From the Department Head

Welcome to the Spring/Summer Psychology Department Newsletter!

To say that the last year has been a blur would simply be an understatement. At the same time, it has also been a tremendously exciting year, marked by many, many accomplishments and successes, a number of which you will see mentioned in the following pages of this newsletter. The beginning of this year was marked by our 50 year anniversary of the first Ph.D. graduate in Psychology, which also coincided with our 35 year anniversary of the Psychology Diversified Students Program. Gloria Valencia Weber, JD, founder of the PDSP, her husband Robert Weber, one of our Emeriti faculty, and a host of others returned to OSU for this wonderful celebration.

We have also had an extremely successful year in terms of enhancing what I refer to as the “culture of science” in our Department in terms of visiting speakers. Bob Provine, Ph.D., one of our own alumni, came back to deliver the Goldman Colloquium series address on the science of laughter. Carl Lejuez, Ph.D., and Suzanne Segerstrom, Ph.D., each spent a couple of days with us for the Social Sciences Seminar Series discussing their research, as well as experiences with securing external funding. Joy Lawson, Ph.D. and Tim Durazzo, Ph.D. both our alums, came back to discuss their research programs. As part of the Oklahoma Psychological Association Student Research Conference, a number of prominent psychologists from around the state attended, including Jeanne Masters Morgan, Ph.D., Richard Carothers, Ph.D., Robert Powitzky, Ph.D., Steve Scott, Ph.D., Laura Pitman, Ph.D., Regan Smith, Ph.D., Megan Ballew, Ph.D., not to mention our own Provost and faculty member, Bob Sternberg, Ph.D. One of our alumni, Dr. Stephen Gillaspy, now an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at OUHSC, was a major force in planning this conference, along with David Fedele, one of our graduate students. Coupled with a weekly colloquium series that features graduate student research and faculty research, our Department continues a long tradition of fostering intellectual discourse and interdisciplinary collaboration.

You will also find in this newsletter a tribute to Dr. Richard Potts, who after 21 years of dedicated service to the Department of Psychology, has decided to retire. Richard’s contributions over this period of time are far too many to number. It is some small comfort that he will remain in the Stillwater area for at least the short term.

Finally, I would note that I have witnessed a phenomenon that appears to be on the increase in the Psychology Department. It seems to me that more and more alumni are making the decision to renew their contact with the Department, either through email, Facebook, or, believe it or not, actually showing up in Stillwater. I realize that Eskimo Joe’s is still quite the draw, but hopefully these treks speak of something else. I consider this phenomenon to be yet another success, and one that we plan to continue to foster.

Enjoy reading this latest edition of the Psychology Department Newsletter!

Larry
New Clinical Faculty

Dr. Lana Beasley’s research interests are in the area of child maltreatment. Specifically, she is interested in research on child abuse prevention with her current program of research examining (a) cultural congruency of prevention services, (b) factors of the provider (home visitor) that impact service fidelity, family engagement, and outcome, and (c) parent-identified factors obtained via mixed qualitative and quantitative methods.

She is also interested in the cultural adaptation of treatments, the family environment of children exposed to maltreatment, and research focusing on foster children. Future research plans are to examine transitional periods for foster care children to better understand child mental health outcomes. Therefore, her research interests are within the field of child abuse neglect and more specifically attempting to better understand not only how to prevent child maltreatment, but also how to better understand the impact of the family on child outcomes in children exposed to maltreatment.
Kelsey Barber Named Psychology Department Outstanding Senior

The Psychology Department is proud of Kelsey Barber who has been chosen as this year’s 2010-2011 Outstanding Senior in the Psychology Department at Oklahoma State University.

Barber exemplifies this honor by her impressive volunteer work, dedication to research and distinguished academics. Barber maintains a 3.8 psychology GPA and 3.6 overall GPA. She has volunteered upwards of 150 hours of physical and occupational therapy at hospitals in both Stillwater and Duncan, OK. Currently Barber houses a Valedictorian Scholarship, is in the honors college, and is a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda.

She is extremely dedicated to her research and published a bibliography of teaching related articles in the *Journal of Psychological Reports*. Her other research interest include the cognitive processes in invertebrates and she is a part of Dr. Abramson's laboratory here at Oklahoma State University. In addition, Barber collaborates with a professor from Canada who’s title analysis program will benefit her senior honors thesis. Kelsey has a very powerful resume which will benefit her in the days following graduation.

Dr. Charles Abramson (advisor), Kelsey Barber, and her father Dr. Barber (also an OSU alumni).

FACULTY AWARDS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Matt Alderson was recently awarded a grant from the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology for a project entitled, “Competing Core Processes in ADHD” $135,000.00 for three years.

Dr. John M. Chaney was awarded an Indian Health Services Grant: American Indians Into Psychology - $1,009,848.00 for 48 months. Also, he was invited to deliver a plenary address at the National Pediatric Psychology Conference in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Charles Abramson was awarded the 2011 Oklahoma Psychological Society Outstanding Faculty Member.

