



New Awards Translate to New Research Efforts

RIA Scientists Contribute to Knowledge-based Economy in Region

Since 1970, RIA scientists have contributed to addiction research surrounding issues of alcohol, drugs and gambling. During 2008-2009, and as part of UB's mission to be a knowledge-based, economic engine for the local community, we continue to generate new funding, new research results and jobs for the local economy.

In late summer 2008, Dr. Kimberly S. Walitzer, senior research scientist and RIA's deputy director, was awarded a grant of \$1.8 million from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) to investigate the role of anger management in alcoholism treatment. "There is substantial evidence for a relationship between alcoholism and anger emotions, such as annoyance, frustration, irritation and hostility," Dr. Walitzer explained. "We plan to develop and evaluate an anger management treatment protocol for use in outpatient alcoholism treatment." The two-phase, five-year project will include development of a 12-session treatment manual for anger management therapy and a pilot clinical trial to evaluate the effectiveness of alcoholism-



adapted anger management therapy. "Ultimately, we believe this research will improve alcohol outcomes and decrease relapse," Dr. Walitzer stated, "thereby providing significant health benefits to individuals as well as their families." Her co-investigators on the study are Drs. Gerard J. Connors and Paul R. Stasiewicz.



This spring Dr. Jerry Richards, senior research scientist, received an award of \$431,356 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to study the effects of negative consequences on drug self-administration using an animal model. "Perhaps the most convincing non-human animal models of drug abuse are self-administration procedures in which animals make responses that are reinforced by drug administration," Dr. Richards stated. "The primary objective of my research will be to develop a rodent model of self-administration in which drug consumption has delayed negative consequences." An important component of drug abuse in humans is that individuals take drugs despite the knowledge of negative outcome (often delayed) associated with drug use, but the standard laboratory animal models have no explicit negative outcomes associated with self-administration of drugs. "This study will advance our understanding of drug abuse by determining if punishment or delays to punishment have similar (or dissimilar) effects on both drug and natural reinforcers of equivalent reinforcing efficacy," Richards continued. This project is supported through funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Dr. Richards co-investigator on the two-year project is Dr. Alexis C. Thompson.

By summer, Dr. Richards had received a second NIDA award of \$554,750 with funds provided by ARRA. In this study of drug abuse and impulsivity, he is testing animal models to investigate

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Director's Message



A great deal has occurred since our last RIA Report. One major event was the restoration of funds to RIA's state budget allocation for FY2009-2010. RIA was proposed to absorb a significant budget reduction in an initial State

budget proposal. We are profoundly indebted to our Western New York Assembly-members and Senators who advocated for the restoration of funds for RIA, which kept the reduction to RIA's State budget to a minimum.

On the research front, four new NIH awards have been received by RIA scientists. In the first, Dr. Kimberly Walitzer will be developing an anger management therapy for evaluation in outpatient alcoholism treatment. In addition, two new awards have been received by Dr. Jerry Richards. In the first, Dr. Richards will be studying the effects of negative consequences on drug self-administration using an animal model. In the second, Dr. Richards will be using an animal model to study impulsivity as a predisposing factor for drug abuse. Finally, Dr. John Welte has received an award to study a decade of change in problem gambling since his groundbreaking 2000 National Survey of the Co-occurrence of Gambling and Substance Use in the U.S.

RIA scientists also collaborated on awards received by colleagues in other UB units. Dr. Paula Vincent is a co-investigator on a project to study the concurrent versus individual use of malt liquor and marijuana (PI: Dr. Lorraine Collins, UB Department of Health Behavior and Health Professions and an Associate Research Scientist at RIA). Dr. John Welte is a co-investigator on a project to develop a computer-adaptive test of personality disorder (PI: Dr. Leonard Simms, UB Department of Psychology). Dr. Christopher Barrick is serving as a co-investigator on a Western New York Public Health Alliance

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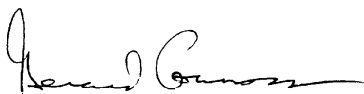
Director's Message *(cont'd from p. 1)*

Study which is preparing and demonstrating the functionality of a web-based "wiki" board while linking advanced practice centers and local health departments to rural first responders (PI: **Dr. Gregory Homish**, UB Department of Health Behavior and an Associate Research Scientist at RIA). Finally, **Dr. Kenneth Leonard** is co-investigator on a study examining the association between a problem-drinking intimate partner and his/her partner's alcohol use, alcohol problems, other substance use, and physical and mental health (PI: **Dr. Homish**).

Our Spring Seminar Series, completed this past May, featured presentations by **Drs. Charles Mathias, Andrea Hussong, Linda Dvoskin, and Kathleen Parks**. We were very pleased to have hosted these distinguished speakers. As a reminder, these seminar presentations are free and open to the public. Information on our upcoming Fall Seminar Series will be made available at our website (www.ria.buffalo.edu).

