Welcome to the Spring 2012 Psychology Department Newsletter!

Suffice it to say, another academic year has blown by. I am always struck by how very, very quiet the campus becomes once finals are over, which gives one time to reflect back on the past 9 months. Much has occurred, and a consistent theme in these events is one of change. The OSU Student Union has undergone a major transformation and is nothing short of fantastic in its design and services. If you look out my window in North Murray, I now see the foundation laid for a new four story parking garage which will open in approximately a year. We will be welcoming a new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Bret Danilowicz, who will most certainly be helping us shape a new future. And on that note, I would also like to share my gratitude to Dean Peter Sherwood, who is retiring and will relocate to the Great Pacific Northwest. His support for the Department during my tenure has been unequivocal. We certainly wish him the very best.

Change also translates into growth. Once again, we have seen increasing enrollment across the University, and this has most certainly been witnessed in Psychology. We now lead the College of Arts and Sciences in number of majors, with over 500 students working towards a degree from our Department. As a result, we continue to add new sections of courses at all levels in our undergraduate curriculum. We also welcome the addition of two new faculty members, Dr. Tony Wells (University of Texas-Austin) and Dr. Christopher Cushing (University of Kansas), who will be joining us this Fall.

Change also translates into accomplishment, as you will clearly see featured in this edition of the newsletter. Vaughn Vennerberg, a graduate of this Department, was recently given an Honorary Doctorate from OSU for his many outstanding contributions to business and philanthropy. Victoria O’Keefe, a first year graduate student, was recently awarded the prestigious Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship. Sean Seabridge, who will be a first year graduate student this Fall, received the Outstanding Senior Award from the Department, while Dr. DeMond Grant was named Outstanding Psychology Faculty member. I also want to acknowledge Dr. Shelia Kennison, who has served as the 2011-12 Southwestern Psychological Association President, and Dr. Charles Abramson, who won the prestigious Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Award for his teaching. Finally, Provost Robert Sternberg was named to the George Kaiser Family Foundation Chair in Ethical Leadership. These are but a few of the individuals whose hard work and tireless efforts make this an amazing place of which to be a part.

So what lies ahead for next year? More positive change I’m sure. I recently took the rare opportunity to purchase a book for pleasure reading (thereby shocking my family), and I chose Steve Jobs biography. Steve Jobs, as many of you know, was an immensely complex individual, and sometimes not particularly nice to others early in his life. He had a number of “quaint” sayings, but one in particular stood out when he discussed his vision for each of his products, many of which have transformed our lives in unimaginable ways. Steve spoke of wanting each product, and the company, to be “insanely great”. That phrase has stuck with me, and it succinctly captures what we want the Psychology Department and OSU to be. Insanely great. Now that’s something to aspire to…

And we need to be sure to have fun while we reach that goal.

Go Pokes!

Larry L. Mullins, Ph.D.
Explorations in the History of Psychology

Charles I. Abramson and Silvia Daggy

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the department’s first international travel course. The course titled “Explorations in the History of Psychology (Psyc 3120.606)” was offered during the Spring Break (March 17 – 25) and provided 13 students with an international experience in the history of psychology. This course differs from other short travel courses in three respects: First, it focused on a specific city in detail rather than visiting several cities superficially. Second, the course is based on a five year cycle in which we will visit 5 separate cities of historical importance for psychology. Our first city was Athens, Greece, and subsequent trips will focus on Vienna, Austria (home of Sigmund Freud and the Gestalt School of Psychology – Spring 2013), and St. Petersburg Russia (home of Ivan Pavlov and the Behaviorist School of Psychology – Spring 2014), and Leipzig Germany (home of Wilhelm Wundt and the Structuralist School of Psychology – Spring 2015). The last city of the cycle is still to be determined. Third, one of the psychology undergraduate advisors accompanied the students on the trip. It is extremely rare for an undergraduate advisor to participate in a short travel course. We thought it was important to include an undergraduate advisor because the advisor gains first-hand experience which he/she can communicate to potential students.

