It’s great to be back! I’m not sure how long it has been since our last newsletter, but I know that it predates me as a faculty member. I thought I would kick-off our return with a brief recap of the last year. First, our Department’s long tradition of research and scholarship continues in earnest. Numerous publications across a wide spectrum of interests found their way into top-tier journals, chapters, and popular press over the last year. Led by the bright light that is Kevin Jordan, several of our faculty have submitted grants to an array of Federal agencies and private foundations. Of course, Kevin’s $78 million grant with NASA and his recent $4.66 million grant with the Army Aeroflightdynamics Directorate has set a high mark for the rest of us! I would also encourage our alumni to explore Annabel Prins’ work with the Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) initiative, and Elena Klaw’s “Warriors at Home” course, both of which exemplify SJSU’s commitment to our returning veterans.

On the academic front, with 1000+ majors, Psychology is now the largest department on campus. Even during these challenging budgetary times we’ve been able to offer over 130 sections each semester,
teaching to nearly 5000 students across campus. Maintaining high levels of access for our students has only been possible because of the dedication of our incredible faculty, and their willingness to accommodate more students, often to room capacity. As State funds continue to dwindle our Department continues to explore new opportunities and innovations, particularly in the use of educational technology. Our recent partnership with Udacity, a local online education start-up company, is an excellent example of our commitment to maintaining (even broadening) access to high quality, affordable higher education in the face of cutbacks.

These are exciting times indeed, and it is great to be reopening this channel of communication with our alumni. Please stay in touch.

Kind regards, Ron Rogers, Chair

Welcome to our new Psychology Department Alumni Newsletter! The idea to revive our alumni newsletter began with our Chair, Ron Rogers. We have many alumni who are out doing wonderful things in their communities, and we wanted to make sure not to lose touch with these individuals. Some of you may have received our first email blast in February, asking for updates about what each of you have been up to professionally. I received and responded to most of those emails. It was very gratifying to hear what our former students have been doing since they left SJSU. I received many emails within the first couple hours of that email, which told me that we have a great group of alum who want to stay in touch! We hope to do that through this newsletter.

In addition to getting updates from many of you, we also managed to contact a few alumni to do a more in-depth profile of alum who have graduated from our programs and gone on to further study, or have gone on to contribute substantially to their field of interest (see our Alumni profiles on pg. 6). We have other interesting tidbits in this edition, such as current news from the department and photos from our annual SPARC research convention. Our department is able to provide several scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students due to gifts, endowments, and grants from alumni. If you’re interested in contributing to the Psychology Department, please see the donation information on pg. 21.

Our goal with this newsletter is to distribute it via the Alumni Relations Group twice a year – toward the end of the fall semester and the end of the spring semester. We’re just getting started with this, so we hope that you will stay tuned for future editions of the newsletter, and keep us posted if there is something specific you would like us to include. Feel free to contact me at Erin.Woodhead@sjsu.edu.

Thanks for reading!

Erin Woodhead, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
San Jose State University and Udacity Announce Partnership to Pilot For-Credit Online Courses to Expand Access to Higher Education

January 15, 2013

San Jose State University and Silicon Valley-based online education startup Udacity Inc. have reached an agreement to develop a pilot program to be called San Jose State Plus, offering college classes for credit to SJSU and non-SJSU students beginning in January 2013. Two full-time psychology faculty, Ron Rogers and Sean Laraway, will be part of the first set of classes (Elementary Statistics) offered through Udacity. There are also plans for the Psychology department to offer Psyc 1 in partnership with Udacity. Visit Udacity’s website to learn more about the department’s collaboration with Udacity: https://www.udacity.com/course/st095

The partnership will combine the knowledge and expertise of SJSU faculty members with Udacity’s cutting-edge online platform and pedagogy to work together toward helping a greater percentage of students excel in their chosen majors. This pilot purposely focuses on two math classes and one statistics class that nearly every student must complete to succeed in college.

“As the public university that sends 8,000 graduates annually into the Silicon Valley workforce, San Jose State University must and will take a leading role in leveraging technology to transform higher ed with the goal of making a college degree affordable and accessible to all,” said SJSU President Mohammad Qayoumi.

The passage of Proposition 30 signaled renewed voter support for public higher education in California. But limited public resources, coupled with an ever growing need for college graduates to fuel the state’s tech economy, means educators must seek the most effective means to expand access reflecting the California Master Plan for Higher Education’s commitment to a college education for all who qualify.

