Welcome to the Spring 2013 Psychology Department Newsletter!

Suffice it to say, it has been an extraordinary and exciting Spring semester for the Psychology Department. The pages to follow bear witness once again to the many accomplishments of our current faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as those of our alumni. Dr. Mark Cunningham (’97 OSU PhD), a nationally renowned forensic psychologist, visited as part of the Goldman Colloquium Series and delivered two outstanding presentations on capital sentencing in death penalty cases, and how convicted murderers actually behave once in prison. Dr. Joel Wong, Associate Professor at Indiana University, also came to OSU and presented his research on the psychology of men and masculinities through the support of the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma. We are also delighted that members of our Department “family” received accolades for their respective contributions, with Dr. Lana Beasley named this year’s Outstanding Faculty Member, Evan White named Outstanding Senior, and Kevin Seymore named Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences.

We would also like to say a fond farewell to Provost Robert Sternberg, who is leaving OSU to become the President of the University of Wyoming. We will certainly miss Bob’s leadership, his enthusiasm, and his outstanding sense of humor. We wish he, Karin, and their children the very best of luck in their new adventure.

As some of you already know, this will be my last Department Newsletter. This year completes my four-year term, and I have decided that it’s time for me to return to research and teaching on a full time basis. It has been a remarkable four years, and I want to thank our faculty, staff, and graduate students for the outstanding support they have given me as we have worked together to create a stronger, more productive, and vibrant Department. I also want to thank my Dean, Dr. Bret Danilowicz for his unwavering support, as well as that of each of the Associate Deans, Drs. Crauder, Van den Bussche, and Wikle, each of whom provided us with the resources we need to be truly successful. Last, but most importantly, I want to thank my wife Sharon and four boys, Carson, Kiefer, Taylor, and Parker for their love and support, and the constant reminder of what is truly important. Dr. Thad Leffingwell, currently the Director of Clinical Training will be assuming the honor of being Department Head on August 1st, 2013, and I know he will do an outstanding job.

Although I may not miss the steady stream of email, I will miss many, many aspects of being Department Head. Being in this position allows- and sometimes forces you- to view the academic world as we know it in an entirely different way. I have a newfound respect for the complexities of human relationships, and the occasional frailties of each of us, as well as an appreciation for the amazing tenacity and steadfastness of those who would want to make a difference in the world by becoming teachers and researchers of human behavior. More than ever, I am truly proud to be a Cowboy.

Go Pokes!

Lany
Dr. Mark Cunningham was this year’s Goldman series speaker. He came to OSU during the Spring semester to present his research on capital sentencing in death penalty cases and prison behavior of convicted murders. Dr. Cunningham received his bachelor’s degree from Abilene Christian University before receiving his Ph.D. from the clinical psychology program at Oklahoma State University in 1977. He completed his clinical internship training at the National Naval Medical Center and went on to complete a post-doctoral fellowship at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Cunningham currently maintains an independent forensic psychology practice in the Dallas area and has served as a consultant in over 65 federal capital cases and 100 state capital cases. Dr. Cunningham has also published over 50 book chapters and peer-reviewed publications in the areas of capital sentencing and prison misconduct and violence. Currently, he serves on the editorial board for the journal Assessment and the Open Access Journal of Forensic Psychology.

Dr. Cunningham has earned a number of impressive awards and distinctions in recognition of his research and professional contributions to the field, including the 2012 National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology A. M. Wellner, Ph.D. Distinguished Career Award, the 2006 American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy, the 2005 Texas Psychological Association Award for Outstanding Contribution to Science, and the 2004 John Augustus Award from the National Association of Sentencing Advocates. In 2007, he was named a fellow of the American Psychological Association Division 41 (American Psychology-Law Society).
Dr. Larry L. Mullins is the first holder of the Vennerberg Professorship in Developmental Disabilities in Psychology. The Vennerberg Professorship Selection committee cited Dr. Mullins’ impressive scholarly record, his national and international reputation, and his commitment to studying and assisting children with chronic illnesses and developmental disabilities. Dr. Mullins received his B.A. in Psychology from Oklahoma State University in 1977. He earned his M.A. and his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1981 and 1983, respectively. He has authored over 115 journal articles, 16 book chapters, and two books. He has received a number of awards, including the American Psychological Association Division 54 Levin Mentorship Award and the Oklahoma Psychological Association Teacher of the Year Award. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. He has been a faculty member in the Psychology Department.

Joel Wong, Ph.D. Presents Research on The Psychology of Men and Masculinities

The Department of Psychology, in conjunction with the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma, welcomed Dr. Joel Wong to speak about “The Psychology of Men and Masculinities: Implications for Health, Dating and Pretty Much Everything Else in Life” in late February. Dr. Wong is an Associate Professor and renowned expert from Indiana University Bloomington. Dr. Wong enlightened a full room of students, faculty, and visitors from across the campus about some of the current research directions in the area of men and masculinity.
Dr. Lana Beasley (Choctaw), Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department, was voted by the Psychology undergraduate students as this academic year’s Outstanding Faculty Member. Dr. Beasley joined OSU in the summer of 2010. Dr. Beasley’s research focuses on child trauma and child maltreatment. Specifically, Dr. Beasley is interested in research on child abuse prevention. Dr. Beasley teaches Psychology of Parent Behavior, Clinical Child Psychology, Parenting, and Clinical Supervision.

