

Kissing Research Featured in Media

Research by neuroscience graduate Carey Wilson '07 and Provost Wendy Hill, Rappolt Professor in Neuroscience, was featured in the cover story of the February edition of *Scientific American Mind*. The article, "Affairs of the Lips: Why We Kiss," discusses the body's many physical and neurological reactions to kissing and highlights the research Wilson did for her honors thesis with Hill as her adviser. Hill was also quoted on the study in a story in *The Washington Post* just prior to Valentine's Day, "The Differences in Gender—Sealed With a Kiss." Their research results were presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in November 2007.

Hill and Wilson compared the levels of two hormones, oxytocin and cortisol, in 15 college male-female couples before and after they kissed and before and after they talked to each other while holding hands in Bailey Health Center. Oxytocin levels, involved in social bonding, rose only in the males, and decreased in the females. Cortisol levels, which play a role in stress, dropped for both men and women in both scenarios.

"Because the oxytocin levels rose only in males, we think that women might need a more romantic atmosphere than Bailey Health Center," said Hill. "Or that males are less affected by ambiance when kissing. But the cortisol level fell in both sexes, indicating stress is reduced for both men and women by kissing. This study shows that kissing, a fairly common behavior, is much more complex than we thought, and worthy of further scientific study."

Wilson plans to attend medical school next year at the State University of New York.

The February issue of *Scientific American Mind* features research by Cary Wilson '07 and Provost Wendy Hill on physical and neurological reactions to kissing.



Psychological Well-Being, Gender, and Weight Linked

Is weight related to psychological well-being differently for women and men? Jamila Bookwala, associate professor of psychology, studied this issue with the assistance of Jenny Boyar '08. Collaborating through Lafayette's EXCEL research program, they investigated gender differences in the association between a person's body mass index (BMI) and psychological well-being. Their results were presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in August 2007 and will be published in the journal *Psychology of Women Quarterly*.

The results indicated that higher BMI (a number calculated from a person's height and weight) was a significant predictor of lower psychological well-being for women, but was not associated with psychological well-being among men.

"When participants were categorized into five BMI groups, we found that only among women, all four groups with a BMI of 25 or higher [higher than healthy BMI] had significantly lower psychological well-being than normal-weight women," says Bookwala. "Our results suggest that for women, but not for men, high body weight may have more pervasive and adverse implications for general psychological health."

She added that past work by other researchers indicates that the nature and intensity of the stigma experienced by overweight and obese individuals varies by gender and that women experience stronger social stigma for being overweight relative to their male counterparts. When women and men were compared in each of the five different BMI groups, Bookwala and Boyar found that women reported lower psychological well-being than men in the



Jenny Boyar '08 (left) and Jamila Bookwala studied the association among gender, weight, and psychological well-being in adults.

overweight and obese No.1 groups, but no gender differences were observed in the more seriously obese or normal-weight groups.

Bookwala used data from the National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States, which studied adults between the ages of 25 and 74. The Lafayette researchers examined information about BMI, gender, age, race, marital status, education, and questions assessing psychological well-being in the analyses.

In addition to the impact of weight on mental health, Bookwala has conducted research on the impact of marital quality on older adults' physical and mental health, and the impact of family caregiving among older adults on the caregivers' health. She recently received a \$57,000 research grant from the National Institute on Aging to examine the impact of caring for a parent on the adult child's marriage and health.

While on sabbatical this year, Bookwala is continuing her research and is working on several writing projects.

Letter from the Department Head

It is always a pleasure to reach out to our alumni and friends to bring them up to date on our activities here in the psychology department at Lafayette. Psychology remains one of the College's most popular majors and our students continue to surprise us with their enthusiasm and ability.



You can read about some of their accomplishments in this newsletter. The neuroscience program, jointly administered by biology and psychology, has continued to expand and prosper. We've been in Oechsle Hall long enough that it no longer feels like the "new" psychology building, but we've lost none of our appreciation for its state-of-the-art facilities.

