Psychology faculty lead the way in community service events

This year, four Department of Psychology faculty members have either organized or played a major role in a series of well-attended community service events.

On October 26, Dawn McBride, Ph.D., presented a talk titled, “Did that really happen? Understanding False Memory” as part of the College of Arts and Sciences Main Street College Series. The presentation explored the concept of false memory and examined some of the factors that influence the creation of false memories. McBride discussed a few famous cases of false memory, along with what has been learned from research that applies to real-world situations. More than 100 people attended the session. The purpose of Main Street College is to showcase the interesting work being done in the College of Arts and Sciences and explain why that work is relevant to everyone.

November 3, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Ph.D., interviewed actor Carlos Ponce in front of an audience of over 200 as part of Illinois State’s annual Latino Cultural Dinner. Ponce’s parents emigrated from Cuba after the communist revolution. His acting career began at age 6, when he starred in his first television commercial. He has continued to act in a variety of films and television shows including Spy, Cristela, and Couples Retreat.

The Latino Cultural Dinner is sponsored by Campus Dining Services, the Latin American and Latino/a Studies Program, the ISU Association of Residence Halls, University Housing Services, Watterson Area Government, Watterson Diversity Coalition, and the Multi-Ethnic Cultural and Co-Curricular Programming and Advisory Committee.

November 9, Leandra Parris, Ph.D., and Eric Wesselmann ’03, M.A. ’05, Ph.D., organized a free screening of the documentary, REJECT at the Normal Theater. The event, sponsored by the Department of Psychology, along with the Graduate Association of School Psychologists and Psi Chi/SPA, played to a packed audience that included Illinois State students and faculty, as well as many community members not affiliated with the University.

The documentary combines human interest stories about bullying and rejection with interviews with psychological researchers in the areas of bullying, rejection, and ostracism. The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring the film’s director and co-producer, Ruth Thomas-Suh, as well as Kip Williams, Ph.D., a professor at Purdue University and researcher featured in the film, Parris, Wesselmann, and Illinois State professor Eros DeSouza, Ph.D.

Through these and other ongoing events, Department of Psychology faculty members continue to actively pursue avenues to share their expertise and influence the local community.

News from the chair

On behalf of faculty, staff, and students, let me say it is our distinct pleasure to connect with you via the latest edition of PsyNews! As my seventh year as department chair concludes, I am delighted to report that our faculty and staff continue to garner university acclaim. Professors Jeffrey Kahn, Alycia Hund, and Eric Wesselmann received university–level research, teaching, and service awards, respectively. Wesselmann also received a college-level research award. Congratulations to all three on a job well done!

We also held our first ever Spring Semester Awards dinner on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at Jesse’s Grill in the Marriott Hotel. Attendees included the recipients of the Jim Johnson Inspiration Award and the Laura Berk Undergraduate Student Writing Award, as well as their families and the donors who sponsor the awards. The dinner afforded donors the opportunity to get to know the awardees on a more personal level. All participants made favorable comments about the dinner, and we plan to continue it in 2016.

We also held yet another successful Alumni Day Dinner, with over 80 faculty, students, and alumni gathering for dinner, memories, and fun. We truly appreciate the support we receive from our alumni and look forward to including you in future events. Please feel free to stop by sometime to meet with your former professors. It would make their day.

All the best,
J. Scott Jordan, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Retirements
by Rachel Hatch

John Pryor
Congratulations and best wishes to John Pryor, Ph.D., who retired from the department in May of 2015.

Pryor has been with Illinois State for 30 years in various roles, including faculty member, acting chairperson, and academic senator. He received the Outstanding College Researcher Award at Illinois State in 1990, the Arts and Sciences Lecturer Award in 1993, and Outstanding University Researcher in 1996. Pryor was named a Distinguished Professor in 2010. He served as president of the Midwestern Psychological Association in 2015. Pryor is internationally recognized for his work on sexual harassment and stigma.

Gary Creasey
Gary Creasey, Ph.D., retired as of May of 2015. A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, Creasey joined the faculty at Illinois State in 1989. His research focused on developmental psychology, with a specialization in adolescent development. During his time at Illinois State, Creasey earned the Outstanding College Teacher Award in his division, the Provost’s Faculty Excellence Initiative Award, and the Outstanding College Researcher Award (Senior Division). He has also earned the ISU Outstanding University Teaching Award and been named a State Farm Teaching Technology Fellow. Creasey was named top professor in the state of Illinois in 2012 and has played a vital role in the University’s TEACHER PLUS program, which helps generate teachers for urban and underserved areas with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Judy (Becker) Sedekum
Judy Sedekum retired in December after more than 20 years of service to the department. She will be greatly missed at the department office front desk!

