

Chapter 11

The Explosive Growth of Psychology, 1960-1981: The University College Psychology Department

University College, the evening college, was established in 1934 to provide part-time students with an opportunity obtain a college education. Enrollment at the college consisted mostly of students unable to attend daytime classes because they had full-time employment. The college offered bachelors' degrees (BA, BS) in a number of traditional areas, including psychology.

As noted in Chapter 5, Roger Bellows succeeded Anna Starr as chairman of University College's Psychology Department when she retired in 1956. Except for a couple of one-year stand-ins, Bellows served as chairman until his retirement in 1967.

When Bellows retired, Peter Suedfeld (b. 1935), who had come to University College the year before, became the department's chairman. Suedfeld was a social and cognitive psychologist who would oversee important changes in the department's undergraduate curriculum, as well as participate in the graduate program at Rutgers. He left University College in 1972 for an appointment as professor and chairman of the Psychology Department at the University of British Columbia.

Arnold Lazarus (b. 1932) came to UC in 1972 as a full professor and served as chairman for two years before joining the newly founded Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology. He brought Robert Karlin (b. 1944), one of his graduate students from Yale who completed his PhD in clinical psychology at Rutgers and remained in the department as a faculty member. Rob Woolfolk (b. 1947), who also developed his career as part of the clinical faculty, first came to Rutgers with a junior appointment in University College. In 1973 Nathaniel Pallone, a counseling psychologist, came to University College as its dean and as a professor in the Psychology Department.

Among the social psychologists hired at University College who later achieved tenure are Yak Epstein (b. 1941) and Bert Brown (1936-2003). These men were trained by Morton Deutsch, the distinguished experimental social psychologist at Teachers College, Columbia University.

The last senior appointment at University College was Lillian Troll (b. 1915), a developmental psychologist with particular interests in the life span. She was also the last chair of the Psychology Department at the college before unification.

In general, the hiring choices were predominantly in social and in clinical psychology. Even though the size of the Psychology Department more than tripled in the two decades, it was still modest in size relative to the psychology departments in the other colleges. Given its modest size and limited laboratory facilities, the University College department did not become the locus for any graduate area, although its faculty participated in the graduate program.

The Undergraduate Curriculum and Major

The undergraduate curriculum during the 1960's was "traditional" in some ways, but also tailored both to the adult evening student and to the fields of interest of Bellows, an industrial psychologist, and Berrien, a social psychologist. The curriculum included: Principles of Psychology, which covered the basic topics, sensation, perception, memory, imagination, reasoning, motivation, emotions *or* Introduction to Psychology, which dealt with the application of psychology to problems in business, industry, and government; Psychology of Childhood; Psychology of Adolescence; Social Psychology; Mental Hygiene; Clinical Psychology; Abnormal Psychology; Psychology in Industry; Personality; Psychological Tests in Industry; History of Psychology; Clinical Tests and Measurements; Seminar in Group Dynamics. What were not available in a "traditional" curriculum were courses in experimental psychology, learning, physiological psychology, and their associated laboratory courses — less suitable perhaps to an evening school with a small faculty and no facilities for undergraduate laboratories.

Changes were made in the curriculum during the late 60's and early 70's to reflect the changing composition of the faculty during this period. With Bellows retirement came the elimination of Psychological Tests in Industry. The Seminar in Group Dynamics, a Berrien specialty was replaced in the catalog with a Seminar in Psychology with content determined by the instructor offering the course in a given year. Anna Starr's, Clinical Psychology and Clinical Tests and Measurements, which continued to be listed for several years after her retirement in 1956, were also dropped from the college catalog. Courses were also added to bring the curriculum more in line with those at the other colleges: Statistics (required for majors), Experimental Psychology

with a lab section (the department had acquired some lab space and new faculty to teach it), and Learning and Motivation.

By the late 70's the course offerings reflected the new strengths and interests of the faculty, several rather novel for an undergraduate curriculum but well suited to an evening college for older adults. They included Child Rearing, Psychology of Death and Dying, Psychology of Marriage and the Family, Psychology of Aggression, Psychology of Women, and Clinical Psychology and Behavior Change. With Troll's presence on the faculty there was also now a full set of developmental courses covering the life span (infancy and childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age).

In the 1960's the course requirements in psychology were either Principles of Psychology (basic topics) or Introduction to Psychology (applications) and 24 hours of other psychology courses. The outside requirements for the psychology major at University College were different from and actually more stringent than those at the other colleges. The major was required to take 12 hours of an intermediate level foreign language (or pass a proficiency test of equivalent level), 6 hours of Biology or Physical Science, 12 hours of Sociology, 6 hours of Philosophy (including logic and scientific method), and 6 hours of History or Political Science.

By the early 70's the specific outside requirements previously listed for the major were all dropped. Instead, students were encouraged "to take as wide or as concentrated a sequence as their own intellectual and professional interests dictate, although premature specialization should be avoided." The major who contemplated doing graduate work in psychology was advised to take at least two years of French, German, or Russian and at least one course in Computer Science. By the late 70's the foreign language recommendation was dropped (appropriately so, as graduate programs were no longer requiring foreign language competency). The major continued to have flexibility in the psychology courses they chose, with different advice to for students depending on their career plans. Students planning to go to graduate school in psychology were urged to take a course in quantitative methods and a year-long course in experimental psychology; students not planning a career in psychology were simply required to include among their choices at least 12 credits in junior and senior level courses. In spirit, the undergraduate major at University College now resembled that of Livingston College.