

# Ψ PSYCHOLOGY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010 • THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA • COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: BEVERLY THORN

Although I have been at UA since 1986 and served as Director of Clinical Training (DCT) for almost 15 years, this year was my first as Chair of the department. While Chair, Charlie Rickard often wistfully noted that the DCT position was the best administrative position one could hold; Carl Clements later concurred. Although I loved being DCT and particularly working with graduate students, I am finding an equal affinity for working with faculty and staff. I have the best vantage point



in the department because I am finally knowledgeable about what everyone is doing; the professional activities of the faculty and students here are astounding. As we continue toward “higher levels of excellence” we fiercely hold onto the traditional values of this department – collegiality and student training over individual glory. Now that I’ve had a year to learn the ropes, I’m hoping to increase my efficiency and remove barriers so that faculty and students can do their work more easily.

## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR:

### TEACHING

- We significantly increased the number of students served during the past year, with 277 undergraduate and graduate courses taught, and total student enrollment in the classes of 7400
- Almost 500 officially declared undergraduate PY majors
- 96 Doctoral students enrolled
- 130 BA/BS degrees, 14 Ph.D.s and 7 MA degrees awarded in 2009

### RESEARCH

- Faculty published 3 books, 56 refereed articles, and 21 book chapters this year
- Faculty have 2 books, 52 refereed articles and 22 chapters in press
- Faculty participated in 195 presentations at conferences (70 international, 73 national, 25 regional, and 27 state)
- 60 new applications for external funding submitted for a total of \$17,430,815, with > \$3.5 million in force.

### SERVICE

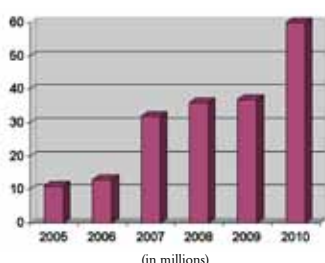
- Faculty served on 50 College/University committees and committees for 27 professional organizations, 45 State/National agencies, and 2 private agencies
- 5 faculty were Editors-in Chief of refereed journals
- 10 faculty served on the editorial board of 23 journals
- The Psychology Clinic served 203 clients in general and specialty clinics (5/1/09-4/30/10)

### AWARDS

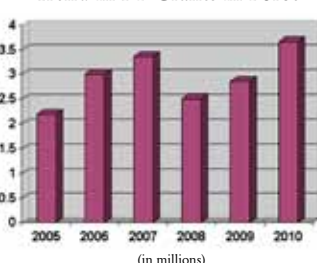
- 9 faculty received Department, College and University awards or honors
- 3 faculty received awards or honors from professional organizations
- 47 students received Department, College, and University awards or honors

*Message from the Chair, continued on page 2*

Trend in PY # Grants Submitted



Trend in PY Grants in Force



### Inside this issue:

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From left: Carl Clements, Bob Lyman, Blaise Mercadante, Beverly Thorn, and Judy Hall look over architectural plans for McMillan Hall.

## Goals and Initiatives for the 2010-2011 Academic Year:

We held our first departmental strategic planning meeting in 10 years on August 16-17, 2010. Dr. Blaise Mercadante (UA Ph.D., 1981 Secretary/Treasurer of Psychology Advisory Board) donated his time and expertise to facilitate the meeting. This year we plan to develop and implement a plan for strategic and controlled growth in graduate enrollment, with an eye towards facilitating students' progress through the Ph.D. program. We will also begin offering an online PY 101 class each semester. Steve Prentice-Dunn spent the spring semester designing a cutting-edge course in collaboration with McGraw-Hill, and he will "test drive" our first McGraw-Hill online course in the fall. Plans are full speed ahead to move the Psychology clinic to McMillan Hall (a 7-minute walk from Gordon Palmer Hall); we will begin exploring options for refurbishing GP clinic space for clinical and experimental research facilities.

Finally, we are also considering a Gala Celebration and Alumni Reunion commemorating 500 Psychology Ph.D. graduates for either the 2012 or the 2013 academic year. We would love to have alumni involved in these or other initiatives, and your ideas are always welcome! Please send them to Bev at [btborn@ua.edu](mailto:btborn@ua.edu).

