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PhD Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr Brook Perry, who recently defended his PhD. The title of Brook’s thesis is “Diencephalic amnesia: Rodent cognition, neural markers and electrophysiology”. He was supervised by Professor John Dalrymple-Alford. Both external examiners, Professors Ian Kirk (University of Auckland) and John Aggleton (Cardiff University) praised the thesis highly. Professor Kirk commented that “This is an excellent thesis in every respect”, while Professor Aggleton noted that he was “very impressed with the quality of the thesis… the overall body of work has undoubtedly moved the field forward, and, like all good research, raised questions for future studies”. The examiners agreed that Brook should be awarded the PhD degree and that the thesis be accepted without any required amendments, with Professor Kirk also recommending that it be nominated for the Dean’s List. The Oral Chair was Professor Randolph Grace.

Brook has also been offered, and accepted, a postdoctoral position investigating how thalamo-cortical interactions support complex recognition with Dr Anna Mitchell at the University of Oxford. Anna is also a former PhD student from our Department and was supervised by Prof. John Dalrymple-Alford. Brook will take up this fellowship early in January 2018.

Congratulations to Dr Matthew Ward who successfully defended his PhD thesis this week. The title of Matt’s thesis is “Testing methods to shift visual attention from wearable heads-up displays to real world locations”. He was supervised by Professor Deak Helton and Paul Russell. The external examiners where Dr Darren Walton (Director of Research and Evaluation, NZ Police) and Associate Professor Tyler Shaw (Department of Psychology, George Mason University, Virginia). Darren commented that Matt did a sterling job of defence.
Staffing News

New member of our Psychology community...

Congratulations to Dr Kumar Yogeeswaran and Teryl who welcomed our newest “department baby” to the world on October 20th.

Ethan Michael Yogeeswaran arrived weighing in at 3kg. Baby, mom and dad are all doing fine and have the added bonus of having his grandparents from the US to help him (and Teryl and Kumar) adjust into the world, at least for a little while.

Research

You will see in our Publications section of the newsletter that a recent article was published in Computers in Human Behaviour by researchers in our Department, Dr Kyle Nash, Johannah Lea, Thomas Davies and Dr Kumar Yogeeswaran, titled “The bionic blues: Robot rejection lowers self-esteem”. Included here is the photo of Baxter and Jonathan Wiltshire playing Connect 4, as part of the experiment.

This article was picked up by a reporter in Australia who did a piece on it which can be viewed here: http://mashable.com/2017/09/14/robot-rejection-study/#8YSJWL6Vrmq0

Award

Dr Kumar Yogeeswaran has had a very busy few months. Kumar, along with Professor Maykel Verkuyten (Utrecht University, Netherlands) were awarded the 2017 Intercultural and International Relations Award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) for their paper “The social psychology of intergroup tolerance: A roadmap for theory and research” published in Personality and Social Psychology Review.

SPSSI is an international society with over 3,000 members worldwide committed to using theory and practice to focus on human problems of the group, community, and nations.
Staffing News (Continued)

Snippets...

Prof. Rob Hughes recently attended the Biennial Conference of the European Behavioural Pharmacology Society, in Hersonissos. While there he caught up with some Spanish students who undertook some of their PhD research in our Research Facility under the supervision of a former colleague, Dr Juan Canales.

Both are now at the University of Cambridge and shared fond memories of their time at UC.

More photos of the conference and venue can be seen at the back of the newsletter under our Photographic section.

Dr Joana Kuntz has a blog that can be accessed here.

Yifang Parker was one of two winners of the UC Staff Photo Competition with the photo below. Staff were encouraged to send through nature-inspired photos as part of the Mental Health Awareness Week to be in to win one of two $20 Shilling Club Vouchers. There were some fantastic photos entered and you can view them here.

MINT Training

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Dr Eileen Britt was selected after a highly competitive process among the Motivational Network of Trainers internationally. The training was held in Malahide, Ireland recently. It was a 3-day training with 40 participants (as seen below), from all over the world (e.g., Australia, Hong Kong, USA, Bulgaria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Ireland). Eileen trained along with three other trainers who were from the USA.
Scholarships

Congratulations to Nadia Williamson was was recently named as the recipient of a Prestigious PhD UC Matariki Doctoral Scholarship Teariki o te maka Tuiono, Educational Studies and Leadership.

Congratulations, and also welcome, to Nicola (Nicky) Morton who has been awarded a Marsden Grant Scholarship while undertaking her PhD with Professors Randolph Grace and Simon Kemp on the Marsden grant project “An artificial algebra for implicit learning of mathematical structure”.

Leave and Conferences

Professor Neville Blampied has just returned from Sydney where he attended the Association for Behaviour Analysis Australia (ABAA) Conference. He presented a paper entitled “Using modified Brinley Plots in behaviour analysis research”.

Dr Zhe Chen is attending the Psychonomic Society’s 58th Annual Meeting being held in Vancouver, Canada. The title of her paper is “Object-based representations can contribute to attentional selection in the absence of spatial cuing”.

