore

I gave a lecture and training workshop in London, England two years ago on depossession. That work is described in my book "The Unquiet Dead." I also gave a lecture and training workshop for the National Guild of Hypnotists three years ago on past life therapy which is described in my book, "You Have Been There Before."

1973

### Harriet Lefley

I recently authored two entries in International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences ... one on "Mental Illness" and one on "Schizophrenia." I continue as Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, UM Miller School of Medicine. I am a member of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Serious Mental Illness.

### David B. Miller

I recently published an article in Developmental Psychobiology titled "From nature to nurture, and back again." I also gave a plenary address to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Technology Conference titled "Podcasting: Enhancing university courses, visibility, and student life."

1978

### George John Pratsinak

The book *Arresting Addictions* of which I am co-author continues to be sold by the American Correctional Association.

1982

### Eric Diamond

I am developing a Men's Center in addition to therapy practice. ([www.gainesvillemenscenter.com](http://www.gainesvillemenscenter.com)). My daughter, Lizzie, is teaching in New Orleans Recovery school district. My son, Hunter, is going to study jazz at Indiana University.

1983

### Anne E. Hogan

I continue to direct the Harris Center for Infant Mental Health Training at FSU.

1992

### Daniel L. Segal

I am starting year 14 at the University of Colorado. Our Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology with emphasis in geropsychology was recently accredited by APA for 5 years which was a big relief. I am also co-editing an interviewing book which should be completed in about a year.

1993

### Cindy B. Kamilar

I am professor at Pikes Peak Community College. I am also co-coordinator of faculty assessment of student learning and team leader of our HLC/NCA assessment academy project.

1994

### Michael J. DiTomasso

I am still in private practice conducting psychological evaluations in the criminal justice and child welfare systems. I continue to enjoy teaching Personality Theory for the Department.

1997

### Vicki DiLillo

I'm still teaching at Ohio Wesleyan University. This year I was promoted, tenured and received the University's teaching award. Personally, this year has been more challenging. My husband Joey died unexpectedly last summer. Benjamin (now 2) and I are doing well considering the circumstances and would love to hear from other alums.

### Shari Wasserstein Elice

Nothing new to report...the children keep getting older and I've become a part-time psychologist and full-time taxi driver/chauffeur!

1998

### Barbara Wolfsdorf Kamholz

2008 has been an exciting year. In May, my husband and I welcomed our first child – a baby girl. We're enjoying work and play in Boston!

2005

### Amy Kizer Cuellar

In August 2007 I completed a MIRECC postdoctoral fellowship at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, TX. After fellowship, I accepted a position at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center as a clinical psychologist in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center and as Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine.

2006

### Adam W. Carrico

I am a postdoctoral fellow in reproductive infectious disease. I am pursuing a clinical research program with HIV+ methamphetamine users and collaborating on

# Alumni News and Notes

projects that focus on HIV prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## **Jeff Greeson**

In July, I was promoted to Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavior Sciences at Duke. I am eagerly awaiting a funding decision on an NIH Career Development Award, which was enthusiastically supported by several of my mentors at UM. My wife, Jenna, will finish her Ph.D. in Social Work at UNC Chapel Hill in the spring of 2009, and we recently bought our first house.

## **Masters**

**1967**

### **John Powell**

I have a book in progress on elder rites of passage, using the Jungian paradigm of archetype and symbol.

## **Bachelors**

**1955**

### **Sydelle White**

My granddaughter Jennifer LeMay is premed at UM with a psychology focus and is looking forward to being a Psychology Peer Advisor.

**1990**

### **Lynn M. Cohen**

I was named Human Resources Director for Mayors Jewelers in April 2006. I married Barry Cohen in March 2006. We reside in Weston, FL with our 3 children, Jared 12, Mitchell, 10, and Jeffrey 8.

### **Preston A. Britner**

I was appointed to Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies, Department of Human Development & Family Studies, University of Connecticut (2008). I was also named a Fellow of the American Psychological Assoc-

iation (2007). I will conclude term (2005 – 2009) as the Editor of the *Journal of Primary Prevention* next year. I am serving on several APA committees; 07–09 Member-at-Large (elected), APA Div. 37, Section 1 (Child Maltreatment); 2008, APA Working Group on Child Maltreatment Prevention through Community Health Centers.

### **Barry Grant**

In May, I became the Director of Product Management at BrightRoll.com, a San Francisco-based internet startup focused on online video advertising. In addition to leading all product development efforts, I am responsible for product strategy and business development.

**2002**

### **Jason Salas**

I have taught at all the levels (elementary/middle/high) as well as in suburban, rural, and urban schools. Next I will be teaching at a private school in Simsbury, CT. I hope to be there for a while.

**2005**

### **Anik Huffman**

I am now pursuing a double masters in: 1. Mental Health counseling with a certificate in marriage and family therapy and 2. Lifestyle medicine – I want to holistically serve health and wellness needs.

