



PSYC INFO

FALL
2008

A Newsletter for Psychology Alumni and Friends

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

Greetings to past PSYC graduates and to friends of the department



KATHLEEN A. ROW, CHAIR

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we begin the 2008-2009 academic year, we face a time of economic challenge. However, our human resources are deep as we welcome new faculty members, staff and graduate students to our midst. We have a second-year class of doctoral

students, new first-year classes of school psychology and I/O students, as well as hundreds of new psychology majors. We are in the planning stages for developing a psychology clinic and looking toward the accreditation process for the health psychology doctoral program.

Dr. Marsha Ironsmith has taken over as Undergraduate Director from Dr. Bob Denney, who recently retired. Drs. Jeannie Golden and Laura Anderson have received a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation to provide mental health services in Greene County. Dr. Chris Riley-Tillman has published a new book on school-based behavior assessment, and Dr. Scott Methe received a grant from the Society for the Study of School Psychology.

These are just a few of the exciting new developments taking place this year. What are the new developments in your life? We look forward to hearing from you at psychalum@ecu.edu, and encourage you to stay in touch via the departmental Web site, www.ecu.edu/psyc. You are one of our most valuable resources, and we encourage you to visit the Department of Psychology when in Greenville.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Row

NEW 2008 PSYC FACULTY

■ Jennifer Bowler

Dr. Jennifer Bowler, Assistant Professor, earned a BS in psychology with a neuroscience concentration from Duke University, an MA in experimental psychology from the College of William & Mary, and a PhD in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of Tennessee. She has consulted on private sector companies and completed projects with the U.S. Special Operations Forces at Fort Bragg. Her research interests include the development of alternative personality measures, the impact of aggression and addiction on organizational behavior, and the identification of factors that augment employee creativity. She and her husband Mark welcomed their first



BOWLER

child, Mason, in June and are enjoying the humor-filled adventures of new parenthood.

They also have two dogs, Daisy and Gatsby, and a tabby cat, Crash. Dr. Bowler was raised in Davidson, N.C., and she enjoys playing the piano and the flute. Although she is a faithful Blue Devils basketball fan, her football loyalties are decidedly purple and gold!

■ Lisa Campbell

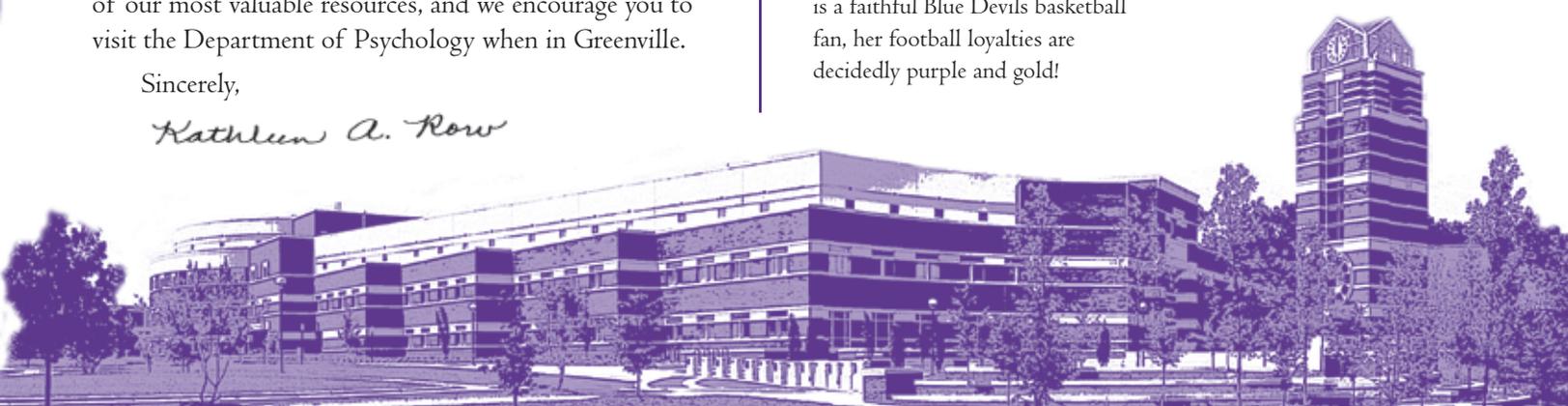
Dr. Lisa Campbell joined the psychology faculty in January 2008 as an Assistant Professor, and she is also the Associate Director of the new Center for Health Disparities Research at ECU. She received a BA degree from Yale University, MS and PhD degrees from the University of Florida, and completed



CAMPBELL

a postdoctoral fellowship in Behavioral Medicine at Duke University Medical Center. Her research focuses on developing culturally sensitive psychosocial and behavioral interventions to enhance post-treatment quality of life in African American prostate cancer survivors. To ensure the relevance of her work to communities in need, she works closely with several community organizations that are known for making a difference in the health of African American communities in central and eastern North Carolina, including 100 Black Men Inc, and the Minority Prostate Cancer Awareness Action

continued on page 2



New PSYC Faculty, *continued*

Team. Lisa says partnerships between engaged academic institutions and community organizations hold the greatest promise for reducing the burden of prostate cancer in African American communities.