Alumni Day 2015

Distinguished Alumni Award–Lifetime Career
Marla Reese-Weber earned her B.S. in Psychology from Illinois State University in 1992 and her M.S. in Psychology (Clinical) in 1995. She is currently Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean for Personnel, Budget, and Planning in the College of Arts and Sciences at Illinois State. Her research examines romantic and sexual relationships during the developmental period of emerging adulthood. In particular, her research seeks to determine how relationship milestones relate to the initiation of dating violence. Reese-Weber’s second area of research examines predictors of sexual assault during emerging adulthood including a history of childhood sexual abuse.

Distinguished Alumni Award–Early Career
Jennifer Coane earned her B.A. in Psychology from Illinois State University in 2001 and her M.S. in Psychology (Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences) in 2004. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Colby College. Her research interests include false memory, semantic memory, and cognitive aging. Coane is an author and co-author of 19 peer-reviewed publications and a book chapter. She is also a recipient of a $600,000 Scholar Award in Understanding Human Cognition from the James S. McDonnell Foundation to research the integration of new information into pre-existing knowledge.

School Psychology Supervisor of the Year Award
by Mark Swerdlik
Jeanette Quirk, the department’s School Psychology internship supervisor, serves as the liaison between the graduate program in school psychology and the various school districts across the state, where our interns complete their yearlong internships. Quirk assists second-year students in locating appropriate internships the semester prior to leaving campus for their internship, collaborates with interns and their field supervisors to develop and approve individualized internship plans, and completes several site visits each year to interns and their field supervisors, traveling to districts from far northern Illinois to far southern Illinois.

Clinical-Counseling Practicum Supervisor of the Year Award
by Karen Mark
Matt Mollenhauer, M.S. ‘94, began his career as a therapist in the adult chemical dependency unit at Chestnut Health Systems in Bloomington in 1992. He then moved to the Employee Assistance Program division of Chestnut that is now called Chestnut Global Partners (CGP). While starting at CGP as a call center supervisor and trainer, he transitioned to focus on operational development and management, serving as the vice president of operations and currently as CGP’s managing director. For more than 15 years, Mollenhauer has been instrumental in arranging, monitoring, and providing graduate-assistantship positions at CGP for first-year Clinical-Counseling students.
Clinical-Counseling Psychology
by Karen Mark

Current students
We currently have 30 students in the program, and we continue to receive applications from strong individuals with diverse experiences and backgrounds. The first-year students admitted for fall 2015 join us from a variety of undergraduate institutions: Bradley University, Elmhurst College, Illinois College, Illinois State, Marquette University, Maryville University, Truman State University, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and University of the Philippines Diliman. Welcome to our newest cohort!

Among the 11 current first-year students who began the program in fall 2015 is Jackie Vermaat ’14, who received one of the very competitive ISU Foundation Fellowship awards offered each year to top first-year graduate students. Another first-year student, Rawan Atari, was awarded one of the University’s McNair Book Scholarships.

Recent graduates
Congratulations to our most recent graduates! This past year saw many students reaching their goals of successfully finishing their master’s degrees.

The following students graduated in December 2014: Michelle Duda (now an Addictions Counselor at Healthcare Alternative Systems in Chicago) and Andrew Ritchie (Care Facilitator at Oaklawn Psychiatric Center in South Bend, Indiana).

The following students earned their degrees in May 2015: Danielle Freund (Behavior Consultant at Behavior Services & Therapy in South Bend, Indiana), Megan Peters (Paraeducator at an elementary school in Clinton, Iowa), Kaitlyn Rolwes (Care Coordinator at Crider Health Center in St. Louis), and Chelsea Werries (Guidance Consultant at ComPsych GuidanceResources in Chicago).

The following students earned their degrees in August 2015: Joel Dukett (doctoral student in School Psychology at Illinois State) and Molly McLeese (Intake Coordinator at Willis Counseling and Consulting in Chicago).

We proudly welcome all of these graduates to our growing list of Clinical-Counseling alumni, and we wish them success as they continue their professional pursuits. To date, we have had 158 individuals graduate from the Clinical-Counseling Psychology program!

Alumni updates
Kristen Braun, M.S. ’11, now works as a Development Manager at Boys Hope Girls Hope in Cincinnati.

Natalie Chase, M.S. ’11, now works as a Manager of Benefits and Performance at Imagination Publishing in Chicago.