Expanding Access

This marks the first time that a broad and diverse range of students, not just matriculated students, will have access to online college classes for credit from an accredited university at a very affordable price of $150 per course, about the same as a course at the California Community Colleges.
The pilot’s target population includes underserved groups such as high school students who will earn college credit, waitlisted students at California Community Colleges who would otherwise face out-of-state or private options, and members of the armed forces and veterans. The National Science Foundation will provide funding to support the assessment of this groundbreaking effort.

“By providing engaging, accessible and affordable classes, we are studying whether this pilot offers a new pathway to credit for students currently shut out of the higher education system,” said Udacity CEO and Co-Founder Sebastian Thrun. “We have always pushed ourselves to improve online learning technology to provide the very best higher education has to offer to students everywhere, including students right here in California. We have much to learn, but are excited by the potential this partnership represents.”

Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra and Elementary Statistics are the three courses to be offered in this pilot. SJSU faculty members working with Udacity designed and created all three classes to include engaging video instruction interspersed with quizzes and other interactive elements, as well as course mentors supporting students throughout the course.

Innovative Faculty

“This pilot is possible because of our extraordinary and dedicated faculty members who care deeply about student learning and success, and their willingness to explore new ways to teach students, especially traditionally underserved students who aspire to college degrees and beyond,” said SJSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ellen Junn.

“Serving Silicon Valley, one of the most vibrant centers of innovation in the nation, San Jose State is home to instructors who are innovators, stepping up to team with Udacity,” Provost Junn continued. “Together, we will explore and evaluate, in a systematic way, how we can provide a high-quality, interactive and exemplary online learning experience for all students that is affordable, lends greater access and ensures student success.

SJSU’s Next Generation Initiative

This effort is part of a campaign led by President Qayoumi, who argues educational institutions urgently need new approaches to teaching and assessing learning that are personalized, collaborative, engaging and that relate to real-world, 21st-century problems.

“SJSU Plus represents the dawn of a new era in providing high-quality college courses at an affordable price for anyone, anywhere, anytime,” President Qayoumi said. “San Jose State is proud to be a pioneer and trailblazer with Udacity in this important initiative.”

The photo at the start of this article shows a recent article in the New York Times about SJSU’s initiative in online education: Click here for more information

(http://blogs.sjsu.edu/today/2013/new-york-times-colleges-adapt-online-courses-to-ease-burden/)
**SJSU VITAL Program Reaches Out to Student Vets**

*November 8, 2012*

Arriving back in the United States after seven years of service in the U.S. Army was not an easy transition for global studies major Dustin Delzell.

“It was hard,” Delzell said, “It sucked and it still sucks. You leave a place where everybody thinks and acts like you do and then come here where nobody thinks or acts like you do.”

The grant program Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) initiative has been put into place on campus since early 2012 in order to help veterans such as Delzell successfully transition to college.

Damian Bramlett, the program’s veteran coordinator, said the purpose of the initiative is not only to provide a major source of veteran information regarding recent GI bills, but to assist with the unique struggles a veteran faces transitioning into the college atmosphere.

“These veterans need a climate where they’re not getting flack for being a veteran too,” Bramlett said.

The initiative, according to Bramlett, was a grant opportunity discovered last December that had already been successfully established at five colleges and universities in the U.S.

After submitting a proposal created by Annabel Prins, an associate professor of psychology, SJSU was one of 15 colleges and universities that was granted the funds to run the initiative, according to Bramlett.

“In March we began the foundations for the program,” he said, “That included every little thing from business cards and brochures which aren’t paid for with the grant money.”

According to Bramlett, the initiative’s grant only includes funding for his salary and a student assistant’s.

“We’ve used outside donors to help us out and that’s been great,” he said.

Since the program’s establishment on campus, Bramlett has worked to reach out to each and every veteran on campus through word of mouth, emails and advocacy.

“This initiative helps them with trying to finish their goal of finishing college,” Bramlett said.

The initiative allows him to provide information about physical and mental health counseling, financial help regarding the GI bill and housing assistance to all veterans on campus, according to Bramlett.

According to psychology professor Elena Klaw, the initiative helps create the type of community that can be a solution for veterans who feel a sense of isolation at SJSU.

In addition, Klaw also teaches a class through the Veterans Student Organization (VSO) titled Warriors at Home.
The course discusses issues relevant to veteran life such as post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, depression, anxiety and healthy relationships, according to Klaw.