Prior to flying into Athens we held several class sessions. These sessions were devoted to the Greek contributions to psychology, general history, and the “ins and outs” of international travel. For many of the 13 students, this was their first international experience. During the seven day trip the students visited many of the sites of importance to psychology and western civilization. These include the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, The Propylaia, The Theatre of Dionysos, The Odeum of Herodes Atticus, The Roman and Greek Agoras, The Library of Hadrian, and The Tower of the Wind (Horologion). Of special interest were the visits to Aristotle’s “Lyceum” which rivaled for a short time the Academy of Plato, the prison where Socrates was held, the Olympic Stadium which was the site of the first modern Olympics, and Constitution Square (Syntagma) where we saw the changing of the guards.

In addition to Athens, we spent time visiting ancient Corinth located about three hours from Athens. In Hellenistic times Corinth was a populous city and commercial center. A highlight of our visit to Corinth was the “Diolkos.” The Diolkos was a paved road where ships were dragged between the Saronic and Corinthian Gulf. This road was replaced by a rather impressive canal built by the French linking the Aegean and Ionian seas. Another site was Mycenae located near Corinth. Although we spent only a short time there, it was thrilling to
Student comments on the trip were uniformly positive. One student wrote “Our class’ trip to Greece was an amazing experience. I never thought I would be able to see so many beautiful sights and learn so much in just one week!” and another said “I thought the course was a great way to experience the history of psychology, actually seeing where the science was born was incredible and a once in a life time chance. I would suggest this type of course in any psychology student. I learned so much and had a blast while doing it.” More comments and pictures will be available soon on a website devoted to the course.

In closing, we would like to say that for some of our students it was difficult to meet the costs. We attempted to keep the cost low ($2,000 plus airfare and $500.00 in spending money). While OSU offers a limited number of scholarships for international travel courses, the cost is often difficult to meet. If any reader would like to donate money for a small scholarship for students it would be appreciated. Please contact the authors of this article for additional information.

see the home of Agamemnon. We also spent time at an ancient monastery, also located near Corinth.

Seeing the sites associated with psychology and western civilization was exciting for all of us. Equally exciting was the opportunity to interact with the Greeks, try exotic food, and shop. The Greeks we met were all friendly and the food excellent. Some of the students even tried Greek dancing. Although the dollar is not worth much anymore, students were able to find bargains including rugs and various souvenirs.
Victoria O’Keefe Receives a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship

Victoria O’Keefe (Seminole/Cherokee), a 2009 American Indian Into Psychology (AIIP) Summer scholar and first year clinical graduate student in the Psychology Department, has been awarded the esteemed Ford Foundation Predoctoral fellowship to conduct research on American Indian/Alaska Native suicide risk and resiliency. As stated by Eduardo Duran, there is a need for “more Native American professionals in order to develop a psychology that makes sense to the Native American community.” Victoria is determined to bridge the tremendous gap in suicide research among AI/AN populations. Suicide continues to devastate AI/AN communities throughout the United States, and her research will aid in understanding why this health disparity persists and how it can be minimized.

Victoria and her faculty research mentor, Dr. LaRicka Wingate, are investigating psychological theories of suicide that have been established in majority populations to evaluate whether these theories hold true for, and are relevant to, AI/AN populations. Also, they are focusing on strengths that protect AI/AN against suicidal behavior, as the majority of existing literature focuses on solely risk factors for suicide.

Ford Foundation Fellowships are awarded in a national competition. It provides a $20,000 annual stipend that can be used for up to three years of graduate study. Awards are made to individuals who have demonstrated superior academic achievement, are committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level, show promise of future achievement as scholars and teachers, and are well prepared to use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.
Psychology Alumnus Receives an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters

Vaughn O. Vennerberg II received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters in recognition of his personal accomplishments and service to society. Mr. Vennerberg is a native of Midwest City, Okla., who graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology in 1976. He is one of the founding partners of Morning Star Partners and Morning Star Oil and Gas located in Fort Worth, Texas. He is the former president of XTO Energy Inc., which merged with ExxonMobil Corporation in June of 2010.

