Welcome to the Summer 2014 Psychology Department Newsletter!

On college campus, not much happens in the summer, right? Wrong! Here in the Department of Psychology, it is true that the pace is a little slower, the hallways are a little quieter, and good parking is easier to find. However, summer is a very busy and productive time in academic departments.

During the summer months, faculty and graduate students catch up on all the writing they struggle to find time for during the regular semester. Most faculty would tell you they typically produce as many manuscripts for review during the few summer months as they do the rest of the year. Graduate students are busy passing important milestones like comprehensive exams and thesis and dissertation defenses. Some faculty and students teach at the blazing pace of the four week summer sessions, both in the classroom and online.

The Department has also been busy making several upgrades to our facilities. We have finalized work on furniture upgrades in many faculty offices and renovated the old main office (215) to now house 14 graduate assistants with brand new furniture. We completed installation of a new Online Teaching Studio equipped with equipment for faculty and graduate students to produce polished professional online teaching resources. Finally, we completed renovation and installation of a $150,000 overhaul of our computer lab complete with the latest technology and collaborative workstations. Watch for pictures and more information about these upgrades in our Fall newsletter.

Finally, the Department is busy preparing for a new group of bright, talented, and ambitious students arriving this Fall. We will welcome nine new Ph.D. students. OSU is also expecting perhaps the largest freshman class in history, and we will welcome many of them as Psychology majors.

We look forward to another great year in the Department of Psychology. As always, we love to hear from you, so keep in touch.

Go Pokes!

Thad Leffingwell, Ph.D.
Psychology Department Gets Wet Lab Facility

The Psychology Department received a grant from the College of Arts & Sciences for renovation of facilities to support a shared laboratory space in North Murray Hall, the Psychoneuroendocrinology Assessment Lab (PAL). Drs. Jennifer Byrd-Craven and DeMond Grant are co-directors of the laboratory. The space will be shared among faculty and graduate students from Psychology, Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Human Development and Family Science. Affiliated faculty in Psychology are Drs. Shelia Kennison, Larry Mullins, David Thomas, and Tony Wells. Communication Sciences and Disorders affiliated faculty are Drs. Michael Boyle, Cheryl Giddens, Ramesh Kaipa. Affiliated faculty in Human Development and Family Sciences are Drs. Michael Criss and Amanda Morris. These faculty engage in interdisciplinary, cutting-edge research that is aimed at advancing the basic and applied aspects of psychology.

The goal of the renovation was to create a space to conduct an array of physiological measurements. The methodology used by these researchers includes biomarkers of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis (i.e., cortisol), immune system (i.e., IL-1), sex hormones (i.e., testosterone), and the autonomic nervous system (i.e., salivary alpha-amylase; heart-rate variability; galvanic skin response), neural indicators of cognition and attention (i.e., electroencephalography), physiological indicators of attention (i.e., eye-tracking), and DNA polymorphisms. These various methodologies are state-of-the-art techniques that have greatly advanced the science of psychology and associated areas, and also are essential for competitive grant applications.

The laboratory space will allow researchers to have access to an in-house state-of-the-art research facility to increase the efficiency of the faculty and improve the research environment. Such work will not only augment the research productivity of the faculty, but also will lead increased research collaborations between faculty. It will also provide valuable training opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. The receipt of this grant and the type of research it will allow will increase the visibility and impact of these departments.
The Psychology Department would like to congratulate Dr. Charles Abramson, Regents Professor on his selection to the Lawrence Boger Professorship at the School of International Studies. This Professorship will allow Dr. Abramson to expand his international outreach activities across the university.

The Boger Professorship was created in honor of former OSU President Lawrence Boger. Its purpose is to support the internationalization of Oklahoma State University and the growth and development of the School of International Studies.

2014-15 Incoming Ph.D. Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mira Atia</td>
<td>University of Central Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Brett</td>
<td>Saint Louis University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Espeleta</td>
<td>Miami University-Oxford Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen Frosio</td>
<td>San Diego University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn Gamwell</td>
<td>Georgia State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Kelberer</td>
<td>Drake University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Meyer</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Mullins</td>
<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Taylor</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roha Thomas</td>
<td>Mangalore University -India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The course “Explorations in the History of Psychology” was offered during Spring Break 2014 and provided students with cultural and intellectual experiences associated with psychology in Vienna, Austria and Prague, Czech Republic.