### **Samuel Lockhart**

I will be entering the graduate Neuroscience (Ph.D.) program at University of California, Davis, starting Fall 2008. I will also be 4<sup>th</sup> author for yet-named abstract submitted to ACTRIMS conference (Montreal, Sept. 08) for initial validation study of Functions

Index for Living with Multiple Sclerosis (FILMS instrument).

**2006**

### **Mark Cusick**

I am currently studying for the Catholic Priesthood. I am going into my second year of six at Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland. I enjoyed my first year as a seminarian and look forward to another great year!

### **Bevin Merles**

Brian (Brian Stubits, BSC, 2006) and I are getting married! He proposed November 18, 2007 and I said "yes!" A December 2009 wedding is being planned. I will also be earning my Master's degree in Clinical-Forensic Psychology at Nova Southeastern University Doctoral Program.

**2007**

### **Teresita C. Martinez**

I will be starting my Masters in Counseling Psychology this upcoming August, at FIU.

### **Adam Greenberg**

I am currently enrolled in a year of community service throughout our nation with AmeriCorps NCCC, a fantastic program for 18-24 year olds to travel our country while serving in our nation's most under-assisted sectors.

**2008**

### **Desiree Kameka**

I spent 2 months traveling around Europe to reward myself for graduating, but also to prepare for my business that will launch in September. JUST ASK! Will connect college students, autistic teens, and local youth groups to increase quality of life for the teens and spread awareness of autism.

# Graduate Student Posters and Publications

- Avivi, Y. E.,** Laurenceau, J-P., & Carver, C.S. (in press). Linking relationship quality to perceived mutuality of relationship goals and perceived goal progress. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*.
- Blake, A.,** McCullough, M., & Willoughby, B. (2008, February). *Did religion evolve to prop up humans' self-control capacities?* Poster session presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology- Evolutionary Psychology Pre-Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Chipungu, K., Fitzpatrick, S.,** Saab, P., McCalla, J., **Countryman, A.,** & Schneiderman, N. (2008, March). *Ethnic identity's role in stress management for African American and Hispanic adolescents.* Poster Session presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Diego, CA.
- Chipungu, L., Fitzpatrick, S.,** Saab, P., McCalla, J. (2008, June). *Differences in perceived stress for African American and Hispanic adolescents.* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of National Black Graduate Students, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Countryman, A. J., Fitzpatrick, S. L.,** Saab, P. G., McCalla, J. B., and Zhao, F. (2008, March). *Social distress and insulin resistance in adolescents.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavior Medicine, San Diego, CA.
- Coyrell, V., Schultz, L.,** Wohlgenuth, W., Gonzalez, N., Lawrence, R., Martin, P., Klimas, N., & Hurwitz, B. (2008). *Vital exhaustion, sleep disturbances, and inflammatory biomediators in chronic fatigue syndrome.* Poster presented at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Proceedings of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Diego, CA.
- Eisner, L. & Johnson, S.** (in press). An acceptance-based psychoeducation intervention to reduce expressed emotion in relatives of bipolar patients. *Behavior Therapy*, 39(4).
- Eisner, L., Johnson, S. & Carver, C.** (2008). Cognitive responses to failure and success relate uniquely to bipolar depression and mania. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 117, 154-163.
- Farrell, K.,** Shen, B. J., Baverlin, E. J., Penedo, F. P., Mallon, S. (2008, March). *Depression, social support, and self-efficacy are associated with medication adherence among individuals with heart failure.* Poster session presented at the annual meeting of The Society for Behavioral Medicine, San Diego, CA.
- Fulford, D., Eisner, L. E., & Johnson, S. L.** (2007, November). *Addressing unrealistic expectations for success in a pilot study of mania prevention.* Poster presentation at the annual convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Philadelphia, PA.
- Fulford, D. & Johnson, S. L.** (in press). Bipolar disorder. In R. Ingram (Ed.), *The International Encyclopedia of Depression*. New York: Springer Publishing Company.
- Fulford, D., Johnson, S. L., & Carver, C. S.** (in press). Commonalities and differences in characteristics of persons at risk for narcissism and mania. *Journal of Research in Personality*.
- Greenberg, A. C., Penfield, R. D., & Greenfield, D. B.** (2008, June). *Differential item functioning in a large-scale preschool science assessment.* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the National Head Start Research Conference, Washington, DC.
- Greenberg, A. C., Penfield, R. D., Greenfield, D. B.** (2008, June). *Fighting bias with statistics: Detecting gender differences (DDF) in responses to items on a preschool science assessment.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Institute of Education Sciences, Washington, DC.
- Greenberg, A. C., Penfield, R. D., Greenfield, D. B.** (2008, Spring). *Fighting bias with statistics: detecting gender differences [DDF] in responses to items on a preschool science assessment.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Cross University Collaborative Mentoring Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Ibanez, L., Grantz, C.,** Messinger, D., Cassel, T., Haltigan, J., Acosta, S., & Kelley, K. (2008, March). *Early gaze shifting and joint attention in infants at-risk for autism.* Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the International Conference on Infant Studies, Vancouver, Canada.
- Ibanez, L.,** Messinger, D., Newell, L., Sheshkin, M., & Lambert, B. (in press). Visual disengagement in the infant siblings of children with an ASD. *Autism: International Journal of Research and Practice*.
- Ibanez, L., Grantz, C.,** Messinger, D., Cassel, T., **Haltigan, J. D., Acosta, S., & Kelley, K.** (2008, April). *Gaze shifting and joint attention deficits in infants at risk for autism.* Poster presented at the Marino Autism Research Institute Scientific Symposium: Environment and Autism Etiology, Nashville, Tennessee.
- Kuhn, R.** (2008, March). *Health locus of control and health survival with HIV.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, Sand Diego, CA.
- Lemoult, J. & Joormann, J.** (2007, October). *Memory for emotional faces in comorbid depression and social anxiety disorder.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the Society for Research in Psychopathology, Iowa City, IA.
- LeMoult, J. & Joorman, J.** (2007). *Attention and memory biases in individuals with comorbid social anxiety disorder and depressions.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy (ABCT), Philadelphia, PA.
- Lopez, C.,** Antoni, M. H., Fekete, E., & Schneiderman, N. (2008, March). *Ethnic identity and perceived stress in HIV and minority women: The role of coping, self-efficacy, and social support.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of The Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Diego, CA.
- Lopez, C.,** Antoni, M. H., Fekete, E., Penedo, F., Duran, R., Ironson, G., & Schneiderman, N. (March, 2008). *Ethnic identity and perceived stress in HIV and minority women: An examination of psychosocial mediators.* Poster presented at the annual conference of the Office for Women's Health, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL.
- Miller, C. J.,** Johnson, S. L., Carver, C. S. (2007, November). *Utility of three self-report screening measures for detecting bipolar disorder in undergraduates.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Philadelphia, PA.
- Schultz, L., Coryell, V.,** Patterson, A., Gonzalez, A., Baez-Garcia, C., Gonzalez, N., & Hurwitz, B. (2008, March). *Linkages to HIV antiretroviral adherence and disease severity: Ethnic identity, beliefs and attitudes about medicine, and psychological distress.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Diego, CA.
- Tabak, B. A., Fulford, D., McMurrich, S. M., & Johnson, S. L.** (2007, August). *Over-reactions to positive emotion—Is there more to hypomania than meets the eye?* Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Tabak, B.A.,** Jacobson, J.G., & McCullough, M. E. (2008, May). *The affective consequences of forgiveness.* Poster presented at the annual convention for the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.
- Tabak, B. A., Fulford, D.,** Feldman, G., & Johnson, S. L. (2008, August). *Mania risk and creativity: The role of overinclusive categorization.* Poster presented at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.
- Wasserman, S. & Weisman de Mamani, A.** (2007, October). *The relationship between expressed emotion and self-conscious emotions in relatives of patients with schizophrenia.* Poster presented at the society for Research in Psychopathology, Iowa City.
- Wasserman, S.,** Weisman de Mamani, A. G., & Mundy, P. (2007, under review). *Expressed emotion, attributions, and family cohesion in schizophrenia and high functioning autism.*

