

# EKU Department Psychology Newsletter

Eastern Kentucky  
University

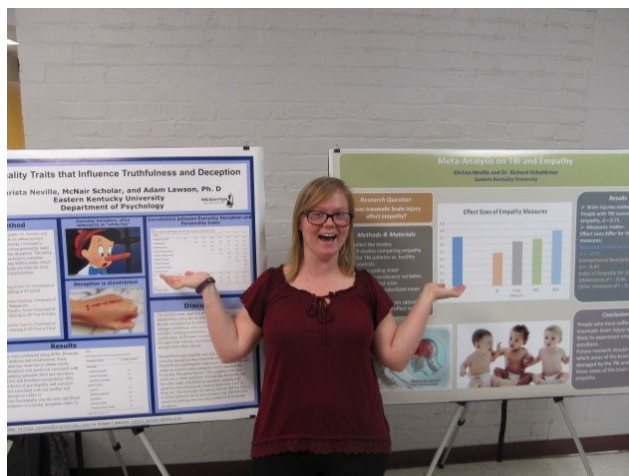
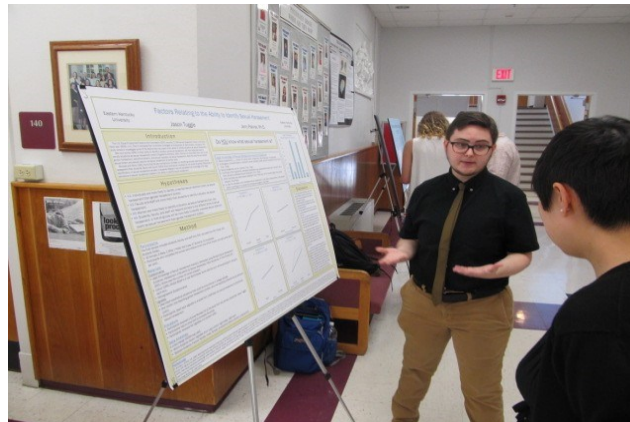
Spring 2017

## First Annual Psychology Department Mini-Conference

### Inside this issue:

On the afternoon of April 26, 2017, we hosted our first Psychology Department Mini-Conference. For this event, faculty and graduate students presented their research as 50-minute oral presentations in the Cammack classrooms. Some examples included, “Memory and Brain Processes of Deception,” “Exploring College Students’ Cultural Awareness,” and “Who’s in Control during Dog-Human Play?”

Many of these talks were brimming over with our majors as part of the audience! Attendees also had the opportunity to hear about professional development in the field, such as the importance of replication and how to get a job lined up. After the talks, attendees were invited to attend a poster presentation session, where undergraduate students presented their senior and honors thesis projects, as well as projects from the Grad School Prep and Senior Seminar courses, and independent projects in research labs. We look forward to making this an annual event and we hope to see some alumni next year!



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## Introducing the Dr. Jay and Denise Riggs Seminar Room



President Benson says a few words at the dedication ceremony.

Dr. Jay G. Riggs, professor emeritus of psychology, taught at EKV from 1968 to 1998. He is fondly remembered for his passion for teaching, mentoring, and inspiring students to believe in themselves. Dr. Riggs and his wife, Denise Hanlon Riggs, a former assistant librarian at Eastern and long-time educator, provided generous financial support to the Department of Psychology. Their generosity helped students defray the cost of professional development and applying to graduate school.



Dr. Brubaker tells a story about Dr. Riggs during the dedication ceremony.



After their deaths in 2016, the Riggs provided a generous endowment for undergraduate psychology scholarships. As a way of recognizing their years of support to the university and the psychology department in particular, the seminar room in Cammack 120 has been named after them. A dedication ceremony was held April 12th where friends, family, and faculty shared memories of the couple and their support over the years.