■ **Mary Johnson**

Dr. Mary Johnson, a new Teaching Assistant Professor, is familiar with ECU, having obtained her MA degree in research psychology here. Dr. Johnson earned her PhD at the



JOHNSON

University of North Carolina at Greensboro and has come back to academia after spending six years with her son and husband on a small, remote, off-the-grid island in the Pacific Northwest. She is happy to be teaching again, especially at a place where she has so many fond memories. Dr. Johnson would love to talk about her experiences in sustainable development with any who are interested.

■ **Heather Littleton**

Dr. Heather Littleton joined the Psychology Department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Littleton earned her BA from Clemson



LITTLETON

University and her MS and PhD in clinical psychology from Virginia Tech. She completed a two year postdoctoral fellowship in clinical health psychology and women's health at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Before joining the psychology department at ECU, she was an Assistant Professor at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Dr. Littleton has research interests in women's health, including how victims conceptualize and recover from sexual assault, how individuals cope with traumatic experiences, predictors and consequences of body image concerns, and the im-

part of women's mental health during pregnancy on pregnancy outcomes. Overall, her emphasis is on developing a better understanding of important problems affecting women and how to improve women's health. In her free time, Heather enjoys Middle Eastern dance, hiking with her husband Tony and two dogs, and trying to squeeze in all of her other hobbies and interests!

■ **Lesley Lutes**

Dr. Lesley Lutes is a new Assistant Professor in our clinical health psychology PhD program. Dr. Lutes is originally from Canada and completed her undergraduate degree in psychology in Montreal, Quebec. She completed her master's degree in health and exercise science, with a specialty in health psychology, at



LUTES

Wake Forest University before receiving her PhD in clinical psychology from Virginia Tech. For the past four years, Dr. Lutes has been on faculty at Northern Arizona University, where her work has focused on innovative treatments for obesity in children, adults and families, with an emphasis on underserved, rural populations. Dr. Lutes is very excited to be back in North Carolina and knowing that ECU is a place where she can help advance the state's commitment to reversing the increasing trend of obesity in adults and children by 2012. When not working, Dr. Lutes loves to spend time with her partner, Derrick, and their dogs.

■ **Tamara Warner**

Dr. Tamara Warner is an Assistant Professor who comes to ECU from the University of Florida, where she served on the faculty in the Department of Pediatrics for several years. Dr. Warner earned her AB degree from Harvard University, an MA from the University

of Michigan, and her PhD degree in Clinical and Health Psychology from the University of Florida, where she specialized in neuro-



WARNER

psychology. She completed her clinical internship from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Originally from Charleston, W.Va., she is proud her Appalachian roots and calls herself a "mountain Mama." Dr. Warner's research interests include health disparities in child mental health and chronic illnesses, as well as attention and executive functioning in a variety of clinical populations. She has published in the areas of learning disabilities and the developmental effects of exposure to prenatal drugs. Dr. Warner is looking forward to enjoying four seasons again and hopes to get back to beadwork and scrapbooking, when her preschooler Jameson is a little older.

■ **Derrick Wirtz**

Dr. Derrick Wirtz joins the Department of Psychology as an Assistant Professor after four years as an Assistant Professor of psychology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. A native of Illinois, Dr. Wirtz received his BA, MA, and PhD degrees in social and personality psychology from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. His research interests include understanding how emotion informs our everyday decisions and judgments, particularly those concerning our happiness and well-being. In the classroom, Dr. Wirtz has remained active in exploring new ways to improve psychology students' success and engage them in research. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, backpacking and camping. After four years in the desert Southwest, Dr. Wirtz looks forward to canoeing and kayaking the waters of North Carolina with his partner, Lesley, and their two dogs.



