Psychology News -- Week of November 9, 2008

PROMOTION
All three candidates for promotion, Steve Boker, Jonathan Haidt and Vikram Jaswal, were given an overwhelmingly positive vote by the Department. The cases now move forward to the Dean’s committee for review with other cases across Arts & Sciences.

PUBLICATIONS

- After Gary Sherman last week, Yoav Bar-Anan has a paper accepted by Emotion this week, with Tim Wilson: Bar-Anan, Y., Wilson, T., D., & Gilbert, D., T. The feeling of uncertainty intensifies affective reactions. Emotion.

RESEARCH PROFILE
In this series, we ask researchers: What is a recent finding of yours that you are excited about?

Megan Bloom: In some work in collaboration with Judy DeLoache, we have found that young infants have a marked preference for animals over other sorts of stimuli. The way we measure infants' preferences is by showing them pairs of stimuli - in this case movies of animals and man-made objects - and we measure the amount of time they spend looking at the different categories of stimuli. This finding tells us that humans, even very early in development, may have a specially attuned attentional mechanism that directs them towards living things in their environment. This has important theoretical implications, particularly regarding evolution, as paying attention to animals - conspecifics, predator, prey, etc. - in our environment lends an advantage to survival.

INTERVIEW
We interviewed Psychology Department's Front Desk Coordinator Vivienne ("Viv") Spauls. Viv Spauls has been with the Department since the first day of classes in August, 2007.

Where were you born and raised? And where did you go to school?
I was born in Cleveland, OH. I lived in New Jersey; Long Island, NY; Sarasota, FL; Atlanta, GA; Maui, HI and spent all my teen summers in the Western NC Mountains! I have a Bachelor Degree in Marketing from Long Island University, CW Post Campus.

What did you do before joining the Psychology Department?

I was with the UVA Newcomb Hall Bookstore in 1989 – 1990. I was with UVA Pediatrics at the KCRC Children’s Medical Center 1996 – 2006 as Project Coordinator of The North American Growth in Cerebral Palsy Project. I worked a temp position at the UVA Digestive Health Center of Excellence before I began here. While I was a stay at home Mom, I was a Substitute Teacher at the Elementary level. I still volunteer on occasion for the Albemarle County Schools. Some of the other jobs I have had are: Ski instructor, bartender, Sales Representative, US Postal Carrier, and I am an Anthropometrist.

Can you explain us what an Anthropometrist is?

Anthropometry is the study of human body measurement for use in anthropological classification and comparison. It has many practical uses, for example, it is used to assess nutritional status and to monitor the growth of children. I studied the measurement of children with severe disabilities in my research. For more information, visit: http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/nagcepp/

How many people call the Front Desk on an average weekday?

It is hard to average how many calls we get per day. It could be from a dozen to over a hundred! We get a lot of forwarded calls when staff do not have voice mail, or are on their phones, then the calls get forwarded to the front desk. We get lots of "hang ups" when they realize they did not get who they are trying to reach.

How do you spend your time outside Gilmer?

My favorite hobby is photography. Our son just began Engineering School at VCU. Since my younger teen is learning to drive now, I am still "Taxi Mom". When I'm not spending time with my family, I love to travel. I have been to almost all of our 50 states, London, Rome and Siena, Italy. Ask me about Siena! I enjoy snow skiing, hiking, golf, and walking with our dogs, (Golden Retriever & Lab).

EVENTS of the WEEK

Monday, November 10, 2008

- Developmental Lunch, 12:00pm-1:15pm, GIL 225
  Dr. Danielle Dallaire and Dr. Angeline Lillard, A Panel on Personal Response Systems
- Grading Workshop, presented by the Teaching Concerns Committee, 3:30pm, GIL 141
  Speakers: Dr. Judy Deloache, Robyn Kondrad, Ashley Pinkham, and Monica Erbacher
  The workshop will cover topics such as minimizing the time it takes to grade, being objective, dealing with students who disagree with their grade, and how to make expectations clear to students.

Tuesday, November 11, 2008
• Community Lunch, 12:30-1:45, GIL 225
  Dr. Elizabeth Gorman, UVA Department of Sociology, *Gender, Cognitive Bias, and Organizational Mobility: the Case of Lawyers*
• Social Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Justin Storbeck

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008**

• Sensory and Systems Neuroscience Lunch: 12:30pm-2pm, GIL B001
  Kurt R. Illig

**Thursday, November 13, 2008**

• Quantitative Area Lunch (DADA): 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Elliot Tucker-Drob, *Individual Differences and Developmental Changes in Cognitive Abilities*

**Friday, November 14, 2008**

• Curry School Research Lecture Series, 11am-12pm, Ruffner Hall Auditorium on the Ground Floor
  Judy DeLoache, *Becoming Symbol-Minded*
• Clinical Lunch: 12pm-1pm, GIL 225
  Shige Oishi, *Residential Mobility, Well-Being, and Mortality: Residential Moves Hurt Introverts*
• Cognitive Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Dan Willingham, *How Neuroscience Might Influence K-12 Education*