

# ADP Newsletter

Applied Developmental Psychology Student Group (ADPSG)  
Issue 2 Fall 2006



**President.** Dhvani Patel  
[dpatel7@gmu.edu](mailto:dpatel7@gmu.edu)



**Vice President.** Charlotte Anderson  
[candersi@gmu.edu](mailto:candersi@gmu.edu)



**Secretary.** Elif Bor  
[ebor@gmu.edu](mailto:ebor@gmu.edu)



**Treasurer.** Erin Richard  
[erichar5@gmu.edu](mailto:erichar5@gmu.edu)



**Newsletter Editor.** Todd Wyatt  
[twyatt1@gmu.edu](mailto:twyatt1@gmu.edu)



**Newsletter Associate.** Rebecca Hartman  
[rhartma1@gmu.edu](mailto:rhartma1@gmu.edu)



**Events Coordinator.** Lindsey Hutchison  
[lhutchis@gmu.edu](mailto:lhutchis@gmu.edu)



**Faculty Advisor.** Dr. Adam Winsler  
[awinsler@gmu.edu](mailto:awinsler@gmu.edu)

## Table of Contents

- ADPSG Executive Board- P 1
- Lab Features – P 1
- Conferences & Publications– P 3
- New Graduate Student Features –P 5
- Fulbright's – P 7
- Upcoming Events – P 8
- Editors Note- P 9

## Cognition, Affect & Temperament

In each issue the ADPSG team features a few of the faculty, their research, as well as the graduate students who work with them. Through this we can all get to know each other just a little better, and also have a better understanding of the research that's going on outside of your lab. With the current edition, writers had the privilege to take a closer look into the labs of Dr. Johannes Rojahn as well as incoming faculty Dr. Koraly Pérez-Edgar.

Recently the Applied Developmental Faculty welcomed the addition of Dr. Koraly Pérez-Edgar and her graduate students to the program. Dr. Pérez-Edgar runs the Cognition, Affect & Temperament laboratory here at Mason, which investigates the relationship between attention and emotion and their impact on negotiating ones social world. This research looks into these relationships in adults as well as in children, which puts temperament, emotion and attention in a more developmental perspective.

More specifically, Dr. Pérez-Edgar employs a multifaceted approach of observational techniques, neuroimaging, as well as psycho-physiological approaches to better understand the relationship of temperament and psychopathology (continued on page 2)



## Cognition, Affect & Temperament Lab (*continued*)

Dr. Pérez-Edgar received her B.A. in Psychology from Dartmouth College and her MA and PhD in Psychology from Harvard University studying under the Dr. Jerome Kagan. Dr. Kagan, along with Dr. Nathan A. Fox at the University of Maryland, as well as Dr. Daniel S. Pine at the NIMH, have all provided Dr. Pérez-Edgar with mentorship support and guidance even today.

Currently the lab is working on an exciting array of studies, some in collaboration with work being done at NIH as well as the University of Maryland (College Park). Dr. Pérez-Edgar, graduate student Autumn Brown along with other graduate students are currently heading up an investigation looking into the areas of threat and attention as they relate to adolescent anxiety. In addition, Dr. Pérez-Edgar, graduate students Charlotte Anderson and Autumn Brown, and undergraduate intern Iwamoto are leading the investigation looking into children's speech, in particular stressful speech, and its relationship with attention, emotion, social competence, and psychopathology.

Graduate student Olivia Zucco, is currently working on another study that is reminiscent of the abovementioned areas of interest but instead of working with child or adolescent populations the interest is now directed towards adult speech. Observational coding, EEG along with other methods will be used to better understand the relations between adult anxiety, depression, and attention biases.

In speaking with Dr. Pérez-Edgar it was evident that she is truly excited about her work as well as her students. It's unfortunate that more of the great things that are going on in the Cognition, Affect & Temperament Lab couldn't fit into this feature So if you are interested in finding out more about the lab, their current work, and a listing of recent publications go to

<http://mason.gmu.edu/%7Ekperez/index.htm>. Dr. Pérez-Edgar's work is certainly a welcomed addition to the Applied Developmental Psychology Program here at George Mason University, make sure you make her and her lab feel welcome!

