



EKU Department Psychology Newsletter

Eastern Kentucky
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Dr. Don Beal Retiring

In May, 2012 an ECU Psychology Department icon, Dr. Don Beal, will be retiring. Dr. Beal has been teaching in our Department of Psychology since 1987 and has served as the coordinator of the Clinical Psychology Master's Program since 2003. He has been a beloved instructor, advisor, and mentor for graduate students. He has taught countless graduate students a variety of skills, including administering the SCID, interpreting the MMPI-II, clinical diagnosis, dancing the Texas two-step and the salsa. It would be difficult to quantify the amount of support that Dr. Beal has provided to graduate students through the years. Many students are still quoting his clinical practice guidelines years into their own professional practice. Dr. Beal has also brought linguistic diversity into the department with his research on validating major clinical measures with populations speaking Spanish, Russian, and other languages. He has donated his time to translate materials for social and mental health agencies working to expand their services to linguistically diverse populations.



To round out his scholarly and clinical teaching and mentorship, Dr. Beal is an excellent leader in the area of celebrating student and faculty achievements. Dr. Beal has been organizing graduate faculty meetings to end each semester and assess student performance and candidacy for many years. He not only pulls all of the faculty together to collaborate on the best way to promote student progress but also provides refreshments to add to the camaraderie of these duties.

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Dr. Beal Retirement

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Similarly, along with his years of closely monitoring graduate student performance on internship and in practicum sites, Dr. Beal also initiates opportunities for students to celebrate accomplishments, such as a group dinner at the end of the internship semester. Dr. Beal's reception and celebration skills have also been put to use for the entire department. Many of us have enjoyed one of the graduation receptions "catered" and organized by Dr. Beal and his wife, Rayma.

Almost all of you have seen Dr. Beal's photographic celebrations. He follows a sample of both undergraduate and graduate program graduates as they leave ECU, go into the workplace, or go on to graduate school. He posts updates about their status so that students currently going through ECU's program can see the different paths that alumni are following. He also solicits faculty input to select outstanding seniors each year and features their photo and accomplishments in the department. He photographs the department faculty and manages to make us all look pretty good.

It would be impossible to capture every service that Dr. Beal has performed for the university or to catalogue the breadth and depth of his scholarship and contributions to student scholarship and training. It is clear that he will be missed and that no single person can fill the gap he will leave in our department. We appreciate his years of contributions and look forward to following him as he "graduates" from our department and goes on to other life pursuits.

Letter from the Department Chair

These are challenging times here in Colonel Country. Ever-tightening budgets, and cuts to programs, services, and resources, have created more than a little turmoil across campus. But I'm happy to report that the state of the department remains strong.

As you'll read in this edition of the PsyQ, our students and faculty have been busy making lemonade out of lemons. Undergraduate and graduate students have continued their active involvement in research and professional development. They and their faculty mentors presented work at state, regional, national, and international conferences from Evansville, Indiana to New Orleans, to Puerto Rico. Fifteen undergraduate and 5 graduate students presented at this year's KPA Spring Academic Conference. Students Cody Ison and Linzy Justice won the KPA Undergraduate Poster Award and Tina Wall and Kathryn Applegate were runners-up for the Graduate Paper Award. Dr. Wygant delivered the keynote address, Connecting the Dots Between Faculty Mentorship and Student Involvement.

Student participation in these invaluable experiences happens because of the generous financial support of our alumni, current and former faculty, and friends. Your contributions to the Psychology Development Fund make it possible for us to fund student travel, conference registration, and the cost of research materials, despite our strained budget. 100% of the money dispersed from the Development Fund is used for student activities. All of us, students, faculty, and staff, deeply appreciate your support. (Continued on p. 3)

Letter from the Department Chair

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We have seen a significant increase in enrollment across all of our programs. With over 650 undergraduate Psychology majors, nearly 50 Animal Studies majors, and 70 graduate students, we're among the largest departments on campus. But, we're not resting on our laurels. We have taken an active role in the University's stepped-up recruiting activities. Our new e-Campus online degree program is approaching an enrollment of 100 and is off to the strongest start of any online program in Eastern's history. We expect to have 150 students by the fall semester. Through the hard work and dedication of a majority of our full-time faculty (and a number of adjunct faculty and course facilitators), the e-Campus program is making a high-quality ECU Psychology education available to students who would otherwise be denied the opportunity.



