Grant Successes

We have had a very successful granting period in Psychology recently with the Health Research Council.

Congratulations to Dr Jacki Henderson who was recently awarded a Health Research Council 2014 Emerging Researcher award of $146,000 for her work on the effects of methadone exposure in the womb which has received a lot of national coverage. This grant is for two years and is exciting as it supports the research of two PhD and one Master’s student, and another in 2015, along with research assistant work for department students, and a clinician, who are graduates of our Department and more to follow in 2015.

In addition, Co-PIs Professors Tim Anderson (Neurology) and John Dalrymple-Alford (Psychology) and their colleagues were also recently awarded an HRC Project grant for a four year study entitled “Genetics, Brain Imaging and Cognitive Decline in Parkinson’s Disease”. This $1.2M HRC grant is for a study that will be conducted at the New Zealand Brain Research Institute (NZBRI) in Christchurch, to which the Psychology Department is affiliated. THE NZBRI group also received a second HRC grant (~$100K), awarded to Dr Tracey Melzer (Emerging Researcher: Imaging markers of imminent cognitive decline in Parkinson’s disease).

These successes follow another major success in May 2014 (as mentioned in the last Newsletter), with the nationwide Brain Research NZ—Centre of Research Excellence ($29.6M), which includes Professor John Dalrymple-Alford (Psychology/NZBRI) and Professor Tim David (Mechanical / Biomedical Engineering) as the Canterbury representatives, for a 6-year period to address several themes concerning ageing and age-related brain disorders (Neurodiscovery; Neurobiomarkers; Neuroplasticity; Prevention, Intervention and Delivery).

In addition we have had some success in the Marsden Funding grant progressing through to the final round. Well done to Professor John Dalrymple-Alford, under consideration with the Biomedical Panel for research on optogenetics and memory circuits in the brain.

Professor Simon Kemp with Professor Randy Grace lead PIs on a grant entitled “How do we compare? New tests of a 50-year-old conjecture in Psychological Measurement. Professor Randolph Grace is also lead PI on another grant entitled “Time and uncertainty: A missing link for experience-based decision making” with the Co-PI, Professor Ido Erev (Technion, Israel).
Staffing News

Announcements

Dr Juan Canales recently announced his resignation to take up a position as Reader at the University of Leicester from mid-October 2014. Juan has done a lot for the Department in a variety of very different ways over the past few years. Juan came to our Department as a Senior Lecturer in Behavioural Neuroscience from the University of Valencia back in in 2010 (just before our first “seismic episode”).

We wish Juan and his family all the very best for his new position and relocation to the UK.

Dr Juan Canales

Other staffing news

We say our farewells to Dr Andy Martens next week. He is busy doing his last teaching at the moment in PSYC106 and then he flies out to Boston on 31st July. We wish him all the very best for whatever the future holds. He has assured us he will keep in touch.

Congratulations to Dr Eileen Britt who was recently awarded at Teaching Development Grant for her application as “Support trainer for Motivational Network of Trainers (MINT) Training for New Trainers (TNT)”, to be held in Atlanta in October 2014.

Professor Randolph Grace is back from Study Leave and is now fully immersed in teaching for this semester with PSYC206, PSYC415 and PSYC464.

Dr Joana Kuntz is also back from Study Leave and ready to get back into her teaching with PSYC336 and APSY618.

Great to see them both back into Department life as we know it.

Dr Kumar Yogeeswaran presented the following talks while he was on Erskine Leave:


Leave and Conferences

Professor Neville Blampied followed up the ICAP conference with some R&R time and a visit to Jersey for a heritage trip to see where the family lived for 200 years! From there Neville moves on to Flagstaff, Arizona to present a paper at the International Conference on Psychology Education in early August. His Erskine trip is a busy one and we look forward to hearing about it on his return.

