



EKU Department Psychology Newsletter

Eastern Kentucky
University

Spring 2014

Inside this issue:

Award Winning Program



Best Online Colleges announced the 2014 Best Online Psychology Degree Programs. Eastern Kentucky University was mentioned as one of the top schools. Important factors that went into the decision was accreditation, education level of professors, awards and other unique school qualities. Best Online Colleges said the following regarding the program:

“Eastern Kentucky University offers an online Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, which is a 120 hour online program created to help students earn their degree conveniently. Students can complete helpful real-world research and are given personalized attention during their studies. All professors hold PhD degrees.

EKU is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). They are also proud of awards received like their mention in the Military Times Edge magazine for being a school that is ‘Best for Vets.’ They were also named as a Top 10 College by ‘Best Colleges.’”



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Golden Apple Award Winning Faculty



Cheryl Ramey is the winner of this year’s Golden Apple Award for the Social and Behavioral Sciences area. There were over 50 nominees from the college of Arts and Sciences. This is the second year in which Cheryl has won the top award.

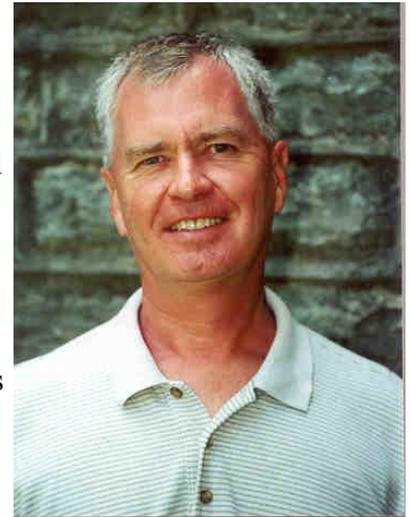
Cheryl Ramey of ECU Psychology Department received multiple nominations. She is described as a role model, helpful and motivates students to succeed. One nominator noted that Cheryl Ramey makes boring material fun and shares real-life examples to help student understand the material. Another nominee stated that she is more than willing to help students and is one of the few instructors the nominee will go to and ask for help. Another nominee stated, “She has definitely influenced me and has helped me in my future career.”

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Letter From the Department Chair

The 2013-14 academic year is winding down, and what a year it has been. With a new president on campus and lots of activity in the Psychology Department, it has been a busy time.

The year began on a sad note with the passing of Dr. Bob Adams. Bob came to EKU in 1979 from Fort Hayes State University and served as the Chair of the Psychology Department until his retirement in 2003. He led the Department through a period of significant growth in the number of majors, faculty, and programs. The School Psychology and Industrial-Organizational graduate programs were both added during his tenure, as was the Psychology Clinic. Bob also served on the executive board of the International Society for Human Ethology and was the editor of that organization's newsletter for many years. He was a founding member of the Council of Applied Master's Programs in Psychology and served as both its Chair and Treasurer. Bob was a skilled administrator, an outstanding teacher, and productive scholar. He was also my colleague, mentor, and friend. His wife, Dr. Connie Adams, a graduate of our School Psychology program, his children Karen, Louise, and Robert, their spouses and Bob's grandchildren, are in our thoughts.



On a happier note, as you'll see in the rest of the PsyQ, many good things have happened this year. Our students have been as active as ever attending professional conferences and presenting their work. We were fortunate to be able to subsidize (to the tune of nearly \$5,000) the travel of 50 students using money generated by our online degree program. Through a generous donation by Jay and Dee Riggs (a long-time Psychology faculty member), we have been able to defray the costs of applying to graduate programs for ten of our students. Many thanks to Jay and Dee for their ongoing support of the Department.

