Integrative Neuroscience
Alumni Newsletter

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Dear integrative neuroscience (formerly psychobiology) alumni,

It seems like it’s been forever since our last newsletter and we have a lot of exciting news to report. Let me start by stating what should by now be the obvious: we changed our name! This change from psychobiology to integrative neuroscience has been long overdue and was prompted by an outcry from our majors who rightly believed that the new name was a better reflection of the field. Everyone is happy about it.

Another piece of big news is the addition of Dr. Courtney Ignarri to our program as our academic advisor. Courtney earned a PhD in psychology and decided that her dream job was working with students. We are all lucky she feels that way. Courtney has brought to this job a sense of efficiency and perspective that only someone with her level of education is capable of. In fact, this newsletter is largely her doing. So, thanks, Courtney, and keep up the amazing work you do for all of us!

Meantime, since our last newsletter, we have added three new faculty to our ranks, each of whom does exciting research: Dr. Nicole Cameron studies the effects of maternal care on sexual behavior later in life. (It turns out that different styles of maternal care may actually alter gene expression, an effect called “epigenetics.”) Dr. David Werner studies the interaction of GABA receptors on alcohol consumption in adults and adolescents. (As you may recall from Physiological Psychology class, GABA is an inhibitory neurotransmitter. Alcohol binds to GABA receptors normally, but the molecular cascade that it sets off within the cell may predict the development of alcohol abuse and tolerance). Dr. Jilla Sabeti studies the effects of alcohol. (Her research uses an animal model of binge drinking to study alcohol addiction on several levels, from whole animal to molecular.) Together these new researchers have enhanced our research profile and added to the scope of our teaching. For example, Dr. Cameron has reinvented the Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory course, which she now teaches each year.

Last, and perhaps most important, the faculty advisors in integrative neuroscience have been taking a long, hard look at our program — with an eye toward evaluating its effectiveness in preparing you, our alumni, for your future. For this, we are asking for your help in the form of feedback, either by mail or e-mail (neuro@binghamton.edu), about what you liked and disliked about the Integrative Neuroscience Program and how we might improve it. Were there courses that were especially vital to your education? Were one or more important courses missing? If so, please let us know. I can’t emphasize enough how important your input is. And, of course, send us your news . . . career changes, new jobs, graduations, family milestones. We really love hearing about all of you!

On behalf of the entire Integrative Neuroscience Program, I wish all of you a happy, healthy and safe year!
Dr. Jilla Sabeti joined the behavioral neuroscience area of the Psychology Department in fall 2010. She earned her PhD at the University of Colorado and received a postdoctoral fellowship at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif. She studies psychopharmacology and neurobiology, neuroactive steroid systems and sigma-1 receptor functions, synaptic transmission and plasticity, and alcohol and drug abuse models. Currently, much of her lab’s work centers on the growing epidemic of binge drinking among young adults by employing adolescent rat models on binge intoxication via alcohol vapor exposure. This allows for the analysis of the mechanisms of drug abuse and addiction at multiple levels of brain organization.

In fall 2010, the department welcomed Dr. David Werner to the behavioral neuroscience area. His research interests include alcohol action, tolerance, addiction, neuropsychiatric disorders, neuroplasticity, neuropharmacology and molecular genetics. Specifically, his work focuses on why individuals exhibit different responses to alcohol and drugs, particularly why some are more susceptible to addiction, as well as why levels of sensitivity and tolerance vary across development. Through understanding these differences, better therapeutic methods may be developed to treat drug and alcohol abuse and addiction. His lab explores molecular targets within the brain such as receptors and intracellular pathways that may play a role in alcohol action. They employ many molecular, biochemical and neuropharmacological methods in cellular and animal models to assess the role of various gene-products in alcohol’s effects during development.