# Graduate Students in the News

The Psychology Graduate Student Association (PGSA) had an active year promoting and enhancing communication between students and faculty and fostering a collegiate environment for students. Co-Presidents for the year were **Ximena Dominguez and Nathan Doty**.



## Ryan Landoll and Catherine D'Avanzato

### Outstanding Teaching Assistants

Each will receive a cash award and a plaque.



**Kirk R. Danhour Memorial Awards.** Each of these recipients will receive a cash prize and their names will appear on the plaque on display in Flipse 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby.

### Adult Yael Avivi



### Child David Barker



### Health Connie Myerson



**Nathan Doty** won the **Bertha Weber Graduate Student Appreciation Award.**

**Ann-Marie Faria** won the **Dr. Carol Alson-Fineman Award.**

## Research and Creativity Day Forum Winners

1st place

**Lena Mohapatra - H. Henderson, PhD, Mentor**

2nd place

**Christopher Miller - S. Johnson, Ph.D., Mentor**

3rd place

**Nathan Doty - N. Malik, Ph.D. and K. Lindahl, Ph.D., Mentors**

Recipients were also chosen for two new awards:

### The Peter Mundy CARD Graduate Student Award for Clinical Research in Autism

**Caley Schwartz**

Caley is mentored by Dr. Heather Henderson; her area of research is children with high-functioning autism.

### The Keith Scott CARD Graduate Student Award for Developmental Research in Autism

**Vanessa Gonzalez**

Mentored by Dr. Marygrace Yale Kaiser, Vanessa has been working on a project funded by the CDC to determine the prevalence of autism in Miami-Dade county. She plans to follow up with a 2 year fellowship with the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) at the CDC in Atlanta, GA.