We've just made what we believe to be a significant addition to our undergraduate degree program. Beginning in the Fall 2014 semester, students will be able to pursue a Concentration within the standard Bachelor of Science degree. This will allow students to focus their studies on a particular area of interest (without diminishing their training in the broad foundation of psychology) and to document on their transcripts that they've acquired knowledge, skills, and experience relevant to their career interests. We think this will be especially helpful to students who plan to enter the workforce with the B.S. degree. We are offering Concentrations in Psychology of Substance Abuse, Forensic Psychology, Developmental Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorders, Child and Family Psychology, Psychology of the Workplace, and Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

We are in the thick of hiring two new faculty members. One will be responsible for developing and leading a new M.S. program in Applied Behavior Analysis and the other will replace Dr. Emily Lykins in the Clinical M.S. program. Dr. Lykins resigned from EKU this semester to take a position closer to her family in Indiana. We are also fortunate to be able to extend Cheryl Ramey's Lectureship appointment through the end of the next academic year. In addition to teaching several undergraduate courses, Cheryl has developed, and now supervises, the brand new PASS program (Psychology Academic Support Services), providing tutoring and other academic assistance to undergraduates in both our on-campus and online degree programs. She also serves as the Director of our wildly successful summer residential camp for high school psychology students.

Our faculty continue to bring great honor to the Psychology Department. Dr. Bob Mitchell just returned from a Visiting Scholar position in Poland. He delivered a series of lectures on his research and on EKU and the Animal Studies program. He was the guest of Dr. Michal Pregowski, Assistant Professor at the Warsaw University of Technology and a Visiting Animal Studies Scholar in our department last semester. Dr. Dustin Wygant has been chosen by the College of Arts and Sciences to deliver the 2014 Ruric and Mary Roark Distinguished Lecture.

Letter From the Department Chair cont.

The title of the talk is *Reflections on Psychopathy: Elucidating the Criminal Mind and Personality*. This is the second time a Psychology faculty member has been accorded this honor. Dr. Mitchell delivered the inaugural Roark Lecture in 2005. Dr. Matt Winslow received Honorable Mention for his submission to the Compassion and Technology Competition at Stanford University in December. You enjoy this edition of the PsyQ. If you're ever in the neighborhood, drop by the Cammack Building.

International Scholar Address Regarding the DSM-5

Dr. Martin Sellbom from The Australian National University (ANU) addressed a crowd of over 100 students and local mental health professionals at ECU on January 29, 2014. Dr. Sellbom is a Senior Lecturer at ANU and also serves as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Personality Disorders* and *Psychological Assessment*. Dr. Sellbom's research primarily focuses on improving the understanding of how dimensional personality traits influence the development and expression of mental disorders, particularly the personality disorders, as well as the psychometric assessment of personality and psychopathology. His research has been featured in approximately 100 scholarly publications and he has won several awards, including the Society for Personality Assessment's Samuel and Anne Beck Award and the American Psychology-Law Society's Saleem Shah Award - both for early career achievement.

Dr. Sellbom's colloquium presentation at ECU was entitled *Examining Psychopathology from the Perspective of Dimensional Personality Traits: Implications for DSM-5 and Beyond*. His presentation examined the broader role of personality traits not only as a foundational system for understanding personality psychopathology, but also in accounting for comorbidities and uniquenesses in other forms of psychopathology as well. He discussed numerous clinical and forensic implications for this research, as well as future directions for understanding and characterizing mental health disorders in the DSM-5.



Proposed PsyD Program

Dr. Wygant and Dr. Brubaker have been busy this year preparing a program proposal for a Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) degree at ECU. The proposal was originally drafted by Dr. Brubaker in 2008. ECU's new president, Dr. Benson, expressed strong interest in the program, which has helped push the proposal through the various channels internally at ECU. The PsyD proposal was recently approved by the Faculty Senate and is awaiting approval by the Board of Regents. Concurrently, the proposal was recently reviewed by the Counsel for Postsecondary Education (CPE) in Frankfort. Dr. Wygant addressed comments about the proposal made by the other state universities throughout the Commonwealth. We are currently waiting to hear back from the CPE regarding whether the program will be approved.

