



# Psychology Department

## Summer 2011

### Newsletter



Editor: Dr. Nancy R. Gee

### Dr. Richard Weist Retires



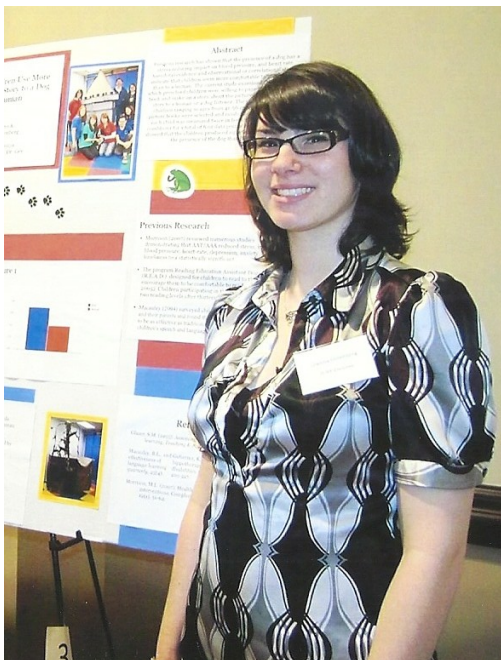
After 38 years of teaching at SUNY Fredonia, Dr. Richard (Dick) Weist retired from SUNY Fredonia in May, 2011. He earned the rank of Distinguished Professor in 2000; he is one of only three Distinguished Research Professors at SUNY Fredonia. He was given the Robert W. Kasling Award at SUNY Fredonia in 1982. Dr. Weist is the author of a book, and over 50 scholarly articles and book chapters. He received funding for his research from many national and international granting agencies, including the U.S. National Science Foundation, the Polish Academy of Science, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the International Research and Exchange Board. He was a Fulbright lecturer and researcher in Poland and Finland in 1978-1980

and 1989. In the Department of Psychology, Dr. Weist most frequently taught Perception, Psychology of Language, Cognitive Development, and Child Psychology. Dr. Weist showed a strong commitment to the development of student researchers, including many students as co-authors on scholarly publications. His service to the university was extensive over his years at SUNY Fredonia. His emphasis on the importance of scholarly work at SUNY Fredonia was manifested in his recent work on the Robert W. Kasling and William T. Hagan Award Committees. Moreover, he was instrumental in the inclusion of scholarship and creative activities as one of five key areas in the most recent Fredonia Strategic Plan. Dr. Weist will always be remembered for his brilliance, wit, and rigorous courses. We will miss him very much, and wish him the best during his retirement!

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## Leanna Greenberg wins the Krawczyk Award



This annual award is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Krawczyk on behalf of their son Dan, who graduated from Fredonia in 1998. Although Dan was very involved in many campus activities, including serving as President of the Psychology Club, both he and his parents believe it was his involvement with Independent Study that made a substantial difference in his future. For that reason they provide a special award for students who have had significant Independent Study experiences.

Dan received a fellowship to UCLA, and completed his Ph.D. in 2003. While there he worked with Dr. Keith Holyoak and pursued research on frontal lobe information processing and the emergence of coherence in decision making. Subsequently, he did a PostDoc at UC Berkeley with Dr. Mark D'Esposito focusing on neuro-imaging. Presently Dan is an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at the Dallas School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences where he recently obtained a federal grant in the amount of \$2 million to support his ongoing research.

The 2011 recipient, Leanna Greenberg, has an impressive list of accomplishments. Leanna did a year-long independent study project with Dr. Croxton that transitioned into a year-long Honors Thesis project. The first project examined the relationship between mood, type of transgression, and forgiveness. Leanna worked with students from St. Petersburg State University in Russia, who carried out a similar study. She presented the results of this work at both the Student Expo and the Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference (WPUPC) last year.

Her Honors Thesis project entitled "Perceptions of Liking and Other Relevant Factors Moderated by Degree of Proxemic Choice and Gender of Target" also revealed interesting results. Leanna presented this work at the Student Expo and WPUPC.

In addition to all of this research with Dr. Croxton, Leanna also did an independent study with Dr. Gee examining the extent to which preschool children were willing to make verbalizations in the presence of a therapy dog or human listener. Leanna managed to conduct this massive volume of research while maintaining a near perfect GPA and involvement in many other activities. She was a Teaching Assistant for the Psychology Lab course, Treasurer of Psi Chi, Intern at Gateways/Resource Center, volunteer for Fredonia Community and Out of the Darkness Walk and served as a member of Psychology Club, among many other activities.