After completing her PhD in neuroscience at Boston University, Dr. Nicole Cameron was a postdoctoral fellow at the Developmental Neuroendocrinology Laboratory and McGill Program for the Study of Behaviour, Genes and Environment. In 2009 she joined the behavioral neuroscience area as a faculty member in the Psychology Department. Her general areas of interest are neuroendocrinology, female reproductive function, maternal care and sexual behavior. Early environment influences the reproductive development in humans, especially on the timing of puberty and the onset of sexual behavior in girls. Using an animal model of natural variations in maternal care, she has been able to study the parental influences on the reproductive system of the female offspring. Dr. Cameron uses behavioral testing and cellular-molecular approaches to investigate the impact of parental care on the offspring’s phenotype. Her research focuses mainly on neuroendocrine functions, using infusions of drugs in discrete brain areas controlling reproductive functions and sexual behaviors, and monitoring gonadal hormones released under different conditions. Recently, she also began investigating the effect of early environment on alcohol abuse.
What are you doing? That is, are you in school? At a job? What is your current position?

I currently work with Helen Keller International in Kenya as a nutrition and monitoring and evaluation consultant. Before moving to Kenya in 2011, I worked as the clinical research coordinator for a nonprofit organization conducting research on vegetarian and vegan diets.

Why did you decide to pursue your current career or field of study?

When I was at Binghamton, I knew that I liked sciences but that pre-med wasn’t for me. I remained undecided for some time, but when I learned about nutrition, everything clicked and I knew it was the right direction for me.

How did majoring in psychobiology/integrative neuroscience help you in your career or field of study?

I majored in psychobiology because I was not sure what I wanted to do and a psychobiology major gave me the flexibility to learn about all of the sciences. When I later decided that I wanted to study nutrition, I was well prepared because of my diverse background in biochemistry, chemistry and psychology.

What courses and/or experiences that you had at Binghamton do you feel were most useful or influential to you?

Working as an undergraduate research assistant was very useful because it introduced me to the world of research and was a good résumé builder for summer research programs and graduate school. The introduction to nutrition course was most influential because it introduced me to nutrition and inspired me to pursue nutrition as my career.

What courses and/or experiences that you had at Binghamton would you recommend for students going into your career or field of study?

Get as many internship experiences as you can so that you can try different things and see what you like. Regarding coursework, a strong background in biochemistry is helpful for students going into nutrition as a career.

Were there any psychobiology/integrative neuroscience faculty members who nurtured or influenced you in a positive way?

Dr. Pastore was my research advisor and introduced me to the world of research. It is because of this opportunity that I applied to summer research programs and graduate school. Without him I would not even have known that the world of research existed.

Any advice for current majors?

Don’t be afraid to go off the beaten path. Once I got my PhD in nutrition, everyone said that I could either go into academics or industry, but I knew that I wanted something different. It took me a lot of searching job opportunities and talking with friends to realize where my interests were; and eventually I did land a job that was unique and that fit me.

Anything else you’d like us to know (e.g., professional or scholarly recognition you’ve achieved, marriage, children, etc.)?

I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl this August in Kenya. She will have dual U.S. and Kenyan citizenship, so she is already off to a diverse start!
Flora Poleshchuk
Class of 2005 | Genetic counselor

What are you doing? That is, are you in school? At a job? What is your current position?

I am currently working as a genetic counselor in pediatrics and adult cancer genetics at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y. I completed a master’s degree in genetic counseling from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in May of last year. In pediatrics, I work as part of an interdisciplinary team to identify or assist in managing genetic syndromes. While at the cancer center, I work one on one with patients to assess risk for carrying cancer predisposing genes and discuss risks, benefits and limitations of genetic testing. Both subspecialties involve gathering medical and family histories, ordering tests and writing clinical summary reports for physicians and patients. While I have chosen to start my career in a hospital setting, the field has been rapidly evolving and many new jobs arising for genetic counselors are in industry or private practice.

Why did you decide to pursue your current career or field of study?

After completing my undergrad studies at Binghamton, I worked as an embryologist in a fertility clinic where I was helping people start families and bank gametes for future use. This job also gave me the opportunity to participate in various in-vitro research projects. I saw a great deal of overlap in genetics and embryology (for example, if a couple may want to have their embryos tested for a heritable disease, they can do so through pre-implantation genetic diagnosis). After a few years on the job, I was ready to go back to school. Seeing the human cells under the microscope wasn’t enough anymore; I wanted more patient interaction and a dynamic environment, which would require further training in genetics, bioethics and counseling principles.

How did majoring in psychobiology/integrative neuroscience help you in your career or field of study?

