A Clinical Neuropsychology Leader’s Journey

For the 23 years between 1987 and the fall of 2010, Dr. H. Julia Hannay, John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Psychology, directed the Clinical Neuropsychology training program in the Department of Psychology at the University of Houston. Hannay joined UH to take over leadership of the program from its founder, Dr. Daniel E. Sheer. Recently, Dr. Lolin Wang-Bennett, Development Director in the Department of Psychology, and a trained neuropsychologist, met with Dr. Hannay to learn about her background and her highly successful career to date. We hope that you enjoy reading about her story as much as her students and colleagues have enjoyed having her in the department over this remarkable period.

Less than 40 years ago, Title IX was passed to end discrimination based on sex for any educational program that received federal funding. Thirty years later, the nation’s colleges achieved nearly an equal balance between women and men. Amazing progress has been made in higher education. Dr. Hannay’s journey has been a remarkable one, marked by many first occurrences and significant accomplishments.

Hannay’s desire to enter a professional field started in Europe. She was born and raised in Britain to professional parents; her father was a bacteriologist and mother worked for MI5, the British intelligence service, during WW II. Among their household dinner guests were distinguished scholars as well as artists and musicians, many of whom shared interests in the outdoors as well as the arts. Strong women role models were, perhaps not surprisingly, plentiful among family, friends and colleagues. One was Carol Buck, an MD, PhD, Professor and epidemiologist who became President of the International Epidemiological Society; another was a woman bacteriologist from the Pasteur Institute in Paris. After one of her parent’s dinner parties, Hannay turned to her parents and said “I hope that when I grow up I will love what I do as much as you and your friends do.” Some well known people who Dr. Hannay especially admired growing up and to this day were: Marie Curie, a Polish woman who moved to France to study and live, eventually becoming the 1st woman to win a Nobel Prize; British mathematician and philosopher Bertrand Russell; the American architect Buckminster Fuller; and Marion Hilliard, MD, a pioneer in women’s health care in Canada. Bertrand Russell’s prologue to his autobiography “What I Have Lived For” influenced her life.

At the age of six, Hannay left her school in England and immigrated to Belleville and then London, Ontario, Canada with her parents. Her early academic interest was in biology and aspects of medicine, but she was uncertain of her future goals during this time when relatively few women were admitted to medical schools in Canada. After her undergraduate degree at the University of Western Ontario (UWO), Hannay approached the biology department and declared her desire to do a Master’s degree in Biology, but he wanted her to commit to a PhD that she was not yet prepared to do. She walked directly to the Psychology Department, knowing little about psychology, and asked if she could do a Master’s degree in their program.

An outlook of the Health and Biomedical Sciences Center Building

Since we published the inaugural issue of the INSIGHTS Newsletter in Fall 2009 and featured the new Health and Biomedical Sciences Center (HBSC) construction project which directly affects the Department of Psychology, a few milestones have been passed. The original plan was to build a 2.5 story extension of the College of Optometry, which was subsequently expanded to 4 stories to provide improved animal care facilities at the recommendation of Optometry Dean Earl Smith and an ad hoc committee on animal care. Shortly after that decision was made, Dean Smith and John Antel, currently the Provost but at that time Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, seized on an idea pitched by Department of Psychology Chair, David Francis, also a member of the ad hoc committee with Dean Smith. Francis’ idea was to further expand the new building by two floors to accommodate the Complex Systems Supercluster (CSS), which he had been tasked with creating. The CSS had been targeted for a temporary home in a different science building, one that was oversubscribed and whose physical infrastructure was not optimal for the activities of the CSS. In contrast, the Optometry expansion was ideally situated to accommodate the CSS because of the planned animal care facilities and the close proximity of neuroscientists within the College of Optometry. The Deans saw a solution to multiple problems and an opportunity to create unique facilities that would stimulate
Dear Alumni and Friends:

As we bring the spring semester of 2011 to a close, we again hope all is well with you. We wish to share news of the department and university with you through this new issue of the Newsletter. Last year we were able to reach 4,170 of our 12,000 alums and friends. This year, we would like to reach out to even more alums and supporters.

In the most recent report of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching on the research capabilities of US institutions of higher education, UH received the classification of “very high research activity”, a status designated for the nation’s top research universities. This is just one of several indices of research and academic accomplishment which signifies the forward momentum at the University of Houston. Another significant milestone was achieved recently when the University of Houston was included for the first time in the Princeton Review’s report on the 300 top universities in the country, which focuses largely on undergraduate education and success. My colleagues and I in the Department of Psychology are proud to have contributed significantly in achieving these recognitions by the Carnegie Foundation and the Princeton Review.

Last year, UH was ranked #3 in the nation on research expenditures in Psychology in the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) annual report on R&D expenditures at 418 universities and colleges. The report from the NSF, Division of Science Resources Statistics is issued annually and collects data on R&D expenditures in science and engineering (S&E) fields reported by universities and colleges. All funds reported are for activities specifically organized to produce research outcomes. These activities are either commissioned by an external agency, or are separately financed by an organizational unit within the institution.

In this issue of the newsletter we feature one of the strengths of the department- Clinical Neuropsychology, initially one of only a handful of free-standing programs in clinical neuropsychology in the nation and now a highly ranked track within the UH Clinical Psychology Program. Two very distinguished alums, Dr. Gayle Rettig and Dr. Barbara Uzzell, exemplify the accomplishments of our alums on the national scene as pioneers in this field. Dr. H. Julia Hannay has led the program over the past 23 years. Dr. Hannay successfully transitioned the program from a top-rated, free-standing program in clinical neuropsychology which lacked APA accreditation because of APA accreditation policies on specialty programs to a specialty track within our APA accredited Clinical Psychology program while maintaining our status as a top-rated neuropsychology training program. In the program’s history, 140 clinical neuropsychologists have graduated with a high proportion being board certified. Dr. Hannay asked to step down as the Director of Clinical Neuropsychology training last year. In her typical leadership style, Dr. Hannay transitioned the program to new leadership under Paul Massman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology and an expert in the neuropsychology of memory, aging, dementia, and neurodegenerative disorders.

