

# We Have Issues

## Willamette University Psychology Department Quarterly Newsletter

### From the Chair

February 2008

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Greetings!

Can you believe we're on the homeward stretch of another academic year?

Spring semester brings another visiting professor, Carmen MacMillan.

She is teaching Psychology of Women and Gender, and is sharing Smullin 206 with Professor Amadou Fofana.

During the Fall 2007, we ran a successful nationwide search for a new faculty position in Cognitive Neuroscience which resulted in the hiring of Dr. Courtney Stevens. She will begin teaching courses in the Fall, including Introductory Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience.

I will be on a full-year sabbatical- 2008-2009, working on a revision of my book: The Psychology of Environmental Problems. I will not generally be available or on campus, so advisees should make contact with another Psychology Professor. Professor Mark Stewart will be taking over as department chair, until then, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns with which I might be able to help!

Sue Koger, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Psychology

### Take note...



**Jeremy Miller** has a junior leave for Fall 2008.  
**Melissa Witkow** will be on 2/3 maternity release for Fall 2008.  
**Meredy Goldberg Edelson** has been granted a study release for Spring 2009.

"During my study leave, I will be finishing three research projects that are follow-up studies to a study published in 2004. That study examined the differences in legal outcomes in sexually abused children, depending on whether or not the children were evaluated at a child abuse assessment center. From that initial study, my colleague, Debbie Joa, and I wanted to replicate the study and expand it to investigate the possibility of differences in legal outcomes between males and females who were sexually abused. Results from the second study indicated that males had worse legal outcomes (e.g., numbers of counts charged against perpetrators, sentence length of defendants found or pleading guilty, etc.). Part of the study leave will be spent on finishing up the manuscript of the second study co-authored with Debbie.

However, the results of the second study led to two more studies, currently being finished with the help of Molly Engle (senior) and Byron Hadley (junior). One of these studies involves a content analysis of sexual abuse disclosures of males and females to see if any sex differences in the nature of the disclosures would account for worse legal outcomes in males. The other study involves examining whether the sex of the child and perpetrator, and one's gender roles and gendered behaviors would affect the evaluation of the severity of sexual abuse. The goal of this study is also to try and understand what might have accounted for the worse legal outcomes in males. The remainder of the study leave would include finishing the last two studies and submitting all three manuscripts for publication."

-Meredy Goldberg Edelson

### Focus the Nation...

**Natalie Sashkin & Chelsea Robinson** (students from Professor **Sue Koger's** Ecological Psychology class) initiated & organized Focus the Nation, January 30 & 31, 2008, at Willamette University in collaboration with **Don Negri**—Professor of Economics.

This national call to action on the issue of climate change involved events at more than 1700 colleges and universities. At WU, the events included a concert on Wednesday night and eight panel discussions including: Local & National Responses to Global Climate Change; Health Effects and Behavioral Solutions; Economic Incentives; Education & the Challenge of Global Climate Change; Faith and Climate Change; The Role of Law and Policy; Private sector Contributions, and some student perspectives.

Psychology has an important role to play in addressing such global issues! We encourage you to get involved in campus sustainability efforts. See Prof. Koger if you're interested in learning more.



### Faculty leaves...

"I will be using my Junior Leave to work on two writing projects. The first of these projects is an empirical article summarizing the results of several experiments that have been conducted here at Willamette University in collaboration with researchers at Seton Hall University. The experiments examine the role of strategic processing in perceptual fluency illusions of recognition memory. I have presented the results of these experiments at national research conferences and am excited about the opportunity to finish writing up the results and eventually publish my findings. The second project that I will be tackling over my leave is beginning the process of researching a review article examining the overall contribution of fluency (the speed and ease with which you can process a stimulus) to recognition memory decisions. Recently, quite a bit of evidence indicating that fluency has a role in recognition memory decisions has been accumulating; however, formal models of recognition memory do not generally make any specific attempts to account for this body of evidence. I hope to draft a paper arguing that fluency effects are an important part of memory and therefore must be incorporated into formal models of how recognition memory works." -Jeremy Miller

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## Psychology Department Faculty—Spring 2008 Courses

### Meredy Goldberg Edelson

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*Abnormal Psychology, Introduction to Psychology,  
Major Internship II*

### Jim Friedrich

Professor  
259 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6435  
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*Research Methods and Analysis II, Social Psychology,  
Major Internship II*

### Tony Hermann

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*Personality Psychology, Major Internship I;  
Seminar: The Self*

### Sue Koger

Professor and Department Chair  
201 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6341  
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*Seminar: Conservation Psychology*

### Carmen MacMillan

Visiting Professor  
206 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6298  
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*Psychology of Women & Gender*

### Jeremy Miller

Assistant Professor  
260 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6964  
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*Research Methods and Analysis I,  
Seminar: Cognition, Evolution & Society*

### Mark Stewart

Associate Professor  
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*Introduction to Psychology, Research Methods and  
Analysis I, Sensation/Perception*

### Melissa Witkow

Assistant Professor  
254 Smullin Hall, 503.370.6425  
mwitkow@willamette.edu

*Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology:  
Adolescence*

## Mark Your Calendar...

### February 12

Last Day to Withdraw

### February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!!

### February 25

Last day to choose CR/NC grading on  
Full Semester Classes

### March 9

Daylight Savings Begins!!!

### March 24-28

Spring Vacation—NO CLASSES!!

### April 7-14

CLA Web Registration

### April 16

Student Scholarship Recognition Day

### April 29

CLA Last day of classes

### May 2-7

CLA Final Exams

### May 11

Commencement



Happy  
Valentine's Day