Angela (Marotta) Garrison, M.S. ’09, earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Western Michigan University in 2014.

John Hinrichs, M.S. ’11, now works as a Mental Health Therapist at the Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Unit at Seattle Children’s Hospital in Seattle.

Carol (McSweeney) Kaase, M.S. ’14, got married and continues to work as a Counselor/Case Manager at DeWitt County Human Resource Center in Clinton.

Jonathan Lindsey, M.S. ’07, earned his Ph.D. at Walden University in 2014 and works in private practice in Bloomington.

Rose (Miller) Metivier, M.S. ’07, now works as a Counselor at Midwest Counseling & Diagnostic Center in Chicago.

Brittany (Bachman) Ott, M.S. ’10, now works as a Corporate Services Clinician at Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery in Peoria.

Neeva Sandhu, M.S. ’11, transitioned to a new position as a Senior Counselor at Advocate

continued on page 4
Addiction Treatment Program in Des Plaines. She recently was promoted to the position of Clinical Coordinator in the same program.

Claudia Skowron, M.S.’13, recently transitioned to working as a Mental Health Therapist at Advanced Psychiatry of Elgin in Elgin, and now works as a Group Therapist at Compass Behavioral Health in Hoffman Estates.

School psychology
by Mark Swerdlik

Current enrollment numbers 50 students in both the Specialist and Ph.D. programs. This year there are nine entering students with five enrolled in the specialist and four in the doctoral program. We have incoming students receiving their undergraduate education at Marquette University (Wisconsin), Ripon College (Wisconsin), Loyola University of Chicago, Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville, University of Illinois Springfield, Bradley University (Peoria), and Illinois State.

Currently five specialist and four doctoral students are on internship. Specialist interns are working at Naperville 203 Schools, Evanston School District, Glenbard High School, and Peoria District 150 Public Schools. Doctoral students are interning at the Munroe-Meyer Institute Rural Integrated Care Program, the Center for Autism, and Park Ridge School District which is part of the Illinois School Psychology Internship Consortium (ISPIC).

All five of our doctoral students are interning in APA-accredited internships. As always, we appreciate the guidance the alumni of the program provide to current students they supervise in the field!

Leah Cohen Marks, a fourth-year doctoral student in the Illinois State University school psychology program, was one of three recipients of a National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) dissertation award. The award was presented at the NASP 2016 Annual Convention in New Orleans, which took place February 10-13.

Recent graduates


All of our doctoral and SSP students found employment, with some completing post-doctoral fellowships (Banks, Mulderink, and Sondalle), and all others finding employment in school-based school psychology positions.

Faculty news

Gary Cates continued as principal evaluator for the statewide RtI/MTSS Network/IHE Partnership, and this grant was recently awarded a one-year extension. He has also published (with current doctoral intern Lynda Kasky-Hernández) “Role of Psychologists in Interdisciplinary Relations in Special Education” in Interdisciplinary Connections to Special Education: Important Aspects to Consider. Cates also presented three invited workshops at the NASP summer conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and three invited workshops at the ISPA winter convention. He presented several workshops to school districts on Functional Behavior Assessment and was last year’s featured presenter at the department’s annual School Psychology Institute Day. Cates presented two presentations at NASP 2015.

Adena Meyers and Renée Tobin continue as program evaluators for the Livingston County Children’s Network Grant. This is the last year of the grant.

Tobin co-authored a book with Al House, DSM-5® Diagnosis in the Schools, to be published by Guilford Press.

Leandra Parris gave birth to a baby son, Brandon.
Tobin and Parris will lead the program evaluation team for a $1 million federal grant that will develop a program (CARE4U) that will be delivered to at-risk youth, ages 15-24, in sites throughout Champaign County. CARE4U sessions will cover a variety of topics, such as healthy relationships, communication skills, conflict-resolution strategies, job-readiness skills, and financial literacy. The program will also include a component for subsidized, summer youth employment, or community college tuition reimbursement.

Karla Doeple led efforts (along with our department chair J. Scott Jordan) to secure university and continued state funding for The Autism Program. Due to the state budget crisis, the Autism Place was forced to move to a new location. Contributions from alumni are welcome.

Mark Swerdlik was elected to the board of the American Board of School Psychology, which is the member board for school psychology of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

Brenda Huber ’89, Ph.D. ’02, director of the Psychological Services Center and ISPIC training director, received a grant to train psychologists and other helping professionals in integrated behavioral health and has developed a course and a professional development series on this topic. She also participated in the Livingston County Children’s Network’s Annual Community Summit in November celebrating implementation of a five-year children’s mental health initiative.

