



# EKU Department Psychology Newsletter

Eastern Kentucky University

Fall 2015

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## New Student Art Donated

The departments added to its' burgeoning art collection this semester as one of our undergraduate psychology majors, Shelby Jeffra Smith, painted and donated an amazing piece which you can now view in the office. Ms. Smith told us:

“I am from Lexington, KY. I will graduate this December and plan to pursue a PsyD, hopefully continuing my studies at EKU. I am interested in child clinical psychology as well as art therapy. I took multiple art classes in high school as electives in order to receive reprieve from my other stringent classes and have since continued painting as a hobby. My preferred medium is oil painting. My work is heavy in symbolism and is influenced by my favorite art movement, surrealism. The current piece is a depiction of the human brain, made by the configuration of hands. It is symbolic of the collaborative, helping essence of psychology. “



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## Psychology Faculty Nominated for Excellence in Online Teaching Award

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The department's online psychology degree received further validation as to the quality of its' programming as two psychology department faculty were nominated for online teaching awards. Drs. Steffen Wilson and Melinda Moore were nominated for an Excellence in Teaching Award at the 1st Annual eCAPS Awards ceremony.

The eCAPS Awards were created by EKU to recognize all of the contributions faculty are making to the various online courses that are offered by the university.

## EKU Ranks Highly Among Best Online Psychology Programs

Eastern Kentucky University is rated among the best in the third annual *AffordableCollegesOnline.org 2015 Best Online Psychology Program Rankings*. EKU is one of only three Kentucky schools to be included on the list.

“Our top priority is providing students with a valuable and affordable experience that can prepare them to take the next steps in their career,” said EKU Online Program Coordinator and Department of Psychology Chair Dr. Robert Brubaker. “We are committed to excellence in online education and are extremely proud of our faculty, staff and students for achieving this honor.”

Determining factors for the 2015 rankings included six-year graduation rate, academic and career counseling services and job placement rate. Reviewers also considered instructor-student ratio and acceptance rate. For more information, visit [go.EKU.edu/PSYBest](http://go.EKU.edu/PSYBest).

Consistently recognized as having some of the nation’s best online degree programs, EKU strives to make quality education accessible to everyone. EKU is an accredited, brick-and-mortar institution celebrating more than 100 years of student success. EKU Online offers more than 30 undergraduate and graduate degree options in a variety of fields, representing Arts and Sciences, Education, Justice and Safety, and Health Sciences.

## Alumni Highlights

**Kendra Frye** - graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in May 2012. She began working as a Crisis Line Counselor with Bluegrass.org in April 2013. In July 2015, Kendra became the Bluegrass Resource Center Team Leader. She is currently pursuing her Masters Degree in Mental Health Counseling in the Education Department.

## Student Accomplishment

### **Kenamer Study Abroad Scholarship**

This semester, Jason Tuggle won a \$7,000 study abroad scholarship. When asked what his plan was during his trip abroad, he responded that he will be going to Stirling University in Scotland for two months. Jason will be taking the following classes: Religion and Conflict, Psychology of Evil, and Crime and Justice in Scotland. The first two will be taken in the first month, and the third class will be taken in the second month. Also during the second month he will be studying how the UK approaches issues such as sex offending, individuals with paraphilic disorders, and stalking. “



## New EKU Faculty Members Join the Psych Family



**Michael McClellan** grew up in the rural Appalachian community of Summerville, Georgia and moved to Kentucky in 1993 to begin working on his bachelor's degree in physical education at Berea College. While at Berea, Dr. McClellan was drawn toward social justice-related topics and the process by which people learn about and process aspects of cultural difference. He was a member of the Berea College swim and dive teams where he earned All-American honors in springboard diving and he is a first-generation college graduate.

After earning a B.A. degree from Berea in 1997, he worked as a swim coach and later as an administrator for undergraduate housing at both the University of Kentucky and here at Eastern Kentucky University. During his career in student housing, He was actively involved in staff diversity training and he participated in both departmental and university-level committees that fostered his interest in diversity education and cultural competency research.

Dr. McClellan earned his master's (2002), educational specialist (2010), and doctoral (2014) degrees in counseling psychology from the University of Kentucky where he served as a teaching assistant for graduate courses in psychological testing and he became actively involved in diversity training-related research. He completed his doctoral internship at the Appalachian Regional Healthcare Psychiatric Center in Hazard, Kentucky in 2014.