Dr Roeline Kuijer recently attended the International Association for Relationship Research Conference (IARR) in Melbourne to present a paper entitled “Post-earthquake adjustment: Can support from the spouse buffer the negative impact of neuroticism?”

ICAP Conference

The 28th International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) was held in Paris earlier this month on the topic “From Crisis to Sustainable Well-being” with 4,500 participants attending from over 100 countries.

We had a strong contingent of presenters at this as mentioned in our previous newsletter. Attending were:

- Professor Neville Blampied who gave a Divisional Presidential Keynote Address entitled “The twenty-first century scientist-practitioner: Doing and applying science case-by-case.”

- Assoc. Prof. Chris Burt Chaired a thematic session entitled “Health, safety and well-being at work 3” where he also presented a paper entitled “The importance of safety issue seriousness in the determination of employee voicing.”

- Dr Jacki Henderson attended and presented two Eposter presentations entitled “Language outcomes of preschool children prenatally exposed to methadone” and “Development of infant sleep: Effects of feeding methods on sleep self-regulation.”

- Dr Katharina Näswall was co-author on a number of papers presented and also presented a paper entitled “work hard, play hard? Antecedents and barriers to decreased work ruminations psychological detachment.”

- Dr Joana Kuntz was the Convenor of a symposium “Well-being and recovery in a post-disaster context” in the Transversal Program. She also presented a paper entitled “Facilitating recovery and well-being in the education sector: Evidence from two post-disaster studies.” We had a number of our staff presenting at this symposium, and Neville Blampied leading the discussion:

- Prof Neville Blampied presented “Diet and recovery: The role of nutrition after a natural disaster”

- Drs Sanna Malinen (Management) and Katharina Näswall presented “Employee engagement and well-being in a post-disaster context”.

- Professor Simon Kemp presented “Psychology and rebuilding Christchurch after the earthquakes”.

Our recent Erskine Visitor Professor Magnus Sverke was given the honour of being inducted as an IAAP Fellow.
Publications and Presentations


Psychology Centre News

The Psychology Centre has, like a fine wine, been ‘decanted’ from the Geography building to Level 7 of the Psychology Staff Block. The space is shared with three PG offices, and cohabitation is working well. They are enjoying the views (see left) afforded by their lofty position in the world, although they hope the lift is well maintained!

As they see clients in the clinic, please be aware there may be some bewildered faces around as they figure out where they are to go. Also, they try to limit other students visiting the Clinic out of respect of clients’ privacy.

There is also a new coded lock on the door so if you are wanting to visit, please be aware that the clinic is only accessible during work hours.

A big thanks to Robyn for all the additional organisation she was required to do to prepare the space for our relocation.
Rangiora High School Visit

Thank you to Susan Rapley (PhD student) who recently hosted a group of Y13 students from Rangiora High School. Below is an item from the Rangiora High School Newsletter. As you can see, the visit to our Department was very highly regarded.

Year 13 Psychology Trip to the University of Canterbury

On Friday, 23rd May, 45 students from Rangiora High School were given the privilege of visiting the Psychology Department facilities at the University of Canterbury. We were guided by Susan Rapley, whose friendly manner made the trip one of interest and excitement. A lot of the students, including myself, had never been to the University and it was an amazing experience. Firstly, we were taken to one of the classrooms and Susan illustrated with a simple brainstorm, the vast array of areas Psychology can be applied to, from marketing research to mental health professions. She then explained how her PhD studies have allowed her to travel the world and talk to people from different cultures about her research regarding CNP (C-type Natriuretic Peptide) and its influence on memory and learning.

We then went into the computer labs to undergo the Stroop Experiment, which was valuable as we would later be conducting for our Internal Assessment in class at school. It was a challenging and fun experience to undertake. After this, we were introduced to Kyle Wilson, whose PhD research involves studying the versatility of using remotely operated aerial vehicles to observe environments when it is otherwise too dangerous for humans. He gave us an overview of his work, and then took us outside to see the aerial devices in action. Both were used recently in the Christchurch Earthquake within the Cathedral ruins. He explained the strengths and limitations of the design, and let us have a go at operating the teleoperating vehicle.

