Psychology News -- Week of October 19, 2008

PUBLICATIONS

- 1st year grad student Jennifer Simpson just had a paper accepted:

- Melvin Wilson had a paper published in Journal of Family Psychology:

- Associate Professor Emeritus Arthur Schulman from the Cognitive Area had a book published this week:
  *Websterisms: A Collection of Words and Definitions Set Forth by the Founding Father of American English*

  See below for a commentary from Arthur Schulman and excerpts from his book.

MEDIA MENTION

A story on implicit associations between brands and presidential candidates appeared in Wired.com. The story quotes Brian Nosek and Sriram Natarajan:

*Candidate Supporters' Use of Gadgets as Symbols Reveal Power of Brands*

FACULTY PROFILES

We asked a random group of faculty members: If you were not a psychologist, what would you be?

**Jerry Clore:** Until college, I vaguely imagined myself as a writer, going down the rivers of the world that I saw on maps at school. After starting college in electrical engineering, I ended up at the University of Texas as a graduate student in psychology because I had seen a book in a bookstore written by someone
from there. I figured if I went there too, I could write a book. Well, I guess I sort of did the "writer" part, but so far the "rivers of the world" remain elusive.

Jim Freeman: I was born and raised in Los Angeles, where the glow of Hollywood lights was alluring. To be an actor was a dream job and I was even in a movie as a baby. However, as an adult, I did not have the ability to act, sing, dance, or some other talent, which was required. It wasn't until after I started teaching that I learned how to act.

Michael Kubovy: I first studied aeronautical engineering at the Technion in Haifa, Israel, because I loved the idea of space travel, and thought it might be nice to be among the first to meet the aliens. After growing tired of accumulating cut-and-dried information, I dropped out, wrote and published some poetry, saw hundreds of movies, hung out with artists, became an existentialist, wore black, and smoked as heavily as my dislike of cigarettes allowed, and did my military service. I then went to the Hebrew University where on my first day of classes I carried a large blank notebook with an ornate title page (in Hebrew):

The Experience of the Absurd
Michael Kubovy

I never wrote a word in it.

John Nesselraode: I enlisted in the Marines right after finishing high school. My post-basic training involved a 28-week electronics school in Memphis, Tenn. I took the Strong Vocational Interest test just before returning to civilian life. The staff sergeant who interpreted my test results told me that I should become a math teacher. My initial undergraduate major was electrical engineering but I found it boring and earned my BS in mathematics. If I were not a psychologist, I might well be an electrical engineer supplementing his living by teaching math in night school.

In the next issue: How did Alev Erisir, Dick Reppucci and Melvin Wilson find their way to psychology?

ANNALS of the DEPARTMENT
Who is Gilmer Hall named after?

Gilmer Hall is named after Francis Walker Gilmer (1790-1826). Francis Walker Gilmer was the tenth child of George Gilmer, a close friend of Thomas Jefferson. When Francis' father died, Jefferson kept an eye on his development. Gilmer was trained in law and Jefferson offered Gilmer a position as the chair of law at the University of Virginia. Gilmer went to Europe to recruit faculty for the University. But when he came back to the States, he died at the age of 36, before he could really begin work as the chair. Gilmer is the author of *Sketches of American Orators* (1816) which is an analysis of the oratorical styles of important lawyers and public figures. The book is one of the first U.S. studies of oratory.
A CLOSER LOOK at FACULTY WORK

Here is what Arthur Shulman told the Newsletter about his new book Websterisms: A Collection of Words and Definitions Set Forth by the Founding Father of American English:

My first book, "Websterisms" (a collaboration with Jill Lepore), was published on October 14th by Free Press, two days before Noah Webster's 250th birthday. Lepore, a Harvard professor who directs the school's earliest interdisciplinary program (in History and Literature), provides an Introduction to the lexicographer and his times in an expanded version of her New Yorker essay, "Noah's Mark". I supply an annotated selection of more than 1500 entries from the 70,000 in Noah's great 1828 dictionary, and offer a chapter on how to read Webster. I'll be talking about the book, and signing copies, at New Dominion Bookshop on the Downtown Mall, at 5:30pm on October 29.

And here is a selection of favorite entries by Arthur Schulman from his book:

ANDROID. A machine, in the human form, which, by certain springs, performs some of the natural motions of a living man. One of these machines, invented by M. Vaucanson, appeared in Paris in 1738, representing a flute player.

EMPIRICISM. The practice of medicine without a medical education. Hence, quackery; the pretensions of an ignorant man to medical skill.

GIPSEY. The Gipseys are a race of vagabonds which infest Europe, Africa and Asia, strolling about and subsisting mostly by theft, robbery and fortune-telling. The name is supposed to be corrupted from Egyptian, as they were thought to have come from Egypt. But their language indicates that they originated in Hindoostan.

MARRIAGE. ...Marriage was instituted by God himself for the purpose of preventing the promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, for promoting domestic felicity, and for securing the maintenance and education of children.

PREPOSTEROUS. Perverted; wrong; absurd; contrary to nature or reason; not adapted to the end; as, a republican government in the hands of females, is preposterous.
EVENTS of the WEEK

Monday, October 20, 2008

- Developmental Lunch, 12:00pm:
  Dr. Eve Danziger, UVA Anthropology Department, *The Acquisition of Reproach: Theory of Mind and Reactions to Wrongdoing across Cultures*

- Professional Issues Seminar sponsored by the GRC, with Judy DeLoache, Alev Erisir & Medha Tare: 3:30pm, GIL 141
  *Social networking and Self-Promotion*

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

- Community Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Dr. Nancy Deutsch, Curry School Risk & Prevention Program, *Promoting Competence, Connection, and Autonomy in Middle School Girls - YWLP Program*

- Social Lunch:12:30pm:1:45pm, GIL B001
  Mike McCullough, University of Miami, *The Evolution of Forgiveness Instinct: How The Mind Solves a Recurrent Social Problem*

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

- Sensory and Systems Neuroscience Lunch: 12:30pm-2pm, GIL B001
  Journal club and group discussion, *Recent Advances in the Neurobiology of Addiction*

Thursday, October 23, 2008

- Joint Developmental and Quantitative Area Lunch (DADA): 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Daniel Keenan, UVA Department of Statistics, *Modeling a Regulatory Mechanism when the Underlying Structure involves a Highly Complex Dynamical System – Detecting the Causes of Early-Stage Diabetes*

Friday, October 24, 2008

- Clinical Lunch: 12pm, GIL 225
  Mandy Steiner, *Understanding Affect through Prefrontal Asymmetry*

- Cognitive Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Tim Salthouse, *What needs to be explained in cognitive aging*