Letter from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Academic year 2014-2015 has been a rewarding one in the Department of Psychology! Despite budget woes at East Carolina University, and the UNC system, we were nevertheless able to welcome four new faculty to the department to replace some who have left for other universities (unfortunately some states are raiding the UNC system). Hope you enjoy reading about our new faculty colleagues featured here. We have had some staff changes, too, and welcomed Pam Hodges, Grants Administrative Support Specialist (because of Vickie Crafford moving to the ECU Office of Grants and Contracts), and Arianna Williams, Travel Assistant (because of Kimrey Miko moving to the Chancellor’s office).

We would like to hear about your accomplishments also. And we deeply appreciate your continuing support. We had a recent monetary donation from one alum who signed his note, “unfortunately not an affluent, but a very appreciative graduate.” Please know that every single alumni gift, whether large or small, provides assistance to our programs, and while we greatly appreciate the monetary support, we also value maintaining the connection with you.

Hope to see you at the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Homecoming Brunch if you are in town this fall for Homecoming.

It’s a great day to be a Psychology Pirate!

Susan McCammon
Chair and Professor

Harriot College Announces Recipients of Inaugural Dean’s Early Career Award

Dr. Matthew Whited of Psychology was one of the first two assistant professors to receive the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Early Career Award, announced Friday, May 15, at a special reception. The award was created to recognize and reward exceptional performance by tenure-track professors. The inaugural award was made possible through the generosity of the Harriot College Advancement Council.

Dr. Whited leads the Depression Specialty Service part of the Department’s Psychology Assessment and Specialty Service (PASS) Clinic. He specializes in behavioral activation and has experience training other clinicians in this treatment approach both regionally and nationally.

Left to right Dr. Robert Carels, Director of Clinical Training, Dr. Matthew Whited, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and Dr. Williams Downs, Dean of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.
New Psychology Faculty

Dr. Kathleen King

Dr. Kathleen King is an Assistant Professor in the Pediatric School Psychology concentration of the Health Psychology PhD program. She earned her PhD in School Psychology from Lehigh University, with a subspecialization in pediatric psychology. Dr. Carels completed his predoctoral internship in integrated behavioral health at the Munroe-Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. O’Dell also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology at Geisinger Medical Center, where he collaborated on a pilot project focused on integrated behavioral health in primary care. Dr. O’Dell’s research interests center on developing the evidence base for and dissemination of interventions to improve educational and behavioral health outcomes within the pediatric population. Dr. O’Dell currently leads a pilot investigation of a family-school intervention for families coping with ADHD to identify factors associated with optimal treatment outcomes. He also collaborates with colleagues at East Carolina University. The University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of Michigan, and Geisinger Medical Center on projects about the sustainability and feasibility of integrated behavioral health service delivery. Outside of career activities, Dr. O’Dell enjoys staying active in writing, performing, and recording music, as well as playing basketball, despite a generally worn out set of ankles and knees.

Dr. Robert Carels

Dr. Robert Carels is a new Professor and the Director of Clinical Training in the Clinical Health Psychology concentration of the Health Psychology PhD program. Dr. Carels received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed his pre-doctoral internship at UNC Hospitals. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Duke University Medical Center in cardiovascular health psychology. Before coming to ECU, Dr. Carels taught for 15 years at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH. At BGSU, he was a Professor and Vice-Chair of Graduate Studies in the Clinical Psychology Program. Dr. Carels conducts research in the areas of obesity treatment and weight stigma. He is interested in applying stepped-care models to the treatment of obesity. His weight stigma research aims to understand why obese individuals are subject to prejudice and discrimination in many walks of life. Dr. Carels and his wife Wendy live in Winterville with their three children Nathan (15), Bethany (11), and Hannah (9). They are enjoying the Greenville community and the school spirit at ECU.

Dr. Sean O’Dell

Dr. Sean O’Dell is an Assistant Professor in the Pediatric School Psychology concentration of the Health Psychology PhD program. He earned his PhD in School Psychology from Lehigh University, with a subspecialization in pediatric psychology. Dr. O’Dell completed his predoctoral internship in integrated behavioral health at the Munroe-Meyer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. O’Dell also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology at Geisinger Medical Center, where he collaborated on a pilot project focused on integrated behavioral health in primary care. Dr. O’Dell’s research interests center on developing the evidence base for and dissemination of interventions to improve educational and behavioral health outcomes within the pediatric population. Dr. O’Dell currently leads a pilot investigation of a family-school intervention for families coping with ADHD to identify factors associated with optimal treatment outcomes. He also collaborates with colleagues at East Carolina University. The University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of Michigan, and Geisinger Medical Center on projects about the sustainability and feasibility of integrated behavioral health service delivery. Outside of career activities, Dr. O’Dell enjoys staying active in writing, performing, and recording music, as well as playing basketball, despite a generally worn out set of ankles and knees.

