Greetings from the Chair

Hello, alumni and friends! In this, Kent State University’s Centennial year, the Department of Psychology has many accomplishments to celebrate and upcoming events to tell you about.

In this issue, we welcome our newest faculty member, Karin Coifman, Ph.D., who joined our department this fall. Coifman is the first of three faculty members we are hiring as part of the Coordinated Hire Initiative in trauma and health, a joint venture between our department and the Department of Biological Sciences at Kent State University. The goal of the Coordinated Hire Initiative is to foster translational and interdisciplinary research in the area of trauma and health. As part of this initiative, we have also hired a Behavioral Neuroscientist, Aaron Jasnow, Ph.D., who will be joining the department next year. Look for more information about Jasnow in our next issue of the Psyche. The third faculty position will be in the area of child clinical/pediatric psychology, a position we hope to fill this year. As part of this Coordinated Hire Initiative, the Department of Biological Sciences has hired three faculty members in the complementary areas of molecular, developmental and neurological aspects of trauma, health and disease. We are very excited about this new cross-disciplinary collaboration, and the opportunities for enhanced insights and breakthrough advances it is likely to foster.

The Department of Psychology continues to be a leader in research and extramural funding. In this issue, we highlight Psychology faculty who have obtained new extramural grants to support their research in the past year. This issue also shines a richly deserved spotlight on two faculty who were recipients of prestigious awards this past year: John Dunlosky, Ph.D., who was selected for the Kent State University Distinguished Scholar Award, and Katherine Rawson, Ph.D., who traveled to the White House to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from President Obama.

We also have exciting news to share about upcoming events. In particular, we hope that many of you will be able to attend the Festschrift that the department will be hosting in honor of David C. Riccio on May 19-21, 2011. Having served 45 years as a faculty member in the Department of Psychology, Riccio is every bit as active as ever. Indeed, he has no intentions of retiring any time soon! Preparations are actively underway for this event, and the scientific program is shaping up nicely.

More details about the Festschrift are provided in the adjacent article. I hope you will save the date and make plans to join us in celebrating Riccio’s lifetime of contributions to the department and his profession.

In closing, we hope that this edition of the Psyche finds you well. We invite you to keep in touch, as we always enjoy receiving updates about the activities and accomplishments of our greatest source of pride, our alumni.

For up-to-date information on happenings in the department, be sure to check out our website at http://dept.kent.edu/psychology.

Maria Zaragoza

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Festschrift for Dr. Riccio

From May 19 to 21, 2011, several events will mark a Festschrift honoring David Riccio, Ph.D., for his many contributions to the field of Psychology. Festschrift, which is German for “celebratory writing,” is a book of essays by a scholar’s close colleagues and former students. Since joining the faculty from Princeton in 1965, Riccio has published over 150 books and articles on animal learning and memory, and has directed the dissertations of over 40 students. As admirable as these scholarly accomplishments are, it is Riccio’s generous spirit and good humor that have endeared him to his students and colleagues.

A social gathering is planned for Thursday evening, May 19. On Friday, May 20, and Saturday, May 21, keynote speeches will be given by several scholars, including former students Harry Haroutunian (’77; now at The Mt. Sinai School of Medicine), Charles Mactutus (’79, University of South Carolina), and Rick Richardson (’84, University of New South Wales). All are welcome to attend these events. A block of hotel rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in Brimfield and the Sheraton in Cuyahoga Falls have been reserved for visitors. For more information, please contact Kathy Floody (kfloody@kent.edu).
Catherine Murphy Wilde, Ph.D. 
(1938- 2010)

The family of Dr. Catherine Murphy Wilde has established a fund to support Kent State University’s graduate program in clinical psychology in her memory. While she was a mother of four young children, Wilde enrolled in the graduate program in clinical psychology at Kent State University, where she earned a master’s degree and eventually her Ph.D. in 1990. While at Kent, she worked under the direction of Professors Jeanette Reuter and Benjamin Newberry. Her dissertation project regarding the effects of stress on immunological response was quite innovative and ambitious, and involved a collaboration with researchers at the Cleveland Clinic. In recognition of her efforts, Wilde received a “Best Graduate Student Paper” award for this research at a meeting of the AAAS. After earning her degree, Wilde worked as a psychologist with the Cleveland Clinic and then with Kaiser Permanente until her retirement in 2006. Wilde enjoyed a very active retirement playing tennis three times a week, golfing with her husband, John, taking yoga classes, working with the Summit County Emergency Medical Team as needed and especially spoiling her eight grandchildren. Those who wish to do so may make contributions in her name to the Department of Psychology, 144 Kent Hall, Kent State University, Kent, OH, 44242.