## EKV Psychology Top-Ranked Online

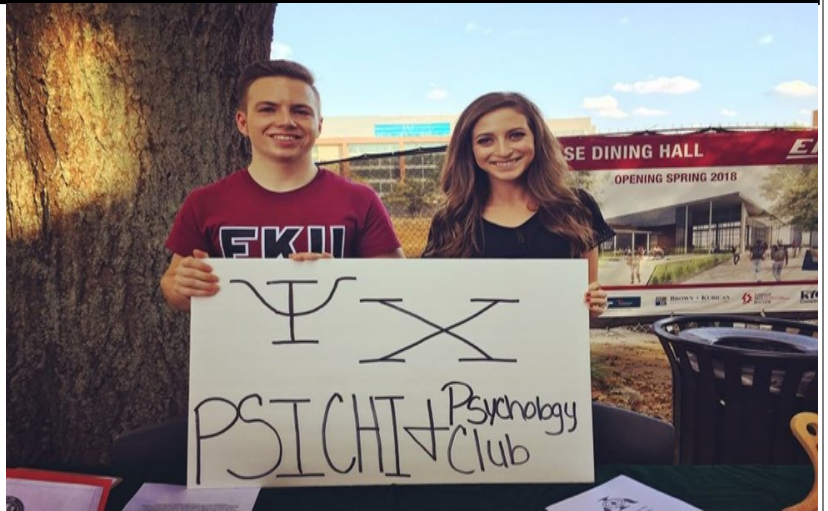
Eastern Kentucky University is Ranked in the 2017 Top Online Colleges for Social Sciences by SR Education Group

These rankings are based on value. EKV was analyzed with other accredited online schools across the nation, taking into consideration academic strength factors along with annual tuition rates in order to provide a list of colleges offering the best value to students. Inclusion on these lists shows high academic standards and a commitment to affordability, two key factors important to prospective students. Eastern Kentucky University made the rankings at 13th in Child Development, 5th in Forensic Psychology, and 11th in Substance Abuse Counseling!



## EKU Psi Chi and Psychology Club

Our ECU Chapter Psi Chi and Psychology Club have had an eventful spring semester! Our officers and members have been busy conducting a number of social and fundraising events. We held the first pizza party/informational session/welcome back event on Tuesday, January 31st and as a result, signed up a number of new members. Officers and members participated in a number of fundraisers over the course of the semester. During the month of February, we took part in fundraising for the WHAS Crusade for Children and the annual Valentine bake sale. April was a busy month, with Psi Chi/Psy Club holding, Puzzles for Autism, an inaugural fundraising event to raise money for events geared toward the promotion of autism awareness.



The annual Induction ceremony for Psi Chi and the Psychology Club was held on May 4, 2017. There were 33 new inductees to Psi Chi and 23 new inductees to the Psychology Club. There were a number of old and new members who presented at the Kentucky Psychological Foundation Spring Academic Conference, the ECU Undergraduate Presentation Showcase (UPS), Posters at the Capitol in Frankfort, the Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference, and the Kentucky Psychological Association Spring Academic Conference.



Above: outgoing 2016 -2017 Psi Chi officers.

We wish to welcome our new 2017-2018 Psi Chi Officers: President: Hogan Gagle, Vice-President: Bailey McGuffin, Secretary: Reagan Overby, Treasurer: Savannah Williams, Co-Historians: Christopher Butcher and Steven Hansman, and Webmaster: Jennifer Ireland.

Thanks to all those who made 2016-2017, such an amazing year! A special thanks to our former two term President, Kristen Gibson, who is leaving to attend a Master's degree program in Social Work at the University of Kentucky. Special congratulations to all graduating seniors!

Finally we are pleased to announce some technology updates! Several semesters ago, thanks to the assistance of Lakin Wooldridge (Assist. Dir. Office of e-Campus Learning), we were able to make our meetings available to our online members via live streaming. This semester we added a new feature, we started recording meetings and posting them so that on-campus or online students who are not able to attend a meeting can view them at their leisure. This has enabled our members to stay connected and caught up on what is going on in our chapter and club. Additionally, we are now utilizing a new GroupMe App for convenient and fast communication between officers and members, in addition to our Facebook and Twitter accounts. We are looking forward to a productive new year and working with our old and new members as we get our kickstart during the fall 2017 semester! We welcome all of our new members.

## Doctoral Clinical Psychology Students Intern Across U.S.

All six students in the advanced cohort of Eastern Kentucky University's doctoral degree program in clinical psychology have been "matched" to internships all across the nation.

The students are in the fourth year of the five-year Psy.D. program and are on track to become the program's first graduates in the summer of 2018. The final part of the program includes a 12-month (2,000-hour) clinical internship.

