



- ▶ **Welcome**  
from Keith Campbell
- ▶ **Department News**
- ▶ **Research Spotlight**  
Lillian Eby
- ▶ **Faculty Spotlight**  
James MacKillop
- ▶ **Profiles**
- ▶ **Spring Awards Announcement**
- ▶ **History Note**  
by Roger K. Thomas



## Welcome from Department Head Keith Campbell

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to the second edition of the Psychology Department Newsletter! Thank you to everyone for demonstrating such strong interest in continuing the newsletter through kind words of appreciation and e-mails. Please continue to contact our editor, Erin Colbert-White, at [colbere@uga.edu](mailto:colbere@uga.edu) with news and suggestions.

[Back to Top](#)

## Research Spotlight: Lillian Eby

## In Memoriam

This edition of the newsletter is in memory of senior psychology major Michael Warren, who was involved in a fatal car accident on New Year's Eve. He was awarded a posthumous psychology degree from the university. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

The Psychology Department is mourning the death of Dr. Richard Marsh, who passed away Tuesday, June 8, 2010. In his 17 years in the Psychology Department he received a record nine teaching awards at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. To commemorate Rich's extraordinary commitment to mentoring students, we are creating the Richard L. Marsh Mentoring Award in his name. For more information, contact Jennifer Messer at [jlmesser@uga.edu](mailto:jlmesser@uga.edu)

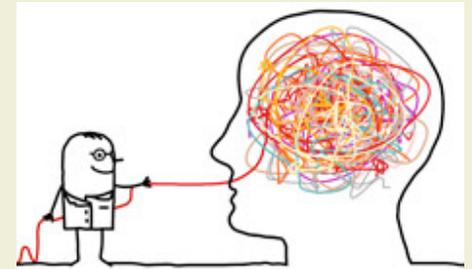


Drug abuse is the number one public health concern in this country. Every year, millions of dollars are spent trying to identify new treatments for this debilitating disorder. But as Dr. Lillian Eby (center) points out, these treatments will never see the light of day unless employees working in treatment centers have the energy, ability, and motivation to use them. High caseloads, limited resources, challenging clients, and poor working conditions all contribute to frequent employee burnout and turnover. For this reason, Dr. Eby's Project MERITS (Managing Effective Relationships in Treatment Services) research team is attempting to improve the working conditions for these valued helpers in society. With over \$7 million in grants from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, Dr. Eby and her colleagues have spent the last three years traveling to numerous treatment facilities nationwide where they have collected data and promoted the importance of Project MERITS.

The ideas behind the three components of Project MERITS are interdisciplinary in nature, combining aspects of I-O psychology, sociology, drug abuse treatment, and health services delivery. MERITS I focused on understanding how the clinical supervisory relationship related to work attitudes, burnout, and turnover. From MERITS I data, the lab has isolated in-house and education-based training as crucial preventative measures against emotional strain and resignation.

MERITS II investigated attitudes regarding the 2008 Smoking Ban in all state-funded and state-certified drug abuse facilities in New York. Here, Eby and colleagues aimed to determine to how the ban affected clinic employee attitudes, stress reactions and behaviors. They found that staff members working with clients who often considered smoking a "reward" or "lesser evil" in drug abuse treatment experienced only minor negative impacts, including slightly decreased feelings of autonomy at work, slightly increased feelings in role overload, and slightly elevated overall stress levels.

MERITS III will seek to address implementing smoking cessation programs. According to Dr. Eby, "the mere availability of [smoking cessation programs] does not ensure that it will be delivered to clients in need... we will examine how counselor skill, incentives/disincentives for using the innovation, absence of obstacles for innovation use, and commitment to the innovation predict implementation over time." For more information, explore the Project MERITS blog by clicking [here](#).



## Department News

Facebook! In order to further open the communication lines among current students, faculty, staff, and alumni, please join our Facebook page by searching for "UGA Psychology Department or simply click [here](#).

