

Ψ PSYC INFO

A Newsletter for Psychology Alumni and Friends

Department of Psychology • Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences • East Carolina University

Greetings from the ECU Psychology Department



KATHLEEN A. ROW, CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the PSYC Info newsletter. This year has been one of challenges and changes. With the state budget crisis, we had to reduce our budget by losing three faculty positions. Since they were lines we were seeking to fill, we did not lose faculty members, but the inability to fill open positions certainly challenges our ability to meet student needs for

instruction and research mentoring. At the same time, we were fortunate to welcome two new faculty who joined us this fall, Drs. Stephen Kilgus and Jennifer Kazmerski, both in the School Psychology program.

Despite the financial challenges, our students and faculty continue to excel. Dr. Heather Littleton received the Eugene Hargrove award from the North Carolina Psychiatric Association and has been nominated for an APA award as an Emerging Leader in the Scholarship and Practice of the Psychology of Women. Drs. Lesley Lutes and Skip Cummings received a \$300,000 grant from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation to study "Empowering rural African American women and communities to improve diabetes outcomes." And Dr. Sam Sears was chosen as the ECU nominee for the O. Max Gardner award, a UNC award for having made the greatest contribution to human welfare.

Dr. Michael Baker has taken on the leadership of the Psi Chi chapter of the undergraduate program and also instituted a Psychology Club. These groups have been active in increasing the opportunities for undergraduates to learn about working with faculty on their research and about a variety of career options. At the same time, Dr. Jon Reed has taken on the position of Director of Undergraduate Studies. Under his leadership, we have continued the development of undergraduate forums on topics of interest, particularly career planning, as well as focused on providing high quality advising.

continued on page 2

NEW PSYC FACULTY

■ *Dr. Jennifer Kazmerski*

Dr. Jennifer Kazmerski received her PhD in School Psychology from Mississippi State University with a training emphasis on behavioral school psychology. She completed her pre-doctoral internship in behavioral pediatrics at the Munroe-Meyer Institute as part of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Kazmerski completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Munroe-Meyer Institute with an emphasis on integrated behavioral health. Dr. Kazmerski is certified as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Her primary research interests include the demonstration of the validity, reliability and utility of functional behavior assessment methods in both school and clinic settings, the role and impact of the psychologist within the medical setting, treatment of sleep and elimination disorders, and applications of time-out procedures. Dr. Kazmerski enjoys traveling. She recently spent the summer exploring Ireland and England.



KAZMERSKI

■ *Dr. Stephen Kilgus*

Dr. Stephen Kilgus received his PhD in School Psychology from the University of Connecticut. He completed his pre-doctoral internship within the Home and School Consultation division of the May Institute, Inc. in Randolph, MA. Dr. Kilgus's primary research interests include the development and evaluation of social behavior assessment tools and procedures. Particularly of interest are measures that may be used in universal screening for students who may be at risk for behavioral problems, and in progress monitoring to assess student response to evidence-based interventions. Moving forward, Dr. Kilgus looks to conduct additional research regarding targeted behavior interventions and the use of technological systems to inform data-based decision making. Dr. Kilgus and his wife Cathryn enjoy the outdoors and look forward to exploring various North Carolina destinations.



KILGUS

Greetings from Dept, *continued*

Dr. Christy Walcott received a Treasured Pirate award for effective leadership, while Drs. Tuan Tran and Jon Reed received Treasured Pirate awards for creativity and initiative. In addition, three students received Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement awards for their research activities: Ben Aydelette, working with Dr. Christyn Dolbier; Lily Medina, working with Dr. Tuan Tran; and Juliann Stalls, working with Dr. Derrick Wirtz. We are proud of these accomplishments of our students and faculty.

We look forward to hearing from you and encourage you to visit the ECU campus and the Psychology building. Our website is www.ecu.edu/psyc; you can send photos and messages for posting to psycalum@ecu.edu or visit our site on Facebook at facebook.com/ecu.psychology.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Row
Chair and Professor

Dr. Marsha Ironsmith Retires

For 35 years, Dr. Marsha Ironsmith has served our university, our department, and most notably our students as a dedicated teacher-scholar and extraordinary mentor both to students and junior faculty. Dr. Ironsmith joined the Psychology Department in 1976, after earning a PhD in Developmental Psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. A common theme throughout her research interests was a focus on developmental change. Her work has included both a basic and applied focus—ranging from understanding the development of reading to mapping out the structure of preschoolers' social interactions to examining and enhancing college students' achievement motivation goals. Through courses such as Research Methods, Directed Research, and Senior Thesis, Dr. Ironsmith has shared her expertise and enthusiasm with students as they learned about the core values of psychology.

