Associate professor Kevin Shockely was awarded the Sigma Xi Young Investigator Award for his research, “Em-body-ing Perception.” The award given by the University of Cincinnati’s scientific research society goes to a junior faculty member with distinguished research in a field of science and engineering. Here he describes what “Em-body-ing Perception” means:

The title “Em-body-ing Perception” was meant to reflect the growing recognition that the body is playing an increasingly prominent role in our understanding of how we perceive the world around us. In contrast to how perception has historically been portrayed, it is becoming increasingly apparent that perceiving the world around us is not simply a matter of making a copy of the world in our head based on activation patterns of our senses. Rather, how we perceive the world around us seems to depend on having a body with particular perceptual-motor capabilities. Another way of saying this is that perception appears to be grounded in our action system. For example, when perceiving spatial layout, such as distances, slants or heights, our percepts are scaled to actions we can perform in the space in question such as how much effort it would take to traverse a distance. Similarly, our awareness of objects we wield with our hands, such as a hammer or a tennis racket, is constrained by how we can manipulate the object rather than action-neutral properties of the object such as its weight or dimensions.

Our research team in the Perceptual-Motor Dynamics Lab places the body front and center in our investigations into perception and cognition. My lecture on “Em-body-ing Perception” reviewed a range of research projects Mike Riley and I have conducted with our students here at UC addressing these issues.
Professor Kathy Burlew was recently awarded the 2011 Kenneth and Mary Ann Jordan Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Professional Development of Ethnic and Minority Students. The award is given to American Psychological Association Graduate Students who have contributed to the professional development of ethnic and minority students. Burlew was honored for her work in mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Burlew’s mentorship extends beyond her department to students at other institutions. She has served as a mentor for the American Psychological Association’s Minority Fellowship Program and as an advisor for the American Psychological Association’s National Office of Psychology and Education. Her mentorship has been recognized with several awards, including the 2007 American Psychological Association’s Minority Scholars Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

In addition to her mentorship, Burlew has published extensively on topics related to psychology, including cognitive processing and mental health. Her research has appeared in a variety of journals, including the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition.

Burlew is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Society for Research in Child Development.

Kathy Burlew
Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Connecticut

New Professor

Sarah Anderson

Professor Anderson is the 2011 recipient of the American Psychological Association’s Division 21 Outstanding Mentor Award. She is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at Utah State University.

Anderson’s research focuses on the role of social cognition in health psychology, neuropsychology/neuroscience, and cognition, action, and perception.

Best regards,

Steve Howe

LaTrice Montgomery

LaTrice Montgomery was recently awarded the 2011 McNair Scholar Award for Excellence in Mentoring. She is a graduate student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma.

Montgomery’s mentorship has been recognized with several awards, including the 2007 American Psychological Association’s Minority Scholars Award for Excellence in Mentoring. Her mentorship has been recognized with several awards, including the 2007 American Psychological Association’s Minority Scholars Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

In addition to her mentorship, Montgomery has published extensively on topics related to psychology, including cognitive processing and mental health. Her research has appeared in a variety of journals, including the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition.

Montgomery is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Society for Research in Child Development.

Kathy Burlew
Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Connecticut

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We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the Department from March 2011 to March 2012. These gifts fund scholarships, attract and retain the next faculty, and enrich the experiences of our undergraduate and graduate students.

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For information on making a gift to the Department of Psychology, please contact Deb Livingston at deborah.livingston@uc.edu or (513) 556-5866.

Student Outcomes

Kimberly Avalone was selected as this year’s recipient of the McMinck College Outstanding Master’s Student Award.

Mike Basso (PhD, ’94) is now in an endowed faculty position as McFarlin associate professor of psychology at University of Utah and also Clinical associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma.

Michelle Bonnet (’12), having recently switched her career plans from seeking an MD to a PhD in psychology, is working in a paid position at Children’s Hospital and has been named to Phi Beta Kappa by the university.

Teheran Davis (PhD) started a position as assistant professor of psychology at the University of Connecticut in January.

Jamie Fargo (PhD ’04) is tenured associate professor and director of the Sociobehavioral Epidemiology Program in the Department of Psychology at Utah State University.

Deak Helton won the 2011 Earl Alliwi Award for Early Career Achievement (American Psychological Association, Division 21). The recipient of the award delivers an invited address at the 2012 APA Convention.

LaTrice Montgomery was appointed to the faculty in College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services.

Scott Moore (PhD) is a clinical health scientist with the US Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Center for Organization Development, an organization dedicated to training researchers to develop and implement evidence-based interventions for veterans.

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