

July 2010

Enhancing collaboration and co-operation between basic and applied researchers in memory and cognition

Message from the Executive Director

Mike Toglia
University of North Florida

While we are slightly past the midpoint of 2010, I am confident in labeling it a year of transitions. As I have so often have done in past messages to the Society, I begin with a focus on membership. We got off to a late start (February) as explained in renewal notices so as of this writing we are at about 190 members as opposed to 225 at this time of the year. While not surprising, this state of affairs did raise the issue of membership recruitment which in turn brings me to the first sign of transition: We have installed a new Membership Committee Chair, Deb Connolly from Simon Fraser University. Kathy Pezdek is stepping down as the membership chair to spend more time attending to the work of our Publications Committee formed last year.

Planning continues for SARMAC IX in 2011 to be held in New York City at the John Jay School of Criminal Justice. The dates were recently established as June 27-29, 2011. As I noted six months ago, a generic conference website is being developed and the 2011 meeting will be the first to utilize it. Meanwhile, the construction of a new society website is very nearly completed for launching by its developer Bryan Campbell who is also our relatively new Technical Advisor. Its launching will mean a transition from the old site.

Since Board member Chris Meissner is taking a leave of absence from his position at UTEP to serve as the Director of NSF's Law and Social Sciences grant program, I am looking, at least temporarily, for someone to serve out his term as SARMAC's Secretary-Treasurer as he is stepping aside due to potential conflicts of interest with the NSF position

if he were to continue to be responsible for financial transactions for the Society. I am pleased to announce that Bob Belli will serve as our new Secretary-Treasurer...another transition.

The semiannual newsletters represent an important forum for the society and through the years I have always been very grateful for the work our long-time editor, Leslie Miller. She has told me recently that she is resigning to spend more time with her consulting business and other activities. Her time and talent will be missed. Thank you, Leslie! Thus we will be transitioning to a new editor. If you are interested or would like to suggest someone, please contact me.

The end of 2009 also brought to close the head editorships for Applied Cognitive Psychology of both Martine Powell and Bob Belli. Together they shepherded through hundreds of submissions to the journal. Their time and talent also will be missed. Thank you Martine and Bob!

In December 2009, I predicted that 2010 would likely to be a year in which SARMAC would evolve in ways that would enhance itself and its reputation. I still hold to that prediction and trust it will be fulfilled via the transitions within the Society.

Special Issues of Cognitive Technology
Steve Fiore
University of Central Florida

Cognitive Technology just published a special double-issue on "Games for Good" guest edited by Dr. Rudy McDaniel of the University of Central Florida and Erik Vick of the Rochester Institute of Technology. The issue features contributing essays from Jonathan

Belman (New York University), Mary Flanagan (Dartmouth College), Shlomo Berkovsky and colleagues from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) in Australia, Marjee Chmiel (National Geographic Society and George Mason University), Matthew Sharritt (Situated Research), Scot Osterweil (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and Lan Le (University of California, Santa Barbara).

The issue covers topics such as empathy in games, scientific literacy, exercise and virtual fitness, the design of cognitive affordances, and learning and change. Also included are introductory and concluding essays from the guest editors that examine games for good through the lens of cognitive technology and consider the future of research in this domain.

The journal is also considering future special issues. One involves articles addressing research in the area of “accelerated learning” and the methods and tools under investigation to move learners more rapidly along the proficiency continuum. Another involves discussion of the development of neurotechnologies. This encompasses brain-machine interfaces as well as more applied uses for imaging and brain monitoring technologies.