## Psi Chi Happenings - by Dr. Zevenbergen

Psi Chi had a very exciting Spring semester, with the initiation of 62 new students into the SUNY Fredonia chapter on March 27, 2011. Dr. Richard Weist was the speaker for this event, which also honored the award winners of the Psychology Department Merit Award (Recipients: Rachel Foltz, Leanna Greenberg, & Kayla Griewisch; Honorable Mention: Theresa Richir), Don Lehr Teaching Award (Kong Gao), and the Virginia Sexton Medallion (Student: Whitney Riley; Faculty: John Slaughter). Also during the Spring 2011 semester, Psi Chi co-sponsored Homelessness Awareness Week, which included a clothing and toiletries drive; speakers from Rural Ministry in Dunkirk, NY, and the Salvation Army Anew Center, in Jamestown; a film/discussion event; and co-sponsorship of a barn dance. On March 7, 2011, Psi Chi hosted a graduate school interview information night, with a presentation by Marjorie Plaister of the Career Development Office. Drs. Klonsky and Zevenbergen were the advisors to Psi Chi in 2010-2011. The advisors for 2011-2012 will be Drs. Klonsky and Boysen.

## Fredonia State of Mind - by Dr. Zevenbergen

Fredonia State of Mind (FSOM) is a student organization which aims to disseminate information regarding mental health and wellness to the campus community. During the Spring 2011 semester, FSOM published and distributed two newsletters. Newsletter topics included eating disorders, stigma related to mental illness, circadian rhythms, accepting rejection, preparing for examinations, seasonal affective disorder, relationship abuse, and problem-solving. The group also co-sponsored Homelessness Awareness Week and had a bowling night during the Spring semester. The advisor to FSOM is Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen.

## Faculty Activities

Dr. Guy Boysen attended the Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention and Teaching Institute May 25th through the 29th in Washington D.C. He presented a poster entitled "Classroom Microaggressions: Teacher and Student Perceptions." His poster outlined the results of a survey concerning subtle forms of prejudice that occur in college classroom. In previous research Dr. Boysen found that about 40% of professors and 50% of teachers have noticed some form of prejudice in the classroom in the previous year. In order to better understand profes-



sors' methods of responding to these incidents, Dr. Boysen presented professors with descriptions of subtle incidents of classroom prejudice and assessed their reactions. The results of the survey indicated that professors with experience teaching courses focused on diversity issues – topics such as multiculturalism, women's studies, and queer studies – were more likely to perceive the incidents of subtle prejudice as inappropriate and needing a response.

Congratulations!

Drs. Nancy Gee & Andrea Zevenbergen  
were promoted to the rank of Full Professor.



## Faculty Activities & Publications

### • Dr. Croxton

- Conference Proceeding: Zakharova, L. L., Croxton, J. S., & Yarmakhov, B. (2011). Organizational culture and effectiveness of modernization processes in education. Proceedings of the Conference: Modernization Potential of Russian Regions, Ivanovo State University, 159-162.
- Technical Report: Zakharova, L. L., & Croxton, J. S. (2011). Organizational culture as a socio-psychological basis for educational processmodernization. Nizhni Novgorod State University, 46-47.
- Invited Address: Croxton, J. S. (2011, April). Expectations, Stereotypes, and the Processing of Information. Izmir University of Economics, Turkey.

### • Dr. Drout

- Drout, Cheryl E, Fulbright Regional Seminar, "The Fulbright Traditional Program," WNYNWPA Fulbright Chapter, SUNY - Fredonia. (October 15, 2010).
- Denoya, L., Drout, C., Risk, S., Siddiqui, K. J. (2010). Fulbright OME (Outreach, Mentoring, & Enrichment) Grant: Pathways to Western New York Northwestern Pennsylvania (\$5,000).

### • Dr. Dyck

- Was inducted as an honorary member of the Alma Mater Society here at Fredonia, in recognition of her service to students, particularly the Pride Alliance students.

### • Dr. Gee

- Gee, N. R., Gould, J. K., Swanson, C. C., & Wagner, A. (In Press). Preschoolers Categorize Animate Objects Better in the Presence of a Dog. *Anthrozoös*.
- Received a Scholarly Incentive Award to support her Human-Animal Interaction research.
- Was named Co-Editor for the inaugural issue of a new journal called "Human Animal Interaction."

### • Dr. Klonsky

- Blanchet, P., Levonyan-Radloff, Lake, T., Klonsky, B., & Butler, B. Students' perceptions of a speaker who stutters in disfluent and fluent conditions. Poster accepted for presentation at the 9th Oxford Disfluency Conference, St. Catherine's College, Oxford, England, Sept. 1-4, 2011.