Beyond the above, several noteworthy events are described in this report. First, RIA was well-represented at the annual JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge, joining a large contingent of participants from UB. All 10 runners from RIA began and finished the 3.5 mile course! Second, RIA recently held its annual Take a Child to Work Day gathering. We hosted a record number of children, totaling 32 participants between the ages of five and 16. A most enjoyable time was had by all, and special thanks are extended to **Audrey Kubiak** and **Molly Rath**, the program coordinators, along with all of the staff who contributed to the event's planning and implementation.

Finally, on the postdoctoral fellowship front, we bid fond farewell and best wishes to three graduating fellows, each of whom is transitioning to an academic position. **Dr. Amy Brown** will be an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette, **Dr. Cathy Lau-Barraco** will be an assistant professor of psychology at Old Dominion University, and **Dr. Monica Skewes** will be an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks. We will miss each of them.



Graduates of RIA's Postdoctoral Training Program



Since 2000, RIA's NIAAA-funded Postdoctoral Research Training Program has graduated 11 postdoctoral fellows. This year is no exception, with three fellows graduating this summer.

Amy L. Brown, Ph.D. (above left) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Psychology of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. While in RIA's postdoc program, Dr. Brown conducted a qualitative investigation of college student party experiences. "We conducted focus groups to explore college students' impressions of negative alcohol-related behaviors at parties," she explained. "In addition, we investigated the impact of bystander intervention in preventing alcohol-related injury and violence. I have enjoyed my time at RIA and will take fond memories of the people I met here to my new home in Louisiana." The research component of Dr. Brown's training program was funded by RIA's Research Development Program (RDP).

Cathy Lau-Barraco, Ph.D. (center) has assumed a tenure track assistant professorship in the Department of Psychology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. Dr. Lau-Barraco's research focuses on the psychosocial determinants of drinking among emerging adults. She was awarded RDP funding to expand this line of research specifically targeting non-students. With support provided by RIA and the training grant, Dr. Lau-Barraco has published six peer-reviewed research articles and was the recipient

of the 2006 RSA Junior Investigator award. "We have learned about addiction research and Buffalo and made great friends here, both personally and professionally. It will be hard to leave but also very exciting to be launching new careers."

Monica C. Skewes (right) has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where she will be working in the Center for Alaska Native Health Research and the Department of Psychology. Her research interests encompass behavior change for the purpose of disease prevention, including smoking cessation and substance abuse treatment; health literacy, health-related decision making, community-based treatment methods, and minority health disparities; and psychological measurement. She received RDP funds to investigate "Health literacy and substance abuse treatment outcomes" conducted through the Erie County Medical Center's Inpatient Chemical Dependency Unit.

Continuing training program participants include **Drs. Jaye L. Derrick, Brent Finger, and Eric M. Truxell**. Dr. Derrick is studying addiction, personality and social relationships. Dr. Finger is researching parent-child relationships and child outcomes among children of substance abusing parents. Dr. Truxell is examining the effects of prenatal ethanol and nicotine effects on reinforcement. 🌟

Research In Review

Employee alcohol & drug use

Employee alcohol and illicit drug use is an issue that is important to and has received attention from managers, unions, policymakers, politicians, researchers and the media. There are several reasons for this attention:

- use of alcohol and illicit drugs may undermine employee health, productivity and safety, which leads to costs being incurred by employers;
- in the U.S., passage of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 made employee substance use a salient issue for certain employers; and
- a large industry has developed around the issue of testing employees for the use of illicit drugs, and in some cases, for alcohol use.

In Chapter 27 of the book *The Sage Handbook of Organizational Behavior* published last year, Michael R. Frone, Ph.D. summarized what we know and do not know about the scope, causes and organizational consequences of employee substance use.

This chapter includes detailed data beginning to be published in the U.S., although notes the scarcity of published data in other countries. The U.S. data supports several general conclusions:

- Despite the attention devoted to illicit drug use, alcohol is likely to be more problematic for employers than illicit drugs. Alcohol use and impairment in the workforce and workplace are much more prevalent than illicit drug use and impairment in both the workforce and workplace.
- Illicit drug use primarily reflects the use of marijuana.
- Comparing the 12-month prevalence of workforce and workplace substance use indicates that most substance use and impairment occurs outside the workplace. In fact, 79 percent of employees who use alcohol do not report any workplace alcohol use; 78 percent of those who report illicit drug use do not report any workplace illicit drug use.
- Alcohol and illicit drug use in the workforce and in the workplace are not distributed uniformly in the working population. The primary factors related to the distribution of substance use are gender, age and occupa-

tion. This means that not all employers are affected equally and that substance use, especially illicit drug use, is not a major issue for most employers. Nonetheless, those employers whose labor pool is comprised largely of young (18-30) men and women in high-risk occupations may be more likely to deal with problems related to overall and workplace substance use.