Vennerberg told graduates that OSU prepared him well and said the university has a strong sense of community in which everyone “wants you to succeed.” He encouraged all graduates to go forward with a sense of entrepreneurship and the courage to take risks. “As you begin your journey,” Vennerberg said. “Learn from others; there is no such thing as a self-made man. Help others and make a difference. And, care about a cause bigger than yourself.”

At OSU, Mr. Vennerberg was president of the Student Union Activities Board and the Blue Key Honor Society. He was a member of the Delta Chi chapter of Delta Tau Delta and was president of the Interfraternity Council and a Redskin Congratulate, an honor for OSU’s Top 12 graduating seniors. Mr. Vennerberg received the Bob Cox Award for Outstanding Senior of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society.

In 2008, Mr. Vennerberg was recognized by the 11,000-member American Association of Professional Landmen as Landman of the Year. He has served as director of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association and the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association. He is on the board of the Oklahoma Energy Resources.

Mr. Vennerberg has demonstrated for several decades his civic and community involvement. At OSU, he has created three endowed faculty positions in microbiology and molecular genetics, art, and psychology. The gifts created the first endowed chairs/professorships for each department impacting three areas of the College of Arts and Sciences.

He serves on the Board of Trustees for the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, as well on the board for the Committee for Economic Development of New York City. He is director of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and a trustee for the KidsLinks Foundation.
DeMond Grant, Ph.D. Named 2011-12 Outstanding Psychology Faculty Member

Dr. DeMond Grant was voted by the undergraduate psychology students as this academic year’s Outstanding Faculty Member. Dr. Grant has been an Assistant Professor at OSU since 2008. He has published numerous papers examining the development of anxiety and depressive disorders. Specifically, his research is examining the effects of anxiety- and depression-related thought processes such as worry and rumination. Currently, he teaches Abnormal Psychology and Quantitative methods at the undergraduate level, and Psychopathology at the graduate level.

Some comments about Dr. Grant from our undergraduate students include:

“He is a wonderful teacher and great person. He always made me feel good about not being able to do math. I enjoyed going to his class every day!”

“Statistics is not so scary after all.”

“He is a passionate teacher, researcher and consumer of other research. He brings humor to his class and treats all his students with respect.”

“Fun and energetic in the classroom. Keeps me interested and awake in class.”

“Fun and funny, but serious about getting the job done.”

Dr. Grant accepted this award at the Psychology Department’s Annual Honor and Award Banquet. He expressed his gratitude to the undergraduate students at OSU for the receipt of this award.

Sean Seabridge Named 2011-12 Outstanding Senior in the Psychology Department

Sean Seabridge (Osage), a 2010 American Indian Into Psychology Summer Fellow, was named top senior in the Psychology Department. He is the son of Dirk and Kathy Seabridge and graduated from Blackwell High School in 2009. Sean will graduate with honors this May with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. For the past two years he has worked with Dr. Maureen Sullivan in the Child Behavior Lab conducting research with children and adolescents. He has been an active part of the American Indians into Psychology program for 2 years under the direction of Dr. John Chaney. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, Psi Chi National Honor Society, and OSU Psychology Club.

Sean 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 work with Dr. Maureen Sullivan.
The Psychology Department Congratulates...

Nicki Aubuchon-Endsley, M.S. and David Fedele, M.S., both Clinical Psychology graduate students currently on internship, were accepted to a two year Post-Doc at Alpert Medical School, Brown University, Providence, RI.

Alvina Cawston, M.S., a Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year Post-Doc at San Carlos Apache Wellness Center, Nogales, AZ.

Collin Davidson, M.S., a Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year Post-Doc at Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Denver, CO.

