



# EKU Department of Psychology Newsletter

Eastern Kentucky University

Spring 2013

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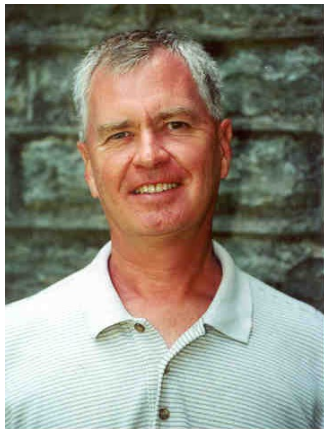
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**Outstanding Visionary Leader Award**  
Dr. Brubaker



**Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award**  
Dr. Mitchell



**Golden Apple Award Winner**

Cheryl Ramey

Nominees:  
Emmy Durall  
Rosanne Lorden  
Teri Nowak

**Critical Thinking Teacher of the Year**

Myra Beth Bundy

Nominees:  
Cathy Clement,  
Jon Gore  
Emily Lykins  
Robert Mitchell  
Robert Osbaldiston,  
Roseanne Lorden  
Matthew Winslow

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## Letter From the Department Chair

Despite the angst generated by budget cuts and the search for a new President, the Psychology Department at ECU is alive and well. As you'll see in this edition of the PsyQ, our faculty and students have had an extraordinarily productive year. Student-faculty research collaborations have resulted in presentations and awards at local, state, and national conferences, as well as publications in respected, peer reviewed journals. The number of faculty lab teams of graduate and undergraduate students grows each year. These teams provide students invaluable opportunities to participate in every step of the research process, from informally kicking around ideas with faculty and their fellow students, to designing and executing studies, analyzing and interpreting results, and disseminating their findings to the professional community.

Psychology faculty and students haven't spent all of their time in classrooms and labs. They've been making significant contributions to the community through a number of service projects. For example, students in our I/O Club provided holiday gifts to residents of a local low-income housing facility. Students and faculty in the Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate Program supported the *Amazing Race for Autism* and, in collaboration with the ECU Autism Group and the Psychology Clinic, sponsored a professional education workshop that raised over \$700 for the *WHAS Crusade for Children* (an organization that has provided grant funding for several Clinic programs in recent years). Under Dr. Steffen Wilson's supervision, students in Psi Chi/Psychology Club are serving as volunteers for Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement is a service organization that provides instruction on economic wellness and career preparation to school-aged children. In the spring semester, eight of our students led lessons in five elementary schools in Madison County. Psi Chi/Psychology Club members will be serving as volunteers for Junior Achievement again in the fall.

Speaking of moving beyond the traditional classroom, 13 ECU Psychology students will be participating in study abroad programs this summer in Japan (with Steffen Wilson), Paris (with Pierre Brubaker), and Ireland.

Members of our faculty have been honored recently with student-nominated teaching awards. Congratulations to our own Dr. Bundy, the winner of the 2012-13 *QEP Critical Thinking Teacher of the Year Award*. Nominations were received from over 300 students. I'm happy to report that a total of 11 Psychology faculty were nominated this year including Drs. Clement, Gore, Lykins, Mitchell, Osbaldiston, Lorden, and Winslow, as well as adjunct faculty members Cheryl Ramey and Tamyra Frazier (both ECU graduates), and Jared Dillow. Four Psychology faculty were nominated this year for *Golden Apple Teaching Awards* recognizing ECU instructors for their excellence in teaching and encouragement of student success. Each nominee is recognized as a *Golden Apple Award* Nominee. This year's nominees included Emmy Durall, Rosanne Lorden, Cheryl Ramey, and Teri Nowak. Cheryl won the *Golden Apple Award*. Dr. Matt Winslow was the winner of the *Dorothy Mercer Award for Excellence in Advising*.

Cont. on pg. 2

Our Psychology e-Campus program has continued to grow dramatically. It is designed to make a high quality, academically rigorous Psychology degree program accessible to students unable to attend traditional classes. Despite the extensive time and effort involved in designing and teaching e-Campus classes, nearly all of them are led by the same full-time faculty teaching on the Richmond campus. Over 200 students are enrolled in the Psychology e-Campus program.