"All the students enter a nationwide match, during which they apply for various internships, interview at spots that are interested in them, and then the potential interns and internship sites rank each other," said Dr. Dustin Wygant, director of clinical training at EKU. "A computer then 'matches' the interns to the sites."



Three of the six students come from counties in eastern Kentucky, which is consistent with one of the program's goals of preparing the workforce in the University's service region. They will perform their internships at the University of Kentucky Counseling Center, Lexington, Kentucky; Cleveland State University Counseling Center, Cleveland, Ohio; High Plains Psychology Internship Consortium, Greeley, Colorado; Kentucky River Community Care, Jackson, Kentucky; West Virginia University-Carruth Center, Morgantown, West Virginia; and Colorado Mental Health Institute, Pueblo, Colorado.

EKU's doctoral program in clinical psychology, the first practice-oriented Psy.D. program at a public university in the Commonwealth, was launched in 2015 to address a significant health care void, particularly in rural Kentucky. The curriculum provides opportunities for specialized training in substance abuse, mental health administration, school-based mental health, suicide risk assessment and prevention, and working with traditionally underserved populations, including veterans and their families, adults and children with developmental disabilities, and individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. Additional specialized training opportunities include forensic psychology and applied behavior analysis. A total of 51 students are now enrolled in the program. For more information, visit [psychology.eku.edu/doctorate-clinical-psychology-psyd](http://psychology.eku.edu/doctorate-clinical-psychology-psyd).

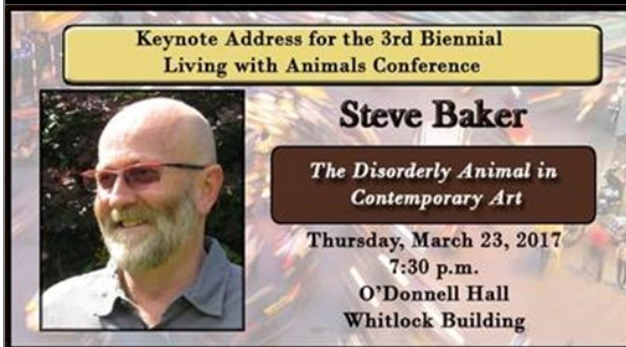
## Matt Moran's Thesis Apparatus has been Accepted for Demo Night at the Vision Sciences Society Meeting this Year.

Congratulations to General student Matt Moran. An apparatus he designed for his thesis research with Alex has been accepted for presentation at the Vision Sciences Society meeting this year

In this event, vision scientists from around the world show off their skills at creating compelling visual illusions. Matt designed a miniature theater.



## Art History and Animal Studies Expert Steve Baker Presented EKU



How can contemporary art show us new ways to better view and understand animal life?

Dr. Steve Baker answered that question on Thursday, March 23, when he presented “The Disorderly Animal in Contemporary Art,” continuing EKU’s Chautauqua lecture series “Order and Chaos.” His lecture was presented at O’Donnell Hall of the Whitlock Building.

Dr. Baker, a professor emeritus of art history at the University of Central Lancashire in England, is a seminal figure in the field of animal studies. Of his several published works on the subject, his most recent is the 2013 book “ARTIST|ANIMAL,” praised by prominent American artist Mark Dion for demonstrating a “deep understanding of the nuance, intricacy, and contradictions in how artists work today.” Other noteworthy publications of his include “The Postmodern Animal” and “Picturing the Beast: Animals, Identity, and Representation.”

Despite his retirement in 2008, Baker has continued his work in animal studies, contributing chapters of writing to major edited collections in the field. Other work includes dozens of scholarly articles and scores of public talks given since 2000, including conference keynotes in Great Britain, the United States, and Europe. His lecture at Eastern served as the keynote address of the third biennial Living with Animals Conference.

## Online Degree in IO Psychology to Launch at EKU

Eastern Kentucky University will offer a master’s degree in industrial-organizational psychology as an online program beginning in Fall 2017. The new format provides an opportunity for those working in the field to continue their education. In addition, it will allow individuals who have recently completed an undergraduate degree (in any field) to begin their careers while pursuing graduate education.

Industrial-organizational psychology merges psychology and business to benefit the workplace. The degree is ideal for those interested in human resources, organizational development, employee training, talent acquisition and related areas. “I-O psychology professionals are in one of the fastest growing job sectors,” explained Dr. Jaime Henning, associate professor of psychology and coordinator of the online program. “With an online program, students can prepare for success in the field without having to sacrifice other obligations.”