The new Health and Biomedical Sciences Center building broke ground in November 2010. The building project will comprise an important expansion of UH facilities serving research and training under the UH Health initiative. This expansion project will advance 21st century research, teaching and clinical service goals in a collaborative environment. We believe great solutions will emerge at the boundary of different disciplines.

Alumni support has helped the department set up new endowment scholarships for undergraduates with financial need and for graduate study in neuropsychology. We highlight recent and past donors in this issue and hope that you will enjoy learning of their stories as much as we did. We appreciate all of your donations and continued support, regardless of size, and whether of a monetary or non-monetary nature. The Department of Psychology is committed to educating students who will become future leaders in the workforce both inside and outside of academia, and with your help, our success in this endeavor is assured.

David J. Francis, Ph.D.
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Chair
Chairman, Department of Psychology
NEW BOOK:
Robert Eisenberger, Ph.D., Professor of Industrial Organizational Psychology and Bauer School of Business faculty, has co-authored a new book entitled “Perceived Organizational Support: Fostering Enthusiastic and Productive Employees”, with Florence Stinglhamber. The book, to be published by APA Books, became available in March. The book explores employees’ perception of how much an organization values their contribution and well-being, which affects the positivity of their orientation toward the organization, resulting in beneficial outcomes for the organization. Evidence collected from employee experience from large corporations support the theory that will be of use for practitioners and graduate students.

Coleen Carlson, Ph.D. Associate Director of TIMES, David Francis, Ph.D., Director of TIMES and colleagues received a new $5 million grant from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to address research-tested reading interventions for English language learners in school settings. The interventions are provided in English and in Spanish and focus on instruction of synthetic phonics and integrate decoding, fluency and comprehension strategies. English language learners comprise the fastest growing subgroup in America’s public schools, and estimates suggest that by 2015 they may represent as much as 30 percent of the student population. It is important to have interventions for these students so that they can learn to read early on and be successful in school. Collaborators include Sharon Vaughn at UT-Austin and Alison Gould Boardman at the University of Colorado.

Jack Fletcher, Ph.D., Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Professor, and David Francis, Ph.D. are co-investigators of a multi-institutional grant, recently awarded for five year support through the Reading for Understanding Research Network Initiative of the US Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES). UH received $2.9 million for data management, analysis and measurement development, and training in the study: “Understanding Malleable Cognitive Processes and Integrated Comprehensive Interventions for Grades 7-12.” This study is built upon a foundation of knowledge previously supported by IES on reading acquisition in elementary school students. Other UH collaborators are Dr. Chris Wolters of the Department of Educational Psychology and Dr. Amy Barth, a Research Assistant Professor at TIMES.

J. Leigh Leasure, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, was profiled in the New York Times on 1/5/2011 in an article, “Phys Ed: Does Exercising Make You Drink More Alcohol?” Her study explored voluntary exercise and alcohol consumption in an animal model. The study found if rodents were given access to run wheels for 3 weeks, the exercising animals turned to alcohol with higher drive than the sedentary rats. This challenges the prevailing assumption that exercise would reduce the drive to drink. The study was reported at the 2010 annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego.

Teresa M. McIntyre, Ph.D., Research Professor in the Department of Psychology and TIMES, received a $1.6 million grant from IES, “Using Longitudinal and Momentary Analysis to Study the Impact of Middle School Teachers’ Stress on Teacher Effectiveness, Student Behavior, and Achievement”. The 4-year study will identify predictors of job stress in middle school teachers, and will determine whether teacher health/work outcomes and teacher effectiveness mediate the link between teacher stress and student behavior and achievement. The study combines innovative methodology, ecological assessment, and statistical analysis of longitudinal data. The research is being conducted in twenty middle schools in Houston and involves Drs. Paras Mehta, David Francis, Angelia Durand and Pat Taylor (Psychology and TIMES), and Dr. Scott McIntyre (UH-CL) as collaborators. UH faculty members Drs. Christiane Spitzmueler (I/O), Qian Lu (Social/Health) & Chris Wolters (Educational Psychology) are advisors to the project.

Gordon L. Paul, Ph.D., Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Professor of Clinical Psychology, was recognized with the Outstanding Contributions to Science Award by the Texas Psychological Association at their annual convention in Dallas on November 4, 2010.
HBSC BUILDING  Cont’d from Pg 1

J. Armistead College of Optometry building, at the corner of Wheeler and Calhoun. The groundbreaking event took place in November 2010 in the presence of an enthusiastic crowd of 600 invited guests and university employees. Construction began in January 2011 and is slated for completion in the Fall of 2012. The cost of construction is estimated at $80 million. UH has budgeted $54 million to start the project. Pending the outcome of capital fundraising for two of the floors currently set aside as shell space, the complete build-out will need extra funding.

The first two floors of the new facility are designed for delivery of state-of-the-art patient eye care. They will address teaching and research purposes that will strengthen and expand the current services provided at the university optometry clinic. The facility will include: an ambulatory surgical center, the laser center, specialized research laboratories, clinical facilities, offices, seminar spaces and classrooms for the College of Optometry.

The CSS will integrate vision scientists, neuroscientists in biology, pharmacy, and psychology, biomedical engineers, computer scientists, and cognitive-, developmental-, neuro- and quantitative psychology. The CSS program will bring together NIH-supported investigators from across the UH campus with a special focus on advancing interdisciplinary biomedical research. In addition to Francis, the CSS will be directed by Dr. Jack Fletcher, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, Dr. Lennart Johnsson, Cullen Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Dr. Michael Rea, Professor of Biology and Biochemistry, and Dr. Haluk Ögmen, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Director of the Center for Neuroengineering and Cognitive Science. The third floor will provide space for core facilities, research labs, and faculty offices for two, highly successful, university-wide research centers, the Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics (TIMES) and the Texas Learning & Computation Center. The fourth floor will house neuro-related disciplines, with an intention to recruit a human geneticist to complement existing programs in learning disabilities and brain disorders.