More generally, the journal is seeking submissions in the area of Cognitive Aids focused on the design, development, and/or testing of technologies that either support learning or scaffold everyday cognitive processes. We also welcome articles in Cognitive Systems Engineering where researchers consider a blend of concepts and methods arising from cognitive and computer science. We also are considering research and development in the area of Cognitive Models and Agent Technologies which addresses the design, development, and validation of quantitative models of human cognition (e.g., GOMS, ACT-R, SOAR, neural networks, bayesian models, etc.). More broadly we encourage work which examines the interaction of humans with machines which includes how our understanding of cognition influences research issues associated with design, safety, and training. Submissions from Modeling and Simulation are also appropriate when addressing the design and development of simulations for the purposes of learning and training or decision making and problem solving. Finally, the journal encourages work in the

area of Cognitive Rehabilitation which focuses on the design, development, and/or testing of procedures or technologies that support training and retraining of cognitive deficits in the brain-injured and others with cognitive impairment.

MESSAGE FROM PRESS OFFICER

LINDA HINKEL

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

Greetings! Over the past year, in my work as press officer for SARMAC, I have continued working closely with the press office at Wiley Publishers in getting press releases out to a wide range of media sources about our publications. These media campaigns have resulted in press releases on topics ranging from novel methods of lie detection, to cognitive and motor disruptions caused by cell phone usage, to best practices in brainstorming in group settings, and they have been discussed and cited in various international forums including *The New York Times*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Guardian*, *Washington Post*, *Telegraph*, the Psychology Today Blog, Time Magazine Wellness Blog, NPR, and the Scientific American science podcast.

In an effort to get people learning about our cutting edge research in a timely fashion, we have started timing of our press releases timed around online publication in EarlyView rather than around the hard copy of the journal, which comes out months later. While only a small number of articles can be promoted with Wiley’s professional service each year, I encourage all *ACP* and *Cognitive Technology* authors to consider issuing press releases about their soon-to-be-published articles through their institution’s media office. I am happy to provide any assistance in that regard as I can. Seriously, if your work was important and meaningful enough to publish, don’t you want more people to know about it?

I am looking forward to SARMAC VIX in New York City, June 27-29, 2011. When you get announcements about the upcoming conference, think about with whom YOU can share the announcement – colleagues in your department, in other departments, interested people in law, education, medicine, etc., and your students. The more we all work together to get the word out about the exciting research we do, the more successful our Society will be! I welcome any suggestions on ways that I can better promote the Society and can be contacted at: lhenkel@fairfield.edu.

New Books by SARMAC Members

The Act of Remembering: Toward an Understanding of How We Recall the Past by John H. Mace Eastern Illinois University

The 416-page paperback, published by John Wiley-Blackwell, has a publishing date of October 2010 (ISBN: 978-1-4051-8903-3). From the Wiley site, a description of John Mace's new book says, "The first volume is devoted solely to autobiographical memory retrieval. The Act of Remembering serves as a primer of ideas, methodology, and central topics, and lays the groundwork for future research in the field. It contains new, forward-looking theories from leading international scholars. It answers questions such as: Do we retrieve memories according to when and where we need them? How much conscious control do we have over what we remember? Why are some people more likely than others to have intrusive 'flashbacks' following a stressful event? It pays particular attention to voluntary and involuntary recall." Here is a review of the table of contents:

