

DONATION TO PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT WILL ENHANCE LEARNING

(Rivier Today, Spring 2013)

An anonymous donation was recently made to the psychology department in memory of Dr. Flora T. Betourne '54/'94G, longtime faculty member and first chairperson of the department of psychology, who passed away in April 2011. Dr. Betourne has been recognized by her colleagues as having provided a solid foundation upon which Rivier's psychology program was built and continues to flourish forty years later.

The donor contacted Dr. Patrice O'Donnell, professor of psychology, and expressed an interest in making a gift to be used for the purchase of new equipment that would enhance the learning of psychology students at Rivier. After assessing what type of equipment might be most beneficial to the psychology program and its students, Dr. Jerome Rekart, associate professor of psychology and education as well as director of the Behavioral Science Laboratory and the M.S. program in experimental psychology, put together a proposal titled "Neurophysiological Recording Instrumentation to Enhance Student Learning."

This generous donation will be used to purchase neurophysiological recording instrumentation equipment to enhance the Behavioral Science Laboratory in Memorial Hall and will allow psychology students at Rivier to measure and study brain activity, as opposed to just cognitive functions. Dr. Rekart explained that this type of equipment is used in the field by behaviorists or practicing psychologists to measure brain activity in patients in applied clinical settings. The equipment is expected to be available in the fall of 2013 and will be integrated into both the undergraduate and graduate psychology programs.

"This donation in honor of Dr. Betourne, with the specific purpose of enhancing the teaching of experimental psychology, is a particularly fitting memorial," said O'Donnell. "She would be thrilled to know that her legacy continues to benefit students in this area." ■