This summer, June 17th through 22nd, the Department is hosting Inner Space Camp. ISC is a residential camp, modeled after the Foster Music Camp, aimed at bringing outstanding high school students interested in psychology to our campus. Under the direction of ECU Psychology graduate Cheryl Ramey, campers will spend a week with our faculty (and some undergraduate student counselors) immersed in the study of topics ranging from clinical, cognitive, developmental and forensic psychology, to sensation and perception, neuroscience, and animal behavior. If you'd like to learn more about the camp, visit our website: www.psychology.ecu.edu/live-think-existpsychology.

Speaking of challenges, the Department will be losing two outstanding faculty members at the end of this academic year. Dr. Don Beal is retiring from ECU after 25 years of service, including 10 years as the coordinator of the Clinical Master's program. Dr. Rose Perrine has accepted the position of Interim Associate Dean of University Programs at ECU. Fortunately, Rose is only moving across the street (and I hope will remain available to answer my endless questions about curriculum details, edit my writing, and share with me the latest university gossip) and Don has agreed to continue serving as the official department photographer. We all wish them well in their new endeavors.



With apologies to Garrison Keillor and A Prairie Home Companion, that's the news from the ECU Psychology Department, where the students are above average, the faculty and staff are strong, and the Department Chair is good looking. If you're in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

KPA Conference Summary

This year, several faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students participated and presented in the Kentucky Psychological Association's Annual Student Mentoring Conference in Lexington. Undergraduates Cody Ison and Linzy Justice, along with graduate student Tina Wall and Dr. Dustin Wygant, received the first place undergraduate poster prize for their poster "Cross-validation of the MMPI-2-RF indices of psychopathy in a criminal offender sample." In addition, graduate students Tina Wall and Kathryn Applegate (also mentored by Dr. Wygant), won the second place graduate paper presentation prize for their presentation, "Differential assessment of depression and anxiety symptoms with the MMPI-2-RF."



Drs. Osbaldiston and Gore also mentored undergraduate posters, many of which came from students enrolled in Dr. Osbaldiston's new course, "Preparing for Graduate School." More of our psychology majors participated in the KPA conference this year than any previous year and we look forward to continuing this annual tradition.

Dr. Gore Receives Award for Excellent Research



Dr. Jonathan Gore was given the 2011/2012 College of Arts and Sciences' Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award in the area of social and behavioral sciences. In the past five years, he has published 20 research articles and book chapters on his research, which examines the self-concept, goal motivation, personality, and culture.

Some of his work that has received attention includes an examination of how Appalachian students perceive their university depending on the degree to which they adhere to collectivistic values. Other studies have examined how personality traits, such as narcissism and conscientiousness, are associated with prejudice against immigrants and helping behavior. His work on relational goal motivation (i.e., pursuing goals in the interest of close others), and how this differs across cultures, has received the most recognition internationally. In 2010, he presented this work to an audience of social psychologists at the annual conference of the Association of Psychological Science.

Dr. O'Malley Visits from Butler University



Dr. Alison O'Malley, Assistant Professor at Butler University (Indianapolis, IN) gave a colloquium on February, 17. This event was supported by I-O Club. Dr. O'Malley received Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational psychology from the University of Akron. The colloquium "Don't be such a downer: Positive perspectives on feedback dynamics" showcased her expertise and research in performance feedback and positive psychology. Dr. O'Malley presented personal and environmental factors that encourage people to seek feedback on their performance and discussed a role of emotions in the feedback process. The discussion with the audience extended to the implications to work and educational settings.