“It creates a community of veterans and mutual support,” Klaw said, “We know veterans are at a higher risk of things like suicide and violence in relationships, but social support is an important remedy.”

Mark Pinto, vice president of the Veterans Student Organization, served 20 years in the Marine Corps as a helicopter pilot and said veterans can use this initiative to gain a sense of visibility on campus.

“A lot of these young soldiers come back with traumas and issues,” Pinto said, “They feel isolated and they’ll find reasons to just drop out.”

Pinto said the importance of providing information to veterans about scholarships, work study, financial help and grants is crucial to feeling involved in the veteran community.

“Anything we can do to make people find a location to connect and reach out will create a sense of community,” Pinto said, “It’ll also bridge that gap of veterans and students.”

For Delzell, it is a gap that is all too real.

“We have different needs than a regular student,” he said. “The job title Damian holds is indispensable.”

**SJSU Receives $73.3 Million Award to Participate in NASA Research**

*January 30, 2012*

The NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif., has selected San Jose State University Research Foundation for a five-year, $73.3 million cooperative agreement to participate in the development of systems for improving the safety and efficiency of air and space travel. NASA scientists, along with SJSU faculty members and graduate students, will collaborate on this effort, funded by the largest federal award in SJSU history. The principal investigator is Professor of Psychology and of Human Factors and Ergonomics, Kevin Jordan.

“San Jose State University is both proud and grateful to be selected to partner in Human System Integration Research at NASA Ames,” Jordan said. “We are proud of the many accomplishments during our 26-year collaboration. We are grateful for the opportunity to build on that collaboration to meet the design challenges of initiatives such as the Next Generation Air Transportation System and the Space Launch System. We are well positioned to face those challenges and we are committed to partnering with Human Systems Integration researchers in advancing NASA missions.”
This cooperative agreement will build upon Jordan’s 26-year association working with NASA to conduct research focusing on human factors in aeronautics and space exploration. A human factor is a physical or cognitive property that is specific to humans and influences functioning of technological systems. Human Systems Integration Research studies how relationships between humans and machines can be optimized.

Kevin Jordan also recently received a second NASA cooperative agreement grant for $4.6 million to study autonomous flight, future vertical lift systems, and human systems integration.

**Faculty Books, Publications, and Presentations**

Our faculty are frequently publishing in top-tier journals and other outlets. Here we share a sampling of recent faculty work (faculty contributors bolded). Below this list are conference presentations by our faculty and students at the 2013 Western Psychological Association conference. Our department has always had a strong presence at the WPA conference, as indicated by the many faculty and student presentations.


**Feist, G. J.** (2012). Predicting interest in and attitudes toward science from personality and need for cognition. *Personality and Individual Differences, 52,* 771-775.


**WPA Presentations**

**THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL ON VIGILANCE**, Adriann Maldonado & Mark Van Selst

**THE EFFECTS OF STRESS RESPONSIVITY ON INHIBITION**, Daniel C. Miao & Cheryl Chancellor-Freeland

**PERCEIVED STRESS, CORTISOL, AND SELF-TALK**, Wei-Ju Chen, Atsuko Iwasaki, Megumi Hosoda & Cheryl Chancellor-Freeland

**USING THE DELTA BATTERY TO EXAMINE DOSEDEPENDENT EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL**, Cindy Martinez, Mari Garcia, Adriann Maldonado & Mark Van Selst

**RED BULL GIVES YOU WINGS (AND PROTECTS AGAINST INHIBITION FAILURES WHEN MIXED WITH ALCOHOL)**, Manilka De Pinto, Cindy Martinez, Mari Garcia & Mark Van Selst

**EFFECTS OF PSYCHOSOCIAL STRESS AND CORTISOL REACTIVITY ON MULTIPLE OBJECT TRACKING**, Atsuko Iwasaki, Wei-Ju Chen, Megumi Hosoda, Cary Feria & Cheryl Chancellor-Freeland

**RECENT TRENDS IN SLEEP DURATION AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**, Mitzi Ochoa, Brissa Ortega, Wei-Ju Chen & Cheryl Chancellor-Freeland

**DECEPTIVE SCIENCE: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SCIENTIFIC FRAUD AND DECEIT**, Gregory J. Feist

**ATTENTION RESTORATION THEORY IN GAMING AS IT PERTAINS TO SUBSEQUENT ACADEMIC LEARNING**, Joseph D. Zoland & Ronald F. Rogers

