Chair’s Report

The semester is in full swing. Students are busy writing papers and studying for their exams, and the faculty are writing tenure/promotion documents, grants, manuscripts, and exams. With the installation of a new President and the momentum of the Academic Visioning Initiative (AVI) and Embracing Change, Promoting Excellence (ECPE) documents, the University is entering a new period of development. I am confident that these developments will have positive impacts on the Psychology Program, in general, and individual faculty. There will be many opportunities for us as a Program or you as individuals, to participate in the AVI and ECPE activities.

As a Program, I was very pleased to see the increased level of conference participation (and resulting manuscripts/articles) this past summer. Partially due to the location of CPA being in the West this year, we were able to provide six undergraduate students with valuable conference experiences. These students have been discussing their positive experiences with other students who are already asking if we will have something similar again this year. Note that the Canadian Society of Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Sciences will hold their annual meeting in Victoria (June 2007). Thus, I expect that the Program should be able to support a few undergraduate students again.

We have started a new tutorial program for PSYC 101 and 102 students. Over the coming years, I would like to see us expand the opportunity for graduate students to teach tutorial sessions, support PSYC Club Movie Night discussions, and have an active role in assisting with the retention of UNBC students, in particular psychology majors. Thus, as a Program we will need to discuss issues related to retention and how to support graduate students.

Enjoy the rest of your semester as you wrap up your teaching, finish those research projects, and contribute to your service commitments.
**At a Glance**

Two of our students are on the list of laureates of the Canadian Psychological Association 2006 certificate of academic excellence: Velma Abraham, for her Master’s Thesis and Cherisse Seaton, for her Honour’s Thesis. Congratulations!

Velma Abraham’s (pictured below) thesis title is An Investigation into the Needs of Parents with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Supervisor: Dr. Cindy Hardy).

Cherisse Seaton’s (pictured below) Honour’s Thesis title is Positive Adult Development and Coping Styles (Supervisor: Dr. Sherry Beaumont).

According to CASH’s Annual College Report, Psychology is one of the two programs with a significant increase in EETs from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006. This significant increase demands additional resources. Therefore, motions to request two new faculty positions were made and passed at our Sept 27, 2006 Program meeting.

In the 2007-2008 academic year, the topic for Psyc 498 will be Organizational Behavior (new topic). In addition, Psyc 202 (Philosophy of Mind) will be offered for the first time. For Summer 2007, the Psychology Program will provide Psyc 101, 102, 200/498 (Evolutionary Psyc), and 330.

The following faculty members presented their research at the Psychology Program Colloquium Series for the Fall 2006 semester: Dr. Bill Owen, Dr. Cindy Hardy, Dr. Han Li, Dr. Paul Siakaluk, Dr. Sherry Beaumont, and Dr. Ken Prkachin. Approximately 20 undergraduate and graduate students have attended the Colloquium Series on a regular basis. The organizer of the Colloquium Series is Dr. Paul Siakaluk.

The Annual Undergraduate Psychology Orientation was held on September 14. The purpose was for undergraduate students to learn about the Psychology Program at UNBC and meet the Faculty members.

The Psychology Club made two presentations regarding the preparation of GRE for our undergraduate students who are interested in attending graduate school.

For the Winter term (07) Psychology Colloquium and senior seminar series, the Psychology Colloquium committee has issued a call for nominations of one psychology scholar from B.C. (to forge some relations with other BC universities), one from elsewhere in Canada and maybe one person from the U.S.

Two Psychology Movies were played during the Fall semester, one entitled “Let’s Talk about Sex”, and the other “A Clockwork Orange”, an adaptation of Anthony Burgess 1962 Novel.
The Fall Psychology Faculty and Graduate Students Potluck Dinner was hosted by Chair Bill Owen at his new home. More than 20 people were present.

**Faculty**

**New Publications (peer-reviewed)**


MacDermid, J. C., Solomon, P. & Prkachin, Ken (2006). The shoulder Pain and Disability Index demonstrates factor, construct and longitudinal validity. *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders,* 7:12, 1 – 11. ([http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2474/7/12](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2474/7/12)).


*Current or past student*
Research Grant


Conference Presentations


Li, Han, Zhang, Z., Bhatt, G., & Yum, Y. (June 2006). Rethinking culture and self-construal: China as a middle land. Paper presented at the 56th Annual Conference of International Communication Association, Dresden, Germany†.

† Top paper award


Li, Han (June 2006). *Backchannel responses as misleading feedback in intercultural conversations.* Paper presented at the 10th International Conference on Language and Social Psychology, Bonn, Germany.


Featuring Current Student: 
Alexandra Iliopulos

My honour’s thesis examines residents’ use of verbal compliance-gaining strategies in medical interviews. Based on 40 previously audio-taped and transcribed medical consultations, I have found that residents give more indirect orders than direct orders. Indirect orders are defined as orders followed by or beginning with encouraging words such as positive consequences if patients comply or warnings of negative consequences if patients do not comply. Preliminary findings indicate a divergence from previous research on experienced physicians’ verbal compliance-gaining strategies. Experienced physicians tend to use more direct than indirect orders. (Supervisor: Dr. Han Li).

Featuring Past Student: 
Erin Douglas

After graduating from UNBC (BSc Hon. 2002), I went on to the University of Calgary and completed my Masters of Neuroscience in the area of stroke recovery using functional MRI. Keeping with imaging, I moved to North Carolina to work as a Lab Manager at Duke University doing basic research on decision-making. As my interests are more clinical, after a year at Duke I moved on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I am now working as a Research Associate in a Schizophrenia lab. My time at UNBC was filled with so many opportunities to be involved in research and to work one on one with my professors. This experience has proved instrumental for fitting in at larger institutions, where I am able to communicate effectively with faculty. Coming from a small university with a huge sense of community has given me valuable perspective on life and academia, and the ability to take on responsibility and stand on my own. (Supervisor: Dr. Ken Prkachin).

Where Are They Now?

Michael Krysko (BSc Hon. 1999) has completed his courses at SABA University School of Medicine and is an intern at a hospital in New York City.

Cheryl Kulchyski (BSc Hon. 2000) is studying toward a Master of Social Work in Albany, New Zealand.

Naghmeh Desroches (MSc 2003) is now a Research Analyst at Grand River Hospital, Ontario.

Robin Yates (BSc Hon. 2004) is now a graduate student at the Department of Psychology at the University of Victoria. She received a Michael Smith Foundation fellowship and a CIHR Fellowship.

Olivia Lestideau (BSc Hon. 2005) is working toward a Masters degree in the School of Psychology at the Department of Education at the University of Alberta. She is a SSHRC award winner.