## Internship 2008-2009

**Susan Acosta** - Miami Children's Hospital - Miami, FL - Psychology

**Yael Avivi** - Dallas Metropolitan Consortium/Southern Methodist - Dallas, TX - Psychology

**Lawrence Brooks** - Yale University School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry - Conn. Mental Health Center: New Haven, CT - Neurological and Psychological Assessment

**Irene Delgado** - Harvard Medical/Massachusetts General Hospital - Boston, MA - Neuropsychology

**Nathan Doty** - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia/Children's Seashore House - Philadelphia, PA - Psychology

**Eugenio Duarte** - Pace University - New York, NY - Psychology

**Anne Inge** - University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, NC Clinical - Child/Pediatric

**Vamsi Koneru** - Yale University School of Medicine, Dept. of Psychiatry - Conn. Mental Health Center: New Haven, CT - Hispanic Clinic

**Daniel Nation** - University of California San Diego - Consortium/Veteran's Administration Medical Center - San Diego, CA - Neuropsychology and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

**Kristin Phillips** - University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, NC - Adult Behavioral Medicine

**Emily Polak** - Mental Health Associates - Elmsford, NY - Psychology

**Lindsey Root** - Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services - Grand Rapids, MI - Psychology

**Blake Scanlon** - Veteran's Administration Palo Alto Health Care System Palo Alto, CA - Geropsychology

**Caley Schwartz** - Yale University Child Study - New Haven, CT - Autism

**Lara Traeger** - Harvard Medical/Mass General Hosp - Boston, MA - Behavioral Medicine Track

**Paul Wachowiak** - Temple University Health Science Center - Philadelphia, PA - Psychology

**Orit Weitzman** - Nova Southeastern University, Fischler School of Education and Human Services - Miami, FL, -Psychology

**Nicole Zahka** - Dupont Hospital for Children - Wilmington, DE - Psychology

# Undergraduate News

Again last year the Undergraduate Program enrolled record numbers of students in various schools. The majority (622), come from the College of Arts and Sciences, with 138 coming from the School of Communication, 54 from the School of Education, 3 from the School of Music, 2 from the School of Nursing, and 1 from Continuing Studies. The Neuroscience program continues to be administered by our Department and Directed by Phil McCabe; it increased to 213.

## Undergraduate Academic Services

Management of all of these students is done through the office of Undergraduate Academic Services for Psychology, (UASP), which continues to be coordinated by the Director of Undergraduate Studies (**Dr. Victoria Noriega**). Staff in UASP included Assistant Director of Advising, **Sean Kilpatrick**, two full-time Advisors, **Rachel Acosta** and **Dr. Evelyn Alvarez**, and seventeen highly trained undergraduate peer advisors. UASP handles advising for all Psychology and Neuroscience majors, as well research recruitment, research participation credit and pretesting, data collection for accreditation, freshman and transfer orientation, and events like graduation and Just Desserts. Since 1998, the number of students serviced by this office has tripled.

Freshmen continued to receive orientation, advising and mentoring through our one-year program called FACT FORUM. Our freshman class was the best ever in terms of SAT scores. We ended the Spring semester with a 97% retention rate for PSY majors and 100% for Neuroscience.

In 2007, we graduated 21% of all CAS graduates, more than any other major in the College. During Fall 2007, the Department taught 9482 credit hours, 11.7% of all CAS credit hours, and more than any other department except English (11,930). Sixty-five of our students, more than any other declared major in the College, participated in the study abroad program between 2001 and 2007. Approximately 39% of our Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 CAS graduates have participated in research for academic credit.

## Teaching

While our tenured and tenure track faculty were busy with their myriad activities, a host of full-time lectures, clinical and research faculty, and adjuncts carried the bulk of our undergraduate teaching. We are grateful to **Drs. Michael Alessandri, Evelyn Alvarez, Lourdes Casares, Christine Delgado, Pamela Deroian, Lynn Durel, Michael DiTomasso, Jennifer Durocher, Erin Fekete, Franklin Foote, Roderick Gillis, Brainard Hines, Hillary Hoffman, Malcolm Kahn, Marygrace Yale Kaiser, Jill Kaplan, Judith McCalla, Peter Mitchell, Margo Mustelier, Marilyn Rodriguez, Amy Schaffer, Rick Stuetzle, Ray Winters, and Barry Zwibelman**. Their dedication to undergraduate teaching helps to make our program one of the best on campus. Graduate students **Virginia Coryell, Ximena Dominguez, Nathan Doty, Anna-Marie Faria, Kristen Farrell, Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Daniel Fulford, Carolyn Kinnamon, Camila Hileman, Lisa Ibanez, Rachel Kuhn, LaMista Schultz, Connie Meyerson, Chris Miller, Leena Mohapatra, Ben Tabak, and Kevin Vagi** also taught as part of their graduate training requirements.

## Just Desserts

The time-honored tradition of Just Desserts continued this year with over 175 participants joining us to celebrate the achievements of students who made one of



the Honor Rolls. Sebastian was on hand again to cheer students on as they competed for the copier-printer-scanner combination donated by Mrs. David King.