Psychobiology was a good major for me because I liked so many different topics. I got to take all the classes that were fun for me, such as sociobiology, and was forced to take all the pre-med requirements, which helped further shape my interests. My graduate school thesis was in fact assessing healthcare providers’ attitudes toward genetic testing for bipolar disorder. I am still drawn to psychology and neuroscience and there is now sufficient overlap in these areas. Neurogenetics is an exciting field with growing demand.

What courses and/or experiences that you had at Binghamton do you feel were most useful or influential to you?

I recommend taking course work and having experiences that are challenging. I think the more work/life experience I have, the more I realize that it is exciting and fulfilling to succeed at tasks that may not come easily at first. I had to work hard because the psychobiology course work is demanding. I already knew I would probably double-major in psychology and philosophy, but I was scared of organic chemistry and physics until I realized there was going to be no better time to do it. In retrospect, it was precisely this switch that allowed me to graduate with a bachelor of science and get a career-track job out of college and then allowed me to transition into my current field.

What courses and/or experiences that you had at Binghamton would you recommend for students going into your career or field of study?

I know one thing I didn’t do which I wish I did: make sure to take genetics and biochemistry as an undergrad if you are planning to be a genetic counselor (both are required). I also definitely recommend trying out different areas of interest on or off campus. Volunteering in a counseling setting is important and shows you are interested in helping people (which I hope you are if you want to be a genetic counselor). I ended up volunteering at a suicide prevention hotline before applying to grad school. I would also say, if you are still making up your mind, even a negative experience can help guide you in the right direction because then at least you will know what you don’t want to do. A negative experience can still be positively transforming. Finally, shadow a genetic counselor in the Binghamton area. I shadowed genetic counselors in prenatal and cancer genetics when I was deciding to apply.

Were there any psychobiology/integrative neuroscience faculty members who nurtured or influenced you in a positive way?

I remember really enjoying Professor Morrissey’s classes. Not only did I take all the standard psychology prerequisites with him, but also upper-level electives including Cognitive Neuroscience. At this time I was also very interested in my philosophy course work. I actually had a double major in philosophy, which nicely complemented, in a theoretical way, what I was learning in psychobiology. In fact, in my last semester at Binghamton, I took Philosophy of Mind with Professor Dietrich and Neuroscience with Professor Morrissey. Both are great lecturers and super-excited about their respective fields.

Any advice for current majors?

Take all the different classes that interest you and fully engage in them. Also, I think the majority of people learn on the job no matter how much prior experience they get during school. All that can be reflected in schoolwork is enthusiasm for learning, which you probably have if you are a psychobiology major. Also, while the economy is tough now, I would still encourage new graduates not to settle on work that doesn’t make them happy. In my opinion, waiting a few months to commence is still better than waiting a few months too many to make an exit.

Anything else you’d like us to know (e.g., professional or scholarly recognition you’ve achieved, marriage, children, etc.)?

I have a food blog that I am excited about, www.recipehuntress.com. While I haven’t posted recently because I was busy with my new job, I hope to resume shortly.
Deborah J. Seuss earned an MPH in 1997. She has been involved in pharmaceutical and medical device development (clinical research) and is currently working on the Cameron Health S-ICD for ventricular tachyarrhythmias. She has worked in the United States, Haiti, Brazil, Australia, UK, Brazil and Israel.

Freya Dittrich is an osteopathic physician, residency trained and board certified in emergency medicine, now working in the ER at Purnam Hospital Center in Carmel, NY.

Eric Lampinstein is now a chiropractic physician who graduated in 1998 from Life University in Georgia. He is a chiropractor at Cafe Of Life Chiropractic in Miami Beach, Fl.

Keith LaScales is a practicing internist in New York who also teaches and mentors medical students as part of his faculty appointment at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Gary Popovetsky has finished medical school and residency and has been practicing emergency medicine for 10 years, this past year in Florida.

Michael D. Aginsky earned his MS in computer science from Long Island University. He is currently chief technology officer for Gibbons P.C. in Newark, N.J.

Joshua Zamer, MD, is a hospitalist at Saratoga Hospital. He is the chair of his department in addition to being a trustee for his group, while also working part-time in addiction medicine and urgent care.

