



Chair Notes

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 3 - October 2008

Greetings - 1

Department - 1

Department Colloquium
Department Retreat
Budget Update
Class Schedule
Department Committees
Remodel & Move: Delayed

Recycled Paper
COS Calendar
Travel Support
Webpages & ADA

Undergraduate - 3

Psi Chi/Psychology Club

Graduate - 3

MA/MS
New JDPs Updates

Faculty - 3

Traveling (T2)?

Staff - 4

Finalists

Emeritus - 4

WAIS-IV for Review

Alumni - 4

Lecture: Dr. Heidi Kraft

Miscellaneous - 4

Research Participants
Psychology Clinic



Greetings!

You don't want to miss the first presentation of the 08/09 Department Colloquia Series at 11 AM on October 10. Nader Amir's presentation is entitled "Modification of Attention Bias: A Novel Treatment for Anxiety Disorders."

Our October department meeting follows right after the colloquium at Noon in LS-111. There are two major items on the agenda. The first concerns the goals and organization of study groups to address important department issues over the next 3-4 months. These groups will explore, discuss, explore some more, and prepare their findings at our department retreat in February or March 2009. The second agenda item deals with department space on and off campus.

See you all on Friday!

Cheers,
Jörg

(619) 594-2892

gmatt@sciences.sdsu.edu

Department

Department Colloquium

Here is the complete fall line-up:

October 10: Nader Amir
Modification of Attention Bias: A Novel Treatment for Anxiety Disorders

November 14: Sara Unsworth
Storytelling and Gesture Practices Support Cultural Variation in Orientations towards Nature

December 12: Margaret Friend
Predicting Language Outcomes: Challenges and Promising Solutions

Department Colloquia start at 11:00 in Gold Auditorium (BioScience Center) or in LS-111 and are open to students, postdoc, lecturers, and faculty.

Thanks to Axel Mueller and our speakers for making this happen!

Please let Axel know if you are available in the spring to present in the Department Colloquium. We would like to have all six program areas represented over the course of the academic year.

Department Retreat

It is time to make reservations for the retreat early in the Spring semester. The retreat will take place on a Saturday or Sunday from 9-5 at the Visitor's Center of the Mission Trails Regional Park.

The purpose of the retreat is to learn about, discuss, and work toward resolutions of issues important to our department. The study groups we are forming now will give brief presentations, lead the discussion, and prepare a report outlining directions for resolutions.

Please check your calendars and let Maureen know which of the following days work for you. We will try our best to get a response from each and everyone of you and will pick the day when the largest number of faculty can attend.

2/1 - Sunday
2/8 - Sunday
2/15 - Sunday
2/21 - Saturday
2/22 - Sunday
3/1 - Sunday
3/7 - Saturday
3/8 - Sunday
3/15 - Sunday

3/21 - Saturday

3/22 - Sunday

3/29 - Sunday

Please let Maureen know by [October 17](#) which days work for you.

Budget Update

Here's a summary based on CSU, SDSU, and CFA sources. The official Budget Message #8 is at <http://advancement.sdsu.edu/budgetcentral/>

On 9/23, our Governor signed the \$144.5 billion state budget for fiscal year that started on July 1.

"Good" News

- The approved state budget added \$97 million back into the CSU budget.
- At SDSU, the planned \$12.3 million reduction is "only" \$4.4 million.

Bad News

- The Higher Education Compact with the Governor was not funded. The CSU is underfunded by nearly \$215 million compared to the amount of money promised under the Higher Education Compact.
- The CSU has the option to reopen salary and benefits negotiations with the CFA or to simply pay the negotiated raises.
- It is highly unlikely we will receive the negotiated salary increases this year.

The Really Bad News

- The approved budget does not address underlying structural problems in the state budget.
- Mid-year reductions are very likely.
- Further reductions in fiscal year 09/10 are almost certain.

Class Schedule

We did it! Our fall 08 final count of full-time-equivalent-students (FTES) is 1,616 (minus a few late drops). That is, we are on target to meet our FTES goal for the 08/09 academic year. This is not a trivial accomplishment, given that we had to deal with significant cuts in our instructional budget and

did not have a complete class schedule until early August.

How did we do it? Teaching larger sections; PSY499 students in our labs; reimbursing the department through grants; allowing crashers in our classes; teaching extra sections without extra pay; paying graduate assistants through grants rather than Department funds.

We have weathered the fall storms and are in good shape to face what lies ahead in spring.