There are several benefits of the EKU Online I-O master’s degree. These include; online learning in a flexible, convenient format, coursework following Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) recommendations for graduate training, quality instruction from an accredited brick-and-mortar institution, and advisers who work with students from application through graduation.

EKU Online launched an online bachelor’s degree in psychology in 2012, and it quickly became one of the University’s most popular online programs. The master’s degree in industrial-organizational psychology has been offered on-campus for more than 15 years. Faculty chose to move to an online format to allow working adults and those who do not live in the area a chance to enroll. Applications are now being accepted for the fall term. The GRE requirement is waived for students with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0.

## School Psychology Program Update

The school psychology program had an active year. Our year began in October 2016 with Dr. Teri Nowak, Jenna Willand, Jennifer Duke, and Stevy Brewer presenting their research on play therapy in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the Kentucky Association of Psychology in the Schools (KAPS) annual conference. At this same conference, second year student, Jenna Willand, was awarded the Jennie S. Ewald scholarship, which is given to a student that exhibits a high level of academic and social abilities, professionalism, and leadership potential associated with becoming a school psychologist.

In February, many of our first and second year students made their way to San Antonio, Texas, to attend the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) annual conference. They spent their time at the conference learning new skills and networking with other professionals in the field. In addition, second year students, Stevy Brewer and Jenna Willand, along with Dr. Teri Nowak presented a workshop on play therapy with children on the Autism spectrum. In the same area, Dr. Dan Florell and first year student, Michael Pierce, presented a poster titled *Impact on School Psychologists of Changing Job Demands Over Time* at the Trainers of School Psychologists annual conference. While not at the conference, the eleven students enjoyed the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk, exploring both on riverboat and on foot. They enjoyed the delicious Tex-Mex food, the graduate student outing at Dave and Buster's, and the Tower of the Americas. As if this was not enough, the first and second year cohorts got closer as future professionals and friends. Once arriving back in Kentucky, Dr. Strait and her graduate assistants, Emma Harris, Shayna Wiedel, and Jenna Willand, worked diligently to complete the NASP accreditation report. It was the last of three accreditations completed for the school psychology program this school year. Congratulations to Sarah Hansford, Sarah Thompson-Barnott, Emily Strunk-Woods, Michelle Rossi, Danielle Davis, and Jordan Queen for graduating from our program this year.

## Psychology In Action @ ECU Manchester Campus



Students in the Psychology Program at ECU Manchester Regional Campus are learning about brain anatomy and physiological functions in the General Psychology course instructed by Dr. James M. Davis. "Providing students with interactive learning activities and giving them hand-on participation increases student engagement and can improve student achievement," said Dr. Davis. We have a vibrant cohort of Psychology students at the Manchester Campus and are pleased to offer the program in collaboration with Dr. Brubaker, Psychology Department Chair, remarked Mr. Terry Gray, Director of the East Region.

## Congratulations to the Outstanding Psychology Seniors for the 2016-2017 year

Brianna Black, Christopher Campbell, Benjamin Chartoff, Kristin Gibson, Isis Girgis, Michaela Herbig, Michael LaFlamme, Erica Leach, Cayla Robinson, Eliza Scalia, Kendra Smallwood, Hayley Sparks, Hannah Steiger, Jason Tuggle, Danil Verenchuk, Samantha Baker, Emily Mink, Justin Morgan, Jessica Ritzmann, Jackie Shepard, & Mary Kate White.

## General Psychology Program Update

The General Psychology Masters program had three graduates in Fall 2016. Cassie Whitt, working with Dr. Winslow, finished her thesis, *“When Focusing on Differences Leads to Similar Perspectives: A Replication Study of Todd, Hanko, Galinsky, and Mussweiler (2011).”* She will be beginning a Ph.D. program in social psychology at the University of Alabama in the Fall. Two students completed their theses studying with Dr. Gore: Damon Tichenor’s thesis is entitled *“Social Comparisons and Self-Concept Change: An Examination of Upward, Downward, and Lateral Comparisons,”* and Alexandra Szarabaiko’s thesis is entitled *“Relationships and Sports: Mechanisms in Relational Motivation and Their Impact on Athletic Performance.”* Alex is now in EKU’s Master of Science in Physical Education program, studying exercise and sport science.