Amy N. Brodeur earned her master of forensic science degree from George Washington University in 1999. She then worked in private and public forensic laboratories in the areas of forensic biology, DNA analysis and crime scene investigation until 2010. Since 2006 she has also been the assistant director of the Biomedical Forensic Sciences Master’s Program at the Boston University School of Medicine.

Zora Wolfe has been a high school math/science teacher, curriculum director and principal. She earned a master’s in secondary education from Columbia University in 2000 and her principal internship was at Ute Creek Secondary Academy and Longmont High School. She completed the College of Education Principal Licensure Program at the University of Denver in 2004 and will graduate with a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. Her dissertation is focused on teacher learning and teacher leadership in their early career. Currently she is a program officer with the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation, working with beginning biology teachers across the country and providing mentoring and professional development for awardees of their five-year teaching fellowship.

Elizabeth Eldridge (St. James) obtained her MPA in health policy and management from the NYU Wagner School of Public Service in 2001. Since that time she has worked for a major auditing firm as a healthcare operations consultant, then at three different academic medical centers in the area of revenue cycle operations and improvement. She currently works at NYU Langone Medical Center as a manager of billing operations in the central billing office for the faculty group practice. She married a Binghamton graduate (Kurt Eldridge ’00) and they have a son, Dylan, who is 18 months old. They live in Manhattan.

Iva Gotz, MD, is working as an emergency medicine physician.

Mirja Gunthart-Wine, PhD, worked as a research associate at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals after graduating in 1998. After two years, she moved to Boston to attend Tufts University Sackler School of Biomedical Science as an immunology graduate student, earning her PhD in 2006. She then moved to Los Angeles and worked as a lab manager at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles. Two years ago she left the lab to become a scientific consultant on the flow cytometry sales team at Beckman Coulter.

Rebecca Smolar obtained a master’s degree in international communications from American University. She has worked as a public affairs officer at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C., a marketing associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a program manager at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a program manager at the Levin Institute.
General Hospital. He is an assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and is an attending in the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at Rhode Island Hospital. His research interests center on stroke epidemiology and prevention, traumatic brain injury, and neurology in resource-limited settings, and he recently traveled to Haiti. Corey is also working toward a master’s in public health at Brown University.

Daniel Burger worked as an adjunct instructor of psychology at Trocaire College in Buffalo. He now is a stay-at-home father.

Katrine Enrile received an MD from Upstate Medical University in 2006, completed a psychiatry residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in 2009 and finished a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship in 2011.

Nicole Cassler joined the Navy in 2003 and went to the military medical school at Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Md. She then became a flight surgeon after attending flight school in Pensacola, Fla. Her next duty station was in New River, N.C., with a Marine Osprey squadron, and she was also deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Last August, Nicole moved to Meridian, Miss., where she is a flight surgeon for a jet-training wing. She also completed training in acupuncture through the Helms Medical Institute.

Jennifer Davila, MD, is currently a pediatric hematology oncology chief fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Corey Fehnel, MD, graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 2006. He has been in Boston for the last six years completing a residency in neurology at Harvard/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and is on a two-year fellowship in critical care neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is an assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and is an attending in the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at Rhode Island Hospital. His research interests center on stroke epidemiology and prevention, traumatic brain injury, and neurology in resource-limited settings, and he recently traveled to Haiti. Corey is also working toward a master’s in public health at Brown University.

Jennifer Kelschenbach completed a PhD in pharmacology at the University of Minnesota in 2006. Since then she has been working as postdoctoral research fellow at Columbia University/St. Luke’s - Roosevelt Hospital Center under the mentorship of Dr. David J. Volsky. In 2009 she was awarded a F32 NRSA grant, which has enabled her to pursue her work in Dr. Volsky’s lab, investigating HIV-associated neurocognitive dysfunction using their mouse model of HIV infection.

Zachary R. Krom earned his BSN from Binghamton’s Decker School of Nursing in 2002, then completed his MSN at the University of Hartford in 2009. He is now working on his PhD in nursing at the University of Connecticut. He was a staff nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Conn., from 2002 to 2009 and a clinical nurse educator of adult surgery at Yale-New Haven Hospital from 2009 to present.

