



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

Welcome to 2014 and the Psychology Department Newsletter! A new year brings many exciting happenings in our psychology programs.

Last spring of 2013, we said good-bye to Nabil Haddad, Ph.D., our department chair, who served as a faculty member for 37 years. Dr. Haddad is well loved and greatly appreciated for all he has done for our department. This year he was honored with Emeritus status and continues to teach Advanced Research Methods to undergraduates on a yearly contract (as we wait to fill his position). I, Christine Fiore, Ph.D., started serving as chair in July 2013.

In related news, School Psychology faculty member, Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger, Ph.D. retired in spring of 2014 after ten years with our department. Nadine Wisniewski, Ph.D. left us in spring 2013. Dr. Wisniewski was a part-time faculty member for seven years. We will miss them both and wish them the best!

With change comes new faces and we were fortunate to bring on Craig McFarland, Ph.D., as a clinical neuropsychologist. Look for his highlight in this newsletter.

Also important to note are some projects going on in our department this year. To name a few, Dr. Luke Conway received a CTR-IN grant from NIH for a pilot project for submission to the National Cancer Institute for using cognitive complexity research in smoking cessation. Drs. Cameo Borntrager, Anisa Goforth and Lindsey Nichols (Counselor Education), received funding from the Office of the Commissioners of higher education for teacher training in mental health needs of children. And Dr. Dan Denis is writing a graduate-level statistics text with publisher John Wiley & Sons, Inc. due for publication in 2015. The text is tentatively titled "Applied Univariate, Bivariate and Multivariate Statistics for the Social Sciences."

Of course we are equally proud of our students' efforts. Our school psychology program graduated its first doctoral candidates this past year, Camille Barraclough, Chris Bushard & Jordan Fiorillo Scotti. This is an important step toward seeking APA accreditation for the program. Ten clinical and two school psychology graduate students applied for internship this year, which has kept faculty on their toes and we are happy to report a strong match rate in these challenging times.

Consistent with super graduate program accomplishments, our clinical program was identified by a meta-analysis as one of the top 10 APA approved training programs for our ability to promote positive educational gains as measured by entrance and exit outcome comparisons (GRE, GPA, and Licensing Pass rates) by the journal *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*.

And last but not least, we're looking forward to another semester with our many undergrads, including those who devote and dedicate themselves to countless hours of work in our research labs.

It's an honor to be chair in such a vibrant and active department. Our faculty, graduate and undergraduate students are actively engaged in contributing to our science and profession. I look forward to the next three years of addressing helping our department members further accomplish goals, possibilities, and dreams!



Our Faculty

Back row: Allen Szalda-Petree, Lois Muir, Nicole McCray, Paul Silverman, Duncan Campbell, Stuart Hall, Luke Conway, David Schuldberg, Dan Denis

Middle row: Tom Seekins, Gyda Swaney, Nadine Wisniewski, Craig Ravesloot, Greg Machek, Yoonhee Jang

Front row: Nabil Haddad, Bryan Cochran, Anisa Goforth, Jennifer Waltz, Cameo Borntrager, Christine Fiore

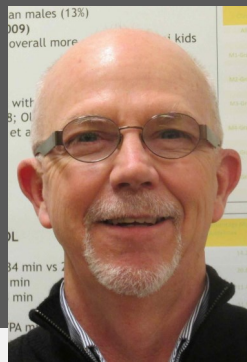
Not pictured: Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger, Craig McFarland, Jennifer Robohm

Tom Seekins (BA, University of Montana, 1973 & Ph.D., University of Kansas, 1983) is tenured professor who splits his time between the Psychology Department and the Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities, his research home.

The United States has just over 32,000 towns with populations of less than 10,000—roughly equivalent in size to the nation’s 100 largest cities. For a rural community psychologist, these towns represent a vast laboratory. Tom’s research might best be described as community engaged scholarship; he works with both communities of interest and communities of place to identify issues of importance to them, to develop acceptable interventions, and to evaluate the significance of the impacts. This approach has produced several widely adopted “evidence-based products.” For example, Tom has led a team of researchers in developing and evaluating several interventions that include a citizen-led rural economic development program that created over 70 new businesses and 192 jobs in rural areas of Utah, and self-help programs for managing health that significantly improve health and reduce unnecessary medical service utilization.

PROFILE | DR. TOM SEEKINS

RTC: rural research &
training center on disability
in rural communities |



Tom’s current research explores the role of community environments on human behavior. In one study, he and his colleagues are developing methods to help control medical costs by reducing costly hospital return rates. In a larger series of studies, Tom and his students are developing methods for remotely assessing the accessibility of community environments and the relationships between accessible community events and participation. He has also organized an on-line seminar of scientists from two continents, representing disciplines ranging from wildlife biology to traffic engineering, to discuss their views of what we mean when we say, “the environment.”

Tom has been primarily or significantly responsible for securing over \$40 million in external funding to support research designed to benefit Montana and rural areas across the nation. That funding has come from the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Agency for Health Research and Quality, and the Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI).