Angelica Eddington, M.S., a Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year Post-Doc at OU Health Sciences Center, OKC, OK.

Cynthia Muhamedagic, M.S., a Clinical Psychology graduate student currently on internship, was accepted to a two year Post-Doc in the Pediatric Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology and Harold Hamm Diabetes Center at OU Health Sciences Center, OKC OK.

Stephanie Hullman, M.S., a fourth year Clinical Psychology student and Rachelle Ramsey, M.S., a third year Clinical Psychology student were the recipients of a $29,665.00 award from the College of Arts and Sciences Student Technology Fee Committee entitled “The Scoop on Stress”.

Dr. Robert Sternberg is the Provost/Senior Vice President and Regents Professor and was named to the George Kaiser Family Foundation Chair in Ethical Leadership.

Dr. Charles Abramson, Regents Professor will receive the “Oklahoma Medal for Excellence in Teaching at a Research University” award presented by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. It carries a $5,000 cash prize.

Dr. Jennifer Byrd-Craven along with Dr. DeMond Grant are the recipients of a $29,665.00 award from the College of Arts and Sciences Student Technology Fee Committee entitled “The Scoop on Stress”.

Dr. Melanie Page along with Dr. Amanda Harris from Human Enviromental Sciences recently won second place in the inaugural President's Cup - Promoting Creative Interdisciplinary Instructions, Research, and/or Service competition. They will received an award certificate and cash award ($3,000.00) at the fall 2012 University Awards Convocation.

Dr. Shelia Kennison is the 2011–2012 Southwestern Psychological Association (SWPA) President and coordinated the 58th Annual SWPA Conference that took place on April 12–14, 2012 in Oklahoma City, OK. She was also elected Vice Chair of the faculty council for 2012–2013, will serve as chair of faculty council for 2013-2014.

Gregory Lengel, a second year Clinical Psychology student, won first place paper presentation at the 23rd Annual OSU Research Symposium.

Elizabeth Ponce Garcia and Angela Bell, both Lifespan Developmental Psychology students, received honorable mention in the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship competition.

Erin Brannon, a first year Clinical Psychology student, won the Student Diversity Research award at the Midwest Regional conference on Pediatric Psychology.

Amber Douglas and Nick Jordan, both undergraduate junior students are the recipients of a Niblak Research Scholarship. Both of them will be receiving a stipend of $2,000, per semester.

Ryan Haase, an undergraduate senior student, was awarded the Gilman Scholarship by the U.S. State Department and will be working in Valparaiso, Chile during the summer of 2012.

Grace Kifer, an undergraduate senior student, won first place undergraduate Paper presentation in the Social Sciences Category at the 23rd Annual OSU Research Symposium.

Lucinda Chee and Jessica Helt both won first place, and Alaina Gammill won second place, undergraduate poster presentation in the Social Sciences Category at the 23rd Annual OSU Research Symposium.

Sean Seabridge, a senior student working in Dr. Maureen Sullivan’s lab, was selected 2012 Senior of the year. He was recognized at the Psych Club banquet and at the College of Arts and Sciences Annual banquet.
Five Graduate Students Receive 2012-13 Remember the Ten Run Scholarship Awards

Rachelle Ramsey, third year Clinical student, Matthew Judah, Mary Beth Miller, and Liz Molzon, second year Clinical students, and Raymond Tucker, first year Clinical student, are the recipients of the 2012-2013 Remember the Ten Run Scholarship. Each one will received a $1,000.00 cash scholarship, with $500 being awarded in the Fall and $500.00 in the Spring. The Remember the Ten Run Scholarship Program provides support to Oklahoma State University (OSU) students enrolled in one of the following degree programs: Education M.S. Counseling (Community Counseling), Human Sciences M.S. Human Development & Family Science (Marriage & Family Therapy), Arts & Sciences Ph.D. Psychology (Clinical Psychology), Education Ph.D. Educational Psychology (Counseling Psychology)

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.
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.

