Message from the chair

This fall marks the 50th anniversary of the graduate program in Psychology at GSU. We started with a small master’s program, and have grown into very large and strong doctoral program. Enrollment this fall is the largest ever: 119 Ph.D. students across seven concentrations! And Psychology is held up as one of the strongest doctoral programs in the university. At this marker in our development, we are both planning events to celebrate the ‘birth’ of the doctoral program (stay tuned!), and working hard to attract a greater number of highly qualified applicants to all of our doctoral concentrations, improve our preparation of graduate students for a range of careers, and build a post-doctoral infrastructure that will allow us to better prepare future faculty members and professionals. Key to these efforts is recruiting high caliber faculty, and we have had great success in doing so this year (see page 2 for more details). Three new faculty joined the department this fall: Assistant Professor Sharee Light, Associate Professor Michael Beran, and Professor David Smith. In January, Assistant Professor Eyal Aharoni will join the faculty. Welcome!

Gifts that keep giving!

As we enter the traditional gift-giving season, it is worth remembering the many ways that your contributions can help the students, staff and faculty of the psychology department. The awards and recruitment activities highlighted in this newsletter illustrate just some of the ways that your generous gifts to the Psychology Department and the College of Arts and Sciences help to advance our educational, research and service missions, as well as our community outreach efforts. Faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the department are encouraged to make tax-deductible, year-end donations to one of the foundation accounts that allow us to continue these awards and scholarships, and perhaps to expand our support of programs like those described here:

- Psychology Department (02153)
- Psychology Graduate Student Award Endowment (02E87)
- Language & Literacy Doctoral Fund (020001)
- Language Research Center Endowment (02968)
- Bailey Wade Fellowship (02291)
- Theresa Nash Bernstein Scholarship (02G12)
- Duane M. Rumbaugh Fellowship (02D45)
- Doctoral Fellowship in Trauma Intervention (02908)
- Elizabeth and Michael Kenny Scholarship (020177)

Or contact Chris Henrich for information about establishing a new award, fellowship, scholarship, or endowment. See http://giving.gsu.edu to make a tax-deductible year-end contribution by credit card, cash, check, or payroll deduction.

See page 2 for...

- New Faces and New Roles
- Student, Staff and Faculty Accomplishments

“Like” the undergraduate and graduate pages on Facebook.
Transitions... One constant in the 50 years of the psychology department's history as a graduate program is CHANGE. Students enroll and students graduate. Staff join our team and others leave for new opportunities. Every year it seems we welcome new colleagues to the faculty (34 in the last decade alone!) and we join with longtime professors to celebrate their retirements from academic responsibilities. This year is no different, as we congratulate John Peterson (1974, U. Michigan) on his retirement and transition to Professor Emeritus. Dr. Peterson joined our faculty in 1993 as an associate professor, and was promoted to professor in 2003. As emeritus professor he will remain active in the department, mentoring students and conducting research supported by ongoing grants. The same can be said of Professor Emerita Lauren Adamson, (1977, U. California, Berkeley) who retired last year. Dr. Adamson remains very active in grant-supported scholarship and mentoring. She joined the department as an assistant professor in 1980, and was promoted to associate with tenure (1985) and professor (1991). During her tenure, she served as Department Chair, Associate Dean, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

As those colleagues begin new chapters in their careers, we welcome five new faculty members to the department this year. Assistant Professor Sharee Light (2013, U. Wisconsin, Madison) is a clinical neuropsychologist who studies the influence of prefrontal cortex in the modulation of emotional experience. Assistant Professor Eyal Aharoni (2009, U. California, Santa Barbara) joins the department in January as a Second Century Initiative (2CI) hire in Neuroethics. He investigates the prediction and deterrence of antisocial behavior and the influence of extra-legal factors on legal decision making. Associate Professor Michael Beran (2002, Georgia State U.) studies self-control, memory, and many other aspects of cognition in humans, chimpanzees, monkeys, and other animals. J. David Smith (1982, U. Pennsylvania) is a 2CI hire in Primate Social Cognition, Evolution and Behavior. Hired at the rank of professor, Dr. Smith is cognitive psychologist who studies concept formation and metacognition in humans and other animals. Another professor, John Horgan, (2000, University College, Cork) was hired by the Global Studies Institute with a joint appointment in psychology. Professor Horgan studies the processes through which people become involved in (and disengage from) terrorism, as well as the psychological mechanisms through which people cope with commitment to violent extremist groups.

Congratulations!
Recognition of student, staff and faculty excellence

Elizabeth & Michael Kenny Scholarship (Outstanding Psychology Major)
Kristin French

Andrea Barton-Hulsey

Outstanding Psychology Honors Student Award
Julie Trapani

Outstanding Graduate Student in Psychology Award
Lauren Stites & Kate Talbot

Doctoral Fellowship in Trauma Intervention
Jessica Morgan

Walter F. Daves Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award
Holly Adams

Bailey M. Wade Fellowship
Alesha Bond & William Whitham

College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Diversity Award
Dr. Ciara Smalls Glover

Theresa Nash Bernstein Scholarship in International Travel
Asia Lee

Duggins Peer Award for Outstanding Service
Irene Daboin

College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Early Career Award
Dr. Kevin Swartout

Outstanding Psychology Staff Award
Kristy Hill

2015 Outstanding Diversity Teaching Award
Kim Darnell