Vienna was the home of Sigmund Freud and where the Gestalt School of Psychology was founded. In addition, Vienna was the capital city of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and is still considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world. One of the highlights of our trip to Vienna was a visit to the home of Freud which has been transformed into a museum. The museum consisted of his apartment and consulting room and contained many artifacts such as books, letters, and art from Freud’s personal collection. In addition to the Museum, we visited many of the cultural sites associated with Vienna including St. Stephens Cathedral, Mozart’s home, and museums such as the Natural History Museum and the Museum of Culture. On a more sober note, some of us visited places associated with what has become known as “Kristallnacht” (Crystal Night, also known as the Night of Broken Glass) which was carried out by Nazis and their many supporters in Vienna (November 9, 10, 1938). During these two days Freud’s home was also ransacked. Our hotel was in walking distance of many of the historical sites associated with Vienna. The food was also first rate as was the shopping.

After a few days in Vienna we moved to Prague. To get to Prague we took a tour bus which allowed us to learn more about the relationship between these two great cities. For example, the famous Mozart opera “Don Giovanni” was composed in his Viennese apartment but was premiered in the Estates Theatre in Prague. We also saw the Prague Astronomical Clock which was installed in 1410. This clock was the third oldest of its type and the oldest still working. Another highlight of our visit was a lecture given by Dr. Daniel Heller on the history of psychology in the Czech Republic and the history of Charles University (Universitas Carolina) – especially as it was influenced by Nazis and communists. It served as a stark reminder to all of us about the dangers of associating politics and science. We also learned that Charles University is the oldest in Eastern Europe having received its charter on April 7th, 1348. In addition to the lecture, we were treated to a “mini museum” within the department that housed some of the original equipment used in the laboratory of Wilhelm Wundt. Wundt is generally considered the founder of experimental psychology in 1879. Of special interest is the way Charles University selects their undergraduate psychology majors. Unlike the selection process in the United States, at Charles University perspective students must pass both a written and oral examination. Moreover, they select only 50 undergraduate students per year.

Prior to our trip to Europe, we met on a regular basis to learn about the history of psychology, to share articles, and to plan our trip. For example, Dr. Abramson was familiar with the work of Dr. Jiri Hoskovec on the history of psychology in the Czech Republic but he died in 2011. Luckily, his daughter – Dr. Simona Hoskovcova – arranged our program and the meeting with Dr. Heller.

Our next trip is planned for Russia where we will visit many places of historical interest – especially the home of the conditioned reflex!
Mullins Wins the A&S Faculty Mentor Award

Dr. Mullins receives a plaque from Dean Bret Danilowicz at the College A&S Awards Banquet. (L-R) Dean Bret Danilowicz, Ph.D. and Larry Mullins, Ph.D.

Thank You to Our Recent Donors

Patricia Alexander
Matt Alderson
Lana Beasley
John Chaney
Jennifer Byrd-Craven
Christopher Cushing
Silvia Daggy
Sara B. Free
Demond Grant
Donald Headley
Thad Leffingwell
Richard Locasso
Larry Mullins
Christine Nichols
Thomas & Elizabeth Schill
Maureen Sullivan
Stephanie Sweatt
Kevin Seymore
David Thomas
Tony Wells
Dr. Grant Awarded 2013-14 Outstanding Faculty Member

Dr. DeMond Grant was voted by our undergraduate students as this year’s Outstanding Faculty member. He joined OSU in the summer of 2008, and his research interests focus on factors that lead to the development and maintenance of anxiety disorders. At the undergraduate level, Dr. Grant teaches quantitative methods and abnormal psychology classes. Some of his undergraduate students have said:

“He is receptive and responsive, and he strives for success in each of his students. He’s helped me in all kinds of situations where I needed help.”

“He deserves the award due to his outstanding initiative in assisting students develop research skills!”

“He made me want to actually show up for class because he made his lectures so interesting.”

“[He is] nice and funny, but also very professional, helpful, and nonjudgmental.”