Tom believes the emerging science for the 21st century will be a science of the environment; a natural science of community. That science will be based on ecological models that emphasize the environment’s influence on our participation in community life (National Academies of Science, 2010). Those models will integrate methods from the humanities with those from the natural, social, and behavioral sciences to create new tools that maximize core human values such as freedom, justice, and dignity. This new science will shape the future outcome-oriented medical systems, the management of mental health, the arrangement of employment settings, and the design of livable communities. Tom can be contacted at tom.seekins@umontana.edu.

First off, welcome to the department; we’re really happy you’re here. You came to the University of Montana from a post-doc position in Boston and before that your graduate studies at the University of Arizona. What has surprised you most about UM?

I’ve been pleasantly surprised to learn of the variety of excellent training opportunities on campus and the potential for the Psychology Department to develop collaborative relationships with various departments.

In that same vein, what has surprised you about Montana, in general, and Missoula, in particular?

Regarding Montana in general, I think the most surprising thing was the number of license plate options. Wow! Specific to Missoula, I’ve been surprised by the quality of the farmer’s market. And also, how friendly people are, how seldom I purchase gas, how good looking Monte is in person, and how often I see deer walk down my sidewalk.

Fill us in on your current research/grants/projects. What do you have planned for your research lab?

My research interests span the areas of memory, executive functioning, and cognitive rehabilitation. Recent work has focused on prospective memory (PM: remembering to do something in the future), and has been designed to identify the cognitive mechanisms underlying PM and to develop strategies to improve it. This work has been conducted with older adults and individuals with brain injury.

In addition to continuing to study prospective memory, I anticipate initiating projects designed to explore prospection more generally – that is, looking toward or imagining future scenarios. Some of the questions I hope to address include: How do we benefit from engaging in prospection? Can strategies be developed to improve prospection? And, how does prospection relate to memory, behavioral inhibition, and hope and optimism?

Last but not least, tell us a little about yourself.

Besides my passion for research, I also like to hike, mountain bike, and take photographs (mostly of nature, but also of my adorable 2 year old daughter). Right now, weekends usually involve checking out some part of Missoula life and trying to go to new places in Montana.



Dr. Borntrager, please give us some background on your lab. **The Research on Implementation Science and Trauma in Youth (RISTY) lab has a focus on researching the *process* of moving evidence-based practices for youth mental health out of the lab and into community treatment settings, with particular emphasis on evidence-based practices for youth exposed to trauma.**

What are your current projects? **We are working on a number of projects. Two major all-lab projects include a pilot clinical trial for a trauma-exposed nightmare treatment for children aged 8-12 years, as well as the Instrument Review Project (IRP) which is a joint effort between U of M, Indiana University, the University of Washington, the University of North Carolina, and the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto. In addition, graduate students are working on their Masters and dissertation works, which span topics from instrument development for measuring trauma exposure in youth to eating disorders and trauma to projects on the nightmare treatment study described above. Finally, I am doing ongoing research with the Missoula County Public Schools regarding their implementation of evidence-based practices among school-based mental health practitioners.**

Will you tell us a little bit more about the research and studies and what is involved for each study? **We are currently recruiting youth and their caregivers for the trauma-related nightmare treatment study. The study involves pre-screening and assessment, as well as 5 session (5 week) treatment targeting the reduction of nightmares and improved sleep. There is also a 3-month and 6-month follow up assessment. Participants are compensated for each assessment. The Instrument Review Project includes a systematic review and rating process for measurement instruments that span the depth and breadth of the dissemination and implementation science fields. My graduate and undergraduate research assistants have been involved at all levels of this project, from scouring the literature to writing the first publication on the project.**

How are your projects and studies funded? **The trauma-related nightmare treatment study has received two grants from the Small University Grant Program. My work with MCPS has been funded through the Montana Mental Health Settlement Trust as well as the US Department of Education.**

How many students work in your lab? **Currently I have five graduate students, and five undergraduate students. All are involved in various projects in varying capacities. The two major projects described above (clinical trial and IRP) are considered 'lab projects' which require everyone's support and time!**

Do you know a child who has been exposed to trauma and suffers from nightmares? **Dr. Cameo Borntrager's RISTY lab is conducting a clinical trial for a treatment to reduce nightmares and sleep disturbance in children ages 8-12 years. Please tell the caregiver or legal guardian to call Dr. Borntrager's research lab at 406.243.6684 for more information.**

by the numbers | CPC

Based on data collected from 2000 through 2012, our **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY CENTER** has trained:

* 112 doctoral-level students

And provided:

* To 978 unduplicated clients, mental health services, including 207 assessments

* 9827 Individual (Adult) Psychotherapy hours

* 2764 Child/Family Psychotherapy hours

* 387 Couples Psychotherapy hours

* 1697 Group Psychotherapy hours

* 306 Adult Assessment hours

* 561 Child Assessment hours

* 1883 Mixed Services hours

That's at least 17,425 hours of mental health services to the Missoula community!