There have been a number of changes since our last newsletter in fall 2005. At the College level, President **Arthur Rothkopf** retired; the new president is **Dan Weiss**. The new provost is our own Professor **Wendy Hill**. Wendy and I started together here at Lafayette, and while I will certainly miss having her here in the department, I know she'll do an outstanding job in her new role. We've had a few department faculty move on to other jobs: Associate Professor

Matt McGlone is now at the University of Texas at Austin, Visiting Assistant Professor **Kristine Schuster-Turko** is at Mt. Union College, and Assistant Professor **Gaby Britton** is in Panama with the Smithsonian Institute. We have some new faces: **Jennifer Talarico** is our new assistant professor of cognitive psychology, **Lisa Gabel** our new assistant professor of neuroscience, and **Carolyn Buckley** our new introductory psychology lab coordinator. You can read more about these welcome additions in this newsletter. Our department secretary, **Amy Blythe**, is now the office coordinator for career services. **Yvonne Osmun**, formerly secretary for foreign languages and literatures, is Amy's replacement.

That's how we are doing. How are things with you? We'd love to hear from you. Give us an update on what you're doing by sending an email to psychalum@lafayette.edu. It's easy to do and we'll report the results in a future newsletter.

Andrew J. Vinchur
Associate Professor and Department Head

PSYCHOLOGY

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Talarico and Moore '09 Study Flashbulb Memories

Most people have vivid memories of where they were when they heard about the planes crashing into the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, or the assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy. These vivid memories of a significant event are known as “flashbulb memories” since they are often as detailed as a photograph.



Kira Moore '09 (left) and Jennifer Talarico are studying memories of beginning college.

“Flashbulb memories are typically very vivid and filled with details so the individual feels with strong confidence that the memory is accurate,” says Jennifer Talarico, assistant professor of psychology. “However, research has shown that

flashbulb memories are not necessarily more accurate than ordinary memories. That people perceive the accuracy for flashbulb events as much higher than ordinary memories is even more interesting because it demonstrates that our judgments about memory are often wrong.”

Talarico studies memory for personally experienced events, specifically the interactions among what occurred, what is recalled, and how the memory is experienced. She is now working with neuroscience major Kira Moore '09 on an EXCEL research project exploring the memories of first-year students about beginning college.

“We are exploring whether memories that are personally significant, but of no great national or historical importance, can satisfy the criteria necessary to be considered flashbulb memories, such as emotional intensity and perceived accuracy,” says Moore.

This work is an outgrowth of research Talarico did last year with Letitia Travaglini '07 into how emotion influences memory and whether pleasant or unpleasant events are more likely to be recalled.

“It was really interesting to see how important the emotional content of an event is in how well it is remembered,”

Travaglini says. “The majority of the research showed that people are likely to remember pleasant events more so than unpleasant events, but more emotionally charged events are remembered better than neutral events, regardless of whether the emotion is positive or negative.”

Basow and Rieder '08 Dissect Gender Communication Styles

Do men and women have different communication styles at work?

Ashley Rieder '08 assisted Susan Basow, Dana Professor of Psychology, on an article about that topic through Lafayette's EXCEL research program. The result, “Speaking in a ‘Man’s World’: Gendered Communication Styles in the Workplace,” will be a chapter in the second volume of a three-volume set, *The Psychology of Women at Work: Challenges and Solutions for our Female Workforce*, to be published by Praeger.

“Overall, it appears that men and women do not differ in their communication style because of their gender, but instead, because of situational and traditional differences such as the stereotyped roles assigned to men and women, and the greater numbers of men versus women in higher-level positions,” says Rieder, who has a double major in psychology and English.

According to Basow, women tend to use slightly more affiliative speech (making connections with other people) than do men, who tend to use slightly more assertive speech (putting one's own self forward).

“Men also tend to talk more, especially in groups with at least one woman,” Basow explains. “Still, despite small actual differences, people expect large differences and often perceive similar communication styles in different ways, depending upon whether the speaker is a man or a woman. For example, where a man might be perceived as strong and firm, a woman might be perceived as overly aggressive. Men, in particular, seem to have a difficult time with strong assertive women, responding better to those who speak more tentatively.”

The bottom line?

“Women in the workplace need to manifest both assertive and affiliative behaviors in order to be accepted and perceived positively,” says Basow.

