

# THE PSYCHE

## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Hello again, alumni and friends! Since our inaugural newsletter, quite a bit has happened in the department. Our celebration of the opening of the renovated Kent Hall, the Kent Hall addition and the “decade” reunions were very successful. It certainly was great catching up with all of you who were able to attend this landmark event, and if you weren’t here, please check out this issue of *The PSYCHE* and our Web site to view the weekend activities, pictures and biosketches of faculty and alumni. Several people asked me whether we would be holding another event next spring. Given the enthusiasm surrounding the first, we are keeping the possibility of future reunions on the agenda!



Jan Crowther

On a more serious note, we recently completed a review of our doctoral program for the Ohio Board of Regents. Just a brief peek at this review demonstrates that the Psychology department has continued its tradition of excellence. Some highlights from the past 10 years include over 1.4 million in funding per year, more than 45 peer-reviewed articles per year, and an incredible rate of employment (nearly 100 percent!) for students graduating from the doctoral program. We recently learned that this past year, faculty in the department were awarded more than

\$2.6 million in research funds. With the addition of new scholars to our team, several new hires slated for 2006, and our state-of-the-art facilities, I’m sure this trend will continue.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *The PSYCHE*, which not only introduces you to our new faculty (see “Meet the Faculty”) but also will reacquaint you with our senior clinical psychologist, Jack Graham, in the article called “What’s Up Doc.”

On behalf of the department, I would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season! And, please keep in touch...

Jan Crowther

## REOPENING AND REUNION A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The decade reunions and celebration for the re-opening of Kent Hall were a major success. More than 100 alumni joined the celebration, which made the event especially meaningful. Alumni from the 1960s to the present reconnected with fellow graduates and faculty and helped kick off the new era for the Psychology department.

The alumni from the 60s are shown in the inset. To find out whether your classmates attended, other decade photographs are available at <http://dept.kent.edu/psychology/alumni/alumni.htm>.

The first day kicked off with a symposium of nationally recognized speakers (see “Speaking for Health and Psychology”), which ended with an historical overview of Kent Hall from our resident historian, Dr. Robert Treichler. Kent Hall was one of the four original buildings on campus, so it has a rich history. For details, check out Treichler’s history of Kent Hall and its inhabitants, which is available on our Web site.

On the second day, alumni toured the campus and reminisced about life at Kent—although it was clear that many chose to begin the reunion the evening before at their favorite hangouts, such as Ray’s. A capstone event was the picnic, where each graduate recounted what they’ve done since leaving Kent. Some of their testimonials are available on our Web site as well.



1960's Alumni

If you wanted to attend but did not have the chance, don't fret, because the overwhelming sentiment was that this first reunion should not be the last one. To ensure you will hear about future events, please send any changes to your e-mail address to Kathy Floody (kfloody@kent.edu) and keep reading *The PSYCHE*.

## WHAT'S UP DOC?

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1965, Jack Graham has been a leading member of the Department of Psychology at Kent State University since 1968. Jack's dedication to research and clinical training is showcased by his long-standing efforts on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, or MMPI. As part of his master's thesis, Jack first began work on the MMPI in 1961, and his commitment has continued ever since. Even in the past year, he often could be found in the faculty lunchroom revising the 4th edition of his highly regarded text, "MMPI-2: Assessing Personality and Psychopathology," which he plans to keep up to date in the future as well. And along with Dr. Yossef Ben-Porath, Jack coordinates workshops on the newest versions of the MMPI. In fact, the next workshop is in San Francisco in early November. For details, check out the announcement at <http://www.upress.umn.edu/tests/workshops.html>.

Beginning in 1992, Jack chaired the psychology department for eight years, which ranks near the top of his most cherished accomplishments at

Kent State. "I didn't enjoy all of the duties," Jack admitted, "but it was especially fulfilling and important to help advance the department." During his term, one notable task was developing the first review of the graduate program for the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR). At the time, "there was a threat of some of our programs being cut, which made every one a bit nervous. But the OBR report highlighted the quality of our programs and showed how strong the department was overall." Happily, none of the departmental programs were cut, and the department has continued to flourish.

Beyond academe, Jack has developed a passion for collecting Chesapeake Bay decoys. Some of his favorite decoys surround him in the inset picture. But always the scholar, Jack has begun working on a biography of one the carvers (Jim Pierce from Havre de Grace, Maryland), to help bolster interest in this kind of folk art. Writing this biography involves scholarship that takes him far afield from the laboratory, such as when he visits Jim's workshop to conduct critical field research. No doubt these excursions not only inform the biography but also ensure that unique decoys migrate to Kent to join his growing brood.