- The high-risk occupations include the legal, arts, design, entertainment, sports and media; food preparation and serving; building and grounds cleaning, and maintenance occupations.
 - Among young women in the above high-risk occupations, 43 percent reported using an illicit drug in the past 12 months and 43 percent reported being impaired by an illicit drug. Also, 11 percent reported workplace illicit drug use and 11 percent reported being impaired by an illicit drug at work.
 - Among young men in the same high-risk occupations, 56 percent reported using an illicit drug and 38 percent reported being impaired by an illicit drug. Also, 28 percent reported workplace illicit drug use and 26 percent reported being impaired by an illicit drug at work.
 - Even young men in low-risk occupations showed elevated prevalence rates with 25 percent reporting illicit drug use, 21 percent reporting substance use impairment, eight percent reporting workplace illicit drug use and seven percent reporting being impaired by an illicit drug at work.
 - It is important to note that the estimated population within these three subgroups reporting overall illicit drug use represents only five percent of the U.S. workforce and those reporting workplace illicit drug use represent two percent of the U.S. workforce.

For more, see: Frone, M. R. (2008). Employee alcohol and illicit drug use: Scope, causes, and organizational consequences. In J. Barling & C. L. Cooper (Eds.), *The SAGE handbook of organizational behavior (Vol. 1: Micro approaches)* (pp. 519-540). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. 🌐

Staff Recognized

The 10th Annual RIA Employee Recognition Gathering was held October 30, 2008 to celebrate the contributions of 19 long-time staff members. The honorees included:

Five Years of Service

Brian Karovski	Shannon Shisler
Kimberly Larkin	Dorothy Sterlace
Michael Palmowski	Mira Venkataraman

Ten Years of Service

Jill Kearns-Bodkin	Kathleen Weaver
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Fifteen Years of Service

Rina Das Eiden	Audrey Kubiak
James Koutsky	Kathleen Parks

Twenty Years of Service

Nicholas Bilotta	Neil McGillicuddy
Gerard Connors	Patricia Propis
Robert Marczynski	

Thirty Years of Service

Diane Augustino	Florence Leong
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L-R: Patricia Propis, Florence Leong, Diane Augustino, Nicholas Bilotta with Certificates of Appreciation for 20+ years of service.

Newsmakers

Michael Frone was identified in the *Journal of Management* (Vol. 34, 2008) as being among the scholars having the greatest impact in the field of management during the past quarter century. Dr. Frone received his doctorate from the University at Buffalo.

Most consistently interviewed by popular media this year: **Dr. Kathleen E. Miller** for her research on college students and energy drinks as well as the youth athlete/jock identity; **Dr. Kathleen A. Parks** for her research on college women's drinking and related victimization; **Dr. John W. Welte** for his research on problem gambling; and Postdoctoral Fellow **Dr. Jaye Derrick** for her work on parasocial relationships and social surrogacy.

CBC-Toronto taped television interviews at RIA this year with Drs. Miller and Parks entitled "Girls Gone Wild." The video continues to be available at http://www.cbc.ca/national/blog/video/healtheducation/girls_gone_wild.html. 🌐

Summertime Kids Day



Kids Day at RIA was held this year on Thursday, July 23 for children ages five to 16. Children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, other relatives and young friends of RIA employees participated. The event is based on the National Take Your Child to Work Day that encourages children to see where their parent or other relative/friend works, what they do during the day, and what jobs and careers 'look like' in real life.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the children participated in several small group activities. These included a laboratory session with **Dr. Roh-Yu Shen**, where the children learned to use a microscope; a scavenger hunt with **Audrey Kubiak** and **Molly Rath**, which involved interviewing people in the building; a SHARE Study session with **Jackie Farris**, **Christine Kemp** and **Stacy Croff** with a picture-vocabulary game and a "connect-the-dots" type of task; and a Mother-Infant Study session with **Yvette Veira** and **Emily Woodring** playing a Throwing Game in the Family Lab, observing and videotaping in the video room. This was followed by either "Learning About the Brain" with **Dr. Rebecca Houston** or "Learning More About Computers" with **Brian Karovski** and **Pamela Smith**.



The afternoon included a laboratory session with **Dr. Alexis Thompson**, who demonstrated rats racing through a maze, for the ages eight and up crowd or an activity session with **Audrey Kubiak** and **Molly Rath** for ages five to seven. The older group then worked with **Bonnie Morgante** and **Audrey Kubiak** to prepare a PowerPoint presentation about their day's activities while the younger group had a laboratory session with **Dr. Thompson**.

At the end of the day, the children presented what they experienced and learned to RIA staff who gathered to comprise an audience. Each of the children received a stuffed toy for participation in the Throwing Game, a brain-like pencil eraser, and a Certificate of Completion as a young scientist at the end-of-the-day presentation. 🌟



Corporate Challenge in Buffalo

Each year, RIA staff members are a proud contingent of UB's team (of 176 this year) in the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge through Delaware Park. Seen walking, running or jogging the 3.5 mile course were **Jennifer Bole**, **Gerard Connors**, **Jessica DeLap**, **Emily Fatkins**, **Christine Kemp**, **Florence Leong**, **Bonnie Morgante**, **Kelly O'Hern**, **Amy Panczakiewicz**, and **Mary Ann Sims**.