Such specialized buildings devoted to the fast growing interdisciplinary biomedical sciences have already emerged at competitive US research universities, particularly those with medical schools. For example in Houston's Texas Medical Center, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine have expanded upon this concept. The interdisciplinary team congregated at the new facility will have an advantage in competing for federal research grants. At the groundbreaking, Francis noted that “It is the express goal of the university that these research facilities foster collaborative research among the investigators whose laboratories will be housed there, as well as with investigators at sister institutions in the Texas Medical Center, across the state, and beyond. This is the right building for UH as we move forward in the 21st century.”

Upon completion of the new building, the Texas Center for Learning Disabilities (TCLD), Directed by Fletcher, will be relocated from its current university leased property in the Texas Medical Center to the fourth floor. TCLD is one area which has generated successful federal support from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), one of only four such centers currently funded by NICHD. The CSS will leverage the critical mass of expertise existing at UH in health and education of high risk children, and if fueled with community and private support, it will impact the health and academic success of at risk populations, among other health problems being addressed in the center. Some examples of the interrelated research groups and the health problems they address are: brain trauma injury & rehabilitation by Dr. H. Julia Hannay; alcoholism, exercise and aging by Dr. J. Leigh Leasure; neural basis of addiction by Dr. Adriana A. Alcantara; neuropsychological deficits in Alzheimer’s and other dementias by Dr. Paul J. Massman; cardiovascular informatics, biomedical image analysis, computer vision, and pattern recognition by Dr. Ioannis A. Kakadiaris; computational biomedicine and biometrics, with special emphasis on contact-free measurement of vital signs by Dr. Ioannis Pavlidis.

The goals to enhance interdisciplinary research, facilitate complex systems collaboration, advance educational training, provide clinical services, engage with the community, and strengthen ties with the Texas Medical Center, will undoubtedly be accomplished within an interdisciplinary collaborative team environment. This framework will define the future outlook for the return of investment for the university and for our community in Houston.

ALUMNI GIVING

is an opportunity for all of us in the extended Psychology family to renew our commitment to UH. There are many ways to give. Supporting scholarships can honor our commitment to student education and is a good return on investment today and in the future. You can also support our research programs by specifying a research area of interest. Please contact Director of Development at 713-743-8522.

TO DONATE ONLINE:

https://giving.uh.edu/class  From the Gift Information section, click the “Please designate my gift to” menu and select Psychology. You can specify your gift further to Psychology Endowed Scholarship / Psychology Scholarship Fund / Psychology Department General Purpose Fund in the special instructions box provided.
Mr. Lee Martin, a Certified Portfolio Manager, is First Vice President of Wealth Management and Senior Portfolio Manager of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, an investment advising and broker/dealer firm in Houston. He grew up in a family impacted by his father’s death in 1960 that resulted from an injury from World War II. His mother returned to Sam Houston to finish her degree and taught school until her retirement. In 1966, he came to the University of Houston from Huntsville High School. Mr. Martin had always wanted to be an engineer until the new fad of high school aptitude testing mistakenly steered him away from all math and science. In spite of his excellent grades in these subjects he was persuaded to pursue only liberal arts.

Thus he focused on psychology as a major at UH and became particularly interested in statistics. The changing point in his college experience was in the fall of 1969, when he took the Advanced Testing and Measurement course. The class was small with only 7 students, and an instructor who was a newly hired faculty, a Ph.D. graduate from the University of Minnesota. By giving each member of the class an aptitude test followed by detailed study of the results, Dr. Ronald D. Thurner was able to illustrate how a poorly constructed test could give misleading results for a school counselor. This process revealed that Mr. Martin was in fact above average in basic math which led him to change his focus to business. He has always been deeply appreciative of the influence of Dr. Thurner. The impact remained as the young psychology graduate left UH and entered the workforce with confidence. He graduated in four years, a rare achievement at UH and later discovered statistical analysis quite useful in his current occupation of portfolio management.

Martin has followed the work of some psychologists who are well known in the financial industry, most notably Dr. Daniel Kahneman of Princeton University, winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in economics. It is especially noteworthy in that Dr. Kahneman is not an economist but rather an experimental psychologist. His contribution in economics was the integration of insights from psychological research into decision making in situations involving uncertainty such as war, sports and business. In each of these situations a decision must be made before complete information can be known. Martin said “It is curious that the financial world assumes people will make a rational financial decision when all empirical evidence shows the opposite”.

He has been a very active supporter of UH for many years and is Proud to be a Cougar. His license plate reads: “70 COOG”. Mr. Martin has visited the campus for athletic events, and he noted he has encountered only a few UH psychology alums over the years.

An active community leader, Mr. Martin is President of the Downtown Exchange Club, a national organization with 8 local chapters and 600 members in Houston. He has been active in fundraising for important social causes, such as prevention of child abuse, communication and speech disorders, Big Brothers and Sisters, and Crime Stoppers.

Mrs. Beverley Martin, Mr. Martin’s loving spouse and life long companion, retired from teaching in 1979, but tutored children with reading disabilities for several years after. She enjoys tennis and gardening, while Mr. Martin’s interest is in snow skiing. He is also an avid golfer.

Lee and Beverley Martin recently set up an endowment in the Psychology Department in honor of Dr. Ronald Thurner, a respected professor from Martin’s undergraduate years. The scholarship will be awarded to undergraduate psychology students based on their financial need, with consideration for students whose family’s circumstances have been impacted by war.

New Website Launched: http://www.uh.edu/class/psychology
Dr. Gayle M. Rettig was born and raised in Texas. In his childhood, summers were spent at the ranch in Webb County with his family, where hunting, fishing and swimming in the cattle watering tanks were the primary activities. After high school graduation, he thought about going away for college. He attended the University of Arizona for one year, and with a few transferable credits, he decided to come back to the University of Houston. In 1954 he graduated with a BS degree in business with minors in biology and photography.