Department Committees

Jennifer Thomas was elected Chair of our Policy and Planning Committee. Congratulations Jennifer!

Policy & Planning

Jennifer Thomas (Chair, 1 year left), Nader Amir (1), Jeff Conte (1), Terry Cronan (2), Thierry Devos (1), Judy Reilly (2).

Next meeting: 10/27, 11-12:30, Conference Room, BioScience Center.

Reappointment, Tenure, & Promotion

Joe Price (Chair, 1 year left), Jeff Bryson/Richard Graf (1), Roger Dunn(2), Sandra Marshall (2), Ed Riley (1), Jim Sallis (2).

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Paul Gilbert (Chair), Beth Cordero, Roger Dunn, David Marx, Pam Moses, Emilio Ulloa; Chair Rep: Keith Hatstrup.

Next meeting: 10/8, 2-3, Conference Room, BioScience Center.

Master's Programs Committee

Radmila Prislin (Chair), Terry Cronan, Thierry Devos, Maggie Friend, Paul Gilbert, Sarah Mattson, Scott Roesch, Robin Weersing; Jörg Matt; MA/MS student reps: Cory Davenport, Patricia MacFarland.

Next meeting: 10/17, 12-1, Conference Room A at 6363 Alvarado Court.

Ballot Committee

Roger Dunn (1 year left), Steve Reed (2), Melody Sadler (3)

Post-Tenure Review Committee

Five members to be elected.

Remodel & Move: Delayed

The planned move of the Undergraduate Advising Office and the remodel of the Department Office has been delayed. The Dean's Office assures us that it is only a delay.

Recycled Paper

How about switching to recycled paper for use in the department copy machines and the laser printers in the computer labs?

Recycled paper, of course, can also be used in our office laser printers, though it is not as bright and white as the paper we currently use. If we decide to switch to recycled paper, we could keep a supply of the 92 bright paper for occasions when it might be needed. Let me know what you think.

COS Calendar

If you like our department Google calendar, you will also like the new College of Sciences (COS) calendar: <http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/cos/index.php> The COS calendar lists colloquia and other events throughout the college.

Our department calendar is still at <http://www.psychologysdsu.edu/new-web/>. To add events or to learn how to subscribe to this calendar, please contact Maureen Crawford or Sandy Scott.

Travel Support

Given our current budget situation, we are unable to provide \$400 out of the department Supplies and Services budget to support faculty travel. We will revisit the budget situation in early spring to determine if we can resume this practice.

Webpages and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA requires that no individual with a disability be denied access to or participation in services, programs, and activities. This act applies to nearly all campus activities, including employment, student programming, and serv-

ices provided to the campus community. The CSU has developed the Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI) to make information technology resources and services accessible to all regardless of disability status. More information at <http://www.calstate.edu/accessibility/>.

If you have webpages on the sdsu.edu domain (e.g., course or lab website), there is a good chance you may have to update or redesign your pages to make them compliant with ADA. Lorah Bodie is our department representative who will help coordinate efforts and can answer questions. She will get in touch with you if your pages have been flagged and need updates.

Undergraduate Student Research Symposium

The 2nd Annual SDSU Student Research Symposium (SRS) will be held Feb. 27-28, 2009.

The SRS provides a forum for SDSU students to present their research to a panel of judges and the public. Presentations are organized by academic disciplines with divisions for undergraduate, masters and doctoral students. Please encourage your students to submit applications.

Registration opens Dec. 1 via the Division of Research Affairs Web site: <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~gra/grad/research/researchmain.html>

For more information about the SRS, please visit: <http://gra.sdsu.edu/grad/research/researchchops.html>

Blackboard Homeroom

Emilio Ulloa has set up the "Psychology Homeroom" on Blackboard. This allows him to post forms, announcements, and send e-mails to all psychology undergraduates. Please contact Emilio if you have announcements that are of interest to our undergraduates.

Lower Division Transfer Project (LDTP): PSYC STAT Descriptor

Determining whether a course taken at another CSU or a Community College is equivalent to one taken at SDSU is often difficult. The solution proposed by the LDTP is to have CSU departments self-certify whether a particular course meets the statewide standards (i.e., "descriptor").

We are now being asked to take a look at the descriptor and checklist for PSYC STAT; i.e., our PSY270/271. Specifically, we are asked to vote on the descriptor and to provide feedback on whether or not the proposed checklist captures the essence of the descriptor. If you want to learn more about this, please join our upcoming Curriculum Committee meeting on 10/8, 2-3, Conference Room, BioScience Center.