To end on a lighter note, we asked Jack what his preferences are on a couple of life's key dimensions. Here's what he had to say: KSU basketball or football? J: "Basketball,

by about 100 times more." MMPI or PAI? J: Just chuckles. (Editor's note: PAI is the competitor of MMPI.) MMPI-3 or Early Retirement? J: "Early retirement. MMPI-2 was tough enough." Old Kent Hall or New Kent Hall? J: "New building." And finally, Wooden ducks or Live Ducks. J: "Wooden ducks, of course."

## SPEAKING FOR HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGY

As part of our reopening celebration, three leaders in the field offered their thoughts on promoting health and psychology. All three addressed issues of national importance, from treating veterans of war to enhancing the image of psychological research.

Dr. Alan Kraut, who is Executive Director of the American Psychological Society, discussed the politics of lobbying for psychology on Capitol Hill. Alan described the changing structure of federal funding and how he has successfully lobbied—like other large businesses do—to ensure that psychological researchers would be able to obtain federal funds that have been almost exclusively garnered for biomedical research.

Did you know that education is good for your health? Dr. Karen Matthews, professor of psychiatry, epidemiology and psychology at the Pittsburgh University School of Medicine, provided a convincing



*Jack Graham and his decoys*



*Dr. Alan Kraut*



*Dr. Karen Matthews*



*Dr. Patricia Resick*

array of evidence that education is good food. Even children benefit from the educational status of their parents. Karen explained that education can have a protective benefit because more educated people have healthier lifestyles with respect to diet and exercise and are more able to cope with challenges to their health.

Finally, Dr. Patricia Resick, director of Women’s Health Sciences Division of The National Center for PTSD, discussed post-traumatic stress disorder and the growing number of veterans who return from war with this affliction. Patricia outlined the growing problem and guardedly speculated about the ability of our nation’s medical system to handle it. Given that she earned an undergraduate degree at Kent State, her presence was especially cogent.

We’d like to thank these speakers for their insightful address. And if you’re in the Kent area and are interested in hearing other leaders of the field, check out our Web site for future colloquium.

## MEET THE FACULTY

We’d like to introduce a new member of our faculty, Dr. John Gunstad, who is joining us from a postdoctoral position in neuropsychology at Brown University. John is a clinical neuropsychologist, whose research focuses on two broad areas: understanding the effects of aging and disease on cognitive functioning, and discovering factors that limit the validity of neuropsychological assessment.

Some of John’s most recent research demystifies the relationship between cardiovascular disease (such as, arteriosclerosis) and cognitive dysfunction in older adults.

We’ve known for quite some time that cardiovascular disease is related to cognitive dysfunction, such as memory loss, but what makes John’s research particularly innovative is that he’s searching for the biological causes for this relationship. In recent research conducted with colleagues from the Brown Medical School, they discovered that a particular protein (C-Reactive Protein or CRP) provides a critical link between heart disease and cognitive dysfunction. In addition to discovering these connections, John also is seeking ways to improve memory and other thinking skills in older adults.

John and his wife, Mary Beth Spitznagel, are beginning to settle into life at Kent. While John is involved in research and teaching, Mary Beth has continued her career at Summa, where she is the Director of Neuropsychology. After work, it’s back home to Oreo, their new (and first) dog together. Their all getting along fine, but as John reflects, “Oreo snores like a chainsaw and wakes up before dawn, but otherwise she’s pretty well-behaved.”



*Oreo Reluctantly Posing With John and Beth.*

We’re all excited to have this native Minnesotan join us this year—he’ll definitely not balk at the Ohio winters, and his focus on clinical neuropsychology and overall expertise adds depth and breadth to our growing faculty.

## IN THE LOOP

*In each newsletter, we are going to dedicate a section to alumni so that you can renew contacts and keep in touch with fellow graduates of Kent State psychology. In The Loop will include snippets about the whereabouts and dealings of alumni and will occasionally showcase an individual who has contributed significantly to the community or field of psychology. To make In the Loop work, we’ll need your help. Don’t be bashful! Please share your current information with us, such as where you’ve been working or where you’ve retired and any other tidbit that you would like to share with fellow alumni. Send your information to the newsletter editor, Dr. John Dunlosky, at [jdunlosk@kent.edu](mailto:jdunlosk@kent.edu) or Department of Psychology, Kent State University, PO Box 5190, Kent, OH, 44242-0001, and we’ll make sure to get you back In The Loop.*



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Updates of the newsletter will be available twice a year from the Kent State Department of Psychology Web site. We would like to notify everyone when a new issue has been released. To help us ensure you don't miss a single edition, please send your current e-mail address, so we can notify you when to check the site. If you don't have access to the Web, that is fine too. Just tell us that you would like a paper

copy of the newsletter, and we'll make sure it arrives safely. **E-mails and addresses should be sent to Kathy Floody at [kfloody@kent.edu](mailto:kfloody@kent.edu) or to Department of Psychology, Kent State University, PO Box 5190, Kent, OH, 44242.**