According to her students:

“She has been extremely helpful with advice for graduate school, is a great professor, passionate researcher, and most of all a kind and caring person with a huge heart”.

“She goes above and beyond to help her students. Her class is always interesting”.

“She always has a positive attitude and is super knowledgeable”.

“You can tell she loves what she does”.

Dr. Beasley accepted this award at the Psychology Department’s Annual Honor and Award Reception. She expressed her gratitude to the undergraduate students at OSU for the receipt of this award “I am so honored that students thought of me for this award! I truly love teaching and feel so blessed to get the opportunity to not only teach but learn from such amazing students!!”
Evan White (Absentee Shawnee), a 2012 American Indian Into Psychology Fellow, was named top senior in the Psychology Department. He is the son of Paige and Charles White and graduated from Thomas A. Edison High School in Tulsa in 2009. Evan will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He is currently working with Dr. DeMond Grant in the Laboratory of Emotion and Psychophysiology and Dr. LaRicka Wingate in the Laboratory for the Study of Suicide Risk and Resilience. He was chosen as a recipient of the undergraduate American Indians Into Psychology scholarship and has been an active part of the program under the direction of Dr. John Chaney.

Evan will continue his graduate education at Oklahoma State University. He has been accepted into the Clinical Psychology doctoral program and is very excited to continue research with Dr. DeMond Grant.
Kevin Seymore received the 2013 College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Professional Advisor Award. He was recognized at the College of Arts & Sciences Honors and Awards Banquet.

Kevin has been working in the Psychology Department for nine years and is one of the two undergraduate advisors in the psychology department. Also, he advises the American Studies, Economics, and Liberal Studies majors.

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O’Meara & Pasquini Chosen for the 2013-14 Stockton Memorial Scholarship

Madison O’Meara is the recipient of the Junior-Senior category of the Stockton Memorial scholarship. Madison is the daughter of Sandy O’Meara and Kent Johnson. During her time at OSU she has been a research assistant in three research labs. Currently she is conducting research with Dr. LaRicka Wingate in the Laboratory for the Study of Suicide Risk and Resilience. Madison was also chosen as the recipient of a 2012-13 Wentz Research Scholarship. After graduating from OSU, she plans to apply to Clinical Psychology PhD programs.

Alyssa Pasquini is the recipient of the Freshman-Sophomore category of the Stockton Memorial scholarship. Alyssa is the daughter of Dave and Becky Pasquini and graduated from Edmond North High School in 2012. She was accepted into the Freshman Research Scholars program and is currently conducting research with Dr. Shelia Kennison. Alyssa plans to enter a graduate program after graduating from OSU.

The Stockton Memorial Scholarship is in honor of the late Dr. Dale Stockton. Each scholarship carry a $500.00 award.
Kasey Claborn, M.S., Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year postdoctoral fellowship in the Center for Alcohol & Addiction Studies at Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Stephanie Hullman, M.S., Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year postdoctoral fellowship in research for behavioral oncology and cancer control at the Indiana University School of Nursing and Simon Cancer Center in Indianapolis, IN.

Sasha Jaquez, M.S., Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year postdoctoral fellowship at Dell Children’s Hospital/Texas Child Study Center at University of Texas, Austin.

Meredith Slish, M.S., Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a one year postdoctoral fellowship in Serious Mental Illness and Evidence Based Treatment at Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans’ Hospital, Columbia, MO.

Kathy Rasmussen, M.S., Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year postdoctoral fellowship at the VA-VISN2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention in Canandaigua, NY.

Jamie Ryan, M.S., Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year postdoctoral fellowship in the Adherence Center at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. She also won the Pediatric Gastroenterology-SIG Student Poster Award presented at the national conference in Pediatric Psychology in New Orleans.

Nathaniel Cooney, M.S., Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a one year postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in PTSD with the Central Arkansas Veterans Health Services.

Kasey Claborn, M.S., currently on internship, Ellen Meier, M.S., and Mary Beth Miller, M.S., both third year Clinical Psychology graduate students, are the recipients of a 2012-13 Psi Chi Graduate Research Grant.

Erika Brown, M.S., a fifth year Lifespan Developmental Psychology graduate student, won first place graduate paper presentation in the Social Sciences at the 24th Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference.

Rachel Messer, M.S., a fourth year Lifespan Developmental Psychology graduate student was the winner of 2013 Roberson Trust Summer Dissertation Fellowship.

Matthew Judah, a third year Clinical Psychology student won the 2013 Graduate College Research Excellence Award- Masters division, 2013 APAGS Basic Psychological Science Research Grant, and this summer will spent two weeks at ERP boot camp at the Center for Mind and Brain at the University of California-Davis.

Ellen Meier, M.S., a third year Clinical Psychology graduate, student received the 2013-14 Leopold Schepp Foundation award.