**ON STUDENT TRANSFER INTO THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**, Mark Van Selst

**SECURE ATTACHMENT LOWERS SALIVARY CORTISOL RESPONSE TO ACUTE STRESS IN WOMEN**, Michael S. Namekata, Carlos A. Almeida, Gali Levi-McClure, Quinn Washburn & Cheryl Chancellor-Freeland
We interviewed one of our new faculty members, Altovise Rogers, Ph.D. who joined the faculty in the fall of 2011. Her specialization is Industrial/Organizational Psychology, so we asked her about current projects and her experience at SJSU:

1) **What classes have you taught since joining the SJSU faculty?**

I have taught graduate student courses such as applied psychology in human resource management and training in organizations. I have also taught elementary statistics and introduction to industrial-organizational psychology.

2) **Which class is your favorite to teach and why?**

The course in training in organizations is one of my favorite courses. This is an evolving area of research and practice that allows me to expose students to the new things companies are doing: like training employees with videogames how to scoop the proper amounts of ice cream or the use of multiplayer, virtual simulations within the medical professions to increase patient communication effectiveness and eliminate racially biased treatment of patients. Occasionally, in class, I pop in one of those ancient training videos from the 80s with the flashing lights, split screens, and some rapper who is trying to teach an employee how to make hamburgers. These are hilarious, but such videos offer students an opportunity to critique such techniques used by companies to facilitate employee learning. Thankfully, training within companies has tremendously changed.
3) What are your research interests?

I do a lot of research around organizational effectiveness and workplace stress or occupational health. A current research interest of mine is exploring how technology (iPads, text messaging, smartphones, email, Facebook, and other forms) creates complexities in how employees perform their jobs, connect with colleagues, and manage their lives. I also am interested in enhancing recruiting effectiveness of company websites. Basically, we are looking at how website messaging regarding being ‘green,’ or being a company who is environmentally-friendly, can affect how potential applicants perceive that company.

4) What were you doing prior to coming to SJSU?

I was working in consulting within the oil and gas industry and health services industry and I was a graduate student.

5) What drew you to the position at SJSU?

It’s a long way from Texas, but there is a sincere appreciation for the craft of teaching at SJSU. I also wanted to work in a master’s program grooming professionals who would take industrial-organizational psychology to the world. It’s also nice to work with colleagues who see the value in such an endeavor.

6) Do you have any ongoing studies that alumni could participate in?

Yes, we are currently conducting a scientific study to understand what effects frequent use of technologies at work such as smartphones, email, instant messaging may have on work motivation, engagement, workplace relationships, and job stress. For this study, we will be distributing an online survey to examine whether always being connected and having continual, instant access to people and information is making for better relationships at work and at home. Or maybe it’s creating more problems than we would honestly admit.

7) What's your favorite part of being on the Psychology faculty at SJSU?

It’s the highly supportive environment. Faculty are here for each other and the faculty are here for the students, wanting to see them grow and thrive in their studies and excel in life.

Alumni Profiles

We caught up with a few of our alum to see what they’ve been up to since graduating from SJSU, either at the Bachelor or Master’s level. For the alum profiled in this newsletter, each of them went on to pursue further education after getting a degree from SJSU. In future newsletters, we hope to profile individuals who went on to success in corporate or other business environments after graduation.
Frederic Luskin, Ph.D.

Dr. Luskin was the keynote speaker at our 2013 Spartan Psychological Association Research Conference.

1) What program were you in at SJSU and when did you graduate?

I was in the school psychology program and graduated in 1988. I also took the classes for a marriage and family therapist license and obtained that in 1992.

2) What are you up to now in your professional life?

I am the Director of the Stanford Forgiveness Projects and a Professor of Clinical Psychology at Sofia University. My forgiveness work is known worldwide and I have written three successful books.

3) Did you envision doing this type of job while you were at SJSU?

I went to school full time at SJSU and worked full time so it was hard to envision much besides getting done all that I had to accomplish.

4) What were your interests in psychology while at SJSU, and are they the same now?

I went to SJSU with the intention of getting a job as a school psychologist. The flexibility of the program and the professors enabled me to take extra counseling classes and get my therapist license with no extra expense and with support.

5) What was your favorite class at SJSU and why?

The clinical training class taught by Keith Johnsgaard gave me an introduction to psychotherapy by doing therapy and watching others rather than by dry academic instruction.

6) What was your most memorable moment as a student?