## Best Wishes



The retirement of **Dr. Lynn Durel** presents a significant loss for the Undergraduate program, for both Psychology and Neuroscience. Known as a 'tough cookie' who expects a lot from her students and gives her all in return, Durel has been with the Department since 1985. Her most oft taught recent undergraduate courses have included Intro, Psychobiology, and Health Psychology. She also taught an Introductory Psychology course linked with Dr. David Wilson's Introductory Biology course in a Learning Community - the only LC in the Department - for ten years. In addition to her many services to the Department, the College, and the University, Durel also served as Director of Undergraduate Studies during the 1990's. This favorite teacher, mentor, and advisor will be missed by the undergraduates and the undergraduate program. Dr. Durel will leave Miami in order to be closer to her children and grandchildren. On behalf of all of her students, we wish Dr. Durel a wonderful retirement.

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## Research

Our success in undergraduate research has come from a multi-pronged approach including early information through FACT and FORUM, intensive recruiting and tracking efforts, and most of all, through the dedication of our faculty. Undergraduate participation in research during the past ten years received a major boost with the funded summer research program, Psychology Research Initiatives Mentorship Experience (PRIME). This summer, 15 students participated in PRIME with continuing funds being supplied by the American Psychological Association's grant from the NIGMS, and the office of the Provost, Thomas LeBlanc. Another five students were mentored in Psychology labs under the auspices of the Dean's Woman and Minority Scholarship and a grant from the National Science Foundation.

During the past ten years, the PRIME program has been enormously successful. About 171 students (122 of whom who have been minority students) have participated in the program. All have completed their undergraduate education. Thirty-eight of these have entered graduate school; two have become assistant professors. Fifteen have gone on to work in research.

We are especially delighted to welcome Dr. Monica Webb, a former PRIME student from the first cohort in 1998, to the UM faculty!

## Research and Creativity Day Forum Undergraduate Winners

1st place  
**Kendra Moll**  
Jutta Joormann, Ph.D., Mentor

2nd place  
**Aaron Fischer**  
Jennifer Durocher, Ph.D., Mentor

3rd place  
**Susan Geffen**  
Kristin Lindahl, Ph.D., Mentor



## Senior Honors Theses Psychology and Neuroscience

As an indication of the quality of our undergraduate research training, in 2008 approximately 19% of all *magna* and *summa cum laude* theses awarded University-wide were from students majoring in Psychology (i.e., six theses) or Neuroscience (i.e., five theses). We also had four psychology majors and two neuroscience majors complete honors theses for Departmental Honors in Psychology, giving us a total of 17 completed theses during these 2 semesters.

**Stephanie Beckel** - Psychology *summa* - **Daniel Messinger, Ph.D.**  
Does the Continuous Rating System Capture Face-to-Face a Still-Face Effects and Can it be Used to Identify Specific Behaviors that Contribute to Lower Ratings of Emotional Valence in Parents?

**Danette Beitra** - Psychology Honors - **Silvina Lewis, M.D.**  
Relationship Between Depression and Drug Adherence in a Clinical Trial of Soy Phytoestrogens in Menopausal Women

**Catherine Duchowny** - Psychology Honors - **Maria Llabre, Ph.D.**  
Does Riding Horses as a Treatment Improve Social Functioning in High-Functioning Autistic Children?

**Janine Galione** - Psychology Honors - **Jutta Joormann, Ph.D.**  
Triggering Autobiographical Memories in Sociotropic Individuals

**Tara Irani** - Psychology *summa* - **Jutta Joormann, Ph.D.**  
Depression, Memory, and Self-Esteem

**Cindy Joseph** - Neuroscience *summa* - **Min Tran, Ph.D.**  
mRNA Expression of Bax & Bcl-2 Gene in Cultures of Primary Astrocytes

**Marissa Kummerling** - Neuroscience *summa* - **Edward Green, Ph.D.**  
Evaluation of Strategies Underlying Sensorimotor Learning in the Mouse

**Laura Kupperman** - Psychology *magna* - **Marygrace Yale Kaiser, Ph.D.**  
Changes in Knowledge about Child Development After a Parenting Intervention

**Jennifer Ledon** - Psychology Honors - **Bonnie Levin, Ph.D.**  
Hallucinations and Parkinson's Disease

**Crystal Noller** - Psychology Honors - **Heather Henderson, Ph.D.**  
Face Recognition Ability as a Predictor of Social Competence

**Amy Pearlman** - Neuroscience *summa* - **John Bixby, Ph.D.**  
Expression of Novel NPCD Isoforms in Cultured Cells

**Richard Rammo** - Neuroscience *summa* - **John Bethea, Ph.D.**  
Improvement of Axonal Regrowth Following Spinal Cord Injury Using NF-KB Knockouts

**Nima Sharifai** - Neuroscience *summa* - **Jeffrey Goldberg, M.D./Ph.D.**  
Developmental Gene Expression and Central Nervous System Regeneration

**Amberly Reynolds** - Psychology Honors - **Frank Penedo, Ph.D.**  
Active Coping as a Mediator Between Personal Control and Quality of Life in Men Living with Prostate Cancer

**Maria Agustina Rosetti** - Psychology Honors - **Heather Henderson, Ph.D.**  
The N170 ERP Component and Face-Processing of Emotional Face Expression in Children with High Functioning Autism

**Caitlin Walsh** - Psychology *magna* - **Darryl Greenfield, Ph.D.**  
Ethnic Differences in Preschool Children's Receptive Vocabulary and Cognitive Inhibition Skills

**Vanessa Villar** - Psychology *magna* - **Heather Henderson, Ph.D.**  
Individual Differences in Toddlers' Compliance: The Influence of Temperament, Maternal Behavior, and Their Interaction.