# THE UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

As the University has grown, the Undergraduate Program has continued to grow larger and stronger. In the 2009-2010 academic year, the number of majors and pre-majors increased to almost 700, and we taught nearly 7000 undergraduate students. We are one of the largest majors in the College of Arts and Sciences, graduating 130 this year. Our current students are of high quality as well. Every semester, approximately 75-100 are actively involved in faculty research programs, with a good number of them (around 10 each year) making contributions substantial enough to earn authorships on conference presentations or publications prior to graduation.

The Psychology Honors Program has also continued to grow. The two year program gives undergraduate students a taste of graduate school through completion of a research project that culminates in an undergraduate Honors Thesis. A record 14 Senior Honors students presented posters of their research on Honors Day and orally defended their theses. Many of these students also presented their research at the University of Alabama Undergraduate Research Conference. Two students, Taylor Monson and Samantha Price, won awards for their research, competing against students from other departments across the University. Also, a record 19 sophomore students were admitted into the program for their junior and senior years.



Graduating seniors Natalie Beck, Jessi Emmons, Joshua Quick, and Emily Robinson receive awards for undergraduate excellence on Honors Day – all had a perfect 4.0 grade point average!

In 2008 we announced a new undergraduate scholarship named in honor of Norman R. Ellis, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychology. The award is given to rising Senior Psychology majors holding promise of careers that will make distinguished contributions to psychological research. The first two students to receive this award in 2008 were Anna Gordon and Emily Patty. This award helped both students tremendously and allowed them to focus on their research during their Senior year. Anna is pursuing her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at the University of Alabama. Emily is also an active researcher pursuing her Ph.D. in School Psychology at Louisiana State University.

## 2009 Undergraduate Departmental Awards

**Outstanding Undergraduate Senior Major Award:** Carson Sandy. Carson just completed her first year of graduate school at the University of Texas in Social Psychology.

**Andrew Reaves Memorial Award:** Kristin Aguirre. Kristi has started the Ph.D. program in Educational Psychology at Purdue University in fall 2010.

**Norman R. Ellis Endowed Scholarship:** Jessica Emmons, Emily Robinson. Jessi just began a two year research fellowship position at the Child Study Center at Yale University. Emily began the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program at the University of North Texas in fall, 2010.

## 2010 Undergraduate Departmental Awards

**Outstanding Undergraduate Senior Major Award:** Jessica Emmons, Emily Robinson.

**Andrew Reaves Memorial Award:** Desirée Tallent. Desirée is currently working on her Ph.D. in School Psychology at The University of Alabama.

**Norman R. Ellis Endowed Scholarship:** Ashlee Eaton, Raul Ramirez. Ashlee and Raul are both actively working on their Honors theses and are both planning to start graduate school in fall 2011.



# GRADUATE STUDENTS VOLUNTEER

Graduate students are involved in many activities including research, therapy, assessments, class, placements, and teaching. Because of their busy schedules, volunteer work often gets pushed aside. Even those wanting to participate may not know where to start. However, there are students who have fit volunteer activities into their schedules.

**Jillian Pierucci** volunteers for the Children's Ministry and Food Pantry at the Vineyard Community Church. Food pantry services are great volunteer opportunities. As Jillian says, "It is so humbling to see others in need and to be reminded of our many blessings!"

**Abbie Perelman** has volunteered for numerous organizations. She has worked with the Salvation Army and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in preparing and serving meals, and visiting with residents, community members, and veterans. Abbie has also provided psychological consultations to attorneys working on cases for the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program. This program strives to protect, promote, and expand clients' rights. Partly because of her service activities, Abbie was chosen by the UA Graduate Student Association as the GSA Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year.

**Courtney Worley** has worked on campus as a peer educator with Project Health, a group that provides workshops and outreach programs on a variety of topics related to student health. Topics include nutrition and physical activity, alcohol and drug use, and healthy sexual decision making. More information can be found at <http://www.projecthealth.ua.edu/>. Courtney indicates, "This organization provides valuable health information in a relaxed peer-to-peer setting. It offers a forum for students to become informed consumers of health information, and prepare to make healthier choices."