Janna Colaizzi, M.S., a second year Lifespan Developmental Psychology graduate student, won first place graduate poster presentation in the social sciences at the 24th Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference.

Ray Tucker, M.S., a second year Clinical Psychology student, received a $1,000 Travel Fellowship Award to attend the 2013 AAS Conference in Austin, TX.

Christopher Varnon, M.S., a second year Lifespan Developmental Psychology student, received an International Development Grant from the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis.

Ashleigh Coser, M.S., a first year Clinical Psychology graduate student, won a 2013 Oklahoma State University Women's Faculty Council Research Award.

David Hollingsworth, B.S., a first year Clinical Psychology graduate student, won second place graduate poster presentation in the Social Sciences at the 24th Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference.

Wilmon Brown III, won first place undergraduate poster presentation in the Biological Sciences at the 24th Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference.

Jenna Gilmore, won first place undergraduate poster presentation in the Social Sciences Division at the 24th Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference.

Amira Lynch, won first place undergraduate poster presentation in the Education Division at the 24th Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference.

Madison O’Meara, won first place undergraduate paper presentation in the Social Sciences Division at the 24th Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference.

Evan White, won second place undergraduate poster presentation in the Social Sciences Division at the 24th Annual OSU Research Symposium and Research Scholar Conference.

Williams Bryant, a senior Psychology major is the recipient of a 2013-14 Wentz Research Scholarship. He will be working on his research with Dr. DeMond Grant.

Andrew Romans, a senior Psychology major is the recipient of a 2013-14 Wentz Research Scholarship. He will be working on his research with Dr. Tom Winkle.
Five Graduate Students Receive 2013-14 Remember the Ten Run Scholarship Awards

Meggie Bonner, Gregory Lengel and Ellen Meier, third year Clinical students, Hilary DeShong, second year Clinical student, and Ashley Helle, first year Clinical student, are the recipients of the 2013-2014 Remember the Ten Run Scholarship. Each one will receive a $1,000.00 cash scholarship, with $500.00 being awarded in the Fall and $500.00 in the Spring.

About the Remember the Ten Run … (www.remembertheten.com)

On January 27, 2001, ten members of the Oklahoma State University family died in a plane crash in Colorado. On April 21, 2007, the Oklahoma State University family came together to celebrate the lives of the ten who perished by holding a memorial run on the OSU campus. The “Remember The Ten” Run has now become an annual tradition, held on the third Saturday of April each year.

Wentz Scholars Present their Research Projects

L-R: Madison O’Meara (Dr. Stephanie Mullins-Sweat, mentor), Jessica Miner (Dr. David Thomas, mentor), and Tabitha Fleming (Dr. Maureen Sullivan, mentor) 2012-13 Wentz Scholarship recipients presented their research at the Wentz Research Day.

The Lew Wentz Foundation and OSU provide support for the nationally recognized Wentz Research Project awards. Each year, $4,500 one-year research projects awards are given to approximately 40 undergraduate student scholars to conduct independent research with the guidance of a faculty mentor.
Harland & Beverly Wells Scholarship

L-R (front row) Ashley Cole from Oklahoma (back row) Ashley Helle from Iowa, Sean Seabridge from Oklahoma, Alayna Tackett from Kentucky, David Hollingsworth from North Carolina, and Ashleigh Coser from Oklahoma are the recipients of the 2013-14 Harland & Beverly Wells Scholarship.

Where Are They Now?

Ron Eskew, BS., 1973. Ron finished his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Purdue University. He is now the Director of Institution Research and Assessment at Hilbert College, Hamburg, NY.

Cynthia Turk, Ph.D., 1996. Cynthia is an Associate Professor, and starting this August she will be the new Department Chair of the Psychology Department at Washburn University. She is also the new SWPA representative from the state of Kansas.

Nikki Yonts, Ph.D., 2002. Nikki is an Assistant Professor at Lyons University, Arkansas.

Noelle Carlozzi, Ph.D., 2005. Noelle is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes and Assessment within the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Michigan. Dr. Carlozzi is the PI for an R03 to develop the Huntington’s disease (HD)-HRQOL measure.

Mike Bowers, Ph.D., 2008. Mike was interviewed for the Today Show regarding his latest paper “The Fox P2 gene” http://www.nbcnews.com/id/50868983.

Darshon Anderson, Ph.D., 2012. Darshon is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Central Arkansas.

David Fedele, Ph.D., 2012. David finished his Post Doc at Alpert Medical School, Brown University, Providence, RI and accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Florida.

In Memory

Chris Pinkham, 53, of Perry, Oklahoma was born on March 9, 1960 in Greenville, Michigan and died Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He graduated from OSU in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. Chris enjoyed working on computers, reading the Bible, old time rock and roll, old country plus praise and worship music. He was a member of the (Lake View)Trinity Fellowship in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Chris is survived by his fiancée Denise Vaughan of Perry, Oklahoma; niece, Heather Wilson Krull of Carthage, Texas; nephew, Travis Wilson of Carthage, Texas; two great nephews, Eastan Krull and Ian Harned of Carthage, Texas.
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