

VOLUME 3/ISSUE 1 WINTER 2005

# Psychology GIVING

## Young Scientist Forges New Discoveries In Human Memory

APF awards its second F. Joseph McGuigan Young Investigator Research Prize of \$25,000 to **Kathleen B. McDermott, Ph.D.**, an assistant professor of psychology at Washington University in St. Louis.



KATHLEEN B.  
McDERMOTT, Ph.D.

McDermott's research focuses on human cognition, with an emphasis on memory. Specifically, McDermott's interests span studies of false memories, implicit memory (or memory that manifests itself unintentionally), the relations among memory and other cognitive processes applying cognitive psychological principles to education, and the development of a language-identification protocol that may aid neurosurgical planning.

McDermott received her doctoral degree in cognitive psychology from Rice University in 1990. She then completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine, where she began to use functional neuroimaging methods to study cognitive processes in humans. She is a member of the Psychonomic Society, the Memory Disorders Research Society, the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychological Society. She is on the editorial board of *Memory & Cognition* and *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* and has served as associate editor of *Memory*.

### What initially drew you to research on the human mind, particularly your focus on false memory research?

As an undergraduate, trying to carve out a career path from the overwhelming set of possibilities, I noticed that I liked to study in the psychology section of the library. I enjoyed perusing the psychology books — especially those on memory — when taking breaks from studying. I majored in psychology, but at the time, there was no memory research being performed at my undergraduate institution, so I had a bit of work to do in talking my way into graduate school. I was lucky both in that I received an offer to work with Roddy Roediger, one of the foremost researchers in the field, and that my intuitions were right: I did indeed find memory research fascinating. I set about trying to learn as much as I could about the field in graduate school.

While in graduate school at Rice University, I began — in collaboration with Roediger — to investigate the ease with which people can be led to vividly recollect a recently experienced episode that did not overtly occur. The basic idea emerging from those studies is that language, thought, and imagination processes are so intimately tied with memory processes that such confusions are a natural, everyday phenomenon and under most circumstances it is very difficult to overcome such confusions.

### Which areas of research into the human mind are showing particular promise and which seem to be under- or overdeveloped to you?

I think researchers are beginning to appreciate the intricate interconnections among cognitive processes that have often been studied as separate entities. For example, memorial processes interact with language, attention, perception, imagery, and decision processes. Thus, a full understanding of memory will begin to emerge only after an explicit appreciation for these interactions. The same argument can be made for these various other processes, as well. Functional neuroimaging studies of human cognition have helped me appreciate this point most profoundly; neural substrates of a cognitive task (e.g., memory encoding) can only be understood to the extent that one understands the various specific cognitive and perceptual processes that went into making the map of encoding-related activity.

Although a research program that attempts to incorporate aspects of all these varied fields into one coherent approach is a daunting task, it is (in my opinion) a goal worth pursuing because this approach will ultimately be the most fruitful.

*Continues on page 3*

## APF Award Recognizes Dedicated Researcher of Serious and Persistent Mental Illness

Courtenay M. Harding, Ph.D., received the second American Psychological Foundation Alexander Galnick Research Investigator Award for her commitment to research and education in the area of serious mental illness. June Gantz



COURTENAY M. HARDING,  
Ph.D.

Galnick and Alexander Galnick, through the Galnick Foundation, contributed \$150,000 to APF to support work in schizophrenia and serious mental illness. The Alexander Galnick Research Fund supports these biennial awards for exceptional research and mentoring accomplishments in the field.

Harding currently serves as the executive director of the Institute for the Study of Human Resilience in Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation at Boston University, as well as a senior director of the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. She received her doctoral degree in psychology from the University of Vermont, her clinical training from the Psychology Division of the Yale Department of Psychiatry, and her public policy training as a Fellow of the Bush Center at Yale. As an extramural investigator for the National Institute of Mental Health, Harding completed two widely known and revered three-decade studies of schizophrenia and serious mental illness. Harding's findings challenged the rehabilitation culture of her time by sending the message that significant improvement and recovery is possible for schizophrenia and other prolonged psychiatric disorders. This groundbreaking research has guided the findings of the Surgeon General's Report, two Presidential Commission Reports, as well as state system mission statements.