Danny Fisher, BS 2005. “Taking Dr. Hargett’s conflict resolution course during my senior year introduced me to mediation and set me on my current path in graduate school”. Danny obtained his MS in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at Columbia University, New York.

Shital Gaitonde, Ph.D., 2010. Shital recently accepted a Post-Doctoral fellowship at Emory University focusing on children with developmental disabilities and fetal alcohol syndrome.

Deshawnt Jelani, BS, 2005. Deshawnt graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy in May 2010, then completed a 1-year post-doctoral fellowship in phase I-III clinical research and drug development through the University of Southern California and Allergan, Inc (completed July 2011). Currently she works as Senior Medical Writer for Allergan, Inc. in New Jersey.

Jim Hess, PH. D. I want to thank you for the Psychology Department Newsletters I have been receiving this last year. While it has been a long time since I finished my BS, MS, and Ed.D. in Psychology from Oklahoma State, I have never forgotten the years I spent there and the quality education I received. I had the luxury of doing my Doctoral Internship at the Counseling Center at the University of Oklahoma which was quite an experience after 8 years at OSU. I then taught in a graduate counseling program at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD for four years before moving to Black Hills State University in western South Dakota. I started here as the only faculty member in psychology and we had a minor but no major in psychology. Today, we have a major in Psychology and six full time faculty in Psychology. We have over 300 majors and are one of the larger programs at the University. This last year, I was moved from Chair of the Psychology Department to Chair of the School of Behavioral Science which includes the departments of Psychology, Sociology, Human Services, Health and Wellness. Additionally, I had the honor of being selected the 2011 – 2012 Distinguished Faculty Member. So it’s been 35 years since I left OSU and still remember with great fondness my years in Psychology in Stillwater. Thanks for all you do for Psychology at OSU!!!

Oh and by the way, I held a Fiesta Bowl party and several OSU graduates in the area attended. People in Stillwater could probably hear us cheering up here in the north country. The reach of OSU as a quality institution even reaches South Dakota.

Larry Brown, Ph.D.
facultymember 1961-1990

I’m still living in Albuquerque, where I have a son, Rob, an engineer and manager at Sandia National Labs, plus a wonderful daughter-in-law, Valerie, who’s a lawyer, plus two of the cutest and smartest grandsons in the world. (But of course!) I spend my time traveling back and forth to the sunny beaches of South Padre Island and, when in New Mexico, writing another book as well as posts for an accompanying blog. The book, entitled “PC Bible” (Park East Press), is a small work designed to satirize political correctness. The website is PC-Bible.com (hyphen required). I stress the word “satirize” because there are those, especially of very liberal persuasion, who might otherwise find parts of the work offensive.

EMERITI FACULTY

THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS

Mark Cunningham
Donald Headley
Lana Keathley
Thad Leffingwell
Christine Nichols
Kevin A. Swaim
Support OSU Psychology

You can help us accomplish our departmental goals by contributing to one of the funds listed below. Visit our web site www.osuf.org/artssciencesneeds.htm and use your credit card on the OSU secure online donation system, or, you can mail the form below to: OSU Foundation, Attn: Gift Processing, 400 S. Monroe, Stillwater OK 74074.

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.

I want to support the Psychology Department at Oklahoma State University

Please complete and mail to
400 S. Monroe
Stillwater, OK 74074

Or log onto our web site to make a gift
osuf.org/artssciencesneeds.htm

1. DESIGNATION
☐ Psychology Excellence Fund
☐ Psychology Diversified Students Program
☐ Research/travel Scholarship for Undergraduate Students
☐ Research/travel Scholarship for Graduate Students
☐ Other

2. AMOUNT $

3. OPTIONS

Check - Please make payable to the OSU Foundation

CREDIT CARD #

EXPIRATION DATE

CARD HOLDER'S SIGNATURE

4. CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Give Online at: secureosugiving.com

Not on our email list? Update your information by sending an e-mail at: Patricia.Alexander@okstate.edu