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.

## Psychology Graduate Student Organization



Following a several year break, the Eastern Kentucky University Psychology Graduate Student Organization (PGSO) has been reinstated. The organization unifies the four areas of the psychology department with each program providing a representative for the organization. The current representatives of PGSO are Jalie Adams (clinical), Kelsey Giurgevich (school), Amie Sparks (I-O), and Keith Klemes (general). PGSO provides a forum for discussion of issues relevant to ECU psychology graduate students, distributes information of interest to students, promotes and conducts activities beneficial to psychology graduate student life, and provides mentorship opportunities in incoming students by established psychology graduate students. PGSO also promotes opportunities for fundraising assistance to attend professional conferences and perform research.

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## Colloquium Series

During 2012-2013 academic year, seven events took place as a part of the department's *PsyColloquium* series. We were fortunate to have the speakers from both on-campus and off-campus and to have opportunities to showcase our own students' academic work.

Stephen Killingsworth (Vanderbilt University) – September 28

Matthew Montgomery (Lexmark International) – October 19

PSY401 Fall Poster Gala – December 4

Ashley Wray (EKU Libraries) – February 6

Yong Wang (EKU Mathematics & Statistics) – February 13

Matthew Petrella and Joshua Hager (EKU I-O Psychology Graduate Students) – March 20

Theresa Botts (EKU Psychology) – April 10

PSY401 Spring Poster Gala – May 2



## Clinical Graduate Program Update

Several of our current second year Clinical students have secured positions in doctoral programs. Kathryn Applegate (undergraduate at Creighton University) will be attending The University of Alabama, where she will pursue her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a Psychology Law focus. Kathryn has worked with Dr.



Wygant at EKU and has presented her research at the American Psychology-Law Society (APLS) (San Juan in 2012 and Portland in 2013). Her thesis is focused on examining psychopathic traits in relation to the PSY-5 scales on the MMPI-2-RF. Tina Wall (undergraduate at The University of Alabama) will be attending the University of New Orleans, where she will pursue her Ph.D. in Applied Psychology under the mentorship of Dr. Paul Frick. Tina's thesis project with Dr. Wygant examined personality traits underlying psychopathy. She has also

presented at APLS for two consecutive years. Tina will continue her work on psychopathy with Dr. Frick in her doctoral studies. Willie McBride (undergraduate at University of Louisville) will be heading to Virginia Beach, VA to pursue his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the Virginia Consortium in Clinical Psychology. Willie will be continuing his training in Clinical Neuropsychology in Virginia. His thesis project with Dr. Wygant examined racial bias on the MMPI-2-RF. He has also worked with Dr. Wygant on several other projects, including one he presented at APLS in Portland, OR.

In other news, the Clinic continues to be as busy as ever! Once again this spring, the EKU Psychology clinic teamed up with the EKU Department of Occupational Therapy and the EKU Communication Disorders program to put on an 8 week program for parents of children and children with autism. Parents participated in a parent consultation group modeled after Rex Forehand's *Strong Willed Child*. The children enjoyed group activities created to support their development in Velde's *Lifestyle Performance Model*, a model focusing on quality of life as seen in self care, intrinsic gratification, reciprocal social interaction, and social contribution. The child group was sponsored by a grant from the *WHAS Children's Crusade*.

Finally, one of our current second year students, Miranda Westbrook won an award from the Kentucky Psychological Association Foundation for the best paper award at the 2013 Spring Academic Conference this March.





## I-O Program Update

The I/O program currently has five second year students and six first year students who have spent the year working with faculty on a variety of projects. In April and May 2013, as part of Industrial Psychology (PSY 844), the first year students will be delivering workshops to clients through the EKV Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Adam Bunnell and Arian



Green will present on *Job Analysis: Methods and Applications*. Alysha Noorani and Amie Sparks will teach about *The Legality of Employment Decisions* and Perry Barnes and Dorothy Johnson will present *All About Performance Appraisals*.