Dr. Ironsmith served as Undergraduate Program Director for Psychology twice (1991-1994 and 2008-2011), and she has consistently played active roles in shaping the undergraduate curriculum and mentoring students. Dr. Ironsmith has consistently used innovative instructional methods, including mastery learning and service learning, as well as seminar and lecture formats. Most recently, she developed a special-topics seminar titled, "Learning to Read and Reading to Learn." In the spirit of service learning, this course integrates a rich community service experience (students volunteer weekly at a local after-school program helping children with reading and homework) with classic and current research on the psychology of reading.

Dr. Ironsmith has served on numerous university and departmental committees, including the ECU Faculty Senate, Writing Across the Curriculum Committee, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, and Psychology Department Personnel Committee to name a few. For the past few years she has been chair of the Provost's committee to explore and implement an Honors College at ECU. ECU is currently admitting the third class of students to the new Honors College.

Although we offer Dr. Ironsmith our best wishes for a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement, we also wish to express how much we will miss her as a beloved teacher and colleague.



IRONSMITH

New PhD Concentration in Occupational Health Psychology

The Psychology Department is pleased to announce the creation of an Occupational Health Psychology (OHP) concentration within the Health Psychology doctoral program. Occupational Health Psychology is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to promote the safety, health, and well-being of individuals in work settings through the scientific application of psychological principles. This new doctoral concentration will feature topics in both industrial/organizational and health psychology and will prepare degree recipients to develop healthy workplaces, address organizational safety concerns, and design interventions that enhance the quality of work life. We are very excited about this new offering. Applications for the OHP concentration in Health Psychology will be accepted during the Fall 2012 semester for entrance the following year.

In Memoriam: Dr. Bill Grossnickle

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Dr. Bill Grossnickle passed away on July 1st, 2011. Dr. Grossnickle was a professor in our department for 46 years. Dr. Grossnickle was a popular teacher and was Director of the Graduate General/Theoretic Program for 21 years, developing the Industrial/Organizational specialty. His career was distinguished by his commitment to the University and to his students. Dr. Grossnickle chaired 87 Master's theses. He kept bound copies of his students' theses in stack on a table in his office that went almost to the ceiling. Dr. Grossnickle's former students



GROSSNICKLE

were central to his life; he kept in touch with students for decades and had an office bulletin board covered with letters and pictures. Dr. Grossnickle was legendary in his leadership work with the University Curriculum Committee where he served for 28 years, including as Chair for 22 of those years. In addition, he participated in or led 33 additional university-wide committees, councils and activities. Another omnipresence in Dr. Grossnickle's office was the sound of classical music. He strongly supported public radio and streamed music through his computer (a.k.a., that @#%\$ toy) throughout the day. As a tribute to his memory, the Psychology Department raised enough money to sponsor two full days of music in his honor at WTEB. All through his illness, Dr. Grossnickle faced the end of life in a healthy and direct manner, with his trademark humor and laughter. He continued to root for the Duke Blue Devils. He was supported throughout his illness by his wife, Claire, and her family, his son, Mark, and his family and daughter, Ann and also by his many friends and colleagues from the Psychology Department. He will be sorely missed.



ECU Pass Clinic



This January marked the one year anniversary of the formal opening of the ECU Psychological Assessment & Specialty Services (PASS) Clinic. PASS was established as a center for training in behavioral health services in conjunction with the department's doctoral program in health psychology. The clinic provides behavioral health and health promotion services at low cost to ECU faculty and staff as well as community members. Services are provided by our doctoral students under the direct supervision of licensed psychology faculty.

Located in renovated space on the 3rd floor of the Rawl building, the clinic currently consists of a reception area, three therapy rooms, a psychological testing area, and a group/conference room. In addition, there is a small computer lab for clinicians writing reports or searching health research databases, along with computer scoring software for most major psychological tests. The clinic supports and provides training in evidence-based practice, with a growing collection of treatment manuals. In July, the clinic initiated use of an electronic medical records (EMR) system.

In the last year, the clinic served 104 patients. Presently, there are 15 clinicians working in the clinic across four separate services. The Healthy Weight Service (Dr. Lutes) provides an innovative small changes treatment approach to weight management, improving diet and increasing physical activity, along with offering smoking cessation services with weight gain prevention. The Cognitive-Behavioral Psychotherapy Service (Dr. Cellucci) is primarily for adults suffering from emotional disorders such as anxiety or depression. Psycho-educational evaluations for attention and learning difficulties are also available through the Psychological Adult Assessment Service. This spring, Dr. Kazmerski initiated a new Pediatric Behavioral Health Service to provide comprehensive assessment and treatment services for children, adolescents, and their families dealing with academic, behavioral, developmental, emotional and social issues. The PASS clinic fulfills the program's model of integrating clinical training with other curricular elements to prepare students for the internship year and their career beyond.

