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Psychology@Nottingham

School of Psychology newsletter

Issue 8, November 2013

News from the School of Psychology



Studying in a lecture theatre in the
Pope Building on University Park.

Summer Scientist Week

Nottingham MP visits school's big
summer event

Award for professor

School's professor elected Fellow of
the British Psychological Society

Welcomes all round

We welcome new staff, undergraduates
and postgraduates to the school

Local MP visits Summer Scientist Week 2013

Nottingham South MP, Lillian Greenwood, attended The University of Nottingham's annual Summer Scientist Week event that took place in August.

During the week, children were given an interactive introduction to what psychology is all about and parents were able to learn about the most recent research carried out by the school.

During her visit, Ms Greenwood was given a tour of the research studies and activities and met some of the researchers, student volunteers, parents and children involved.

Lillian Greenwood said: "Summer Scientist Week is a fantastic opportunity for children from across the city to learn about science in a fun and interactive environment. I'm delighted that the School of Psychology has invited me along to meet everyone involved."

This year's Summer Scientist Week was a huge success and the team are looking forward to doing it all again next year.



Above: A visitor takes part in one of the fun activities.

Left: Summer Scientist Week organiser Lucy Cragg (left) with Lillian Greenwood.

Photography: Denis Schluppeck

Changes to George Green Library

The £19m project for a new Engineering and Science Library started to take shape this summer with changes to George Green Library. On D floor you will find all the periodicals (and the bright new toilets) and books and reports are on C floor.

Building work is ongoing, to find out what will be happening each week (and how noisy we expect it to be), check out the information boards on the ground floor of George Green Library and at George Green LibraryPlus (extra study space on the top floor of the Physics Building).

There are also updates on the Engineering and Science Library web page: www.nottingham.ac.uk/library/libraries/locations/ggl/engineering-and-science-library.aspx and you can even watch a live link to the building site: www.nottingham.ac.uk/estates/developments/esl.aspx

Career support on your doorstep

Whether you know exactly what you want to do with your career, or you don't have a clue, the Careers and Employability Service is here to help.

We will be in room A30 in the Psychology Building every Wednesday, offering bookable guidance appointments from 10am-12pm and holding informal drop-in sessions from 12-2pm. These sessions are a chance for you to discuss your career options, have your CV checked or to ask for some general advice. For more information, please visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/science

We are also holding a Careers in Science Fair on Tuesday 29 October in the Engineering and Science Learning Centre, find out more at www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/sciencefair

National Student Survey success!

The results from the National Student Survey are in and it's good news!

The overall rank for the School of Psychology has shot up from 16th in the Russell Group (in 2010) to 7th this year. We hope to improve on this even further in the coming years as the University is addressing students' concerns about library access with multi-million pound investments into new facilities. Watch this space!



An international perspective

Postgraduate conference

Mark your calendar for the next postgraduate conference, planned for 14 April 2014. The conference includes a session of poster presentations from first year PhD students and talks from second years. For the first time, we also hope to be joined by a contingent of graduate students from Lund University, Sweden, one of the University's strategic international partners.

Record numbers study abroad

Last year saw a record number of students take up opportunities to study abroad with the Universitas 21 and Malaysia Campus

schemes. This is a great opportunity for students to gain valuable international experience and enhance employability. If you are interested in any of the schemes, get in touch with Jan Derrfuss at jan.derrfuss@nottingham.ac.uk

Nottingham's Malaysia Campus.



Professor elected Fellow of the British Psychological Society (BPS)

Professor Peter Mitchell has been elected as a Fellow of the British Psychological Society (FBPS), the highest designation that the BPS can award.

The title FBPS is bestowed on an individual who is adjudged by the BPS to have made an 'outstanding contribution to the advancement or dissemination of psychological knowledge or practice either by his or her own research, teaching, publications or public service, or by organising and developing the work of others'.

Professor Mitchell's outstanding contribution is recognised in serving for six years as the editor-in-chief of the British Journal of Psychology, the flagship scientific publication of the BPS.

It is also recognised in the publication of textbooks in psychology and the publication of a large number of scientific articles, as well as in leadership in psychology.

Professor Mitchell served as the head of the School of Psychology in Nottingham for four years, as the founding head of the School of Psychology at the Malaysia Campus for three years and has been Chair of the Developmental Section of the BPS for two years.

This is the first time that a person working in the field of psychology in Malaysia has been awarded such an honour. Congratulations Professor Mitchell!

Visit to BBC Radio Nottingham

Psychology PhD student Jenny Tellett was invited to BBC Radio Nottingham to talk about her research on air.

Her PhD aims to investigate the behavioural, cognitive and neural mechanisms that underlie attention difficulties in school-aged children who were born very prematurely. It can be difficult to recruit children to take part in research so local media exposure can be a useful tool to advertise such studies.

Jenny says of the experience of being interviewed live on air: "I was very nervous, particularly as the interview was live and there were no pre-prepared questions.