This year's Challenge was held on June 4, drew approximately 9,859 runners and walkers from 390 Buffalo Niagara companies, and benefited the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

LISC is a national non-profit organization involved in community development projects in urban and rural neighborhoods in Buffalo since 1998. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1870, Delaware Park is considered the jewel of Buffalo's park system with 350 acres of meadow, forest and a lake. 🌟

Spring 2009 Seminar in Review

The Spring Seminar Series began on March 20 with a presentation by **Dr. Charles W. Mathias** entitled "When Every Day is Friday: Behavioral and Cognitive Performance in Adolescent Marijuana Use." In this NIDA-funded study of marijuana use, impulsivity, short term memory and learning, Dr. Mathias found that after 18 hours of abstinence, adolescents who used marijuana four times a week or more exhibited more impulsivity as well as problems with short-term memory or learning, compared to non-users. The study sample was comprised of 14-17 year olds, predominantly male. Among the users, 44 percent were cannabis dependent and 33 percent were found to be cannabis abusers. On average, the I.Q. of the marijuana users was five points less than the participants who did not use marijuana. Dr. Mathias is assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.



On April 17, **Dr. Andrea Hussong**, presented "Evidence for and Against an Internalizing Pathway to Substance Use Disorders." Using the analogy of pathways, maps and road markers, Dr. Hussong described her interest in multiple pathways to substance abuse disorders and implications for prevention efforts. Drawing from the Cross Study (secondary analyses of three U.S. adolescent studies), the High School Transition Study (about teenage stress and coping entering high school) and the Families First Study (a family-based prevention effort with children of alcoholics), Dr. Hussong drew several conclusions. The pathways were characterized by internalizing (anxiety, depression) and externalizing (disinhibited and antisocial behavior) and are highly similar in adolescents. Children of depressive-alcoholic parents are at greatest risk for internalizing and externalizing symptoms of substance abuse. Early emotional regulation – at two years of age – is especially important on the distant future behaviors of children of alcoholics. Dr. Hussong is professor of clinical psychology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.



The series continued on May 8 with "Drug Discovery and Nicotine Addiction" presented by **Dr. Linda Dvoskin**. She described her research on the development of new drugs to facilitate smoking cessation. This NIDA-funded National Cooperative Drug Discovery project examines small molecule drugs that will block the effects of nicotine in very specific areas of the brain. Dr. Dvoskin described this research as a collaborative project with the National Institutes of Health and several laboratories with specialties in pharmacology, chemistry, and behavior. Results to date have identified two molecules that block nicotine's rewarding effects from cigarette smoking. These compounds have good bioavailability and hold great promise as a treatment to facilitate smoking cessation. Dr. Dvoskin is a professor in the University of Kentucky's College of Pharmacy.



The seminar series concluded on May 15 with a presentation by **Dr. Kathleen A. Parks** entitled "Drinking in Bars: The Risks of Girls Just Wanting to Have Fun." Dr. Parks described her work since 1992 with women who drink in bars and their reasons for drinking in bars, i.e., the need for companionship, diversion and validation. She also detailed the types of victimization associated with the bar context. Dr. Parks took the audience through a history of her research, which began with focus groups, an experimental study and a behavioral investigation, and culminated with her recent work on the temporal relationship between alcohol and risky sexual behavior. This body of research suggests that women bar drinkers are a high-risk population with high levels of alcohol consumption, frequent moderate-to-heavy intoxication, changes in behavior while drinking, high rates of victimization and high rates of risky sex. Future directions for Dr. Park's research include exploration of the role of behavior and risk perception as possible mediators in the relationship between women's alcohol use and subsequent victimization, as well as development of possible interventions/prevention programs to reduce risk for bar-related victimization. Dr. Parks is a senior research scientist at RIA. 🌟



Name: Alexis C. Thompson, Ph.D.

Education: Ph.D., Psychology, emphasis in Behavioral Neuroscience, University at Buffalo

Professional Experience and Appointments: Research Scientist, RIA, University at Buffalo
Adjunct Assistant Professor, UB Department of Psychology

Postdoctoral Fellow, NIDA, Behavioral Neuroscience Branch

Postdoctoral Fellow, Emory University, Department of Psychology and School of Medicine, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology

Research Interests: Experience-induced or drug-induced neural and behavioral adaptations associated with psychostimulant, opiate, and hallucinogenic drug use including the effects of these drugs on drug craving, anxiety, social behavior; neuropeptide regulation of monoamine activity; behavioral regulation of pain and analgesia during pregnancy and parturition.

Research Projects:

Principal Investigator, Evaluation of Neuropeptide Y as a Target for Cocaine Dependence Treatment, funded by NIDA

Co-Investigator, Effects of Negative Consequences on Drug Self Administration in Rats, funded by NIDA

Co-Investigator, CNS Opioids and Maternal Behavior, funded by NSF

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Fall Seminar Series Teaser

The upcoming RIA Seminar Series begins in September with a presentation by **Dr. Bruce D. Bartholow**, assistant professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at the University of Missouri. In October, the presenter is **Dr. Jon Morgenstern** of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University and Director of Substance Abuse Treatment at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Next, **Dr. James McKay**, professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania and the scientific director of the Treatment Research Institute is scheduled to present. Visit <http://www.ria.buffalo.edu/events/index.html> for the most current information.