Entering graduate school seemed to be the natural next step. Having taken courses in physiological psychology from Dr. Daniel E. Sheer and having developed a strong interest in brain functioning, Dr. Rettig was motivated to pursue training in that area. However, Dr. Laurie T. Callicutt, who was the chairman at the time, advised him to get a degree in clinical psychology. While the core clinical psychology courses were mandatory, Dr. Rettig took every opportunity to further his interest in neuropsychology, and more specifically, brain stimulation studies. Working with Dr. Sheer, he became involved in learning the techniques necessary to implement such studies, and in 1958 completed his masters thesis. In the subsequent two years, Rettig did a clinical psychology internship in the Department of Psychiatry at Baylor Collage of Medicine (BCM). His dissertation was mentored by Chair and Clinical Director of the Psychiatry Department, John Kinross-Wright, M.D. who was conducting a study at the Wynne Prison Farm located near Huntsville. Rettig was able to set up a temporary laboratory there and collected data for his Ph.D. dissertation, “Visual masking: A study of the effects of masking stimuli on discriminatory responses.” The purpose of the study was to show that people can correctly make choices or assumptions about known stimuli presented so briefly or so faintly that they have no confidence in the correctness of their responses. Reportedly, after Dr. Retrig presented his results to his dissertation committee, Dr. James Mc Cary asked him “What did you get out of conducting this study?”, and Dr. Rettig replied, “Trust my Gut!”.

To further his knowledge of the brain, with Dr. Sheer’s help, Dr. Rettig secured a fellowship in the division of neuroanatomy at UTMB, Galveston from 1961-1962. In late 1964, Dr. Rettig was at a crossroads and needed to make a career decision about his future direction. He pursued a one year NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship position in Clinical-Experimental Psychology. The clinical part was in the Blue Bird Clinic (Baylor’s pediatric out-patient neurology clinic) and the experimental part was in Dr. Peter Kellaway’s neurophysiology laboratory, both in Methodist Hospital. This arrangement led to joint appointments in the Departments of Physiology and Pediatrics at BCM. During this period he continued his interest in brain stimulation in primates. One of Dr. Rettig’s solo technical contributions published in Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology concerned micro-electrode recording of single-unit potentials over an extended period of time in a primate in an operant conditioning situation. By 1972, the Department of Psychology at UH had created a free-standing graduate program in clinical neuropsychology. Dr. Daniel Sheer, founder and then director of program, made it possible for Dr. Rettig to receive the diploma within two years upon the successful completion of course requirements, practicum, and comprehensive exam.

During the 1980’s, Dr. Rettig began collaborative research with Dr. D. E. Glaze (Pediatrics, BCM) and presented the results of epileptic child case studies at the International Neuropsychological Society and Child Neurology Society annual meetings. These studies caught the attention of world renowned neurosurgeon, Robert G. Grossman, M.D., Chairman of Neurosurgery at BCM, who invited Dr. Rettig to become a staff member. From that point on, Dr. Rettig established his long time collaboration with Dr. Grossman as well as Dr. Joseph Jankovic (Neurology, BCM) in two main areas: 1) neuropsychological testing of epileptic seizure patients undergoing elective temporal lobectomy, marked by several landmark papers in seizure control and cognitive outcome after temporal lobectomy; 2) Pre- and post-surgical neuropsychological evaluation of patients with Parkinson’s disease.

Dr. Rettig is a co-founder of the Houston Neuropsychological Society (HNS), where he served as President in 1994 and as annual conference symposium Chair from 1995-1997. He also served on the board of directors of the Epilepsy Foundation of Texas – Houston and has served on their professional advisory board. He was a frequent mentor to students in the UH Neuropsychology program until his retirement from BCM in 1998. He credits the early influence of Dr. Sheer and the meaningful relationship he had with his former mentor for the productive career he enjoyed as a clinical neuropsychologist.

At his leisure, Dr. Rettig likes to spend time at his ranch. As an accomplished photographer, he enjoys scanning and printing some of the hundreds of medium format negatives taken during his frequent and extensive excursions abroad. Several of his gallery quality framed prints are hanging in halls or offices of the Neurological Institute in Methodist Hospital, where he continues to be on the Honorary/Emeritus Staff.

Photo Credit: Gayle M. Rettig, Ph.D.
Dr. Barbara Uzzell (Psychology ’70 Ph.D.) has been with the Memorial Neurological Association for 16 years. Her professional career began 45 years ago right here in Texas, following her undergraduate education at UT Austin. At the time when she was pursuing her PhD, UH Psychology did not have a Neuropsychology Program; the program was called Clinical and Experimental Psychology. She was mentored by Dr. Daniel Sheer, a pioneer who helped establish the emerging field of neuropsychology as a science, widely known for his groundbreaking work on the measurement of 40 Hz EEG and its role in learning and attention.

Dr. Uzzell saw the necessity to acquire more knowledge and the newest techniques in neuropsychology after finishing doctoral training and went on to complete two postdoctoral programs. First at the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences (TRIMS), now UT Mental Science Institute in the Texas Medical Center, she studied period analysis and clinical interpretation of EEGs in children and adults, which at the time was used by neurologists to diagnose brain damage and neurological disorders. Dr. Uzzell logged many hours with neurologists and EEG technicians completing clinical EEGs on brain injured children.

Dr. Uzzell then accepted a post-doctoral position at Duke University, where an interdisciplinary program in electrophysiology, neurophysiology and the longitudinal study of human aging was helping to shape the field of neuropsychology. There she met her future husband, Dr. Wáter Obrist, a pioneering physiologist best known for his development of a non-invasive method to measure regional cerebral blood flow in humans, which Dr. Uzzell learned to use while in the Department of Psychiatry at Duke. She also studied pharmacology and bioelectronic analyses and spent time studying with Marcel Kinsbourne, a pediatric neurologist and former mentor of UH Psychology Professor, Merrill Hiscock. Kinsbourne is world renowned for his research on brain lateralization.