Research on Job Performance Reviews

“Study finds that basically every single person hates performance reviews” was the title of a recent Washington Post blog covering an article on satisfaction with performance appraisals published in the *Journal of Personnel Psychology* (Culbertson, Henning, & Payne, 2013). Coverage of this article was first highlighted by an Association for Psychological Science blog (“The Perils of Performance Appraisals”) in January 2014. Since then, Dr. Jaime Henning and her co-authors [Dr. Tori Culbertson (Kansas State University) and Dr. Stephanie Payne (Texas A&M University)] have been humored by the amount of media coverage this article has received (cited in the Chicago Tribune, The Atlantic, ABC News Radio, Globoforce, The Financial Post, The Malaysia Sun, and various other syndicated news outlets). They have also been shocked and dismayed by the way in which the article has been portrayed by the media.



The majority of individuals who have held a job have likely had their performance evaluated in some form. Employee reactions to and acceptance of performance appraisal may be key indicators of effectiveness of the appraisal system. Dr. Henning and her colleagues were interested in looking at how people respond to receiving positive and negative performance feedback and how these reactions may differ based on one’s predominant goal orientation (the type of goals individuals adopt in achievement situations). To examine their hypotheses, 234 staff employees of a large university were surveyed. The authors believe that the take-away message from their single study is that individual differences and employee perceptions matter and should be accounted for in the management of performance. If negative feedback has the potential to discourage even those employees who desire to and believe they can improve, managers must be careful that what is intended as constructive feedback does not get misconstrued as criticism. Furthermore, attempts to generate satisfaction by minimizing negative feedback and maximizing positive feedback may not work entirely as intended and more research is needed to examine what variables influence performance appraisal satisfaction beyond feedback.

It would appear to be common sense that most individuals are not particularly happy to receive negative feedback at work, however as we in psychology know common sense does not equate to empirical evidence. Therefore, in the midst of their fame, the authors were perturbed to see that The Financial Post cited their article in a piece titled, “Why performance appraisals need to be scrapped.” Nowhere in the article is this suggested to be an implication of the research findings. Furthermore, one outlet stated the authors conducted an “experiment” and concluded that “many people just like to be coddled and constantly told how wonderful they are. Performance evaluations probably aren’t their thing.” As one might discern based on the study’s abstract, a survey method was used to gather the data, NOT an experiment. Finally, the most atrocious violation – the authors were quoted as saying their results “prove” negative feedback counteracts constructive criticism regardless of the characteristics of the individual receiving it. As any psychology student could tell you, we do not *prove* things with a survey methodology; we *find support* for our hypotheses. The punch line of this story is to reinforce the fact that we

need to be skeptical of what we read in the media, and the skills we gain through a psychology major help us to become informed skeptics. Here is a clear case of the media's misinterpretation of a study. In fact, even small wording changes like using the word "experiment" have much bigger implications in science than what the media and general public may realize. But, as psychology majors you knew that all along!



Dr. Wygant's Roark Lecture



On April 1, 2014, Dr. Dustin Wygant from the Psychology Department gave the 2014 Roark Lecture, which highlights scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences. His talk showcased his work in investigating the psychopathic personality. Dr. Wygant and his students have been working for the past several years at Northpoint Training Center, a medium-security prison near Danville, Kentucky. They have been investigating the relationship between Antisocial Personality Disorder and psychopathy. His Roark Lecture introduced the topic of psychopathy and included clips from filmed interviews that Dr. Wygant conducted with psychopathic inmates from his research.

Dr. Wygant lecture can be seen here: <http://youtu.be/P968Q92LldQ>

The Human-Elephant Connection

Otto Fad visited and spoke on "The Human-Elephant Connection," which will be addressing the long history of interactions between elephants and humans, followed by current issues and future concerns, and then concluded with information on relationship-based positive reinforcement training. Otto Fad is a behaviorist with more than 27 years experience working mostly with two of the highest-profile charismatic-megavertebrate species, killer whales and elephants. He is currently the Elephant Manager at a zoological facility in Florida, where he helped develop a progressive new program from scratch in 2004, distinguished by its focus on positive reinforcement, its unparalleled success in conditioning voluntary husbandry behaviors, and its extraordinary team of creative, positive, and passionate trainers. Previously, as a marine-mammal trainer, Otto was heavily involved in both applied animal behavior and program development. Throughout his career, he has endeavored to raise the professionalism and pride of those around him, to increase research output, and to build ties with institutions of higher learning. He has written on subjects including anthropomorphism, assisted reproduction, behavioral enrichment, natural history, husbandry training, safety, and staff development.