New Awards (cont'd from p. 1)

"impulsivity" as a predisposing factor for drug abuse. Dr. Richards believes that "processes related to impulsivity may be as important to reward processes in drug abuse and the lack of attention to impulsivity-related factors may be the lack of adequate laboratory models." This research is expected to provide important new information concerning putative animal models of impulsivity and the ability of these models to predict cocaine self-administration in humans. The two-year project is in collaboration with Dr. Thompson.

In August, **Dr. John W. Welte** was awarded a \$3 million grant by NIAAA to study the decade of change in problem gambling since his groundbreaking 2000 National Survey of the Co-occurrence of Gambling and Substance Use in the U.S. "There has been rapid growth of both the public profile and availability of gambling in this country over the last ten years," according to Dr. Welte. "In this study, we will draw data from the 2000 study and develop new data about gambling and substance use as well as census data about neighborhoods surveyed, distances to gambling venues, and information about state gambling laws to analyze gambling trends, social approval of gambling and public policies." The study is expected to supply empirical data about controversial gambling behavior, policies and regulations. Dr. Welte's co-investigators include **Dr. Grace M. Barnes** of RIA and **Dr. William Wieczorek** of Buffalo State College.



Dr. R. Lorraine Collins' study of concurrent vs. individual use of malt liquor and marijuana during young adulthood (ages 18-30 years) was awarded funding by NIAAA. This project is also supported through funds from the ARRA. "The study employs a daily process approach involving innovative cell phones and interactive voice response," according to Collins. "Participants will report in real time on their substance use, mood, motives, peer social influences and contexts. Results will provide information on patterns of substance use and the antecedents and correlates of use within and between individuals. Findings could contribute to the development of substance-specific prevention

and treatment strategies." After 21 years as a senior research scientist at RIA, in 2008 Dr. Collins was appointed associate dean for research and professor of health behavior, in UB's School of Public Health and Health Professions. Her co-investigator on this study is **Dr. Paula Vincent** of RIA.

Additionally, RIA staff is collaborating on several other newly-funded studies. **Dr. John Welte** is a co-investigator on **Dr. Leonard J. Simms'** National Institute of Mental Health-funded study to develop a computer-adaptive test of personality disorder. Dr. Simms and Co-investigator **Dr. John E. Roberts** are both with UB's Department of Psychology. The goal of this project is to develop a comprehensive set of personality pathology dimensions and an efficient method of measuring them in a sample of psychiatric patients plus a general population sample.

Dr. Chris Barrick is co-investigator on **Dr. Gregory Homish's** WNY Public Health Alliance Study. Their goal is to prepare and demonstrate the functionality of a web-based "wiki" board (that allows for rapid editing and enhancing of content) while linking advanced practice centers/local health departments to rural first responders. Dr. Homish is with UB's Department of Health Behavior and Health Profession. His award was made by the National Association of County and City Health Officials in conjunction with the Western New York Public Health Alliance, the Linking Advanced Practice Centers & Local Health Departments.



Dr. Kenneth E. Leonard is co-investigator on a second study of Dr. Homish's examining the association between a problem-drinking intimate partner and his/her partner's alcohol use, alcohol problems, other substance use, and physical and mental health. The UB Department of Health Behavior received funding from ABMRF/The Foundation for Alcohol Research.

Beyond the additions these studies make to scientific progress, these awards support unique educational and economic opportunities for UB students, young scientists and others in the Buffalo Niagara Region. 🌐

Spotlight (cont'd from p. 6)

Research Projects (cont'd):

Co-Principal Investigator, Effects of Periadolescent MDMA Exposure on Adult Social Behavior, funded by RIA

Publications:

Dr. Thompson has been publishing since 1984 in *Comparative Medicine*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Journal of Neurochemistry*, *European Journal of Pharmacology*, *Brain Research*, *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, and *Journal of Neuroscience Methods*, to name a few. She has served as a manuscript referee for the *Journal of Neurochemistry*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, and *Journal of Neurophysiology*.

Memberships:

New York Academy of Sciences and Society for Neuroscience

Awards and Honors:

NIH Fellowship Award for Research Excellence
NIH/NIDA Intramural Research Training Award

NIH/NINDS Individual National Research Service Award

Emory University, School of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Postdoctoral Training Fellowship

University at Buffalo, Mark Diamond Research Award for Doctoral Dissertation

Dr. Thompson lives in the historic Village of Williamsville and enjoys renovating her home, reading a good book, spoiling her dog and cat, and spending time with her niece and nephews. She also is an active supporter of the Buffalo Women's and Children's Hospital and the Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network.