My life was elsewhere at this time. I commuted to SJSU from Santa Cruz. I simply wanted to get ahead in my life. I found the professors very flexible and very student centered and the other students helpful and friendly so that I was able to complete the program in a timely manner. This combined with the low cost of the program left me with an enduring sense that I got a good deal and was well treated.

7) Describe your experience in the SJSU psychology department in one sentence.

I was well taught by competent and caring professors who were accomplished in their fields.
Corbin Wong, Ph.D.

Editor’s Note: It turns out that I know Corbin indirectly through my college roommate. We were all at Penn State as undergrads around the same time, and I remember her talking about one of her friends who went on to graduate school at SJSU. At that time, I had no idea I would eventually end up at SJSU. Now I’m recognizing the power of alumni connections, especially as I was trying to think of people I could persuade to complete a profile for this newsletter! - ELW

1) What program were you in at SJSU and when did you graduate?
I was in the M.S. I/O Psychology program and graduated in 2005.

2) What are you up to now in your professional life?

Subsequent to graduating from SJSU, I entered the Ph.D. program in I/O Psychology at Hofstra University. Interestingly, I was initially accepted into the M.A. I/O Psychology program at Hofstra, but I chose to attend SJSU instead. Leading up to my graduation from SJSU, I wanted to continue my education and realized that Hofstra’s close proximity to the New York City metropolitan area would potentially lead me to a lot of future job opportunities. Furthermore, I wanted to move back to the east coast and eventually live in NYC. During my doctoral program, I was offered several long-term paid internship opportunities with prominent companies such as Citi (formerly Citigroup) and Oliver Wyman, a management consulting firm. These internship experiences landed me a job at Deutsche Bank when I completed my doctoral coursework. Deutsche Bank offered to pay for the last two years of my doctorate as I worked on my dissertation and was extremely supportive of my teaching endeavors. A few months after defending my dissertation in 2011, I was offered a job at Morgan Stanley.

I am currently a Vice President of Human Resources supporting the Morgan Stanley Wealth Management (MSWM) business. My role is quite interesting as it is about 70% related to Organizational Psychology and 30% related to Project Management and being the Chief Operating Officer for MSWM HR. In my capacity, I oversee the Talent Management and Performance Management processes for MSWM, work with external Industrial/Organizational Psychologists and Employment Lawyers on diversity strategies for the business, and am involved in change management initiatives.

In addition to my “day job” at Morgan Stanley, I am an Adjunct Assistant Professor at New York University and an Adjunct Professor in the International MBA program at St. Mary’s University College – Twickenham, London. I teach Introduction to Organizational Behavior and Organizational Behavior Research Methods at the undergraduate and MBA level.

I also make it a point to maintain a connection to the I/O Psychology community by presenting at conferences, engaging in speaking engagements, and publishing studies.

3) Did you envision doing this type of job while you were at SJSU?

While at SJSU, I always thought about having a career that relates to I/O Psychology. The one thing that I did not want to do was to become a trainer (even though I/O Psychology comprise of training and
development). At the end of the day, I was considering a career that relates to I/O. Even if I did not get accepted into a doctoral program, I considered going to law school to become an employment lawyer.

4) What were your interests in psychology while at SJSU, and are they the same now?

My Master’s thesis was on the topic of perceptions of discrimination in the workplace, which is an area I continue to conduct research on to this day.

5) What was your favorite class at SJSU and why?

Although each class was interesting, I enjoyed my stats classes the most. I know this sounds quite dorky, but even to this day, I try to emphasize to my students that stats are important and it is necessary to use it whenever possible to supplement anecdotal evidence and qualitative information.

6) What was your most memorable moment as a student?

This probably makes me come across as overly sentimental, but my most memorable moments involved my classmates. For example, we all took a trip to Vegas for Spring Break and went to Spokane, Washington for one of our classmates’ wedding. We were a very cohesive group and to this day we still keep in touch and meet up whenever we have the chance. I recently went to San Francisco for the weekend to spend some time with three of my classmates from SJSU.

7) Describe your experience in the SJSU psychology department in one sentence.

The SJSU psychology department served as a great stepping stone for my professional career, and also helped to facilitate some of the most gratifying friendships I’ve developed in my life.

Patrick Cravalho, M.A.

1) What program were you in at SJSU and when did you graduate?

M.A. in experimental psychology, August 2010.

2) What are you up to now in your professional life?

I am a Ph.D. student in the educational psychology program at Kent State University. I am currently teaching two sections of educational psychology and in various research projects.

3) Did you envision doing this type of job while you were at SJSU?

