



Chair Notes

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 2 - September 2008



Department - 1

Handy Calendar
Faculty Meetings
Department Colloquium
Budget Update
Class Schedule
Department Committees
Remodel & Move
Parking Pains
Celebrate!

Undergraduate - 2

Moving Up
Honors Theses
Enforcing Prerequisites
Diversifying - Recruitment
Psi Chi/Psychology Club

Graduate - 3

MA/MS
JDP

Faculty - 3

New Faculty Members
RTP Timeline
Absent from Campus?
Senate Committees

Staff - 4

Mahalo!
Still Understaffed
Nominate

Emeritus - 4

Dr. Sattler: Chinese &
Spanish
Dr. Hillix: Web/DVD

Alumni - 4

Public Lecture

Miscellaneous - 4

Research Participants
Needed
Page 4



Greetings!

The new academic year is here, and with it the excitement and craziness of the first weeks of the fall semester.

May all our students be above average, all our lectures brilliant, all our manuscripts published, all our grant proposals funded, and all faculty meetings and colloquia well attended!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our first faculty meeting on September 12 @ Noon in LS-111.

Best wishes for a terrific semester!

Cheers,
Jörg

(619) 594-2892
gmatt@sciences.sdsu.edu

PS. I solemnly swear the next newsletter will be shorter.

Department

Handy Calendar

Check out our Department calendar at <http://www.psychology.sdsu.edu/new-web/>.

It combines in one place all important Department events across our different program areas and geographic locations as well as a selection of College of Sciences and University events. This includes

- Department faculty meetings
- Colloquia
- Brown bag lunches
- Committee meetings
- RTP deadlines
- PsiChi/Psychology Club events
- Alumni events.

To add events to this calendar, please contact Maureen Crawford or Sandy Scott.

This is a public Google calendar to which you can subscribe if you use iCal, have your own Google Calendar, or use another electronic calendar. A subscription to this calendar allows you to have Department events automatically inserted and updated in your own calendar application. You may also insert this calendar into your lab or personal webpages. For more information about how to do this, please contact Lorah Bodie.

Faculty Meetings

We have important business to address during the fall semester. Please reserve

the following dates for our faculty meetings:

September 12
October 10
November 14
December 12

All meetings will start at Noon and take place in LS-111.

Department Colloquium

Following popular demand, Axel Müller generously agreed to organize a Department Colloquium series starting in October. The colloquia will precede our faculty meetings in October, November, and December. They will start at 11:00 in Gold Auditorium (BioScience Center) and are open to students, postdoc, lecturers, and faculty. The series will feature our own researchers and the occasional visiting scholar.

Because there is no College or University funding for a colloquium series, WE need to decide if and how we want to support such an important department initiative. Support and ideas for funding the colloquium series are welcome!

Budget Update

As of 8/31, little progress has been made toward passing a State budget in Sacramento. Consequently, the financial situation for the CSU and SDSU for this academic year are still uncertain. Budget updates from CSU and SDSU can be found here: <http://www.calstate.edu/budgetcentral/> <http://advancement.sdsu.edu/budgetcentral/>

Class Schedule

As of 8/29, we were offering 8,777 seats, of which 93% were filled for a total of 1,598 FTES (full-time-equivalent students). There were 1,824 "wishers", students who would like to enroll but were unable to do so because sections had no openings.

For comparison, in fall 07 we offered 9,792 seats, of which 88% were eventually filled for a total of 1,755 FTES.

As you can see in the number of seats offered and the percentage of seats taken, the budget cuts mean fewer and fuller sections.

Hang in there! Our Golden State and the CSU budgets will eventually improve. And please, continue to be generous to crashers, and Independent Studies (PSY499) students.

Department Committees: 08/09

Policy & Planning

Nader Amir, Jeff Conte, Terry Cronan, Thierry Devos, Judy Reilly, Jennifer Thomas.

Next meeting: 9/15, 11-12:30 in LS-101

Reappointment, Tenure, & Promotion

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

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

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

Next meeting: TBA.

Master's Programs Committee

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

Next meeting: 9/ 26, 12-1 in LS-281

Ballot Committee

Three members to be elected at first Faculty Meeting.

Post-Tenure Review Committee

Five members to be elected.

Remodel & Move

The remodel of the Department Office in LS-110 is proceeding as planned. The Biology Field Station has moved out of LS-105/106 on schedule. Next is the temporary relocation of the Department Office to LS-105/106 while LS-110 is being remodeled. This is likely to happen late September/early October.

Parking Pains

After recently making a substantial involuntary donation to CSU General Fund, I want to remind you of the availability of S/V parking permits for drop-offs and pick-ups at Life Science and for other brief stops on campus. I requested an extra supply of these permits and encourage you to carry one in your vehicle at all times. You can only use them in specially marked S/V parking areas and for a limited amount of time. I have also asked the SDSU Parking Administrator about adding more S/V areas near LS and GMCS.

