DEPARTMENT NEWS

- **Steve Boker, Timothy Brick and Jeffrey Spies** were one of the seven UVa teams to present their research discoveries at the 2008 Mid-Atlantic Innovation Showcase in McLean, VA on November 14th. The showcase is co-hosted by the UVa Patent Foundation and aims to bring inventive UVa technologies to the industry. The exhibition by Boker, Brick and Spies was titled "High-Presence Low-Bandwidth Video Conferencing."
  

- The Fall 2008 **Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology** induction ceremony took place at the Rotunda on Sunday the 16th of November. Twenty-nine undergraduate students with strong academic records were accepted as new members of Psi Chi. The speaker at the ceremony was Dr. Filip Loncke of the Curry School of Education and Psychology. Altogether, over 50 people were in attendance--the most ever for a Psi Chi induction ceremony.

PUBLICATION

Shige Oishi had a paper accepted for publication with former DMP student Dana Roth. After graduation, Dana Roth worked for one year in the Oishi Lab as a coordinator, before heading to the Ph.D. program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. **Oishi, S., & Roth, D. P. (in press).** The role of self-reports in culture and personality research: It is too early to give up on self-reports. *Journal of Research in Personality.*

RESEARCH PROFILE

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

**Erin Kerfoot:** Memory dysfunction is an increasingly important problem among Americans today. Factors contributing to many memory disorders involve either a reduced or an exaggerated capacity to experience arousal. These factors result in impaired neurotransmitter release in brain areas that process memory which includes limbic structures such as the amygdala and hippocampus. There are multiple pathways by which emotionally arousing information can be consolidated into memory, but very little attention has been devoted to identifying the role of norepinephrine release in the nucleus accumbens during this process. Of particular interest is the shell region of the accumbens because it not only receives noradrenergic input but input from both the amygdala and hippocampus as well. Because of this constellation of inputs, the accumbens may play an important role in
consolidating information that is initially processed in the amygdala and hippocampus during emotionally arousing events. Cedric Williams and I have recently found that inactivation of the accumbens, despite activation of either the amygdala or hippocampus attenuates the improvement in memory. These findings are the first to suggest that the accumbens plays an integral role not only in consolidating converging information but can do so even when that information has initially been processed by the amygdala and hippocampus following exposure to arousing events.

EVENTS of the WEEK

Monday, November 24, 2008

- Developmental Lunch, 12:00pm-1:15pm, GIL 225
  Dr. Steve Suomi
- Colloquium: 3:30-5pm, GIL 190
  Dr. Steve Suomi, Chief of the Laboratory of Comparative Ethology, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), Bethesda, Maryland
  *Risk, Resilience, and Gene X Environment Interactions in Primates*

Tuesday, November 25, 2008

- Social Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Yoav Bar-Anan