



The University of
Nottingham

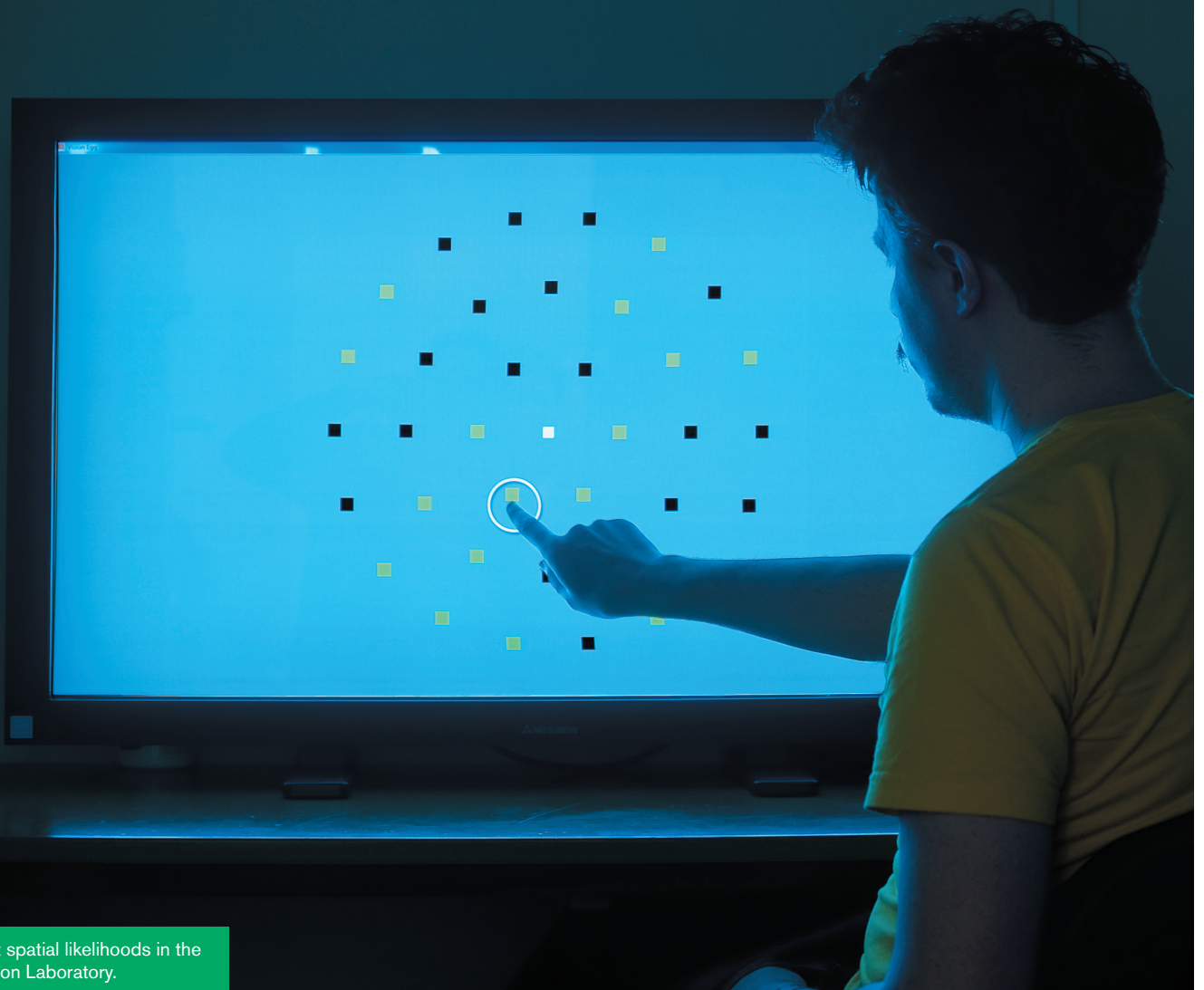
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PSYCH@Nottingham

School of Psychology Newsletter

Issue 5, June 2012

Welcome to the summer issue of PSYCH



Learning about spatial likelihoods in the Spatial Cognition Laboratory.

Asian adventure

One student is enjoying life at our Malaysia Campus.

Oscar announcements

Find out who was nominated for an award.

"You're a psychologist"

The giveaway signs.

Kuala Lumpur's famous Petronas Towers.



The University's Malaysia Campus, where Liliana is currently studying.



Reporting from Malaysia

Liliana Enescu, BSc Psychology and Philosophy

When I chose to do a semester at the University's campus in Malaysia, I had no idea what to expect. Now, after three months of being here, I can definitely say that it is an experience I strongly recommend to everyone. Living in Malaysia has been an amazing change for me. Our campus here is very beautiful and everything can be found within walking distance.

It is very easy to make friends from all over the world, especially considering the fact that our class size is about 15 people (nothing compared to the huge lecture amphitheatres in the UK).