Yes, very much so. My undergraduate degree was in secondary education, but I knew I eventually wanted to get into the field of educational psychology, so I enrolled in the experimental psychology program at SJSU to get the necessary research training that I would need to get into an educational psychology program.
4) What were your interests in psychology while at SJSU, and are they the same now?

My current interests have most definitely been influenced from my time at SJSU! As far as research, my MA thesis was on using concept maps to help students be more metacognitive in their study of statistics in order to prevent anxiety. I have been doing similar research at Kent State on metacognitive regulation, test anxiety, and test performance. Also during my time at SJSU, I worked part time at NASA Ames research center and became interested in human factors. At this time, I am designing a research project with a colleague from NASA Ames that is related to another project I am working on at Kent State regarding number sets cognition. I was also able to teach a few sections of general psychology at SJSU after I received my M. A. and that experience has been helpful as I continue my development as an instructor at Kent State.

5) What was your favorite class at SJSU and why?

Wow, that is a tough question! I really did enjoy all of my classes, due to the faculty and the rest of the students in my cohort, but two classes stick out in my mind for similar reasons. My first year I took cognitive psychology, with Mark Van Selst, in the fall and neuroscience, with Cheryl Chancellor-Freeland, in the spring. Those classes were difficult, but that is why I got so much out of them as they helped me develop the competence and autonomy to pursue my goal of a Ph. D. in educational psychology.

6) What was your most memorable moment as a student?

This is another tough question because I can think of so many! The one that comes to mind now is Ron Rogers telling the humorous story about his first oral presentation in front of the noted researchers in his field, since I’m going to be in a similar situation myself this summer. I guess this is an inside joke, but let’s just say I’ll be sure to be more aware of the timing of my presentation than Ron was!

7) Describe your experience in the SJSU psychology department in one sentence.

My SJSU experience was wonderful and continues to shape my development as a professional and as a person everyday.

SJSU Psychology Graduate Programs Alumni Updates

Dr. Lloyd Ahlem (MA in Psychology, 1955; BA in Psychology, 1952): Dr. Ahlem was mentored by Dr. Gene Waller during his time at SJSU. He went on to pursue his doctorate in education at the University of Southern California. During his career, Dr. Ahlem worked as a psychologist, professor at Cal State University, Stanislaus, college president, former chair of County Bank, Capital Corp of the West, and Merced Mutual Insurance Co. He is the author of five books, with 12 others privately published. He is currently retired, but still routinely teaches and gives lectures.
Karen Atwood (Experimental, 2011): Karen was hired last fall as a full-time, tenure-track psychology professor at Mission College after working as an adjunct psychology instructor for many years at Foothill College.

Manny Barbera (Applied Psychology, 1973; BA in Psychology, 1970): After graduating, Manny worked as a school psychologist for seven years, then went into administration. He became a principal, district office administrator, and ended his career as superintendent of the Oak Grove School District. After retirement, he joined the Silicon Valley Education Foundation as Vice President of Advocacy and Thought Leadership. He also teaches in the Education Leadership department at San Jose State.

Robin Bates-Pualuan (Clinical Psychology, 2009): Robin recently earned her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist in California.

Richard Gambatese (MA in Psychology, 1976; BA in Psychology, 1973): After graduating, Richard was hired as a Mental Health Rehabilitation Counselor for the Santa Clara County Mental Health Department. He worked in the area of substance abuse at the Mountain View Methadone Clinic. During this time he earned his MA in Psychology. He also taught some courses in substance abuse offered through Foothill College. He then moved on to a position as the Clinical Director for the Contra Costa County Methadone Detoxification Clinic in Martinez. He then moved onto positions at Bristol Myers Squibb Corporation and Amgen. He is currently retired and lives with his wife in Austin, TX.

Leah Gronlund (Industrial/Organizational, 1978): Leah is now a Grant Coordinator at Santa Clara Adult Education, for a HUD funded grant to help the homeless with training and job search. Her organization helps clients with computer classes, lunches, bus tokens, resumes and interview skills. She has managed the grant that provides these services since 1996. Her organization serves over 600 homeless men and women each year. Leah also teaches Meditation and Stress Reduction classes at Santa Clara Adult Education in the evening.

George Gutierrez (Clinical Psychology, 1985): After graduating, George was employed with the County of Santa Clara Mental Health Department. He then went on to work on locked psychiatric units with adult and adolescent populations, and later accepted a position at West Valley Clinic doing psychotherapy with adults. He obtained his license as a Marriage and Family Therapist, and later took a position at Kaiser Adult Psychiatry as a psychotherapist. He is currently working at Las Plumas Mental Health Clinic serving children and adolescents as well as their families.