**Caroline Titcomb** has volunteered her time with several organizations. The National Alliance on Mental Illness at UA (NAMI-UA) is an advocacy group that provides support for students either living with or affected by a loved one's mental illness. The group is open to any student interested in promoting mental health awareness on campus through events aimed at education, stigma fighting, and



*Caroline Titcomb, with two other student colleagues, Desiree Griffin and Tess Neal, at Honors Day.*

health promotion. For more information, email [namiua@bama.ua.edu](mailto:namiua@bama.ua.edu) or visit the NAMI-UA website at [www.namiua@ua.edu](http://www.namiua@ua.edu).

Another organization Caroline volunteers for is the Community Homelessness Assessment and Local Education and Networking Group (CHALENG). This group provides meals to the homeless and ensures that temporary housing and medical services are available. For more information about this organization contact Caroline at [ctitcomb@crimson.ua.edu](mailto:ctitcomb@crimson.ua.edu).

Finally, Caroline also works with the Community Mental Health Task Force (CMHT). This group brings together mental health care providers in West Alabama and coordinates provision of service and good communication between providers. Anyone is welcome at the monthly meetings, held the fourth Monday of every month at 2pm at the Tuscaloosa Police Department community room. For more information, contact Laurie Prentice-Dunn at [lauriepd@comcast.net](mailto:lauriepd@comcast.net).

Only a 2nd-year student, Caroline was the recipient of the Charlie Rickard Clinical Service Award this year.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR TEACHING & RESEARCH

The psychology department is consistently well regarded for the quality of its graduate students, but 2009-2010 has been a banner year for student achievement. Several students have received recognition for teaching and research.

**Bradley Okdie** received the department's Paul S. Siegel Outstanding Teaching by a Doctoral Student award, as well as the College of Arts and Science's Outstanding Teaching by a Doctoral Student Award and the university's Award for the Best Teaching by a Doctoral Student in the University. Brad notes that mentoring students is one of the most rewarding aspects of his teaching role.

**Jamie O'Mally** was selected to represent the university this summer at the Social Institute in Social Psychology, one of approximately 70 students worldwide selected to participate in this intensive two-week program of courses taught by prominent researchers in the field.

Impressively, each of the departments' four nominees for the Graduate Council's Research and Creative Activity Fellowship were awarded funds to support their dissertation research.

**Rachel Baden**'s dissertation stems from her thesis research demonstrating a negative impact of marital conflict on children's aggression. Rachel's dissertation explores spillover in conflict and conflict strategies between the marital and parent-child relationships, and how they are moderated by temperamental and personality factors.

**Abbie Perelman**'s published thesis research indicated that treatment and punishment selections within the criminal justice system are often attitude driven. Abbie's dissertation examines the impact of internet educational modules on law students' knowledge of program effectiveness in juvenile treatment, as well as the influence of attitudes on the selection of treatment options.

**Brittany Travers**' dissertation explores motor resonance, a neural phenomenon in which movement in the environment is mirrored in motor scripts. Brittany will investigate how resonance is impaired in persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). She will also use fMRI technology to examine how the brains of persons with ASD function during motor resonance.

**Courtney Worley**'s dissertation uses the Pearlin Stress Process Model to explore how stressful experiences contribute to anxiety symptoms in different ways across the lifespan, and among ethnically diverse populations.

Our students have also received national and international funding awards.

**Melissa Day** received an Anthony Marchionne Foundation grant for her dissertation investigating a Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) for chronic headache pain, the first such study. Melissa also received a grant from the National Headache Foundation funding participant follow-up, statistical consultation, and qualitative data collection.

**Michael Dillard** was awarded a highly competitive Repperger Summer Research Internship at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He conducted research on the decline of performance during a vigil, and its relationship to cerebral oxygen levels and mental workload.

**Caroline Titcomb** was awarded the National Science Foundation's East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes Fellowship for summer research, receiving a stipend, expenses, and round-trip airfare. Caroline conducted research on jury decision-making and investigative interviewing procedures with vulnerable populations.

Congratulations to these students and others who represent our department so well with their achievements. We wish you continued success!



# NEW FACULTY

Starting a new faculty position is never easy, especially when one is new to academia. In the past two years, the psychology department has grown by six faculty facing the predicament of embarking upon their first faculty position. This unusual growth reflects the ongoing expansion of the Experimental Program and the need to replace vacancies within the Clinical Program.

