



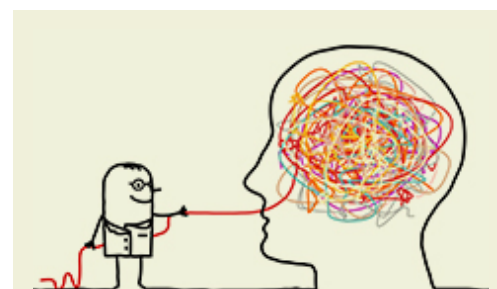
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Welcome from Department Head Keith Campbell

Welcome to the summer 2013 edition of the departmental newsletter. We have had an eventful few months. Our students and faculty continue doing important research in areas from neuroscience to culture. But we have faced some unexpected challenges as well. Most notable was the great flood of 2013. There was a break in one of the new sprinkler lines on the 5th floor and in minutes we had water bursting through the ceilings of all the floors below. Thanks to the fast work of our colleagues at physical plant and the departmental members who came into the building before dawn! The damage was not as bad as it could have been. Everyone enjoy your summer break!

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Research Spotlight: Larry Sweet



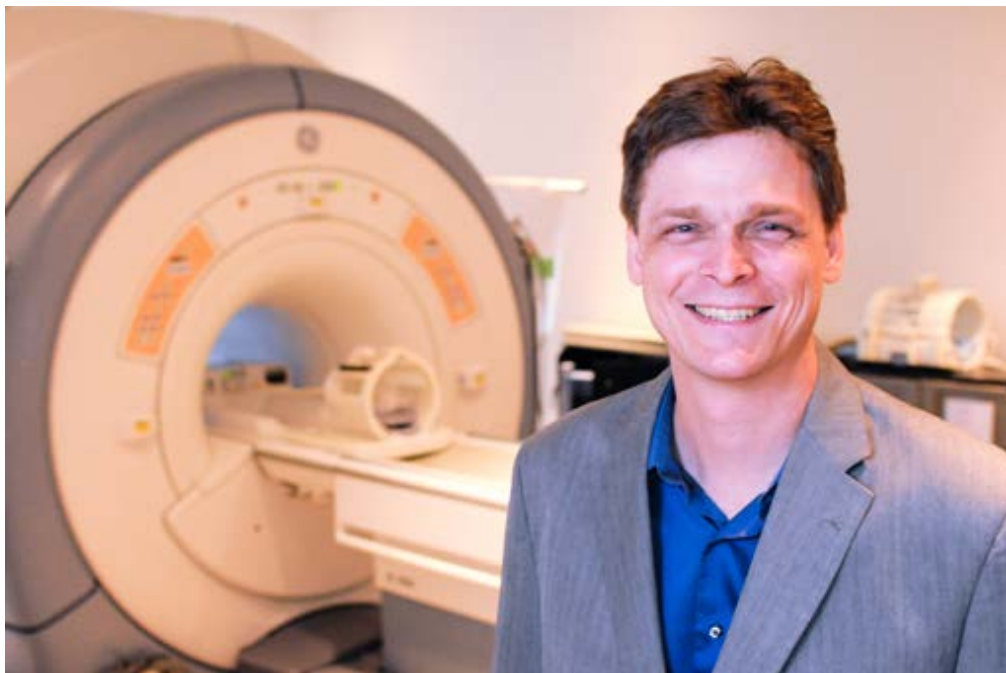
Departmental News

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Clinical graduate **Dr. Maya Gupta** received the Task Force Member of the Year Award from the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. Dr. Gupta is the Executive Director of Ahimsa House, a service for the human and animal victims of domestic violence. Visit www.ahimsahouse.org for more information about Dr. Gupta's organization.

