WELCOME NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR!

Assuming the chair of the Psychology Department is an exciting opportunity and a huge personal challenge for me. Dr. Gatz has left a wonderful legacy of moving our department forward and therefore, my goal is to maintain the strong trajectory she has set for our department over the past six years. In line with former chair Joe Hellige’s comment long ago that chairing this department like trying to herd felines, I have no desire to govern, rule, dominate, control, herd, push, or otherwise cajole any individual in this department. However, I do have a deep commitment and concern for transparency, equity, and shared decision making in continuing to strengthen our program. I look forward to working with everyone this new academic year—especially meeting the new faculty, staff, and entering students while re-establishing connections with faculty colleagues, staff, and students.

JoAnn Farver, PhD

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

Master of Science in Human Behavior has a new director and a new name

Dr. Ellen Leggett has joined the department of psychology as Professor and Director of the MHB program, which is now the Master of Science in Applied Psychology Program (MAPP).

Dr. Leggett earned her doctorate in Human Development from Harvard and has been applying psychology in the field of law as a jury consultant working nationally with civil trial lawyers. Her academic research is in motivation and social cognition.

Ellen Leggett, EdD

Daniel Nation received his doctorate in Clinical Health Psychology from the University of Miami in 2009. His dissertation work focused on the effects of stress, physical activity, and oxytocin on atherosclerosis in animal models of cardiovascular disease. He went on to complete his clinical internship in Neuropsychology at the University of California San Diego (UCSD)/VA San Diego Healthcare System, where he gained experience in neuropsychological assessment of dementia and traumatic brain injury. He then stayed in the UCSD/VA system for an NIH-funded T32 postdoctoral fellowship in Biological Psychiatry and Neuroscience, followed by a second postdoctoral fellowship in Cognitive Rehabilitation.

His postdoctoral research has focused on the role of vascular cognitive impairment in Alzheimer’s disease, and specifically on the development of MRI-based biomarkers of cerebrovascular aging. He plans to continue this work at USC. He will also be teaching the graduate Clinical Assessment course (Psychology 515).

Daniel Nation, PhD
Kathleen C. Chambers

The environment I entered as a graduate student at the University of Washington was alive with the excitement of recent challenges to the widely accepted laws of learning, initiated by a maverick of those learning laws, conditioned aversions to specific foods. I, and the rest of the graduate students in the biological psychology program, got swept up in the study of this type of aversive conditioning, which occurs when a bout of illness follows consumption of a salient food despite delays of several hours between consumption and illness. This rapid one-trial, long-delay learning was in direct conflict with the then widely accepted view that multiple trials and delays of only seconds were required for associations between events to occur. The study of conditioned food aversions has been a focus of my research throughout my scholarly career. I was the first to demonstrate that gonadal hormones play a significant role in modulating the learning and extinction of specific food aversions, that the direction of modulation is dependent on a complex interaction of different gonadal hormones with each other and with stress hormones, and that social and environmental factors have a profound influence on the ability of hormones to modulate. The importance of this work was recognized when I was awarded fellow status in the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society. I also took an excursion into another research endeavor, studying the social, hormonal, and neural factors influencing the deterioration of reproductive behaviors in aged individuals. My most significant findings entailed the discovery of the critical role of fetal and early neonatal hormonal environment on when, during the course of adulthood, deterioration is expressed and the ability of social factors during adult life to modulate the degree of deterioration expressed. The importance of this work was recognized when I was awarded fellow status in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Besides my passion for my research, some of my most treasured moments have been seeing the success of my mentoring of both graduate and undergraduate students. This was exemplified whenever I saw that aha moment spread across their faces as I was trying Socratically to lead them in short steps to an understanding of a concept by posing questions for them to answer and when they embraced the philosophy of Jacob Bronowski (The Ascent of Man) and brought “a certain ragamuffin barefoot irreverence to their studies” by questioning what was known rather than venerating it. That they saw fit to show their appreciation, as evidenced by my being awarded the Mellon Mentoring Award, was the greatest honor.

