



Psychology

alumni news

issue 1: 2007

Social News

There's something in the water at the School of Psychology. In the last year we've seen four new additions to the School's family. Lisa Nimmo and her partner Dan kicked things off with a baby girl named Charlie on the 3rd of December 2006. Charlie weighed in at a healthy seven pounds seven ounces. Not long after Donna Bayliss and her husband Gavin were delighted to welcome another girl, named Madison, into the Psychology family. Madison arrived on the 6th of December, 2006 and weighed in at nine pounds seven ounces. Vance Locke and his wife Jane produced the first boy of the last year, Oscar Locke. Oscar arrived on the 2nd of April and weighed in at seven pounds two ounces.

Not long after came Robbie Morrison, born to Dave and Sally on 16th of August. He weighed in at seven and a half pounds. This means two boys and two girls for the School in 2007. At the very least they'll each have a date for the School dinner at the end of the year.



The Quiet Boys perform at the University Club Cafe.

The School has also had a productive year on the music front. The newly formed Quiet Boys (made up of John Love, Herb Jurkiewicz, and Dave Van Valkenburg) has started performing at the UniClub Cafe. Those who attended had a great evening and the band was in superb form. We all look forward to their next gig. On the same bill, the very polished Craig Sinclair performed ahead of the release of his new album titled "Barefoot Ballads". Craig is a star of the future and we wish him well for the release of his new album.

In the last year or two we have seen Geoff Hammond and Mike Anderson promoted to Professor and Jan Fletcher and Murray Maybery promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations to all of them.

Clinic News



The 2007 MPsych(Clinical) intake. The class size has jumped from 12 to 22.

As part of the Federal Government re-investment in mental health care Universities around Australia were allocated funded places in clinical psychology training. Importantly, the Federal Government decided to award 40 of these funded places to Western Australian Universities.

Significantly the School of Psychology at UWA was awarded 20 of those places. This means that, as of this year, UWA was able to offer 20 clinical training places with no tuition fees for students (students still pay HECs, however). This is great news for the training of Clinical Psychologists and a vote of confidence for the School's Clinical Program. Well done to all those involved.

Exciting New Developments in Educational and Developmental Psychology at UWA

The MPsych (Applied Developmental) program that has run at UWA since 1991 is having a major overhaul. As well as a change of name to MPsych (Educational and Developmental) the new program will allow students who want to specialize, for example, in school psychology, work in disability services or with aged persons, to study relevant topics in more depth. Units will be available for psychologists and professionals such as teachers and speech pathologists who might want:

- individual units for professional development
- a one year sequence of units leading to a Grad Cert (Ed & Dev)
- a two year sequence of units leading to a Grad Dip (Ed & Dev)

These units will be offered in a 4-6pm time-slot to facilitate access by people working in school systems. Psychologists who complete the Grad Dip (Ed & Dev) and then decide that they would like to undertake the M Psych (Ed & Dev) can credit units towards this degree if they are successful in gaining entry.

For further information on these developments feel free to contact Associate Professor Jan Fletcher at jan@psy.uwa.edu.au.

Staff in focus – David Badcock

Professor David Badcock has contributed a great deal to the School since arriving from Melbourne University 12 years ago. David's main research focus is vision science and, more specifically, the processes involved in both spatial vision and motion perception. His work has extended to such applied areas as Melanoma detection and the visual artifacts found in migraine sufferers. David is currently President of the Psychology Foundation of Australia (<http://www.psychologyfoundation.org.au/PsychFoundationMain.htm>) and also the Australasian Society for Experimental Psychology. Apart from these important contributions to Psychological science, David is also on the Scientific and Research Advisory Group of the APS, the Board of Directors of Western Australia Neurosciences, and he is the Western Australian representative of the Australian Society for Vision Research. David's contribution to the School and to Psychology as a whole has been enormous. It is people like David who are putting Psychology at UWA on the national and international radar.



Professor David Badcock meets Year 12 students in his Human Vision lab.

Project K.I.D.S – still running strong

Project K.I.D.S., has been running for over 11 years at the Child Study Centre, under the guidance of Professor Mike Anderson. It provides a unique experience for children who come in for 2 days of their holidays and play a variety of interesting and fun games. In one such task, the kids have to help the spaceship Modularity to terraform the Planet Jensen so that the people of earth can move there. The many other fun activities include computer games, weird and wonderful hairdo's, and a treasure hunt.

Of course these activities have another purpose too: By following the kids over many years Professor Anderson and his colleagues are furthering their understanding of how young minds develop.

If you want further information on Project K.I.D.S email pkids@psy.uwa.edu.au or call 6488 7342.



Professor Mike Anderson.



Project Kids group and their supervisors.

Welcome to...

The School has welcomed a number of new faculty in the last year. Dr Michael Weinborn has joined us from Ohio State University. Mike specializes in Clinical Neuropsychology and can be contacted at mweinbo@psy.uwa.edu.au.

Dr Elliot Wood has joined us from Curtin University's Graduate School of Business and School of Psychology. He specialises in Industrial and Organisational Psychology and can be contacted at elliott@psy.uwa.edu.au.

Dr Romola Bucks has joined us from Southampton University. Romola specializes in the area of Ageing and Dementia and can be contacted at romola@psy.uwa.edu.au

Also arriving...

Dr Kathy Parkes will be arriving from Oxford University in October. Kathy specializes in Industrial and Organisational Psychology and in particular on the health, safety, and work environment of personnel working on oil/gas installations in the North Sea. She has published widely in the area of occupational stress, health, and individual differences and will be conducting research with ChevronTexaco over the summer.

