Breaking News!

The Department of Psychology at the University of North Alabama has recently undergone a few structural changes. Both Dr. Joubert and Dr. Robinson retired in late 2010, after many years at UNA. They left a great academic legacy for the current and future professors to follow. Thankfully, these great minds have not completely abandoned their colleagues as they email frequently, extolling the virtues of retirement. Needless to say, the remaining Profs are just a tad jealous.

In anticipation of Drs. Joubert and Robinson’s retirement, the psychology department made a new hire. New to the department, Ryan Zayac, Ph.D., BCBA, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). He is interested in development of behavioral programming (e.g., social skills, daily living skills, etc.) for college students with Asperger’s Syndrome or other developmental disabilities. Additionally, he is also been caught trying to “modify” the other profs’ behavior with chocolate “reinforcers”. A few of his colleagues have caught onto his tactics and are actively fighting his wily ways. Our hope is that “behaviorist vs. free will fight” will eventually turn into a full-blown, life-size, human version of Wile E. Coyote and Roadrunner adventures. Although we do not know who is who as of yet, we can report that Dr. Carrasco has already ordered her ACME anvil.

Did you know?

Dr. Zayac threw a no hitter once! (Frankly, we’re not sure little league stats should count, but we’ll give him his kudos).

In addition to Dr. Zayac, the psychology department has also hired three adjunct professors. These adjuncts are:

- Ms. Elizabeth Kelley, an alumus of UNA and has an M.S. degree from Eastern Kentucky University
- Mary Bowers, Ph. D., an Auburn Graduate, and
- Jody Thompson, an Alabama undergraduate, and has a M.A. degree from Jacksonville State University.

These colleagues are a great addition to the department and have given our students a much-needed respite from Hudiburg, Carrasco and Bates.

Speaking of…

…Our dear psychology professors, please take a moment to acquaint or reacquaint yourself with these profs by reading a bit about them below.

ψ Richard Hudiburg, Ph. D., has been on the faculty at UNA since 1983 and currently serves as the chair of the department.

- His past research endeavors include computer-related stress, cognitive functioning during cell phone use, and an examination of religious fundamentalism and taboo stimuli.
- He hopes to develop an implicit measure related to the religious fundamentalism construct.
- In his spare time, he likes to braid his beard in a fashion reminiscent of Captain Jack Sparrow while running around talking about ale, gold, and distant lands. We let him do whatever he wants; he’s the boss.

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Did you know?
Dr. Hudiburg is not only the chair of the Psychology Department, but he also enjoys scaring young, college-aged adults with his amazing grasp of statistics.

Larry Bates, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist who is interested in the psychology of religion and psychophysiology.
- His research interests include individuals’ psychophysiological reactions during and structural content of real-time prayer. He is also interested in the relationship between taboos and religion.
- Former Governor Riley has appointed him twice before to the Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology, of which he is a current board member and former chair.

Did you know?
Dr. Bates is a Blue Grass music freak! He also takes it upon himself to sing, rather loudly, through Wesleyan’s corridors. His colleagues don’t seem to mind, but his melodic voice is said to disturb the navigation system of the bats that reside in Wesleyan Hall.

Gabriela Carrasco, Ph.D., is an experimental psychologist with a focus in social psychology and close relationships.
- She is interested in social cognitive research examining perceptions, biases, beliefs, and values on behavior.
- She teaches Social Psychology, Close Relationships, and Experimental Psychology.

Did you know?
Carrasco was recently granted tenure at UNA, to which Joy Kelly, the department administrative assistant (a.k.a., “she who must be obeyed”) remarked, “Crud, now she can get away with all that craziness”. Carrasco expects to take full advantage of the opportunity.

Social Media, PR, and the Psychology Department
Jeremy Patton

In order to stay somewhat technologically savvy, the Psychology Department has created a Facebook page dedicated to the UNA Psychology Department news, alumni, and friends!

The department’s Facebook profile, under the name Wesley Ann Hall (get it?), will be used to keep alumni, current students, faculty, and staff informed and involved in current events.

To aid in the publicity of this Facebook page, the psychology department is sponsoring an event to coincide with Valentine’s Day, titled “Wesleyan’s Mixed Tape”. We ask students, faculty, alumni, and staff to sign onto Facebook, become Wesley Ann Hall’s friend and post your favorite love song. The due date to submit a love song on Facebook is Tuesday, February 8th at midnight.

Facebook friends will then vote on the favorite love song. The love song with the most votes will be announced on Valentine’s.

Where Are They Now?
Jeremy Patton

What have our graduates been up to?
- Deanna Rumble, a 2010 graduate from UNA, is currently a graduate student in Experimental Psychology at the University of South Alabama.
- Elizabeth Kelley, a 2008 graduate from UNA, earned a M.S. from Eastern Kentucky University, and is an adjunct professor here at UNA.
- Ada Woo, a 1999 graduate from UNA, from Hong Kong, received a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from The University of Texas at Arlington and currently works as a Psychometrician developing tests for the Nursing profession.