Colleen (Casey) Robinson became a certified athletic trainer in 2003 thanks to her time as a student athletic trainer at Binghamton University. She stayed in the Binghamton area and, for the last five years, has been working for a local employee assistance program (EAP) in corporate wellness services. She is also a certified health coach who designs at-work wellness programs to help her clients and their employees live healthier lifestyles.
Class of 2002

Herman Chiu is a doctor finishing his residency in a few months.

Heather Katcher earned her PhD in integrative biosciences with an emphasis in nutrition and is currently working as a nutrition and M&E consultant with Helen Keller International in Kenya.

Nicanor A. Lacsina completed an OD degree and is currently working as an optometrist.

Class of 2003

Sandra (Breuer) Goode earned a BSN in nursing from Binghamton in 2004 and an MSN in nursing from Duke University in 2010. She works at Duke Medical Center as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA).

Samanta (Osunsanmi) Harvey completed her degree at Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons in 2007 and an anesthesiology residency in 2011.

Aileen Tlamsa received a master’s degree in biology from Queens College, CUNY, in 2007 and an MD degree from St. George’s University in June 2012. In July she started an internal medicine residency program at UMDNJ-NJMS.

Class of 2004

Dustin Gibson is enrolled in a doctoral program in the International Health Department at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. He will be conducting his dissertation in western Kenya for two years. Dustin married Clare Marks, a fellow Binghamton graduate, in August 2009.

Ryan Mancari earned an MBA in healthcare administration from Union Graduate College, Schenectady, in 2011 and is now a process improvement coordinator, Department of Veterans Affairs, South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, Texas.

Class of 2005

Zoraya Cruz-Bonilla briefly returned to New York City after graduation, working outside of her field of study. She came back to Binghamton to work in a support staff role at the University, where she now is a data research assistant in the Office of Student Affairs Assessment and Strategic Initiatives.

Jason M. Donin worked in the financial sector in New York from 2005 to 2010 and is currently pursuing a doctor of physical therapy degree in Miami, Fla.

Beth Hannan Vogel earned a master’s degree in genetic counseling from Indiana University in 2007. She then worked for Albany Medical Center for three years and is currently working for NYS DOH.

Tanya Menard, MD, is a resident psychiatrist PGY-2 at SUNY Downstate University.

Laura Palazzolo initially worked in a lab studying genetic development of the telencephalon, but decided to pursue a master’s degree in nutrition. She’s now working as a registered dietitian since receiving her RD credentials.

Flora Poleschuck worked as an embryologist at a fertility clinic before earning a master’s in genetic counseling at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She now works as a genetic counselor at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn.

Elisa Salerni is currently enrolled in the clinical psychology: neuropsychology doctoral program at CUNY’s Graduate Center. She received an MA in psychology from Queens College and an MPhil in psychology from the Graduate Center. She started a one-year neuropsychology internship at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit this past summer and plans to graduate with her doctorate degree in spring 2013.

Class of 2006

Hamza Alizai earned an MD degree from Ross University School of Medicine in 2010, then worked as a postdoctoral fellow at University of California, San Francisco, in the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, where he focused on musculoskeletal research, specifically osteoarthritis, osteoporosis and diabetes-related musculoskeletal changes. He is currently a resident physician at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio in the Department of Radiology. This is a combined radiology/PhD program, the only program in the country offering this option, with one available position per year. He is also a graduate student working toward a PhD in human imaging with a focus in musculoskeletal radiology.

Yan Epelboym has completed an MD program at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and an MPH program at Columbia University. Yan will be pursuing a career in diagnostic radiology and will be undergoing residency training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

Elina Drits is currently attending medical school and will be graduating this year.

Karen Jaunaratnam obtained an MS and in 2011 her PhD from Binghamton. Since then she has started a job as a post-doc fellow at the University of Alabama-Birmingham with Dr. David Standaert doing Parkinson’s disease and dystonia research.

Nicholas Perrino went on to chiropractic school at New York Chiropractic College. After graduating in 2010, he began practicing at the Vestal Chiropractic Center, Vestal, N.Y.

Deece T. Roarke will complete his MD program at New York Medical College in 2013. He was employed at the Comprehensive Weight Control Program at Weill-Cornell Medical College as a clinical research coordinator from 2006 to 2009.

