

psych NEWS

Department of Psychology • Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1

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From the Desk of the Chair

Nabil Haddad, Ph.D.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our electronic newsletter. We plan to issue two newsletters a year to keep our students, alumni and friends better informed about the department's progress. In an effort not to overtax your computer's memory, we will email you the URL for the newsletter and leave it up to you to open it. Please feel free to forward it to other friends of the department in case we may have missed them. I invite you to also contact us with news items, suggestions for the newsletter, or any other question or issue concerning the department.

This issue includes two articles about our programs and a few features about the people in the department. First, we wanted to highlight our Indians into Psychology program (InPsych), one of only three such programs nationwide funded by IHS. We are very proud of the progress that we have made in this area over the past thirteen years, progress that is largely due to the dedication and commitment of Dr. Gyda Swaney, the director of the program. The departmental faculty has a firm and abiding commitment to support this program and to provide the opportunity for Native American students to become clinical psychologists who can serve their communities' needs in the future.

The second article concerns our School Psychology program and its expansion. Over the past 30 years, our EdS program in School Psychology has provided the vast majority of school psychologists working in the State's school systems. Now, our newly established PhD level program in School Psychology is on firm footing and is on the verge of graduating its first PhD candidate. Drs. Machek and Beebe-Frankenberger have done a miraculous job in establishing and nourishing this program.

The next issue of this newsletter will have a new author for this column, Dr. Christine Fiore, who has been chosen as the next Departmental chair. She will assume that role upon my retirement this summer. I am certain that she and the faculty will continue to nurture our long standing commitment for excellence in scholarship and in student mentoring within an open, humane and democratic environment. My thirty seven years as a faculty member of this department, and fourteen years as its chair, have been extremely rewarding precisely because of this commitment. It has been a good gig!



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The Faculty 2012—2013

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 Borntreger, Christine Fiore

Not pictured: Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger, Jennifer Robohm

InPsych | Indians into Psychology | program story

Following the passage of the 1992 legislation authorizing the establishment of “Indian Into Psychology” graduate scholarship programs, the Psychology Department at The University of Montana began planning for our own such program. Efforts initially included considerable consultation with Dr. Arthur McDonald. An Oglala Lakota, Dr. McDonald was the first American Indian man to earn a PhD in psychology and went on to found and eventually serve as president of Chief Dull Knife College in Lambe Deer, Montana. Keenly aware of the need for funding for Indians in psychology, he led others in urging Congress to support efforts that led to the InPsych programs. Subsequently Dr. Nabil Haddad wrote two grant proposals to the Indian Health Service and in 1998, under an earmarking provision in legislation, UM’s Indians Into Psychology program was born.

Designated to recruit American Indian undergraduate students into psychology and recruit and train American Indian graduate students into Clinical Psychology, the ultimate goal of the InPsych program is to send trained American Indian clinical psychologists back to reservations or urban Indian centers to contribute to the health of indigenous people and to serve as role models for future generations of Native psychologists. Montana’s InPsych Program is one of three such programs in the United States.

Dr. Deborah Pace (*Siksika*) was the InPsych Program’s first Director; since 2000 Dr. Gyda Swaney (*Flathead*) has headed the program. The InPsych Program has awarded undergraduate scholarships to 15 native students whose GPAs ranged from 2.50 to 3.94. The six PhD graduates from this program have moved on to do important clinical or academic work: Dr. Jera Stewart (*Flathead*) is a consultant to the Department of Defense in Hawaii; Dr. Annie Belcourt (*Three Affiliated Tribes/Blackfeet*) is faculty in the Pharmacy Practice/Community and Public Health Sciences Departments at The University of Montana – Missoula; Dr. Stacy Miller (*Mohican*) is the Clinical Supervisor of the Behavioral Health Program on the Flathead Reservation; Dr. Aaron Morsette (*Chippewa Cree*) is with the Behavioral Health Program at Rocky Boy Tribal Health on the Rocky Boy Reservation; Dr. Michael Trahan (*Flathead*) is the Native American Program’s Coordinator of Youthworks in Bismarck, North Dakota; and Dr. Will Shunkamolah (*Navajo/Osage/Kiowa*) is in a post-doctoral position at San Carlos Apache with the Arizona Psychology Training Consortium. We’re also proud to include Dr. Billie Jo Kipp (*Blackfeet*) and Dr. Darren Calhoun (*Shoshone/Arapaho*) as alumni. Currently the Clinical Psychology Program has seven Native American students from six tribes (*Blackfeet, Cherokee, Flathead, Mi’kmaq, Navaho, and Pointe au Chien*) and four states as well as Canada.



PSI CHI. THE INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN PSYCHOLOGY

A charter member since 1929, our Psi Chi organization has seen a recent resurgence in student interest and participation. Membership is currently at 35 and Dr. Bryan Cochran has signed on as the new faculty advisor.