Meet the Faculty

We’d like to introduce a new member of our faculty, Dr. Karin Coifman, who is joining us from a postdoctoral position at Columbia University. Karin is a clinical psychologist whose research focuses on emotion regulation and psychopathology. One line of research concerns the emotional and interpersonal problems of adults with borderline personality disorder. Another line addresses the role that emotional expression may play in coping with negative life events such as the loss of a loved one. In a study just published in *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, she found that the facial expressions of bereaved adults were predictive of who would show fewer symptoms of depression a year later. A key predictor, other than the frequency of positive emotional expression, was the context sensitivity of emotions. Individuals who expressed negative emotion when discussing events related to their loss, but not when discussing other events also showed fewer depressive symptoms a year later. “It is remarkable that these predictions could be made based on a two-minute silent video clip of the people’s faces,” notes Dr. Coifman. Future research will address the causes and implications of these interesting findings.

On a personal note, Karin enjoys spending time with her two-year-old daughter, Noa, her husband, and their dog. When she finds time, she also likes to practice yoga or go for a run. After having spent so many years in urban settings such as New Haven and New York City, she and her husband are enjoying the natural beauty of the Ohio countryside.
As reported in the last *Psyche*, Katherine Rawson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, (bottom row, second from right) received the 2009 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), which is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers. Rawson was honored for her grant-funded research, which she conducts with John Dunlosky, Professor of Psychology, on effective study strategies.

In January, Rawson traveled to Washington to be feted in a White House ceremony in which President Barack Obama congratulated the award recipients. “These extraordinarily gifted young scientists and engineers represent the best in our country,” said Obama. “With their talent, creativity and dedication, I am confident that they will lead their fields in new breakthroughs and discoveries and help us use science and technology to lift up our nation and our world.”

“It definitely was inspiring,” noted Rawson. “The president not only expressed his support for our research, but also reaffirmed his general commitment to fund research in the sciences.”
Interview with Pat John

1. How did you happen to look for a job at KSU? And in our dept?
   When we moved to Kent from Indiana, I wanted to work locally so Kent State was a logical place to start a job search. The first full-time job interview I had was with Diane Poston in the Department of Psychology and I got the job. For you long-timers, Diane replaced Mrs. Foltz and I replaced Diane as the departmental receptionist/typist back in the ’80s.

2. How long have you worked in the department?
   Twenty-seven years with a brief stint as a Senior Secretary at the Career Services Center – my so-called “aberration.” But I came back!

3. What is your current position?
   Administrative Assistant

4. What responsibilities do you most enjoy carrying out?
   Working with the chair, faculty, staff and students. My job is extremely varied and there is always lots to do! I’ve enjoyed working in the department and have learned so much.

5. Are there some jobs that you find less fun?
   Yes – promotion and tenure is often challenging but that is all changing with folio web.

6. Have you seen many changes in the department over the years? Have some things stayed the same?
   Absolutely! I’ve been at KSU and Psychology for so long that most everything has changed with all the technological advances. Some departmental events are still classic, such as the Social Colloquia at the 11th Frame.

7. Do you have any hobbies?
   Yes, I collect old and unusual marbles. I have hundreds of marbles and many are absolutely beautiful and extremely unusual. Some are hand-made and one-of-a-kind. I’m always on the look out for marbles in antique stores, with vendors at arts festival, or in flea markets. Plus, many people give me old marbles since they know I’m a collector. I also enjoy artwork and have some really nice lithos at home. During the summer, I’m outside working in my flower gardens or going on motorcycle jaunts or car cruises. In the winter months, I enjoy reading.

8. Do you have a favorite sport? And favorite team?
   My favorite sports were (are) watching events that my children and now my grandchildren participate in. I have to say I enjoy cross country, track, soccer, and baseball. It’s always been exciting to watch the young ones play and then there are middle school and high school meets. We’ve cheered at soccer matches in the snow and track meets in rain and sleet! With our children, we also went to the regional and state events in which they participated.

   My favorite football team is the Pittsburgh Steelers (Yes, I grew up in western Pennsylvania and love the black and gold!). I also enjoy baseball with the Cleveland Indians but I’m not such a fanatic anymore since they got rid of the best players.

9. Do you have any other connections to KSU?
   My husband and children, Tiffany and Paul, and I all graduated from Kent State University with bachelor’s degrees. My four grandchildren range in age from 16 to 6.