Alumni Spotlight: Jessica Ford

Jessica Ford (PhD, Clinical Health Psychology), graduated summa cum laude with honors from Mount Olive College, obtaining her BS degree in psychology in 2007. As a child from a military family, she desired to build a career which would serve members of the armed forces via improvement of mental and behavioral health care services. In order to develop a skill set which would serve this aim, she obtained her PhD in Clinical Health Psychology at East Carolina University. While training at ECU, she worked with patients with various behavioral and mental health conditions in diverse medical settings, taught undergraduate psychology courses, and developed a passion for research. Her research in the Cardiac Psychology Lab, under the mentorship of Dr. Sam Sears, has primarily focused on anxiety and medical trauma, especially in the area of intervention development and testing. Her dissertation explored implementation of a brief web-based intervention for patients with Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. She won several research awards for her work at ECU, including the ECU Research Week Best Poster Presentation in the Graduate Social Sciences and the 2013 Psychology Department Graduate Student Research Award. In 2012, she was honored to receive a STEM fellowship with the Department of Defense, the Science, Math, and Research for Transformation Scholarship, which funded her training and connected her with this postdoctoral fellowship opportunity. Dr. Ford recently completed her final year of clinical training in the Behavioral Medicine Track of the Clinical Psychology Residency at the...
Alpert Medical School of Brown University. In Rhode Island, she has had the opportunity to work with several phenomenal clinical supervisors in the areas of primary care psychology, behavioral sleep medicine, and substance use disorders. Two of her three rotations were at the Providence VAMC, where she has the opportunity to serve veterans. She particularly enjoyed work with Dr. Shira Dunsiger, who trained her in mediation modeling of behavioral health intervention clinical trials. She was awarded the Brown Resident Competitive Predoctoral Seed Money Research Grant, which will be used to perform secondary analysis of sedentary activity and cardiac endpoints from a web-based physical activity intervention, under Dr. Dunsiger's advisement and training. This year has been both professionally and personally fulfilling, Jessica and her husband welcomed their first daughter in June of 2014. After residency, she is eager to enjoy motherhood and serve an active duty military population via work with the Health Promotion and Wellness Portfolio in the Army Institute of Public Health of the US Army Public Health Command.

**Occupational Health Psychology**

**Doctoral Program**

Occupational Health Psychology (OHP) is a concentration within our Health Psychology doctoral program; it is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in organizational research and to develop interventions to improve the quality of working life while ensuring organizational productivity. One of the program’s current students completed an internship at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg. On Wednesday 13 May, 2015, Justin Raines was presented with the Commander's Award for Public Service, which is the second highest Public Service Award that can be presented to a civilian volunteer. Group Commanders give out very few of these awards; the award is reserved for those who have made a significant impact on the operations of the 1st Special Warfare Training Group.

Left to right Justin Raines and Dr. Bruce Moyer

**Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Tuan Tran**

Dr. Tuan Tran received his PhD in Psychology with a specialization in Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of South Carolina in 1999. Neuroscience has always been his passion from the very moment he was an undergraduate assistant in the research lab of Dr. Eugene Delay at Regis University in Denver, CO. Inspired by his mentor, Dr. Tran examines animal models of neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative diseases. He studies the consequences of prenatal alcohol exposure, prenatal iron deficiency, and prenatal hormone exposure in rats, in order to characterize the different types of brain damage and behavioral dysfunctions attributed to each type of challenge to the developing fetus. His second line of research involves examination of a mouse model of Alzheimer’s disease. This mouse model mimics the hallmark pathological features of human Alzheimer’s. These mice are then investigated for the type of cellular changes that occur in areas that serve learning and memory, and the type of behaviors that are disrupted. He also examines the potential benefits of pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments in mitigating prenatal exposure to teratogens, and slowing the onset of dementia that leads to Alzheimer’s disease. He currently is completing a grant sponsored by Alzheimer’s NC for his work on how complex cognitive training can facilitate the development of new neurons (brain cells) that mediate learning and memory. Dr. Tran currently supervises 7 undergraduate students of the Neuroscience and Psychology programs and one graduate student in the Psychology General MA Program.