Webpage:

ria.buffalo.edu/profiles/thompson.html



Dr. Thompson with her staff: David Lee, Mauricio Suarez, Julie Gradowsky, Adam Privitera, Casey Feeney, Dr. Thompson, and Ewelina Kotowska. Alexander Caven, not pictured.

Selected Conference Presentations

July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

July, 2008

International Society for Research on Aggression Meeting, Budapest, Hungary

Leonard, K. E. Alcohol and intimate partner violence: The converging evidence on causality and vulnerability.

Leonard, K. E., Schumacher, J. A., Homish, G. G., & Quigley, B. M. Moderators of the longitudinal relationship between excessive drinking and intimate partner violence.

Society for the Study of Social Problems, Boston, MA
Hequembourg, A., & Piccolo, J. Interpersonal violence and substance use among sexual minorities: Recruitment issues & preliminary findings.

August, 2008

American Psychological Association Meeting, Boston, MA

Bradizza, C. M., & Shirley, M. Health disparities among adolescents and young adults – Etiology, prevention, and effective interventions for alcohol problems.

Livingston, J. A., Bay-Cheng, L.Y., & Hequembourg, A. What girls get - and what they want – from sexuality education.

October, 2008

European Association of Addiction Therapy Conference, Florence, Italy

Barrick, C., & Walitzer, K. S. Technology transfer in addiction research and therapy.

Walitzer, K. S., Barrick, C., & Dermen, K. H. Spirituality and Alcoholics Anonymous predict post-treatment abstinence from alcohol.

New York State Sociological Association Annual Convention, Buffalo, NY

Miller, K. E., & Quigley, B. M. Buzzed: Comparing profiles for energy drink, coffee, and drug consumption among musicians.

OASAS training "Adolescent vocational services: Challenges and solutions... Interventions for chemically dependent adolescents," Buffalo, NY

McGillicuddy, N. B. Research on treatment programs for adolescent substance use.

Psychiatry Grand Rounds at the University of Rochester Medical School, Rochester, NY

Houston, R. J. Characterizing aggressive behavior: Implications for assessment and treatment.

Society for Psychophysiological Research, Austin, TX
Creager, W., Schlienz, N., & Houston, R. J.

Perseverative responding and P3 latency in alcohol dependence.

November, 2008

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Orlando, FL

Dearing, R. L., Connors, G. J., Walitzer, K. S., & Twaragowski, C. L. Exploring the relations between empathy and alcohol problems.

Eiden, R. D., Edwards, E. P., & Leonard, K. E. Social competence among children of alcoholics.

Kachadourian, L. K., Eiden, R. D., & Leonard, K. E. Paternal alcohol use, parental disagreements about childrearing, and parenting behaviors.

Lau-Barraco, C., Collins, R. L., & Eiden, R. D. Social anxiety and drinking behavior: The mediational role of alcohol expectancies, drinking motives, and negative affect.

Parks, K. A., Dearing, R. L., & Hsieh, Y. Are shame and guilt-associated with victimization? Findings from a longitudinal study of college women.

Skewes, M. C., Vergara, C., Smith, J., & Yanes, P. Health literacy in substance abuse treatment: Preliminary results from a pilot study.

Society for Neuroscience, Washington, DC

DiPirro, J. M., Grakowsky, J. A., Sciolino, N. R., Caven, A. P., & Thompson, A. C. Effect of neuropeptide Y on anxiety associated with three weeks of cocaine exposure in rats.

Lee, D. J., Rabin, R. A., Thompson, A. C., & Winter, J. C. Effect of locally administered LSD on the regulation of extracellular glutamate in the medial prefrontal cortex of awake rats: A no-net-flux microdialysis study.

Privitera, A. J., DiPirro, J. M., Daniels, D., & Thompson, A. C. Effects of systemic MDMA treatment on basal oxytocin and vasopressin levels in the hypothalamus.

Suarez, M. A., Gorman, P. T., Grakowsky, J. A., DiPirro, J. M., & Thompson, A. C. Effect of neuropeptide Y on defensive behavior in rats with a cocaine history.

Truxell, E. M., & Spear, N. E. Infant rats alter their behavioral repertoire through operant conditioning to receive intra-oral infusions of ethanol and sucrose, and to avoid infusions of quinine.

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Parks, K. A., Hsieh, Y. P., & Collins, R. L. Heavy drinking, bars, victimization, & risky sex: Can HIV knowledge protect women?

January, 2009

Drug Abuse Vulnerability and Neurodevelopmental Effects of Early Exposure to Secondhand Smoke: Methodological Issues and Research Priorities Meeting, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Eiden, R. D. Orientation to the issue: What we know (and don't know) about the cognitive, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental effects of SHS exposure.

February, 2009

Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference, Tampa, FL

Brown, A. L., & Yufik, T. Bystander intervention against sexual assault at college-student parties: A preliminary study.

Derrick, J. L., & Murray, S. L. Making attributions in romantic relationships: The role of self-esteem.

