



# Gray Matters

Undergraduate Psychology Newsletter

**Fall Issue 2005**

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**A Letter from the Chair:**

Dear Students,

It is my pleasure to welcome all Psychology students to the 2005-06 academic year at Georgia State University. It has been great to see such a wonderful mix of both familiar and new faces around the department at the beginning of Fall semester. I hope that you are excited about all the possibilities and opportunities that this new year brings. I want to extend a particular welcome to those students who have joined us this Fall, after their plans for attendance at other colleges and universities were abruptly changed by Hurricane Katrina. We are glad that you are a part of our GSU community this semester and want to do all that we can to support you during your time with us.

There have been some changes in our faculty and staff since last year. Dr. Martha Foster retired in May, after many years of service in Psychology. Her contributions have enriched our department in so many ways. In particular, she provided outstanding leadership for our graduate program in Clinical Psychology for the past several years as the Director of Clinical Training. I know that Dr. Foster was proud that, during her final year at Georgia State, the Clinical program received an excellent review and was re-accredited by the American Psychological Association. Dr. Byron Robinson also left the department in May, setting his sights on pursuing other interests and goals. Best wishes for the future to both Dr. Foster and Dr. Robinson. In September, Ms. Karin Banks left our departmental staff to pursue her educational goals. We will be searching for a new staff member to provide assistance to students and hope to have someone join us very soon. During this transition period, our current staff will be available to assist students with their questions and concerns, and we are especially grateful to our undergraduate advisor, Ms. Tenagne Mulugeta, for her leadership and efforts to keep things running smoothly through this process.

Although we hate to say good-bye to colleagues, I am also pleased to report that we are welcoming six new faculty members in Psychology this Fall. They bring excellent records of teaching and research to GSU. Many of you already know one of these individuals since she is not a new face in our department. Dr. Julia Perilla has been a member of our research faculty for many years, and joins our tenure track faculty this semester. Dr. Perilla is a clinical/community psychologist who studies domestic violence, with a particular focus on the Latino community. Dr. Dominic Parrott is a clinical psychologist who investigates risk factors for aggressive behavior. Dr. Erin McClure is a clinical psychologist who studies mood and anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. Dr. Michael Owren is a comparative psychologist whose research explores the perception and function of vocalizations in both human and non-

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human primates. Dr. Walter Wilczynski is a neuroscientist who studies the neural systems that mediate social and reproductive behaviors. Dr. Wilczynski also will serve as the Co-Director for Research for the NSF-funded Center for Behavioral Neuroscience. Finally, Dr. Deborah Garfin joins us as a Lecturer and will quickly become a familiar face as she takes on several important roles in our undergraduate program including coordinating our Psychology Freshman Learning Community and serving as the faculty advisor to Psi Chi.

As always, we are fortunate to have several Visiting Lecturers with us this year. They bring a wealth of expertise to our department and provide excellent instruction in our undergraduate program. Joining us this year are Drs. Peter Campos, Rachelle Cohen, Nadya Hollahan, Suzanne Musil, Gail Scott, Katrina Smith, Rebecca Stephens, Steven Walfish, Margaret Walker, and Valjean Whitlow. We are so grateful for their energy and dedication to teaching.

Over the summer, our Psychology Undergraduate Computer Lab moved to its final destination on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of Urban Life. I hope that those of you with classes in the Lab this year are enjoying this wonderful new facility. I want to thank all of the instructors and students who had classes in the Lab last year, as the construction went on around you. I know that this situation posed many challenges but now that it is over we can settle in and enjoy our new space.

As always, the Psychology Department will sponsor many presentations in the upcoming year, both by members of the department and by guest speakers from other institutions. Be sure to check out the bulletin board next to the elevators on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of Urban Life where upcoming events will be posted. We hope that you will find topics that are interesting to you here.

I hope that you have a great year!

With my best regards,  
Mary K. Morris, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and Chair

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## Study Abroad Scholarship

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### NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (NSEP) DAVID L. BOREN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Application Deadline: February 10, 2006.

The Institute of International Education is pleased to announce the beginning of the 2006-2007 National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship competition.

NSEP awards scholarships to American students for study of world regions critical to U.S. interests (including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East). NSEP was designed to provide American undergraduates with the resources and encouragement they need to acquire skills and experiences in areas of the world critical to the future security of our nation, in exchange for a commitment to seek work in the federal government. As students of other cultures and languages, NSEP Scholars begin to acquire the international competence needed to communicate effectively across borders, to understand other perspectives, and to analyze increasingly fluid economic and political realities.

The 2006-2007 NSEP Boren Scholarships offer funding for study abroad in summer 2006, fall 2006, and/or spring 2007.

For information, please contact:

Ms. Kike Ehigiator  
NSEP Campus Advisor  
Office of International Affairs  
Georgia State University  
404-463-9411

More information:

Web: <http://www.iie.org/nsep> ψ

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### Research Assistant Position

Position: Research Interviewer, Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry

Pay: \$11.91/hr.