### • Dr. Zevenbergen

- Haman, E., & Zevenbergen, A. (2011, May). *Parents' beliefs about storytelling questionnaire*. Paper presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the COST Action IS0804: Language Impairment in a Multilingual Society: Linguistic Patterns and the Road to Assessment, Eskişehir, Turkey.
- Zevenbergen, A., & Angell, A. (in press). Beyond Frog and Toad: An exploration of transitional books. *Children and Libraries*.
- Zevenbergen, A. A., Haman, E., & Olszańska, A. (in press). Middle-class Polish and American mothers' beliefs regarding parent-child narratives. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*.

## Message from the Department Chair - Dr. Cheryl Drout



Reflecting upon the past academic year, one of the most significant events for the department was witnessing the graduation of the first cohort of BS degree students. Our program was only recently implemented, but several students achieved this milestone for our program in May. Another proud moment for the faculty was seeing one of our own majors receive both the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence and the Lanford Prize. Rachel Foltz, who conducted research with Dr. Dyck, served as a Learning Assistant for Psychology Lab, and held leadership roles in numerous department and campus clubs, was honored at graduation for her outstanding success.

A special activity of the spring semester was the participation of psychology students in "Flight of Hope", the campus fund raiser for the Japanese Tsunami/Earthquake victims. I served on the President's committee to spearhead the campaign. Working with an adjunct in VANM and President Hefner, we came up with the idea to use origami crane folding as a theme for the campaign. President Hefner challenged the committee to work with the campus to fold 1,000 cranes for each of Fredonia's sister universities in Japan. The committee worked with volunteers from the cross-cultural psychology class, athletic teams encouraged by Dr. Zevenbergen and Broncho Rollins (a student in PSY 370), and many campus and community volunteers organized by Joyce Smith (Volunteer Office and member of the FOH Committee). This labor of love involved many hours of folding and teaching others to fold. In the end the campus folded 3,000 cranes for our sister universities (which hung in the Cranston-Marche before departure for Japan) and sent more than \$3,000 from donors to Japan through the Red Cross. (Anyone interested in a powerpoint with step by step instructions for folding cranes, contact me at [drout@fredonia.edu](mailto:drout@fredonia.edu).)



## **Rachel Foltz wins the Lanford Presidential Award!!**

Read all about her award by clicking on this link: [http://ww2.fredonia.edu/news/BrowseallNews/tabid/1101/ctl/ArticleView/mid/1878/articleId/3095/language/en-US/Lanford\\_Presidential\\_Prize\\_recipient\\_is\\_Rachel\\_Foltz.aspx](http://ww2.fredonia.edu/news/BrowseallNews/tabid/1101/ctl/ArticleView/mid/1878/articleId/3095/language/en-US/Lanford_Presidential_Prize_recipient_is_Rachel_Foltz.aspx)

## **Student Expo Presentations - May 2011**

Elizabeth Bauza, Mentor: Dr. Guy Boysen, *Classroom Bias*

Stephanie Cook, Kayla Griewisch, Kara Jeziorski, Mentor: Dr. Suthakaran Veerasamy, *The Impact of Information-Processing Styles and Television Viewing on Body Image*

Susan Cronin, Mentor: Dr. Bruce Klonsky, *The Effect of an /r/ Articulatory Disorder on Undergraduate Listener's Perceptions*

Michael DeJesus, Mentor: Dr. Ingrid Johnston-Robledo, *SUNY Fredonia LGBTQQ Campus Climate*

Amy Fisk, Mentor: Dr. Ingrid Johnston-Robledo, *Faux Orgasms – Faux Empowerment?: Women's Experiences with Faking Orgasm*

Kennan Foulke, Mentor: Dr. Guy Boysen, *The Influence of Casual Explanations on Mental Illness Stigma*

Justine Gabreski, Mentor: Dr. Guy Boysen, *The effects of dangerousness and causal explanations on stigma toward schizophrenia*

Leanna Greenberg, Mentor: Dr. Jack Croxton, *Perceptions of Liking (as moderated by proxemic choice, gaze, and gender of a target)*

Ashley Holmes, Mentor: Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen, *Mothers' Support for Preschoolers' Development of Autobiographical Memory*

Leah Kerns, Leanna Greenberg, Mentor: Dr. Nancy Gee, *Preschool children use more words to tell a story to a dog than a human*

Michelle Lorenzetti, Mentor : Dr. Guy Boysen, *The effect of subliminal priming on memory*

Whitney Riley, Michael DeJesus, Mentor: Dr. Nancy Gee, *Preschool children have faster and more accurate memory performance in the presence of a dog*