Virginia Commonwealth University Medical School, Department of Psychiatry and Human Genetics, Richmond, VA

Haj-Dahmane, S. Endocannabinoids signaling and the retrograde regulation of synaptic strength and plasticity in serotonin neurons.

March, 2009

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Training Workshop, New Orleans, LA

Brown, A. L. Bystander intervention in written vignettes depicting potential alcohol poisoning or sexual assault.

BNMC Presentation Made to RIA Staff

Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Inc. (BNMC) president and executive director, Matthew K. Enstice (pictured below) made a presentation to RIA staff about construction on the north end of campus at an informal get-together held March 12, 2009.



The presentation included an overview of recent BNMC activities to promote development of research and business on campus, coordinate security and parking efforts, and build communication and wellness programs for employees at the major institutions. RIA staff learned about the joint Kaleida Health/UB construction in the Goodrich St. area and how that will impact traffic patterns approaching RIA. Questions were asked about the construction, parking for research participants, improvements to Ellicott St. from Goodell to Best St. planned for summer 2009, and the funding supporting these developments. A video of the presentation was made available to staff who were unable to attend the event.

The BNMC is a not-for-profit economic development agency that has been coordinating campus improvements among RIA's neighbors for the past 10 years. The member institutions of the BNMC effort include the Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center, Buffalo Medical Group, The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Kaleida Health, Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the University at Buffalo and the Upstate New York Transplant Services. 🌟

(cont'd on p. 8, col. 1)

Presentations (cont'd from p. 7)

April, 2009

Joint Conference of Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) and SRNT-Europe, Dublin, Ireland

Homish, G. G., Leonard, K. E., Koslowski, L. T., & Cornelius, J. R. Changes in marital satisfaction: The role of discrepant smoking and drinking behaviors.

Society of Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Walitzer, K. S., Dermen, K. H., Barrick, C., & Shyhalia, K. Dissemination of a MI-based addictions preparatory session in New York: Assessing knowledge.

Society for Research in Child Development, Denver, CO

Colder, C. R., Wiczorek, W. F., Read, J. P., Hawk, L. W., Lengua, L. J., & Eiden, R. D. Laboratory and questionnaire assessment of the BIS and BAS.

Edwards, E. P., Reynolds, B. A., Eiden, R. D., & Leonard, K. E. Delay discounting among children of alcoholic parents.

Eiden, R. D., Colder, C. R., & Schuetz, P. Maternal and child aggression among cocaine-using mothers: Testing a mediational model.

Eiden, R. D., Edwards, E. P., Lejuez, C., & Leonard, K. E. Gender moderates the association between fathers' alcoholism and child risk taking on a behavioral task.

Finger, B. F., Molnar, D., Kachadourian, L. K., Eiden, R. D., Edwards, E. P., & Leonard, K. E. Alcoholism, associated risk factors, and harsh parenting among fathers: Examining the role of marital aggression.

Finger, B. F., Hans, S. L., Bernstein, V. J., & Cox, S. M. Parent relationship quality and infant-mother attachment.

Houston, R. J., Ostrov, J. M., Godleski, S. A., & Schlien, N. J. Neurocognitive processing of relational and physical aggression cues: An ERP study.

Schuetz, P., & Eiden, R. D. The association between prenatal cigarette exposure and physiological reactivity and regulation in boys and girls at seven months of age.

May, 2009

Association for Psychological Science Convention, San Francisco, CA

Brown, A. L. Bystander intervention in written vignettes depicting potential alcohol poisoning or sexual assault.

Institute for Health Care Advancement Annual Health Literacy Conference, Irvine, CA

Dearing, R. L., Houston, R. J., & Connors, G. J. Health literacy as a predictor of homework compliance among patients in cognitive behavioral treatment for alcohol dependence.

Society for Prevention Research Conference, Washington, DC

Livingston, J. A., Testa, M., & Baker, J. Mothers' views on teen drinking and the legal drinking age.

Testa, M., & Livingston, J. A. Can parents prevent heavy episodic college drinking by allowing teens to drink at home?

June, 2009

College on Problems of Drug Dependence, Reno/Sparks, NV

Barrick, C., & Homish, G. G. Field clinician reports of implementation of evidence-based practice.

Caven, A. P., Gancarz, A. M., DiPirro, J. M., Richards, J. B., & Thompson, A. C. Effects of neuropeptide Y on the efficacy of water and cocaine reinforcers.

Gancarz, A. M., SanGeorge, M. A., Ashrafoun, L., Thompson, A. C., & Richards, J. B. Effects of a visual stimulus on self-administration of methamphetamine in rats.

Homish, G. G., Leonard, K. E., & Cornelius, J. R. Factors associated with non-medical use of prescription drugs.

International Conference on Violence in Public Places and Institutions, Lancashire, Preston, UK

Parks, K. A., Collins, R. L., Taggart, C. A., & Levonyan-Radloff, K. Assessing women's experiences with sexual aggression using interactive voice technology: Lessons learned from two studies.