In her capacity of tenured associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and associate director of the Programs for Public

*Continues on page 2*

## President's Message



DOROTHY W. CANTOR, Psy.D.  
President

This is the column I've been hoping to write for the past 5 years, ever since we inaugurated the Campaign for a New Era. You will recall that we originally set our fund-raising goal at \$3.5 million and raised it to \$7 million when a bequest from Werner Koppitz came in early in the campaign.

We did it! As of this writing, in December 2004, we have exceeded our goal and now have a total endowment of more than \$12 million. Thanks to so many of our colleagues, and some friends of psychology as well, with contributions large and small, we have been successful. All of the names of donors of over \$1,000 will be preserved for posterity. The Donor Wall of those who have contributed \$10,000 or more and the leather-bound Roll of Honor that will include the names of those who contributed \$1,000 or more will be unveiled at a special event during the annual convention in Washington this summer. Our gratitude to all of the donors knows no bounds.

And special thanks go to the members of the

Campaign Cabinet, psychologists who, in addition to their own contributions, gave of their time and effort to talk to their colleagues and friends about the Campaign and convince them of its importance. They are Mathilda Canter, Henry David, Florence Denmark, Ray Fowler, Ron Fox, Barbara Golden, Joe Matarazzo, Ruth Matarazzo, Steve Morin, Harry Sands, and Belvin Williams.

The joy of this accomplishment lies ultimately not in the size of our endowment, but in what an endowment of that size can do for psychology now and long into the future. In the last 5 years, our grant-giving capacity has increased by more than 120%. We have become a major philanthropy in psychology. In 2004 alone, APF will have given more than \$550,000 in scholarship, grant, and award funding. And each year the amount we give away will continue to grow. Here are a few examples. Over the years, we have given away more than \$1 million for a variety of initiatives on behalf of gifted children. Each year, we are giving \$20,000 scholarships to graduate students in child development. We give about \$100,000 annually for research

to advance our understanding of gay men and women. We support programs designed to prevent violence. The list goes on and grows with the additional funding that we receive.

Will our fundraising efforts end now that we have been so successful in the Campaign? Absolutely not! We have seen how generous psychologists can be, and that creates an increased commitment to growing the Foundation so that the work that we fund can be expanded exponentially. I thank you again for what you have already contributed. And I urge you to continue to support APF, and to think expansively about how you can be a part of the future of psychology.

**Correction:** In our Autumn 2004 issue, the university affiliation of Mary Jane Phillips, M.S. was incorrect. Ms. Phillips is a student at Georgia State University.

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## APF Award Recognizes Dedicated Researcher of Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (Continued)

Psychiatry, she supervised three chief residents each year and also began one of the first post-doctoral programs in public psychology. She has also been an assistant professor in the Yale Department of Psychiatry and associate director of the Center for Prolonged Psychiatric Disorder at the Connecticut Mental Health Center. She has served as visiting lecturer in psychology at Cornell Medical School,

distinguished clinical visitor for the clinical law program at the University of Maryland, and visiting assistant professor at the Smith School of Social Work. In her current directorship of the Institute for the Study of Human Resilience, she teaches across classes of psychology, education, rehabilitation, public health, and psychiatry.

Dr. Harding has participated in and helped

to organize over 400 local, state, national, and international meetings and conferences. She is author of 68 contributions to scientific journals, books, and government reports. Harding serves as a source of information and counseling about serious mental illness to patients, families, service providers, policy makers, and clinicians.

## News From the Board of Trustees



RICHARD M. SUINN,  
Ph.D.

APF says farewell to two outgoing trustees, **Richard M. Suinn, Ph.D.** and **Norine G. Johnson, Ph.D.** Both Dr. Suinn, who served since 2001, and Dr. Johnson, who began in 2003, have resigned their positions on the board. We thank both trustees for their outstanding service.