Julie Kunz (Clinical Psychology, 2010): Julie has earned her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist in California and is currently working for Momentum for Mental Health in their Transitional Aged Youth (TAY Program).

Samantha Lee (Clinical Psychology, 2009): Samantha recently earned her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist in California.

Rosemary Lutus (Clinical Psychology, 1985; Bachelor’s in Psychology, 1982): Rosemary is celebrating 25 years of being a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist! Her private practice is in Los Gatos, CA (www.RosemaryLutus.com).

Caitlyn Kermit Oscarson (Clinical Psychology, 2009): Caitlyn recently earned her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist in California.
Antoinette Parekh (Clinical Psychology, 2010): Caitlyn recently earned her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist in California.

Ericka Rabello (Clinical Psychology, 2009): Ericka recently earned her license as a Marriage and Family Therapist in California.

SJSU Psychology Undergraduate Programs Alumni Updates

Maaheem Akhtar (2012): Maaheem currently works as a Research and Outreach Associate at the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

Curtis Ashford (2011): Curtis is currently the CEO of MemTrax, LLC, which creates online memory screening tools to detect Alzheimer’s disease and other mild cognitive impairments (www.memtrax.com).

Marina Braverman (2006): Marina is freelancing as a copy editor and writer and is in the process of getting an eLearning startup off the ground, focused on generating bilingual ebooks on demand.

Tracy Lam Chu (2010): Tracy currently works as a counselor at the San Francisco County Jail, Division of Jail Psychiatric Services.

Jackie Connelly (2011): After graduating, Jackie started a position at the Bill Wilson Center as a Residential Counselor for the Quetzal House Group Home, working with adolescents ages 12-17.

Nathan Frise (2006): Nathan went on to complete a PsyD (Doctorate in Psychology) at George Fox University in Portland, OR. He finished a postdoctoral fellowship in PTSD and traumatic brain injury in 2012 at Harry S Truman VA. He has worked in the VA since 2010.

Bret Hatcher-Santiage (2007): Bret currently supervises the Independent Living Services for East Bay Innovations, a non-profit organization in Alameda County that provides various support services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Bill Hefley (1982): Bill Hefley is currently a Clinical Associate Professor in the business school at the University of Pittsburgh, and is associated with the Berg Center for Leadership and Ethics, the International Business Center, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the Asian Studies and Global Studies Centers, all at Pitt. His most recent paper appeared in the American Journal of Men's Health exploring health care patterns of Latino American men. His work with the People CMM continues to be used around the globe. Forthcoming is his newest book, Outsourcing Professionals Guide to Corporate Social Responsibility.

Natalie Lewis (2010): After graduation, Natalie took a position in human resources at Juniper Networks.
Ron DeMedeiros (2007): Ron is currently a Senior Software Support Engineer for the Clarity product at CA Technologies. Prior to that he was a Senior QA Engineer at Macromedia and Micro Focus and a Senior Programmer/Analyst at ADP.

Misty Montoya (2009): Misty is currently finishing her second year of an MD/PhD program at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). She recently finished her second year of medical school, and will be starting graduate school in late Spring to get a PhD in Biomedical Sciences.

Pelema Morrice (2002): After graduation, Pelema obtained his MA in Higher Education from SJSU (2003), then went onto University of Michigan to obtain his PhD in Higher Education (2011). He is currently Chief Student Access Facilitator at the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Michelle Nguyen (2011): Michelle is currently in her second year as an optometry student at Western University of Health Sciences.

Alix Perez (2010): Alix is currently in her second semester as a graduate student at the University of San Diego in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program. She plans to graduate in August 2014.

Jose Pinal (2012): Since graduation, Jose has advanced his career at ABBYY, a software company that provides software development kits, enterprise level products and retail products. He is interested in continuing his education by applying to clinical psychology graduate programs.

Brittney Reyes (2011): After graduation, Brittney started working at Stanford on research projects related to chronic pain. Some of her team’s research was recently presented at the American Academy of Pain Medicine 29th annual meeting.


Yvette Szabo (2012): Yvette is currently in her first year of the clinical psychology doctoral program at the University of Louisville. She is researching how acute stress, mood and rumination affect blood pressure and cytokines, markers of the immune system.