International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision, Buffalo, NY

Nottingham, C., Barrick, C., Skibicki, K., & Duquette, J. Evaluating training: Questions for the supervisor.

Research Society on Alcoholism, San Diego, CA

Bradizza, C. M., Vincent, P. C., Stasiewicz, P. R., Maisto, S. A., Connors, G. J., & Mercer, N. D. Is reduced alcohol use associated with better quality of life among severely mentally ill substance abusers?

Dearing, R. L., Twaragowski, C. L., Connors, G. J., & Walitzer, K. S. At-risk drinkers' help-seeking behaviors over a two-year period.

Derrick, J. L., Houston, R. J., Leonard, K. E., Quigley, B. M., Kubiak, A. J., & Testa, M. Effects of heavy drinking and gender on executive cognitive functioning.

Derrick, J. L., Leonard, K. E., Quigley, B. M., Kubiak, A. J., Testa, M., & Houston, R. J. Binge drinking and relationship-specific alcohol expectancies.

Edwards, E. P., Homish, G. G., Eiden, R. D., & Leonard, K. E. Predictors of behavior problems in four to nine year old children of alcoholic fathers: Positive maternal parenting as a protective factor.

Eiden, R. D., Edwards, E. P., Orrange, T., Colder, C., Leonard, K. E., & Ostrov, J. Peer bullying and victimization among children of alcoholic and non-alcoholic fathers.

Eiden, R. D., Molnar, D. S., Colder, C., Edwards, E. P., & Leonard, K. E. A conceptual model predicting anxiety in middle childhood among children of alcoholic and non-alcoholic fathers: The role of marital aggression.

Finger, B., Eiden, R. D., Edwards, E. P., & Leonard, K. E. Parental alcoholism, marital conflict, and child social competence: A comparison of three conceptual models.

Finger, B., Eiden, R. D., Edwards, E. P., Leonard, K. E., & Kachadourian, L. K. Marital aggression and child peer competence: A comparison of three conceptual models.

Gudleski, G. D., Stasiewicz, P. R., Bradizza, C. M., Coffey, S. F., & Gulliver, S. B. An affect regulation training intervention for people with alcohol dependence: A clinical description with three illustrative case studies.

Haj-Dahmane, S., Wang, J., & Shen, R. Y. Prenatal ethanol exposure abolishes endocannabinoid-mediated synaptic plasticity at glutamate synapses of rat ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons.

Hausknecht, K. A., SanGeorge, M. A., & Shen, R. Y. Effects of prenatal ethanol exposure on amphetamine-induced conditioned place preference.

Hequembourg, A., & Dearing, R. L. Preliminary findings regarding shame and guilt among sexual minorities.

Homish, G. G., Leonard, K. E., & Cornelius, J. R. Alcohol and adult intimate relationships: Findings from NESARC

Homish, G. G., Leonard, K. E., & Cornelius, J. R. Alcohol and marital dissolution: Findings from NESARC.

Leonard, K. E., & Homish, G. G. The relation between health, heavy drinking, and alcohol problems: Individual, partner, and relationship factors.

Parks, K. A., Levonyan-Radloff, K., Collins, R. L., & Taggart, C. A. A qualitative analysis of risky sexual events reported by a sample of young women bar drinkers.

Parks, K. A., & Taggart, C. A. Assessment of sexual victimization and alcohol use among women across four years of college: Findings using two methods.

Quigley, B. M., Kachadourian, L. K., Leonard, K. E., Testa, M., Houston, R. J., Kubiak, A. J., & Derrick, J. L. Intimate partner violence, verbal aggression, and alcohol use.

Romosz, A. M., & Quigley, B. M. An exploratory investigation of belongingness, college binge drinking, and academic functioning.

Rychtarik, R. G., & McGillicuddy, N. B. Skill training and 12-step facilitation for women with alcoholic partners: The moderating effects of participant education.

Skewes, M. C., & Dermen, K. H. Health literacy in substance abuse treatment: Results from a pilot study.

Taggart, C. A., Parks, K. A., Levonyan-Radloff, K., & Hequembourg, A. A qualitative comparison of alcohol and non-alcohol involved sexual aggression in a sample of college women.

Twaragowski, C. L., Houston, R. J., & Dearing, R. L. Shame, guilt, and sub-types of aggression in an alcohol dependent sample.

SUNY Youth Sports Institute Symposium on Energy Drinks, New York City, NY

Miller, K. E. Energy drinks, risky masculinity, and the 'toxic jock.'

Miller, K. E. Who's getting wired up and why? An overview of energy drink consumption in the United States. 🌟

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Gerard J. Connors, Ph.D.Director

Kathleen M. WeaverWriter/Editor

Robert Marczyński.....Graphic Designer

Subscriptions are free.

Email: newsletters@ria.buffalo.edu

We welcome comments from readers.

Research Institute on Addictions
State University of New York at Buffalo
1021 Main Street

Buffalo, NY 14203-1016

Phone 716.887.2566 Fax 716.887.2252

http://www.ria.buffalo.edu