Later, Dr. Uzzell moved to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School (UPenn) where she coordinated a head injury research team comprised of specialists in neuroradiology, neurosurgery, neurology and physiology. The field of neuroimaging was just emerging, with UPenn having the only CT scanner in Philadelphia. She saw all head trauma cases and their families, interviewing them and assessing their emotional needs, and coordinating patient and family care. This team of scientists and clinicians first identified the phenomenon of “brain swelling” in pediatric head trauma and published their findings initially in neuroradiology journals. In 1979, Dr. Uzzell published an early paper in neuropsychology in Cortex. At the time, no journals focused exclusively on clinical neuropsychology. She continued her research correlating behavior with cerebral blood flow, intracranial pressure of the brain and outcomes after head injury. In one-year, she published four papers in four major neurosurgical journals without revision.

Dr. Uzzell has helped to build the field of neuropsychology, through her writing, her service to the profession, and through the creation of journals and societies. In addition to her numerous peer-reviewed research publications, Dr. Uzzell has edited or co-edited six books and is currently working on another. Dr. Uzzell has also served on the boards of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) and the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN), serving as President of NAN in 2000 and receiving their Distinguished Service Award in 2004. She also received the Life Time Achievement Award from the Texas Psychological Association in 2006. Dr. Uzzell also founded two national neuropsychology journals, Neuropsychology, where she served as inaugural editor from 1987-1997, and Applied Neuropsychology, which she edited from 1994-2004. She began Neuropsychology in conjunction with the Philadelphia Neuropsychology Society and later negotiated its publication by the American Psychological Association (APA), where it now serves as the official journal of Division 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology) of APA. Dr. Uzzell has also been instrumental in forming two local continuously functioning neuropsychology groups: one in Philadelphia, in 1980, and one in Houston in 1991. She was elected as the first president of the Philadelphia Neuropsychology Society, serving from 1982-1988. After returning to Texas in 1991 she served as the first President of the Houston Neuropsychology Society and again in 2002.

Her years of training and professional experiences in the academy provided her with valuable background as she left academic life and entered private practice. Her combined experiences provided a foundation for the medical care of patients with impaired brain functions, from providing neuropsychological evaluations, to assisting their neurologists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists with proper diagnoses, to recommending treatments and rehabilitation services. Dr. Barbara Uzzell has contributed immensely to the legacy of neuropsychology in the Department of Psychology at the University of Houston begun by her mentor, Dr. Daniel Sheer.
Dr. Laurence Shirley McGaughran joined UH Psychology faculty in 1951 as an Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology and became a Professor in 1956. During 1962-1970 he served as Director of the Clinical Psychological Training Program. He held several joint appointments with the Medical Center institutes, including Psychiatric and Psychosomatic Laboratories- VA Hospital, Clinical Instructor of Psychology at UT Galveston, and Clinical Professor of Psychology at Baylor College of Medicine. During his tenure at UH he mentored 50 doctoral dissertations and master's theses. Students who were in his classes of personality theory, cognitive behavior, and psychology of language, admired his wisdom and intellectual agility, and his high standards in scholarship. Friends and colleagues remember him as kind and having a great sense of humor, which he used in his teaching, and he was loved and respected by his students. Family members and several students reflected on their memories of Dr. McGaughran as a father and as a mentor.

Michael McGaughran, the first son and eldest of the eight children of Laurence S. McGaughran and Kate E. McGaughran, remembered in the early 1950's when the family moved from Knoxville TN (University of Tennessee) to Houston. This was when UH “had about four main buildings and a lot of temporary buildings, such as the old army barracks on the Calhoun Street side that were used for student housing”. One of the things he remembers about his father's office was that “it was in the old Psychology Annex, also on the Calhoun Street side, next to the College of Architecture, in a prefabricated, single story metal building. It smelled like a laboratory – in fact, part of it was a laboratory, filled with animals, equipment and what seemed like a whole lot of meters. It was also air conditioned, when a lot of Houston was not. Dr. Callicutt was the Chairman of Psychology and he was evidently tolerant of faculty kids, because there were always a lot of us around. My Dad’s desk had a lot of blocks, canisters and various other odd things on top that I later found out were part of intelligence and learning tests. Dr. Gratch, Dr. Evans, Dr. Wieland, Dr. Vineberg, Dr. Wilson and Dr. MacNaughton were kind and generally indulged us and all the other faculty kids that hung around the campus. I always thought that Dad had a friendly place to work.”

“Dad had a lot of friends among the faculty and among the graduate students. He was the faculty advisor for many dissertations and I remember that he volunteered us older kids as subjects on whom his students might practice their IQ tests and various social science questions and studies. There was a sort of trade off, because he would then let us grade the multiple-choice parts of his tests and mark all the wrong answers. Dad had a graduate student that came over for dinner from time to time, named Al Eskenazi. Dad thought a lot of him. Obviously, others did as well, and ultimately he became Dr. Al Eskenazi. For years afterwards, there was always a multiple-choice answer for one of Dad’s test questions that was, The Eskenazi Method. Someone always went for this, and we always marked off points”.

“Mother and Dad were pretty good at playing Charades. In those days, the local ABC affiliate, KPRC, had a daytime show hosted by Dick Gottlieb and sponsored by Mrs. Shelby's Cookies. It was basically a Charades game show, involving competing couples, and refereed by Mr. Gottlieb. Mother and Dad became contestants on this show and ended up going back week after week because no one could dislodge them in playing charades. I remember sometimes sitting in the audience during the show with some of my brothers and sisters when they couldn't get us a sitter. I think the prize must have involved cookies, because eventually we had boxes and boxes of Mrs. Shelby's Cookies in the pantry and Mother would have to give them away during church drives and so on. Eventually I think the station just took my folks off the show. But the Charades games then moved to our house, where the faculty parties would sometimes happen”.

Jane Arnold, one of the twin daughters of the McGaughran siblings, remembers being asked to participate in research/testing projects for students studying twins. She has fond memories growing up living around campus, attending Mass and weddings at UH Chapel and swimming at UH pool. She was doing a high school science fair project with her Dad's help and there was an incident when a mouse got loose in Dr. Betty Wieland's Cadillac, a loan car to the McGaughran family. Jane had to grab the mouse and not let it loose, even though she was bitten.