**Megan McCormick** (Clinical) received the MCG/UGA Student Exchange Award for Excellence in Biomedical Research award and will be presenting her research on immunosuppressant drug regimen adherence in adolescent organ transplant recipients at the Medical College of Georgia.

**Beth Bynum** (Applied) received a competitive national award from the Society for Industrial-Organizational Psychology. The \$3,000 scholarship is given to a promising student in support of doctoral research.

**Ruth and George Koch**, two long-time social activists in the Athens community,

## Profiles

### Staff: Florida Adams and Sarah Smith

It's nearly impossible for any UGA student, faculty, or staff member to go one day without hearing a warm "Good morning!" from either Florida Adams or Sarah Smith. With a combined 47 years working for UGA Building Services, our department has seen a lot of Florida and Sarah during the day, but what do these coworkers and friends do in their spare time? Florida enjoys going to church, and volunteers much of her time to cook, sew, visit, clothe, and run errands for many less-fortunate families in Athens. Sarah enjoys spending time with her close family of two daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild (her second great-grandchild, a girl, is due in June!). She also loves bowling and dancing. Both share a passion for music; Sarah is a song-writer and Florida a singer. When asked the most fulfilling part of being psychology department staff members, Sarah quickly replied that she loves the "feeling of family" our department has built over the years. So, the next time you hear a chipper "Good morning!" upon entering the building, take a few minutes to chat with Sarah about her bowling handicap or to congratulate Florida on her recent Twenty Years of Service Award.



### Graduate Students: Jennifer Wong and Nicolas Puente

**Nicolas Puente** is a second-year Clinical student from Wilmington, N.C. An avid surfer, Nicolas has traded his surfboard for the fMRI machine at UGA's Bio-Imaging Research Center where he is a member of the Neuropsychology and Memory Assessment Lab. For his first year project, he showed that during retrieval in a complex span task, individuals activate areas typically associated with long term memory retrieval. Nicolas, a Cuban-American, is also active in the Hispanic community. Just before coming to UGA, he co-authored a book chapter titled "The Challenge of Understanding How to Measure Abilities and Competencies in Hispanics/Latino/a/s," and he has served as a volunteer translator for medical clinics. Currently, he is working on his thesis proposal entitled, "Functional Activation in Older Adults During Executive Functioning," and he is a student clinician at both UGA and the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Pediatric Hospital.



**Jennifer Wong** is a third-year Neuroscience student from Atlanta. For her first two years, she was awarded a competitive research assistantship through the BHSI

have supported many organizations which seek to improve the lives of those whose means are insufficient to fulfill their dreams. Recently, the Koch family made a very generous contribution toward the purchase of a new digital recording and retrieval system for the Psychology Clinic. Their thoughtful, much needed, and much appreciated gift is in memory of their daughter, Leslie Whittington, who was one of the September 11th Pentagon flight victims.

**Florida Adams** (Building Services) received a Twenty Years of Service award from the UGA Finance and Administration Department. The last 16 of those years have been spent with the Psychology Department. Thank you, Florida!

How many psychologists can say that Oprah Winfrey narrated their work? **Dr. Dorothy Fragaszy** (Animal Behavior) can! Her work on nut cracking by wild capuchin monkeys in Boa Vista, Brazil was recently featured on a *Discovery News* program. The print article can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Drs. **Keith Campbell** (Social) and **Lillian Eby** (Applied) were awarded Creative Research Medals and Dr. Andrea Hohmann (Neuroscience) received the Creative Research Award at the Office of the Vice President for Research's awards ceremony.

Please see the full list of department news by clicking [here](#).

## Faculty Spotlight

### James MacKillop

Neuroscience Program. Since that time, she has published several manuscripts and abstracts, as well as presented her research at multiple conferences. Her current projects focus on macular pigment, with such research titles as "Macular Pigment and Contrast Sensitivity" and "Artificial Simulation of Macular Pigment and the Visibility Hypothesis." This summer, Jennifer has been asked by Duke University to teach two neuroscience courses for their Talent Identification Program for gifted teenagers. After earning her Ph.D., Jennifer hopes to study biomarkers for neurological diseases like epilepsy using visual and neurological techniques.

