from the desk of the chair | CHRISTINE FIORE, PH.D.

Welcome to our spring-- now summer-- newsletter! This last year has been one of change and challenge at the University, and our department has not been immune. The President was asked to step down and we now have Interim President Sheila Stearns and Interim Provost Beverly Edmonds guiding the University through financial and enrollment challenges. We are hopeful that the forthcoming changes will be positive, but we are also realistic about facing serious challenges University-wide in the next few years.

For Psychology, this year was notable for Dr. Cameo Stanick moving on to a private sector position in Los Angeles, and the retirement of Drs. Lois Muir and Tom Seekins. On the staff side, longtime administrative associate, Lorna LaBuff, retired in December and will be followed shortly by Jennie Mitschke. We wish everyone well and will miss each of them. Helping us with teaching in 2016-17 was local clinician and program graduate, Dr. Melissa Neff, who covered Dr. Stanick’s courses. We’ve also been fortunate to have Dr. Laura Kirsch, one of our adjunct faculty members, who has developed her own undergraduate course in Forensic Psychology (Psyx 382) and also willingly taught an array of core undergraduate and graduate courses. Finally, this past year, 21 of our graduate students taught 33 of our undergraduate courses, including all of our online offerings! For those of you with histories with us at the graduate level, you know that we have always valued training in teaching. In these times, it is all the more valuable to us that so many of you become such gifted teachers, and do so having had teaching opportunities with us and hope this continues into the future.

As we know, there is strength in adversity and we, as a department, have a strong faculty and student presence on our side. As you’ll see in the newsletter, we have much to be proud of. We are seeing more and more alumni support and are so touched by their willingness to do so. Thank you to Dr. David Rosengren for helping us to raise money for the CPC by providing a spectacular continuing education seminar on “Motivational Interviewing.” Thank you to our two memorial scholarship benefactors, Dr. Morton Greenberger and Dr. Clyde Allan Crego, Jr., whose philanthropy continues to support our students. And to all of you who support our department in all manner of ways, we are extremely grateful!

Finally, I am ending my role as chair this year. I have truly enjoyed working for the department and look forward to more time for teaching, research and other forms of service. Dr. Allen Szalda-Petree takes up the chair position for fall 2017 and, after a spring sabbatical (when I will be back), will return to shepherd our department for the next three years. Keep us in your thoughts through these next challenging years and please keep in touch.

Chris
Nathan, tell us where you came from academically.

I didn’t start out in psychology...although I almost did. When I first arrived at Oberlin College, where I did my Bachelor’s, I read through every page in the Course Catalog and decided I was most interested in psychology. Then biology came and swept me off my feet. Coming back to psychology as a graduate student was one of the best accidents of my life. I had been doing neuroscience research during summers at the University of Arizona, and wanted to give myself one more year in that lab. Psychology offered a Master’s degree, while the Neuroscience program did not, so for logistical reasons I found myself back in the behavioral sciences. By the end of that first year in graduate school I realized that psychology was where the big-question thinkers were. I stayed on at Arizona and studied neural systems of memory and decision-making, and their changes with oldage. Before coming to UM I was in Toronto, first applying neuroscience research toward use of neurosurgical, Deep Brain Stimulation methods to treat psychiatric disorders, later learning how to develop computer simulations of brain processes, and finally beginning the research I am most passionate about: mechanisms of social behavior.

What do you have planned for your research lab?

The lab will be primarily devoted to “neural systems of social expectations.” In other words: how does the brain support an animal’s ability to infer the intentions and emotions of other individuals? We want to get to the bottom of why our brains are so tuned to social interaction, and what might be going wrong in severe social handicaps, sometimes diagnosed as Autism Spectrum Disorder. To do this, we are studying the brain and behavior of a Chilean rodent, the degu. These little critters communicate with one-another in all sorts of amazing ways, which makes them great research subjects (also great pets).

Another fun area I would like to get into is technology development. How can we improve our everyday devices by applying knowledge about how the social brain works? We are so dependent on computing devices, but have to adapt our brains to their mechanics (why are people texting while driving?). I think our tools should be adapting better to us. I don’t mean that we should make more talking computers (which I find a bit annoying), but that our computers should be able to read and respond to our emotional states and intentions (...in some cases).

What courses will you be teaching?

Biopsychology/physiological psychology. I will be teaching fundamentals of biological psychology (PSYX 250) and will likely teach an upper-level cognitive/behavioral neuroscience course as well. I teach a few graduate courses, most notably PSYX 571, Advanced Physiological Psychology.

What has surprised you most about UM? How about Montana, in general? And Missoula?