Dr. Robert Sternberg, Provost has been selected by the National Academy of Education as a member for his pioneering efforts in educational research and policy development.

Dr. Charles Abramson and Silvia Daggy (Psych undergraduate Advisor) will offer the first undergraduate international course in the Psychology Department by traveling to Athens, Greece, next Spring.

Dr. Lana Beasley is a 2011 NIH fellow in the Child Intervention, Prevention, and Services Fellowship Program.

Dr. James Grice authored a new book entitled: *Observation Oriented Modeling: Analysis of Cause in the Behavioral Sciences*.

Dr. Doug Hershey was granted the Foreign Visiting Research Scholar award for this summer from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research.

Drs. Shelia Kennison and Jennifer Byrd-Craven were granted a REU grant: Biological Basis of Animal and Human Behavior - NSF- $300,237.00 for 36 months.

Dr. Shelia Kennison is the new president for the Southwestern Psychological Association.

Dr. Thad Leffingwell has been named to the editorial board of the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* and has been named a Consulting Editor for the journal, *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. 
Department’s 50th Anniversary and Psychology Diversified Students Program
35th Anniversary Celebration

Alumni Panel: (L-R) Thad Leffingwell (CTC Director), Lee Cohen ('99), BJ Boyd ('03), Megan Ballew ('05), Matthew Doppler ('95), and David DiLillo ('97).

Gloria Valencia-Weber (Speaker)


Tim Durazzo (alumni) talks with current graduate students. (L-R) Greg Lengel, Matt Judah, Liz Molzon, Helen Gutierrez, and Tim Durazzo.

Psychology Department tailgate party outside North Murray.
Dr. Robert Provine was this year’s Goldman series speaker. He came to OSU during the Fall semester to present on his research about laughter. Dr. Provine is a Professor of Psychology and the Assistant Director of the Neuroscience Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in Psychology in 1965 and earned his Ph.D. from Washington University in 1971. He has authored over 50 research papers concerning developmental neurosciences and the neural mechanisms of behavior, conducting studies on over 30 species. He then began studying laughter and human etiology, for which his research has been awarded grants from the National Institutes of Health. He has also published a book entitled, “Laughter: A scientific investigation”, which has been reprinted in several countries around the world. When not doing science, Dr. Provine enjoys stargazing, optics, and martial arts, serving as advisor and instructor of the University Tae Kwon Do Club. He is married to pianist and musicologist Helen Weems and has two adult children.

Dr. Carl Lejuez, Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Maryland, came to OSU to give a talk about his current research entitled, “Positive and negative reinforcement processes underlying risk-taking.” He also provided a workshop on Behavioral Activation for the students in the Clinical Program. During his visit, Dr. Lejuez met with many faculty members as well as graduate and undergraduate students.

Dr. Lejuez received his Ph.D. in 2000 from West Virginia University. After completing a Clinical Internship at the Brown University he joined the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of Maryland in 2001. He has published over 160 articles and book chapters, served as PI for over $13 million in NIH grant funding, and received Early Career Awards from the American Psychological Association Division 3 (Experimental Psychology; Applied Category), the APA Division 50 (Addictions), and the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT, formerly AABT). Dr. Lejuez is the founder and current Director of the Center for Addictions, Personality, and Emotion Research (CAPER). He is the Founding Editor of the APA Journal Personality Disorders: Theory, Research, and Treatment, and serves on the editorial board of two other APA Journals (Psychology of Addictive Behaviors and Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology). He currently holds adjunct faculty positions at the Charleston VA (South Carolina) and the Yale Child Study Center.

Dr. Suzanne Segerstrom also visited OSU during the Spring Semester to present a talk entitled, “The varieties of future expectancy and their (different) effects on the human immune system.” Dr. Segerstrom is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Kentucky and her research primarily addresses the influence of individual differences such as personality, cognition, and emotion on the physiological effects of stressors. Students and faculty alike had many opportunities to interact with Dr. Segerstrom during her visit to OSU.

Dr. Segerstrom earned her Ph.D in Clinical Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1997. Upon completing her internship at the Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Center at the University of British Columbia, she joined the faculty at the University of Kentucky. She has been the PI on a number of grants including, “Anxiety, Depression, Optimism, and Cellular Immunity” and “Repetitive Thought, stress, and Immunity in Older Adults.” She has published over 50 manuscripts and has been invited to give numerous presentations. Dr. Segerstrom was an associate editor for the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Personality Processes and Individual Differences and is currently an associate editor for the Journal of Personality. She also was awarded the Robert Alder New Investigator Award from the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society.
In April 2011 sixteen Psychology undergraduate students were inducted in the Psi Chi chapter at Oklahoma State University.

The Psychology Department Congratulates...