Faculty Method Workshops

We have always been a diverse department, with interests ranging from clinical to social, from I-O to neuroscience. With that diversity comes a great opportunity to learn from each other. Last fall, Dr. Jonathan Gore developed a series entitled, "Faculty Method Workshops," where faculty members and students could hear the latest in statistical and methodological advancements from the resident experts in the department. This has also been used as a way to disseminate information about improving our teaching and advising practices.

Since its inception, the workshops have covered topics such as: linear regression, latent profile analyses, and structural equation. Other topics covered the future of psychological science, which is undergoing some foundational changes. These topics included the call for emphasizing effect sizes over statistical significance, and examining complex mediation/moderation effects. Topics that are slated for future workshops include: classification criteria, the use of Excel/SAS/LISREL/AMOS in data analysis, qualitative data analysis, and online data collection. With our diverse group of researchers in this department, we look forward to advancing our collective knowledge in methodological and statistical techniques, and we are excited to be able to tap into our own faculty for this resource.

PASS Tutoring Program

The department is proud to announce the development of a psychology specific tutoring program this spring semester! The PASS (Psychology Academic Support Services) program offers in person and online tutoring to all students at ECU who may need assistance in one of their psychology courses, particularly targeting the subjects that students find to be most problematic. The program has twelve tutors, all of whom are trained in teaching techniques, and who are experts in their chosen tutoring subject. The tutor lab is located on the second floor of the Cammack building in room 220. We have drop in and by appointment hours, and have an extensive virtual tutoring program site for e-campus students available at <http://psychology.eku.edu/pass-tutoring-program>.

For more information on how to be a tutor, or if you have specific questions about tutoring, please contact Cheryl Ramey, the PASS program director at Cheryl.ramey@eku.edu.

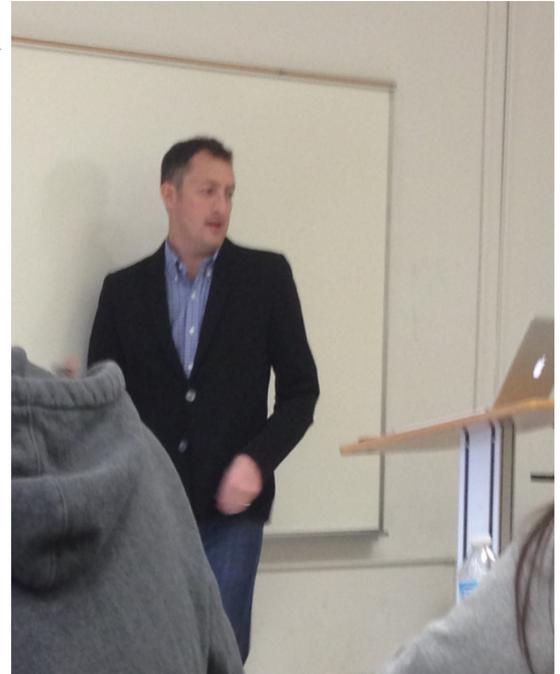


EKU Hosts Dr. Gervais— “Murderers and Missionaries”