## Undergraduate Students: Kristin Stevens and Jamar Johnson

**Kristin Stevens ('11)** is an honors double-major Psychology and Biology pre-med student. She has been preparing for medical school by volunteering at Athens Regional Hospital and the Macon Volunteer Clinic, as well as in Masaya, Nicaragua where she helped establish two medical clinics. Currently, she is an assistant in Dr. Phil Holmes' lab examining the effects of chronic wheel running on brain neurotrophins and neuropeptides in rats. This experience, in conjunction with an administrative internship she completed at the Medical Center of Central Georgia, will constitute her Honors Program capstone. With all this on her plate, Kristin still finds time to hold executive positions in her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi, and the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, and she is a member of intramural flag football, basketball, and softball teams.



**Jamar Johnson ('10)** is a community service-driven student double majoring in Psychology and Social Work. During his time at UGA, Jamar has participated as an America Reads tutor at Gaines Elementary School, a mentor for both the Rocksprings Community Center and Athens-Clarke County school district, and is currently serving as the Black Affairs Council Community Service Chair. As a research assistant in Dr. Keith Campbell's lab, Jamar has worked alongside graduate student Laura Buffardi on numerous projects involving narcissism and its relationships to individuals' interactions on social networking sites such as Facebook. Jamar recently accepted a two-year position with Teach for America where he will be teaching science in Houston, TX. At the end of his TFA tenure, he intends to enroll in a clinical graduate program to study children's resilience to major family stressors such as divorce

[Back to Top](#)

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## Spring Awards Announcement

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the 33rd annual Convention of the Behavioral Sciences that was put on by Psi Chi in March: Laura Smart for first place undergraduate poster, Anastasia Bobilev for second place



### 1. What is the best part about being at UGA?

It may sound cliché, but it's the people. I'm fortunate to work with great colleagues, who are also collaborators; outstanding graduate students; and excellent undergraduates.

### 2. Describe one of your favorite experiences since moving to Athens.

I have two. I'm a big "when in Rome" person, so the first time my wife and I went to a football game it was a real pleasure to take in the spectacle of it all and it was a great game, too. The second is more Athens-related. We celebrated our first New Year's Eve here by having dinner at 5&10. It was an outstanding meal, but we also happened to be next to a table where REM's Mike Mills and friends were eating. Like the first football game, it was another classic Athens experience.

### 3. What is the overarching theme of your research?

Broadly speaking, I study addictive behavior. In particular, I study alcoholism, nicotine dependence, and pathological gambling. In my lab, we often use an approach called behavioral economics, a hybrid of psychology and economics, to better understand the causes of addiction and to develop effective treatments. We're currently using behavioral economics in studies on a range of research topics, from genetics and functional neuroimaging to human lab studies, clinical studies, and even a policy study.

### 4. What is something unique about you?

undergraduate poster, Natale Sciolino for first place graduate poster, Desiree Sharpe and Wenyi Zhou who tied for second place graduate poster, and Gene Brewer who won best paper presentation.

We also offer congratulations to those individuals who were honored with awards at our annual departmental awards ceremony in April:

A. S. Edwards Award:	Gene Brewer
Graduate Teaching Award:	Phil Holmes and Nash Unsworth
Undergraduate Teaching Award:	Kacy Welsh
Geri Moon Exemplary Staff Award:	Melissa S. Mattox
Scott Torgesen Award:	Laura M. Smart
William T. James Award:	Hannah G. Barfield
Judge Horace B. Russell Prize:	Ashley L. Watts
Charles L. Darby Award Teaching Award:	Diana L. Young
Herbert Zimmer Scholars:	Taylor E. Sparks (Applied) Wenyi Zhou (Neuroscience & Behavior ) Megan L. McCormick (Clinical) G. Rush Smith (Developmental) Benjamin P. Austin and Diana L. Young (Cognitive/Experimental ) Christopher J. Burgin (Social)
Henry E. Adams Memorial Research Award:	Jordan L. Gilleland
Florene M. Young Award:	Hilary G. Harding & Erin E. Burns
Boardman, Forehand, Jackson Award:	Eric T. Gaughan
Charles D. Smock Memorial Award:	John R. Best
Martha Jo Walker Johnson Memorial Fund:	Laura E. Buffardi