## Clinical Psychology Program Update

The 2016 – 2017 academic year has been a busy one for the Psy.D. program! The program continues to grow and we will be at nearly full capacity by the fall of 2017, with five separate cohorts of students in the program. Our most advanced cohort of students is currently completing their doctoral specialty projects and will embark on their year-long internships this summer. These students are set to graduate in the summer of 2018 as the inaugural Psy.D. class! We completed our interviews for the next incoming class for the fall of 2017. The incoming cohort includes 12 new first year students and one student coming in post-masters in clinical psychology. Are advanced cohorts will be completing external practicum at a variety of placements around the area, including the EKU Counseling Center, Pathways, Oakwood Bluegrass, Eastern State Hospital, and the Kentucky Department of Corrections (among others).

The program faculty are in the process of finalizing the self-study materials for the initial accreditation of the program. We are hopeful to become accredited by the American Psychological Association in 2018!

### Decoding Evidence-Based Treatments for PTSD

Wednesday, May 24, from 10:00—12:00 PM  
in 108 Library at EKU

Dr. William Ajayi will discuss the structure of PTSD (and comorbid conditions) in line with the DSM-5. This presentation will review empirically-supported treatments for PTSD, focusing on Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE).

He will differentiate between the various phases of the trauma recovery process in line with a more trauma-informed care approach.

### After the Heroin Forum For Bereaved, Policymakers, Clinicians, and Community Members

Tuesday, May 23, from 10:00—12:00 PM in Combs Grise Room, Combs Building at EKU. This public forum highlights the problem of heroin in Kentucky and invites those who are bereaved by heroin overdose, policy makers, clinicians, caring community members, and clergy to attend.

Susan Mitchell will share her story of loss following the death of her son and read from her book, *“After Heroin: A Mother’s Story in Poetry.”* Other speakers include Anne Roberts, founder of Lexington’s new Grief Recovery After Substance Passing (GRASP) group, EKU Professor Dr. Theresa Botts, and invited policymakers and community leaders.

## EKU Alum and ResCare's New Behavioral Health Division's Leader Looks to 'Break Down Silos'

Tabitha Burkhart-Wilson was hired as vice president of SpringHealth Behavioral Health and Integrated Care at the beginning of the year. SpringHealth is owned by Louisville-base ResCare Inc.

ResCare provides in-home nonmedical care for the elderly and the developmentally and intellectually disabled and is ranked No. 11 on Louisville Business First's list of the area's largest employers. ResCare employs 2,435 people locally and about 50,000 companywide.

Burkhart-Wilson was raised in Harlan County and graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She also earned a master's degree in clinical psychology from EKU and an MBA from Sullivan University.



“What we are doing here, no one else is really doing it. Often times, health care is very ‘siloed,’ and treatment follows payer sources. If an insurance company or the federal government provided payment for a service, you see that service provided. We are really reshaping that. Instead, we are saying, ‘these are the services we are going to provide and we’re going to figure out how to get payment for that.’ It’s a really different way of looking at things. Sometimes people will go see their psychiatrist and then they may see their psychologist and then they may see a behavioral analyst ... and oftentimes they are not talking [to each other.] The care is so siloed. I am super excited because we are breaking down those silos. We are using an electronic health record to where our disciplines and our specialists are talking to each other.”

## EKU Students Assist Georgia Sea Turtle Center

Thirteen Eastern Kentucky University students spent the 2016-17 winter term on the southeast Georgia coast. But they weren't there to soak up the sun. The students, from the Department of Recreation and Park Administration and the Animal Studies Program in the Department of Psychology, were on Jekyll Island helping the Georgia Sea Turtle Center collect visitor use data to improve their visitor center and education program related to sea turtles and coastal conservation. Faculty members Dr. Michael Bradley and Stephen Sims accompanied the students. One student noted that the “most influential moment” was when a sick sea turtle entered the treatment area to be placed on a ventilator. “As sad as it was, it’s moments like that that make the visitors understand the need for conservation and rehabilitation of these animals. Actually seeing a sick turtle really impacts you and makes you want to be pro-active in helping these creatures.” Another noted that the experience gave the group “a better sense of what you need to have, or how the information needs to be displayed, to create a successful interpretive program.”