### Current Students:

**Autumn Brown** (B.S. in Psychology, University of Mary Washington)

**Charlotte Anderson** (B.S. in Human Development, Cornell University).

**Olivia Zucco** (Special Education and Psychology, Bridgewater State College).

**Yesim Caylakli** (see Fulbright page 4, Bosphorus University, Istanbul)

**Goksen Yucel** (see Fulbright page 4, Bogazici University Istanbul)

**Jessica Iwamoto** (currently working on her B.S. in Psychology at University of Maryland Baltimore County)

By Todd Wyatt & Charlotte Anderson

Next to be featured is the work of Johannes Rojahn, Professor of Psychology and the Director of the Center for Cognitive Development at George Mason University. Dr. Rojahn is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and of the American Association on Mental Retardation, and is currently President of Division 33 (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) of the American Psychological Association.

He earned his doctoral degree at the University of Vienna (Austria) in psychology. After a post-doctoral Fulbright-Hayes fellowship at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, he taught at the University of Marburg (Germany), then the University of Pittsburgh Medical School (Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic), then at The Ohio State University (Nisonger Center for Developmental Disabilities) before joining the Mason faculty.

(Continued on page 3)

## Johannes Rojahn Ph.D. (continued)

His main academic interest is in intellectual and developmental disabilities, especially [1] challenging behaviors and other forms of psychopathology (epidemiology, assessment, applied behavior analysis) [2] applied behavior analysis, and [3] socio-emotional aspects of mental retardation and its relationship to interpersonal functioning.

Dr. Rojahn has published more than 100 scientific articles and book chapters and is the co-editor of the *Handbook of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* (2006). He has served as an Associate Editor for scientific journals such as *Research in Developmental Disabilities* and the *American Journal on Mental Retardation*. He is also editorial board member of the *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities*, and *Research In Autism Spectrum Disorders*, and the Psychology Editor for *Down Syndrome Quarterly*.

Currently, Dr. Rojahn is working with 10 graduate researchers:

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alicia Fields(Ph.D. Year 5)    | Olivia Zucco (MA Year 2)       |
| Erin Gray (Ph.D. Year 5)       | Roopa Culas (MA Year 2)        |
| Kerry Dillman (MA Year 3)      | Rebecca Hartman (Ph.D. Year 1) |
| Katie Whittaker (Ph.D. Year 3) | Lillian Jarvinen (MA Year 1)   |
| Camelia Mircea (Ph.D. Year 2)  | Emilia Formoso (MA Year 1)     |



3

By Rebecca Hartman

## Past & Present: Conferences, Publications & New Faces

### Winslab visits the outback at ISSBD

Graduate students from Dr. Adam Winsler's Child Development Research Lab recently attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development in Melbourne, Australia. Sue Hartman, Erin Richard, and Henry Tran all had a chance to present their work Down Under, and here's what they had to say:

**Erin Richard (2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD):** "Melbourne was amazing, Australia was incredible, ISSBD was a great experience...seriously, I can't gush enough. The opening ceremony featured an Aborigine playing the didgeridoo, followed by local children singing uniquely Australian classics like "Waltzing Matilda." Having the opportunity to learn so much about a culture so far removed from our own was phenomenal.



Right to left: Bill the Koala (no it's not stuffed!), E. Richard, S. Hartman, & H. Tran

...and then the conference itself gave us a chance to hear what people are working on in the developmental field on the other side of the world right this minute. It was beautiful to see such a meeting of diverse, brilliant minds." (cont' page 4)



## ISSBD (continued)

Sue Hartman (4<sup>th</sup> year PhD) discussed the ups and downs of attending the conference by stating “It was great to be around and hear from different minds with varying backgrounds and perspectives discussing different ways to, for example, measure attachment [However at the same time] it was frustrating to see psychologists from different “camps” not continue such debates after sessions had ended with people who have different viewpoints. Instead I saw many researchers continue discussing issues of measurement with their colleagues who are already in agreement with them. To me, that does not help advance the field but instead maintains divisions in our research programs.”



