

# • THE PSYCHE

## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Hello, alumni and friends! This is my first semester as chair of the Psychology Department and it is my pleasure to be able to write you as a part of the *Psyche*. Since our last newsletter, quite a bit has changed in the department, including significant



Dr. Maria Zaragoza

retirements and the continuing evolution of new programs and research initiatives. After decades of distinguished service to the Psychology Department and their profession, faculty members Tom Dowd, Jack Graham and Ben Newberry have officially retired, although they all remain actively involved in the department as emeriti faculty. We've also said goodbye to retiring staff members Diane Poston and Steve Coleman who, I think we all agree, helped to make Psychology one of the most pleasant and well-functioning departments on campus. We wish our longtime colleagues well as they enter a new phase of their professional and personal lives, as we look forward to building on the strong foundation that they helped to establish for our department.

I am happy to tell you that Kent State University is committed to maintaining and growing its areas of strength despite the severe financial challenges it is facing. Our department, in a coordinated program with the Biology Department, has been selected to enhance its strength by hiring in three areas of translational research related to neurobehavioral, developmental and clinical aspects of trauma and health. In addition, Doug Delahanty has assumed the directorship of the new Center for Clinical and Translational Research, a partnership with Summa Health System.

I am also pleased to report that despite the financial constraints we face, we have also been able to welcome several new members to the Psychology Department staff this fall: Sharon Franek joined us as business manager, Tina Inks joined our secretarial staff and Michael Menyes is our new senior IT user and support analyst. We are delighted to have them.

In other news, this past summer, Katherine Rawson was one of 100 researchers from all fields of science nationwide selected for the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on young professionals beginning their independent research careers.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Psyche*. For up-to-date information on the happenings in the department, be sure to check out our Web site at <http://dept.kent.edu/psychology/>. As always, we enjoy hearing from you, so please keep in touch.

Maria Zaragoza

## DR. RAWSON RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

Dr. Katherine Rawson, (Assistant Professor of Psychology), recently received the 2009 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers. Dr. Rawson was nominated for the award by U.S. Department of Education officials, which supports her grant-funded research on effective study strategies that she conducts with colleague Dr. John Dunlosky, (Professor of Psychology).



Dr. Katherine Rawson

Her research focuses on identifying study strategies that improve the durability and efficiency of student learning, for students from middle-school through college. Recent findings indicate that self-testing (for example, using flashcards to practice recalling information) is a particularly effective strategy for improving memory. However, the effectiveness of self-testing depends critically on doing it the right way at the right time in the right amount. Rawson's fame is quickly spreading as she has been featured on Cleveland's NBC (Channel 3) and Fox (Channel 8) television stations. Next on the agenda is a visit to the White House for the award ceremony sometime later this academic year.

It is no secret Dr. Rawson is an avid National Football League (NFL) fan. The *Psyche* team wondered whether she would think there is a place for flashcards in the NFL (learning playbook during training camp?). "Absolutely!" says Rawson. "Flashcards are a very effective way to improve memory for all kinds of material, so I'd certainly expect it to work for learning playbooks, too." She noted that she'd be particularly interested in sharing the secrets of effective flashcard use with the Broncos, the Bears or the Browns.

WHAT’S UP DOC?

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. RICHARD HIRSCHMAN

In this issue of the *Psyche*, we present an interview with recently retired Professor Richard Hirschman. Hirschman has an unusual background in that after attending Brooklyn College as an undergraduate, he received a dental degree (D.M.D.) from Harvard University before becoming a clinical psychologist. (The dental background explains the joshing motto on his office door, “Healthy Teeth Make a Healthy Mind.”) Hirschman came to Kent State in 1971 as an assistant professor and rose through the ranks to full professor. He had a successful research career that included work on dental anxiety (an early federal grant), social systems, stress and emotion, and sexual imposition.

Your roving reporter (DCR) spoke with Hirschman shortly after his retirement.

D- What made you change directions after all the work of getting your dental degree?  
R- I became intellectually seduced in the medical part of my training by courses related to clinical psychology, such as psychodynamics and the physiology of behavior. Psychology fit my more complicated view of the human condition than a purely biological view. I tend to look at people in a holistic way and although I enjoyed dentistry, it is a more circumscribed profession, less suited to my way of thinking.

D- What attracted you to Kent State?  
R- Mostly the competence of the faculty combined with their collegiality—a rare combination. I could see that there were good working relationships between the faculty and the students. Also, I liked the idea of being near Cleveland and not too far from Pittsburgh. (Ed. note: Hirschman is a city boy who grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y.)

D- Although the late Dr. Roy (Coach) Lilly was not yet the chair when you applied for a position here, his administrative counsel was already highly regarded. You had a classic interview with him. How did that go?  
R- After being introduced to Roy, who had on tie-dyed Bermuda shorts (late spring) and a KSU T-shirt, someone asked if he had any questions for me. He simply stared at me for about 10 seconds with a cow-like gaze, said “No”, and abruptly left the room. Obviously, with that sort



Dr. Richard Hirschman

AY2008-2009 DISSERTATION DEFENSES (ADVISOR WITHIN PARENTHESES)

**MICHAEL ARMEY (DR. CROWTHER)**  
The Influence of Traumatic Life Experiences, Affect, Cognitions, Emotion Regulation Process, and Coping

**ANGELA JONES (DR. FOLK)**  
Why Do We Misspell the Middle of Words? Exploring the Role of Texture in the Serial Position Effect

**ANDREANA BENITEZ (DR. GUNSTAD)**  
Executive Functioning Abilities are Differentially Associated with Anhedonic Depression and Anxious Arousal

**ASHLEY C. SEIBERT (DR. KERNS)**  
Process Linking Mother-Child Attachment and Peer Relationships.

**MICHAEL MOORE (DR. FRESCO)**  
Memory Biases and Depressive Realism

**NINA RYTWINSKI (DR. FRESCO)**  
Do People with Symptoms of Depression Exhibit a Negative Attentional Bias or Depressive Evenhandedness.