When he is not in his research lab, Dr. Tran directs the Multidisciplinary Studies Program in Neuroscience, which offers BA or BS degrees to highly motivated students that seek an education which spans multiple sciences (e.g., Neuroscience, Psychology, Biology, Chemistry) to understand the fundamentals of the brain-behavior relationship. Students are able to gain actual research experience through the mentorship of the program’s contributing faculty at ECU. This experience opens their minds to the complex world of brain science, how to think critically, and how to communicate their thoughts more effectively. One example of how their work leads to communicative outcomes is the Annual ECU Neuroscience Symposium, sponsored in part by the Neuroscience Program and Neuroscience Student Association. Many of the students are also involved in the Neuroscience Student Association at ECU, whose goal is to extend the reach of neuroscience to the community at large and to serve the community. Dr. Tran is the sponsoring faculty mentor of this organization and its current president is Shayna Mooney, a stellar senior who is pre-admitted to the Brody School of Medicine.
AHEC Presentations

One way the faculty of the Department of Psychology gives back to the community is by partnering with Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) to provide continuing education for the healthcare workforce of NC. Last year’s workshops include:

- ADHD in Children and Adolescents: Useful Resources and Intervention Strategies, Drs. Brandon Schultz and Christy Walcott
- Effective Treatment for People Living with HIV, Dr. Tony Celluci
- Dr. Tony Celluci was also part of a special Eastern AHEC workshop on Substance Abuse Considerations for Emerging Adults at the Naval Hospital/SARP in Camp Lejeune, NC
- Assessment of Treatment Progress, Dr. Matthew Whited
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA): An Overview, Dr. Jen Kazmerski
- Mindfulness for Mental Health Practitioners, Dr. Christyn Dolbier
- Functional Behavior Assessment and Interpreting and Using Results from the Functional Behavioral Assessment, Dr. Jen Kazmerski
- Non-Suicidal Self-Injury: Effective Intervention and Proactive Responses, Dr. Jeannie Golden
- Pediatric Sleep and Sleep Disorders, Drs. Cecelia Valrie and Erik Everhart

Julie Harris Austen Wins APA Award

Julie Harris Austen, PhD (Pediatric School Psychology, 2014) recently received the Distinguished Student Contribution from the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues (Division 44 of the American Psychological Association) at the American Psychological Association Convention in Washington, DC. The Distinguished Student Contribution award goes to a graduate student in psychology who has made a distinguished contribution to research or practice, or who has performed exceptional service to the division. Julie is a co-author of the recently published APA Fact Sheet on Gender Diversity and Transgender Identity in Children. Her doctoral dissertation, “Questioning Questioning” was a qualitative study exploring the phenomenon of questioning in emerging adults, and the identity of those who describe themselves with this label. Having completed her predoctoral internship, Dr. Austen has returned to North Carolina and is employed with the Rural Health Group at Roanoke Rapids. In the photo, she is shown with Dr. Michael L. Hendricks, President of Division 44 of the APA.

Psi Chi ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

Five officers of ECU’s chapter of Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology, took the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in order to earn a pledge of $640 for ALS research. This was done in memory of former ECU Psychology faculty member Charles T. Martoccia, who lived with ALS. You can view a video of the event by visiting the Psychology Department’s Facebook page (facebook.com/ecu.psychology).

Dr. Julie Harris Austen and Dr. Michael L. Hendricks

Pictured are (from left to right): Courtney Parker, Ronnie Rizek, Madison Veasey, Taylor Adams, and Alicia Adams of Psi Chi, followed by Randall Martoccia, Department of English

Thanks to Dr. Karl Wuensch, our scheduling mastermind, we offer the courses needed for our growing Psychology undergraduates (585 declared majors and 201 intended, and 136 minors). Contrast this to 10 years ago, in 2005-06 when we had 297 majors. This growth is despite our recently raising the required GPA to declare Psychology as a major. Last year we raised this requirement from 2.0 to 2.3.
Please consider making a contribution to the Psychology Department!