The academic community here, inside and outside of the department, has been incredibly supportive. The fact that people prioritize one another’s success makes this one of the healthiest and most rewarding academic environments I have been in. I heard Tom Seekins say that Montana has over 32,000 communities of less than 10,000 people. I don’t know how this compares with other states, but it seems amazing to me and I am still trying to process what it means. Missoula has been a bit of a culture shock from Toronto, but I’ve been impressed by how happy people seem to be.

Finally, please tell us a little about yourself.

Here are three things about my current life:

1) My house in Missoula came with a small fairy door in the living room. At night, my four-year-old son draws a picture for the fairies, and within a day the fairies have left him their own drawing. I have no idea how it happens.

2) I believe that the straightest line from A to B within a city is by bicycle.

3) I am loving the Missoula mountains. I frequently run up with my dog and feel like Mel Gibson in that Braveheart scene running through the Scottish highlands, though I know I look more like Mike Myers as Middle-Aged Man (and yes, I know that both of those references date me).

Welcome, Dr. Insel!
Bethesda, MD--The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has named Shawna Rader Kelly, EdS, NCSP, as the 2017 School Psychologist of the Year. NASP established the award in 1990 to recognize individual school psychologists who have demonstrated exemplary dedication and effectiveness in improving the well-being of children, families, and schools, and in advancing the profession of school psychology.

Ms. Kelly is a school psychologist in the Bozeman (MT) Public Schools, where she has worked for 12 years, 10 of which at Bozeman High School. She provides direct services to students, such as learning assessments, academic interventions, and counseling, as well as providing building and district level leadership. Kelly leads the school multi-tiered systems of support implementation team and has co-lead the district-wide crisis response team that responds to classroom, school, building, and district-level crises. She was the lead developer of the district’s non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) protocol to evaluate self-harming behaviors.

Ms. Kelly obtained her Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology from the University of Montana, Missoula, MT. She also obtained her Master’s Degree in School Psychology from the University of Montana and her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and Sociology (double major with Justice Studies Emphasis) from the Montana State University in Bozeman, MT.

Ms. Kelly has made a significant and lasting contribution to the well-being and achievement of the students she serves. NASP President Melissa Reeves said that Ms. Kelly “has exemplified services in the areas of multi-tiered systems of supports, systems change and intervention, school safety and crisis response, building trusting relationships, advocacy, and mentoring graduate students.”

In addition to her work in the Bozeman public schools, Ms. Kelly is an Educational Consultant for the Montana Office of Public Instruction and a Credentialing Specialist and Supervision Institute Coordinator at the University of Montana at Missoula. An important focus for her work is to support the role of school psychologists in the state. She regularly provides training for school psychology supervisors as well as supervision for university interns, and she is actively involved with grants to support recruitment and retention of school psychologists within the state.

Shawna has been a consummate school psychology leader at the state and national levels. She currently serves on the NASP Board of Directors as the Strategic Liaison for Professional Advocacy, and she previously served as Montana Delegate and the Delegate Representative for the Western Region for 5 years. She is also the Vice President of the NASP Education and Research Trust, and she has served as a member of numerous NASP committees. At the state level, she is a member of the Montana Association of School Psychologists and has served in many ways, including as Executive Council President. She was recently recognized for her hard work and was named the Montana School Psychologist of the Year (2015–2016).

The National Association of School Psychologists represents 25,000 school psychologists throughout the United States and abroad. NASP empowers school psychologists by advancing effective practices to improve students’ learning, behavior, and mental health. Further information about school psychology, NASP, and our School Psychologist of the Year is available at www.nasponline.org.

Inquiries should be directed to Kathy Cowan, NASP Director of Communications, 301-657-0270, ext. 226, or kcowan@naspweb.org

Dr. David Schuldberg received the Distinguished Service Award for 20 years of service from the Institute for Teaching and Mentoring, Compact for Faculty Diversity (Tampa, FL, October 29, 2016)

Left to right:

Dr. David Schuldberg, University of Montana; co-Distinguished Service Award winner, Dr. Hal Bibb, University of Rhode Island Biology, Emeritus; and Dr. Ken Pepion, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
CAMPAIGN CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO “RAISE THE ROOF” AND EXPAND THE CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY CENTER

An understated brick building on Mansfield Avenue, on the south end of campus, was built in 1984 to serve as a primary training center for doctoral students in the clinical psychology program. Since that time, the Clinical Psychology Center (CPC) has continued to provide both training opportunities for students and services to the community: in a recent analysis, it was estimated that the clinic has provided over 20,000 hours of psychotherapy services to the community in the past 15 years. Because clients can access services on a sliding scale (often as low as $5), this translates into over $185,000 in services to area residents that are provided by student clinicians each year.