It was fascinating and a huge pleasure to be shown the progress Susan and Kyle are making towards a better future for us all. I wish them all the best in their research. The trip to UC helped me see the steps people like Susan and Kyle are taking to really make a difference in people’s lives; if a crisis of some kind happened or if a patient was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, their research will make a difference, and that’s an awesome thing to know. It was an incredible experience and I can’t wait to go to UC to follow in their footsteps.

Trinity Thompson-Browne 13LPm
Thesis Congratulations

Congratulations to **Olivia Taylor** who was recently awarded her MA with Merit for her thesis entitled “Rehabilitative input and support received by older adults following a mild traumatic brain injury event”.

Congratulations to **Kayleigh Urnson** who was recently awarded her MSc with Distinction for her thesis entitled “Asking for help after a natural disaster: Does socio-economic status play a part”.

Health & Safety

The Psychology Department has implemented a new Health & Safety induction process, including a knowledge quiz. Silvana de Freitas Costa (our Department Health and Safety Officer) has been running a Health & Safety induction for postgraduate students which provided the evidence required to show that students are familiar with our Health & Safety procedures. All Postgraduate students were required to attend session times as below.

- **Wednesday 11 June, 1.00—2.00pm**, Room 252, Psychology Lab Block.
- **Wednesday 23 July, 4.00—5.00pm**, Room 252, Psychology Lab Block.

For any enquiries regarding this or if you missed out please email Silvana, silvana.defreitascosta@canterbury.ac.nz

Other Health and Safety information is below:

- NZ Emergency Service 1-111
- UC Security = Emergency on Campus 6111 or 0800 823 637
- UC Non-emergency = 6888
- The Department H&S Action Plan is available for staff on Y drive and also available on the Department website [http://www.psyc.canterbury.ac.nz/health%20and%20safety.shtml](http://www.psyc.canterbury.ac.nz/health%20and%20safety.shtml).
- Check out the upcoming training for H&S at this link [https://intranet.canterbury.ac.nz/hs/toolkit/04_info_train/index.shtml](https://intranet.canterbury.ac.nz/hs/toolkit/04_info_train/index.shtml). There is also 1st aid training available for students, information on the above website as well.
Department Seminars, Semester 2, 2014

The Department Seminars for Semester 2 are being held on Wednesday, 4.00-5.00pm, Room 252, Psychology Lab Block. PG Students are encouraged to attend these seminars. Put these in your diary. Any changes to dates or venues will be notified via email. A title and abstract for each seminar will be sent via email closer to each date. We look forward to seeing you!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Subject Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td><strong>Professor Deak Helton</strong></td>
<td>Title: “The vigilance decrement: Still mysterious despite seventy years of research”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department of Psychology</td>
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<td>17 September</td>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Michael Tarren-Sweeney</strong></td>
<td>Child and Family Psychology</td>
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<td>School of Health Sciences</td>
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<td>24 September</td>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Simon Adamson</strong></td>
<td>Addictions</td>
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<td>National Addiction Centre</td>
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<td>University of Otago</td>
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<td>1 October</td>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Richard Green</strong></td>
<td>Memory / Artificial Intelligence</td>
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<td>Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td><strong>Professor Garth Fletcher</strong></td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
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<td>School of Psychology</td>
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<td>Victoria University of Wellington</td>
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In the news ...

**Dr Katharina Näswall** and **Professor Magnus Sverke** contributed a chapter to a book called “Workplace Well-being”. The chapter by Katharina and Magnus is on the role of unions in well-being initiatives “Unions and Changes in Working Life: New Challenges, New Opportunities”. A recommended read.