WIRTZ

DEPARTING PSYC FACULTY

Beverly Harju Retires

Dr. Beverly Harju is retiring from her rewarding 15 years in the Psychology Department at ECU, where she became an Associate Professor and director of the MA clinical program. Dr. Harju graduated from the California School of Professional Psychology in San Diego before working as a psychologist at the counseling center at the University of California at San Diego. While at UC San Diego, she worked in the international college; this involvement and her previous travels indirectly led her to ECU. While at a conference in Tampere, Finland, Dr. Harju met Dr. Tom Long from the ECU Psychology Department. Four months later, they were married, and Dr. Harju came to ECU. She has a full life,



Dr. Harju on a solo mountain hike near Lhasa, Tibet.

continued on page 4

"Through knowing myself I come to know others."

— Beverly Harju



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The Privateer Organization

The Privateer Organization, consisting of ECU Health Psychology students, was formed in August to encourage doctoral-level students to give back to their community in meaningful ways, while capitalizing on their unique skill set. Melissa Matchett, Postdoctoral Fellow, and Sam Sears, Director of the Health Psychology program, coordinated the first Privateer event. Doctoral students held a Pirate carnival for patients at the Pitt County



The Privateer Org. volunteer group: (L ot R) Kari Kirian, Ajlana Music, Camela McDougald, Taylor Garboski, Sam Sears, Katie Buck, Emily Steinbaugh, and Melissa Matchett.

Memorial Hospital Children's Hospital. Pediatric patients and members of the Privateer Organization interacted through games, coloring and visitation. The Privateer Organization aims to conduct at least two more volunteer events throughout the next year. At their second planning meeting, members discussed an end-of-year project identifying a health-related need in the community, such as a lack of health care resources for Hispanic individuals, and meeting that need through an event or collaborative project with healthcare providers in the community. Ideas include conducting a Health Awareness Day, or distributing Spanish health care materials to primary care centers.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Thomas Craig Williams (1980 BA, 1983 MA in I/O Psychology) earned his PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology in 1990 from North Carolina State University and was appointed Vice President, Global Organizational Effectiveness for Wal-Mart Inc. based at Wal-Mart's home office. Thomas is responsible for organizational design, job design, job evaluation, associate selection strategy, organizational assessment, survey research, and enterprise performance management.

Mark Wisniewski (1987 MA, I/O Psychology). After spending 10 years in organizational change consulting with PricewaterhouseCoopers and IBM Business Consulting Services, Mark is now a Senior Program Manager at Dell Inc. in the department of Diversity and Inclusion. Mark is responsible for education and training associated with diversity and inclusion. He runs a career management program for diverse talent, and is responsible for helping employees work cross-borders through the use of a Web-based tool that builds cross-cultural competence.

Kenneth Phelps (2004, BA) earned an MA in Marriage and Family Therapy and is currently a doctoral student in the nation's first Medical Family Therapy PhD program at ECU. Kenny has worked in Labor and Delivery, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. He has presented

research at conferences on collaborative and integrated care. Kenny currently lives with his wife, Lauren Phelps, (ECU MBA Spring 2006), in Rocky Mount, N.C. Kenny will complete his dissertation on the biopsychosocial and spiritual experiences of underserved patients with Type-2 diabetes.

Jessica Johnson (2006, MA in Research Psychology) is currently in the Social Psychology doctoral program at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is learning how to develop and evaluate HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention programs for the urban, African-American population. Jessica has worked on a culturally-tailored HIV and substance abuse prevention program for adolescents, a culturally tailored HIV prevention program, and a longitudinal study on smoking/drug use for adolescents. Jessica continues to teach at VCU and John Tyler Community College and plans to graduate in Fall 2009.

Steven Hardy (2007, MA in Research Psychology) is in his second year of the Clinical Health Psychology Ph.D. program at UNC Charlotte. He is working on an grant-funded pediatric asthma education program to improve symptom perception and monitoring. He is also investigating posttraumatic growth, quality of life, and metabolic control in children with Type I diabetes. He is completing his practicum experience

and seeing patients from a pediatric hematology/oncology clinic.

Alexandra Stang (2007, BA) has begun her second year of medical school at the ECU Brody School of Medicine. She is president of the Psychiatric Medicine Interest Group and received the Huffman Award last year, presented annually to the first-year medical student who has demonstrated "the highest level of academic achievement and personal stature throughout the year." Alex has also published in *type.cast*, an art and literary publication run by medical students at the school.

Kirsten Lee (2007, BA) is in her second year at North Carolina Central University School of Law and expects to graduate with a Juris Doctorate in 2010. Kirsten interned at a district attorney's office and lived in London while studying international law. She is the secretary for the class of 2010 and is on the trial team for the Black Law School Association. She will take the domestic violence clinic in next fall, and will have the opportunity to give supervised legal assistance. Kirsten also will continue studying international human rights law.