Pick up your own S/V permit at our first Department Meeting! May I suggest donating 50% of the expected amount you will save in parking tickets to the Department Lecture Series Fund? This would be about \$150 for me ...

Celebrate!

Evening Honoring Claire Murphy

Sept. 6 @ 5 PM - Coastal Waters Lab

Great company, location, food, and music! Check your in-box for your in-

invitation. Although you missed the RSVP deadline, we would still love to see you there. Contact Dr. Radmila Prislina for information.

Retirement Party: Judy Price

Watch your in-box for the invitation.

Undergraduate

Moving Up

The planned move of the Advising Office is also proceeding as planned. As soon as the Department Office is back in LS-110, the Advising Office will move up and into LS-105/106. The move will likely be finalized by December. (Knock on wood!)

Honors Theses

A good pool of honors thesis applications came in. Dr. Emilio Ulloa (Director of Undergraduate Advising) will take a few late applications if necessary. Stay tuned for details about the approved projects and the final presentations throughout the year.

Enforcing Prerequisites

Emilio asks to please take a close look at his e-mail from 8/27 about enforcing prerequisites for your classes, crashers, and waivers.

Diversifying - Recruitment

Emilio will coordinate this year's "Diversifying Clinical Psychology" recruitment event to take place in Albuquerque, NM this winter. It is a recruitment session that takes place in the context of the Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP) annual meeting. Stay tuned for applications and encourage eligible students.

Psi Chi/ Psychology Club

- September 17 at Scripps Cottage: First Psi Chi meeting. Meet and greet for students and faculty.
- 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

We are admitting 38 students in our MA and MS degree programs and two exchange students. This figure is considerably smaller than last year's record class of 54 students but comparable to the previous two classes. The incoming class continues the trend of increasing GRE scores: Mean Verbal = 543 (70th percentile), Quantitative = 617 (53rd), and Psychology as a subject = 635 (59th). The average Psychology GPA is 3.58. Most of the students (28) are from California; of those, 13 are SDSU graduates. The out-of-state students graduated from schools all over the country: From Colby College in Maine to Hawaii Pacific University. Both exchange students are from the University of Mannheim.

Despite our budget problems, we were able to provide financial support to all graduate students who requested it. This was possible because of a combination of Department funds, support through extra-murally funded researchers, and a very persuasive and persistent Master's Programs Advisor. Each of our new students has been assigned to a research lab, and we wish our new MA/MS students and their mentors a productive first year!

JDP Clinical Psychology

We are admitting 15 first-year JDP students this fall, five in each specialty track. Neuropsychology track: Rujvi Kamat (UC Irvine), Nicole Crocker (SDSU), Lindsay Termini (Urbana-Champaign), Sara Wu (San Francisco State) and Erin Green (SDSU). Behavioral Medicine/Health Psychology: Lianne Tomfohr (U of British Columbia), Amanda Schweizer (SDSU), Ariel Neikrug (USD), Adelaide Brewer (SDSU),

and Matthew Worley (Princeton). Experimental Psychopathology: Jessica Bomyea (UCLA), Heather Sones (Penn State), Andrew Petkus (Wisconsin, Oshkosh), Patrick Walker (SDSU) and Nicole Stadnick (ASU).

The new JDP students will be working with their mentors in research labs at SDSU and UCSD. All 15 students are funded through extra-mural support. Two students who have junior faculty mentors are supported through Shared Vision funds (a mechanism to support JDP programs at SDSU) and matching Department funds. Shared Vision funds are also used to augment stipends for students. We wish our new JDP students and their mentors a productive first year!

Faculty

New Faculty Members

We are welcoming two outstanding new faculty members to our Department.

Dr. Sara Unsworth (Northwestern University, 2008) is a developmental psychologist who explores cultural differences in cognitive development and seeks to explain those differences by identifying the particular worldviews, cultural activities, and language practices that support concept formation and knowledge organization. Sara has been working with rural Native American and European American communities and has found that cultural differences in storytelling and in taking the perspective of animals (using gesture) are related to differences in the likelihood to think of humans as a part of nature and to engage in ecological reasoning. This research has implications for theories of cognitive development that have been based largely on research with urban middle-class, European American populations. This research also has important implications for science instruction in culturally diverse settings and for environmental education more generally. Sara's hobbies include swing dancing, reading mystery novels, and volunteering for efforts related to land restora-

tion and environmental conservation. Her office and research space are in Suite 101 at 6505 Alvarado Rd. unsworth@sciences.sdsu.edu; 4-1327

Dr. Allison Vaughn (University of Utah, 2008) is a social health psychologist specializing in close relationships and health. She examines a variety of close relationships including family, friends, and significant others at various relationship stages, including the start of a new relationship as well as important transitions within relationships such as marriage. She also examines how the quality of these relationships influences mental and cardiovascular health in both lab and natural settings. Outside of school, Allison enjoys tennis, films, and baking, and she is glad to be back in San Diego. Her office and research spaces are in South and North Life Sciences. avaughn@sciences.sdsu.edu; 4-5536

RTP Timeline

The complete 08/09 RTP timeline is now online at: <http://www.rohansdsu.edu/~facaff/newrtp.html>

Absent from Campus?