According to Rieder, the major benefit of examining the differences and consequences of communication style is that it may help to ensure an understanding of one another, as well as to eradicate some of the common stereotypes that men and women are faced with everyday.

“Lafayette is a great place for this type of project,” Rieder says, adding she feels her exposure to the lab and to research is preparing her well for graduate school. “There is a great support system here, as well as a clear passion from students and faculty to learn.”

Psychology Club

In coordination with Body Image Awareness week in spring 2007, the Psychology Club produced an interactive art exhibit challenging viewers to “draw a line” among silhouettes of increasing slender women. In addition, the club hosted its annual student-to-student advising meeting in which students share information about their experiences of courses and internships with others. This past fall the club sponsored a viewing of the film *Memento* and a discussion of amnesia and is planning a seminar on what students can learn about study skills from psychological research. The club is advised by Jeannine Pinto.

Officers for 2006-07

President: Jennifer Lutz '07
Vice President: Jenny Boyar '08
Treasurer: Emily Gallant '07
Secretary: Kristen Sorice '08

Officers for 2007-08

Co-Presidents: Cristina Callagy '09 and Meagan Regina '10
Co-Vice Presidents: Jennifer Kelleman '08 and Molly Lieber '09
Treasurer: Kelly Hess '08
Secretary: Kari Andersen '08

Faculty & Staff Update



Bob Allan continues to teach Learning (with pigeon lab) and Applied Behavior Analysis (formerly Behavior Modification). His research endeavors include (1)

conditioned reinforcement using chain and multiple schedules, (2) the operant-responder distinction using clock and counter schedules, (3) the matching law at molar and molecular levels (the factors influencing choice behavior), and (4) choice behavior in humans and how it combines with equivalent stimulus classes. He and students working in the pigeon lab are often presenting the results of this research at national and regional psychology conferences.



Susan Basow is currently on sabbatical for the 2007-08 academic year, which she is spending at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her recent EXCEL students contri-

buted to several papers: **Kat Longshore '07** is co-author (along with **Kristen Cahill '04**, **Julie Phelan '05**, and **Prof. McGillicuddy-DeLisi**) of an article recently published in the *Psychology of Women Quarterly* on relational aggression; **Allie Minieri '07** helped with research for a chapter on gender socialization, which was published in *Lectures on the Psychology of Women, 4th ed.*; and **Ashley Rieder '08** assisted in researching gender differences in communication styles in the workplace, which became a chapter to be published in 2008 in *The Psychology of Women at Work*, vol. 2. Two research articles which will be published soon are based on former students' honors projects: the work by **Kelly Foran '05** on the role of sorority membership (to be published in the *Psychology of Women Quarterly*) and work by **Julie Phelan '06** on factors influencing the social tolerance of mental illness (to be published in the *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*). Other honors student projects that are in the process of being revised for publication are **Allie Minieri's '07** research on the effect of the cost of a date on perceptions of rape justifiability, and **Liz Lilley's '06** research on the relationship between identity development and psychological adjustment in adopted Korean-Americans.

Basow is also a member of the executive committee of Div. 35 of APA, the Society

for the Psychology of Women, as well as consulting editor for two journals (*Psychology of Women Quarterly* and *Sex Roles*).



Jamila Bookwala was awarded a research grant from the National Institute on Aging to study the impact of entering and/or leaving the role of caregiver

to a parent on adult children's marriages and health. She presented some of her findings based on this research at the Joint Conference of the Australian Psychological Society and the International Association for Relationship Research in Melbourne, Australia. She also presented other findings related to the impact of providing care to a spouse with end-stage renal disease at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in San Francisco, Calif. Last summer, Bookwala presented findings from her developing research program on body weight and related issues in adults in which she examined gender differences in the link between body mass index and psychological well-being at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in San Francisco, Calif. Student collaborators on these projects include **Jenny Boyar '08** and **Carolyn Pasternak '08**.