Mary McGaughran Robson and Sara McGaughran Haynes, the 3rd and 4th children in the McGaughran family, remember father took a sabbatical year in the early 70s and his students bought him a sled to take with him to Minnesota. “When we were small, Mom kept the family car during the day, and we loved being piled in the car to pick dad up from work. Calhoun Blvd had bumps that made us feel like we were riding a roller coaster. We often ran down the hall to his office and helped carry his brief case to the car. When we were older, we often sought his help on science projects, and we were sometimes involved as subjects for his grad students in their research. Mom used the Optometry School for our eye exams, and we loved getting to pick the frames for our glasses”. The siblings remember the family was close to Drs. John & Elizabeth MacNaughton's family and played with their two children. They have recently reconnected with Ann MacNaughton and her mother, Dr. Elizabeth MacNaughton.
Mary M. Robson and Sara M. Haynes have both been working for UH for some years. Mary is an Accountant of Scholarships and Financial Aid, and Sara is a manager of the Donor & Alumni Records. The family recently lost two brothers, Robert Doyle McGaughran, the youngest sibling, and Timothy Drury McGaughran, the second oldest of the 8 siblings. The family established the McGaughran Family Scholarship Fund for Psychology in honor of their father.

We hope to raise this fund to become an endowment for Clinical Psychology.

Dr. Albert Eskenazi (Ph.D. ’57) sent in a letter with warm memories of his mentor, Dr. Laurence McGaughran. He remembers how Dr. McGaughran encouraged him to move down from the Tennessee clinical psychology program and enroll in UH. He described his mentor as an inspirational teacher to his students. He could speak on various aspects of psychology, including philosophy of science, cognition, personality development and clinical practice. Dr. McGaughran and his wife were hospitable in inviting the students to their home to have dinner with the family. Dr. Eskenazi kept in touch with his mentor over the years and met him at annual APA meetings. He supported the McGaughran Family Scholarship Fund for Psychology and encouraged others to do so.

Not so long after the end of World War II, new Psychology Intern Laurence McGaughran reported to his assignment in a mental hospital. Still not acquainted with most of the staff with whom he would be working, he was assigned to go to a locked ward and administer tests to one of the patients. The room in which he would do the testing was a secure room with a heavy door with a lock and a small, square window for observing inside or outside.

The patient came in, the testing was done without incident, and Intern McGaughran excused the patient to return to the day room. Laurence was engrossed in scoring the tests when a staffer passed and noticed the door to the room, which was supposed to remain locked, was ajar instead. He locked the door and went on his way.

Intern McGaughran was alarmed, went to the door, and pushed. He pulled. Indeed, it was locked. He peered out through the window, which barely framed his face. He knocked on the door to get attention. No response. No one in sight. He decided to wait for a staff member to pass by in order to be heard by someone who could help. Shortly, a nurse was walking down the hallway. Young McGaughran banged on the door and yelled he needed to be let out of the room, that it was all a terrible mistake, that he was not supposed to be locked in. The nurse glanced at his face as she passed and merely nodded with a mild smile, perhaps indicating that she had heard the same story many times before because most patients took exception to being confined to that room. Many other staffers repeated the same script, some even rolling their eyes. There had been a shift change since Laurence had been ushered into the room and none of the people on the new shift had ever met the new intern.

It was quite late in the afternoon before someone in the Psychology office noticed that Intern McGaughran had not returned. He was rescued. Also, he made preparations to ensure it would not happen a second time.

Dr. Hammer remarked: It is one of my favorite stories and served as a warning to our cohort of students about just one of countless ways things might go wrong on practicum or internship assignments. Be well prepared, but expect surprises anyway.

Dr. Sandra Streitmen (Ph.D. ’81) is now working for multiple schools in Minnesota ISD as a school psychologist. She was very helpful in connecting the cohort of graduates from Dr. McGaughran’s group and has provided a short list of names. We hope to be able to find the rest soon. Don Stembridge, a clinician, who lives in Yuba City CA; Barbara Williams, a professor in the special ed department of Rowan; Rosie Bostick, a retired clinical Asst Professor in physical med and rehabilitation at BCM. Additional names we found are: Judith Kirksey, Lois Shawver, William Helton, Jr., Linda Garrity, Robert Dysart, Jerome Die, Ralph Shapiro, and Ronald Unruh.
She finished this degree and started a PhD but was not sure that she wanted to be a psychologist. So she quit school and looked for a job.

She entered the workforce as a Master's level school psychologist with the Scarborough School Board, a borough of Toronto. She served ten grade schools and 2-3 high schools seeing great need for further training and also feeling a need for more of an intellectual challenge. Dr. Mary J. Wright, Chair of Psychology at UWO and a former President of the Canadian Psychological Association, advised her to become a child psychologist because of the vast job market. Hannay was accepted at the University of Iowa (UI) where, upon completing her Ph.D., she found few academic jobs in the USA or Canada. Undeterred, she decided to pursue a postdoctoral position in clinical neuropsychology, which she had been introduced to at UWO by Professor Doreen Kimura, a pioneering female figure in neuropsychology widely known for her research on the biological basis of male-female differences in the brain and whose own journey into neuropsychology was initiated by Donald O. Hebb. Hannay's next stop was in the laboratory of Dr. Arthur Benton, a luminary in the emerging field of clinical neuropsychology who had established a clinical neuropsychology research program at UI, a connection made possible for Hannay by Dr. Harold Bechtoldt, a researcher in perception at UI.

Hannay spent the first 14 years of her academic career at Auburn University (AU) where she initially ran the Experimental Psychology Program and Labs. These included some of Harlow's monkeys, often written about in introductory texts. She went on to be Interim Director of Clinical Psychology Training. Hannay was the first woman full professor in the psychology department at AU, an accomplishment later replicated in Psychology at UH. Hannay is still very attached to AU.

