

THE SELF MONITOR

The Official Alumni Newsletter of the Psychology Department of the State University of New York at New Paltz

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Welcome to the second annual newsletter dedicated to the alumni of the Psychology Department at the State University of New York at New Paltz. I am always amazed at what our alumni have accomplished, and it seems only fitting that we find ways to stay in touch.

The goal of the newsletter is to provide a venue for interested alumni to share with others (including fellow alumni, current and prospective students, and faculty) just what they have been up to since they graduated from New Paltz. There are many ways for us to stay connected, and this is just one of them.

The Psychology Department has a **Facebook** presence now, so if you are on Facebook, please find and join the groups “SUNY New Paltz Psych Alumni” and the more inclusive “Psychology Community at SUNY New Paltz.” We currently have about 120 members between these two groups and they continue to grow.

I want to thank everyone who has been involved in our efforts to better connect with past students. In particular, Drs. Phyllis Freeman and Glenn Geher have been instrumental in making this all possible.

This will be my first and last “Note from the Department Chair,” as Dr. Glenn Geher will be taking the reigns starting in August 2009 for the next three years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his past and current service, and to wish him a successful term as chair.

We hope you enjoy spending a few moments learning what is happening at your alma mater, as well as the recent activities and accomplishments of your fellow alumni. Let us know if you would like to be featured in an upcoming issue. Finally, if you have comments or questions, don’t hesitate to contact the editors at the e-mail addresses listed above. If you have suggestions for future items to include, we’d love to hear from you!

Douglas C. Maynard, Ph.D.
Chair, Psychology Department

Psychology Department Welcomes New Staff

The Psychology Department is extremely lucky to have two new staff-persons of exceptional quality working with us.

Jane Lehman is the new Secretary of the Psychology Department, and Susan Buckbee works half-time in the department working specifically in the Psychology and Counseling Graduate Office.

Welcome, Jane and Susan.

Jane Lehman



I have been the secretary for the SUNY New Paltz Psychology Department since June of 2008, and appreciate getting to know the members of the faculty and students alike.

I live in New Paltz with my husband, David; and son Daniel, who just graduated from the College of St. Rose with a degree in Criminal Justice. I am an artist, working in mixed media/collage, and a member of the Unframed Artists' Gallery in New Paltz, New York. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Montclair State University.

Susan Buckbee



I joined the department in 2008 as secretary to the graduate programs in psychology and counseling.

I am excited to be part of the Graduate Psychology Department at SUNY New Paltz. I am currently majoring in Psychology at UCCC. My interests include furthering my education in Psychology, drawing, and painting.

Psi Chi to Host 2010 Student Conference

The SUNY New Paltz Chapter of Psi Chi is pleased to announce that they will be hosting on campus the **4th Annual Mid-Hudson Psychology Research Conference**. This conference was created in the Spring of 2007 by our chapter, when alumnus Dr. Julian Keenan was the keynote speaker (see page 4 for his alumni spotlight).

We are excited to host it again in Spring 2010! Keep an eye on the conference website for details as we get them:

<http://www.newpaltz.edu/midhudsonpsyconf/>

Introducing New Psychology Faculty

We are extremely pleased to welcome three new faculty to the Psychology Department – Dr. Greta Winograd and KatySue Tillman, who joined the faculty in August 2008, and Navin Viswanathan, who will be joining us in August 2009.

Greta Winograd, Ph.D.



Greta Winograd received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology (specialization in school psychology) from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2005. From 2005-8, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Psychiatric Epidemiology Training program at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Here at SUNY New Paltz, Dr. Winograd teaches Introductory Psychology, Introduction to Psychological Testing, and a Mental Illness and Stigma Seminar at the undergraduate level. At the graduate level, Dr. Winograd teaches Psychological Assessment and Statistics. Current research projects with undergraduate psychology students include: young people's knowledge about risk factors for psychosis; person-environment fit among adults with symptoms of personality disorder.

Kathleen Tillman, MA



Ms Tillman is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Dakota. She started to teach at New Paltz in fall 2008. Ms Tillman teaches Introductory Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and the Psychology of Childhood Trauma (undergraduate courses) and school counseling courses in our graduate program. Ms Tillman's research interests include children and trauma, play therapy and school-based mental health services.

Navin Viswanathan



I will be joining the Psychology department in Fall 2009. I am a Cognitive/ Experimental psychologist and I did my graduate studies at the University of Connecticut (go Huskies!). I am specifically interested in how we perceive and produce speech as well as how we use language for communication. Apart from my academic interests, I am hopelessly addicted to watching sports (cricket, tennis, football, soccer, baseball etc), play a few sports, enjoy the outdoors, and travelling. I greatly look forward to coming to New Paltz.

Psychology Faculty Win Teaching Awards

Dr. Phyllis Freeman received the **2008 SUNY New Paltz Alumni Association Distinguished Teacher Award**, which is presented to a faculty member whose singular accomplishments exceed normal expectations in a chosen field, on March 21. Professor Freeman has been a member of the faculty since 1975 and was the first College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year for 1995-1996. Dr. Glenn Geher received this award the prior year. And at the May 2009 Commencement, Dr. Geher was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. This is the highest award for teaching given by the State University of New York system.