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by Lynne Katz, Ed.D. Director. & Marygrace Yale Kaiser, Ph.D., Associate Director

The Linda Ray Children's Center continues its focus on implementing research-driven interventions for infants and toddlers with special needs, and those who have been victims of abuse, neglect, and/or exposure to violence. Through collaborative partnerships with the child welfare system provider network and the Juvenile Court, the LRIC has obtained funding for the early intervention educational component, the infant mental health clinical interventions, parenting skills programs, summer programs to support language and literacy, school readiness skills, and training and curriculum development.

Both undergraduate and graduate students participate at the Center, with hands-on activities including: assessment training and collection of child assessment data, working with parents and collecting data related to the parents' roles in their children's lives, community outreach activities with childcare providers, as well as data analyses, videotape coding projects and curriculum and training development activities. Three undergrads continued to be involved with these projects. Six other undergraduate students did voluntary hours across both semesters at the Center. **Laura Kupperman** (2007) graduated *magna cum laude* by doing an honor's thesis using Center data examining how one of our parenting programs impacted parenting attitudes and increased knowledge of child development. Developmental students **Dolores Farhat** and **Shira Kolnik** are currently completing their master's theses and one student (**Christine Hughes**) is currently completing her dissertation at the Center. **Laura Bolzani Dinehart** (2006), who completed her dissertation examining maternal responsiveness and language development in Center children, was recently appointed an Assistant Professor in the School of Education at Florida International University.

At this year's Regional Child Welfare Conference, the LRIC received the **Outstanding Community Partner Award** for 'providing high quality, innovative programs to children and families, and for leadership in promoting community collaboration.' Faculty member and LRIC Director **Lynne Katz** (UM alumna '99) received the **Eleventh Judicial Circuit Leadership Award** at the State Dependency Summit for her work with children in the child welfare system. LRIC Associate Director **Marygrace Yale Kaiser** (UM alumna '99) continues to supervise research at the Center and has co-authored several manuscripts examining development of children receiving the LRIC intervention.

## UM-NSU CARD Update

By Michael Alessandri, Ph.D., Director

UM-NSU CARD continues to serve more and more families affected by autism spectrum disorders despite a mid-year budget cut in FY07-08 and an additional funding cut for FY08-09. Currently, we have over 4000 families from Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties on our constituent registry. While we have lost critical funding, along with several key staff members, we continue to thrive in our efforts to meet the needs of our clients thanks to innovative programming and extensive community partnerships.

This past May we hosted our **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Tropical Nights** fundraiser at the Biltmore Hotel. This year's event honored longtime CARD and UM supporters Bob & Jean Schomber, along with the Honorable Bob Graham, former Governor and Senator from the State of Florida. Five hundred loyal friends and supporters gathered to raise nearly \$300,000 to support our services and programs. Tropical Nights 2009 is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Biltmore Hotel. Sponsorship opportunities are available. We hope to see you there!

With funds raised from **Tropical Nights**, UM-NSU CARD has purchased a first of its kind Mobile Family Clinic. The Mobile Family Clinic will travel throughout South Florida providing screenings, resources, and autism awareness to our

community. The UM-NSU CARD Mobile Family Clinic will allow families who may not be able to travel to a CARD center the ability to meet with CARD staff in their local communities.

The UM-NSU CARD **Mobile Family Clinic** is a 23 foot bus that is customized with a therapy and evaluation room in the back and a waiting room and work station in the front. The therapy/evaluation room is outfitted with video cameras which connect to recording equipment and a monitor in the waiting area. This will allow for effective interactive training opportunities.



# Children's Registry and Information System

by Christine Delgado, Ph.D., Principal Investigator

The Children's Registry and Information System (CHRIS) project is responsible for the development and maintenance of a statewide registry of children who have disabilities that may affect their future school performance and children who may be at-risk of developing such disabilities. The CHRIS database is used at all Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) centers to register children for whom special services may be needed. The primary target population consists of children referred for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C (birth to 3 years of age) and Part B (3 to 5 years of age).

As required by IDEA, the CHRIS database provides the Florida Department of Education, its funding source, with a means of documenting Child Find efforts to locate, evaluate, and provide necessary services to at-risk children. CHRIS is also used to create reports for state agencies and to provide information to service providers. In addition, research conducted using the CHRIS database informs service providers and policymakers as to important issues regarding children with disabilities served in Florida.