More than 30 years after it was built, the CPC is struggling to meet demand, both from our community and from our burgeoning programs. A newly-accredited school psychology Ph.D. program and a school specialist program have increased our student numbers and our ability to provide services at a rate that was not anticipated when the clinic was built. Fortunately, a generous community donor provided funding for us to design a second-story addition to the clinic. This addition, designed by MMW Architects in Missoula, would also involve a remodel of the first floor space.

The design for the new CPC will more than double our current assessment and therapy space. Flexible rooms will be available for clinical supervision, research, offices for postdoctoral fellows, and group and individual therapy. The main clinic entrance will remain the primary entry point for clients and visitors to the CPC, and a newly expanded entrance on the north side of the building will be the point of entry for CPC staff, students, and faculty. This design will help improve the flow of the building while maintaining client confidentiality. The training opportunities for students in clinical and school psychology graduate programs will expand significantly, particularly in regard to working with child and adolescent clients.

Our department is thrilled about this exciting new opportunity, which has a target date of groundbreaking in 2020. The exact timing of the project, of course, depends on fundraising success. We are seeking additional donors to help us to realize this vision. If you are interested in supporting this effort at any level, we would love to hear from you! Please contact our department or the UM Foundation to get involved: Marci Bozeman, UM Foundation | marci.bozeman@mso.umt.edu | 406.243.2646.

INTERNERSHIP PLACEMENTS for 2017—2018

| Marina Costanzo — VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, OR |
| Ann Douglas — Montana State University, Bozeman, MT |
| Georgie Ferguson — Alexandria VA Health Care System, Pineville, LA |
| Ciara Hansen — Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Waianae, HI |
| Kathryn Oost — VA Puget Sound, American Lake, Tacoma, WA |
| Jennifer Wills — VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, Salt Lake City, UT |
# SCHOLARSHIPS

## UNDERGRADUATE
- **Mortar Board Outstanding Senior Awards**
  - General—Tomiko Cook
  - Research—Christopher Morucci

- **Kain/McKay Scholarship**
  - Gavin Ploger, Elle Nelson, Alec Dalton, Jennifer Steven

- **Presidential Leadership Scholarship & Undergraduate Research Award**
  - Reid Hensen

- **Presidential Leadership Scholarship**
  - Martha Krebill, Madeline Matia, Eli Nordstrom

- **Watkins Scholarship, Presidential Leadership Scholarship & Undergraduate Research Award**
  - Claire Michelson

- **W.F. Book Award**
  - Jennifer Konicek
  - Madison Thompson

## GRADUATE
- **Bertha Morton Scholarships**
  - Kaitlyn Ahlers
  - Priya Loess
  - Meredith Repke

- **Greenberger Scholarship**
  - Ivie English

- **Graduate Teaching Awards**
  - Samantha Russell — Introduction to Psychology
  - Brandon Stewart — Teaching and Mentoring

- **Trainers of School Psychologists Graduate Student Scholarship**
  - Zachary Shindorf

- **P.E.O. Scholarship**
  - Kathryn Oost was awarded the P.E.O Scholarship for $15,000. P.E.O. is a national philanthropic organization promoting the achievements of women

## HIGHLIGHT

**Tell us about your academic and professional background.**

I received a PsyD in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, and then went on to complete two years of post-doctoral fellowship at the Montana Academy. My clinical assistantships during my training were at the Diamond Headache Clinic, the Jewish Child and Family Services, and Bridgeview/Challenger Therapeutic Day Schools. Prior to joining the Psychology Department at UM, I worked in various medical facilities, as well as in independent and group practices in the New York City area. I have been serving as the Director of the Clinical Psychology Center since February 2016, and I very much enjoy working with the wonderful students and faculty here!

**What are the current projects at the CPC?**

In addition to running our three therapy and assessment practica, we are excited about several undertakings that are happening concurrently at the Clinical Psychology Center. In April of this year, we hosted a continuing education conference featuring David Rosengren, PhD, who presented a two-day workshop entitled “Conversations about Change: An Introduction to Motivational Interviewing Skills – Level I.” In October 2017 we will host another two-day workshop at the Doubletree Hotel in Missoula featuring Jennifer Gottlieb, PhD. Dr. Gottlieb’s workshop is designed to introduce clinicians to an effective and straight-forward Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) intervention for individuals with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), specifically designed for people who have co-occurring psychiatric conditions, such as chronic and severe depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, and borderline personality disorder.