Lyvia Solomon Larish has graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and continued to a pediatric residency at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell. She married a fellow Binghamton graduate and psychobiology major, Yaniv Larish, who also graduated from Albert Einstein and is currently a urology resident. This year they welcomed their beautiful daughter, Yael.

**CLASS OF 2007**

Diana Abramova earned her MS in medical microbiology (Long Island University) in 2010 and is currently a DDS degree candidate at the NYU College of Dentistry (Class of 2014).

Anna Akker earned an MS in physician assistant studies and currently works in cardiology.

Jason Berger works part-time as a professional assistant at Suffolk County Community College, where he sets up and breaks down biology, chemistry and physics labs. He is currently looking for another position.

Tzvi Furer obtained his medical degree in April 2012 from St. Matthew’s University School of Medicine, Cayman Islands. In July he began his first year of psychiatry residency at SUNY Health Science Center in Brooklyn.

Larissa Kadar Ghadiali (Grover) earned an MD degree in 2011 from New York Medical College. She completed her preliminary year at St. Luke’s Roosevelt in Manhattan and is currently an ophthalmology resident at New York Medical College.

Jessica Goggin went back to school and earned a bachelor’s in nursing. She then combined her passions and became a neurology nurse at New York Presbyterian in New York. In addition, Mark is a fellow of the NYU College of Public Health and Medicine.

Lauren Adis received her bachelor’s in nursing from Binghamton in 2011 and is now a psychiatric nurse.

Marisa Gloshow is a fourth-year medical student at NYCOM, currently looking at residency programs.

Wynter Greene was a counselor for the TRIO Educational Talent Search Program at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice from 2008 to 2010 and a senior office assistant within the School of Education at CUNY Hunter College from 2010 to 2011. Since then she has been assistant to the associate dean of academic affairs at CUNY Macaulay Honors College and earned an MSED in higher education administration from CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College earlier this year.

Rachel Kiely recently graduated from Arcadia University with a master’s of science in genetic counseling and is currently looking for a job within the field.

Georgianna Lynn Reilly remained in Binghamton working for the Psychology Department’s Infant and Child Studies Lab until fall 2007, doing research in perception and cognition. From December 2007 to August 2010, she worked as a researcher and intake coordinator for the Fay J. Lindner Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities on Long Island. Her research was in the area of sexuality, medication, imaging and behavior. In August 2010, she began her master’s degree in social welfare at Stony Brook University, and graduated this past May with a concentration in healthcare. She is now working part-time in research again and hopes to get a social work position in the field of health education and support. She will be getting married in January 2013.

Vanessa Valdez earned an AAS degree in physical therapy assistant and is working in Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

**CLASS OF 2008**

Rebecca Barrett is employed as an attorney in a mid-sized law firm in downtown Manhattan.

Shaigan Iqbal is currently attending medical school.

Sarah Long lives in Chicago and has worked for the Census and in a coffee shop, done social science telephone research and currently works at a consumer research firm as a receptionist. She is going back to school to get her master’s in nursing.

Randi-Lynn Spencer works as an investigator for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Nicole Sweeney will be graduating from medical school in May 2013.

Amy Weiner earned her master’s in public health from CUNY Brooklyn College in 2010. She was employed at the AIDS Service Center in New York City for a year and a half and also at Mount Sinai Hospital as a patient navigator out-posted. She is starting medical school at SUNY Downstate.

**CLASS OF 2009**

Justin Zimmer is a student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Class of 2014.
**CLASS OF 2011**

Natasha Bobrowski-Khoury is working as an assistant research technician at NYU Medical Center. She is also involved in multiple sclerosis research in the School of Medicine under the supervision of Dr. Jack Rosenbluth.

A. Jessica Berger is at Boston University School of Medicine completing a master’s in medical arts and will be applying to medical school next year. She is researching REM sleep behavior disorder as an early predictor of Alpha synucleinopathies (Lewy body dementia, Parkinson’s disease and MSA) as a thesis topic.

William Buchta is a graduate student at the Medical University of South Carolina in the Department of Neuroscience studying cellular mechanisms of addiction.

Caitlin Cole applied to about 30 positions and landed two part-time jobs after graduating from Binghamton. One job was working at an outpatient orthopedic physical therapy facility as a receptionist/physical therapy aide; the other was at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center as a rehabilitation associate working with physical and occupational therapists in an inpatient setting. She was accepted into the doctoral program in physical therapy at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)-Newark, which she began in August.