When she first arrived at Ben Taub General Hospital (BTGH) almost 25 years ago as a Clinical Neuropsychologist, she learned that 50% of patients with a severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in the Neurosurgery Intensive Care Unit (NICU) died. They had been in automobile accidents, motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian accidents, assaulted, shot through the head, fallen from structures or were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Her passion for acute care research started then, and aimed to keep patients alive with various treatments affecting cerebral blood flow. Hannay has collaborated most closely in this research area with Claudia S. Robertson, M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine who is Director of the NICU at BTGH. Hannay is very proud of the students she has mentored in general, and those who have gone on to have careers in rehabilitation. Several of her students have returned to Houston and practice and conduct TBI-related rehabilitation research at TIRR, the Michael E. De Bakey VA Hospital and now Mentis Neurorehab. The research has all been supported by the National Institutes of Health, most notably the National Institute of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Both Hannay and Robertson agree that the most important development in the diagnosis and early treatment of severe TBIs patients over the last decades has been the CT scan. In the BTGH NICU, a portable CT scan can be used without moving the patient from the unit. Patients with TBI have beds facing the wall so that the patient’s head can be moved back into the CT scan to obtain images of regional cerebral blood flow from xenon color imaging, a technique that can trace its origins to Dr. Walter Obrist (see article on alum Barbara Uzzell in this issue).

As an educator, mentoring students from diverse cultures is an important part of Hannay’s mission. This orientation has served her well as patient populations have also changed with the demographics of Houston. Today, the largest ethnic patient group at BTGH is Hispanic. Fortunately for her BTGH patients, Hannay has always hired fully bilingual staff members for her research and then trained them to assess patients from various cultures. Staff members have come from several countries besides the US, for instance, Panama, Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica. Her former students and staff members have gone on to achieve doctoral degrees in clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology and neuroscience, law degrees, further degrees in education, nursing, physician assistant programs and medicine. Her greatest gift to her students is teaching critical thinking that they can apply in all aspects of their lives. Her advice to students: follow your passion and be curious.

Hannay is proud of her further development of clinical neuropsychology training at UH. For 23 years from 1987-2010, she first served as Director of the independent doctoral program in Clinical Neuropsychology, and later as the Director of the Clinical Neuropsychology Track in the American Psychological Association (APA) accredited program in Clinical Psychology. Hannay gave a glimpse of the way, the UH, APA for accreditation of doctoral, internship and postdoctoral training programs in Clinical Neuropsychology. When it was apparent that APA would not provide separate accreditation for clinical neuropsychology at the doctoral level, Hannay moved to incorporate the Clinical Neuropsychology Program into the Clinical Program as a specialty track. What has always made the CN program track at UH unique is the strong connection with many clinical neuropsychologists in the Texas Medical Center. They provide paid practicum for hands-on clinical and research training of students, sometimes serve as co-chairs and members of thesis and dissertation committees, and as additional faculty to teach specialty courses. In 1995, she started as an original member of Clinical Neuropsychology Synarchy (CNS). CNS provides a political/work ing forum for the specialty in its interactions with APA. Another endeavor was the development of the Association for Doctoral Training in Clinical Neuropsychology, for which she served as first Chair in 1996 and later as President for several years. Perhaps the most politically fraught task that Hannay took on was as Chair of the Planning Committee for the Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology, which took place at the UH Hilton. After suggesting such a conference during a meeting of CNS, Hannay offered the UH campus as the meeting place for a very diverse and nationally representative group of her colleagues to discuss future education and training. It was a controversial endeavor with heated rhetoric. However, the Policy Statement from that conference published in 1997 continues to provide the context for education and training in the field, although in Hannay’s opinion, changes are likely to come as the field fully embraces evidence based practice, and as technology and research on the brain progress.

The existence of UH Clinical Neuropsychology program in TMC is a strong case for the UH health initiative, not only for program enhancement but also a contributor for workforce development. A walking tour with Hannay recently from her office in a university leased medical annex to BTGH gave a glimpse of her daily journey. As she entered BTGH overlooking Baylor College of Medicine and Memorial Hermann Hospital, she passed through the patients waiting area and rode up the elevator to a section where acute head injury patients have been sent after being sorted and stabilized in the ER. In this brain trauma intensive care unit, patients lay close to their monitors and the portable CT scan. The CT scan technology that was invented nearly two decades ago has improved quite remarkably and gives neurosurgeons, intensivists, clinical neuropsychologists and others guidance in diagnosis and treatment of these patients. The new technology of detecting neural specific biomarkers could add another facet to assessing the severity of damage to central nervous system neurons. Combining the team’s eventual biomarkers findings with neuroimaging may someday be an accepted tool for diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury.

Overall Hannay considers herself very fortunate, even though the path she took was not always a straight route. Reflecting back on her career, Hannay realized that, like her parents and their friends, she is passionate about her work. Over several decades, Hannay has assisted the careers of countless students in general, as well as in the field of clinical neuropsychology in particular, through her leadership roles in training, advocacy and research. We have been fortunate that Hannay chose to spend the bulk of those years in the Department of Psychology at the University of Houston, and we look forward to her continued contributions to our department, our students, and our community.
Donor Recognition

Carmen H. Garcia (BA ’96) established an endowment in 2009 to support the Department of Psychology with a bequest gift to enrich and enhance scholarships, research, and professional development. Ms. Garcia followed a non-traditional pathway in earning a college diploma. Throughout her career, first as a state employee and later as an employee of energy corporations, she held on to her goals to finish her college study, despite many challenges and interruptions. When she obtained her college degree, she was rehired by a state agency as a vocational rehabilitation counselor until her retirement. She passionately leads by example. She promotes the importance of an education to elementary, middle and high school students growing up in Hispanic neighborhoods. She exemplifies the spirit of her predecessors to succeed, and encourages the next generation to overcome barriers.