Attention difficulties in children can be a contentious topic and so it was important for me to talk about the research in a way that listeners would be able to understand, without making any statements that might worry or offend parents.

It was very surreal hearing the presenter introduce me as 'Nottingham academic Jennifer Tellett' and it was all over within about 10 minutes. Despite the nerves it was an exciting morning and I have had some positive interest as a result."

Welcome to our new students

Welcome to our new UK and international undergraduate students. We hope you have had an exciting first few weeks on campus, made the most of all the orientation events and are enjoying studying your new subject. We wish you all a successful and happy time at Nottingham.

Grad students ahoy!

Welcome to our largest ever cohort of graduate students. Since last year, there has been a significant increase in applications to our masters courses and successfully funded PhD places. There are now three masters courses on offer, allowing students to specialise in brain imaging or psychology research methods, or to enter the discipline from other backgrounds via the psychology conversion course.

To find out more about postgraduate opportunities, visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/psychology/study-with-us/postgraduate

New staff members

Take a minute to say welcome to our five new members of staff: Drs Antoinette Nicolle, Markus Bauer, Jan Derrfuss, Shiri Einav and Katy Jones. All are already busy teaching and dealing with their new roles in the school.

Success for Psychology with Success for All

Drs Nicola Pitchford and Walter van Heuven have been awarded a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) grant from the Technology Strategy Board with educational charity 'Success for All'. This is the first KTP awarded to the school from the government scheme aimed at promoting business innovation.

A KTP Associate will soon be joining the school to work on this 30-month project which will involve developing a computerised system for monitoring individual pupil attainment in literacy over the primary school years.

Neuropsychopharmacology in Barcelona

This October, Stephanie McGarrity, Tobias Bast and Paula Moran, all members of the school's Behavioural Neuroscience group, presented their research at the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) congress in Barcelona.

Stephanie had been awarded an ECNP travel scholarship to present part of her PhD research, which is concerned with the role of hippocampal dysfunction in schizophrenia symptom generation.

Tobias was invited to present new research as part of a symposium concerned with the role of aberrant inhibitory neurotransmission in schizophrenia, and Paula is a member of the ECNP's scientific advisory committee.

The ECNP Congress is the largest annual meeting on neuropsychopharmacology and mental disorders in Europe. Attended by more than 7,000 psychiatrists, neurologists, psychologists and neuroscience researchers from across the world, it brings together distinguished scientists and junior researchers to discuss the latest achievements and future perspectives in neuropsychopharmacology and related disciplines.

To find out more, visit www.ecnp-congress.eu

Neuroscience@ Nottingham

Nottingham neuroscientists are invited to present posters on their recent work and discuss it with their colleagues at Neuroscience@Nottingham.

The event is taking place on 11 December, 2-5pm, in the Medical School foyer and lecture theatre 3 in the Queen's Medical Centre. Poster titles need to be entered by Friday 29 November and the two best postgraduate posters will be awarded a prize.

This year's lecture will be presented by University of Edinburgh professor Joanna Wardlaw on 'The role of the blood-brain barrier in ageing, stroke and vascular dementia: from animal to man'.

Everybody is welcome to attend. Please email Susan Blencow (susan.blencowe@nottingham.ac.uk) if you want to attend.

ESRC public seminar

Dr Nicola Pitchford will be joining three professors from the University's Children and Childhood Network for an evening public seminar which is part of the ESRC Festival of Social Sciences.

'Four Faces of Childhood Today' will be held at the Nottingham Contemporary on Wednesday 6 November, 6-8pm. It is a public event based on four inspiring short talks by expert speakers from The University of Nottingham.

Professor Saul Becker will talk about his work on the major issue of young carers in the UK. There are almost a million young people in the UK who care for their parents.

Professor Aoife Nolan, an expert in human rights law, will speak on the pressing issue of child rights and poverty in a time of austerity.

Dr Nicola Pitchford will talk about new developments from psychology in baby weaning research in her talk 'How to wean your baby: Effects of different weaning styles on early health outcomes in childhood'.

Professor Pat Thomson will draw on extensive experience in educational research and practice to discuss the importance of the arts to children in her talk 'Studying the arts should be compulsory'.

To register for this event go to: www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/festival/festival-events/general-2013/Four-faces.aspx

Nightline

Nightline is an anonymous and confidential, non-judgemental listening and information service run for students, by students.

We are open every night of term from 7pm-8am and can be contacted by phone, email and instant messenger. We are always here to listen to whatever is on your mind, no matter how big or small you feel your problem is.

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To instant message us, see www.nottinghamnightline.co.uk/im

Acknowledgements and keep your news coming

Thanks to Viv Kirk for providing useful notes and the Psychology Research Support Office for keeping an eye on recent news!

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

Or see the News Stories page on Workspace for guidance on submitting your stories: tiny.cc/your-psych-news

This publication is available in alternative formats:

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The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

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