Dr. Grant enjoys being able to teach students how to make connections between research and helping people, as it allows him to show students how research fits in with preconceived notions about psychology. Dr. Grant’s favorite undergraduate class to teach is statistics because many students start with a lot of anxiety about statistics, and he can help them both learn the material and conquer their fears. His goal as a professor and mentor of undergraduate students is to help students determine their own career paths, he notes that receiving this award is an indicator that students appreciate his help.”
2013-14 Outstanding Senior

Alexandria Mullins was chosen by the Psychology department as this year’s Outstanding Senior. Alexandria is graduating from OSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Over the course of her studies she has conducted research at OSU in three different laboratories, assisting in Dr. Mullins’ Pediatric Psychology and Health Laboratory, Dr. Cushing’s Health Promotion Science and Technology laboratory and Dr. Leffingwell’s Behavior Change laboratory. Additionally, she conducted research at OU Health Science Center with Dr. Wagener. She has presented her research at regional and national conferences and is an author of a publication currently under review. She was a teaching assistant for Introduction to Psychology at OSU. Alexandria has earned numerous awards and honors including the OSU Academic Excellence Scholarship, Oklahoma Psychological Association Oral Presentation award, induction into Psi Chi, and being on the Dean’s Honor Roll and President’s Honor Roll. She also served as secretary and president of Psychology Club. After graduation, Alexandria plans to earn a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from OSU.

Niblack Research Scholar

Elisa Duell an honor student and Psychology major was selected as a Niblack Research Scholar beginning in the summer 2014 semester. The Niblack Research Scholars is an undergraduate research program funded by a gift from OSU alumnus and former Pfizer Vice Chairman Dr. John Niblack. Each year the program awards an $8,000 scholarship to 12 students, who have the unique opportunity to conduct research in a university lab, assisted by a faculty sponsor and graduate student mentor.

MissDuellwillbeworkinginDr.DavidThomas'slabandmentoredby4thyearExperimental graduate student, Janna Colaizzi.
On March 31, 2014, in front of family members, faculty and staff, 42 undergraduate students were inducted to the Psi Chi International Honor Society. A reception followed to congratulate the new members.

Dr. Tony Wells has assumed the position as the faculty advisor for OSU’s Psi Chi chapter. Dr. Wells joined OSU in 2012, and his research interests focus on examining factors that contribute to the vulnerability, resilience, and maintenance of major depressive disorder. Dr. Wells is excited to serve as the faculty advisor for Psi Chi, as Psi Chi was instrumental for him becoming a clinical psychologist. He first heard about the field of clinical psychology from a professor at a Psi Chi meeting during his undergraduate years. Dr. Wells went on to work in that professor’s clinical psychology laboratory and published his first manuscript with that professor. From Dr. Wells: “I hope to help revitalize OSU’s Psi Chi chapter so that it can be a resource for students excelling in undergraduate psychology at OSU.”
Brianna Sullivan is the recipient of the Stockton Memorial Scholarship for the junior and senior category. She is a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Spanish. She has earned her General Honors Award and is working toward the Departmental Honors Award in Psychology. Under the direction of Dr. Maureen Sullivan her senior honors thesis will focus on how marital quality, family functioning, parenting discipline strategies, and child behavior are all related, and how they come together to form a more successful family environment. Currently, Brianna is a research assistant in Dr. DeMond Grant’s and Dr. Maureen Sullivan’s labs. Brianna has been on the President’s or Dean’s Honor Roll every semester and has been a recipient of various awards and scholarships. She is a member of Kappa Phi Honor Society and is musically talented as she has been playing the piano for the past 14 years. Brianna expects to graduate from Oklahoma State University in the spring of 2015 and plans to attend a graduate program in community counseling.

Tayler Jones is the recipient of the Stockton Memorial Scholarship for the freshmen and sophomore category. She is a sophomore pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in General Business. She has been a teaching assistant for Quantitative Methods and a research assistant in Dr. Beasley’s Child Trauma Lab. Currently, she holds the executive position of Philanthropy Chair of Psychology Club and is involved in multiple student organizations on campus. She successfully coordinated a campus-wide fundraising event for child abuse awareness to benefit the Saville Center. She is a member of the Honors College and has been named a recipient of multiple awards, including the College of Arts and Sciences Charlene Malkenhorst First in Family Scholarship, as well as being listed on the President’s Honor Roll. During the summer of 2014 she will continue working as a research assistant in Dr. Beasley’s lab. In the fall of 2014 she will begin research in Dr. Reese-Melancon’s Memory and Cognitive Aging Lab. She will also serve as the Vice President of Psychology Club in the fall. After graduation, she intends to earn a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology.
FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS AND CONGRATULATIONS

GRANTS AND AWARDS....