We are also currently working on establishing ourselves as a designated mental health center in the state of Montana, which will enable us to expand our therapeutic capacities at the CPC, as well as within the context of local schools. (See other news & updates in the newsletter on CPC expansion and donor news.)

**Tell us a little about yourself:**

My family and I moved back to Montana in late 2015 from Brooklyn, NY, in large part because of our love of the outdoors, adventuring, and Big Sky country. We are expecting our second child in May, 2017, and we couldn’t be more thrilled about it!

*Welcome, Dr. Birch!*
• Dr. Nathan Insel joined the faculty in fall 2016 as an Assistant Professor specializing in Behavioral & Systems Neuroscience. (You can read an interview with Dr. Insel in this newsletter)
• Jordan Jolly joined the staff as an administrative associate for the Clinical Psychology Center in June 2016.
• Laure Pengelly Drake is now a part-time undergraduate advisor for the department. She divides her time among the Psychology Department, serving as Coordinator for Writing Center Program and advising for External Scholarships.
• Dr. Tom Seekins was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award during fall Homecoming festivities. In addition to a university celebration, Seekins gave a colloquium entitled “Passion and Design: Applied Psychology for Rural Community Living.” Dr. Seekins retired at the end of fall semester 2016.
• Dr. Lois Muir plans to retire at the end of spring semester 2017.
• The department formed a Diversity Committee composed of faculty and graduate students. Their priorities for diversity include the development of hiring and admissions policies and addressing relevant topics in colloquia.
• The department welcomed Yemataw Wondie, PhD, as a Fulbright Scholar for the 2016-17 academic year. Dr. Wondie is an Associate Professor at the University of Gondar in Ethiopia. His interests are in Child and Family and Health Psychology. Dr. Wondie made the trip to Missoula with his wife and two young children.
• Dr. Christine Fiore was awarded a sabbatical for fall 2017; Drs. David Schuldberg and Allen Szalda-Petree were awarded sabbaticals for spring 2017; and Dr. Greg Machek was awarded a sabbatical for the 2017-18 academic year.
• Administrative associate, Lorna LaBuff, retired in December 2016 after 20 years with the department.
• Teresa Johnston joined the department as an administrative associate in January 2017.
• Administrative associate, Jennie Mitschke, will retire at the end of July 2017 after 20 years with the department.
• Dr. David Schuldberg was elected President-elect of the Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology and the Life Sciences.
• The School Psychology PhD program was fully approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

In Donor news,
• In addition to establishing the Dr. Clyde Allen Crego Memorial Scholarship, in December of 2016, Dr. Marilyn Crego also donated $10,000 to the Clinical Psychology Center (CPC), in honor of her late husband. With Dr. Crego’s generous donation, several upgrades were made possible that help the CPC function more effectively. Some of the upgrades included installing a credit card machine and two LED screens in classrooms for presentation purposes. Also purchased were adjustable tables, enabling two rooms to be used for both psychotherapy and psychological testing purposes. Additionally, various pieces of furniture were added to the group/family therapy room and child therapy room. These upgrades have helped to create a more inviting, professional, and functional space. The department is profoundly grateful to Dr. Crego and appreciates her tremendous generosity.

In Alumni news,
• Recent graduate, Dr. Nicholas Livingston (PhD Clinical Psychology, 2017) accepted an Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment through the VA Boston and Boston University School of Medicine. The position is a two-year research fellowship.
• Dr. Julia Hammond (PhD Clinical Psychology, 2017) accepted a position in the Postdoctoral Residency Program in Clinical Neuropsychology at the VA Northern California Health Care System.
• Recent graduate, Dr. Erin Yosai (PhD School Psychology, 2017) will be completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the Disability Resource and Educational Services Center at the Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Yosai will be providing counseling, academic coaching for undergraduate and graduate students, conducting Neuropsychological Assessments and Academic Screenings, supervising graduate practicum students and co-teaching one or two graduate courses.
• Recent graduate, Dr. Anayansi Lombardero (PhD Clinical Psychology, 2016) accepted a tenure track faculty position at the University of Alaska Anchorage.
• Specialist in School Psychology graduate, Shawna Rader Kelly (EdS School Psychology, 2005) received the NASP School Psychologist of the Year award for 2017. (See NASP news release in this newsletter)

ALUMNI, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to email us with your news: PsychologyDepartment@umontana.edu

If you would like to SUPPORT the PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT, please send a check or money order to:
The University of Montana Foundation | PO Box 7159 | Missoula, MT 59807-7159 with a note in the memo line designating it for the Psychology Department | Contributions are also accepted ONLINE