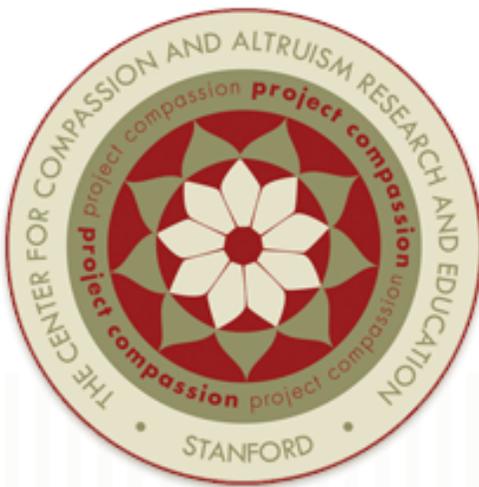
On January 15, 2014 EKU hosted Dr. Will Gervais from the University of Kentucky as part of the Psychology Department’s Psycolloquium series. In his talk, entitled “Of Murderers and Missionaries: The Paradoxical Relationship Between Religion and Morality”, Dr. Gervais described his research about how atheists are perceived, and how the source of moral deeds affects people perceptions of these deeds. Dr. Gervais started by pointing out that atheists are the most reviled minority in the U.S., with people disparaging them more than any other religious group. He presented convincing evidence that most people hold anti-atheist prejudice. But not all prejudices are the same. Some groups are disliked because they are seen as dangerous and aggressive, others as conniving and weak, and others as ignorant and backward. Dr. Gervais’ data demonstrate that people see atheists as particularly untrustworthy. Dr. Gervais also presented research showing that when people think that other people do good deeds because they felt a religious motivation to do so, they see the act as less good than if they had non-religious motivations to do so.

You can learn more about Dr. Gervais and his research here:

<http://psychology.as.uky.edu/users/wmge223>.



Compassion and Technology Conference



On December 6, 2013, Dr. Matthew Winslow attended the Compassion and Technology Conference, sponsored by The Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (<http://ccare.stanford.edu/>), which is housed at Stanford University. Dr. Winslow had submitted his proposal to create an app to make people more empathic to the contest, as part of the conference. Although Dr. Winslow’s submission was not selected as a finalist, he did receive Honorable Mention, which included an invitation to the conference.



He was also given an opportunity to present his idea to the conference attendees. The conference included presentations from leading researchers and activists, all focused on how technology can increase compassion. Representatives from Facebook, Kiva.org, and CaringBridge attended.

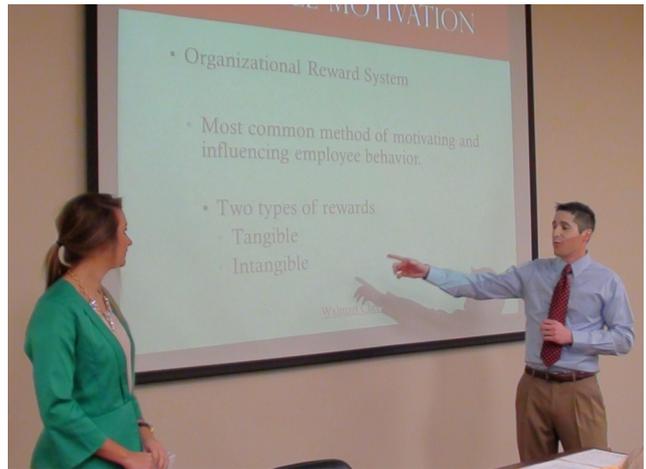
I/O Program Update

The I/O program currently has six second year students and six first year students who have spent the year working with faculty on a variety of projects.

In Fall 2013, as part of Industrial Psychology (PSY 844), the first year students delivered workshops to clients through the ECU Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Jean-Paul Philippe and Jaime Horne presented "What is Industrial Organizational Psychology?" Cameron Tillett and Kelsey Strong presented *The Fair Labor Standards Act and You*. Matt Wilson and Andrew Fiori presented *Introduction to Compensation*.

The second year students have also been busy completing practicum and training projects. Amie Sparks created a training course on *Personnel Record Keeping* for a local manufacturer. Perry Barnes created a course on proper survey techniques for a worldwide nuclear power agency located in Atlanta. Alysha Noorani created a training course on the *ADA Amendment Act* for a local manufacturer. Adam Bunnell critiqued and streamlined a multiple hurdle selection system for a state agency. Arian Green created a training course on *Social Intelligence* for a local athletic department. Dorothy Johnson created a benefits plans training for a large dental company.

The I-O students have been busy outside of the classroom as well. Several students are involved in internships. In October, several students attended the annual River Cities I-O Conference. Second year students Perry Barnes, Adam Bunnell, Dorothy Johnson, Alysha Noorani, and Amie Sparks each presented posters. In May, six of the I-O students and Drs. Henning and Nakai traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to attend the 29th Annual Meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Second year student Perry Barnes presented a poster on *The Influence of Instructor Interpersonal Style on Student Motivation*, co-authored with Dr. Henning and Dr. Gore.