Clinical graduate student **Monika Stojek's** recent article, "Impulsivity and Motivations to Consume Alcohol: A Prospective Study on Risk of Dependence in Young Adult Women," was recently featured on



Dr. Lawrence Sweet recently joined the psychology department as our first Gary R. Sperduto Professor of Clinical Psychology. His lab, the Clinical Neuroscience Laboratory (CNS-Lab), is affiliated with the Clinical Psychology and Behavior and Brain Sciences programs, as well as our multidisciplinary Neuroscience program. As a trained clinical neuropsychologist specializing in neuroimaging, Dr. Sweet integrates multimodal neuroimaging and neuropsychological assessments with clinical research methodology to examine brain-behavior relationships as they pertain to neuropsychiatric disorders. According to Dr. Sweet, the major research goals in the CNS-Lab are to “identify neural markers and mechanisms, with the broader goals of early detection, improved assessments, and the development of effective interventions.” Dr. Sweet has been funded by NIH to employ imaging methods in multidisciplinary research in behavioral medicine and neurological disorders, including addiction, weight loss, cardiovascular disease, and multiple sclerosis.

Before coming to UGA, Dr. Sweet had a strong research program at Brown University, where he continues to maintain several active research collaborations. One study found evidence of frontal over-activation in situations where food craving was provoked in formerly obese individuals who successfully maintained weight loss. That is to say, compared to currently obese and normal-weight controls, hungry successful weight-loss maintainers engage brain regions associated with cognitive control more in response to food cues. Dr. Sweet is currently examining such overactivation in eating and substance use disorders to determine whether it might represent a useful marker of subsequent treatment failure, which might guide individually tailored interventions.

Currently, two major studies are underway at the UGA CNS-Lab. The first is a project examining the etiology of cognitive dysfunction in patients with cardiovascular disease. Dr. Sweet has demonstrated that vascular and neural mechanisms interact to produce the cognitive deficits observed in cardiac patients, and that specific markers emerge that can be used to identify and even potentially reverse some of the associated cognitive dysfunction. The second study focuses on neural and genetic underpinnings of nicotine dependence. Initial findings have supported the use of fMRI for

EurekaAlert! and popular internet website BuzzFeed. The article was published in *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

In December, **Natale Sciolino** (Neuroscience) was awarded a competitive full fellowship to attend a week-long neural Systems and Behavior course in São Paulo, Brazil. The course was sponsored jointly by Marine Biological Laboratories and the University of São Paulo.

Matt Sanders (BBS) and **Dr. Lenny Martin** were featured on the University of Georgia’s main website for their research. Their work, published in *Psychological Science*, examined the relationship between sugar consumption and reaction time.

Graduate students **Kristin Loiselle** (Clinical), **Bonney Reed-Knight** (Clinical), and **Natale Sciolino** (Neuroscience) were named ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Students) Scholars. The award recognizes achievements made by graduate students in the biomedical and health sciences.

Dr. Brian Hoffman was the keynote speaker at the International Congress on Assessment Center Methods in Stellenbosch, South Africa in March. His book, *The Psychology of Assessment Centers*, was also recently published.

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complementary assessment of traditional neuropsychological domains (e.g., inhibitory control, executive function, and attention) and subjective states (e.g., craving, emotion, effort, and fatigue). This work has provided the basis for a study of smoking cessation that begins this spring to determine whether such fMRI assessments improve the ability to identify smokers who might benefit from interventions that are targeted at specific neural systems.

To read more:

Sweet, L. H., Hassenstab, J., McCaffery, J. M., Haley, A. P., Bond, D., Raynor, H. A., ... & Wing, R. R. (2012). Brain response to food stimulation in obese, normal weight, and successful weight loss maintainers. *Obesity*, 20(11), 2220-2225.

Sweet L. H., Mulligan R. C., Finnerty C. E., Jerskey B. A., David S. P., Cohen R. A., & Niaura R. S. (2010). Effects of nicotine withdrawal on verbal working memory and associated brain response. *Psychiatry Research*, 183(1), 69-74.

Sweet, L. H., Rao, S. M., Primeau, M., Durgerian, S., & Cohen, R. A. (2006). FMRI response to increased working memory demands among patients with Multiple Sclerosis. *Human Brain Mapping*, 27(1), 28-36.

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Profiles

Staff: Daniel Harrison

Undergraduate adviser Daniel Harrison joined the psychology department in March 2012. Originally from a small town in Texas, Daniel completed his undergraduate degree in religious studies at the University of Texas at Austin. In 2008, he moved to Athens where he earned his J.D. from UGA's Law School. Daniel first served as an advisor for all bachelor of science areas in the Franklin College lower-division advising office in Memorial Hall. According to Daniel, he enjoys working with undergraduates, and considers psychology majors to be "some of the most interesting people on campus." When he's not advising, processing PSYC4800 forms, or helping with the spring departmental graduate ceremony, Daniel loves to indulge his inner geek by playing video games, working on computers, and watching sci-fi TV shows. He and fellow advisor Tracey Villaveces are located in the Undergraduate Advising Office in room 219.