Carolyn Buckley is the new laboratory coordinator, beginning fall 2007. She earned a B.S. in psychology and a B.A. in education at SUNY College at Oswego,

an M.S. in biology at East Stroudsburg University, and a Ph.D. in integrative biology and behavioral neuroscience at Lehigh University. At the bachelor's and master's levels, she conducted research on the teaching of psychology and the physiology of learning. Before obtaining her doctorate, she taught psychology for several years at the community college level and coordinated faculty development programs that emphasized applications of educational psychology to higher education. At the doctoral level, her research interests in physiological psychology were more strongly integrated with evolutionary biology. Thus, in addition to educational psychology, current research interests include the neuroendocrine signals that influence food-related behaviors other than eating (for example, attention to food and food hoarding), and the evolution

of novel behaviors and adaptations for carrying food, especially the use of cheek pouches in hamsters, some squirrels, and pocket gophers. In addition to numerous presentations at teaching and behavioral science conferences, she has had articles published in *The Teaching Professor* and the *American Journal of Physiology*, and recently had an article featured in *The Journal of Experimental Biology*.



Celebrating his 27th year at the college, **Alan Childs** continues to enjoy teaching. He recently taught his FYS offering, Human Aggression and Social Pathology, where the students were able to

visit the National Holocaust Museum as well as attend a Broadway play. He also taught a VAST course on Patient-Practitioner Interaction: The Role of Medical Technology. This summer he hopes to again offer the very popular study abroad program in London, Social and Ethical Issues in Health Care in the U.S. and U.K., that he co-teaches with **Stephen Lammers** of the religious studies department. This program includes two courses: a seminar that digs into the historical, cultural, social, ethical, and economic background for each country's health care delivery system and a four-day-a-week internship in a health care related placement in London.

Childs has mentored four students on honors projects this past year, and all are now attending graduate school in psychology or neuroscience. He continues to work on his research on perceptions of physicians and patients and has an EXCEL student, **Chris Velderman '09**, to help with this project which will involve an analysis of the perceptions of physicians and patients in the Lehigh Valley. He also continues to serve as the adviser for the department's chapter of Psi Chi, and as faculty adviser and mentor for the men's basketball team, something he has been doing for 17 years.

Lisa Gabel is the new assistant professor in psychology and neuroscience. She received her B.S. in psychology from Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., in 1996, and earned three degrees from the University of Connecticut: an M.A. in psychology in 1998, an M.S. in physiology & neurobiology in 2000, and a Ph.D. in physiology & neurobiology in 2001. After receiving her doctorate, she completed two postdoctoral fellowships in the department of neuroscience at Brown University

Medical School and in Wyeth Research's neurophysiology and neuropharmacology division. Her most recent appointment was at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School as research faculty in the department of neuroscience.

During her time at Lafayette she has taught several psychology and neuroscience courses including Physiological Psychology, Psychopharmacology, Statistics, and Design & Analysis. Students in her laboratory are working on projects which center on a common theme "How do we learn?" Gabel's research on the molecular basis of learning and memory is focused on examining the physiological and behavioral impairments in an animal model of Fragile X Mental Retardation, as well as understanding the physiological mechanisms underlying epilepsy, and cue-induced drug relapse.



Ann McGillicuddy-DeLisi has been teaching the introductory course, Child and Adolescent Development, Design and Analysis, and Advanced Applied Psychology. She also

supervised two students engaged in independent studies, two students engaged in the EXCEL research program, and two students engaged in honors thesis work.

McGillicuddy-DeLisi published four journal articles in *Child Development* and *Psychology of Women*. She has two other articles and a book chapter forthcoming in *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, the *Journal of Adolescence*, and *Questions of Gender: Perspectives and Paradoxes*. She and her students have also presented research at the American Psychological Association meeting, the National Conference for Undergraduate Research, the LVAIC Undergraduate Psychology Conference, and in a symposium to honor the work of Irving E. Sigel at the Biennial Conference of the Society for Research in Child Development. McGillicuddy-De Lisi also serves as the editor of the *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, an Elsevier journal that is housed in the psychology department.



Jeannine Pinto continues to teach 110 Labs, Design & Analysis 1, and Perception. In addition, she served as faculty sponsor for the Psychology Club and Club Lacrosse.