Lauren Cooke recently finished her first year at NYCOM.

Lindsay Howard is attending medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), where she is on schedule to graduate with a DO degree in May 2015. Lindsay is excited to report that she achieved a 4.0 in her first year of medical school, and that she has made many new friends along her journey.

Dora Linkoff is attending the doctor of pharmacy program at the Eshelman School of Pharmacy of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill beginning this fall.

Dylan Ruebeck is in medical school at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. During the summer, he did research on Alzheimer’s disease at the Center for Excellence in downtown Buffalo.

Francis Sheehan is a professional firefighter.

Chris Tenore is attending medical school at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. He has also volunteered at a local community clinic and in the summer did clinical research with hepatitis C patients.

Emily Zanat is working on a master of public health degree at Emory University, specializing in behavioral sciences and health education. This past year she worked as a graduate research assistant and as a community engagement scholar. In the summer she worked as a recruiter for an HIV/STI educational study at Emory geared toward African-American single mothers and their teenage daughters. After completing her degree in 2013, she is planning to pursue a career in sexual health education.

**CLASS OF 2012**

Haroon Ahmad has spent the time since graduation preparing for the MCAT, which he was planning to take in September.

Michael Galarraga works at Binghamton General Hospital as a mental health technician on a psychiatric unit and will be attending graduate school in fall 2013.

Marisa J. Levy worked as a full-time telemarketer this past summer and was a science camp counselor during July. In August she returned to school, at Georgia State University in Atlanta, to pursue a PhD in neuroscience.

Laura Mickelsen will be attending the University of Connecticut to earn a PhD in physiological neurobiology. She will be studying the effects of sleeping pills on GABAergic systems.

Jacob Vohs began medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in July.

Benny Vuong is attending Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to get his PharmD degree.

Jennifer Wolf is applying to medical schools.

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**Science 5**

Science 5, a building dedicated solely to behavioral neuroscience research, was officially opened this fall. The state-of-the-art facility reflects the growth of Binghamton’s BNS program and fosters collaboration among researchers through shared wet labs and data-entry rooms. The new building will enhance our world-class faculty’s study of addiction, obesity, stress, memory and neurological disorders like Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s disease.
Integrative Neuroscience Honors for Distinguished Independent Research, Spring 2012

Eliza C. Anderson
“Samatha meditation and university students: Does a single meditative event cause state effects sufficient to improve academic performance in novice meditators?”

Peter C. Bush
“Effects of housing conditions and food restriction on sign-tracking behavior in adolescent and adult male Sprague-Dawley rats”

Marisa J. Levy
“Environmental condition’s effect on sexual motivation in the rat animal model: A study inspired by Alfred Kinsey”

Rachel J. McGough
“Alterations in Hippocampal C-fos expression in an animal model of Wernicke Korsakoff syndrome: Does exercise improve behavioral and neural functioning?”

John L. Fuller Memorial Award
John Fuller received his PhD in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked at the Jackson laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, for 23 years, where his studies furthered our understanding of the development of behavior as influenced by the coaction of genes and the environment. His research resulted in a new discipline known as behavior genetics. John joined Binghamton University in 1970. His arrival marked a turning point in the history of the Psychology Department; his research and knowledge assisted in transforming psychology at Binghamton into a prestigious place of study. When he passed away on June 8, 1992, he was 81 years old. He had been a professor emeritus in the department since 1978. He was truly a pioneer in the field of behavior genetics and his influence will never be forgotten. The Fuller award is given to a graduating senior integrative neuroscience major who has shown excellence in the area of research through the completion of an honors project in integrative neuroscience. This year it was awarded to Eliza C. Anderson, who was nominated by her faculty mentor, Dr. Peter Donovick.
A NOTE ABOUT GIVING TO THE PROGRAM

Your support helps us with everything from a speaker series to alumni outreach, programming for current students, student support, and our basic daily operations. Contributions should be sent to the Binghamton University Foundation, PO Box 6005, Binghamton, NY, 13902-6005, and please note that it is for the Integrative Neuroscience (Psychology Fund account 10762).