After earning his Ph.D., Dr. McClellan taught courses in counseling techniques, clinical supervision, psychological assessment, and psychopathology in the University of Kentucky's counseling psychology program for a year prior to accepting this position at EKU. He has clinical experience in private practice settings, as well as, community mental health, inpatient psychiatry, outpatient surgery, a departmental psychology clinic, and a college counseling center. His clinical interests include rural mental health, psychological assessment, clinical supervision, telehealth, and severe mental illness. His research interests include scale development, awareness of social privilege and oppression, cultural competency, rural mental health, and telehealth. Dr. McClellan is a temporary licensed psychologist in Kentucky, hold a private pilot's license, and he is currently teaching courses in rural mental health and abnormal psychology.

**Liesa Klein** was born and raised in southern Wisconsin. After earning a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she went on to complete a M.A. in Clinical Psychology and Psy.D. in School Psychology from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

She recently completed a post-doctoral internship in clinical and behavioral psychology in Kansas and became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She is very excited to now be joining the Psychology Department at EKU.



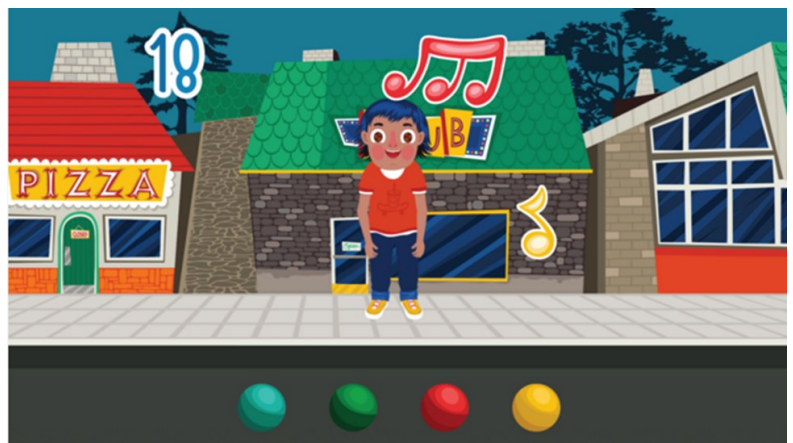


## Inaugural Clinical PsyD Class



## An App for Teaching Empathy

Dr. Matthew Winslow joined an interdisciplinary team of researchers from The University of Indiana, Ohio State University, The University of Michigan, and others, to create, test, and disseminate a research-based app for mobile devices called Random App of Kindness (RAKi) that will make the users more empathic. Dr. Sara Konrath (University of Indiana) is the principle investigator on the project, which is funded by The Templeton Foundation. The app is targeted at teens and is modeled after the popular Dumb Ways to Die app that aimed to make people safer around trains. The app is being created by HabitatSeven and Play Science is currently testing the effectiveness of the app. RAKi presents users with engaging animated scenarios and rewards certain (empathic) responses. An original soundtrack accompanies the app. RAKi is currently available on iTunes App and Google Play stores (free).



## Walk for Hope Suicide Training: Every Day Matters

EKU Department of Psychology co-sponsored several events during the month of September in support of Suicide Prevention. September 10<sup>th</sup> is World Suicide Prevention Day, but ECU faculty, staff, and students are engaged in supporting suicide prevention all month long. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Psychology professor Dr. Theresa Botts emceed ECU's "Every Day Matters: Suicide Prevention Training for Faculty & Staff" and many psychology faculty, staff, and students attended. The Kentucky National Guard and Lexington Humane Society's CHOMPS (Canines Helping Our Military Personnel) made a presentation at this conference with service dogs which go a long way to helping suicidal veterans and civilians. Psychology professor Dr. Melinda Moore helped organize the "Walk for Hope" on September 26<sup>th</sup> with the help of ECU NAMI leaders and Psychology students, Kristen Gibson, Jasmine Wilson, and Reagan Fields. Dr. Moore also gave three talks on suicide prevention to Marines and Navy service members at Parris Island, South Carolina. The ECU Department of Psychology supports suicide prevention and post-vention all year

long, but this month provided many in our department with opportunities to learn about suicide prevention and how to serve people who are suffering. We are all leaders in suicide prevention!



## Animal Studies Club Conducts Dog Wash Fundraiser



The Animal Studies Club is a student-run organization whose goal is to raise awareness about the field of Animal Studies, as well as to educate the public about animal-related issues. This semester, the club ran a dog wash as a fundraiser. For a donation, people could bring their dogs to get a thorough wash as well as a home-made treat and a bandana. Can't wait to see what the new fundraiser is for next semester!

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**Let's Hear from Alumni**

We love to hear from our alumni. We want to know what you have been up to so that we can expand our alumni update sec-



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