For the fourth year in a row, under the coordination of first year student Jaime Horne, 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 gifts to the residents of the Madison Health and Rehabilitation Center. We would like to thank everyone who provided warm support to this cause!

General Program Update

In the General Psychology Masters Program, two students have completed their thesis projects, both in social psychology. Benjamin Lindsay, working with Dr. Matthew Winslow, completed his thesis entitled "Double standards in self-deception: The development of the self-other double standards scale." Tao Jiang, working with Dr. Jonathan Gore, completed his thesis entitled "Relationships among self-construal, goal motives, and goal outcomes, and the moderating effects of culture." Tao is currently a visiting scholar at Ohio State University, where he is working with Dr. Jennifer Crocker. Tao also received a first place award in the Psychology graduate student research presentations at the 99th annual Kentucky Academy of Science meeting. His presentation was titled "The associations between contingencies of self-worth and compassionate and self-image goals and the moderating role of culture." Other General Psychology graduate student presenters at the same conference were Josef Katzman ("The fear of failing and its effects on one's self evaluation") and Mary Ann Kincer and Jenipher A. Dennis ("Construction of an ethogram for Galápagos sea lion play behavior: Issues with interrater reliability.") The Southeastern Psychological Association 60th annual research convention was well attended by ECU students and faculty. Dr. Adam Lawson traveled with two General Psychology graduate students (and several undergraduates) to present their joint work: Hope Reuschel ("Psychophysiological markers of psychopathy in a non-clinical college student sample") and Amanda Renfro ("Sensation seeking influences on memory of positive events").

Animal Studies Program Update



The Animal Studies Program now has about 62 majors, with more likely in the Fall. Our new faculty member, Dr. Radhika Makecha, is currently teaching a new special topics class entitled *Animals and Religion*, and she is also offering a course on *Animal Enrichment*, in which students will learn how to develop projects to make animals' lives more engaging at zoos, rescue centers, and farms. Dr. Robert Mitchell, coordinator of the program, recently returned from a 2-week trip to Poland in March to present 8 talks at the Warsaw University of Technology, four of which concerned his research about animals. He had been

invited by Dr. Michal Pregowski, who visited here as an Animal Studies scholar in September of 2013. Drs. Mitchell and Makecha attended the Humane Society sponsored conference "The Science of Animal Thinking and Emotion" in Washington, D.C., at which Dr. Mitchell had been invited to talk about his work on intentions in dog-human play.

The Animal Studies Club has had a great year so far, including a reptile demonstration by Shane Locker, a presentation on the differences between therapy dogs, service dogs, and emotional support dogs by Corrin Bascom, a presentation by a canine cop, a visit to the Kentucky Equine Humane Center, a visit to the Primate Rescue Center, and two successful bake sales! Also, new officers were elected at the start of Spring 2014 with Autumn Costelle as president, Elinor Schillo as vice president, Kaitlyn Giplin as secretary, and Laura Wolfe as treasurer.

Animal Studies also had the pleasure of learning from Otto Fad, an elephant manager that Dr. Radhika Makecha has worked with, who visited on April 16th and 17th. He was a guest speaker for our Psychology Colloquium series, talking on "The Human-Elephant Connection." He also did an informal Q&A session with Psychology and Animal Studies majors as well as guest spoke in Dr. Rosanne Lorden's ANS 497 Special Topics class on Animal Training as well as in Dr. Makecha's Comparative Psychology class.

The Animal Studies Program participated in College Studies Investigation Day on Friday, April 18th, which allowed juniors in high school to sign up for 45 minute interactive sessions with different participating departments, giving them experience in a classroom setting at ECU and exposure to the different majors that ECU has to offer. Dr. Makecha offered two sessions, both involving animal enrichment, where students learned the basics of animal enrichment and also built a toy for a dog and watched the dog interact with it.