Students making the trip were: Samantha Bates, Jasmin Kilgore, Louisville; Megan Bell, Berea; Catherine Bloomfield, Tabitha Foster, Richmond; Christina Bradley, Corbin; Darrian Carr, Winchester; Micah Hess, Arlington, Indiana; Michelle Hickerson, Martinsburg, West Virginia; Phoebe Kingsley, Danville; Seth Meldon, Springfield, Ohio; Davis Preston, Lexington; and Abigail Smallwood, Pikeville.

It wasn't all work and no play. The students also had time to visit several cultural and historic destinations, including Fort Frederica National Monument, Historic St. Simons Downtown District, St. Simons Lighthouse, and Driftwood Beach. The group also toured the Summer Waves Water Park and the Camp Jekyll 4H Camp to learn more about managing the properties for visitors and for educational uses.



## EKU Center Develops and Administers Survey for City of Richmond

As a lifelong Richmond resident and current city commissioner, Jason Morgan desired a scientific survey that would engage local citizens in charting the community's course. He first asked Eastern Kentucky University regional outreach agent Vickie Moberly, who in turn contacted Dr. Yoshie Nakai, director of the Center for Applied Psychology and Workforce Development at EKU. Now, city leaders will soon hear the results and analysis of a community survey developed and administered by two graduate students in Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Cassandra Walter and Brianna Wilson, with oversight from Nakai.

The survey touches on such topics as public safety, education, traffic and transportation, the business environment and community appearance, among others. "Any time we can bring our community and university together in a collaborative manner is positive," Moberly said. "This particular 'town-gown' initiative is a win-win proposition for both partners. The city benefits by gaining real-time feedback from its citizens that can be utilized to set priorities and decision making, and the University benefits by providing its faculty and students the opportunity to engage in authentic, meaningful research that has the potential for positive community impact." The project was completed at no cost to taxpayers, as the students earned academic credit for their "independent study" course.

"As far as I know, citizens of Richmond have never been asked the questions of what we are doing right and where we need to improve," Morgan said. "The purpose of the survey was to engage the community to determine what our strengths and weaknesses are and to use the survey as a tool to enhance our strengths and address our weaknesses through policy, budget, etc." In expressing his gratitude to the University, Nakai and the students, Morgan said he was "grateful for the expertise provided by the center" and "confident that the report provides credible evidence of what our citizens want in our community. This provides the commission confidence when adopting policies that move our community forward."

The students also benefit, Nakai said, "by polishing skills they gained in their (survey development) coursework. Also, managing a project from the beginning to the end offers students a great opportunity for their professional development." Anna Shank, who earned her master's degree from EKU in May 2016, assisted with the project in its early stages. The EKU team presented the results of the survey at the City Commission meeting on March 28. "As confident as I am in the report, I am more confident that (it) will provide meaningful changes to Richmond," Morgan said.

The Center for Applied Psychology and Workforce Development is a training, research and service agency within EKU's Department of Psychology. Its services include: training programs, workshops and seminars, new employee orientations, job analysis and description, performance appraisals, employee recruitment and selection, organizational development and needs assessments, and program development and evaluation.



**Congratulations to Dr.  
Winslow**

**He will be the next  
Chair of the  
Faculty Senate**

**The Kennamer Scholarship Selection  
Committee has Selected a Recipient from  
the Psychology Department.**

Hogan Gagle has been approved by both  
Scholarship and Foundation offices.  
Congratulations, Hogan!

**Alumni - Bradlee Gamblin Gets Ph.D.**

Yet another General student does well as Bradlee Gamblin will be receiving a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of North Dakota in August. He earned both a B.S. and an M.S. in General Psychology here a few years ago. Brad informed Dr. Winslow that he has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Northwest Missouri State.

**Incoming Faculty**

Our soon-to-be colleague, Sara Incera, was featured in the January APS Observer. Check out the article here:

<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/videos-share-the-psychological-study-of-language>



**Professor Achievement**

Dr. Wygant, just achieved a significant professional milestone: 50 publications.

**Diverse EKU Departments Join Forces for Project Addressing Free-Roaming Horses in Breathitt County**

What do the academic disciplines of sociology, animal studies, agriculture, wildlife management and aviation have in common?

Faculty and students from those respective departments at Eastern Kentucky University are pooling their diverse areas of expertise to address the growing presence of free-roaming herds of horses in rural southeastern Kentucky.