Research using the CHRIS database focuses on issues related to preschoolers with disabilities. CHRIS records are integrated with Florida birth certificate records and/or public school records to create the datasets needed to address specific research questions. Current research projects focus on the following two general areas: 1) Identification of early risk factors for preschool-aged children with disabilities and 2) Tracking outcomes of preschool-aged children with disabilities. Early identification of children with disabilities is facilitated by focusing attention on those children most likely to develop a disability. Information provided on birth certificate records can provide an index of risk that may be utilized by Child Find specialists and other service providers to target the children at greatest risk. Understanding the outcomes of preschool children with disabilities (e.g., special education placement and achievement) and the factors that are related to those outcomes is important for the development of intervention programs and special education services for those children. Additional information on the CHRIS project can be obtained from our website at [www.chris.miami.edu](http://www.chris.miami.edu).

## Psychological Services Center

by Kim Fuller, Ph.D., Director

The Psychological Services Center had an active and productive year serving 341 clients of all ages, cultures, and ethnicities. As usual, the clinic provided individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, couples therapy and psychoeducational assessment services. We also trained 43 graduate students and two post-doctoral trainees.

The clinic is undergoing change and development. In July, we were fortunate to recruit **Dr. Saneya Tawfik** to serve as our new Assessment Coordinator. A graduate of University of Denver in Child-Clinical Psychology, Dr. Tawfik has worked as a psychological examiner, consultant, psychotherapist, and clinical supervisor in the Miami area for 15 years. She was a popular clinic supervisor for some of our child track students from 2002 to 2005. She is trilingual (English, Spanish, and French) and has particular expertise in behavioral medicine, and in the assessment and treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in children. In her current position at the clinic, Dr. Tawfik manages the assessment services we offer to the community, supervises our practicum classes in the psychological assessments students perform in the clinic, and participates in the classroom teaching and training of our graduate students.

The clinic has also benefitted from the addition of a new full-time clinical supervisor, **Adriana Weisz Rosen** who joined the staff in December 2007. Dr. Rosen received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Texas and completed her internship and post-doctoral training at the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital. She has broad clinical interests and experience with both adults and children. Her primarily psychodynamic therapeutic orientation has been an asset to the clinical training we offer at the clinic. In addition to supervising graduate students from the Adult, Child, and Health Clinical tracks, Dr. Rosen has also been teaching an undergraduate psychology course in Psychology of Gender. She has been a welcome addition to our team.

The clinic continues to utilize advanced graduate students to help with the training and mentorship of beginning students. The advanced practicum team for 2007-08 included **Nathan Doty, Lara Traeger, Stephanie Wasserman, and Nicole Zahka**. They were extremely helpful in providing supervision for pre-practicum students, getting the practicum class oriented to the clinic, and participating in therapy intake screenings.

# Kudos

## New Grants

### Michael Alessandri

DED, IES/University of North Carolina  
Comparison of Two Comprehensive Treatment Models  
for Preschool-Aged Children with Autism  
and Their Families

### Jennifer Durocher

Organization for Autism Research  
A clinical Randomized Control Trial  
of Joint-Attention Intervention in Young Children  
with Autism Spectrum Disorder

### Jennifer Durocher

Autism Speaks  
Providing Outreach and Education  
to Underserved Minority Families

### Michael McCullough

John Templeton Foundation  
Reaching Opinion Leaders  
with the Science of Forgiveness  
A Comprehensive Outreach Plan for "Beyond Revenge:  
The Evolution of the Forgiveness Instinct"

### Frank Penedo

NARSAD/USC  
Depression and Progression of  
Congestive Heart Failure

### Alexandra Quittner

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Prevalence and Impact of Depression and Anxiety in  
Cystic Fibrosis Patients and Their Caregivers

### Alexandra Quittner

NIDCD/John Hopkins University  
Research Supplement to Promote Diversity: Ivette Cruz

### Neil Schneiderman

NHLBI/UCLA  
Multisite Collaborate Study for Adherence:  
Virologic and Clinical Outcomes

## APA Presidential Citation to Annette LaGreca

Alan Kazdin, President of the American Psychological Association, awarded a Presidential Citation to our own Professor Annette LaGreca in a ceremony held in Boston. The citation was given "In recognition of three decades of outstanding contributions to science, practice, and education within the fields of clinical child and pediatric psychology. Dr. Annette M. LaGreca has devoted her career to the care and welfare of children and adolescents, and to the advancement of psychological science. Her pioneering research was among the first to recognize the unique psychological needs of children and adolescents, and distinct approaches for the assessment and treatment of youth, as compared with adults. This has been reflected in her extraordinary work on the management of Type I diabetes, the role of peers in the development of psychopathology and health behaviors, the development of children's social anxiety, and children's reactions to trauma. Dr. LaGreca's work has had a global impact. Her materials, designed to assist psychological responses to natural disasters, have been disseminated to thousands of youth, parents, teachers, and emergency response personnel on at least three continents. Dr. LaGreca's selfless and extraordinary efforts have been particularly noteworthy in her consistent service to governance groups within the American Psychological Association and its divisions on clinical child and pediatric psychology. Dr. LaGreca has provided these impressive contributions while maintaining tireless dedication to education, demonstrated through her role as a training director, her receipt of several training grants, and her award-winning mentorship to students." Congratulations to Annette! We in the Department are honored to have her among our colleagues.