**Dr. Philip Gable** joins us this year in the Social Psychology Concentration within the Experimental Program. He earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University this spring and moved this summer.

Dr. Gable seeks to better understand how positive and negative emotions influence social and cognitive processes. A strong component of his research involves neurophysiological measures such as electroencephalography and event-related brain potentials. Many of his publications have focused on positive emotions and how they vary in motivational intensity. In addition to research, he is excited to continue his teaching career here, and looks forward to leading large undergraduate classes as well as smaller graduate seminars. He has even had discussions with some of the senior faculty about starting a departmental band (we'll see how that goes). He has greatly appreciated the warm reception and gracious help the faculty and staff have provided.



*Although retired, Carl Clements still finds time for fashion mentorship with new faculty member Will Hart.*

**Dr. Will Hart** has just joined the Social Psychology Concentration. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 2009 and worked as a survey researcher at The National Opinion Research Center from 2009-2010. Dr. Hart's research focuses on goal setting, attitude formation and change, and self-regulation. Ultimately, he hopes his research will shed light on the factors promoting high performance in various areas of life (e.g., work, relationships, health). In one set of studies, Will found that subtle differences in the way we describe our prior actions has dramatic effects on our subsequent goal-directed behavior and performance. In particular, people who discussed prior actions in terms of what they were

doing (e.g., I was eating healthy) as opposed to what they did (I ate healthy) indicated greater willingness to continue these actions. Dr. Hart is a very enthusiastic teacher and tries to convey his passion for psychology to all of his students. Currently he is trying to disconnect from his University of Florida roots and learn how to say "Roll Tide!"

**Dr. Matt Jarrett** joins the faculty this fall as a member of the Child Psychology Concentration of the Clinical Program. Dr. Jarrett received his Ph.D. from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2010 and completed his predoctoral internship at Children's National Medical Center. His research interests include the comorbidity of internalizing and externalizing disorders in children, with a particular interest in the assessment and treatment of children with both attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and anxiety. On a personal level, he has been very impressed with the interpersonal atmosphere within the department and is looking forward to working with his new colleagues.

**Dr. Giyeon Kim** joined the Developmental Science Concentration within the Experimental Psychology Program in 2009. She received her Ph.D. from the University of South Florida in 2007, and there engaged in postdoctoral training.

In addition to her appointment in the department, Dr. Kim has one with the Center for Mental Health and Aging. Her research and numerous published articles focus on how culture affects the validity of psychometric tests. They may not provide valid assessments for



*From left, Giyeon Kim, Ansley Tullos Gilpin, and Margin Sellbom. Rooooooo Tide!*

various subgroups of older adults in American society. She is also interested in ethnic and racial disparities in health care utilization. She is very enthusiastic about her experiences at The University of Alabama. Although she never taught before, she reports that her classroom experiences at UA have been positive and that she "loves teaching!" She enjoys interacting with her colleagues at the Center for Mental Health and Aging, and reports the whole experience of moving to Tuscaloosa and embarking upon a new faculty position to be very positive.

**Dr. Martin Sellbom** began at UA in 2009 in the Psychology and Law Concentration of the Clinical Program. He graduated from Kent State in 2007, where he also completed his postdoctoral work. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles, most focusing on personality assessment, psychopathic personality disorder, and broader links between personality and psychopathology. Dr. Sellbom examines how best to measure psychopathy in the community, and how to differentiate psychopathic individuals who commit crimes from those who do not. He conducts research on the validity of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, and regularly teaches workshops to professional psychologists on how to interpret the test in various settings. Dr. Sellbom received the Society for Personality Assessment's Samuel and Anne Beck Award for early career achievement, and is a Consulting Editor for all the major assessment journals.

Born and raised in Sweden, Dr. Sellbom came to the U.S. in 1996 to play American football (yes, football, not soccer) in college. His passion for football has certainly been stimulated at UA, with the Crimson Tide winning a national championship during his first year. He is impressed with the friendliness and supportiveness of the faculty, and is particularly pleased that departmental coffee is now free, as otherwise he might not have enough money left for his mortgage.