Two of our recent graduates have obtained employment in animal-related fields. Lindsey Baker (née Peterson) now has a job in the finance department at the United States Equestrian Federation. The USEF is responsible for the development of Olympic equestrian teams as well as making sure that people follows the rules, the playing field is level, and both horses and humans are safe. And Jennifer Rapchak (née Shields) obtained a position as the Humane Education Coordinator for Woodford Humane Society. As the Humane Education Coordinator, a few of her responsibilities are presenting to a wide range of school groups on topics ranging from pet behavior to pet nutrition, leading a Humane Education committee, teaching Pet Pro workshops, writing grants, and writing articles for local papers as well as WHS's newsletter.



School Program Update

The School Psychology Program Faculty and Students have had several major accomplishments this year! Dr. Florell has had several presentations with students at NASP and TSP. As a result of this we had three students this year attend the NASP Annual Convention. Dr. Florell has also been honored by becoming our NASP historian. This is a very exciting opportunity for him and we are very proud of his accomplishment! Dr. Florell is also reaching out to our community through columns in the Richmond Register and in the NASP Communique. Dr. Nowak has focused her attention on her latest research project. She currently has 15 graduates and undergraduate students as part of her research team. Her team is working with children identified from a community child care center as having behavioral concerns. The children are receiving either tutoring for their pre-academic skills or play therapy for their social/emotional/and behavioral skills. She continues to participate with the second year school psychology students in the Madison County Crisis Exercise. Dr. Strait continues to work on aggregating and collecting the data needed for the program's continued NASP approval. Dr. Strait is also reviewing the current school psychology curriculum in consideration of making some exciting changes. So, stay tuned for information about that! Dr. Strait has also published an article coming out soon in Psychology in the Schools with two students, Eric Muncie and Jennifer Reynolds. Second year student, Kelsey Giurgevich, was honored with the 2013 Jennie Ewald award from Kentucky Association of Psychology in the Schools! We continue to do well with the recruitment and admissions process and as a result we will have an incoming cohort for Fall 2014 of 7-8 students. It is an exciting time as we look toward the future!

Clinical Program Update

This spring (2014) the ECU Developmental Disabilities clinic is holding its annual Parent Consultation/Child Social Group for children with autism and related special developmental needs. We appreciate the WHAS Children's Crusade's funding support for this program. Our group is a collaborative effort between departments of Psychology and Occupational Therapy and uses the Lifestyle Performance Model to focus activities and goals.

In 2013, Drs. O'Brien (OT), Wittman (OT), and Bundy presented this project at the Louisville, Kentucky Gulf Summit conference on service learning. Josh Turner will be joining the Counseling Psychology PhD program at New Mexico State University in the fall.

Dr. Gina Oswald Speaks on Enhancing Online Instruction

On February 19, Gina Oswald, Ph.D. gave a talk about ways to enhance online instruction. Dr. Oswald is an Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling at Wright State University. One of her primary research interests is facilitating delivery of academic and vocational support services to individuals with disabilities. She noted the many advantages of online learning over traditional instruction, which include overcoming geographical barriers and circumventing many disability related issues that have, in the past, prevented certain populations from benefiting from higher education. On the other hand, online instruction tends to overemphasize memorization and "cognitive level" learning, at the expense of skill development, group work, and networking. Dr. Oswald has been engaged in several projects aimed at overcoming these limitations using both synchronous (real-time video delivery of services, like motivational interviewing or Cognitive Behavioral therapy) and asynchronous (e.g. writing grant proposals, creating or critiquing videos) activities. She notes that some courses and professional services may not be appropriate for online delivery, but that new and innovative uses of online technology can certainly help educators and mental health professionals reach traditionally underserved populations with a wider range of services.

Department Administrative Assistant Graduates



Amanda McIntosh who has been the psychology department secretary for the past five years, graduated this fall from EKU. She majored in General Studies in Business and Technology and was a member of Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. We are so proud of her! Her new skill set will greatly help the often befuddled faculty in negotiating the various technological hurdles we encounter. Amanda is continuing her studies as she is now taking graduate classes towards a master's degree in Student Personnel Services in Higher Education. If on the job training were part of her master's degree, we are confident she would have already graduated as she has masterfully helped many students with enrollment issues. Not only has she done well in her studies, but Amanda has managed to do it while being a mother to two wonderful children, Elijah and Emily. It is with great gratitude that we have been able to have had Amanda with us and hope she will stay with us for many more years to come.