Elizabeth Thompson (2012): After graduation, Elizabeth started a Masters in Counseling Program with an emphasis in Depth Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute. This summer she will be starting a trainee position at The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in San Diego.

Laine Tengan (1991): For over 14 years, Laine has worked at the Tech Museum in San Jose.
The Psi Chi National Honor Society and Department of Psychology at San Jose State University are proud to sponsor the Spartan Psychology Association Research Conference (SPARC), held annually each spring.

SPARC began in 1957 as a unique opportunity for both undergraduate and graduate students in psychology to gain valuable experience in presenting their research, building relationships with other students and faculty, and broadening their knowledge of cutting-edge research from numerous areas of psychological science.

Through the years, SPARC has grown to become one of the preeminent regional forums for student presentations in psychology. What was once an afternoon's worth of talks in a classroom has evolved into a full 1-2 day program of events, including multiple oral presentations sessions, poster presentations, and invited presentations from distinguished scholars in psychology and related fields.

This year the conference occurred on April 18 and was coordinated by Assistant Professor Altovise Rogers. Dr. Frederic Luskin was invited to be our keynote speaker (see his alumni profile on pg. 6). We include some photos below to highlight the great work of our students and faculty!

Undergraduate Ben Ramos presents a poster he was co-author on with faculty supervisor Dr. Jen Gregg

Undergraduate Ralph Rueda presents a poster co-authored with faculty supervisor Dr. Elena Klaw
The SPARC conference is primarily staffed by undergraduate psychology students, seen here at the check-in desk.

A group of undergraduates working with Dr. Elena Klaw present their work on supporting Veterans’ transition back to school.

Nick Inguillo presents his poster to other students, based on work supervised by Dr. Jen Gregg.

Dr. Clifton Oyamot (right) and Dr. Jen Gregg (middle) discuss a poster presented by one of Dr. Oyamot’s students.

One of Dr. Oyamot’s graduate students presents her work in front of the audience.

One of Dr. Gregg’s students presents her work on social anxiety and experiential avoidance.
In future editions of the newsletter, we plan to list some information about the characteristics of our Psychology students. In this edition, we decided to provide a current list of full and part-time faculty. Are there faculty listed here who you took courses with? To find out more information about our faculty, please visit our website: http://www.sjsu.edu/psych/Faculty-Staff/

Mildred Alvarez        Michael Abrams        Dorion Liston
Glenn Callaghan        Russell Arias        Steven Macramalla
Cheryl Chancellor-Freeland Anthony Andre       Brian Oliveira
Robert Cooper          Greg Berg            Sylvie Pelaprat
Gregory Feist          Amy Caffrey         Harriet Pila
Cary Feria             Wei-Ju Chen         Neelam Rattan
Jennifer Gregg         Jeffrey Danese       Tamar Semerjian
Lynda Heiden           Steven Del Chiaro    Susan Snycerski
Megumi Hosoda          Michael Dillinger    Sandra Trafalis
Laree Huntsman         Joanna Fanos         Naomi Wagner
Kevin Jordan           Tina Foley          
eElena Klaw            Martine Godfroy       
Sean Laraway           Jessica Stoltzfus Grady
Clifton Oyamot         Collin Green        
Annabel Prins          Ellyn Herb          
Altovise Rogers        Valerie Hoffman      
Ronald Rogers          Rebecca Jedel        
Howard Tokunaga        Donald Kalar        
Mark Van Selst         Roger Karlsson       
Erin Woodhead          Chad Kempel          

Psychology Department faculty and students gather at the end of the day for a photo. The keynote speaker, Dr. Frederic Luskin, is featured in the center.
Please join alumni and friends in supporting Psychology at San José State University. In an era of extraordinarily limited resources, your tax-deductible gift goes a long way to help our mission of delivering a high-quality education each year to more than 5000 students who enroll in our Psychology courses.

Just as important, your gift is extremely encouraging to today’s faculty and students. For when you give, you show your pride and belief in what we do.

To provide your tax-deductible gift online, visit this link (or copy and paste http://www.sjsu.edu/giving/ into your browser). Click on the “Give Now” button on the right. Complete the form by entering “Psychology Department” in the box titled “Other Purpose” (you don’t need to check any buttons in the first item “Areas of giving”).

To provide your tax-deductible gift by mail, please make your gift check payable to Tower Foundation of SJSU and mail to the Tower Foundation of San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0257. Please be sure to include a note that your gift is for Psychology. On behalf of all of our Psychology faculty and students, sincere thanks.