We welcome aboard our newest trustee, **Robert J. Sternberg, Ph.D.**, who joins the board in January 2005.

At the October 2004 meeting of the board, the trustees elected **Dorothy W. Cantor, Psy.D.** to another term as trustee and another term as President. She will remain on the board through 2009 and will serve as President through 2007. **Joseph D. Matarazzo, Ph.D.** was also elected to another term as trustee, for 2005-2009.



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Ph.D.

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ROBERT J. STERNBERG,  
Ph.D.

## Discretionary Fund Responds to Need

APF supports a number of projects from its \$15,000 discretionary fund each year. This funding comes from general contributions to the Foundation, which are used to support priority areas such as education, violence prevention, and health.

The committee awarded the **Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR)** \$4,500 to develop a joint CUR-APA undergraduate summer research fellowship. This will serve as a model for faculty-mentored undergraduate research experiences in psychology.

**Advanced Research and Training Seminars (ARTS)** received \$4,500 to bring scholars to international conferences. ARTS is an educational program organized and sponsored by three international psychology associations—the International Union of Psychological Science, the International Association of Applied Psychology, and the International Association

for Cross-Cultural Psychology.

**We Care Media Arts, Inc.** was given \$700 to make videos showcasing the achievements of Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark. Dr. Clark and her husband, Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, were pioneers in bringing psychological testing, guidance, and counseling services to the Harlem community in New York City. The 30- and 60-second videos will air on television during Black History Month, with the goal of encouraging young African-Americans to pursue careers in the social sciences, and specifically in psychology. The project was awarded \$4,300 in 2003.

In support of the international **Living With Terrorism Conference**, APF awarded the joint sponsors, the University of Haifa in Israel and the University of Pennsylvania, \$1,000. The conference took place June 7-8, 2004 on the George Washington

University campus in Washington, DC and examined psychology's role in understanding the unique impact of terror-related violence on children and adults.

**The Committee on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention, and Training (CEMR-RAT2) Task Force** was presented \$4,300 to support scholarships to supplement the Suinn Award, an initiative established by former APA President Richard M. Suinn, Ph.D. in 1999, to recognize and reward graduate programs that excel in recruiting and retaining ethnic minority students. Approximately \$1,400 each was distributed to Rutgers University—Clinical Psychology, New Mexico State University—Counseling and Educational Psychology, and The George Washington University—Clinical Psychology.

The trustees have budgeted another \$15,000 for the discretionary fund in 2005.

## Promising Graduate Students in Neuropsychology Recognized



**PAUL SEIGNOUREL,**  
Ph.D., M.S.



**CHRISTOPHER**  
**GAVRILLES ALLEN, M.A.**

APF, in conjunction with the Division of Clinical Neuropsychology of the American Psychological Association (Division 40), is pleased to present the recipients of the 2004 Henry Hécaen and Manfred Meier Neuropsychology Scholarships. These two \$2,500 rewards, which recognize excellence in graduate neuropsychology studies, are made possible through major gifts from Arthur Benton, Ph.D., who wished to honor two esteemed colleagues in neuropsychology. The late Henry Hécaen was a French neurologist, instrumental in the founding and development of neuropsychology as a science. Manfred Meier, Ph.D., retired from the University of Minnesota, helped establish the Neuropsychology Laboratory, where he conducted neuropsychological research on patients with epilepsy, cerebrovascular disorders, and Parkinson's Disease. He has held appointments as professor in the departments of neurosurgery and psychiatry and an adjunct appointment in the department of psychology at the University of Minnesota.

**Paul Seignourel, Ph.D., M.S.**, recipient of the Henry Hécaen Scholarship, originally studied mathematics at the University of Paris VI, where he obtained his doctoral degree in 1999. Seignourel always had a strong interest in clinical psychology, and when he moved to the United States in 2000, he decided to retrain as a neuropsychologist. He is currently a graduate student in the Neuropsychology, Neurorehabilitation and Clinical Neuroscience track in the Clinical and Health Psychology doctorate program at the University of Florida. Seignourel's research examines the influence of executive functioning on information-processing biases in depression, particularly on selective memory for negative material and emotional regulation. Seignourel believes these influences may mediate the relationship between executive functioning and outcome in depression.