Cam Weaver, M.S., graduate student currently on internship, will be completing a two year Post Doc at the University of Missouri with Dr. Kenneth J. Sher at the Alcohol and Addiction Research Center.

Phillip Rambo, M.S., graduate student currently on internship, will be completing a two year Post-Doc at West Virginia University-Neuropsychology area.

Jeff Seger, Ph.D., fifth year graduate student, was recently offered a full-time teaching position as an Assistant Professor at Cameron University, Lawton, OK.

James Vaughn, M.S., fifth year graduate student, was recently offered a full-time teaching position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

Kasey Claborn, M.S., fourth year graduate student, won the OSU Outstanding Doctoral Student Award from the Office of Leadership Development.

Kristopher Bradley, M.S., third year graduate student, was selected for the 2011 OSU Graduate Research Excellence Award, Master’s Category in the Social Science Division.

Ashley Junghans, M.S., third year graduate student, was selected as the 2011 A&S Outstanding Teaching Assistant.

Stephanie Hullmann, M.S., third year graduate student, was selected to be a member on the Division 54 Student Advisory Board, and also won a Society of Pediatric Psychology Student Poster Award.

Elisabeth Ponce-Garcia, first year graduate student, won first place poster award at the 2011 OSU Research Symposium & honorable mention for NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program.

Liz Molzon, first year graduate student, will be spending this summer at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in the Pediatric Oncology Education Program.

Ellen Meier, first year graduate student, was granted the Leopold Schepp Foundation Scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year.

Kelsey Barber, received the 2011 Psychology Department Outstanding Senior Award.

Blaine Bertram and Steve Ortman, were selected as a Top Ten senior in the college of Arts & Sciences.
Where Are They Now?

Christiane Brems, Ph.D., 1987. Christiane was recently named Interim Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate School at the University of Alaska Anchorage/Fairbanks.

Brett Kuhn, Ph.D., 1988. Brett is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Munroe Meyer Institute, Omaha, Nebraska.

Timothy Durazzo, Ph.D., 1996. Tim is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging at the University of California, San Francisco.

Lee Cohen, Ph.D., 1999. Lee was promoted to Full Professor and is the new Chair in the Psychology Department at Texas Tech University. Lubbock, TX.

Colleen Ewing, Ph.D., 2000. Colleen is a Clinical Psychologist at McGuire’s VAMC, Richmond, VA.

Bernard Fuemmeler, Ph.D., 2001. Bernard is an Assistant Professor at Duke University, Durham, NC.

Stephanie Wells Gardner, BS, 2004. Stephanie is finishing up her MS and is employed at Stillwater Medical Center, Stillwater, OK.

Caleb Lack, Ph.D., 2006. Caleb is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK.

Melissa (Carpentier) Miller, Ph.D., 2007. Melissa has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX.

Jerald Bowers, Ph.D., 2008. Jerald is a Post-Doctoral fellow at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Amanda Burke-Bergmann, Ph.D., 2009. Amanda is a proud mother of a new baby girl.

Christina (Almstrom) Whelan, Ph.D., 2009. Christina is a proud mother of a new baby boy.


Elizabeth Lefler, Ph.D., 2009. Elizabeth is an Assistant Professor at the University of Northern Iowa.

Ashleigh Coser, BS, 2010. Ashleigh is completing a master’s degree in Community Counseling at Oklahoma State University.

Benjamin Sigel, Ph.D., 2010. Ben has accepted a faculty position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jeffrey Anderson, Ph.D., 2010. Jeff is an Assistant Professor at Oklahoma City Community College, OKC, OK.

Joshua Swift, Ph.D., 2010. Joshua is an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage/Fairbanks.

Nick Wisdom, Ph.D., 2010. Nick is a Neuropsychology Post-Doctoral fellow at the Houston VA, TX.

The Psychology Department would like to thank the following alumni for donating to the Psychology Department’s Fund

Darshon Anderson
Mary Conry
Dr. Edward Goldenberg
Donald Headley
Robert Morgan
Dr. Thad Leffingwell
Dr. Robert Provine

The Department of Psychology Congratulates the Following Students On Their Internships:

Nicki Aubuchon-Endsley, MS Psychology Internship-VA Medical Center, Durham, NC

Alvina Cawston, MS - IHCRC-Northeastern Oklahoma Psychology Internship, Vinita, OK

Collin Davidson, MS - University of Washington, Department of Psychiatry, Seattle, WA

Angelica Eddington, MS - St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, University of Tennessee, HSC, Memphis, TN

David Fedele, MS - Alpert Medical School of Medicine, Brown University, Providence, RI
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If you are interested in supporting specific faculty research, endowing a professorship, or making a donation to a cause here, please contact the Psychology Department Head Dr. Larry L. Mullins at (405) 744-6027 or via e-mail: Larry.Mullins@okstate.edu.

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