2013

Clinical students, Kathrine Butler, Nicholas Heck, Renee Madathil, & Haley Trontel, and Experimental student Janelle Gornick all successfully defended their dissertations and received their Ph.D.s

Troy Dvorak, Melissa Hanson, Nieves McGuire, & Nina Ward received their Ed.S. degrees

our graduate students | RECENT DEGREE RECIPIENTS

2014

School students Camille Barraclough, Christopher Bushard, Jordan Fiorillo Scotti, and Experimental students Kathryn Lamp, & Whitney Rostad successfully defended their dissertations and received their Ph.D.s

Clinical student Noah Baker received a posthumous Ph.D.

Andy Mogan & Carly Nason received their Ed.S. degrees

Clinical students Matthew Croxton, Ann Douglas, Ciara Hansen, Nicholas Livingston, Susan Ocean, Ennis Vaile, Maria Villa, Jennifer Wills and School Ph.D. student Laura Ambrose received their M.A. degrees

our undergraduate & graduate students | RECENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Undergraduates Logan McKenney, Heather Schmit, Kelsey Swingle & Hannah Wadsworth were awarded the Mortar Board Outstanding Senior Award

Undergraduates Brandon Stewart, Kelsey Swingle & Sean Jeffrey were awarded the Kain/McKay Scholarship

Undergraduates Emily Ballinger and Hannah Wadsworth received the WF Book Award

The Undergraduate Student Research Conference Award for Outstanding Research was awarded to Sandra Skogley

Undergraduates Andrew Hinkle, Madeline Miller, Kayla Nelson & Kimberly Parrow were awarded the Mortar Board Outstanding Senior Award

Undergraduates Janyssa Overturf, Kimberly Parrow & Sandra Skogley were awarded the Kain/McKay Scholarship

Undergraduates Vanessa McNeill & Taylor King received the W.F. Book Award

The Bertha Morton Scholarship was awarded to Shannon Houck & Lauri Lindquist

The Greenberger Scholarship was awarded to Julia Hammond, Nicholas Livingston & Anayansi Lombardero

2013 The APA Minority Fellowship was awarded to Jennie Fretts

Lindsay Crosby, Shannon Houck, & Susan Ocean received Graduate TA Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Graduate Student Research Conference Award for Outstanding Research was awarded to Patricia O'Brien

The Bertha Morton Scholarship was awarded to Nicholas Livingston, Anayansi Lombardero & Kathryn Oost

The Greenberger Scholarship was awarded to Nicholas Livingston & Ann Douglas

The APA Minority Fellowship was awarded to Ann Douglas

2014 Hillary Gleason, Kathryn Lamp & Kathryn Oost received Graduate TA Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Graduate Student Research Conference Award for Outstanding Research was awarded to Kathryn Oost

Meredith Reynolds received the Altrusa International Scholarship

departmental NEWS

- The department conducted a Clinical/Neuropsychology-focused search and hired Dr. Craig McFarland as of fall 2013
- Drs. Duncan Campbell & Cameo Borntrager both obtained their State of Montana Psychologist License
- Dr. Laura Kirsch joined the department as an adjunct faculty member and is teaching Principles of Psych Interventions & Family Violence
- In 2013, Clinical student Renee Madathil and School students Eric Aune & Jordan Fiorillo Scotti were all on internship
- In 2014, Clinical students Robert Enoch, Christian Herwitz, Zed Kramer, Molly McDonald, Laura Boucher, Daniel Dewey, Meghan Gill, Leslie Croot, Tory Kimpton, and School students Brandon Rennie, Jaime Long, & Ian Stephens all matched at APA-accredited internship sites
- Clinical graduate students have been hired to do trauma-based counseling at the University's Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) office
- Dr. Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger announced her retirement as of fall 2014
- The department hired Jacquelyn Brown, Ph.D. as the new School Psychology faculty member. She'll join the faculty in fall 2014
- The InPsych Program has been funded for the 16th consecutive year
- 35 school and clinical graduate students were able to provide 110 grant-supported evaluations through the Montana Mental Health Trust
- Recent clinical program graduate, Nicholas Heck, Ph.D. was selected for the prestigious John C. Roitzsch Memorial Scientist-Practitioner Award at the Charleston Consortium, where he recently completed his psychology internship
- Dr. Jennifer Robohm, Director of the Clinical Psychology Center, was selected for a part-time position as Behavioral Science Faculty with the Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana program
- Dr. Christine Fiore & Beth Hubble, Director of Women & Gender Studies Program, were co-awarded the Educator of the Year Award by the Missoula Family Violence Council
- Dr. Luke Conway & Dr. Kari Harris of Public Health, were awarded a one-year CTR-IN grant from NIH for \$75,000
- The doctoral program in Clinical Psychology was identified as a "Hidden Gem" in a recent article in the journal *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*

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 at http://psychweb.psy.umt.edu/www/give_now.asp