Congratulations to both awardees!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

PKay Kermani (Undergraduate class of 1979)

I was in the psychobiology concentration, and spent a lot of time in Dr. Freeman's lab working with the experiments measuring the teratogenic effects of methadone on white rats. I quit graduate school when we were expecting our first child, then three more followed. When the youngest started junior high, I went back to school and became a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. I have a full time practice now at Spectrum Behavioral Health, with offices in Poughkeepsie and Fishkill. I also work in the psychiatric ER one day/month doing psychiatric evaluations so I don't forget my emergency psychiatric skills. I think of Dr Freeman, David Morse, and my experiences at New Paltz often.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Don Warren (MA program from 1980-1982)



I entered the MA program back in 1980 with the intention of becoming a counseling psychologist. I soon found that my faculty mentors, Drs. Freeman and Sloan, would also support my broader interests in experimental psychology and animal behavior. Their encouragement would lead me down paths that have been more worthwhile to travel than I had imagined at the time.

My path from New Paltz led me through doctoral studies in biopsychology at Albany (where I also met my wife Dawn), postdoctoral research at the University of Colorado, clinical training at the University of Georgia, a clinical appointment at West Virginia University, neuropsychology practice at a brain injury clinic in Syracuse, a counseling practice in several nursing homes in Western NY, and finally my current job. For the past six years I have been working as a psychologist and program manager at Rochester Psychiatric Center.

I recently established a program of cognitive rehabilitation at RPC, and now spend my time running computer-assisted cog rehab groups and supervising the team of therapists who participate. My clinical and research background have been invaluable to me in this project. Oftentimes when I am conducting a group or a team meeting, or gathering data, I find myself recalling fond memories of my TA and laboratory experiences at New Paltz.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Julian Keenan (Undergraduate Class of 1991;
MA program Class of 1994)



I owe my entire career to the caring, dedicated, and wonderful faculty of the Department of Psychology from The College at New Paltz. While the names have changed a bit, it is clear that the commitment to excellence continues to this day. I received both my Bachelors and Masters degrees in the early nineteen nineties. It was here, in the basement, that I conducted my very first neuroimaging experiments under the guidance of Dr. Phyllis Freeman.

From there I went to Albany and then Harvard for my doctorate and am now at Montclair State University, with collaborations across the world. My research has focused on the self, the brain, and evolution with detours into deception and deception detection. I have been able to do some amazing things in my career from founding the journal *Social Neuroscience*, to publishing in *Science* and *Nature*. None of this would have been possible without the guidance of the faculty, from the classroom to the laboratory. Whenever I am faced with a problem, be it a lecture not coming together or an experiment that doesn't seem well-designed, I immediately pick up the phone or send an email to Phyllis. There is no way I can put in words the gratitude I have for the department, though it warms my heart to see the tradition of superb teaching and research continue to this day.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Krystle Hearn (Undergraduate Class of 2004)



After graduating from New Paltz in 2004 with a B.A. in Psychology, I went on to pursue my Master's degree at New York University. There, along with Dr. Madeline Heilman and Elizabeth Parks-Stamm, I focused on a line of research examining the motivation behind women's interpersonal derogation of other women. This research eventually developed into my Master's thesis, "Motivated to Penalize: Women's Strategic Rejection of Successful Women", which was published in the February 2008 issue of *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

I have been living in New York City for the past 4 years, where I am currently the Associate Research Director of the Hospital for Special Surgery's Children and Adolescent Hand and Arm (CHArm) Center. The focus of the CHArm Center research is on improving treatment of acute injuries and long standing neurological or congenital issues of the hand and upper extremity. As Associate Research Director, I am responsible for directly coordinating each of the Center's research projects.

My research background, the foundation for which was established during my time at New Paltz, has proven to be a fundamental resource in my life after college. The research experiences in the Psychology Department at New Paltz, afforded me by Dr. Glenn Geher, as well as the motivating support and influence of its faculty, have contributed significantly in my academic and professional aspirations.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Erin Schoebler (Undergraduate Class of 2004)



After receiving my BA from New Paltz in 2004, I went on to get my MA in Psychology from Marist College. I have been working as a Behavioral Clinician for the Orange County Mobile Mental Health Team since August of 2008, providing crisis intervention services to individuals throughout the county. I am also an adjunct professor at Mount Saint Mary College. I currently live in Montgomery, NY and continue to partake in research involving cognitive remediation in severely mentally ill populations.

My education at SUNY New Paltz allowed me to explore many different areas within the mental health field to gain a better idea of what path I wanted to follow without ending up over my head in student loans at the end! I feel that the knowledge I gained here set the course for my career and allowed me to be a successful clinician.

Alumni Weekend 2009 – October 16-18

Each year, the university organizes a series of events for alumni reunion weekend. See: <http://www.newpaltz.edu/alumni/reunion/> for the alumni webpage. Among other activities, the weekend includes dinner with former classmates, departmental receptions, tours of the local vineyards, and hikes in the *Gunks*. We look forward to welcoming you home to New Paltz!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Wallace (Undergraduate Class of 2006)



Since graduating in December of 2006, I moved down to NYC to help with research at Columbia University's Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory. I worked on an experiment for several months with Dr. Andreas Olsson, a post-doctoral fellow investigating rejection-sensitivity in human subjects. Shortly thereafter I took a position at the NYU School of Medicine's department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in clinical administration, and have been here for two years.

In the fall of 2008 I was accepted into the Master's program at Hunter College, concentrating in Animal Behavior and Conservation, where I am enrolled half-time. I am primarily interested in sexual selection and mating preferences in animals. I expect to graduate in May 2010 and will apply to PhD programs within the next few years.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOU!

Would you like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter? Do you have any news you'd like to share? We want to hear from you! Please contact one of the editors:

Dr. Freeman (freemanp@newpaltz.edu),
Dr. Geher (geherg@newpaltz.edu), or
Dr. Maynard (maynardd@newpaltz.edu)

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