**Upcoming events**

The 19th annual ISU School Psychology Institute will be held Monday, April 18, 2016. Local mental health practitioners, current students, and alumni are welcome to attend this half-day workshop, afternoon research colloquium, and end-of-the-day informal discussion with students. For more information, please contact Steve Landau, institute coordinator, at selandau@IllinoisState.edu.

In 2016, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first cohort of doctoral students in school psychology. Please join us for Alumni Day this year, Friday, October 7 for a reunion of our doctoral graduates to commemorate the successes of our program and alumni. Please mark this date on your calendar. Tentative plans for the day include a morning discussion with our current school psychology program faculty and students, an all-university homecoming lunch, a “Conversations with Alumni” department-wide session, and alumni dinner. For advanced planning purposes, please contact Mark Swerdlik (meswerd@IllinoisState.edu) if you are interested in attending.

**Developmental Psychology**

_by Corinne Zimmerman_

Current continuing students include Adam Hampton ’14 (Illinois State) and Haley Love (Northern Illinois University). New developmental students include Jessie Shafer (University of Central Florida), Jasmin Smith (North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University), Kelsie Tibble ’15 (Illinois State), and Xiaoya Zhang (Shandong Normal University).

**Recent graduate**

Congratulations to our most recent doctoral graduate, Allison Bock, M.S. ’09, who finished her Ph.D. and is now a post-doc at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

**Research**

Steve Croker, Alycia Hund, and Corinne Zimmerman, along with several undergraduate and graduate students, represented the department and the Children’s Research Lab at Family Science Day in April 2015.

**School Psychology alumni news**

Christy Walcott, Ph.D. ’01, was named co-chair of the NASP Research Committee.

Congratulations to recent new parents: Kate Gioia ’05, Ph.D. ’10, Dan Ebbert ’03, Ph.D. ’11, Sandy Clark, Jake Linnell, M.S. ’10, SSP ’15, and Tim Dowling SSP ’10.

Recent marriages include Lindsey Horberg, Amanda Mangian, SSP ’14, Katie Probst ’12, SSP ’15, and Filka Andonova, SSP ’13.

Brea Banks ’10, Ph.D. ’15, and Nicole Moore ’09, M.S. ’13 have also announced engagements.

Christine Mitchell-Endsley, Ph.D. ’03, was named the Ted Smith Practitioner of the Year at the 2016 annual convention of the Illinois School Psychologists Association (ISPA). This prestigious award recognizes the ISPA member who is most outstanding in the practice of school psychology. Mitchell-Endsley is a school psychologist with Marissa Community School District 40.

Congratulations to all!

**Connect with us**

The school psychology graduate programs now have a Facebook group. We invite all school psychology alumni to join School Psychology at Illinois State University at www.facebook.com/groups/162529240494058/ to keep in touch with the program and each other.

**Kahn named outstanding university researcher**

_by Rachel Hatch_

Congratulations to Jef Kahn, Ph.D., who has been awarded Illinois State’s 2015-2016 Outstanding University Researcher Award. This award recognizes faculty for their scholarly work and contributions to their discipline. Kahn’s primary research interests include emotional expression, emotional regulation, self-disclosure, professional help-seeking behaviors, and scientific training in applied psychology. He has collaborated with many faculty colleagues on a variety of research projects, and he has chaired or served on the committees of numerous Psychology graduate students completing their theses and dissertations.
One of Croker’s students, Ashley Boaz ’15 was selected for a video about the University Research Symposium, highlighting her work on magical thinking. The video is available for viewing at: https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2015/04/video-student-explores-magical-thinking-for-research-symposium/

Faculty news

Marla Reese-Weber ’92, M.S. ’95 was named Associate Dean of Personnel, Budget and Planning in the College of Arts and Sciences. She gave an invited talk at Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) titled, “Predictors of sexual victimization during the first semester of college” and an invited paper at the annual meeting of the MPA in Chicago.

Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences

by Alycia Hund

Five first-year students joined the CBS program this fall: Vince Cialdella ’15 (Illinois State), Alex Dayer (Hendrix College), Matt Langley (Northern Illinois University), Valerie Rodriguez ’15 (Illinois State), and Rachel Workman (Ball State University). One first-year student, Diana Steakley-Freeman ’15 (Illinois State), joined as a dual-sequence student with Quantitative Psychology. They joined our five second-year students: Joey Bai, Kassie Lee, Emilio Lobato, Daniel Schloesser, and Tatsuya Shigeta.