Drs. Jennifer Byrd-Craven and Demond Grant for receiving and STF Award for $13,112 to implement “Brains in Gear.”

Drs. Jennifer Byrd-Craven and Shelia Kennison for winning a three year renewal of a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grant.

Dr. Thad Leffingwell received an STF Award for $11,158.00 to purchase technology for biofeedback intervention.

Congratulations to Dr. Maureen Sullivan, awarded the 2014 Advisor of the Year for her work with Graduate and Professional Student Government Association.

Robberson Summer Dissertation Fellowship

Congratulations to Matt Judah a fourth year clinical student, who received a Robberson Summer dissertation Fellowship. Matt’s advisor is Dr. Demond Grant.

Eleven fellowships were awarded this year to Oklahoma State University doctoral students. The Robberson Summer Dissertation Fellowships support doctoral students by providing a $6,000 stipend and a tuition waiver for up to three credit hours.

The Robberson Trust and Graduate College funds provides funding for the fellowships. U.S. citizens (a Robberson Trust requirement) receive the Robberson Summer Dissertation Fellowship, and non-U.S. citizens receive a “Graduate College Summer Dissertation Fellowship”.

Congratulations to Dr. Maureen Sullivan, awarded the 2014 Advisor of the Year for her work with Graduate and Professional Student Government Association.
The Psychology Department Congratulates...

Helen Gutierrez, M.S., fourth year graduate student, and Janet Koposko, M.S., third year graduate student, received travel awards from the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Psychology Graduate Student Association (PGSA), and the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) to present research at the Annual Gerontological Society of America Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Amber Massey, M.S., fourth year graduate student, won first place for a graduate poster at the Oklahoma Psychological Society (OPS).

Gregory Lengel, M.S., fourth year graduate student, was awarded the Graduate Research Excellence in the thesis area.

Erin Brannon, M.S. and Leigh E. Ridings, M.S., third year graduate students, Ashley Cole, M.S., second year student and Morganne Kraines, first year student, are the recipients of a 2014-2015 Remember the Ten Run Memorial Scholarship.

Will Bryant, a psychology senior, was awarded the best poster in the Arts & Humanities category at the Wentz research symposium.

Vickie M. Little Award

The Experimental Psychology Program presented the 2014 Vickie M. Little Teaching Award to Angela Andrade fourth year Experimental student.

L-R Dr. Charles Abramson, Angela Andrade, and Dr. David Thomas.
The Psychology Department faculty and staff would like to congratulate the recent Psychology graduates. May 9 and 10 were special days for graduates, families, and the university. 85 undergraduates and 7 graduates participated in the undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies inside Gallagher-Iba Arena.
I'D LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT OSU BY SUPPORTING THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT:

Name ___________________________ Spouse Name ___________________________

Address ___________________________ City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Home phone ___________________________ Cell phone ___________________________ Email ___________________________ Employer ___________________________

I would like to make a gift of:

☐ $200  ☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ Other $_________________________

Please designate my gift to:

☐ Psychology Department Fund (22-38800)  ☐ Other: ___________________________

*Gifts to the OSU Foundation may be tax deductible.

Have you:

☐ Included Oklahoma State University Foundation in your estate plan?

☐ Looked to see if your or your spouse’s employer will match your contribution and double your impact? See a list of matching employers at OSUgiving.com/matching.

Fulfillment Options:

I want to fulfill my gift: ☐ one-time  ☐ in installments of $_________________________

☐ Monthly  ☐ Quarterly  ☐ Semi-Annually

beginning mm/yyyy

☐ Pledge reminders will be sent based on your fulfillment schedule

Payment Options:

☐ My check, payable to the OSU Foundation, is enclosed.

☐ My credit card information is below:

Card Number ________________ Exp. Date ________________

Name on Card ___________________________ Signature ___________________________

3 Digit CVV ___________________________

Thank you for your support!