Check out the latest Chronicle, (page 12) to read about the research project by **Katie Dainter** who is a thesis student in the Department. The research looks at the impact traumatic brain injury has on adults aged 50 to 65. This project could contribute to improvements in the way traumatic brain injury is managed in older adulthood. Katie is supervised by Dr Audrey McKinlay and Professor Randolph Grace.
UCPpsych

UCPpsych is a club that was initiated in 2011 to represent Psychology students and all that they have to offer. They provide the members with the opportunity to attend academic events, industry and networking events, and social events throughout the academic year.

- Academic events include help nights, tutoring sessions and quizzes to further one’s understanding of the various undergraduate courses. These events are hosted by very capable academic reps who have been through it all before, and are able to offer that extra bit of assistance.
- At the industry and networking events, people are able to see what Psychology positions are available in a variety of disciplines, and they are able to make those all-important connections with those already in the industry.
- They host a variety of fun social events, including the famous bus trips, the annual cocktail party, fun quiz nights, casual drinks and many more.

Their main emphasis is on providing members with valuable support, for everyone, undergraduate and postgraduate alike, by way of seminars, guest lectures and social gathering, where people can get to know one another outside of the formal setting of the class room.

Check them out on Facebook (just search UCPpsych) or on the website (ucpsych.co.nz), or get in touch with the President, Amelia Nichol at amelia.nichol@pg.canterbury.ac.nz.

Psyc Recipe

Sorry, no Psyc recipe this time, obviously everyone is preoccupied with other things.

If you have a recipe you would like to share, please send it to me for the next newsletter.
50 Years ago—The “Good old days”!!

This submitted from Rob!

Recently, I came across some information that was supplied in 1964 to possible applicants for academic positions at this university. I thought that these might be interesting to roughly compare with today’s costs vis-à-vis academic starting salaries in those days.

(Calculated on the basis that 1 pound = $2; 1 shilling = 10 cents; 1 penny = 2 cents)

In 1964, the costs of some essential items were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Cost 1964</th>
<th>% of Weekly Income 1964</th>
<th>Cost 2014</th>
<th>% of Weekly Income 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread = 15 cents/loaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk = 20 cents/litre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar = 49 cents/kg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beef steak = $1.10/kg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lamb = 66 cents/kg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whiskey = $3.60/750 ml bottle</td>
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<td>Wine = $1.00/750 ml bottle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer = 80 cents/750 ml bottle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petrol = 12 cents/litre</td>
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<td>Christchurch-Wellington one-way air fare = $9.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>New 3 bedroom brick house = $9,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>New 4 bedroom brick house = $11,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-30 years old 3 bedroom house = $7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 years old 3-4 bedroom house = $4,000-5,000</td>
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(Lecturer’s starting salary = $3,100
Senior Lecturer’s starting salary = $4,000
(No Readers/Associate Professors in those days)
Professor's starting salary = $5,600.

Interestingly, in 1964 it was possible to buy a house in Christchurch with the equivalent of one year’s salary for a Senior Lecturer, and about 1 and one third of a Lecturer’s salary. Today, working on the average house price being nearly $430,000, a house could cost nearly 6 times a Lecturer’s starting salary, and 5 times a Senior Lecturer’s salary!

However, even though it is often believed that living costs are relatively higher now than they were many years ago, it is also interesting to look at some rough price comparisons in terms of percentages of the weekly income (before tax) of a 1964 starting Lecturer ($60/week), and a 2014 Lecturer ($1396/week). (The 2014 prices do not take account of supermarket specials, unbranded packaging, special airfares etc, very few of which were available in 1964.)

PS: I cannot absolutely guarantee that the comparisons are all 100% accurate – they are an indication only.
From the “What I did in my holidays” section

Paul Russell supplied us with these amazing photos from his holidays. They are a series of reflection photos and taken back on 1 May just after midday. It is at Lake Marian which is about a 1.5 hour hike up a marked track off the Hollyford Valley Road. Spectacular!