Million-dollar grant funds study related to Parkinson's disease

Two Illinois State University faculty members have received a $1 million grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command to study Parkinson's disease in an animal model. Byron Heidenreich, a member of the Psychology Department with a joint appointment on the Biological Sciences faculty, and Paul Gar cis, a member of the Biological Sciences Department with a joint appointment on the Psychology faculty, are simulating neurodegenerative processes similar to Parkinson's disease in rats.

One of the difficulties in diagnosing Parkinson's is that classic symptoms such as resting tremor, difficulty initiating movement, and rigidity only appear after about 80 percent of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the victim's brain is gone. Heidenreich said, "The brain is able to compensate until the dopamine loss is just too much. So many neurons have died off and the compensation is no longer enough."

One goal of the study is to identify subtle behavioral deficits that reflect incomplete compensation after there is a mild to moderate loss of dopamine neurons prior to the presentation of classic Parkinson's symptoms. Such knowledge could potentially lead to earlier diagnosis of the disease.

They are collaborating with Timothy Schallert of the University of Texas to simulate the effects of Parkinson's disease by using the 6-hydroxy dopamine neurotoxin to destroy dopamine neurons in rats. They hope to advance knowledge of how damage produced by the neurotoxin affects the brain. The neurotoxin is a useful research tool that has a slight potential as a chemical weapon.

The collaboration between the departments of Psychology and Biological Sciences allows the researchers to "paint a broader picture" in neuroscience research, according to Heidenreich. "We combine different techniques from chemistry, electrophysiology, behavior, and anatomy. Neuroscience is one aspect of our two disciplines where there is a lot of overlap. Studying nerve cells all the way up to behavior is a great place for the two departments to develop a synergy."

Not only does this study have the potential to lead to earlier diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and greater understanding of this neurotoxin, it also provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students in both psychology and biological sciences to receive training in neuroscience techniques. "Our students in the lab assist in evaluating a hypothesis, learn techniques, collect data, and see where it fits into the puzzle. Doing this work makes physiological psychology less abstract and more real for the students," said Heidenreich.

Laura Nichols heard about the mentorship program as a transfer student in the Psychology Department, she was confident it would be helpful. "I knew it would be a good thing for me," she said.

Ellen Herion, a junior majoring in psychology, is Martinez-Singh's mentor. "I wish I would have had a mentor when I was new to Illinois State," she explains. "New students can be confused about who to turn to for assistance." When she learned about the opportunity to become a mentor, Herion, who plans to pursue a career in counseling, jumped at the opportunity. "Ellen has been a real help," said Martinez-Singh.

Such interactions are part of a new program started this fall by Diversity Coordinators Rocío Rivadeneyra and Greg Brassell. Both experienced the helpful assistance of mentors in their undergraduate experiences and want to enable such connections for first-generation college students and students from underrepresented ethnic groups who are pursuing a major in psychology.

Laura Nichols heard about the mentorship program as a transfer student in the Psychology Department, she was confident it would be helpful. "I knew it would be a good thing for me," she said. Unlike Martinez-Singh, Nichols had already completed two years at a community college and had served in the Air Force for four years before coming to Illinois State. She had been stationed in Turkey, North Dakota, Texas, and Missouri prior to continuing her education as a psychology major in considering the mentorship program she said, "I had been in college before, but everything at Illinois State was new to me."

In addition to providing help in clarifying academic goals and pointing her mentors in the right direction in navigating life as Illinois State University students, Herion teaches them useful skills such as how to use Psychology at MyLibrary. The small group of students meets weekly, and once a month they get together with their faculty mentor, Margie Nauta. They all have begun to form a relationship with that is more commonly seen during the last semesters of the college career than in the first semester. As Illinois State strives to provide individualized educational opportunities to give students the feeling of a small college in a large university setting, the mentorship program is emerging as one more avenue to accomplish that goal within the Psychology Department.

Faculty making impact beyond U.S. borders

On Alumni Day in October, one of the co-authors of the Handbook of International Psychology (in press), Michael Stevens, introduced the other co-author, Danny Wedding, one of our two distinguished alumni for 2003. Both reflected on their common interest in international psychology. Stevens is teaching a section of senior seminar focusing on international psychology in spring 2004. While he is our only faculty member who has a psychology library at a Romanian university bearing his name, he by no means the only one making an impact beyond the borders of the United States.