John Shaw has been actively involved in teaching psychology courses and a VAST course, Ethical and Legal Challenges of the New Genomics. He has been awarded the

Student Government Superior Teaching Award two years in a row, the Marquis Distinguished Teaching Award in 2006, and the James P. Crawford Award for Outstanding Classroom Instruction in 2007. In addition to his own continuing research on eyewitness confidence and the adaptive value of overconfidence, Shaw has been engaged in the supervision of numerous research projects with students, including investigations of gender differences in competitive behavior with **Letitia Travaglini '07**, media effects on women's self image with **Lora Nageli '07**, college students' attributions of homelessness with **Lauren Appio '07**, and the relationship between childhood toys and college women's body image with **Sarah Filone '08**. Furthermore, Shaw serves on the editorial board of *Law and Human Behavior*, the Lafayette Middle States Re-Accreditation Steering Committee, the Life Sciences Initiative Subcommittee, and the Pre-Law Advisory Committee.



Eric Spiegel is a visiting assistant professor of psychology. He received his doctoral degree in counseling psychology from the University of Maryland. His research interests are in trauma,

positive psychology, and psychotherapy process and outcome. For the fall 2007 semester, he taught courses in counseling, personality, and introductory psychology. He is a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania.



Mary Ann Swiatek is a counseling psychologist who is in her eighth year as an adjunct, teaching Abnormal Psychology and Educational Psychology. She also works at KidsPeace

in Orefield, Pa., as the psychologist for an intensive residential program for adolescents with psychiatric diagnoses. Her research focuses on the education and psychosocial adjustment of intellectually gifted youth, and she speaks on these topics to teachers, administrators, and parents across Pennsylvania who work with such children.



Jennifer Talarico began as an assistant professor in the fall of 2006. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She did her M.A. and Ph.D. work in

experimental cognitive psychology at Duke University. She teaches Introduction to Psychological Science, Design & Analysis, Cognitive Psychology, and Memory.

Talarico's main research interest is in autobiographical memory: how individuals remember personally experienced events. Specialty areas include emotional memory (e.g., emotional intensity is a better predictor of remembering than is pleasantness or unpleasantness of the event) and flashbulb memory (e.g., memories of September 11 are recalled more vividly and with more confidence in their accuracy than other memories, even though they are no more consistent over time). Her work has been published in *Psychological Science*, *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, *Cognition & Emotion*, and *Memory & Cognition* and presented at meetings of the Association for Psychological Science, the Psychonomic Society, and the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition.



Over the past two years, **Andrew Vinchur** taught several psychology courses and a First-Year Seminar on predicting human behavior. His scholarship efforts focused on the history of

industrial psychology. Vinchur was an associate editor for the book *Historical Perspectives in Industrial and Organizational Psychology* (2007). He contributed two chapters to that volume; one tracing the history of psychology applied to employee selection, the other (with Laura Koppes) described the lives and work of early contributors to industrial psychology. Vinchur also published an account of two of those pioneers, Charles S. Myers and Otto Lipmann, and a review article on the origins of industrial psychology.

In addition to his duties as head of the psychology department, Vinchur served as convener for the natural sciences department heads and chair of the College's Teaching and Learning Committee. He is a member of the Neuroscience Advisory Committee, the Policy Studies Advisory Committee, and the Trustee Committee on Grounds and Buildings. Vinchur is currently on the editorial board of *Sociology Compass: Organizations and Work Section*.

Alumni Update: Where Are They Now?

Rebecca (Becky Schein) Shermer '87, a clinical psychologist, lives in Raleigh, N.C., with her husband, Charles, and two children—Timothy, age 7, and Kathryn, age 4. She left her full-time job directing the behavioral science program in Duke's Family Medicine Residency program in 2000 to be home with her new baby. While at home, she worked as the associate editor of the *International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine* for several years, and did some consulting work. Currently, she is a consultant with colleagues at the University of California at San Francisco on several grant-funded psychotherapy research trials.