10. Do you have any plans to retire?
    Yes!
New Faculty Grants

**Jill Folk, Ph.D.**
Jill Folk and Stacey Lim (Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, Kent State University) received funding for a three-year project (*cognitive and linguistic skills in congenitally deaf readers*) from the March of Dimes Foundation. The main goal of this project is to evaluate the cognitive and linguistic skills that underlie reading comprehension ability in congenitally deafened readers who are middle school through college age. The grant will focus on two groups of readers, those whose first language is American Sign Language and those who were taught to speak English as their first language through auditory verbal therapy, often with the aid of hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. While there are many successful programs for language instruction for children who are deaf, numerous studies have documented serious literacy difficulties in this population. The goal of the current project is not to evaluate a best method for language instruction. Rather, the focus is on identifying the skills that these readers have, which most likely vary depending on language instruction, with the goal of identifying reading instruction methods that will be more successful.

**John Gunstad, Ph.D. and Joel Hughes Ph.D.**
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a $2.7-million grant to Kent State University for a collaborative research effort with Case Western Reserve University, Summa Health System in Akron and University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland. The study, called “The Heart ABC Study: Adherence, Behavior and Cognition,” aims to evaluate how cognitive abilities in heart failure patients relate to self-care behaviors. The grant brings together experts in medicine, nursing and psychology to take an interdisciplinary approach at studying cognitive impairment in heart failure patients.

**John Updegraff, Ph.D.**
John Updegraff was awarded a two-year grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research for a project titled “Message Framing for Oral Health in a Diverse Longitudinal Sample of Americans”. This project will investigate how tailoring intervention messages to recipients' personality, age, and cultural background can help promote adherence to oral health behaviors, and help reduce ethnic disparities in oral health. The project will include a large-scale, national internet-delivered intervention, as well as smaller experimental studies to be conducted at Kent State University.

Undergraduate Research Day

The Department of Psychology held its first annual undergraduate research day on April 13, 2010. This event was coordinated by the Undergraduate Psychology Office. The research day included 13 poster presentations from students at both the main and regional campuses. Topics ranged from Women with disabilities in Kenya: An assessment of need fulfillment and life satisfaction to Orthorexia nervosa: Obsessions and compulsions toward “healthy” eating.
Recent Ph.D. Dissertations

Amber M. Chenoweth (Dr. Fountain).
The effects of scopolamine on rat serial pattern learning and reversal learning.

Zachariah Moore (Dr. Merriman).
The role of exemplar comparison in preschoolers’ interpretations of novel object labels.

Ihori Kobayashi (Dr. Delahanty).
Ambulatory sleep and heart rate variability monitoring in trauma-exposed college students.

Jennifer M. Aakre (Dr. Docherty).
Attributional style in schizophrenia: Associations with suspiciousness and depressed mood.

Brian J. Hall (Dr. Hughes).
The causal relationship between posttraumatic growth and posttraumatic stress symptoms among Israeli Jews and Arabs: A longitudinal cross-lagged panel analyses.

David B. Fruehstorfer (Dr. Newberry).
Predicting illness and stress endorsement with the formal characteristics of behavior temperament inventory.

Laura E. Brumariu (Dr. Kerns).
Mother-child attachment in early childhood and anxiety symptoms in preadolescence: The role of peer competence and emotion regulation.

Christina L. Hill (Dr. Updegraff).
Assessing the relationship between mindfulness, borderline features and emotional awareness in young adults.

Aaron Armelie (Dr. Delahanty).
The impact of verbal victimization psychopathology in LGB youth victims of trauma: The roles of self-criticism and internalized homophobia.

Quin Chrobak (Dr. Zaragoza).
The role of causal connections in the development of false memories for entire fabricated events.

Justin Quattlebaum (Dr. Grau).
Grandmother social support and psychological adjustment in Latina adolescent mothers: Clarifying the roles.

Mary Pyc (Dr. Rawson).
Why is retrieval practice beneficial for memory? An evaluation of the mediator shift hypothesis.

Cynthia Khan (Dr. Stephens).
Spousal support and control targeting exercise in older adults with diabetes.

Terri Finamore (Dr. Riccio).
Specific vulnerabilities and predisposing factors contributing to stress psychopathology.