The Psychology Alumni Fund

The growth of the department in recent years has created exciting opportunities for teaching, research, and service in psychology at East Carolina University. The initiation of the doctoral program in health psychology has further strengthened our department's commitment to student development. The Department of Psychology endeavors to provide a first-class environment for students, state-of-the-art training, cutting-edge research, and unmatched service to patients and the community. Our alumni continue to be a key source of support in each of these areas. **By your contributions to the ECU Foundation, with designation to the Department of Psychology, you can help provide support for graduate students in all programs (School Psychology, I/O and Health Psychology) to attend conferences, receive support in the summer sessions and compete for funds to carry out their thesis and dissertation research.**

Both one-time gifts and regular donation cycles help us reach goals that will help our students. Please consider a donation to the ECU Foundation, with Department of Psychology on the memo line: Office of Gift Records, East Carolina University, Greenville Centre, Suite 1100, 2200 South Charles Boulevard, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.

If you have information to share,
please send it to:



Retiring PSYC Faculty, *continued*

enjoying what she does and doing what she enjoys. She is amazed that she is paid to keep learning. In her words, clinical psychology is “where it’s really at. I like the saying, “Through knowing myself I come to know others.””

Dr. Harju considers the mind-body relationship important; she has interests in mindfulness meditation and positive psychology, as well as a love of sports, including bicycling, marathon running, softball and cross-country and downhill skiing. She’s active in the Senior Games and feels pride that her research with Dr. Jon Reed opened up a new area of implicit and explicit attitudes related to exercise. Another interest is peace work, to which she will devote more time after retirement, along with working at her church and some clinical practice. She says that “retirement is both a joy and a sadness,” as she will miss seeing her colleagues every day, but she looks forward other pursuits, continuing her world travels and perhaps writing a book. In addition to previous six-month stints each at Hiroshima, Japan, and Tampere, Finland, Dr. Harju planned to travel to India and to Nepal — considering previous travel in Tibet, she will have literally been around the world.

John Childers Retires

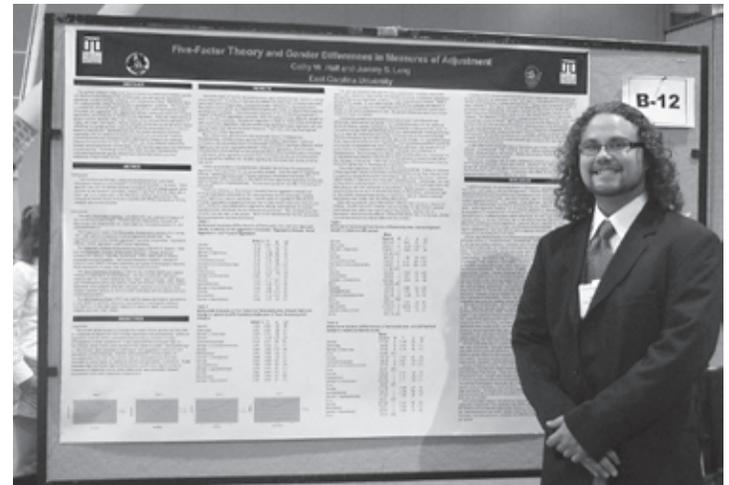
For more than 40 years, John Childers has been a fixture at East Carolina University. He completed both his BA in psychology and then later his MA in clinical psychology in 1972. Dr. Childers taught at ECU and Pitt Community College, and he worked at the Pitt County Mental Health Center, becoming the Director of the Testing Center in the Psychology Department, a position he held for twenty years until 1992.



Dr. Childers with shades on, already pondering his busy retirement plans.

He earned his PhD at North Carolina State University, while maintaining his full-time work here at ECU. Dr. Childers contributed to the test development and validation phases for many of the well-known and respected instruments in clinical use. He has also worked as a consultant to mental health centers, public school systems and state residential facilities for the developmentally disabled.

Dr. Childers is passionate about sports, and he helped form a softball team of ECU professors for several years. Over the past few years, Dr. Childers could be found during spring break driving a group of psychology professors around central Florida as they watched major league spring training games. In recent years, Dr. Childers has been actively involved in mental health consultations with hospitals in questions of involuntary commitment, has evaluated nursing home patients to insure quality of care, and has volunteered with EMT and fire/rescue departments. As he enters retirement, Dr. Childers will be able to spend more time with Beth, his wife of forty years, his two children, Steve and Amy, and his grandchildren in Virginia. As long as there are children, grandchildren and baseball, he will have plenty to keep him busy.



POSTER PRESENTED: Jeremy Long presented a conference poster at the 116th American Psychological Association conference in Boston, Mass.



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