The second year students have also been busy completing practicum (PSY 843) and training (PSY 875) projects. Tela Davis and Nichole Zimmerman created and delivered a three-hour training on “Coping with Workplace Stressors” for a large hospital. Joshua Hager and Matthew Petrella are developing a training project on EEOC Guidelines regarding the use of criminal history in selection decisions for a local manufacturer. Tela Davis, Gavin Spaeth, and Nichole Zimmerman are working on developing several training projects for Bluegrass Pride, a local non-profit environmental company. Among the activities included in this training are tours of a landfill and wastewater treatment facility.

The I-O students have been busy outside of the classroom as well. In October, several students attended the annual River Cities I-O Conference. Second year students Joshua Hager and Matthew Petrella presented posters on their thesis topics. Additionally, an Independent Study project reviewing 25 University Autism Spectrum Training Programs, conducted by second year student Tela Davis, was accepted for presentation in November 2013 at the annual Ocalicon conference.

In April, seven of the I-O students traveled to Houston with Dr. Henning to attend the 28th Annual Meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP). Students attended symposia and poster sessions, and several students interviewed with organizations through SIOP’s Job Placement Center. The group was also able to have a little fun at a program dinner where they were joined by program alum, Jason Frizzell (2011), who is currently a consultant at Select International in Pittsburgh.

I-O graduate students continue to serve in the community. For the third year in a row, under the coordination of second year student Nichole Zimmerman, the I-O club placed a “gift tree” in the Cammack Building. Students, faculty, and staff donated numerous gifts and generous monetary contributions to purchase additional gifts. In December, the I-O Club delivered over 100 gifts to the residents of the Madison Tower community in Richmond.

## School Psychology Program Update

The school psychology program has been a bustle of activity this past year. There has been quite a bit of change this spring as Dr. Strait welcomed her baby boy in February. She has been enjoying the semester by having some quality time with her son.

Dr. Nowak started the year by having her research group present three different workshops with her at the Kentucky Association of Psychology in the Schools (KAPS) annual conference. Later in the year, Dr. Florell had his research groups present at both the Trainers of School Psychology (TSP) conference and the National Association of School Psychology (NASP) conference.

In Dr. Florell's research group, Reagan Rogers assisted in the NASP poster that focused on school psychologists' training and perceptions of cyberbullying. Miki Tanaka and Ben Des-coteaux created a NASP poster on the effective of exercise on adolescent executive functioning and math performance. Evan Fleming assisted in the TSP poster on social media policies for graduate school psychology programs. In addition, Dr. Florell's research group has been focused on a major cyberbullying study that is looking at the physiological impact of receiving negative electronic message through Facebook.

Rachel DeMers, Brittany Slone, and Allie Willis presented findings with Dr. Nowak on one school's implementation of CHAMPS, a Tier 1 behavioral intervention. The information was presented at KAPS and then the students assisted with a NASP poster with similar content. Stacy English presented at KAPS with Dr. Nowak on identifying and aligning as many procedures as possible to streamline Parts C (infants & toddlers) & B, section 619 (preschool) of IDEA. Hannah Wilcox Noe, Savannah Byrne Harley, and Dr. Nowak presented at KAPS on prenatal and perinatal factors that influence behavior when children are of school age. Both students also helped with a NASP poster that contained similar content. The research group also worked to get ready for a research study to begin next year that will involve play therapy with children exposed to domestic violence.