Geoffrey (Geoff) Turner '88 went to Penn State and earned a master of science in developmental psychology in 1991. He married a fellow graduate student, Laura, in 1995. After a brief hiatus, Geoff earned his Ph.D. in developmental psychology in 1997, focusing on mathematical models of mental rotation performance and performance change. Since 1997, he has been a professor at Simmons College in Boston, living in East Providence, R.I., where he won the 2002 Teaching Excellence Award and served as president of the Simmons Faculty Senate in 2004-05. In 1999, his daughter Kate was born; in 2001, her brother Sam arrived, followed by Harry in 2004. In 2006, Geoff began to study children's source memory—collaborating with a cognitive psychologist and evaluating an adult cognitive theory with children (and applying a Piagetian explanation).

Subha Subramanian '90 earned a master of science degree in special education from Syracuse University and has worked at international schools in Tanzania and Holland. Since 2006 she has been working at the International School of Penang in Malaysia. It is a small school going from kindergarten to Year 13 (pre-university) with only 550 students. She is married and has two daughters who go to the school.

Christy Chandler '92 is a criminal defense lawyer with her own practice. Her office is in Berkeley, Calif., but she lives in San Francisco. Christy relies on her psychology background all the time in her work, mostly trying to understand how her clients have made such poor choices so she can help them, but also in trying to be a better communicator with judges and juries. She notes that her statistics classes have also helped her decipher evidence relied on

by expert witnesses. Her true avocation is trying to help mentally ill people who get caught up in the legal system when they should be in a hospital getting treatment.

Cynthia (Cindy Watkins) Kane '92 is the director of student involvement and leadership at Bridgewater State College, Mass. She loves to greet the psychology majors at orientation and tell them that the glorious path of student affairs administration is a potential career path ... a lovely "all this can be yours" approach that usually gets them laughing. Cindy and a colleague just launched a new leadership course in a podcast format and are looking forward to seeing how this technological approach works with students. Cindy's son Ryan is three years old and she is amazed at how much developmental psychology she remembered while watching him grow and change over the last three years!

Leslie (Apfelbaum) Stuart '92 is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Atlanta, Ga. She does a great deal of psychological testing with children, adolescents, and adults for learning disabilities, processing problems, ADHD, and social-emotional issues. Leslie has an 18-month-old daughter, Grace; another baby is due in April 2008.

Mary Beth Hughes '94 remembers the stories Prof. McGillicuddy-DeLisi told about her children in classes, particularly one of her son who tried to "run away" but wouldn't cross the street because he wasn't allowed! Mary Beth is teaching sixth grade in Hillsborough Township, N.J. She specializes in science and social studies, though she has taught all of the core academic subjects. She writes that, "so much of what I learned regarding child psychology and exceptional children is used every day. I get a lot of special education children in my classes and I'm so happy to be able to use what I learned."

Stephanie (Collins) Reed, Ph.D. '95 was promoted to assistant professor of clinical neuroscience at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons and New York State Psychiatric Institute last summer. She was awarded a K01 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant last May and is co-principal investigator on her first R01 from NIH, which was awarded in August. She and her new husband recently purchased a place in New York City.

Karen (Kari Burger) Cairone '96 (psychology and English) received her master's degree in education from Rutgers University before joining Devereux Early Childhood Initiative as an early childhood/

Prizes Awarded

Each year, the psychology department bestows awards on exemplary graduating seniors

The **Herbert W. Rogers Prize** is awarded to the graduating senior who is deemed outstanding by a vote of the psychology faculty. The winner for the class of 2006 was **Kevin Chysna**. Kevin conducted an honors thesis examining masculinity and muscularity in male college athletes. **Allie Minieri** graduated with a B.S. in psychology and was the **Rogers Prize** winner for the class of 2007. Her thesis examined perception of rape justifiability.

The **Burton H. Cohen Memorial Prize** was awarded to **Benjamin Berlow** in 2006, and in 2007 to **Christine Jones** and **Katharine**

Tintrup. This prize is awarded to the graduating senior who in the view of the prize committee has shown the intellectual curiosity and determination to become a dedicated, selfless teacher.