Professor Randolph Grace was invited to give a Keynote Address titled “The Origins of Decision Making: A Comparative Approach” at the 27th Congress of the Mexican Society for Behaviour Analysis in Aguascalientes, Mexico. In addition to the Keynote Address he also gave a workshop, “Introduction to Quantitative Analysis of Behavior” and a theoretical seminar, “The Origins of Value: From the Matching Law to Torgerson’s Conjecture and Beyond”.

Dr Ewald Neumann is attending the Psychonomic Society 58th Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada where he will be presenting a paper titled “Cross-language negative priming remains intact, while positive priming disappears: Evidence for two sources of selective inhibition”.

6th Aotearoa New Zealand Organisational Psychology and Organisational Behaviour Conference:

This conference will be held on Monday 20 November at Massey University (Albany) and hosted by The Health Work Group.

Members of our Department attending are:

Fleur Pawsey (PhD) is presenting a paper “Rumination and recovery: A daily diary study of mindfulness, rumination, and recover from work stress amongst sport coaches.”

Assoc. Prof. Katharina Naswall and Dr Jennifer Wong (Postdoc) are presenting a paper “Exploring character strengths-opportunities for expression fit in relation to job performance”.

Viviana Cedeno Bustos (PhD) is presenting a paper “Measuring work expectations: The advantages for new employees’ adaptation and work transitions”.

6th Aotearoa New Zealand Organisational Psychology and Organisational Behaviour Conference:
Recent Publications


MSc in Applied Psychology

A reminder that applications for the MSc in Applied Psychology programme for 2018 close on 30 November 2017. Information on how to apply is available on our website [here](#) under programme details.

For more detailed information on this process, please [email](mailto:) our Professional Programmes Administrator, Anna Leuzzi.

College of Science Social Media

Keep up with the news and information from the College of Science by following them on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
Thesis Congratulations

Congratulations to Alison Carley who was awarded her MSc with First Class Honours for her thesis titled “Investigating the effect of micronutrients on chronic insomnia in teachers: A multiple-baseline design”.

Coming soon...

We will be calling for expressions of interest for Teaching Assistant positions in 2018 and also requests for Office Space in 2018 within the next month. Please keep an eye on the website or your email box for the announcement.

Te Reo

Whakataukī (proverbs) play a large role within Maori culture. They are very important with Maori society, with a meaning often based on Tikanga or history; and can help understand and explore te reo.

During the Te Reo in the workplace course, it was suggested that a whakataukī can be included with your mihi.

Whakataukī for this month:

“Ko te manu e kai and i te miro nōnā te ngahere.
Ko te manu e kai and i te mātauranga nōnā te ao”

“The bird that consumes the miro berry owns the forest.
The bird that consumes knowledge owns the world”

Other useful Te Reo to practice is our Department name:

Department of Psychology: Te Tari Mātai Hinengaro
University of Canterbury: Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha.
Remember that the ‘ng’ in ‘nga’ is a nasal sound and said without the hard ‘g’ - as in singer not finger.
Health, Safety & Wellbeing

Health and Safety information is below:

- Visitors and Contractors must be inducted to the Department at all times. The paperwork is located at the Main Office.

- If you are involved in a Health or Safety incident at work all reports are filed and sent to H&S Central, but they are also the basis of discussion for the Department and sometime higher Health and Safety Committees. These reports are not confidential but they are no-fault documents, and the idea is to use them to make work-life healthier and safer. **Event reports must be signed off by the H&S Chair—Katharina Naswall and/or must be reported to the Department Safety Officer.** Link to RMSS Event Report.

- Check out the Health and Safety Reform Bill.

- NZ Emergency Service 1-111

- UC Security = Emergency on Campus 6111 or 0800 823 637

- UC Non-emergency = 6888

- The Health & Safety Toolkit on the intranet is [Health and Safety Intranet site and H&S Toolkit](#).

- The Department H&S Action Plan is available for staff on Y drive and also available on the Department Health and Safety website.

Please also note the evacuation assembly area for the Psychology Building below. Re-entry to the building is NOT when the alarms stop sounding, but when the all clear is given by the Building Warden.

See information on advice help and support on campus below.
Department News

Congratulations to Phillipa Reihana was welcomed Te Aika Kathrine Reihana into the world at the end of October, weighing in at 9lb 6½oz. Everyone doing well.

Photos to share...

Rob’s trip to Greece for the Biennial Conference of the European Behavioural Pharmacology Society, in Hersonissos in Crete.

What’s not to love about this conference venue in Crete?

They really know how to celebrate at the Gala Dinner at the conference!
2017 Charity Garden Tour

Christchurch - New Zealand's Garden City

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November, 10am-4pm

Tickets available at Oderings, Terra Viva, Portstone Nursery Outlets for $35 per person, or online at www.charitygardentour.co.nz for $37 per person. One ticket will give access on both days.

A Wigram Lions Club project, proudly supporting Child Cancer Foundation and Westpac Rescue Helicopter.