Dr. O'Malley's presentation was designed to cater a wide variety of audiences. In light of this, students from two introductory level classes joined alongside the I-O students and faculty during the colloquium. The presentation was very illuminating. Dr. O'Malley brought a sense of humor along with her expertise and the combination of the two made for a very intriguing and compelling hour-long session. Many of the undergraduate students seemed engaged as she spoke about performance feedback and performance management in the workplace. Despite some of the complexities in her work, she was successfully able to convey the material to those who were less experienced. The I-O students and faculty were very impressed with her work, and we also hope that this colloquium generated some interest in the I-O field for the undergraduate psychology students as well. Dr. O'Malley is certainly welcomed back to revisit ECU anytime.

Psychology Student Receives Deans List Award

Hannah Schmitz is one of our outstanding seniors. She was recently selected to receive the Dean's Award of Merit and the Psychology Department's prestigious Clark Hull Award for Academic Excellence. She was the recipient of last year's Dr. Douglas and Nancy Hindman Professional Scholarship and was also listed on the ECU President's Honor List from 2009-2011 and the SC4 President's Honor List from 2006-2007. And lastly, she is the outgoing President of our ECU Psi Chi Chapter and an ECU CAS Dean Student Advisory Board Member.

Hannah will be graduating this May and is interested in pursuing a graduate degree in cognitive development and early childhood education. Her long term professional goal is to conduct research in the cognitive development field of study and teach at a university. We congratulate her and wish her the very best in her future academic pursuits and career.

Graduate Program Updates

I/O Program Update

The I/O program currently has four second year students and six first year students who have spent the spring semester working with several faculty on a variety of projects. In the spring practicum (PSY843), the second year students (Bret Alexander, Vanessa Newton, Luke Unker, and Lyna Yi) are using their expertise to further improve the I-O program by creating a multi-rater assessment system to assist I-O students' professional development. Students have identified important skills and abilities to succeed in the ECU I-O program. When implemented, this system would provide each I-O graduate student an opportunity to receive feedback from his/her professors, GA supervisors and peers multiple times during their study at the graduate program.

In Training (PSY 875), Luke Unker has been developing an *Onboarding* (Orientation/Socialization) training course for Lectrodryer, in Richmond. Bret Alexander is creating a training course for the Lexington Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission on *Strategies for Dealing With Difficult People*. Vanessa Newton has created a training course on Bloodborn Pathogens for Mayfair Manor of Lexington. Lyna Yi is creating an *Evacuation Procedures* training course for Patty A. Clay Hospital in Richmond. Lyna's training course will require participants to practice transporting realistic mannequins during a simulated emergency. Both Lyna and Vanessa will be delivering at least one real training session to actual client participants. Additionally, Vanessa is creating a training course for *Peer Mentors* for ECU's Campus Recreation.

In the months of April and May 2012, the Industrial Psychology (PSY 844), the first year students will be delivering real workshops to real clients through the ECU Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Justin Wright and Gavin Spaeth will teach *Interviewing and General Selection Methods*. Nichole Zimmerman and Matthew Petrella will teach *Job Analysis and Progressive Discipline*. Tela Davis and Joshua Hager will teach the *Fair Labor Standards Act and Human Resources Law*.

Outside the classroom, Tela Davis and Gavin Spaeth are working with Dr. Nakai in a collaborative project with the University of Kentucky Institute for Workplace Innovation (iwin). As a part of the institute's Kentucky Aging Workforce initiative, Gavin and Tela are in process of developing a multi-generational workforce assessment for the organizations. Five of the I-O students (Joshua Hager, Vanessa Newton, Matthew Petrella, Gavin Spaeth, and Lyna Yi) headed to San Diego for the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) between April 25th and 28th. Vanessa Newton has represented ECU I-O program at the 4th Annual SIOP Master's Student Consortium as one of the sixty students who were selected to attend this consortium.