Whitney Riley, Michelle Lorenzetti, Elizabeth Bauza, Mentor : Dr. Jennifer Dyck, *Perceptions of Body Images Between the Same and Opposite Gender*

Christina Self, Mentor: Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen, *Challenges Facing Children in Foster Care and their Caregivers*

Heather Tyktor, Brittany White, Mentor: Dr. Nancy Gee, *Preschool Children Explain Sequencing to a Dog, a Human and a Stuffed Dog*

Allison Westphal, Mentor: Dr. Guy Boysen, *Consumer Attitude in Print Advertisements*

**Student Presenters**  
**Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference**  
**Westminster College - April 16, 2011**

- Alexandra VanBergen
- Elizabeth Bauza
- Jonell Belcher
- Heather Tyktor
- Leah Kerns
- Michael Dejesus
- Susan Cronin
- Brittany White
- Eric Walsh
- Jennifer Grabski
- Justine Gabreski
- Michelle Lorenzetti
- Whitney Riley
- Leanna Greenberg

**Psi Chi Initiates**

Courtney Marie Battaglia	Brittany Ann Kaiser	Gabriella M. Pattison
Lauren Jean Boulet	Kelsey Rose Kilminster	George Thomas Pattison
Kimberly L. Brandl	Kathryn M. Kirkpatrick	Christina Marie Peters
Zachariah P. Braunscheidel	Kyla L. Kommeth	John Steven Thomas Peterson
Abigail Lynn Busch	Kayleigh M. Lee	Nicholas A. Pierce
Marissa A. Carmello	Jessica M. Loretz	Whitney Jenna Riley
Casey Rae Carr	Abigail Mayer	Alina N. Rojek
Kathryn M. Christian	Rachel D. McMahon	Catherine Elizabeth Salisbury-Ruf
Stephanie R. Cook	Bryanna M. Milligan	Ashley A. Schosek
Molly E. Egloff	Samantha C. Miosi	Clair Schroeder
Jaelyn Clare Faliero	Michael C. Mitchell	Tina M. Schwartzmeyer
Lindsey M. Farrell	Cara M. Monachino	Rachele T. Traina
Keri Ellen Filsinger	Alicia M. Morley	Matthew Daniel Traniello
Amy K. Fisk	Bridget A. Mosman	Kimberly E. Tydings
Cassandra M. Fleck	Nicole Ann Norgren	Kayla Elizabeth Vossler
Keenan Lacey Foulke	Colin M. O'Malley	Eric J. Walsh
Justine Dianne Gabreski	Lynsay M. Paiko	Brittany A. White
Lacey A. Heid	Kristen Lynn Paler	Deirdre D. Wiles
Amanda D. Hooey	Leah L. Palmer	Andreas Gabriel Woerner
Holly Lyn Huckabone	Jessica Lynn Palozzi	

## **Internships - Dr. Zevenbergen**

In the Spring 2011 semester, 21 students from the Psychology Department participated in internships in clinical psychology, counseling, school counseling, school social work, social work, human resources, and organizational psychology. These students and their internship sites are listed below.

Amanda Andrews	WCA Hospital Psych. Dept., Jamestown, NY
Abigail Busch	Pine Valley Middle/High School, Pine Valley, NY
Sarah Carl	Buffalo Psychiatric Center, Buffalo, NY
Kathryn Christian	City of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
Tiffany Clark	Jefferson Middle School, Jamestown, NY
Elisabeth Ebert	Dunkirk High School, Dunkirk, NY
Ian Evans	Gustavus Adolphus Child and Fam. Serv., Jamestown, NY
Rachel Foltz	Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership, Columbus, OH
Keenan Foulke	Salvation Army Anew Center, Jamestown, NY
Kurtis Garvin	Chautauqua Striders, Westfield, NY
Kristen Grabowski	Sherman Central Schools, Sherman, NY
Brenda Hall	Baker Hall School, Lackawanna, NY
Hana Im	WNY Children's Psychiatric Center, West Seneca, NY
Mallorie Mandell	Lake Shore Middle School, Angola, NY
Abigail Mayer	Job Corps, Cassadaga, NY
Bryanna Milligan	Chautauqua Striders, Dunkirk, NY
Morgan Nielsen	Mercy Center for Women, Erie, PA
George Pattison	Lakeview Shock Correctional Facility, Brocton, NY
Theresa Richir	Brocton Central Schools, Brocton, NY
Steven Scholtens	Westfield Central Schools, Westfield, NY
Katelyn Singer	Gowanda Correctional Facility, Gowanda, NY