Kuala Lumpur is a vibrant city, with a lot of culture and great nightlife. Walking down the streets in the city centre, you can easily mistake this Asian capital for a Western one. In addition, gorgeous, serene islands are only a few hours' travel away. Not to mention other amazing countries such as Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and many more.

Doing a semester here has given me the chance to meet people from all over the world, travel in places I had never even dared to dream of, and live adventures that I am sure I will never forget.

'Wellcome' success

Paul McGraw (Head of School)

Dr Neil Roach has successfully secured a Research Career Development Fellowship from the Wellcome Trust. This is a significant feather in the school's cap and it's great news that we will have Neil around for the next five years.

Congratulations Mr Nottingham

Peter Mitchell (Dean of Science at the Malaysia Campus)

I'm absolutely delighted to announce that our first-year BSc Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience student, Ben Hunte, has been crowned Mr Nottingham at The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. This is a really great achievement and a credit to the School of Psychology. I'm sure you'll join me in offering warmest congratulations to Ben.

Scholarship success

Jon Peirce (Director of Postgraduate Studies)

Many congratulations to Derwin Chan, Personality, Social Psychology and Health Research Group on winning the Dean Moore Scholarship, one of the University's prestigious Endowed Awards. These awards are made to exceptional students in a University-wide competition, in recognition of the progress they have made and their contributions to the postgraduate community. Derwin has a rather remarkable set of publications for a student only halfway through his final year, as well as being a part-time programmer and champion triathlete. I did mention that the awards are made to exceptional students, right? Well done Derwin!

Top five UK ranking

Our BSc Psychology course was recently ranked in the top five courses across the UK by *The Telegraph*, the broadsheet with the largest circulation and readership.

Winning prizes while overseas

Rachel Evans has recently returned from a year abroad at the University of Queensland and has been commended by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor there for her excellent results. Rachel achieved the Dean of Academic Programs' Commendation for High Achievement as she was in the top band of students enrolled on the University of Queensland's Incoming Exchange Programme.

Rachel went abroad through the Universitas 21 scheme. For more information about the programme, contact Claire Lawrence or Jonathan Stirk:

e: claire.lawrence@nottingham.ac.uk
e: jonathan.stirk@nottingham.ac.uk

May Fest

The University of Nottingham opened its gates for May Fest, a day of free, fun and interactive activities for all ages and interests. Take a look at what was on and plan to join the fun next year: www.nottingham.ac.uk/mayfest

PsychoSoc!

It's been a busy year so far for the Psychology Society! All members of the committee were new to the role and had to get to grips with what is required for a society with over 300 members.

Nearly 150 of you turned up for our inaugural event – the boat party – with the after party at Market Bar a great success as well.

We have hosted everything from book sales to Baa Baa parties and have plenty more planned. Coffee mornings are ongoing (Thursdays, 11am, Social Space) ... so come along!

Alex Perkins (PsychoSoc President)

We also helped organise the first Psychology Film Day. There was a showing of *A Beautiful Mind* in the Hallward Screening Room and we are taking suggestions for future showings. Tickets are free so come along! As well as myself as President, the positions are:

- Vice-President – Sophie Carsten
- Secretary – Hannah Bellman
- Treasurer – Clarissa Odoi
- Social Secs – Becky Harrington, Georgina Standley
- Sport Secs – Esme Noble, Jon Hewett
- Welfare Reps – Becky Cartwright, Caroline Floyd
- Publicity Secs – Charlie Bell, Emma Bailey

Olympic film award

Congratulations to Megan Salter, BSc Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, who was awarded a prize for her London 2012 short film, *Hath Not A Child Ability?* The film, a collaborative effort with Sara Harrak and Ed Davis, is inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic values and explores courage, determination and respect. For more details and to watch the movie, search for 'Hath Not A Child Ability?' on www.bbc.co.uk

Heading for Barcelona

Congratulations to Stephanie McGarrity, an international PhD student who is working with Tobias Bast, Lecturer in the School of Psychology, in the Behavioural Neuroscience Group. Stephanie was awarded a travel grant by the British Neuroscience Association to present her work at the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies Forum in Barcelona this summer.



Staff-student pub quiz

Many thanks to all those staff who took part in the staff-student quiz earlier in the year. Luckily the staff team had Tim Ledgeway (Director of Research) on board for questions on McFly and One Direction!

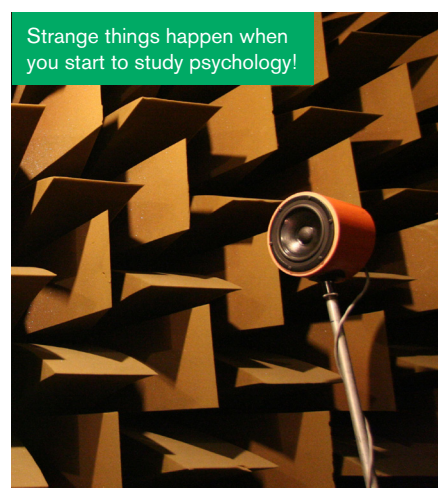
Reflections of a budding psychologist

Sam Ashcroft, BSc Psychology

You know you're a psychology student when you:

- spend more time researching study skills than studying
- look at some statistics on the BBC website and say either "pah!" or "what a load of rubbish!"
- frequently get asked "when we're both older, can you be my shrink?"
- have arguments about how psychology is as much of a science as chemistry
- try to fix people's lives with what you learnt in your lecture an hour ago
- know what it feels like to be strapped to a machine and electrocuted while listening to deafening levels of white noise – for money
- have to remind people that psychology isn't all about Freud
- start to grow facial hair to feel more like a psychologist (male students only)

- get annoyed with people who don't back up their points with the name of a psychologist and a date (Ashcroft et al, 2012)



Double success

Antonia Hamilton was recently promoted to the level of associate professor. Many congratulations.

In March, it was announced that Antonia has also been awarded a prize lectureship by the Experimental Psychology Society and will be delivering the prize lecture for 2013 at Bangor University next summer.

Nightline

Nightline is a confidential listening and information service run by students. Whether you need someone to talk to when things become too much, the number for a taxi or details about campus opening times, Nightline's friendly operators are just a phone call away. Available to both students and staff, lines are open 7pm-8am during term-time and 24 hours during the exam period. More than 2,300 calls are made to Nightline every month.

t: +44 (0)115 951 4985
e: nightlineanon@sumail.nottingham.ac.uk

Round-up: school and course reps and the Education Network

Alex Perkins, BSc Psychology and school rep

Some of you may have no idea what these terms in the headline mean but this short piece is here to elucidate! The Education Network is part of the Students' Union and its purpose is to listen to students and help to improve their learning by informing staff of students' opinions. Each school has a school rep and each year of each school has course reps. As reps, we meet with staff at Learning Committee Forum meetings around three times a year and discuss the issues brought up by you, the students. Staff who attend are very receptive to ideas brought forward by students and look to implement changes wherever possible.

This year your school and course reps have helped to bring about changes such as: making the 'drop-in' system an open-door policy; changing tutorial structures next year to make them more standardised; and tackling issues with the second-year Contextual and Historical Issues in Psychology and Personality and Individual Differences modules. The idea is that we gather the opinions of all psychology students and then relay these to staff. It is a worthwhile thing to get involved in and I encourage any of you considering it to apply to be one of these reps at the start of next year! Meanwhile, if you want to discuss issues about anything course-related, don't hesitate to contact either me or your course reps and we will see if we can help you.

Your reps:

- **School rep:** Alex Perkins
- **First-year course reps:** Blaine Marshall, Keisha Bentley, Georgina Gallagher, Imogen Potter, Stephanie Raycheva
- **Second-year course reps:** Caroline Floyd, Liliana Enescu
- **Third-year course reps:** Alex Perkins, Becky Harrington, Clair Davies
- **Diploma reps:** Sandeep Samra, Freena Tailor

University Staff Oscars

Building upon Nikki Pitchford's success last year in winning a Tutor Oscar, the following staff have been nominated for a Staff Oscar (some for multiple categories):

Shaaron Ainsworth (Best Dissertation Supervisor, Best All-rounder)
 Pete Bibby (Best All-rounder, Most Inspiring)
 David Clarke (Most Inspiring)
 Mark Haselgrove (Most Inspiring)
 Alain Pitiot (Best All-rounder, Most Inspiring)

Many congratulations to all staff who were nominated and special congratulations to Shaaron Ainsworth, who has been awarded the winner of this year's University Staff Oscar in the category of Best Dissertation Supervisor! And of course, many thanks to the students who kindly nominated staff from the School of Psychology.

For more information see

www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/studentvoice/educationnetwork/oscars

British Psychological Society Award

Dr Harriet Allen and her co-workers have been awarded the 2012 British Psychological Society Cognitive Psychology Section Award for a recent paper in *Psychological Review*. Congratulations! In the paper the authors aim to show how computational models can help understand behaviour. Harriet and her colleagues applied a model of how human attention works to human performance, to performance after a stroke or brain lesion and to brain imaging data, and generated a range of testable new predictions.

Bridging the Gap between Physiology and Behaviour: Evidence from the sSoTS Model of Human Visual Attention

Mavritsaki, Heinke, Allen, Deco and Humphreys (2012), *Psychological Review*, 118(1)

Summer Scientist Week 2012

Alistair Smith, BSc Psychology

After previous success, Summer Scientist Week (SSW) will run across six days this summer: 15-17 and 20-22 August 2012.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, SSW is an annual public engagement event designed to introduce local parents and children to the study of human development and learning. During the week, children aged 4-11 will visit Jubilee Campus for a half-day session (around 30 children per session) to take part in a range of studies as well as some fun activities. As well as running studies we also take vocabulary (using the British Picture Vocabulary Scale) and socio-economic status measures from all participants.

For more information, see www.summerscientist.org

Keep your news coming

If you have anything for inclusion in this newsletter, please contact Denis Schluppeck: denis.schluppeck@nottingham.ac.uk

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