Dunlosky Receives Distinguished Scholar Award

On March 24, 2010, John Dunlosky, Ph.D., received a Kent State University Distinguished Scholar award. Each year, three Kent State University faculty members receive this award for their outstanding contributions to research and/or creative activities. Dunlosky’s program of research has focused on understanding three interrelated components of self-regulated learning: monitoring of learning, control of study time and the application of strategies during learning. These three components of learning fall under the rubric of *metacognition*, which concerns people’s cognition (or beliefs) about their cognitions. In considering his most distinguished contribution, Dunlosky says “my textbook with Janet Metcalfe on Metacognition is the first in its field and will really help to shape it.” We also asked him the secret to becoming a successful and distinguished scholar. He says “having role models, fantastic collaborators and students, and the discipline to keep consistently pursuing the most promising ideas, even when they initially do not work out.”
The Art of Psychology

Visitors to the Psychology Department’s home in Kent Hall will find some new decorative outdoor art work commissioned by the Office of the University Architect. Several sculptures have been placed along the university esplanade (a pedestrian pathway through a major portion of the campus) to meet the requirements of the 1990 Ohio Legislature’s Percent for Art program. This law mandates that 1 percent of state building appropriations be devoted to public art, and the University Architect’s Office chose to use such funds for a series of sculptures along the course of the esplanade. Funds related to renovations of Franklin Hall (School of Journalism and Mass Communication) and Kent Hall (1 percent of $36.9 million) allowed commissioning of the first three sculptures in a series of eight to 10 intended as a “Sculptural Mile” along the course of the esplanade.

The work most specifically related to psychology has been placed at the east front of Kent Hall and is entitled “Eye to Eye”. It is described (in Kent State University publicity releases) as “a response to the human mind and how it works”. The artist is Barry Gunderson of Gambier, Ohio, a Kenyon College art professor who worked in collaboration with Mount Vernon Machine and Tool. The work is comprised of two welded and burnished aluminum heads standing 10 feet tall and gazing into each other’s eyes. Each head is topped by white “thought bubbles.”
In The Loop

This issue of In the Loop features Charles F. Mactutus, Ph.D., a former student of our experimental psychology graduate program. Mactutus received his doctorate from Kent State University in 1979, then spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow in neurotoxicology at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md. He has also held several additional positions including head of the Developmental Neurobiology Group at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at Research Triangle Park (North Carolina), professor in the Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Kentucky, and he is currently professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of South Carolina. Mactutus was chair of the department in 2008 when it ranked among the top 10 psychology departments in the country for federal research funding.

Mactutus' major research interests are in the areas of drug abuse neurotoxicity (specifically through studies on development and plasticity), addictive processes (as revealed through studies of psychostimulant sensitization and sex differences therein), and NeuroAIDS. Developmental neurotoxic effects caused by maternal use of licit (nicotine, caffeine) or illicit drugs (cocaine, amphetamine) via exposure to environmental agents (e.g., passive smoking), or virotoxins (e.g., tat and/ or gp120) are one primary focus. A second focus is on the structural and neurodevelopmental bases of gender differences in response to psychostimulant sensitization, such as produced by cocaine, nicotine and the amphetamines. A third focus is on NeuroAIDS, using the viral proteins tat and gp120, and he is studying pediatric AIDS, HIV dementia, and potential neuroprotective agents (e.g., estrogen) that may underlie the apparent gender differences in HIV infection. At least one project in each of these focuses has been funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health.

Methodologically, his studies use a pronounced multidisciplinary approach. The program currently employs behavioral (spatial memory, conditioning, auditory startle), anatomical (immunocytochemistry, cell counting, cellular and subcellular morphometric analyses), pharmacological (GC/MS, blood gas analyses, in vivo drug probes, receptor binding and autoradiography, neurochemical enzyme activity and Western blotting), and molecular biological techniques (in situ hybridization and Northern blotting). Imaging (e.g., MRI) technologies also are most recently being employed for our research.

As a graduate student at Kent State, Mactutus lived with a group of fun-loving fellow grads, affectionately known as the “Ninth Street Boys.” After completing his doctorate and moving on professionally from Kent State, Mactutus continues to have connections with Kent State’s Department of Psychology. His direct and indirect connections to the department span virtually his entire career. Mactutus’s postdoctoral mentor at Johns Hopkins was Larry Fechter, Ph.D., who received his masters from our experimental program. At Johns Hopkins, he met his future wife, Rosemarie Booze (also currently psychology faculty at the University of South Carolina), and through her, met future Kent State faculty members Maria Zaragoza and Steve Fountain. Later, while at the University of Kentucky, Mactutus served as postdoctoral advisor for three students who received their doctorates from our experimental program. Mactutus also now serves with Steven Harrod, who is a junior member of the faculty at the University of South Carolina and who also received his doctorate from Kent State’s experimental program. Mactutus lives and works in Columbia, S.C., with his wife, Rose, and his two sons, Charles Dylan and Jonathan Cody.