

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Updated September 22, 2011

**TAMRA J. BIRETA**

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Cognitive Psychology, Minor in Gerontology, Purdue University,  
August 2006  
Graduate Advisors: James S. Nairne, Ian Neath and Aimée M. Surprenant
- M.S.** Cognitive Psychology, Purdue University, August 2004
- B.S.** Psychology, University of Florida, May 2001

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Assistant Professor.** The College of New Jersey, Fall 2006 to present.

Courses: Methods and Tools of Psychology  
Cognitive Psychology  
Sensation & Perception  
Lab Learning/ Senior Lab Learning  
Memory Over the Lifespan  
Senior Independent Study  
Research Seminar  
Senior Honors Thesis

**Instructor.** Purdue University, Summer 2005, Summer 2006.

Course: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

**Teaching Assistant.** Purdue University, August 2001 – May 2006.

Courses: Introduction to Cognitive Psychology  
Human Memory

### FUNDING

**Awarded SOSA** (Support Of Scholarly Activities) for 2011-2013.

**One course release per year. To be taken in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.**

**Awarded SOSA** (Support Of Scholarly Activities) for 2009-2011.

**One course release per year. Taken in Spring 2010 and 2011.**

**Awarded SOSA** (Support Of Scholarly Activities) for 2008-2009.

**One course release. Taken in Spring 2009.**

**Awarded SOSA** (Support Of Scholarly Activities) for 2007-2008.

**One course release. Taken in Spring 2008.**

**Awarded MUSE** (Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience) for 2011.

**Included a \$1,000 faculty stipend, a \$2,500 stipend for my student collaborator, Colleen Mazzei, and \$500 for project-related expenses.**

**Awarded MUSE** (Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience) for 2010.

**Included a \$1,000 faculty stipend, a \$2,500 stipend for my student collaborator, Hope Fine, and \$500 for project-related expenses.**

**Awarded MUSE** (Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience) for 2009.

**Included a \$1,000 faculty stipend, a \$2,500 stipend for my student collaborator, Stacey Diana, and \$400 for project-related expenses.**

**Awarded MUSE** (Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience) for 2008.

**Included a \$1,000 faculty stipend, \$5,000 in stipends for my student collaborators, Robin Streit and Suzanne Bates, \$1,252 in housing stipends, and \$500 for project-related expenses.**

**Awarded SURP** (Summer Undergraduate Research Program) for 2007.

**Included a \$1,000 faculty stipend, a \$2,500 stipend for my student collaborator, Brielle Simels, and \$500 for project-related expenses.**

**Graduate Research Assistantship.** NIA R01AG021071, "Modeling the effects of aging on memory." CO-PI.'s A. M. Surprenant & I. Neath. January 2005 – July 2006.

**Recruitment Program Award.** Purdue University, Summers 2002 – 2004.

**Graduate Research Assistantship,** the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0074721, "Memory for words in noise", A. M. Surprenant, PI. Summer 2001.

## PUBLICATIONS IN REFEREED JOURNALS

\*\*\*NOTE: Underlined names denote TCNJ student collaborators

Kenny, S., Collins, R., Ozon, T., VanWormer, L., **Bireta**, T. J., Jalbert, A., Surprenant, A. M., & Neath, I. (submitted, June 2011). Is the continual distractor task a working memory span task? *Memory & Cognition*.

**Bireta**, T. J., Fine, H. C., VanWormer, L. A., Diana, S. M., & Patel, V. (resubmitted, July 2011; initial submission Dec 2010; reject and resubmit). Does working memory change with age? The interactions of concurrent articulation with word length and acoustic confusion. *Aging, Neuropsychology, and Cognition*.

VanWormer, L. A., **Bireta**, T. J., Surprenant, A. M., & Neath, I. (in press). The effect of perceptual cues on inhibiting irrelevant information in older adults using a list-learning method. *Experimental Aging Research*.

Surprenant, A. M., **Bireta**, T. J., Jalbert, A., Brown, M. A., Tehan, G., & Neath, I. (in press). Backward recall and the word length effect. *American Journal of Psychology*.

Jalbert, A., Neath, I., **Bireta**, T. J., & Surprenant, A. M. (in press). When does length cause the word length effect. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*.

**Bireta**, T. J., Fry, S. E., Jalbert, A., Neath, I., Surprenant, A. M., Tehan, G., & Tolan, G. A. (2010). Backward serial recall and benchmark effects of working memory. *Memory & Cognition*, 38, 279-291.