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I-O graduate students continue to get involved in the community. At the end of the fall semester, I-O Club delivered 112 gifts to the Madison Tower community in Richmond. The gift trees from Powell and Cammack Building resulted in a total of 70 gifts and \$500 to purchase additional gifts. We would like to thank everyone who provided warm support to this cause!



Dr. Winslow Delivers Lecture in Chautauqua Series

Dr. Matthew Winslow delivered a lecture in EKU's prestigious Chautauqua Lecture Series on April 26. The series theme this year is *Living With Others*, and Dr. Winslow's lecture, "Walking a mile in your shoes" focused on the role of empathy in social interaction. Dr. Winslow (with Dr. Myrabeth Bundy) has taught a capstone course on empathy for the last five years, and his research focuses on empathy's ability to reduce social problems like prejudice, aggression, and attribution errors. Currently Dr. Winslow (with Dr. George Landon, Computer Science) is developing software that he hopes will train people to be better perspective takers, a key element of empathy. His hope is to develop the software for mobile platforms like smartphones so that people could play the game like they play Angry Birds or Draw Something. Dr. Winslow's lecture covered the definition of empathy, why it's important, the barriers to empathy, and how we can make people better empathizers.



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School Program Update

The graduate students of the School Psychology Program have been very active this year. We are proud to say that several of our students volunteered to assist with the crisis intervention, organized by KAPS, to assist the students and teachers of West Liberty following the devastating tornados that took place there. Dr. Nowak and Dr. Strait also participated in this effort. We are very impressed with our students' willingness to give of their time to participate in such an important effort and would like to recognize each of the students who participated. Student participants included: Eric Muncie, Stacy English, Kyle Barnette, Julie Noble, and Katie Moore.

Several of our students also joined Dr. Florell and Dr. Nowak at the NASP conference this year. These students included: Eric Muncie, Julie Noble, Jennifer Bowling, Savannah Byrne, Rachel DeMers, Benjamin Vonderschmitt, Allison Willis, Katie Moore, Jenny Walker, and Carolyn Burke. We are again very proud of the commitment our students have to the field of school psychology!

General Program Update

The General Psychology Masters program is thriving. Ayarza Manwaring completed her thesis with Dr. Winslow on the impact of reality television on women's body image, and Nannan Li completed her thesis with Dr. Bundy on the validation with of the Childhood Autism Rating Scale and the Gilliam Autism Rating Scale using a Chinese-speaking sample. Rexena Napier, a graduate of the program, has recently published an article with Dr. Winslow on social psychological influences on perceptions of gay marriage. Lyn Thompson and Amber Acke, both working with Dr. Mitchell, plan to complete their theses this summer. Lyn's thesis examines Krafft-Ebing's epic *Psychopathia Sexualis* to see if there is any evidence provided in his sex histories that can be examined in relation to modern theories of the development of sexual desire, and Amber's thesis examines dog's skill in detecting deception by people.

Students Attend Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Dr. Wygant took 7 students with him to present at the 2012 meeting of the American Psychology Law Society (APLS) last March in San Juan, Puerto Rico. APLS is the division of forensic psychology with the American Psychological Association. These students presented on several topics during paper presentations and posters, with topics ranging from the psychopathic personality to detecting malingering (i.e., faking) in disability evaluations. Pictured here in front of one of their posters is (L-R): Jennifer Stanley, Hannah Sutherland, Cody Ison, Tina Wall, Kathryn Applegate, Jessica Jacobs, and Dustin Wygant. In addition to the conference, the students had fun exploring Old San Juan!



Psychology Student Accepted into Law-Psychology Program

Only a sophomore at Eastern Kentucky University, Jessica Jacobs is already looking ahead to graduate school and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

Now this first-generation college student from Leitchfield and a 2010 graduate of Grayson County High School has a head start on the competition.