**Christopher Gavrilles Allen, M.A.**, recipient of the Manfred Meier Scholarship, is a fourth-year clinical psychology doctoral

student at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Allen has studied at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia and earned a master's degree in 2003 from the University of Massachusetts Boston in psychology. He has trained in psychotherapy at the University of Massachusetts Boston Counseling Center and within the Outpatient Psychiatry Department at Cambridge Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Allen is currently completing a doctoral dissertation research project on the neuropsychological benefits of nicotine in persons with schizophrenia. Utilizing a transdermal nicotine model, Allen will assess both attention and memory abilities of participants. Allen believes that because rates of cigarette smoking in this population are extraordinarily high and nicotinic acetylcholine receptor abnormalities exist, there is a need for a greater understanding of nicotine's effects in schizophrenia.

## Yale's Clinical Psychology Student Receives Husted Award

**Christina Meade**, a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at Yale University, has won the seventh annual Todd E. Husted Memorial Dissertation Award, for her research in the area of HIV/AIDS. The award encourages contributions to the development of improved outreach and delivery of mental health services, through an annual \$1,000 dissertation research award. The APA Science Directorate administers the award, and its dissertation awards committee recommends a winner to the APF Board of Trustees for final approval.

Meade's dissertation explores the social contextual determinants of HIV risk behavior among adults with severe mental illness, including psychiatric illness, interpersonal violence, and support networks. The overarching goal of her work is to reduce the "double burden" of mental and physical illness in this population. Meade's scholarly work is complemented by clinical training at the Connecticut Mental Health Center, where she assists in the treatment of patients with severe mental illness. Her mentors are Kathleen Sikkema, Ph.D. and Jeannette Ickovics, Ph.D.



**CHRISTINA MEADE**

## Draghici Wins David International Travel Award

**Daniela Draghici, B.A.**, won the 2004 APF Henry David International Travel Award. Ms. Draghici is the Policy Consultant for Europe from Romania to Ipas, which has worked for three decades to increase women's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and to reduce deaths and injuries of women from unsafe abortion. Ipas's global and countrywide programs include training, research, advocacy, distribution of equipment and supplies for reproductive-health care, and information dissemination.

Henry P. David, Ph.D. established the David International Travel Award to enable a young psychologist to participate in an international congress of the individual's choice. Every third year, as in 2004, the funds may be used to subsidize travel of one person from abroad to participate in the Psychosocial

Workshop held in conjunction with the Population Association of America. The award, of up to \$1,000, covers the recipient's expenses.

Ms. Draghici said, "I have made it my aim to voice the hardly heard voices of ordinary women in Romania and trumpet their advocacy message concerning sustained international interest for and assistance to this region's special trait regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. My goal is to learn from other world leaders' successes and failures so as to improve my own interventions. I would also like to share my experience and expertise in conducting, promoting and documenting advocacy campaigns, rural caravans in particular, dealing with human rights issues, and working in partnership with the media."

## Young Scientist Forges New Discoveries in Human Memory (Continued)

### Where do you see your own research heading over the next few years, and how specifically will the McGuigan Prize assist you?

For reasons alluded to above, my own research will focus on an exploration of interactions between memory-related processes and other cognitive processes. I also have a recent interest in applying

knowledge of memory phenomena to educational issues (e.g., how taking a test can influence one's later memory for the tested material). Further, I am interested in links that can be drawn from basic research using functional neuroimaging techniques to clinical problems (e.g., mapping of language function in neurosurgical patients).

The McGuigan prize is an enormous honor. The generosity of the prize will enable me to focus more efforts on research by having discretionary funds available. Joe McGuigan was an outstanding researcher, and I am greatly honored to receive this award.

## APF Recognition Fund

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For additional information on how you can contribute, please contact:

Elizabeth Merck, Assistant Director of Development  
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