

# Fall 2009

## MAPR Faculty Mentor List

The following CSULB Psychology Department faculty have agreed to consider serving as faculty mentors and taking MA-Psychological Research (MAPR) students into their research labs, as space availability allows for Fall 2009. This list should be used to complete Part D of the MAPR application (see back for research interest areas).

This applies to MAPR applicants only.

Young-Hee Cho  
Chi-Ah Chun  
David Dowell  
Martin Fiebert  
Dennis Fisher  
Diane Lee  
Kevin MacDonald  
Lisa Maxfield  
William Pedersen  
Sherry Span  
Robert Thayer  
Dustin Thoman  
Guido Urizar  
Bianca Wilson  
Arturo Zavala

## Fall 09 Faculty Research Interest Areas for MAPR Faculty Mentor List

**Young-Hee Cho:** 1) Time orientation/perspective among elders; 2) The interplay of cognition and affect.

**Chi-Ah Chun:** My broad area of research interest is in minority mental health. Currently, I have two active research programs. The first one examines the role of cultural values and attribution in the stress and coping process in Korean immigrants. The second study investigates how cultural beliefs influence coping with symptoms of PTSD in Cambodian refugees.

**David Dowell:** program evaluation, psychology and social issues, applied social, social policy, organizational, social identity theory and community psych. [www.csulb.edu/~ddowell/](http://www.csulb.edu/~ddowell/) or [www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/planning\\_enrollment/](http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/planning_enrollment/)

**Martin Fiebert:** Interracial dating; meditation; men as victims of domestic violence.

**Dennis Fisher:** Areas of interest include the following: Drug Abuse, Substance Abuse and Infectious Disease, Reliability and Validity Studies, Cluster Analysis, Survival Analysis, Logistic Regression, and Clinical Trials. My publications have mostly been in the area of drug abuse, hepatitis and needle exchange, with a secondary interest in psychometrics. Dr. Fisher's divisional affiliations within the American Psychological Association are: Division 5, Evaluation, Measurement & Statistics; Division 38, Health Psychology; and Division 50, Addiction.

**Diane Lee:** Primary areas of interest: Psychology of Learning, Biological Psychology, and Cognitive Ethology. Specifically, my research efforts address the role that the birth of new neurons (neurogenesis) plays in learning and memory using birds as the primary animal model. By integrating techniques, research can range from field and laboratory investigations of learning to the neurobiology mediating learning and memory formation. The research is currently directed along three basic lines of inquiry. First, when and where in the avian brain does adult neurogenesis occur? Second, what types of learning experiences and/or fluctuations in hormone levels influence the rate at which neurogenesis occurs and the direction new neurons take? And third, how does neurogenesis influence subsequent learning and memory?

**Kevin MacDonald:** I am interested in developmental research with children in virtually any area of social and personality development. I am also interested in personality research on adults as well as any area of research related to evolutionary perspectives on psychology.

**Lisa Maxfield:** My formal training is as a cognitive neuropsychologist with emphasis in human memory as well as language processing capacities as they are instantiated across the two cerebral hemispheres of the human brain. My primary interest in human memory has evolved to include how humans learn as well. I am now pursuing these interests in applied settings, rather than as basic research. As CSULB's General Education Coordinator, my research is looking at issues of student achievement in college, including how faculty can facilitate learning and engagement in college classrooms. The research has significance for understanding issues of teaching and learning, specifically educational effectiveness of teaching practices and what types of learning experiences best serve college students.

**William Pedersen:** I have 2 general interest areas: (1) the factors that impact aggressive behavior (specifically displaced aggression), and (2) an evolutionary perspective on gender differences in mating preferences and strategies. More detailed information on each of these topics is available on my website: [www.csulb.edu/~wpederse](http://www.csulb.edu/~wpederse)

**Sherry Span:** My research to date has focused on the relation among the following: 1. Risk factors associated with alcohol/substance abuse; 2. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); 3. Clinical Neuropsychology.

**Robert Thayer:** Interests: Mood, including psychological and physiological connections. Particular interests include relationships between mood and exercise, food, health, stress, biological cycles, and self-perception. Also of interest is self-regulation of mood, and especially associations with drugs, food, and exercise. Negative mood states such as moderate depression and positive mood states such as calm-energy are of interest as well. Note particularly Thayer's three books: *The Biopsychology of Mood and Arousal* (Oxford Univ Press, 1989), *The Origin of Everyday Moods* (Oxford Univ Press, 1996), and *Calm Energy: How People Regulate Mood with Food and Exercise* (Oxford Univ Press, 2003). More information on web site: [www.csulb.edu/~thayer](http://www.csulb.edu/~thayer)

**Dustin Thoman:** My research focuses on how individuals develop and maintain motivation (particularly for long-term pursuits), and how this motivation is influenced by the individual's social context. More specifically, I aim to understand the social nature of intrinsic motivation, the development of interests and integration of interests into identity, and how stereotypes and discrimination influence interest, motivation, and choices. This program of research relates to several topics, including: intrinsic motivation, development of interest, stereotypes and social stigmas, self-regulation, development of self and identity, attributions, and evaluation. Although much of my research occurs in the lab, I am passionate about the applied aspect of this research, as well as how these processes function across cultures. My training is grounded in social psychology, but my research interests also strongly overlap with developmental and educational psychology.

**Guido Urizar:** Dr. Urizar's research in the area of Health Psychology has focused on examining psychosocial, behavioral, and physiological factors associated with mental and physical health outcomes. A number of grants from NIH, and other Federal and State agencies have supported this work. Specific areas of his research include cardiovascular disease prevention and recovery, examining the efficacy of behavioral medicine in hospital- and community-based settings, impact of stress on health outcomes and health behaviors, predictors of maternal and infant health development, and psychoneuroendocrinology. The primary objective of his research has been to identify at-risk groups for chronic health problems and to develop and test community-based interventions that are designed to promote chronic disease prevention and management in low-income, ethnic minority, and other medically underserved populations.

**Bianca Wilson:** My general areas of research are sexual health and health promotion research. I study the role of culture, oppression and identity in health behaviors and health care access. I primarily work within ethnic and sexual minority communities, and am particularly interested in the strategies we use to incorporate knowledge about a community's culture into the development of health programs.

**Arturo Zavala:** Areas of interests include animal models of drug addiction and developmental neuropsychopharmacology. Specifically, my research investigates the short- and long-term neurochemical and behavioral effects of exposure to psychostimulant drugs across development (neonatal, adolescence, and adulthood), as well as determine the impact that early exposure to drugs may have on the susceptibility to abuse drugs later in life.