Gordon Redding’s active “retirement” this year included an invited presentation in Rome, France on prion adaptation and hemispatial neglect. He also presented on prion adaptation topics at the 13th congress of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology in Granada, Spain and at the 44th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Vancouver, British Columbia. Another faculty member who is technically retired but still very active in her field of developmental psychology, Laura Berk, presented the keynote address at the Australasian Conference on Human Development in Auckland, New Zealand. The sixth edition of her Child Development book was published in Chinese and Russian this year and also has been translated into Spanish. There is now even a special Canadian edition of the book. The upcoming third edition of another of her books, Development through the Lifespan, includes both U.S. and Canadian policy and research, and is written for both American and Canadian students.

Another book with a new translation is DSM-IV Diagnosis in the Schools, with Al House. It was translated into Italian in 2001 and into
Undergraduate notes

A lot has been happening in the under-
graduate program this year. We have started
implementing new requirements for the ma-
jor. One major change has been to the cap-
stone experience. In the future, students will
select from a menu of applied and research ex-
periences, which will require participation in a
Senior Seminar.

Although none of this fall’s graduating seniors
were able to take the capstone requirement and
experience the professional atmosphere of the
new major, approximately 15 percent of them chose to do so anyway. Many are still finding that the new capstone re-
quirements and activities are valuable.

The increase has resulted from changes we
have made in the major, faculty who have pro-
vided opportunities for research to students
(including an annual award for summer re-
search). The result is that the number of stu-
dents who are participating in research has in-
ncreased. In the future, students will
be able to use the capstone experience as a
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perience as a way to gain research experience.

For the capricious

We are in the midst of recruiting three new faculty members for next year: one in school psychology and two in clinical counseling psychology. Despite the hard times, our 38 full-
time faculty lines have been maintained, but two of our two faculty lines have been reduced to half-time positions. If our searches are successful, we will have hired 16 of our fac-
ulty members since the search in 1999 and 22 since 1997. More than half of the faculty members re-
membered by many of our alumni have moved on.

Two staff members known to many of you have retired: Jeff Trupp, computer and research support specialist, and Vance Larue, academic-advisor and Psychological Services Center adminis-
trator. Replacing them are Matt Childress, comput-
er support specialist, and Vance Larue, academic-
advisor and able editor of this Psychogram.

It was a pleasure for me as this year’s Home-
coming Alumnae Day to see the span of generations. Professors emeriti included Audrey Grupe, Laurie Breck, Skip Lomax, and Jim Johnson. Grupe was wel-
coming a first-year specialist student, Brian Spicer, as the first recipient of her fellowship. She said she reminded him of her grandmother. It was a won-
derful homecoming. Please consider joining us in the future. Alumnae Day will be on October 22. See the program for how to attend. We will have Sep-
tember for details regarding the day’s activities.

On behalf of the faculty and students in the department, I extend our gratitude to those of you who have contributed to the annual fund or direct-
to the department. Our faculty recruiting con-
tinues to benefit. We can bring the best prospects to Normal regardless of airfare and put them up an extra night so they can spend time in the commu-
ity. We can keep them in the loop and get them up and running quickly so they can get their research started quickly.

Our speaker series benefits, as well. We are able to bring in speakers from the region and from all over the world for the cost of a connecting flight when they are in the United States for conferences. These guests help our students get “beyond theual” and compare what our facility says to other professors from elsewhere. In addition, our finan-
cial contributions fund students’ trips to regional and national conferences to present papers and posters on their research.

On our list will be to redecorate the fourth floor of DeGarmo Hall. The metal walls of the in-
determinate color and furniture salvaged from Illi-
nois State University’s Long Hall are not that old and some would like to see the walls painted.

David Patton Barney

First Audrey J. Grupe Fellow in School Psychology selected

Brian Spicer, an entering specialist student from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, is the first recipient of the Audrey J. Grupe Fellowship in School Psychology. The funding includes a full-tuition waiver and the equivalent of what the student would earn from a gradu-
ate assistantship.

Spicer was recognized during “Conver-
asions with Distinguished Alumni” on Home-
coming weekend. Dr. Grupe was also in attendance. A number of alumni who were mentored by Grupe attended the session, including: Mary Kay Bethy, M.S., ’77, school psychologist in Peoria School District 150; Mary Delutto, M.S., ’73, independent practitioner of clinical psychology in Bloomington-Normal; Joe Kovely, M.S., ’81, recently retired school psy-
chologist in East Aurora and in private practice.

Greg Robinson, M.S., ’80, superintendent for the Urbana School District in Illinois; Bonita Peters-
en, M.S., ’77, recently retired learning disabili-
ty specialist in Community Consolidated School District 59 in Elkh Grove Village; and Curtis Marks, M.S., ’71, working for State Farm Insur-
ance Company based in Minnesota. Several alumni spoke at the session and the dinner fol-
lowing Grupe’s significant influence on them both personally and professionally. We thank them all for attending.