Jacobs recently learned she has been accepted into the Access Path to Psychology and Law Experience (APPLE) program. As one of only two APPLE scholars nationally – the other an Ivy Leaguer at Brown University – she will receive up to \$3,000 to support her development in the field of law-psychology through research with Dr. Dustin Wygant of EKU's psychology faculty.

“This program is going to give me an edge in getting into graduate school, and it is allowing me to really start early on getting research experience that a lot of people don't get until they're already in graduate school,” said Jacobs, a psychology major with a deviance/criminology minor and a member of EKU's nationally prominent Honors Program.

After Jacobs earned an 'A' in Wygant's Abnormal Psychology class in Spring 2011, she worked with a graduate student on a research project related to incarcerated offenders who completed various personality and psychopathy measures. Eventually, she earned co-authorship on an abstract submitted for presentation at the 2012 AP-LS meeting.

Wygant was a “little shocked” at the quality of Jacobs' writing, noting that it was more on par with what he expected to find with first-year graduate students. “I see Jessica as a talented student who has the intellect and drive to succeed academically. The APPLE program can take that drive and put in place a solid opportunity to be exposed to forensic psychological research and give her the guidance she needs to take her academic training to the next level.”

Jacobs will work with Wygant on a research project investigating the proposed DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD) in a sample of 300 inmates in a medium-security prison near Danville. The inmates will complete an extensive five-hour battery of clinical interviews. “Jessica will have the opportunity to actively participate in the data collection process for this study (and) an opportunity to attend an extensive training program that will cover neuropsychological test administration and clinical interviewing, in addition to training on how to research psychopathology,” Wygant said.

Earning co-authorship on the research, Jacobs is then expected to be a presenter at the AP-LS conference next spring in Portland, Ore.

Jacobs said Wygant encouraged her to apply for the APPLE program.

“I never would have heard of it otherwise and, even if I had, I probably wouldn't have applied for it without his encouragement and support,” she said. “I also owe a lot of appreciation to everyone in our research group, especially to Kathryn Applegate and Tina Wall. They have been extremely supportive of me and included me and a few other undergraduate students in a poster presentation that we presented at the AP-LS conference this year.”

Alumni Updates

Ben Burton

Degree Awarded: Masters of Science in Clinical Psychology

Date of Graduation: 1988

He is currently the Executive Director of Sacramento Steps Forward (sacramentstepsforward.org) and working with the City of Sacramento to head up all of its services for homeless people. Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson said of Ben, "Along with his strong commitment to homeless prevention, affordable housing, and anti-poverty issues, we believe that Ben's skills make him the ideal leader to make Sacramento Steps Forward into the national model we envision." Prior to moving to California, Ben served as the Executive Director of the Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. He has been a member of the board of the National Coalition for the Homeless and was named the 2010 Volunteer of the Year by the Florida Association for Community Action. Ben earned his BA degree in biology from Emory University and, after graduating from ECU, completed the Health Professions Program at Harvard University.



Greg Stoner

Degree Awarded: Bachelors of Science in Psychology

Date of Graduation: 1970

After graduation with his BS degree he obtained his Masters in Non-School Counseling in 1971. He then became the second admissions counselor hired at ECU in the fall of 1971. He spent the last 24 years of his career working in the Human Resources management field. He and his wife, Gail retired in 2005 and currently live in the Deep Creek

Charlie Sawyer

Degree Awarded: Masters of Science

Date of Graduation: 1984

Retired from Seven Counties Services after 26 years of service in Child and Family Therapy. He is currently working for Guardian Professional Services at the Hazelwood Center in Louisville, KY.

Let's Hear from Alumni

We love to hear from our alumni. After a rough past couple of years in publishing the PsyQ, we want to know what you have been up to so that we can expand our alumni update section in the PsyQ. Please send us your updates by e-mailing Dan Florell at dan.florell@eku.edu. You can also submit your updates to Dan Florell by accessing the Psychology Department at www.psychology.eku.edu. This page will provide you with an Alumni link where the Alumni Questionnaire is located.



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