## Rod Gillis Award for Best Graduate Student Teacher



At the annual New Graduate Student Welcoming Reception, **Chairman Rod Wellens** presented the Rod Gillis Award for Best Graduate Student Teacher to third year **Ximena Dominguez**. An active member of Daryl Greenfield's research team, PRIME mentor, and current PGSA President, Ximena received the highest ratings from both students and supervisors. Congratulations and best wishes!

## Graduate Teacher of the Year

PGSA's Graduate Teacher of the Year awards are given to professors who go above and beyond the call of duty to make his or her teaching a great learning experience for graduate students. This academic year, students voted for two Teacher of the Year awards - one for a full time faculty member and one for a part-time faculty member.

The full time faculty award went to **Dr. Sheri Johnson** for her contribution as a clinical psychology professor. Dr. Johnson's students mentioned her courses are intellectually challenging and interesting. Her reported passion for psychology is contagious and that they clearly learn how to apply the knowledge learned in class.

The part-time award went to **Dr. Lourdes Casares**. Dr. Casares' students mentioned her psycho-analytic course was a great learning experience that bridged theory and practice by providing them specific therapeutic strategies in addition to extending their theoretical understanding.

## Seeking New Faculty

With the benefit of recent retirements, and new funding opportunities, we plan to continue our recent development by recruiting additional tenure-track faculty members over the next 2-3 years. Donna Shalala has affirmed her desire to bring the University to the next level of scholarly attainment, and the Department plays a major role in that process.

**The Adult Division** is seeking one or two clinical psychologists whose interests would complement and supplement those of the existing faculty group, i.e., bridging basic and clinical science. We are interested in individuals who conduct research in personality-social areas blending social and biological views. Rank for these positions is Assistant to Full Professor.

**The Child Division** is seeking one or two faculty members with expertise in childhood disorders such as autism, ADHD, ODD, chronic illnesses, anxiety or depression and from those with research interests in behavioral genetics, child assessment, or evidence-based interventions.

We also seek faculty members to strengthen our existing expertise in social, cognitive, and affective development and neuroscience, and in early intervention.

**The Health Division** is seeking to fill one or two faculty positions. Individuals with clinical or nonclinical interests in (a) cognitive or behavioral neuroscience or (b) cardiovascular, HIV/AIDS, metabolism and type 2 diabetes, or health disparities. Individuals with strong quantitative skills and interest in teaching one of our graduate statistics courses are especially urged to apply. The neuroscience search is emphasizing research interest in human cognitive neuroscience (e.g., using functional MRI) or animal models examining brain and behavior mechanisms.

**Psychological Services Center** is seeking a Director with clinical and/or research interests and expertise in evidence-based assessment and treatment to oversee the clinic and provide training focus in these areas. The Director position requires a Ph.D. in clinical psychology (any area) from an APA-accredited program, and knowledge and experience with evidence-based assessments and treatments for children, adolescents, and/or adults. Applicants must hold a Florida license or be license-eligible. Depending on expertise, the position could either be tenure-track (research oriented) or non-tenure track (clinical service oriented).

Faculty members in the Department are expected to develop their own independent areas of research, teach courses at the graduate and undergraduate level, as well as supervise doctoral students, serve on thesis, dissertation, and other committees. We are particularly interested in candidates who have some postdoctoral experience and thus have a track record of scholarly accomplishments.



Greetings from all of us to all of U

Photo by Andre Perwin

## Experience helps

On the non-clinical front, our long time office manager **Cindy Papale Hammontree** completed her book. With her co-author Sabrina Hernandez, *The Empty Cup Runneth Over* was completed and recently released. The book outlines her experience of surviving breast cancer and provides information and guidance for others, especially younger women, who are coping with the disease. Cindy and her colleagues have been working on this now for four years and all of their hard work is coming to fruition. Talk about making lemonade out of lemons! Congratulations to Cindy who has inspired all of us whether or not we have breast cancer! You can read more about Cindy's book at [www.theemptycuprunnethover.com](http://www.theemptycuprunnethover.com).

## Lifetime Achievement

**Professor Emeritus Theodore Millon** received the Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement in the Application of Psychology from the American Psychological Foundation. Millon is most famous for introducing the biosocial-learning framework for personality development and his clinical instruments including the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI) and variants of that instrument including the Millon Behavioral Health Inventory, the Millon Behavioral Medicine Diagnostic, the Millon Adolescent Personality Inventory, the Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory, and the Millon Index of Personality Styles. A long-time donor to the Department, Millon is now living in the New York area.

## Still Publishing

**Professor Emeritus Don Routh** is now in his second year as a graduate student in History at Florida Gulf Coast University. He co-authored an article with his mentor I.D. Winsboro titled "Utopia's healing messiah: Dr. Cyrus R. Teed of Chicago and the national mind-cure movement." The article was recently accepted for publication to the *Journal of Illinois History*.

## Adieu

We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Mrs. Marion Routh** and **Mrs. Dorothy Truss**, wives of Professor Emeriti Don Routh and Carrol Truss, respectively. The Department extends heartfelt sympathies to the families of our former colleagues.

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