Psychology Student Chosen Among 50 World-Wide



An Eastern Kentucky University student is among only 50 students worldwide selected to participate in the 2014 Fo Guang Buddhist Monastic Retreat in Taiwan this summer.

Reagan Coburn, a junior philosophy and psychology major from Paintsville, will spend a month living and learning in a Buddhist monastery. All accommodations, including lodging and meals, will be covered by the Fo Guang Shan Monastery.

The retreat is provided for college and university students or recent graduates ages 18-35 who are interested in experiencing authentic Chinese Buddhist monastic life. It includes 14 days of monastic life and Buddhist studies classes, an intensive week-long Chan Meditation retreat, four days at the International Youth Seminar on Life and Chan that will draw approximately 1,000 young people from around the world, and a three-day tour of Taiwan.

Coburn was recommended for the retreat by Dr. Abraham Velez, an associate professor in EKU's Department of Philosophy and Religion who specializes in Eastern religion. Coburn is a student in Velez's Religions of China and Japan class this semester.

Velez said he was "honored that a student of mine has been accepted to this prestigious and very competitive program."

Coburn said she was "really excited and very grateful for this opportunity."

For more information about the 2014 Fo Guang Buddhist Monastic Retreat, visit

www.fgs.org.tw/events/fgmonasticretreat.



Alumni Update

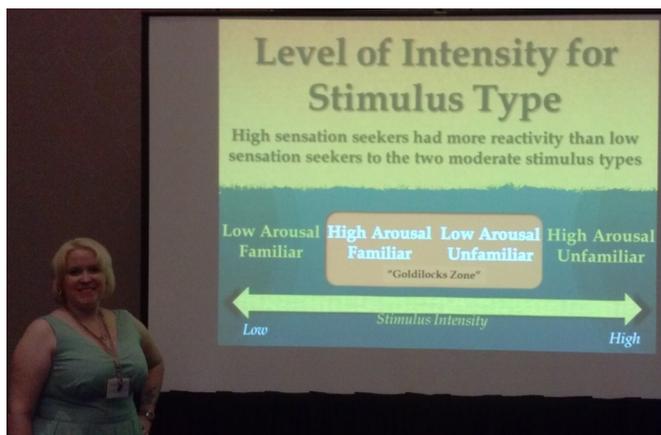


EKU Animal Studies Graduate, Lindsey Baker, is now employed at the United States Equestrian Federation! From Lindsey: "I have been offered a position in the finance department at the United States Equestrian Federation. I am SO EXCITED for this opportunity. I have been around horses and shores sports since I was in the pony club way back in the day, and now I can be part of the non-profit organization that is responsible for the develop-

ment of the Olympic equestrian teams as well as the promotion of equestrian sport all the way down to beginners. Their main goal is to ensure fair competition and a safe experience for humans and horses. I am not going to lie, I am a little scared about these big changes! I want to thank my teacher (well, really mentor) for all the help preparing for the interviews. I went in prepared for questions, with a resume and portfolio in hand...let's hope this is the beginning of an awesome journey!" (from Facebook post, 2/21/2014)



Psi Chi & SEPA



The SEPA (Southeastern Psychological Association) annual research convention was held this March in Nashville, TN. It was well attended by EKV students and faculty with a paper presentation (Amanda Renfro) and five poster presentations (Kelsey Bayley, Dustin Griffin, Zachary Lewis, Clinton Nowicke, Hope Reuschel) of students presenting their research. Dr. Lawson was the primary faculty chaperone, and Drs. Bundy and Varakin were also on the scene. The students gained great experience presenting their research and attending the various sessions on both basic and applied aspects of Psychology. We also got in some evening fun including listening to music on Music Row and line dancing at the Wild-horse saloon.



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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 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.