ISSBD Conference, Right to Left: H. Tran, E. Richard, K. Fujioka, S. Hartman

*If you are interested in sharing your experiences of conferences or meetings that you've presented at or just attended please contact Todd Wyatt (Newsletter Editor) at [twyatt1@gmu.edu](mailto:twyatt1@gmu.edu)*

## Recent Student Publications

If you would like your recent work to be mentioned in future additions of the newsletter please contact [twyatt1@gmu.edu](mailto:twyatt1@gmu.edu)

4

Crane, J. & Winsler, A. (In Press). Early Autism and the IDEA: Implications for Practice and Public Policy. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*.

**Short Abstract:** Autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) present numerous challenges for early diagnosis and intervention. Recent research has concentrated on identifying symptoms of ASD recognizable in infants and toddlers. This paper examines the feasibility of detecting ASD in infants and toddlers using early behaviors related to ASD, and the impact recent government policy changes, and professional guidelines for family practitioners and pediatricians, have had on early screening for young children with ASD. Empirical evidence from retrospective video analysis implies that ASD may be detected in infants and toddlers. Recent policy changes and guidelines for pediatricians and other practitioners recommend more intense efforts be made for developmental surveillance and referrals but the impact of these policies on practice and on the lives of children with ASD and their families has been limited. Policy recommendations are made.

Mincic, M., Kalb, S., Denham, S.A. (In Review) Social Desirability and Children's Propensities To Forgive: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Journal of Genetic Psychology*.

**Short Abstract:** This study explored developmental differences in relations between children's forgiveness and social desirability. Eighty-six second ( $n = 31$ ), fourth ( $n = 31$ ), and sixth ( $n = 24$ ) graders (48 boys) completed the Child Forgiveness Inventory (Denham & Neal, 2002) and the Social Desirability Scale for Children (CSDS; Crandall, Crandall, & Katkovsky, 1965). As older children demonstrated greater social desirability, reflecting authoritative compliance, they forgave less overall, for accidental transgressions, and when or apologized. Results supported previous research demonstrating developmental differences in forgiveness.

## Conference Update.

| <u>Conference</u>  | <u>Date</u>            | <u>Location</u>   | <u>Deadline</u>   | <u>Website</u>  |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)       | November 8-11, 2006    | Atlanta, GA       | Passed            | <a href="http://www.annualconference.naeyc.org/">http://www.annualconference.naeyc.org/</a>                   |
| Eastern Psychological Association (EPA)                                | March 22-25, 2007      | Philadelphia, PA  | November 15, 2006 | <a href="http://www.easternpsychological.org/">http://www.easternpsychological.org/</a>                       |
| Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)                       | March 29-April 1, 2007 | Boston, MA        | Passed            | <a href="http://www.srcd.org/biennial.html">http://www.srcd.org/biennial.html</a>                             |
| American Educational Research Association (AERA)                       | April 9-13, 2007       | Chicago, IL       | Passed            | <a href="http://www.aera.net/annualmeeting/?id=282">http://www.aera.net/annualmeeting/?id=282</a>             |
| American Psychological Society (APS)                                   | May 24-27, 2007        | Washington, D.C.  | January 31, 2007  | <a href="http://www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/">http://www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/</a> |
| American Psychological Association (APA)                               | August 17-20, 2007     | San Francisco, CA | December 1, 2006  | <a href="http://www.apa.org/convention06/">http://www.apa.org/convention06/</a>                               |
| Society for Research on Adolescence                                    | March 6-9, 2008        | Chicago, IL       | TBA               | <a href="http://www.s-r-a.org/meeting.html">http://www.s-r-a.org/meeting.html</a>                             |
| International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD) | July 13 - 17, 2008     | Wurzberg, Germany | October 31, 2007  | <a href="http://www.issbd2008.de/">http://www.issbd2008.de/</a>   |
| Conference on Human Development (CHD)                                  | TBA 2008               | TBA               | TBA               |   |

### Who's New to Mason This Fall?

Let's take a minute to meet the new students of the Applied Developmental Psychology Program.