Faculty updates

Jeffrey Wagman gave invited talks at Pennsylvania State University and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.


Steve Croker published two papers and gave nine presentations, many with faculty and student collaborators, including Corinne Zimmerman. Croker also supervised nine undergraduate and two graduate students who presented at the ISU Research Symposium. Alycia Hund became a Fellow of the Midwestern Psychological Association, serving as program moderator for the 2015 meeting in Chicago. She began serving as the coordinator of the CBS sequence and as the chair of the Institutional Review Board in 2015. Hund was also honored with the 2015-2016 Outstanding University Teacher Award.

Hund and school psychology doctoral student Daisy Bueno ’12, M.S. ’15, published an article documenting learning via students enrolled in out-of-class experiences in Psychology Learning and Teaching.

Hund and colleagues gave four talks and presented seven posters at conferences. Her research focusing on improving social studies learning for elementary students was featured in a video showcase by NSF in May 2015: http://resourcecenters2015.videohall.com/presentations/486

Thomas Critchfield published seven papers with colleagues and students. Critchfield was also appointed associate editor of The Behavior Analyst.

Two of Amrita Puri’s research students, Jordan Romager (undergraduate) and Kassandra Lee (graduate) co-presented a poster, “Anxiety and Accuracy of Ensemble Representations of Emotion in a Crowd,” at the annual Psychonomic Society meeting in Chicago (Nov. 19-22).
Industrial/Organizational-Social Psychology

by Kim Schneider

This year we welcomed an incoming class of four students: Tim Deering ’14 (Illinois State), Kathleen Dill (University of North Carolina Wilmington), Amy Huber (University of Wisconsin), and Duc Nguyen (Randolph Macon College). Six second-year I/O-S students are also continuing in the program (Hannah Archos ’14, Sam Hayes, Hannah Jones, Zachary Richardson, Erin White ’14, and CJ Zobell).

I/O-S alumni and faculty news

Eric Wesselmann was recently awarded the 2015-2016 ISU Service Initiative Award and the 2015 College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement of the Year by a pre-tenured faculty member. Wesselmann was also named a Rising Star by the American Psychological Society.

I/O alumnus Paula Radefeld, M.S. ’90, retired in December 2015 from State Farm Insurance, where she dedicated many years to—among other important projects—mentoring over 30 Illinois State I/O graduate student interns in her position in the HR department. Radefeld received the Outstanding Practicum Supervisor Award from our department in 2007. Although her guidance and support of our interns will be greatly missed at State Farm, we wish her the best in retirement as she focuses on home-remodeling projects and spending time with her four children and 10 grandchildren.

Congratulations to our newest I/O-Social alumni on their successful thesis defenses in the past year

Joseph Morrison (November 2014, Chair—Dan Ispas), Moderators of the relationship between perceived employability and voluntary turnover

Nicholas Strong (March 2015, Chair—Kim Schneider), Antecedents and correlates of work engagement in adolescents

David Wolfe (March 2015, Co-Chairs—Dan Ispas and Alex Ilie), Personality test faking: detection and selection rates

Amanda Fisher (April 2015, Chair—Susan Sprecher), You’re like me and I like you: Variables mediating the similarity-attraction link in a social interaction study

Kamila Gabka (October 2015, Co-Chairs—Dan Ispas and Alexandra Ilie), Workplace stressors and employee well-being: The roles of affect, boredom proneness, and counterproductive work behaviors

Kelly Whalen (October 2015, Co-Chairs—Dan Ispas and Jef Kahn), Exploring temporal dimensions of perceived overqualification (POQ): Does the timing of POQ impact the outcomes of job satisfaction and turnover intentions

Quantitative

by Matthew Hesson-McInnis

Matthew Hesson-McInnis, Ph.D., was on sabbatical during the 2015 fall semester to draft his book, Understanding Multivariate Statistics with the General Linear Model.

Jef Kahn, Ph.D., was awarded Illinois State’s 2015-2016 Outstanding University Researcher Award.

I/O reunion at annual SIOP conference

Around 25 I/O alumni, current students, and faculty met for their annual reunion happy hour at the SIOP conference in April in Philadelphia. We enjoyed catching up at the Fieldhouse Philadelphia over appetizers and drinks after a long day of SIOP panels and workshops! Please continue to check our ISU I/O Facebook group for updates on the program and postings related to job openings and alumni news.

Recent I/O-S faculty research


John Binning, Ph.D., was invited to revise his entries on Constructs and Validation Strategies for the 2nd edition of the Encyclopedia of Industrial/Organizational Psychology.
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