Norman Miller

A Festschrift was held in honor of Norman Miller on Saturday, July 6, 2013 on the University of Southern California campus. Norman retired at the end of the Spring 2013 semester, after 43 years at USC, and became Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Mendel B. Silberberg Professor Emeritus of Social Psychology. Norman’s Festschrift was attended by approximately 50 friends, family members, colleagues, and numerous present and former students. Over the course of the all day session 12 students and colleagues both roasted Norman, telling numerous anecdotes about Norman’s inimitable personal style, and more seriously talked about his influence on them and on their current research. This was followed by a buffet dinner, attended by 45 people, at the University Club in King Stoops Hall, where attendees continued their roasting (and toasting) of Norman.

Norman joined the USC faculty in 1970 as a Professor of Psychology and was appointed as the Mendel B. Silberg Professor of Social Psychology in 1974. Before joining the faculty at USC he was on the faculty at Yale University, UC Riverside, and the University of Minnesota. Throughout his time at USC Norman has maintained a highly productive and internationally recognized program of research in attitudes, desegregation and intergroup behavior, causes of aggression, and the use of meta-analytic statistical techniques for reviewing programs of research. He has received a number of awards and honors, such as being a Fulbright Research Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and receiving the Kurt Lewin Memorial Award from Division 9 (SPSSI) of the American Psychological Association. For much of his career he maintained an externally-funded program of research in social psychology. He has 9 edited or co-authored books and has published over 170 articles and chapters in the top journals in his field. Further, he has mentored a number of graduate students who have gone on to substantial academic positions.

For Photos from the Festschrift, please follow this link: http://www.flickr.com/photos/evanman/sets/72157634575246358/

For Mediasite presentation of Norman’s talk: http://capture.usc.edu/Mediasite/Catalog/Full/6be70b2996d24b579a448e8a38eb5f0021
### Newsworthy:

- **Article by Dr. Wendy Wood**, [article page](http://articles.latimes.com/2013/aug/09/opinion/la-oe-wood-neal-habits-dieting-bloomberg-20130809) and from **Dr. Bosco Tjan**: [article page](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/08/130815133447.htm)

- **Dr. Irving Biederman**'s Image Understanding Laboratory's research on prosopagnosia and phonagnosia—the inability to recognize people on the basis of their faces or voices, respectively—was featured on San Diego's Fox TV affiliate (Channel 5) on August 1st. Here is a link to the video and a story on the research: [video page](http://fox5sandiego.com/2013/08/01/are-you-face-blind/#axzz2alrS8I77), also Dr. Biederman was also interviewed for an article in *Science News* [article page](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/feature/id/352687/)

- **Dr. Genevieve Dunton** (Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine and Psychology) recently received a five-year $4 million dollar grant from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute to investigator how stress in working mothers influences children's physical activity, diet, and obesity risk.

- **Dr. Philip Sayegh** (Advisor: Bob G. Knight, Ph.D.) was selected as the recipient of the 2013 APA Division 12, Section II (Clinical Geropsychology) Annual Student Paper Award

### Have You Read Anything Good Lately?


- Stephenson, C.L. & Halpern, D.F., (2013). Improved matrix reasoning is limited to training on tasks with a visuospatial component. *Intelligence* 41, 341-357


*Articles are posted outside SGM 538*

*REMEMBER to Check the Department Website Calendar for events and talks* [link](http://dornsife.usc.edu/psyc/departmental-calendar/)
UPCOMING EVENTS

POSTER DAY!
Come view Psychology 3rd year graduate student research projects!

Randy Bautista
Erica Beall
Claire Burgess
Gin Chen
Devika Dhamija
Suzanne Houston

Christine Juang
Peggy Pei-Ying Lin
Tana Luo
Bruna Martins
Peter Meindl
Adela Timmons

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
12:30 pm-2:00 pm
SGM 9th Floor

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/30/2013—12:00 -1:00 PM—Graduate Consultation Center Open House—SGM 718
- 9/6/2013—12:00 –3:00 PM -Workshop on Mediation and Moderated Mediation— SGM 718—A. Nayena Blankson, Ph.D
- 10/9/2013—12:00—2:00 PM —Undergraduate Research Faire —SGM 5th Floor

IN MEMORIAM

Milton Wolpin, Associate Professor Emeritus of Psychology, died on December 17, 2012. He was a member of the clinical psychology faculty during the 60s, 70s, and early 80s, teaching community psychology and advocating for the role of psychology in social change. In retirement, Milt continued as an activist for social issues and alternative approaches to social and psychological improvement.