The **Rappolt-Oechsle Award** for Neuroscience majors is awarded annually to the outstanding senior based on scholarship in the classroom and laboratory, and service to the major, College, or community. The winners for the class of 2006 and 2007 were **Daniel Haddad** and **Carey Wilson**, respectively.

mental health specialist, providing training and technical assistance on children's social and emotional health for programs across the country. Her most recent project was as the co-writer and co-producer of the *Facing the Challenge* DVDs, *Classroom Moments* DVD, and accompanying training—all designed to help early childhood professionals work better with children with challenging behaviors. Karen and her husband, Steve, reside in Newtown, Pa., with their three daughters, Anna (4), Ella (2), and Mia (2 months). Some of her fondest memories of being a psych major at Lafayette include "participating in lively discussions in Prof. Basow's Gender class, which inspired a fellow Delta Gamma sister to burn her bra after the last class and eating SmartFood while cramming the night before Prof. Hill's Psychopharm exams to try to boost our brains."

Megan (Blackburn) Why '99 lives in Pittsburgh, Pa., with her husband of four years and works for a human resource consulting firm, Select International, that specializes in pre-employment screening and assessment. She has worked there for the past seven years and is a project manager, working with clients to design and implement assessment tools for hiring. Megan is involved in job analysis, validation studies, and assessment design. She reports that she uses her knowledge from Prof. Vinchur's Industrial Psychology course daily!

Gianna Locascio '00 graduated from Rutgers' Graduate School of Applied & Professional Psychology with a Psy.D. in May 2007. In August, she completed an internship in clinical psychology at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Gianna began a post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in fall 2007.

Megan Greevy '01 went to the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education after two years in AmeriCorps. Megan earned both her teaching certificate and a master of elementary education degree in their 10-month program. She has lived in Philadelphia for seven years and has been teaching second grade in an "inner-city" urban classroom at Olney Elementary School in North Philly for four years.

Angela Neal '01 lives in St. Paul, Minn. She is a child welfare scholar at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. Upon graduation from the M.S.W program, she plans on working for a

public agency in child welfare (i.e., child protection, foster care, or adoption). Currently Angela is completing her foundation field placement at Washburn Center for Children. As an intern within the Day Treatment Program, she is focused on how attachment systems are disrupted in children who have experienced trauma, such as neglect and/or abuse. In addition to her graduate studies, Angela is working as a counselor at Hearthstone of MN—a non-profit organization that serves adolescent boys with emotional and behavioral disturbances.

Courtney DeThomas '02 is living in the Bronx and is a fourth-year student in Fairleigh Dickinson University's clinical psychology Ph.D. program. Currently she is also working as a part-time therapist at a college counseling center and as an adjunct faculty member in the psychology department at Lehman College. She also has an externship at a residential treatment center for adolescent boys with psychiatric diagnoses and/or behavioral difficulties, where she uses ideas and strategies from some of her Lafayette classes in the courses that she teaches.

Yahna (Maurer) Fiscarelli '02 was married this past July. She earned her master's of arts degree in elementary education from The College of New Jersey in 2005 and has been teaching full time since then. She has taught grades 3, 4, and 5 and is currently teaching third grade in Tewksbury Township, N.J.

Brian Burke '03 met his wife, **Kristen Murphy '03** in Prof. Shaw's Social Psychology course. So his "Transfer of Affect" for the psychology department at Lafayette is a good one. One of Brian's fondest memories of his Lafayette psychology experience was the first day of his VAST course: He was the only guy sitting in class for the first few minutes as people were filtering in. After there were 20+ girls in the room and he was still the only guy, he thought he mistakenly found his way into a DG initiation meeting! It turned out that he was in the right class and that semester went very well. Having to provide the only male opinion for discussion topics such as, "If you were infertile, would you allow your wife to be artificially inseminated by another man so the child could have at least half of yours and your wife's DNA," really kept him on his toes. Today, he advises corporations on their employee benefits programs: health insurance, 401(k) plans, etc. His firm, Burke Kestel & Associates, is headquartered in Rockville, Md., where he lives with his wife.

Psi Chi Honor Society

The Psi Chi chapter, advised by Professor **Alan Childs**, has had some great student leadership in the past several years and has greatly expanded its scope of activities.