Schedule: This position is a regular full-time position at 40 hours per week. The work schedule is Monday through Friday, 9:15am - 6:00 pm.

#### JOB DESCRIPTION:

Identifies, contacts, corresponds with and interviews research study participants, either in person, in a clinical setting, at a subject's residence or by telephone to obtain data for an assigned research project. Collects, codes and enters study information into database and may assist in data compilation. Edits completed interview questionnaires for completeness, legibility and accuracy. Obtains missing or questionable data. Maintains complete and accurate records and files pertaining to one or more research studies. Performs related responsibilities as required.

Minimum Qualifications: A high school diploma or equivalent. One year of administrative support, customer service or other relevant experience. Data entry experience.

Preferred Qualifications:  
BA or BS in a social science, science, pre-med, or related field

Apply for this position online at:

<http://emory.hr.emory.edu/careers.nsf>

Posting Number: 202292

Please also fax resumes to Amy Hartley at 404-778-2535 ψ

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### New Undergraduate Course

The Department of Psychology is offering a new course: **Diversity Issues in Psychology: PSYC 4800**

The goal of the course is to provide exposure to a broad range of psychological topics and issues associated with diversity. The course will give student an opportunity to explore human diversity from a wide range of theoretical and methodological perspectives that are reflective of culture. The course objectives will be addressed via self-exploration, interactions with classmates and instructor, experiential exercises, assigned readings, and didactic presentations.

This course will be offered to students in the Spring Semester of 2006. Because the course is being offered as a seminar course, it is limited to 20 students, so register early! ψ

#### Save the Date: PURC 2006

The fifth annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference will be held on Friday, April 7, 2006.  
The theme for PURC 2006 is "The Social Brain."

For more information, see the PURC website: <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwpur> ψ

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### Undergraduate Practicum Program

Fatima Al-Azim

Practicum experience includes work and training in a setting where the application of psychological methods and principles are

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utilized in an applied community setting (Psych 4770) or in a research setting (Psych 4760). The practicum experience is 1-3 course credit hours per semester (with a maximum of 6 credit hours total), and requires weekly contact with an on-site supervisor or faculty advisor who is directing the project. A scholarly paper, journal, or reaction paper is expected to demonstrate growth and the capacity to integrate the students experience in a written document at the end of the semester.

A change in the program this year:

This year students in both the research and applied practicum will have a checklist to complete, instead of listing five experiences that enhanced either their career goals or graduate school decisions as a result of their participation in the practicum program.

The practicum program is now on WebCt Vista and faculty may post their assignments for practicum students in their labs directly to the practicum page.

Additional information needed can be obtained by sending email to the practicum program at [psypracticum@gsu.edu](mailto:psypracticum@gsu.edu) with "practicum" in the subject line. ♪

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### Welcoming New Faculty

Keneta Wright

The Psychology Department would like to welcome four very distinguished new faculty members into our already outstanding Psychology Department.

Dr. Walter Wilczynski is in the Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neuroscience (NBN) department at Georgia State. Dr. Wilczynski's main interests include neural basis of natural behavior; neural systems underlying animal communication and reproductive behavior; and interaction of the sensory and hormonal systems that mediate these behaviors.

Dr. Michael Owren is in the Social/Cognitive department at Georgia State. Dr. Owren's main interests include Acoustics, perception, and

function of primate calls and human laughter; emotion and vocal behavior; speech evolution and comparative cognition.

Dr. Erin McClure is in the Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neuroscience (NBN) department at Georgia State. Dr. McClure's main interests include Developmental and Clinical Neuropsychology, child and adolescent mood and anxiety disorders, gender, and emotion processing (fMRI and behavioral studies).

Dr. Dominic Parrot is in the Clinical department at Georgia State. Dr. Parrot's interests include risk factors of aggressive behavior (e.g., acute alcohol intoxication, personality, emotion regulation); perpetration of antigay violence; substance abuse and dependence.

Dr. Deborah Garfin is a developmental psychologist who currently holds the position of Lecturer and is teaching undergraduate psychology classes. She is also the faculty advisor to Psi Chi.

We would also like to mention Dr. Julia Perilla. While Dr. Perilla is not new to Georgia State, she has recently accepted a tenure track position. The Georgia State Community is happy to have these outstanding additions to out faculty. We know that their presence will continue to add value to our department. ♪

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### Honors Theses

If you are interested in doing an honors thesis next year, now is the time to begin planning! Theses proposals are due before the midpoint of the semester before you plan to enroll in PSYC 4870 and 4880. For example, if you want to begin work on a thesis in fall 2006 you need to submit a proposal by the midpoint of spring 2006.

That means you need to identify a faculty sponsor soon. See Dr. Tracie Stewart, the new director of the Honors Program in Psychology, and review the Honors Program information at [www.gsu.edu/honors](http://www.gsu.edu/honors). ♪