**Dr. Ansley Tullos-Gilpin** joined us in 2009 as one of the new Experimental hires within the Developmental Science Concentration. Dr. Gilpin is a native Alabamian who was an undergraduate at Auburn University. She received her Ph.D. in 2009 from University of Texas. She is off to an impressive start, publishing in premier journals in her field and embarking upon research projects investigating topics such as children's ability to differentiate fantasy from reality, and ways to improve preschool academic preparedness.

Dr. Gilpin joined us immediately after receiving her Ph.D. Asked if anything about her new position surprised her, she noted the amount of juggling she has to do as a faculty member. She pointed out that it is not unusual to have a meeting with a graduate student at 9:00, teach a class at 10:00, serve on a dissertation committee from 11:00 to 1:00, and then attend other committee meetings from 2:00-5:00. Yet she enjoys the autonomy, flexibility, and variety that an academic position offers. She says that the support and collegiality displayed by the faculty during her interview is genuine.

Anyone reviewing the list of accomplishments of the six faculty members who recently joined the psychology department would have to be impressed. Their accomplishments are phenomenal. The department is very fortunate to have recruited such a talented group of young scholars.

# PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S ADVISORY BOARD



When you receive your degree from The University of Alabama, you're joining an impressive array of more than 2500 department graduates across the country.

Recently, the Department of Psychology formed an Advisory Board from this alumni talent to help foster networking among UA Psychology Department Graduates, help raise funds to support our work, and serve as advocates for the field as well as the department.

## Here are our Founding Advisory Board members:

- **Dr. Judy Hall**, who received her Ph.D. from UA in 1969 and who is Executive Officer of the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology
- **Dr. Blaise Mercadante**, 1981 UA Ph.D. and currently Chief Development and Marketing Officer for Miami Jewish Health Systems
- **Dr. Bob Lyman**, 1975 UA Ph.D., former chair of the University of Alabama Psychology Department and currently Provost of the University of Southern Mississippi
- **Dr. Raymond Fowler**, former UA chair, past APA President, APA CEO, and Senior Advisor of International Positive Psychology Association
- **Dr. James Bodfish**, 1987 UA Ph.D., Professor and Director of the Center for Development and Learning, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- **Dr. Rex Foreman**, 1970 UA Ph.D., Distinguished Research Professor, University of Georgia, Ansbacher Endowed Professor of Psychology, University of Vermont
- **Dr. Yolanda Jackson**, 1998 UA Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Kansas
- **Dr. Rosemary Wool Jones**, 1979 UA Ph.D., who is in independent practice in Montgomery, Alabama

The Board elected Dr. Judy Hall as President and Dr. Blaise Mercadante as Secretary. Dr. Bob Lyman also serves on the Executive Committee.



From left, Dr. Judy Hall, Dr. Blaise Mercadante, Dr. Bob Lyman

We are honored to have this impressive group of alumni serving as the founding members of the Advisory Board helping us grow and advance the Psychology Department.

The Advisory Board works closely with the Chair of the Psychology Department, assisting with initiatives from networking to fundraising. To do this effectively, we need more volunteers for the Advisory Board. We are seeking to add new members to create a team of people to help us achieve the goals we have set for the board:

- Provide advice and updates regarding developments and advances in the field of psychology and other industries in which members of the Advisory Board practice
- To increase contact and communication between Advisory Board members, other alumni and current students. Where possible serve as mentors and advisors for students seeking to enter the field in which a member of the Advisory Board practices
- To assist the Psychology Department in securing financial resources through grants and other means to support current students and to advance the mission of the department
- To help the Psychology Department enhance our image and national reputation
- To expand opportunities for current psychology students to network with members of the Advisory Board to help launch their careers
- To assist in the recruitment of outstanding students to the Psychology Department
- To serve as advocates for the University of Alabama Psychology Department

You can nominate yourself to become a vibrant part of this Advisory Board and a chance to give back and get involved. It's a great opportunity to extend your circle of contacts, keep in touch with old friends and alumni, network for new opportunities as well as stay up to date on current advances in the field of Psychology.

You can also nominate other candidates, including former undergraduate and graduate students, as well as friends of the Psychology Department that you think will have a positive impact on the Advisory Board's efforts.

