NEWS

- **Jonathan Bakdash** successfully defended his dissertation, *Guided Navigation Impairs Spatial Knowledge: Using Aids to Improve Spatial Representations*, on Monday, April 19th. Members of the committee included Dennis Proffitt (Chair), Ellen Bass (Systems Engineering, outside member), Bill Epstein, and Dan Willingham.

- **Josh Magee** successfully defended his dissertation, *Experiences with Intrusive Thoughts in Younger and Older Adults*, on Monday, April 19th. Members of the committee included Bethany Teachman (Chair), Bob Emery, Brie Gertler (Philosophy, outside member), and Tim Salthouse.

AWARDS

- **John Nesselroade** has been selected to receive an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the Faculty of Science and Mathematics II of Humboldt University, Berlin.
- **Jerry Clore** has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. For coverage in UVA Today, see: [http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=11580](http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=11580). See below for an interview with Jerry Clore on his career as a psychologist.

PUBLICATION


INTERVIEW

**On the occasion of his being elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, we asked Jerry Clore questions on his distinguished career as a psychologist.**

When did you first decide to become a psychologist?

I started college in electrical engineering, but in search of a broader education, I switched to psychology when a vocational test pointed me toward clinical psychology. But in graduate school at the University of Texas, research on interpersonal attraction became more interesting than clinical training, so I became a personality-social psychologist.

In those days, graduate students did not apply for faculty positions as today. In fact, students had no idea where the faculty had submitted their names until and unless they got a call. I was lucky that my call came from the University of Illinois, where I became a
colleague of some of the biggest names of the day and learned as much in my first six months as I had in my four years of graduate school. Yes, four years was the norm, not six or seven. Soon after I arrived, Raymond Cattell (a notable figure in the history of psychology) gave me a dissertation to read by one of his graduating Phd students. I recall being very impressed with how good it was; as well I should have been. That student later became a famous and important figure in psychology -- it was John Nesselroade.

What were and are the most fun and most difficult aspects of being an academic to you?

My older sister was an actress and my father was a gifted public speaker, who I heard often. So, I find the experience of giving talks and lectures to be an especially fulfilling part of the job, still hoping to inspire, as they often did.

The difficult aspects of the job include occasionally having to make hard decisions that affect the hopes and aspirations of students, colleagues, and others in the field, especially when it is all too easy to imagine oneself in their position.

Of all the articles that you have written, which one was your favorite and why?

I think my favorite paper is always the last one I wrote.

During the span of your career, what major changes have you observed happening in the field of psychology and in the academic world?

Happily, one of the things that changed in psychology over my career is that the topic of emotion came into its own. Indeed, a couple of years ago an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education documented that fields as diverse as psychology, neuroscience, law, economics, and history had begun to focus on emotion. In any case, it has been rewarding when my own research interest became so topical.

More generally, psychologists have become much more sophisticated over the years both philosophically and methodologically, partly as a result of positive influences from computer science, neuroscience, and clinical psychology, each of which in its own way forced investigators to look beyond their own paradigms. Also, in most areas of psychology it seems to me that we have moved beyond the stage of trying to show empirically what we already believe to the stage where we design research that is capable of surprising us.

EVENTS of the WEEK

Monday, April 26, 2010

- Developmental Lunch, 12:00pm-1:15pm, GIL 225
  Rebecca Rosenberg, Johns Hopkins University, The Effects of Non-Cohesion and Object Chunking on Infants' Working Memory Capacity
- Professional Issues Panel, 3:30pm-4:30pm, GIL B001
  Communicating Your Findings Outside of Psychology
Tuesday, April 27, 2010

- Community Lunch, 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  John Morgan
- Social Lunch, 12:30pm-1:45pm, Gilmer B001
  Kathleen Schmidt

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

- Cognitive Lunch, 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Blair Hopkins & David Dobolyi

Thursday, April 29, 2010

- Quantitative Lunch (DADA), 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Geneva Dodson

Friday, April 30, 2010

- Clinical Lunch: 12pm-1pm, GIL 225
  Megan Schad and Marissa Griggs, *Linkages between Clinical Symptoms and Interpersonal Functioning among Youth*
- Colloquium, 3:30pm, GIL 190
  Jamie Morris, UVa, *How the Brain Represents the Actions of Others*

For news submissions, comments and suggestions, respond to this message or e-mail psych-news@virginia.edu.