Teams of CSU and Community College faculty will be meeting at the Westin SFO commencing at 4:00 pm on October 17 and concluding at 2:30 pm on October 18 to draft course descriptors that will later be reviewed by faculty from across the state. Travel and lodging expenses will be covered. **We need a department representative for this meeting. If you are interested in the LDTP for other lower division classes, please let me know immediately.**

Psi Chi/ Psychology Club

- October 8, 1-2, LS111
- November 7 at Casa Real: Psi Chi Ceremony. All faculty are invited to the banquet at no charge.
- December 10 at Scripps Cottage: End of the year student and faculty social at Scripps Cottage.

Graduate

MA/MS

Master's Committee Update

Two major goals of the Master's Committee for this academic year are to increase the pool of qualified appli-

cants to our master's programs and to clearly define selection criteria. Toward the former goal, the Committee is working with each program area to gather information on notable graduates to be featured on Graduate Programs web site. Also added will be a section on frequently asked questions about the program. Finally, thank you letters containing information about our program were sent to all individuals who recommended current 1st year master's students.

The Committee will discuss admission criteria and the selection process in a series of monthly meetings starting October 17. To inform its discussion of these issues, the Committee is currently gathering information about the predictive validity of GRE scores and GPAs as well as graduation rates, continuing graduate education, and employment for master's students in the Psychology Department, SDSU, and similar programs nationwide.

New JDPs Updates

Efforts to develop additional joint doctoral program are moving forward. Jennifer Thomas and Claire Murphy are pursuing a partnership with UCSD toward a JDP in cognitive behavioral neuroscience. Keith Hattrup has taken the lead to explore partnerships for a JDP in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Faculty

Traveling?

Sorry to bug you with this again ... As CSU employee, we are supposed submit the "Request for Absence from Campus" form whenever we leave town for travel (Form T-2). As far as I can tell, there are two good reasons to complete the form: (1) CSU insurance coverage requires that your request for absence from campus was filed and approved before your leave. (2) As faculty, we have an obligation to make arrangements for our classes when we are out of town. Please, please, please, complete the T-2 form to protect your-

self and your family. The form can be found at:

<http://bfa.sdsu.edu/ap/travelmanual/travmansec51800.htm>

Staff

Finalists

We are down to the finalists for the Administrative Coordinator I position that has been vacant since last August 2007. We hope to have a new staff member in the Department Office by the end of the month.

Emeritus

WAIS-IV for Preview

Jerry Sattler received a preview copy of the new WAIS -IV that was released this summer. If you are interested in taking a closer look, please contact Jerry at jsattler@sciences.sdsu.edu or 4-6231.

Alumni

Lecture by Dr. Heidi Kraft

Thursday, November 20th
6:30 - 9:00 PM
Marina Village Conference Center
Starboard Room
1936 Quivira Way
San Diego, CA 92109

Please join the Psychology Chapter of the SDSU Alumni Association for a presentation by Dr. Heidi Kraft, a Graduate of the SDSU/UCSD JDP in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Kraft is now a Navy Psychologist and wrote a book about her experiences in Iraq. Copies of her book (Rule Number Two: Lesson I Learned in a Combat Hospital) will be available for purchase at the event. If you already have a copy, bring it with you to have it signed! Wine and cheese will be served.

Cost: \$10 Alumni/Students; \$15 Others. Seating is limited.

Please RSVP by November 2 to:

<http://chapters.sdsu.edu/psychology>

Miscellaneous

Research Participants Needed

The lab of Pamela Moses is seeking healthy children between the ages of 7-17 to participate in a study of normal brain development from childhood to adulthood using non-invasive magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Participation takes approximately one hour and involves watching visual patterns, tapping your fingers or resting while pictures are taken of the brain. Typically developing right handed children who are free of braces, permanent retainers, or any other form of metal in their body are invited to participate. Compensation is \$40 and children can see images of their own brain on the computer afterwards. For more information please call Leanna at 619-594-8678 or email lhernand@rohan.sdsu.edu.

Psychology Clinic

Our Psychology Clinic at 6363 Alvarado Court offers low-cost counseling to the general public as well as to students. If you know of someone who might benefit from short-term counseling, please ask them to call 594-5134. For more information about the clinic, visit <http://www.psychology.sdsu.edu/doctors/clinic.html>