- Part I: Introduction:
 - 1. The act of remembering the past: An overview (John H. Mace, Eastern Illinois University).
 - 2. From diaries to brain scans: Methodological developments in the investigation of autobiographical memory (Christopher Ball, College of William & Mary).
- Part II: Theories and Reviews of Involuntary and Voluntary Remembering.
 - 3. Involuntary remembering and voluntary remembering: How different are they? (John H. Mace, Eastern Illinois University).
 - 4. Accessing autobiographical memories (Martin Conway, University of Leeds, and Catherine Loveday, University of Westminster).
 - 5. Involuntary and voluntary memory sequencing phenomena: An interesting puzzle for the study of autobiographical memory organization and retrieval (Jennifer Talarico, Lafayette College, and John H. Mace, Eastern Illinois University).
 - 6. Spontaneous retrieval is the norm: What integrative models tell us about human consciousness and memory (Stan Franklin, University of Memphis, and Bernard J. Baars, The Neurosciences Institute).
 - 7. Priming, automatic recollection, and control of retrieval: Toward an integrative retrieval architecture (Alan Richardson-Klavehn, Otto von Guericke University).
- Part III: Broader Issues in the Science of Remembering.
 - 8. Understanding autobiographical remembering from a spreading activation perspective (John H. Mace, Eastern Illinois University)
 - 9. Retrieval Inhibition in Autobiographical Memory (Bernhard Pastötter and Karl-Heinz Bäuml).
 - 10. The role of visual perspective in autobiographical memory retrieval (Heather J. Rice, Washington University in St. Louis).
 - 11. The emergence of recollection: How we learn to recall ourselves in the past (Robyn Fivush and Patricia J. Bauer, Emory University).
 - 12. You get what you need: The psychosocial functions of remembering (Susan Bluck, University of Florida, Nicole Alea, University of the West Indies, and Burcu Demiray, University of Florida).
- Part IV: Theories of Abnormal Remembering.
 - 13. Exploring pathological recall in involuntary retrieval in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder from an information processing perspective: Intrusive images of trauma (Julie Krans, Radboud University, Marcella L. Woud, Radboud University, Gérard Näring, Radboud University, Eni S. Becker, Radboud University, and Emily A. Holmes, Warneford Hospital).
 - 14. Unwanted traumatic intrusions: The role of pre-trauma individual differences in executive control (Johan Verwoerd and Ineke Wessel, University of Groningen).
 - 15. The content, nature and persistence of intrusive memories in depression (Alishia D. Williams and Michelle L. Moulds, University of New South Wales)

Job Announcements

Health Care Research in Human Factors/Cognitive Psychology

Section of Health Services Research Baylor College of Medicine

The Health Services Research Section, Dept of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and the Houston VA Health Services Research Center of Excellence is seeking a candidate to join their growing program of research in the areas of human factors, cognitive psychology, medical errors and health information systems. The potential candidate will be in a unique and exciting position to contribute their knowledge and expertise to bolster research in areas including but not limited to use of electronic health records, medical errors (especially diagnostic errors), clinical decision-making, electronic communication and other patient safety and quality/health information technology related domain areas. We build upon nearly 20 years of collaborative research among our multidisciplinary investigators. Additionally, we have a long history of collaboration with several local institutions at the world renowned Texas Medical Center. Our research extends from patient experience, to clinical practice and outcomes of care, and to the development of health care policy. We have an established track record of supporting, mentoring and developing outstanding research leaders.

Candidates, early in their research career and/or completing PhD, are welcome to apply. Protected research time (up to 100%) will be offered for up to 2-3 years by which time the candidate will be expected to obtain additional research funding. Expertise in both human factors and cognitive psychology highly preferred.

The Center, all in newly renovated 35,000 sq. ft., in the Texas Medical Center, has over 150 staff; 31 are research faculty from both clinical and non-clinical disciplines, such as biostatistics, epidemiology, and psychometrics. Some faculty, hold joint or adjunct appointments at Rice University, The University of Texas School of Health Information Sciences and School of Public Health, University of Houston, and Texas A&M University.

A summary of all activities of our Health Services Research & Development Center of Excellence are available on our website: <http://www.hsrhouston.med.va.gov/>. BCM and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center are Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Employers. Must be a US citizen or US Permanent Resident.

Contact:

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c/o Ms. Cynthia Nelson

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Cindy.Nelson@va.gov or Phone: 713-794-8677/fax: 713-794-8601

Two Openings: Developmental Psychology & Sensation and Perception

Department of Psychology

Lafayette College

The **Department of Psychology** at **Lafayette College** invites applications for two tenure-track assistant professor positions beginning Fall 2011. (1) **Developmental Psychology**. Applicants for this position should be able to teach child development and related courses. (2) **Sensation and Perception**. Applicants for this position should be able to teach a laboratory course in sensation and perception and other related courses. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in psychology or other relevant field, teaching experience, and a productive research program. All faculty members are expected to involve undergraduate students in research and to mentor them in independent scholarship. Applicants for either position should have the ability to teach introductory psychology, introductory psychology laboratory, quantitative methods, and/or research design, in addition to the specialty area courses listed above.