Neath, I., Guérard, K., Jalbert, A., **Bireta**, T. J., & Surprenant, A. M. (2009). Irrelevant speech effects and statistical learning. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 62, 1551-1559.

Guérard, K., Jalbert, A., Neath, I., Surprenant, A. M., & **Bireta**, T. J. (2009). Irrelevant tapping and the acoustic confusion effect: The role of spatial complexity. *Experimental Psychology*, 56, 367-374.

Surprenant, A. M., Neath, I., **Bireta**, T. J., & Albritton, D. (2008). Directly assessing the relationship between irrelevant speech and irrelevant tapping. *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 62, 414-449.

**Bireta**, T. J., Surprenant, A. M., & Neath, I. (2008). Age-related differences in the von Restorff isolation effect. *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 61, 345-352.

**Bireta**, T. J., Neath, I., & Surprenant, A. M. (2006). The syllable-based word length effect and stimulus set specificity. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, *13*, 434-438.

Hulme, C., Surprenant, A. M., **Bireta**, T. J., Stuart, G., & Neath, I. (2004). Abolishing the word-length effect. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, *30*, 98-106.

Neath, I., **Bireta**, T., & Surprenant, A. M. (2003). The time-based word length effect and stimulus set specificity. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, *10*, 430-434.

### **PUBLICATION IN NON-REFEREED JOURNALS**

Surprenant, A. M., Neath, I., & **Bireta**, T. J. (2007). Changing state and the irrelevant sound effect. *Canadian Acoustics*, *35*, 86-87.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS** (Student author names underlined)

**Bireta**, T. J., & Simels, B. A. (2009). The isolation effect in advertising: Are usual advertisements remembered better? In M. Kelley (Ed.), *Applied Memory* (pp. 57-72). Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science.

**Bireta**, T. J., & Surprenant, A. M. (2008). Aging and memory: A review of theories, source and context memory, and distinctiveness. *Women and Aging: New Research* (pp.431-459). Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science.

Surprenant, A. M., **Bireta**, T. J., & Farley, L. A. (2007). A history of memory and aging. In J. S. Nairne (Ed.), *The foundations of remembering: Essays in honor of Henry L. Roediger, III* (pp. 107-123). Hove, UK: Psychology Press.

### **PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES** (Student author names underlined)

**Bireta**, T. J., Fine, H. C., VanWormer, L. A., Diana, S. M., Patel, V., & Louie, J. (March, 2011). Does working memory change with age? The interactions of concurrent articulation with word length and acoustic confusion. Poster to be presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association*, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

VanWormer, L. A., & **Bireta**, T. J. (November, 2010). Age-related differences in inhibiting irrelevant information in a list-Learning paradigm using perceptual cues. Poster to be presented at the *51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, St. Louis, MS.

**Bireta**, T. J., Triner, S. A., Veenstra, B., & Baduini, J. K. (April, 2010). Less is more? Memory for distinctive stimuli. Poster to be presented at the *Second Annual Tri-Collegiate Psychology Student Research Symposium*, Madison, NJ.

- Bireta**, T. J., Patel, V., Fine, H., & Meisner, M. (April, 2010). Age-related changes in working memory functioning: Key interactions. Poster presented at the *Second Annual Tri-Collegiate Psychology Student Research Symposium*, Madison, NJ.
- Bireta**, T. J., Triner, S. A., Calhoun, A., Canavera, K., Fehertoi, N. A., Baduini, J. K., Slocum, C. A., Patel, V., & Patel, J. (March, 2010). Redder is better? Physical changes yield larger isolation effects than hybrid manipulations. Poster presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association*, New York, NY.
- VanWormer, L.A., **Bireta**, T.J., Surprenant, A.M., & Neath, I. (March, 2010). The effect of color cues on inhibiting irrelevant information. Paper presented at the *56th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Psychological Association*, Chattanooga, TN.
- Bireta**, T. J., Fry, S. E., Jalbert, A., Neath, I., Surprenant, A. M., Tehan, G., & Tolan, G. A. (November, 2009). Backward serial recall and benchmark effects of working memory. Poster presented at the *50th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Boston, MA.
- Bireta**, T. J., Bhatt, J. S., Rosenberg, R. L., & Patel, V. R. (April, 2009). Aging and distinctiveness: Older adults demonstrate a reverse isolation effect. Poster presented at the *Tri-Collegiate Psychology Student Research Symposium*, Morristown, NJ.
- Bireta**, T. J., Bates, S. E., & Streit, R. S. (April, 2009). Aging and Working Memory: Examining the functioning of the episodic buffer in younger and older adults. Poster presented at the *Tri-Collegiate Psychology Student Research Symposium*, Morristown, NJ.
- Jalbert, A., Neath, I., **Bireta**, T. J., Winsor, D., & Surprenant, A. M. (November, 2008). On the irrelevance of length to the word length effect. Poster presented at the *49th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Chicago, Illinois.
- Bireta**, T. J., & Simels, B. A. (March, 2008). Which brand of vacuum cleaner never loses suction? Isolation effects in advertising. Poster presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association*, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Surprenant, A. M., Neath, I., & **Bireta**, T. J. (October, 2007). Changing state and the irrelevant sound effect. Paper presented at the *Canadian Acoustical Association Annual Conference*, Concordia University, Montréal, October 2007.
- Bireta**, T. J. (November 2006). Von Restorff effects in older and younger adults. Poster presented at the *47th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Houston, Texas.