To be covered in case of an accident while traveling as CSU employee, we must submit the "Request for Absence from Campus" form. Also known as T-2, this form is to be submitted at least 10 days in advance for in-state trips and 15 days in advance for out-of-state trips. This is the case even if we pay for travel to a conference out of our own pocket or through a grant. The form can be found at: <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/ap/travelmanual/travmansec51800.htm>

Senate Committee Openings

There are several openings for members at-large on important Senate committees. Check your in-box later this week for the official announcement.

Staff

Mahalo!

If you attended the Graduate Student Lu'au, you know what I'm talking about. Mahalo Maureen!

Still Understaffed

We are in the middle of screening applications for the Administrative Coordinator I position that has been vacant since last August. This long delay is another painful consequence of the budget cuts. I will notify you by e-mail as soon as the search has been completed.

Because this position will not be filled in time for the busiest weeks of the academic year, please be especially considerate to Kendrea, Maureen, and our work-study students.

Nominate

The major reason why our Department works so smoothly during the current budget crisis is our resourceful, knowledgeable, hardworking, smart, helpful, creative, thrifty, and friendly staff on campus and at Alvarado. Please nominate at least one staff member for the Presidential Staff Excellence Awards. Submit nominations no later than 9/5 at www.rohan.sdsu.edu/~sac/psea.html.

Emeritus

Dr. Sattler : Chinese & Spanish

Jerry Sattler is continuing his extraordinary scholarly productivity with translations and new editions. Here are a few highlights from the first eight months of 2008: (1) The Chinese and Spanish translations of the 5th. edition of his textbook on behavioral assessment of children and (2) the fifth edition of his book on the cognitive foundations of assessment.

Sattler, J. M., & Hoge, R. D. (2008). Evaluacion infantil: Aplicaciones conductuales, sociales y clinicas. Mexico, D.F., Mexico: El Manual Moderno

Sattler, J. M., & Hoge, R. D. (2008). Assessment of Children: Behavioral, Social, and Clinical Foundations (5th ed.). Beijing, China: China Light Industry Press.

Sattler, J. M. (2008). Assessment of Children: Cognitive Foundations, Fifth Edition. San Diego: Sattler

Dr. Hillix: Web/DVD

Al Hillix's book with ex-student Dr. John Terrell (Reedley College) is essentially a fifth edition of Marx & Hillix's "Systems and theories in psychology."

It is in the process of publication in digital form by Social Sciences Press, with Dr. Jerry Baydo as Editor. It will be available for around \$30 either as a DVD or on the web. The plans are to make it rich with links to sites in the history of psychology, including videos, slide shows, and biographies. This digital edition will make life a little easier for students who have been paying \$100 or more for printed texts.

Any Emeritus Faculty volunteers interested in contributing to future editions of this newsletter? Please contact me.

Alumni

Public Lecture

The alumni chapter has been successful in recruiting Dr. Heidi Kraft for a public lecture. You may remember that Dr. Kraft is a Navy Psychologist and Graduate of the SDSU/UCSD JDP in Clinical Psychology. She recently wrote a memoir about her experiences in Iraq, entitle : "Rule Number Two: Lesson I Learned in a Combat Hospital." Heidi's lecture will be on November 20. Time and location will be announced soon.

Alumni interested in contributing to future editions of this newsletter, please contact me.

Miscellaneous

Research Participants Needed

Attention parents! If you have a child between the ages of 7 and 17 years, s/he is invited to take part in a paid research study at SDSU. We are looking for healthy, typically-developing kids and teens to complete a simple computer task and a psychological evaluation. This study is examining the link between thoughts and emotions. Compensation is \$25 cash for two hours of participation. For more information, please call Michelle at (619) 594-8898 or visit <http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/chaamp/research>.

Free treatment! Do you or your child struggle with feeling stressed, nervous, moody, or sad? The Child & Adolescent Anxiety & Mood Program is looking for parents and their kids (ages 7-17) to take part in a research assessment on parent and youth emotions. Eligible families will receive a free psychological assessment and \$25 for participation in the interview and may qualify for free treatment for anxiety and depression. For more information, please call Michelle at (619) 594-8898 or visit <http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/chaamp/research>.

The SDSU Psychology Clinic can provide treatment for a wide variety of psychological disorders. Our low-cost clinic is open to the general public (incl. students at SDSU) and serves as a training facility for the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. Doctoral students provide treatment under the supervision of SDSU faculty. We are located just off campus at 6363 Alvarado Court, #103. For more information, please call the Clinic at (619) 594-5134 or visit <http://www.psychology.sdsu.edu/doctoral/clinic.html>.