The Psychology Department is especially interested in applicants with broad and diverse experiences, training, and scholarly interests who can contribute to enriching diversity in the curriculum and enhance the vibrant learning community at Lafayette College. The department is part of the College's Natural Science Division and jointly administers the interdisciplinary Neuroscience program with the Biology Department. Faculty members are encouraged to contribute to the college's other interdisciplinary programs as well, especially the Common Course of Study. We offer competitive start-up funds and space for research in a well-equipped psychology and neuroscience facility.

Lafayette College is a highly selective private undergraduate college with academic programs and resources characteristic of larger institutions. The College is located approximately 70 miles from both NYC and Philadelphia. Send cover letter, vita, statement of teaching philosophy and research interests, and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent to Andrew Vinchur, Department Head, Department of Psychology, Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042. E-Mail applications are welcome at psychapps@lafayette.edu. We will begin to review applications on October 1 and continue until the positions are filled. More information about our department is available at <http://psychology.lafayette.edu/> and at <http://neuroscience.lafayette.edu/>. Lafayette College is committed to creating a diverse community: one that is inclusive and responsive, and is supportive of each and all of its faculty, students, and staff. All members of the College community share a responsibility for creating, maintaining, and developing a learning environment in which difference is valued, equity is sought, and inclusiveness is practiced. Lafayette College is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women and minorities.

Congratulations to Our Fellow SARMAC Members! Awards, Honors, Media Appearances, Publications, Presentations

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| NAME | Susan Bluck, University of Florida |
| PUBLICATIONS | <p>Bluck, S. (2009). Baddeley revisited: the functional approach to autobiographical memory. <i>Applied Cognitive Psychology</i>, 23, 1050-1058.</p> <p>Bluck, S., & Alea, N. (2009). Characteristics of positive autobiographical memories in adulthood. <i>International Journal of Aging and Human Development</i>, 69, 247 – 265.</p> <p>Demiray, B., Gülgöz, S. & Bluck, S. (2009). Examining the life story account of the reminiscence bump: Why we remember more from young adulthood. <i>Memory</i>, 17, 708-723.</p> <p>Bluck, S. & Alea, N. (2009). Thinking and talking about the past: Why remember? <i>Applied Cognitive Psychology</i>, 23, 1089-1104.</p> <p>Baron, J.M., & Bluck, S. (2009). Autobiographical memory sharing in everyday life: Who tells better stories? <i>International Journal of Behavioural Development</i>, 33, 105-117.</p> |

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| NAME | Mike Toglia, University of North Florida |
| RECOGNITION | Congratulations to Mike for receiving a Fulbright Specialist grant to Culiacan, Mexico, where for several weeks in Spring 2011 he will work colleagues at the Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa, Mexico. Grant entitled: <i>Strategies for Research Development on Human Cognition</i> . |

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| NAME | Chris Meissner, University of Texas at El Paso |
| RECOGNITION | Congratulations to Chris on his leave of absence to work for 2 years as Director of NSF's Law and Social Sciences grant program. |

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| NAME | Kazuo Mori - New board member elected in early 2010 (vote delayed from late 2009 J. Don Read, Robert Belli, David Rubin, Graham Davies, Chris Meissner - These five members were re-elected to a new term. |
| RECOGNITION | Congratulations to these people for their new commitment to SARMAC by serving on the Board. |

Help Increase SARMAC Membership!!!

Please invite your students and colleagues who do cognitive psychology research that spans applied and basic interests to join our Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC).

For more information about SARMAC contact:

Mike Toglia, SARMAC Executive Director
University of North Florida – m.toglia@unf.edu.

SARMAC Newsletter Submissions

We encourage you to send us information to share with your SARMAC colleagues. We are interested in recent publications, job announcements, calls for papers – or anything else you'd like to share with your colleagues. If you would like to include information in the next newsletter (late 2010/early 2011), please email it to m.toglia@unf.edu.

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