Gayle M. Rettig Endowed Graduate Fellowship for Neuropsychology was established in 2010 to help the Department of Psychology recruit the best incoming graduate students who will pursue a Ph.D. degree in Neuropsychology, or a related area of concentration with a focus on brain and behavior. Dr. Rettig, who led a very productive career as a neuropsychologist, would like to credit his mentor, Dr. Daniel E. Sheer, for guiding him in electrical brain stimulation and mapping studies in primates. Dr. Rettig’s research and clinical work as a faculty member at the Baylor College of Medicine and on staff at the Methodist Hospital impacted the clinical outcome of patients undergoing elective epileptic surgery and those undergoing surgical intervention for Parkinson’s disease.

Lee and Beverley Martin Endowed Psychology Undergraduate Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Ronald D. Thurner was set up to help a Psychology major in the 2nd through 4th year, who is raised by a single working parent (1st priority) or has a parent disabled by war (2nd priority). This scholarship was funded in December 2010.

Lynn P. Rehm Graduate Scholarship Fund originated when Dr. Rehm retired in 2009 and was supported by 9 donors. The news release of Dr. Rehm’s passing in September 2010 has further activated an outpouring of support. This scholarship fund is currently in a holding account. We thank Drs. James Weatherly, David Francis and others for their contributions. With additional help from faculty colleagues, friends, and alumni, we aim to make the Lynn P. Rehm Graduate Scholarship a permanent clinical psychology scholarship at UH and pay tribute to Dr. Rehm’s legendary research on depression. http://www.psychology.uh.edu/GraduatePrograms/Clinical/news/rehm_obituary.html

Patricia Averill Memorial Fund for Psychology was established by family, friends, alumni, colleagues and students of Dr. Averill to honor her contributions in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Averill earned her Ph.D. in our department and assisted in the training of our students. This campaign is led by Dr. Melinda Stanley, Dr. Joy Schmitz, et al and is actively soliciting donations to raise it to the endowment level. An article highlighting Dr. Averill will be published in the next issue.

Scholarship Recipients 2010-2011

James Leslie McCary Scholarship, a clinical psychology graduate student award established in 1979 in memory of Dr. James Leslie McCary, a member of the clinical program faculty.

Recipients: Jennifer Bryan, Julie Brunson, Chun-Han Chen, Whitney Havins

August Tarasi Scholarship, for clinical psychology graduate students interested in careers in public service. The scholarship was established in 1998 in memory of Dr. August R. Tarasi, a member of the clinical program faculty.

Recipients: Erika Labuzan, Jennifer Travis, Amanda Venta

Psychology Scholarship (private gift since 1998), designed to recruit excellent students was awarded.


Genevieve Arnold Scholarship, established in 2002 by Dr. Arnold who received her Ph.D. from UH in Psychology in 1955 and served as UH’s first full-time professor in Speech Pathology.

Recipients: Sara Brothers, Kuo-Yang Kao, Ian Wilson, Nelson Chun Yiu Yeung

Bart Osburn Scholarship, endowed in 2003 in honor of Dr. Osburn, a long-time faculty member of the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program who retired in 2000.

Recipients: Zhuxi Wang

John W. Love Scholarship, a merit based award for psychology students. This is an operating scholarship.

Recipients: Mary-Madison Eagle, Dawn Foster, Sheetal Kini, Jenny Ka Man, Victoria Williams
What is Psi Chi?
Psi Chi is the International Honor Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduate men and women who are making the study of psychology one of their major interests, and who meet the minimum qualifications. The University of Houston Psi Chi chapter started on May 9, 1958. UH Psi Chi has been an active and growing organization with more than 46 current members. Requirements to gain membership in the organization include completion of 3 semesters of college courses, at least 9 semester hours of psychology courses, declared major or minor standing in psychology. Undergraduates who are elected to Psi Chi must also rank in the upper 35% of their class (sophomore, junior, senior) in general scholarship. In addition, they must also demonstrate superior scholarship in psychology, earning a minimum GPA of at least 3.5 in psychology courses, and a minimum overall GPA of 3.00.

“Honor is the reward of merit!”
With an enormous increase in membership, Psi Chi will have a busy and productive schedule, which includes volunteering, fundraising, and recruiting. In the past such activities have included the Alzheimer’s Walk and Houston Food Bank Food Drive. Future events include Habitat for Humanity, and working with local homeless shelters.

2010 - 2011 Psi Chi Officers
President: Ashley Moore
Vice President: Rubi Gonzales
Secretary: Carolyn Dylla
Treasurer: Victor Tran
Historian: Sonia Singh
Academic Affairs: Kim Tran
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Richard A. Kasschau

On top of that Psi Chi will invite different psychologists and graduate students as guest speakers to share their experience with our members. Guest speakers will help Psi Chi members have a better understanding of the different fields of psychology and what to expect in grad school. This year, Psi Chi and the Department of Psychology partnered with UH’s Pre-Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta, to welcome Harris County mediator, Judge Alvin Zimmerman (BS Psychology 64, J.D. 67) to speak at the University of Houston. We welcome any alums who would like to volunteer to speak at one of our meetings, mentor our students or sponsor Psi Chi events to contact our office at (713) 743 5583.
Psychology Department Fact Sheet

Previous Chairs in the Department
Dr. Roy A. Crouch 1939-1950
Dr. Laurie T. Callicutt 1950-1964
Dr. Dale L. Johnson 1964-1972
Dr. Kenneth R. Laughery 1972-1978
Dr. Roger F. Maley 1978-1984
Dr. Alex W. Siegel 1984-1987
Dr. Milton D. Hakel 1987-1991
Dr. Richard M. Rozelle 1991-1994
Dr. Marco J. Mariotto 1994-1999
Dr. John P. Vincent 1999-2002

Alumni Total (As of 04/2011)
Total count by degree 12,476
- Ph.D. 774
- M.A. 675
- M.S. 89
- B.S. 7,173
- B.A. 3,329
- Unknown 436

Current Enrollment
Undergraduate Majors 1466; Ph.D. Candidates 135

Faculty*
- Clinical 11
- Developmental 11
- Industrial Organizational 6
- Psychology Science 3
- Social 7
- Research Faculty 12
- Professor Emeritus 6

*Some are included in more than one program