"My name is Jessica Johnson and I'm a Northern VA native. I graduated from the University of California Santa Cruz with a BA in Psychology and recently worked for a local applied research and consulting firm conducting education research and evaluation. My research interests include early learning and motivation, the influences of culture on development, and the development of behavioral interventions for children with attentional difficulties. Outside of school and work, soccer is the next thing I make sure to fit in. I've played almost all my life and currently play in a few different adult leagues. I also like enjoying the outdoors, hiking, snowboarding, autocrossing, watching live music (especially reggae), and playing with my golden retriever, Bruenor."

## New to Mason (continued)



I'm a 1st year Ph.D. student in the ADP program. My undergraduate major was from Chung-And Univ Tech (Go Hokies) major, which I'm interested in language. the field I'm now in. Creativity in child Center of Virginia focus on child de to see all around time I really enjoy have three cats



My name is Lilian Jarvinen. I was born in Washington, D.C. and I have also lived in Hong Kong, Togo, and Morocco, and traveled in England and France as well as around the United States. After attending College of Charleston for one semester, and then NOVA for another semester, I transferred to George Mason University from which I received a BA in Psychology. Currently I am working in Dr. Rojahn's lab and doing an internship at Alternative Paths Training School. I am especially interested in developmental disabilities. I am a nanny for a family of four children, and I love it. I like to hang out with my friends, read, watch TV (especially Grey's Anatomy, Nip/Tuck, and pro football), and take pictures. I have a beagle, Riley, who takes up the rest of my time; he's the best!



My name is Lindsey Hutchison. I originally hail from Jacksonville, FL. I received my undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of North Florida. I am currently a Ph.D. student working in Dr. Winsler's lab. My research interests include early intervention with at-risk preschool children, and examining interactions between parents and children with ADHD/autism. In my free time (which I don't have much of these days), I like to read fiction/fantasy novels and hang out with my friends.

No Photo Available

My name is Alison Lee. I am from Midlothian, Virginia, which is about 30 minutes south of Richmond. I graduated from the University of Virginia in 2005 with a BA in Chemistry and a minor in Psychology. I am currently working with Dr. Pasnak on research involving the socio-emotional development of children. Some of my favorite things are basketball (playing and watching), cats, and chocolate.

6

No Photo Available

Hi, my name is Carol Morris and I am technically a first year student in the Applied Developmental Program, although I already have a master's degree (2 and 3/4 master's actually! One in Psychology, one in Lifespan Human Development, and most of one in Counseling with an emphasis on Play Therapy). I am originally from New Jersey -- although, I don't talk much like it anymore; I have lived a lot of places since then. My husband and I currently live in Virginia Beach; I go home or he comes up here every weekend. I have worked in the field of early childhood for the better part of 20 years and am interested in the emotional climate created by the childcare teacher -- how to assess it, how it affects the kids and how to improve it. To that end, I came to George Mason to work with Dr. Susanne Denham.

No Photo Available

Alyssa Perna- I was born and raised in upstate New York just outside of Albany. I earned my BA in neuroscience from Colgate University, a small liberal arts college located in central NY. While at Colgate, I spent a significant amount of time working as a student athletic trainer. Upon graduating from college, I worked for a year at a middle school in a special education classroom before moving to the northern Virginia area. For the last two years I have been in a school psychology program here at Mason and graduated with my M.A. in May of '06. I am currently in a Ph.D. program and working in Dr. Denham's lab. During my free time, which seems limited these days, I like to be exploring the D.C. area, and visiting with friends.

No Photo Available

My name is Sandy Romero. I was born and raised in Northern Va. I graduated from the University of Miami in 2001 with a Bachelors of Science in Psychology. I am currently part of Dr. Pasnak's research team, working with children in the head start program. Aside from school, I work as a Child Life Specialist at Children's National Medical Center in Washington D.C., where I help children and families cope with their hospitalization.

## ADP Fulbright Scholars

There are two additional students who have joined us at Mason this semester, and they bring with them the honorable title of Fulbright Scholar. Yesim Caylakli and Goksen Yucel.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. It aims to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries, through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. The Fulbright Program is the U.S. Government's premier scholarship program which is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. Approximately 267,500 "Fulbrighters," 100,900 from the United States and 166,600 from other countries, have participated in the Program since its foundation over fifty years ago. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 6,000 new grants annually.

Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 150 countries worldwide which enables students, teachers, and academics from all over the world to study in the U.S. Thus, The Fulbright Program provides all the chance to gain international competence in an increasingly interdependent world.



Left to right: Caylakli & Yucel

*The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship*  
-J. William Fulbright

## Up close...

My name is **Yesim Caylakli**. I am a first year graduate student in ADP. I came from Turkey; I received my B.A. in Psychology from Bosphorus University, Istanbul. I am also a Fulbright scholar. My major field of study is developmental psychopathology. Specifically, I would like to study how the quality of early mother-child attachment relationship and of the whole family relationships plays a role in children's subsequent

I am **Goksen Yucel**, a Fulbright scholar from Turkey. I received my B.A. in psychology from Bogazici University in Istanbul. I am currently a first year Masters student in Applied Developmental Psychology program at GMU and I am in the Cognition, Affect and Temperament Lab of Dr. Perez-Edgar. My major interest of study is developmental psychology with an emphasis on early childhood development. In this course of study interests are developmental psychol term consequences of early child care on the social and emotional development of children. In the long run, I am



## Upcoming Events @ Mason and Elsewhere

### The Vision Series- Presented by the Office of the Provost

Presenting distinguished faculty members from George Mason speaking on thought-provoking, important issues of today. This series of lectures offers everyone the chance to learn from and share knowledge with researchers from a wide variety of fields. Each lecture is free and held in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Students and members of the community are welcome to attend.

FREE tickets are required to attend.

Tickets can be received from the Center for the Arts Ticket Office (Tues.-Sat. 10 am – 6 pm), on the evening of the event, or at the following website:

[http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/vision/ticket\\_form.php](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/vision/ticket_form.php).



### Listing of Events:

**Computational Sciences: The Third Pillar of the Empirical Sciences** - Rainald Lohner, Professor of Computational Sciences :Monday, December 4, 2006. 8 pm

**Air Transportation: A Tale of Prisoners, Sheep and Sociopaths** - George Donohue, Director, Air Transport Systems Research Center: Monday, January 29, 2007. 8 pm

**Childhood Obesity: Our newest global epidemic?** Lisa Pawloski, Associate Professor of Health and Human Services:

Monday, February 26, 2007. 8 pm

### CARMA- Center for Advanced Research Methods and Analysis @ VCU

The Psychology, Sociology, Communications departments along with the School of Management have pooled their resources to continue George Mason's membership in the CARMA Consortium.

The **CARMA Consortium Webcast Program** is established to provide university faculty and graduate students with advanced training in research methods and data analysis. These lectures are targeted for an advanced doctoral student level and will typically include an introduction to the topic as well as a consideration of current technical issues. Emphasis is placed on the application of the research method technique. Prior to each lecture, background readings references and PowerPoint slides for the presentation will be available on the CARMA website. This will allow you to attend the live web casts. Room 327 Innovation Hall has been reserved from noon - 2:00 pm (see dates below).

8

### Nov. 17, 2006 (3 Lectures)

Dr. Jeff Stanton, Syracuse University  
*Issues with Internet Data*

Dr. Steven Rogelberg, UNC-Charlotte  
*Non-responses to Organizational Surveys*

Dr. Michele Gelfand, Univ. of Maryland  
*Methodological Issues in Cross-Cultural Research*


### Feb. 23, 2007

Dr. Katherine Klein, University of Pennsylvania  
*Issues with Group Measurement*

### Mar. 23, 2007

Dr. Neal Schmitt, Michigan State University





*Our mission is to serve the needs of the Applied Developmental Psychology graduate students at George Mason University. We hope to advance the understanding of developmental psychology at GMU, promote the ADP program both locally and nationally, and enhance further collaboration between the various developmental psychology labs on campus. As this is a student based group, we encourage both new and continuing students to bring their enthusiasm and interest to help us achieve these goals.*

*For more information on ADPSG please visit:*

<http://adp.gmu.edu/adpsg>

For questions, comments or contributions to further editions of the ADPSG Newsletter, please contact Todd Wyatt (twyatt1@gmu.edu).  
Sincerely, ADPSG Executive Council



ADPSG Newsletter, Fall Edition 2006. © Todd Wyatt & ADPSG Executive Committee