Graduate Students: Alex LoPilato and Erica Fortune

A "double-Dawg," **Alex LoPilato** (I-O) earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from UGA in 2010 and is currently finishing his master's thesis, "The Outcomes of Ethical and Unethical Leadership: A Meta-Analysis," under the

Faculty Spotlight

Nathan Carter



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

As the old adage goes, the people make the place. I have really been impressed by the collaborative and collegial culture at UGA both with faculty and students. Many have really gone out of their way to make me feel welcome.

2. Explain the overarching theme of your research.

I would say the overarching theme of my research is the promotion of accuracy in organizational decision-making. Primarily, I study how measurement models can be used to attain better estimates of persons' psychological characteristics and identify bias and inaccuracy in psychological scales. I conduct this research with the hope that it will lead to high-quality, fair decisions by employers. This theme is further extended by my research concentrating on the interaction between human intuition and employment decision aids (e.g., tests, interviews), and my research concerning the history of methodology in applied psychology.

3. Describe one of your favorite experiences since you moved to Athens.

Seeing local band **Reptar** at their record release show (at the 40 Watt) the day after I moved in, and hearing them perform a



direction of Dr. Brian Hoffman. Alex's research interests are broad, and include performance measurement, leadership emergence and effectiveness, as well as psychometrics and statistics. During his graduate tenure, Alex has been involved in a variety of consulting projects ranging from addressing performance gaps for the UGA Police Department to coding responses to an annual company survey for the United Parcel Service. Though research is a primary focus for Alex, he developed a strong interest in teaching after serving as a lab TA and instructor of record for Research Analysis in Psychology and Introduction to Psychological Testing, respectively. Outside of research and teaching, Alex enjoys reading literature on the philosophy of science and statistics, and considers himself to be a fantasy novel buff. Upon earning his doctorate, Alex hopes to secure a position at a research-focused institution and attempt wing suit flying.

Erica Fortune (BBS) is a doctoral candidate in the Georgia Decision Lab working under the direction of Dr. Adam Goodie. Her research interests focus broadly on the decision making processes of pathological gamblers and how gambling is related to other forms of risky behavior (e.g., alcohol and drug use, deviant acts, risky sexual activities). Enthusiastic about teaching and undergraduate education, Erica is an active member of the Psychology Educator Development Association and a participant in the Center for Teaching and Learning's highly competitive Future Faculty Program. Upon graduating, Erica plans to work in a teaching-focused academic environment, while still maintaining an active research program that broadens her work in the field of Judgment and Decision Making. When asked about her outside interests, Erica responded that she enjoys cooking (and eating) and attempting craft projects seen on Pinterest, with limited success. She also enjoys running and working out as a way to control the aftermath of all of the cooking (and eating).

Undergraduate Students: Abby Weinberger and Carter Galbraith

For senior **Abby Weinberger**, staying active has many definitions. She is an avid kickboxer, a sport which she has practiced since she was 15. Abby has also served in leadership positions for many organizations including her sorority, Sigma Delta Tau, which hosts the biggest philanthropy on UGA's campus. She also volunteers as a mentor for the Thomas Lay After-School Mentoring Program, and helps fellow undergraduates learn about Jewish customs and traditions as a Sinai Scholars coordinator at the UGA Chabad House. Though Abby's main interests are in I-O psychology, she is currently working as a research assistant in both the Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory (advisors: Drs. Jennifer McDowell and Brett Clementz) and the Exercise Psychology Laboratory (advisor: Dr. Patrick O'Connor). Under the direction of Dr. McDowell, Abby recently presented a poster, "Aerobic Fitness is Associated with Intra-Individual



new song titled "New House." It was very serendipitous.

4. What is something we may not know about you?

I was adopted at birth, and purely by chance met my biological sister while working part-time at WalMart in high school (she also worked there). I also later found out that I had double-dated to prom with my biological brother without knowing it. I am still figuring out how to go about selling the rights of this story to be made into a *Lifetime* miniseries.