On Saturday morning, Feb. 25, EKU aviation instructor Randall Humphries, flanked by junior animal studies major Katelyn Wagner, boarded a University plane at Central Kentucky Regional Airport in Madison County and headed for Breathitt County. Awaiting them at the Julian Carroll Airport near Jackson was Dr. Stephanie McSpirit, professor of sociology, and Dr. Ed Fredrickson, associate professor of agriculture. After a brief discussion of logistics, Humphries and Wagner headed back to the skies over Breathitt County at approximately 10 a.m. to allow Wagner to perform an aerial inventory of the horses. It has been estimated from ground studies that between 200 and 400 horses are freely roaming the 492 square miles of Breathitt County.

Fredrickson, whose specialty is rangeland ecology, said the abandonment of horses was an unintended consequence of mine site reclamation without following a longer-term management plan that considers carrying capacity of the site. To “better define the problem,” a 924-acre reclaimed mine site in Breathitt County was selected for a ground survey, with horse and wildlife surveys conducted using three strategically based camera traps baited with equine mineral blocks for 14-day intervals. More than 75 horses were recorded within the study site, along with 26 elk and 44 deer visitations. About 5 percent of the horses appeared to require veterinary care due to poor body conditions, or visible disease, and vegetation surveys suggested “severe” overgrazing, with grasses replaced by “unpalatable” plant species.

Continued on page 10...

## **Diverse ECU Departments Join Forces for Project Addressing Free-Roaming Horses in Breathitt County (continued..)**

(from pg. 9) McSpirit added that many of the horses were released during the 2009 economic downturn and have increased in numbers the past eight years. “There may also be a common practice of releasing some horses to winter on the strip job and bring in during the spring. The fact that some of the horses are indeed owned by residents in the area must be considered in developing a viable and workable management plan that the community supports. We are in the process of starting interviews with residents and community officials to get feedback and perspective on that front.”

The flyover, McSpirit said, “can help the county and other groups and organizations form sound management plans. The Breathitt County herd is unique in that many in the community see this herd as a potential asset, rather than a nuisance, and there are plans for a horse viewing center. Maintaining a healthy herd and determining what might be a stable population size is important to those efforts in developing a management plan.”

Management of resources supporting the horses “is also important to ensure adequate water quality and quantity for local populations and downstream users,” Fredrickson said. “This requires that horse populations do not exceed the carrying capacity of a disturbed reclamation site with poor soil development and fragile plant populations.” McSpirit, who also has a background in natural resource management, said she hoped the Breathitt flyover could serve as a model for future efforts. “Most counties in eastern Kentucky have a herd of free-roaming horses,” she said, “and, no doubt, would like a population count on these herds as a first start in developing a management plan that will benefit the community and the welfare of these horses. We hope to compare aerial counts with on-the-ground counts to determine what methods are most effective in conducting herd inventories.”

The idea for the project started with a since-graduated animal studies major, Sarah Oliver, who approached McSpirit in Fall 2015 about such a study. At that point, Fredrickson and another student, Heather Donlan, a current wildlife management major, were recruited to assist. The four secured a \$7,000 grant from the University Scholarship Fund to study the Breathitt County herd. The grant provided funds for Oliver and Donlan to conduct interviews and a ground survey, and for the flyover.

An excited Wagner, of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, said she “couldn’t wait” for the flyover. “As an animal studies major, it is an interest to me as I would like to eventually go out west to study wild horses and their interactions with local farmers as well as in other areas. Horses have always been a part of my life. I have had a particular interest in them since I was a child.”

Dennis Sinnett, the newly named coordinator of the ECU Aviation Program, the only such program based at a Kentucky college or university, said: “The entire aviation department was excited about the opportunity to assist in a worthy project by providing access to University assets that can prove beneficial in supporting other departments. Dr. (Tim) Ross (chair of the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology) and the entire aviation staff were fully supportive of the initiative, and look forward to the opportunity to assist in the future. This is viewed as a win-win across the board.”

The results of the Feb. 25 aerial survey were shared with Breathitt Countians and horse welfare organizations, McSpirit said, adding that some of the research was also presented at the annual “Living with the Animals” conference at ECU in March. The conference was hosted by ECU’s animal studies program, the first program of its kind in the world.

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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](mailto:dan.florell@eku.edu).



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