In 2006-07, Psi Chi sponsored two guest lectures, both of which were open to the entire community and were very well attended. The chapter also organized a panel discussion (including three students involved in independent research and three faculty members) about the opportunities for student research at the College. The chapter has also become much more involved in service projects. These have included volunteering at Safe Harbor, a local shelter for the homeless, and visiting Easton Area High School to give lectures in psychology classes about the psychology major and careers in psychology. In order to support its activities, the chapter has held several fundraisers, including selling "candy-grams" and the popular hot chocolate and mini-muffin table in Oechsle Hall. These funds were used to support invited speakers, student members who were attending regional psychology conferences, and local charities through the College's outreach office. The current membership stands at 35 psychology and neuroscience majors who are in the top 35 percent of their class.

Officers for 2005-06

President: **Kevin Chysna '06**
Vice President: **Natalie Kuzla '06**
Treasurer: **Christina Morley '06**
Secretary: **Allie Sweeney '06**

Officers for 2006-07

President: **Alexandra Minieri '07**
Vice President: **Christine Burke '07**
Treasurer: **Kathryn Longshore '07**
Secretary: **Rachael Magner '07**

Officers for 2007-08

President: **Kate Ellis '08**
Vice President: **Suzanne Manning '09**
Treasurer: **Leah Schachar '08**
Secretary: **Jenny Boyar '08**

Senior Picnic

In spring 2007, the psychology department held its first annual picnic for graduating seniors. Held on the patio outside Oechsle Hall, the picnic featured hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, and all the fixings. The faculty and staff wanted to congratulate our majors on all that they had accomplished at Lafayette and wish them the best of luck in their future pursuits. We look forward to doing the same for the class of 2008!



Psychology & Neuroscience Honors Theses

Each year a number of students conduct research projects in a quest to graduate with honors in psychology or neuroscience. These students work closely with faculty to perform professional-level research. Students have the opportunity to direct research, apply statistical knowledge from the classroom, and present the work in a public forum to the department and the campus community. The investigation may lead to conference presentations and published articles, and make the students stronger candidates for graduate school and potential employment.

Kevin Chysna '06, The Relationship between Masculinity and Muscularity in Male College Athletes: An Exploratory Study

Zane Ferguson '06, Responding on a Variable Ratio Schedule with Counter Operant-Respondent Interactions

Megan Lavery '06, Religiosity, Risk-taking Behaviors, and Judgments of Death Anxiety

Allison Ligorano '06, Prosocial Behavior, Aggression and Machiavellianism in Perceived and Actual Popularity in Elementary School Students

Elizabeth Lilley '06, The Relationship between Identity Development and Psychological Adjustment in Adopted Korean-Americans

Rachel Miller '06, Psychological Adjustment in College Students of Divorced Parents

Christina Morley '06, College Students' Perceptions of Harmful Body Modification Practices Based on Gender, Behavior, and Familiarity

Erin Simendinger '06, Verbal Fluency as an Indicator of Cognitive Deficits Associated with ADHD Symptoms

Lauren Appio '07, Individual Differences in College Students' Attributions of Homelessness

Lori Cooper '07, Investigation of the Consensual Pupillary Light Response in Turtles (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) using Mydriatic Drugs

Karolina Janasek '07, Perceived Risk of Breast Cancer in Older Women: Psychosocial Predictors and Links to Psychological Well-Being

Karolyn Kocza '07, The Effects of Acamprosate and DABA on the Development of Rapid and Chronic Tolerance in Fruit Flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*)

Kat Longshore '07, The Effect of Gender and Athletic Status on College Students' Attributions Following a Competitive Task

Allie Minieri '07, Perceptions of Rape Justifiability: The Effects of the Cost of a Date, Who Pays, and Participant Gender

Lora Nageli '07, Body Satisfaction, Mood, and Self-Esteem of Restrained Eaters and Appearance Schematic Women after Exposure to Thin-Ideal Magazine Images

Danielle Sliva '07, The Effect of Buspirone on Negatively Punished Respondent Key Pecking, and Unpunished Off-Key Pecking and Activity in the Pigeon

Tisha Travaglini '07, Gender Differences in College Students' Competitiveness in Sports-Related Computer Games

Carey Wilson '07, From Ultimate to Proximate Explanations of Kissing in Heterosexual Pairs: A Closer Look at the Roles of Oxytocin and Cortisol