Please send your nomination(s) to Professor Emeritus, Carl Clements at [cclement@as.ua.edu](mailto:cclement@as.ua.edu).

**We look forward to hearing from you,**

The University of Alabama  
Psychology Department's Advisory Board



# FACULTY UPDATE

For this edition of the Departmental Newsletter we have decided to have several shorter updates from several faculty members rather than a long piece on one faculty member. We asked folks to brief us on what they have been up to lately.

**Becky Allen** is working on an R01 application addressing family transitions when an older individual with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia moves into an assisted living facility or senior apartment complex. She is also working with Jo Anne Oliver in Nursing and Pamela Payne-Foster on grant applications. Becky's LIFE project to train volunteers to deliver the Legacy intervention is actively collecting data. Although she has missed several personal deadlines to run another 1/2 marathon, her Chiweenee dog Chloe and cat Maya keep her actively engaged! Becky's best friend is expecting again, so she will be an Aunt again soon. Her "nephew" Lance is progressing well.



*Dr. Becky Allen (left) with Akhmand Sage, a Retired Senior Volunteer and LIFE interventionist certified to help adults with advanced chronic illness through reminiscence and life story activities.*

**John Lochman's** research activities in the past year include several publications from his grant-funded longitudinal research on factors that influence the dissemination of evidence-based interventions for children. He and his team are currently working on a new grant-funded project to examine the relative effects of group versus individual intervention formats for aggressive children. In another ongoing grant-funded project, they have recently completed a series of animated cartoons that are designed to amplify the effects of their Coping Power program, and this video series has won a Bronze Telly Award in the "low budget video" category. John is currently hosting a PhD student from Pakistan for 6 months as she prepares to use the Coping Power program in her dissertation research back in Pakistan. The team has been active this past year in providing training in Coping Power in a variety of settings in this country and internationally, including in Berlin, Dublin, Pisa and Utrecht.



*Fran Connors discusses research with Chris Harper at a previous Honors Day celebration.*

**Fran Connors** is busy heading a 2-site 5-year NIH R01 study on cognitive predictors of language impairment in Down syndrome and collaborating on a 2 year NIH R03 on wayfinding in Down syndrome. She received a Recovery Act supplement last October to establish an intellectual disability participant registry in the southeastern states, and she continues to research reading skills of youth with intellectual disability. Last year Fran was awarded a College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board Fellowship. Fran contributes to the department as Director of Graduate Studies and as the main instructor of General Experimental Psychology. Fran's husband Jim is also in the Psychology Department. They have two teenage children, a son who plays cello and loves the great outdoors and a daughter who plays string bass and swims competitively.



*John Lochman (center) is flanked by Jerry Rosenberg (left) and Ken Lichstein (right) at the Honors Day luncheon in April, 2010. Standing behind is Mark Klinger with several undergraduate honors students.*





*Dr. Joel Warm is one of our “famous sons,” having earned his Ph.D. in the Department of Psychology before embarking on a long, highly productive career at the University of Cincinnati. He most recently joined the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Here he shares some recollections of his time at the University of Alabama.*

# Joel Warm: Student of “Dirty George” Makes Good!

Joel Warm became a graduate student soon after the founding of the department's Ph.D. program in 1958. In 1960, his stint ending as a research psychologist at the Army Medical Research Laboratory in Fort Knox, he learned that Paul Siegel, chairman of the department, was looking for someone to launch a research lab at the VA hospital in Tuscaloosa. Soon, in Joel's words, “a Brooklyn boy was going to school in the deep south.” He entered the department to work on his Ph.D. degree under advisor Dr. George Passey.

“Dirty George,” as he was known by his students, operated the human laboratory in Comer Hall, which then housed the department. In Joel's fond remembrance, the nickname was earned through a habit of inventing creative ways of ensuring student attention in and out of class.

“If he came to class with a sly smile and a twinkle in his eye,” Joel recalls, “sometime during the class he would announce a pop quiz.”

Another favorite tactic was to check on the use of assigned readings on reserve in the library. “Books or journals that students ignored,” Joel continues, “often appeared on major exams and the quizzes.”

Such was Dirty George's reputation that one student, on discovering that Dr. Passey had been appointed chair of his dissertation committee, wailed, “What am I going to do, it is himself, 'Dirty George,' who is my chair.” Yet Joel notes, “That student was the only one in the clinical program to complete the Ph.D. that year.”