**Bireta**, T. J., Neath, I., & Surprenant, A. M. (November 2005). The word-length effect and stimulus set specificity. Poster presented at the *46th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society*, Toronto, Canada.

Surprenant, A. M., **Bireta**, T. J., Farley, L. A., & Neath, I. (October 2005). Modeling the effects of aging on immediate memory for phonologically confusable lists. Poster presented at the *Aging and Speech Communication Conference*, Indiana University, Indiana.

Surprenant, A. M., **Bireta**, T. J., Farley, L. A., & Neath, I. (March 2005). A brief history of memory and aging. Paper presented at the *RoddyFest: Conference in Honor of Henry L. Roediger, III*, Purdue University, Indiana.

**Bireta**, T. J., Neath, I., & Surprenant, A. M. (September 2003). Word length effects in mixed and pure lists. Paper presented at the *Invited Symposium on Short-Term/Working memory at the British Psychological Society Cognitive Section Conference*, University of Reading.

#### **LOCAL PRESENTATIONS** (Student author names underlined)

**Bireta**, T. J., Graham, E., & Manolas, N. T. (November, 2010). Memory and Aging: Changes associated with healthy aging. Talk given for the Senior Group at the Ewing Presbyterian Church, Ewing, NJ.

**Bireta**, T. J. (November, 2010). Memory and Aging: Managing risk and techniques for improvement. Talk given for the St. James Senior Group, Trenton, NJ.

**Bireta**, T. J., & Fine, H. (November, 2010). Age-related changes in memory: Preventing loss. Talk to be given for the Trenton College Club, Trenton, NJ.

**Bireta**, T. J., & Loui, J., & Graham, E. (October, 2010). Memory and Aging: Typical patterns and current research. Talk for the Trenton Chapter of the Rotary International Club. Ewing, NJ.

**Bireta**, T. J., & Manolas, N. T., & Canavera, (October, 2010). Short-term memory in older adults: Common complaints and ways to improve. Talk for the Ewing Presbyterian Church Senior Group. Ewing, NJ.

**Bireta**, T. J., Rosenberg, R. L., & Reiman, K. M. (April, 2009). Memory in Older Adults: Reasons for change and memory strategies. Talk for Hamilton Elite Care Center LLC, Hamilton, NJ.

**Bireta**, T. J., Patel, V. R., & Reiman, K. M. (April, 2009). Changes in memory with age. East Windsor Senior Center. Trenton, NJ.

**Bireta, T. J., Rosenberg, R. L., & Proverbs, T. R.** (March, 2009). Memory with age: What to expect and ways to improve. Talk for the ECHO (Energetic Citizens Helping Others) group. Ewing, NJ.

**Bireta, T. J., & Wong, J.** (May, 2007). Memory and Aging: How memory changes and techniques for memory improvement. Talk at the Ewing Township Community Center, Ewing, NJ.

## **PEER REVIEWER**

**I have served as a peer-reviewer for the following journals in my field:**

*Acta Psychologica* (2010; 2011 [2 reviews])

*European Journal of Cognitive Psychology* (2008)

*Memory* (2008)

*Memory & Cognition* (2008, 2010; 2011 [2 reviews])