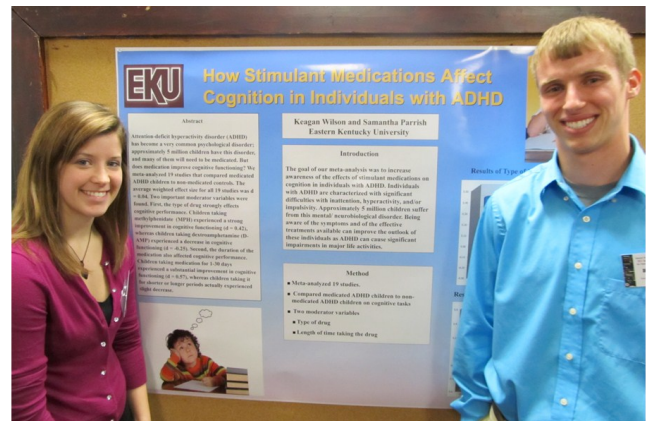
## General Program Update

In the General Psychology Masters program, two students completed their thesis work. Jamie Hale, working with Dr. Varakin, completed his thesis in cognition and perception entitled "Expectations do not always influence food liking," and Bradlee Gamblin, working with Dr. Winslow, completed his thesis in social psychology entitled "The moderating effects of need for closure on the common ingroup identity model." Bradlee was recently accepted into the University of North Dakota Ph.D. program in Psychology. Kimberly Burke returned from a year-long internship at the Atlanta Zoo, where she studied cognition and social behavior in diverse species of primates.

## KPA Conference

The EKU Psychology Department showed up ready to wow the judges and attendees at this year's Student Mentoring Conference of the Kentucky Psychological Association, hosted by the University of Louisville. Our graduate and undergraduate students presented a total of 17 posters at the conference, which translates into one of every four posters.

In addition, two graduate students received awards for their presentations. Tao Jiang, a student in our General Master's program, received first place for his poster, entitled "The relationships among self-construal, contingencies of self-worth, and self-esteem in Chinese people." Miranda Westbrook, a student in our Clinical Master's program, received first place for her poster, entitled, "The impact of personality, mindfulness, and symptoms on response to brief meditation."



## Amazing Race for Autism

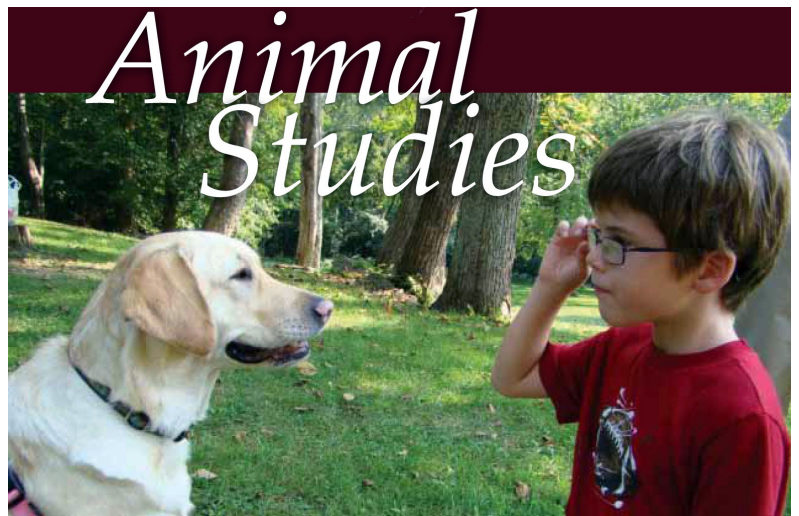


This photo shows Katibeth Lybrand and Nicole Wozniak, both clinical psychology graduate students and autism certificate students. They are running an educational booth at EKU's Amazing Race for Autism. This is a charity event and festival in honor of autism and in remembrance of President Whitlock's grandson.



## Animal Studies Program

The first graduates of the Animal Studies program at ECU have moved onto exciting positions working with animals: Brandi Hunt obtained a full-time job at the Primate Rescue Center in Nicholasville, where she interned for her co-op, and Marcy Franks is going to graduate school in Agriculture, studying under Dr. Temple Grandin. Nick Martin, past president of the Animal Studies Club, is currently interning with the Cat Ambassador Program at the Cincinnati Zoo, where he gets to present and interact with cheetahs and other cats during the Cheetah Encounter Show. The newly elected president of the Animal Studies Club is Shane Locker, and vice president is Erin Thomas. Brian Schultz, past vice president of the Animal Studies Club, working with Dr. Ben Freed, recently presented a well-received poster at the 2012 Midwest Primate Interest Group. Brian, Jennifer Shields, and Marcy Franks each presented a poster at the Living with Animals Conference at ECU. The conference itself, sponsored by the Animal Studies Program and the Department of Psychology, was a success, with approximately 100 attendees.