This year we granted the first Dan Mack Graduate Support award to Bryan Dawson. This new graduate award is in memory of Dr. Dan Mack, a professor who was tragically killed in 2000, only one year after earning his Ph.D. from the I-O program at the University of Georgia. Through generous donations from friends and family, the Dan Mack Graduate Support award was established to provide financial support to promising Industrial-Organizational students.

Many graduate students were also awarded teaching certificates for their fulfillment of the Center for Teaching and Learning's TA/GTA program. Thank you for your enthusiastic dedication to positively influencing the academic careers of others!

Special thanks go to the donors and supporters who made these awards possible. The Psychology Department also wishes to thank Psi Chi and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences for sponsoring this wonderful event. We are particularly grateful to Jennifer Messer and Hollis Yates for their hard work in planning this event. If you are interested in supporting any of these scholarship funds, please call our Development Director, Jennifer Messer at (706) 542-0068 or email her at [jlmesser@uga.edu](mailto:jlmesser@uga.edu) to learn more on ways you can help the department

[Back to Top](#)

I'm a relatively new US citizen. My family moved to the US from the United Kingdom when I was 11 and I became a citizen about 10 years ago. I still go back to the UK regularly to visit family.

#### 5. How do people react when you tell them your lab space has a functioning bar?

People are always very surprised to hear about it at first, but once I explain it they quickly understand. The bar laboratory uniquely allows us to study important aspects of alcohol-related behavior, including the role of alcohol-related triggers, decision making for alcohol versus other rewards, and alcohol's effects under naturalistic conditions. We can also use the bar lab to more realistically study the effects of alcoholism medications on those above areas. We have two grants from the National Institutes of Health that are focused on improving medications for treating alcoholism. In contrast to the bar lab, if we simply used typical sterile lab rooms, we'd be missing important aspects of the real world and undermining the validity of our research.

#### 6. What is your favorite movie and why?

I have a lot of favorites, but the mockumentaries by Christopher Guest et al. (Spinal Tap, Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show) are reliable favorites.

#### 7. What's one piece of advice you can give to undergraduate psychology majors?

At a big public university like UGA, make sure you don't slip through the cracks. It's important to identify your interests and seek out the faculty here who can help you develop them. That was a mistake I made as an undergraduate; I didn't really connect with faculty mentors until my senior year. Major research institutions like UGA have fantastic faculty in a wealth of different areas, but opportunities to work with them won't fall in an undergrad's lap; they need to take the initiative right away.

## History Note

### By Roger K. Thomas

For the first 108 years, any semblance of psychology was taught as philosophy in the Franklin College. In 1908, psychology became part of the newly developing Peabody School of Education. Edwards earned his Ph.D. in Psychology in 1912 at Cornell. After teaching four years at the University of Minnesota, Edwards moved to UGA. Called into military service in 1917, Edwards served with the psychologists who developed the Army's Alpha and Beta IQ tests. Returning to UGA in 1919, Edwards realized the lack of regard in the Peabody School for psychology as a science, and he led a "mutiny" (his word) that resulted in psychology's return to the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences in 1921, the founding date for the present Psychology Department. Edwards was department head until 1951. He also founded the Psychology Clinic (recognized officially, 1930) and was its director until 1950.



**Austin Southwick Edwards**  
1885-1976

Please see: [rkthomas.myweb.uga.edu/EdwardsChapter](http://rkthomas.myweb.uga.edu/EdwardsChapter).

[Back to Top](#)

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