Homecoming Alumni Day Awards

Distinguished Alumnae of the Year

Dana Linnell ’73, ’74, is director of the Missouri Institute of Mental Health. Linnell has worked in the Senate as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow and later worked in Washington House of Representatives as an APA Science Policy Fellow. Her in-
terviews, papers, and books have illuminated international, psychological, and shaping community attitudes re-
garding mental health issues. Her research projects have received funding from the National Insti-
tute of Mental Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She has earned four master’s degrees and a Ph.D.

Heather Buschey, M.S., ’95, is an assistant professor of psychology and direc-
tor of the Relationships and Achievement Cen-
ter at the University of Vermont. Her research has focused on adolescent relationship process-
as and their influence on individual develop-
ment. She is particularly interested in the socialized in the achievement motivation and the nature and function of ro-
mantic relationships. She earned her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Denver in 2000.

Distinguished Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Award

Bill Roberts has been teaching part time in the Psychology De-
partment for more than 15 years. In that time he has taught about 45 courses. While teaching part time at Illinois State, Roberts has served in a number of administrative and clinical positions within psy-
chological health agencies in central Illinois. He has always brought a “real world” perspective to his teaching, something his students have often commented upon in his course evaluations.

Roberts also was instrumental in the devel-
oment of practical performances for the clinical psychology master’s program and has taught many graduate students in his courses. The number of courses he has taught is equivalent to more than nine years of full-
time faculty employment.
First class of consortium interns graduates
Our School Psychology Program continues to collaborate with the three other Illinois school psychology doctoral-granting universities (Loyola, National-Louis, and Northern Illinois) to offer a doctoral level school psychology internship consortium. Participating sites include public and private schools, mental health and university counseling centers, and hospitals—all settings in which doctoral level school psychologists have found employment. The first two interns, doctoral students Nikki Duke and Sarah Stankamp-Bergthold, completed the internship training program in August 2003. The consortium is an APIC member, and in the APIC Directory, Consortium Training Director Brenda Huber, Ph.D. ’02, is preparing the report to submit to the APA Committee on Accreditation so that in addition to being APIC-listed our consortium will be APA-accredited. If any alumni representing potential internship sites would like to participate in the consortium in the future, please contact Huber at bjhuber@ilstu.edu.

Can your organization use some well-educated psychology majors as free or low-cost interns? See www.psychology.ilstu.edu/alumni for news about current interns and how you can help future interns.

Psychology faculty members win Illinois State awards From Left: Dawn McBride, University Teaching Initiative Award; Michael Stevens, 2003 College of Arts and Sciences Service Award; Pat Jarvis, 2003 University Service Award.

Clinical-counseling psychology
The clinical-counseling area officially transitioned from a sequence to a new program within the Psychology Department in the fall of 2003. The most exciting developments are the anticipated hiring of two new faculty members for the area. The program continues to evolve to meet the needs of our students, the field, and the people of Illinois. Recent retirees Doug Lamb and Jim Johnson have remained active teaching courses. Johnson continues his involvement with the Illinois State athletic department. Other significant events in the lives of our faculty were the promotions of Jeff Kahn and Margie Nauta to associate professor as well as earning tenure. Dan Graybill is the coordinator of undergraduate studies for the department. Sam Catanzaro continues his pursuit of his interest in administration through the dean’s office, but still teaches Theories of Personality course in Chicago.

Students and faculty from the clinical-counseling program continue to be active in research. Recent graduate Mona Williams, M.S. ’02 and Jeff Kahn have an article appearing in the Journal of College Counseling. A paper based on Christina Ward’s M.S. ’02 thesis was published, with Ray Bergner and Kahn as co-authors, in Family Therapy. Anna Bridges, M.S. ’01, and Bergner presented a paper at the American Psychological Association Conference based on her thesis research, and also presented a paper at the International Association for Relationship Research in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Stacia Bote ’01, M.S. ’03, Ray Bergner and Margie Nauta have a paper in press in Family Therapy. Danesh Bobst, M.S. ’88, Tony Adorno ’94, M.S. ’96, Shawn (LaRae) Mills, M.S. ’96, and Dwayne Burkhall, M.S. ’96. We plan to have another in spring 2005. If you are interested in participating, please contact John Binning at jbinning@ilstu.edu.

The Society of Industrial/Organizational Psychologists (SIOP) Conference is in Chicago this April. Look for a large Illinois State University IO contingent to attend. Let us know if you will be there and want to get together.