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

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

- **Sean Gasperson** (MA in I/O Psychology, 2010) and **Jenna (Hartinger) Gasperson** (MA in I/O Psychology, 2010) are now living in Raleigh, NC. They were married on October 1, 2011 in Fuquay-Varina, NC. Jenna is employed as a survey researcher at RTI International in Research Triangle Park. Sean is pursuing his Ph.D. in I/O psychology at North Carolina State University, and is conducting a variety of research projects. Sean and Jenna are both currently pursuing publication of their ECU master's theses. They credit ECU for providing them with significant professional and personal opportunities.
- **Emily Miller** (BA, 2010) moved to Raleigh after graduation and spent a year working at an Independent Review Board in Research Triangle Park. She moved back to Greenville in 2011 and is now pursuing a master's degree in Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in Health Behavior at East Carolina University. She is also currently working as a graduate assistant in the Department of Public Health. Upon graduating with her MPH, Emily hopes to obtain a position as a health educator in a rural setting.
- **Kenneth W. Phelps** (PhD in Clinical Psychology, Medical Family Therapy) joined the University of South Carolina School of Medicine's Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science in 2010 and serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor and Outpatient Clinic Director. He leads didactics within the department for general and child/adolescent psychiatry residents, including series on family, marital, adolescent, and group therapies. Kenneth was previously employed by the Dartmouth Family Practice Residency Program. Prior to this he obtained a bachelor of arts in psychology in 2004 followed by a master of science in marriage and family therapy.
- **Ellen Ratajack** (MA in Research Psychology, 2011) is currently working as a data analyst for the Chicago Zoological Society, better known as Brookfield Zoo. The majority of her current research focuses on people's attitudes towards climate change and the way in which spirituality and religion may influence their decisions to actively participate in conservation behaviors. She loves working in this new environment; her neighbors are actual baboons and peacocks! Ellen is going to be published for her collaborative work with Dr. Amy Lyndon and others on a special issue about stalking in the journal *Sex Roles: A Journal of Research*. She is enjoying all of her new work experiences and eventually hopes to pursue her PhD in Social Psychology.
- **Kristin Sanderson** (MA in I/O Psychology, 2009) is currently a doctoral candidate in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program at Florida International University in Miami, FL. Since graduating from ECU, Kristin has been published in *The Industrial-Organizational Psychologist* and has presented papers at both SIOP and APA conferences. In fall 2011 Kristin completed her dissertation proposal focusing on individual differences in multitasking ability as a predictor of job performance. She was recently selected as the recipient of the Fraser Award, recognizing exceptional graduate student research in the I/O program at FIU. With the long-term goal of working in organizational consulting, Kristin is gaining applied experience as an intern at a human capital consulting firm. Kristin expects to receive her PhD in 2012.



Department of Psychology
 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
 East Carolina University
 Greenville, NC 27858-4353

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 110
 Greenville, NC

Spring 2012 Psi Chi inductees



This year saw the most inductees in a single semester since 1973, when Dr. Bill Grossnickle was still the group's faculty advisor.

A sincere thank you to all our donors for all the assistance that you provide!

Patrons (\$250-5000)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Dr. Paul W. Killian, Jr.</i> | <i>Dr. Kathleen A. Row</i> |
| <i>Mr. Rodney Lee Smith</i> | <i>SWA Consulting, Inc.</i> |
| <i>Dr. Cathy W. Hall</i> | <i>University Book Exchange</i> |
| <i>Mr. Christopher Britt Pons</i> | <i>Mrs. Patricia M. Moore</i> |

Sustaining members (\$100-250)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ms. Tammy Renee Hurt | Dr. Susan McCammon |
| Ms. Connie Gail Balance | Mrs. Patricia S. Watkins |
| Mr. Alan Dale Thornquest | Mr. Charles Darrell Stout |
| Mrs. Lorraine G. Shinn | Dr. Karen Jo Haskett |
| Dr. Rose Marie Etheridge | Mr. Norman Cox |
| Mrs. Ann Lawrence Connolly | Mrs. Doris Clarke |
| Mrs. Tracy Turpin Kunkler | Mrs. Robyn Pait Lloyd |
| Mrs. Christine Carson Soriano | Dr. Theodore W. Whitley |
| Bank of America | |