## Psi Chi and Psychology Club Update



Psi Chi has been a huge success this year. We have seen record numbers of inductees, as well as attendance numbers that have more than quadrupled since last year. We have been involved in service work by helping the Richmond Salvation Army distribute food, as well as volunteering for a project that helps the homeless community in Lexington with their laundry. We also hosted our first annual student versus faculty bowling event, where the students edged out the faculty. We look forward to continued growth and participation thoroughly the summer and into next year.



## Alumni Updates

### Lauren Vines, M.S. (2010)

Since graduating from EKU, I have been completing my doctoral studies in the Clinical Psychology program at University of Louisville. I am fortunate to be involved in a myriad of clinical and research activities at U of L. Since beginning the program, I have had five published articles and I was fortunate to be part of a discussion panel on multicultural treatment issues related to mindfulness-based interventions at the 2012 Annual International Scientific Conference for Investigating and Integrating Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society. My current research activity revolves around my dissertation, which examines working memory capacity and mindfulness in the context of acute stress. My clinical work continues to focus on veteran and military populations, with practica in neuropsychological assessment and residential substance use disorder treatment at the Louisville VAMC. This year, I was selected to complete a practicum at Fort Knox Department of Behavioral Health, where I work with active duty soldiers in individual and group therapy. Lastly, I am a clinic assistant in the University of Louisville Psychological Services Center, a community mental health clinic. I am looking forward to internship year (Central TX VAMC in Temple, Texas, close to where my husband is stationed) and completing my dissertation, as well as beginning my career as an Army civilian psychologist.



### Jaime Anderson, M.S. (2010)



Jaime is finishing up her 2nd year in the University of Alabama's Clinical Psychology program, with an emphasis in Psychology and Law. Her current research focuses primarily on the DSM-5 Section III Personality Disorder model, particularly in comparison to the current DSM-IV-TR model. This year, she'll present this research at the American Psychology and Law Society conference, Society for Personality Assessment conference, and MMPI Symposium. Clinically, she's busy seeing clients, working for a Neuropsychology clinic completing dementia and ADHD assessments, and volunteering with the Public Defender's office conducting mental health screenings. Additionally, since finding out that her mentor, Martin Sellbom, is moving to Australia, she is planning to skip the scorching Alabama summer next year and move her research to Canberra, Australia for a few months and is really looking forward to it! Otherwise, she's been enjoying the Alabama football and warm weather

## Alumni Updates

### Brandi Hunt

Brandi Hunt, an ECU Animal Studies graduate, is now part of the care staff team at the Primate Rescue Center. She has been interning/volunteering with the Primate Rescue Center for a little over a year. She has gained tremendous experience working with at the Center, and learns more about primates every day. Her responsibilities include enclosure cleaning and upkeep, feeding, record keeping, enrichment, and assisting with minor medical procedures. "I am beyond thrilled to have been offered this position," says Brandi.



### Alumni Group Forming on LinkedIn

An ECU Psychology Department Alumni group is forming on LinkedIn. The purpose of this group is to create a network of alumni for our current majors. If you are a member of this group, a current Psychology major may contact you to learn about your current job and your career path since graduation. This group is also a way for you to make professional connections. If you have a LinkedIn account, please consider joining this group by clicking on this link [EKU Psychology Department](#) or searching "EKU Psychology Department" the next time you are on LinkedIn. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact Dr. Steffen Wilson at [steffen.wilson@eku.edu](mailto:steffen.wilson@eku.edu).

### Please Complete the Alumni Survey!

A brief Alumni survey is attached to the body of the e-mail that included this newsletter. We would be very grateful if you would complete this survey. It should take you less than 10 minutes to complete, and it will provide us with helpful information for our current students, as well as let us know how we can serve our students best as we go forward. You can also complete this survey by following this link-[EKU Psychology Alumni Survey](#).



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### **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](mailto:dan.florell@eku.edu). You can also submit your updates to Dan Florell by accessing the Psychology Department at [www.psychology.eku.edu](http://www.psychology.eku.edu). This page will provide you with an Alumni link where the Alumni Questionnaire is located.