5. A quote that best exemplifies who you are?

"I am, somehow, less interested in the weight and convolutions of Einstein's brain than in the near certainty that people of equal talent have lived and died in cotton fields and sweatshops." -Stephen Jay Gould

6. If you weren't a psychologist, what would you be?

I think I probably would have wanted to become a historian of mathematicians. They are some of the most colorful characters I have ever learned about. Pythagoras and his mathematically inclined religious cult have always really fascinated me.

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History Note

By Roger K. Thomas

Variability in Reaction Time,” at the APA Convention in Orlando, and an oral presentation, “Cognitive Measures, Antisaccade Performance, and Obesity in Children” at the UGA CURO Symposium. Upon graduating, Abby plans to pursue a M.Ed. in Leadership and Organization Performance.

Carter Galbraith ('13) has spent much of his undergraduate tenure preparing himself for a career in medicine. He has traveled to Belize, Ecuador, and South Africa to provide communities with medical care. Carter has supplemented his medical service volunteerism with a variety of leadership positions, including acting as corresponding secretary and recording secretary of his fraternity Phi Gamma Delta; vice president of the Blue Key Honor Society; coaching coordinator for the UGA MathCounts Outreach; and chairman of all campus allocation, Franklin College senator, and associate justice for the UGA Student Government Association. Since 2011, Carter has been actively involved in the UGA Vision Sciences Laboratory under Dr. Randy Hammond and the Human Biofactors Laboratory under Dr. Lisa Renzi. Currently, he assists with EEG data collection studying the effects of lutein and zeaxanthin on neural efficiency. Upon graduating, Carter plans to attend medical school with the ultimate goal of being involved with HIV/AIDS research.

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Just for Laughs...



William T. James (1903-1998) and Animal Research

In 1946, William T. James (Ph.D. Cornell, 1929) was invited by A. S. Edwards, Department Head, to come to UGA and establish a program in physiological psychology and animal behavior. Dr. Edwards assigned a room in Meigs Hall for animal research, and James began constructing rat cages and testing apparatuses. “Begging from researchers at other universities” (quoting James) he acquired some rats and began breeding them. Animal research in psychology at UGA was underway.

Also in 1946, a student told James about an abandoned litter of puppies in a hollow tree on campus; thus, began dog behavioral research at UGA. In the basement of Meigs Hall, James built dog pens and testing apparatuses, but feral rats in Meigs' basement transmitted a disease that killed the dogs. With a \$1,000 grant from the dean of the Graduate School and outdoor space behind Baldwin Hall, James constructed dog kennels, obtained some beagles, and continued his research.

In 1962, an abandoned dormitory known as Camp Wilkins was assigned to Psychology for animal research. Camp



Artist: Senior psychology major **Eric Adams**

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Support the Department

There are many ways to support the department. Financial contributions are most welcome, but we also appreciate our alumni who give their time to speak to our current students and new graduates by providing advice about careers in specific areas. Thank you!

Make a Donation

The Department of Psychology appreciates your financial support. Every dollar contributed to the department has a direct impact on our students and faculty. Your gift is important to us and helps support critical opportunities for students and faculty alike, including lectures, travel support, and any number of educational events that augment the classroom experience.

For more information about this and other funds in the department, or additional ways you can help, please contact Jennifer Messer, Director of Development, at 706-542-0068 or email at jlmesser@uga.edu. [Donate Now!](#)



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Wilkins was demolished in 1964 to make way for the Agricultural Engineering Building, and Psychology received a new laboratory building behind the Veterinary College. Circa 1969, when the Veterinary College wanted Psychology's building, Psychology received two new laboratory buildings on College Station Road; these have since been demolished.

James's research focused on learning and social behavior in animals, and during his career he studied 10 mammalian species including armadillos and opossums (no primates). He supervised the department's first Ph.D. student, William Angemeier, whose dissertation investigated social reinforcement in rats (Ph.D. 1960).

Please see James's humorous "Establishing Animal Laboratories at the University of Georgia" in *History of the Department of Psychology of the University of Georgia to 1969* by Florene M. Young (unpublished manuscript in UGA's Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library).

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