Cognitive and behavioral sciences
Larry Altenkirch is serving as the treasurer of Division 25—Behavior Analysis of the American Psychological Association (APA). He also is president of the Mid-American Association for Behavior Analysis. He received an award for his contributions to the Illinois Minority Graduate Incentive Program and the Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Programs.

Tom Critchfield is serving a three-year term as an elected member of the executive council of the Association for Behavior Analysts, a 4,000-member international organization. He and Karla Doepke collaborated on “Social Aggression Affecting Children’s Eye-witness Testimony: A Single-Subject Experimental Analysis.”

Scott Jordan published an article on action coordination in groups and individuals. He also presented a poster on “The Autocata- lytic Approach to Biology and Conscious- ness” at the 75th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness in Memphis, Tennessee.

Industrial/organizational-social psychology
The spring 2003 Practitioner Panel Discussion was a smashing success with the following panelists: Bob Lemke, M.S. ’94, Ken Hartley, Ph.D. ’96, M.S. ’91, Angela (Demmer) Adorno, M.S. ’99, Jeff FACTRUI, M.S. ’89, Jason Bobat, M.S. ’98, Tony Adorno, M.S. ’96, Shawn (LaRae) Mills, M.S. ’96, and Dwayne Burkhall, M.S. ’96. We plan to have another in spring 2005. If you are interested in participating, please contact John Binning at jbinning@ilstu.edu.

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New psychology faculty
Cong Liu is an assistant professor in industrial-organizational and social psychology. She earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of South Florida. Her research interests include job stress, job satisfaction, cross-cultural psychology, and evidence-based interventions. She wrote this chapter on multi-item measures in the Encyclopedia of Research Methods for the Social Sciences.

Alumni updates
Gwendolyn Doyle ’75 is a crafts leader at Cedar Gardens in Rockford. She received an award in Phoenix as a NAHBOF finalist for improving self and community. Bibi (Lee) Walker, M.S. ’76, is interim associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Utah College Of Nursing. She earned her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin.

Diana Slavíkova ’95 earned an M.A. in counseling psychology from Southern Illinois University, and is acting coordinator of women’s studies program at Eastern Illinois University.

Jenni Pohllam ’01 is a relocation specialist in Palatine who uses her psychology background on a daily basis to relocate fire victims.

Clinical-counseling alumni
Henry Hummert, former master’s student in the late ’70s who went on to complete a Ph.D. program at St. Louis University, is a private practice and is adjunct faculty member for the psychology graduate program at Washington University in St. Louis.

Todd Nelson, M.S. ’91, who earned a Ph.D. in social psychology at Michigan State, was named a Distinguished Professor at California State-Stanislaus.

Julia Bossert, M.S. ’99, received her LPC/CIC license.

Matt Fleming, M.S. ’01, is pursuing his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Northern Illinois University.

Lorna Most, M.S. ’02, is attending the doctoral program in clinical rehabilitation psychology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Teresa Conard, one of our graduating students last year, is completing a yearlong fellowship with the U.S. Army.

School psychology alumni
Linda Johnson ’80, school psychologist with the Elmhurst Elementary District 205, and Anna Adamik ’83, psychology school psychologist with the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education, both in Illinois, were both named 2003 ISPA Regional Practitioners of the Year. Cathy Powell Marshall, M.A. ’87, is a school psychologist for the Macoupin-Fox Trot Special Education District in Deér Creek, Illinois. A passion for psychology is an inherited trait in Marshall’s family as her older daughter, Laura Poland, graduated from the University of Iowa. Her school psychology alumni
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Jeff Facteur, M.S. ’09, is employed by Hogan Assessment Systems. Jeff and Carolyn are expecting their third child.

Parman Ram, M.S. ’99, and Marlo are new graduates.

Angela Abbott, M.S. ’01, working at the National Center for Opinion Research Center. Sharon Mills, M.S. ’94, and Dan are expecting their second child.

1998 and 2003 graduates
Please return the alumni survey you will receive this spring. These are critical to Psychology Department’s program review process.

Scoot Bedell ’96, M.S. ’99, had his Emotional Judgment Test published by the Institute for Personality and Social Psychology (IPSP).

Rob Kaiser, M.S. ’98, presented at the November meeting of the Chicago Area I/O Psychologists (CIOIP).

Scoot Bedell, M.S., ’99, has his Emotional Judgment Test published by the Institute for Personality and Social Psychology (IPSP). He is a certified test publisher and is pursuing his Ph.D. in cognitive psychology at Illinois State University.

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