Dr Pat Rabbitt, will also be joining us from Oxford. Pat is a distinguished cognitive psychologist and Professor at Oxford whose work has been widely influential in theories of mental speed, cognitive control and aging, influencing research in experimental psychology, neuropsychology and individual differences.

Dr Dorothy Bishop is Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology and a Wellcome Principal Research Fellow at Oxford University. She has published books on handedness and developmental disorders, language development in exceptional circumstances, and children's comprehension, as well as numerous research articles and is a fellow of the British Academy and the Academy of Medical Sciences. She has also established a research group dedicated to the study of children's communication impairments – a number of UWA graduates are now members of this group working at Oxford.

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Introduction of the Doctor of Psychology course in Clinical Psychology and Clinical Neuropsychology

A new Doctor of Psychology degree offering combined training in Clinical Neuropsychology and Clinical Psychology course has been introduced in the School of Psychology. Clinical Neuropsychology is a new and growing specialty practice area in applied psychology that involves provision of services to individuals with brain dysfunction, including head injury, epilepsy, stroke, and dementia. Clinical Neuropsychologists provide evaluations to assist in diagnosis of disorders such as dementia or Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, contribute to treatment planning, and implement rehabilitation techniques, amongst other services.

UWA has become only the second University in Australia to offer a post-graduate program that provides for a combined specialisation in Clinical Psychology and Clinical Neuropsychology. The program takes place over three years full time study, beginning with a thorough training in Clinical Psychology comparable to the School's Master of Psychology (Clinical), before shifting focus to an intensive grounding in Clinical Neuropsychological skills. The course is designed to provide the coursework, research and practical experience needed to allow graduates to apply for membership in the both specialty Colleges of the Australian Psychological Society (APS). The School recently hosted a site visit from the APS and accreditation is pending, with a determination expected by the end of this year. For further details on the program, please contact Dr Michael Weinborn (mweinbo@psy.uwa.edu.au) on 6488 1739.

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Departing soon...

Dr David Sang will be retiring at the end of the year. David has been with us since 1973 and many of you will know him for his contributions to teaching and research in cross-cultural and social psychology. His wisdom and the perspective he has gained from over 30 years in the School will be missed.

Dr Gilles Gignac is leaving the School at the end of the year. Gilles' statistical expertise will be sorely missed however we are glad to hear that his new position apparently offers him opportunities a couple of standard deviations above the norm. If you would like to contact Gilles before he leaves the leafy grounds of UWA, try gilles@psy.uwa.edu.au.

Dr Martyn Churcher is leaving the School after 8 years. Many Alumni will remember Martyn for his sterling work on the first year course and with the undergraduate psychology student association. Martyn can be contacted on martyn@psy.uwa.edu.au

Professor Bob Boudreau returned to Canada in July after contributing to the I/O Psychology program at UWA for the past two years. Bob is still working with UWA staff on a number of research projects and looks forward to making further visits to UWA soon. Bob can be contacted far away in Canada at boudreau@uleth.ca.

Industrial/Organisational Psychology at UWA

Industrial/Organisational Psychology is a specialist area that applies psychological knowledge and skills to work, with the aim of improving organisational effectiveness and the quality of work life.

In 2007 the School again began accepting enrolments for the Master of I/O Psychology, and now has more than 25 students enrolled in the program with 4 also studying for a PhD in I/O Psychology. The School is also welcoming Dr Kathy Parkes from Oxford University to the School each summer to help expand this program further over the next few years.

I/O Psychology research is currently being conducted with organisations as diverse as Main Roads WA, ChevronTexaco, Department of Environment and Conservation, OSAGroup, and the WA Institute of Sport.

Graduates of our I/O Psychology programs have taken up general management positions, roles as internal and external organisational development practitioners, research and business academic roles, and have developed their own private practices as psychologists consulting to industry.

Applications for next year's I/O programs close on October 31. For information about program opportunities and how to apply, contact Dr Elliot Wood at elliott@psy.uwa.edu.au.

Please feel free to contact us or send information for use in future issues:

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Student Awards in the School

Congratulations to the 2006 APS Prize winner Leanne Elvey for her thesis titled "Hemispheric differences in cortical excitability following a visuomotor tracking task." Leanne also received the HL Fowler Prize for the same project. Leanne is now working on a PhD under the supervision of Professor Geoff Hammond.

Congratulations also to Jason Bell who was awarded Best Student Talk in the Perception stream of the National Experimental Psychology Conference, at the ANU in Canberra earlier this year. Well done Jason!

Our congratulations also go to Elizabeth Newnham who won the 2007 UWA Prize for Higher Degree by Research Achievements in Humanities and the Social Sciences for her work 'Evaluating the clinical significance responses by

psychiatric inpatients to the mental health subscales of the SF-36' which appeared in the Journal of Affective Disorders. Also, congratulations to Bradley Farrant who received a Special Commendation for his paper 'Specific language impairment, theory of mind, and visual perspective taking: evidence for simulation theory and the developmental role of language' which appeared in the journal Child Development. Awarding the Prize and Commendation to students from a single School is high praise indeed, both for your School and all those involved.

Do you know of UWA Psychology Alumni who have recently received other prizes, awards, or special achievements? Drop us a line – we'd love to hear about them!

Do you want to add further value to your Psychology Qualification?

Your School offers Postgraduate Opportunities in more Psychology specialisations than any other university in Western Australia!

Choose from:

- Clinical Psychology • Educational & Developmental Psychology
- Industrial & Organisational Psychology • Clinical Neuropsychology

But do hurry

Applications for our 2008 programs close on October 31.

Contact Pamela Slobe (Pamela@psy.uwa.edu.au) on 6488 3247 for more details or visit http://www.psychology.uwa.edu.au/for/prospective_postgraduates



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