**STEPHANIE MILLER (DR. GRAHAM)**  
Examining Personality and Risk-Taking in College Students Using the MMPI-2 PSY-5 Scales

**HEATHER ROTH (DR. DUNLOSKY)**  
Contribution of Strategy use to Performance on Complex and Simple Span Tasks

**ABBIGAIL TISSOT (DR. CROWTHER)**  
Characteristics of Appearance-Related Social Comparisons to Thin Ideal and Same-Sex Peer Media by Adolescent Females

**SHANNA GUILFOYLE (DR. WILDMAN)**  
Caregiver Perceived Self-Efficacy and Supervision in Childhood Unintentional Injury Prevention: The Moderating Role of Developmental Knowledge

INTERVIEW WITH DR. JOHN AKAMATSU ABOUT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN AKAMATSU, WHO HAS BEEN THE DIRECTOR OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC SINCE 1974

**Manfred:** Could you give me a brief history of the Psychological Clinic?

**John:** The clinic used to be the student counseling center for the university in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1968, when the psychology program was accredited, it became a training clinic for the department. In the 1989, with the assistance of an Academic Challenge grant, we developed specialty practica (currently child/family, neuropsychology, eating disorders, substance abuse, anxiety, advanced general, as well as external practica at the Center for the Study and Treatment of Traumatic Stress [Summa] and Coleman). Originally, students only did practica in their second year and were on placement during the third year. To facilitate research progress, we added specialty practica in the third year and students now generally go on placement during the fourth year.

**Manfred:** How has the clinic changed over the years?

**John:** We have been doing more research. In the last 14 years, we have collected data systematically and provide opportunities for students collect data independently for theses and dissertations. We also recruit participants for other research from among our clients.

Another major change has been the renovation of Kent Hall. The current facilities are nice and we recently renovated the waiting room and added new furniture.

Not just here, but also nationally, there is much more pathology among college students, at least in the last 5 years. We see about 250-275 clients per year (approximately 60 percent are students).

**Manfred:** What do you find to be the most fulfilling aspect of your job?

**John:** Doing clinical supervision. I enjoy working with students on a one-to-one basis. You can see progress from when students start and it is very rewarding to see this change.

**Manfred:** What do you see as the opportunities and challenges for the clinic in the future?

**John:** A committee is looking at this at the moment. We are exploring alternative models, probably increasing revenue due to Responsibility-centered management. It is important for us to find a balance between training and provision of services.

**Manfred:** Is there anything else you would like to add?

**John:** I really enjoy doing this. I feel like the chief clinical person in the department and I am happy with the role description. We have changed our training model from scientist-practitioner to clinical scientist but our clinical training has stayed the same. This training is valued within the department even with the increased focus on research and we continue to receive positive feedback from our placement and internship sites.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For up-to-date information on news and events in the Department of Psychology, please visit <http://dept.kent.edu/psychology/newsevents.cfm>

Did you recently move or change jobs? Please keep us updated and email your up to date information to Manfred van Dulmen at [mvandul@kent.edu](mailto:mvandul@kent.edu)



Psychological Clinic Secretary Peggy Poling and Director Dr. John Akamatsu



# THE PSYCHE

## IN THE LOOP



Dr. Terry Stancin

For this issue of *Psyche*, In the Loop features one of our former clinical graduate students, Dr. Terry Stancin, who recently received the Lee Salk Distinguished Service Award from American Psychological Association's Division 54, Society of Pediatric Psychology.

Stancin enrolled in our graduate program after completing her undergraduate work at nearby Hiram College. At Kent State, she was mentored by Professor Jeanette Reuter and received her Ph.D. in 1986. She did her clinical internship at Emory University Medical School. Later, Stancin was a postdoctoral psychology trainee in the Department of Pediatrics at Cleveland's Metropolitan General Hospital.

Currently, Stancin is professor of pediatrics in psychiatry and psychology at Case Western Reserve University and head of pediatric

psychology at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a pediatric psychologist with expertise in pediatric mental health issues in primary care, including developmental and behavioral screening. She is actively involved in research pertaining to outcomes of pediatric traumatic brain injuries, having collaborated on federally funded investigations for more than 20 years. Stancin has authored books and written more than 100 book chapters, reviews and scientific publications. She was the editor of a 1999 special issue of the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* on Pediatric Primary Care, and is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics* (currently as review and special articles editor) and just rotated off the board of the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*. In addition to the Lee Salk Award, she has received the Chairman's Award for Research Excellence from the MetroHealth Medical Center.

Terry serves as a consultant to the American Board of Pediatrics for subspecialty certification in developmental-behavioral pediatrics and was secretary-treasurer of the Society of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics for nine years. Stancin directs and provides clinical services in a busy, inner city hospital-based psychology service, and has been active in educational activities for physicians and psychologists at local and national levels. She also manages to maintain contact and collaborate with some of her former colleagues at Kent State University, especially Dr. Beth Wildman.

Stancin's personal life includes Michael Spetrino, her husband of 24 years, and two daughters. Her older daughter, Rachel, will be a junior at Ohio Wesleyan University, majoring in theatre and neuroscience, and her younger daughter, Lillian, is about to be a junior at Medina High School.