Checks to ECU Foundation, with Department of Psychology on the memo line, should be sent to:
Office of Gift Records, East Carolina University
Greenville Centre, Suite 1100
2200 South Charles Blvd
Greenville, NC 27858-4353

Thank you to all our donors for the 2014-2015 academic year

Annual Honor Roll of Donors

Hossein Adeli Jelodar
Connie Gail Ballance
Ingrid H. Boneta-Prevatt
Susan Shingleton Boykin
James Kelly Burgin and Jennifer S. Burgin
Larry D. Byrd and Corrinne Byrd
Charles R. Childs
Coca-Cola Foundation
Matthew E. Cosner and Linda Kay Cosner
Ellen M. Eggerding
Edward Eugene English and Gloria English
John R. Poe Jr. and Rose Marie Etheridge
Anna Marie Gaddy
Paul Leon Gipson Jr. and Laura Harrell Gipson
Edith Camilla Harrison
John P. Kelly and Karen Jo Haskett
William Herlie Hendrix and Shena Cooper Hendrix
Charles Albert Herman and Evelyn Carver Herman
Tammy Renee Hurt
David Paul Jenkins
Robert Howard Jenkins and Debra B. Jenkins
Randolph Carlton Jones and Deborah Jones
Emily Ann Kuhl
Andrew R. Lorenz and Mariana Lorenz
Michael McCammon and Susan McCammon
Gilbert Carl Miller Jr. and Karen C. Miller
David Neal Mitchell and Kathryn Crew Mitchell
C. Geoffrey Mitchell
John Perry Monds
Keith Wilder Morgan
Lawrence D. Moy and Sheryl S. Moy
Suellen Muse
David Nash and Zynovia H. Nash
Don Oparaeke and Jacqueline H. Oparaeke
Anthony Carl Petrole and Leslie Meirs Petrole
Pitt Property Management
Christopher Britt Pons and Diane Abramson Pons
James D. Sandlin III and Luanne R. Sandlin
Janet Peel Scott
David E. Shepperson and Eileen Rose Shepperson
Rodney Lee Smith
Joseph Elisha Trachtenberg and Kay M. Trachtenberg
University Book Exchange Inc.
Cecelia Renee Valrie
Theodore Walker Whitley and Lynn Whitley
Christopher G. Whitley and Barbara Drye Whitley
Dan Reed Winslow and Evelyn Winslow
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

- Brittany Segur (BA in Psychology, 2012) is employed as a Psychiatric Evaluator at Coastal Carolina Neuropsychiatric Center in Jacksonville, NC. She performs psychiatric assessments in outpatient clinics, inpatient psychiatric units, and emergency departments. She also performs assessments with patients via telemedicine. She enjoys being a part of this expanding project because it gives her the opportunity to help patients in under-served areas, many of whom would otherwise not have access to psychiatric care. She is credentialed with multiple hospitals across North Carolina, including Vidant Health and several smaller hospitals in rural areas. Her current job sparked her interest in the medical field and has inspired her to pursue a career in medicine. She is applying to medical school.

- Joshua Jones (BA in Psychology, 2014) is currently employed by MasterBrand Cabinets Inc. in Kinston, NC, as a Human Resources Generalist. His major responsibilities include taking care of the staffing needs of the facility (i.e., employee selection, training and development, onboarding), special projects, implementing and improving new and current HR processes, employee engagement, and benefits.

- Kristen Riddick (BA in Psychology, 2014) is a former ECU Psi Chi officer now enrolled in the Master's in General Psychology at North Carolina Central University. Kristen recently presented research that she conducted with Dr. Derrick Wirtz at the Society for Southeastern Social Psychologists Conference in Athens, GA. She is currently a Research Assistant in the NCCU Social Psychology Lab where she assists with projects related to gender differences and depression in minority groups, and is currently pursuing research in the areas of cross-cultural psychology and social activism. Kristen loves her current assistantship and being able to work on a diverse set of projects.

- Chelsea Whitney (BA in Psychology, 2014) went to Officer Candidates School for the Marine Corps this summer and is now a Second Lieutenant. She is currently stationed at Quantico, VA and is going through TBS (The Basic School), which is the Basic Officer's Course for the Marine Corps. It's a 7 month school, followed by her job specialty school which, as yet to be determined. It's been a challenging, but awesome experience! Chelsea plans to one day get her PsyD once she gets out of the Marine Corps.

Our MA, MA/CAS, and PhD programs continue to thrive. We are proud to have had our largest doctoral student graduation yet, with 12 PhD graduates in December (8 in Clinical Health Psychology and 4 in Pediatric School Psychology), and all 6 of our doctoral students participating in the highly competitive national Internship Match process matched at APA-approved or VA programs!