The truth is that while “‘Old Dirt’ liked to project the image of a fearful tyrant,” in Joel's words, he also had a softer side. At night graduate students often discovered unlocked an outside window leading into the psychology library, courtesy of George Passey. If a student needed equipment built for a research project, personal funds and labor might quietly be made available.

But Joel's most personal recollection of Passey came from an experience while presenting a conference paper as a third-year graduate student. Interrupted by a member of the audience who challenged his use of statistics, Joel felt he was right but was unable to ward off increasingly aggressive questioning.

“Just then,” Joel says, “Dr. Passey stood up and said “this student has done his work under my direction, and if you have anything to say, direct your comments to me.”

Joel graduated in 1966 after a couple of years off due to a death in his family, and became a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Louisville. There he began to research vigilance, involving the maintenance - and commonly, decline in - performance that occurs during a period of watchfulness. He became an Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati the following year, the beginning of a 41-year career at that university.

Retiring as Professor Emeritus in 2008, he was immediately appointed Senior Scientist in the Warfighter Interface Division of the 711th Human Performance Wing of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, holding rank equivalent to the military rank of Brigadier General. It was the cap to an extraordinary career that has seen the publication of 110 refereed research papers and four books, and the presentation of over 200 conference papers. The great majority have been on the psychophysical, mental workload, resource, stress, and neurological bases of vigilance.

Among numerous other awards, Joel has been made Fellow of four major professional organizations: the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES). He is also a Fellow of the Graduate School at the University of Cincinnati.

In 2005 he won HFES' Paul M. Fitts Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Education and Training of Human Factors Professionals, partly in recognition of his prodigious mentoring. As of his 2008 academic retirement he had chaired committees for 56 Masters theses and 45 Doctoral dissertations. Many former and graduating students and colleagues gathered that same year from across the globe to celebrate his Festschrift, which was sponsored by the American Psychological Association, the Air Force, and the University of Cincinnati. Then in 2009 he won the American Psychological Association's Franklin V. Taylor Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to Applied and Engineering Psychology, Division 21 (Engineering Psychology). In August he began serving as President-elect of the Division.

Yet throughout this remarkable career, Dr. Joel Warm has always remembered his Alabama roots. When contacted for permission to publish this article, he was characteristically modest. “To be remembered like this means a great deal to me, more than I have the words to express,” he wrote.

**“Roll Tide!”**



#### **FACULTY MEMBERS YOU APPRECIATED:**

Are there faculty members who made a difference for you? If so, this is an opportunity to recognize and honor those faculty members.

Write the names of the faculty members that have made a difference and share a little about your contact with them. We are collecting responses and will share them in the next newsletter.

- Faculty member name:
- Nature of your contact with that faculty member:

#### **DONATIONS**

If you also wish to make a donation in honor of your faculty member, please indicate here:

- Donation:
- In honor of:

*[Checks should be made out to The University of Alabama  
Psychology gift fund #30735]*

Support undergraduate scholarships, graduate scholarships, student and faculty travel to professional meetings, instructional support, and research

We seek to continue to nurture the educational growth of our undergraduates and cultivate high level skills in our graduate students.

Please consider enclosing a tax deductible check payable to The University of Alabama (memo for: Psychology Gift Fund #30735).

Suggested amounts: \_\_\$100, \_\_\$250, \_\_\$500, \_\_\$1,000, \_\_other

#### **To discuss a major gift, please contact me!**

Mail to: Beverly Thorn  
The Department of Psychology  
The University of Alabama  
Box 870348  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0348

#### **YOU CAN ALSO MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION.**

Go to <https://www.ua.edu/advancement/giving/donate> and answer the questions as instructed below:

- Where would you like your gift directed: Choose "Other."
- Account: Choose "Other."
- Please select your gift amount: Use drop down or select "Other" if your desired amount does not appear.
- Can't find your fund? : Input Account # 30735 (Psychology Gift Fund).
- Once you enter your personal information, and after you click "submit my gift" on the first screen, it takes you to the payment screen. It defaults to electronic check--which debits your bank account--or you can select credit card from the drop down menu.



#### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

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