The group is getting organized and plans to create a speaker series. Fundraising efforts will be underway soon so look for flyers around campus, as well as emails and class announcements.

School Psychology PhD | program story

The University of Montana’s School Psychology Graduate training program has two degree tracks: A three year program for the Educational Specialist (EdS) degree, and a doctoral (PhD) program. The Specialist program is fully accredited by the National Association of School Psychologists and has produced high quality school psychologists for Montana’s k-12 schools for over 30 years. The School Psychology PhD program began in fall 2006 and currently has students in all years of the program. We are excited to soon have our first doctoral graduates, after which we will seek accreditation from the American Psychological Association.

Both programs adhere to the scientist-practitioner model. The program has three core faculty lines: Dr. Greg Machek (Director; Indiana U., 2004), Dr. Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger (UC- Riverside, 2000), and Dr. Anisa Goforth (Michigan State University, 2011).

For more information on the School Psychology program please contact Dr. Greg Machek (Program director) at greg.machek@umontana.edu.

Dr. Anisa Goforth | School

Dr. Anisa Goforth joined our faculty in Fall 2011, coming from Michigan State University. Ironically, she didn't live in the United States until college, having grown up in seven countries in Latin America and Asia. An Australian and American citizen, and an avid lover of the outdoors and adventure, Anisa's life and travels have taken her to 45 countries and counting!

As one of our School Psychology faculty members, Anisa's specialization came out of a lifelong interest in the fields of psychology and education as well as a belief in the importance of scientific inquiry and applied research. Named the "Culturally Responsive Evidence-based Practices in School Psychology Lab (CRESP Lab)," Anisa has put her research team to work examining ways that school psychologists can serve children from culturally and linguistically diverse families.

In addition, she is currently working with Dr. Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger examining the

roles and responsibilities of rural school psychologists. Realizing that even though schools are often the first line of defense in serving children and families in rural communities, services can sometimes be inadequate. Drs. Goforth and Beebe-Frankenberger are working to assist their colleagues while ultimately learning about and from their experiences serving rural communities.

Anisa is also a Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Ginger Collins, Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, on a U.S. Department of Education grant to examine how to improve teachers' knowledge of vocabulary instruction, multi-tiered systems of support and culturally responsive teaching.

Finally she is collaborating on a number of professional issues related to school psychological practice, such as examining ethical issues involving social networking sites and the influence of sociopolitical beliefs.

All that said, we are reminded that it is Anisa's passion for the profession and for her students that makes her an asset to our department:

"There is nothing more rewarding than to see the professional growth among my graduate students in the school psychology program."

A traveler, teacher, mentor, advisor and friend; we're lucky she's staying for a while.



faculty PROFILES

Dr. Yoonhee Jang | Experimental

Dr. Yoonhee Jang received her PhD at the University of Maryland, College Park, and came to us from a post-doc position at the University of California, San Diego. Despite her love of warm weather she has maintained her smile and amazing attitude throughout her first Montana winter. A keen observer of people, Yoonhee also loves to walk and to meditate—and share her favorite Korean treats with the department.

Self-described as more of a listener than talker, Yoonhee was drawn to psychology and the urge to help others at a young age. It wasn't until college, when she took her first course in cognitive psychology, that she found her true calling. To her, the amazement was in the experience of discovering, through experiments, how the mind works—such as why some memories are quickly forgotten and others remain so strong, or why people mistakenly believe they are correct when their responses are wrong—and a scientist was born.

A faculty member since Fall of 2012, Yoonhee has dedicated herself not only to her classes, but to her research lab. She has three main projects ongoing. One is to understand the ways in which educationally-relevant factors influence learning and memory and how best to apply these factors toward optimizing study strategies and instructional techniques. A second project is investigating the dissociation between confidence and memory. Ultimately she would like to test whether apparent dissociations arise from either the use of the confidence scale or something else. Yoonhee's third research project deals with studies showing that people remember emotional events better than neutral events. Her aim is to explore the relationship between cognition and emotion, and specifically whether emotional enhancements reflect a true increase in accuracy.

A busy research lab notwithstanding, it is her students that Yoonhee thanks for making her first semester at UM a great one. When asked about professional accomplishments Yoonhee told two stories—one about her sense of accomplishment getting her first manuscript published after the passing of her faculty advisor and the proud moment of seeing their names together. Yoonhee's other story was about counseling with a former research assistant away from cognitive psychology and towards a better-suited career in clinical psychology. The common denominator in both was a meaningful relationship.

I always believe nothing is more important than relationship.

Words to live by. Welcome to the department, Yoonhee. We're so happy you're here.



departmental NEWS

- Dr. Nabil Haddad announced his retirement as of July 1, 2013
- Dr. Christine Fiore was voted in as the new department chair
- Dr. Bryan Cochran will become the next Director of Clinical Training
- Dr. Fiore was appointed as a Presidential Fellow for the 2012-2013 academic year
- Dr. Cochran obtained his State of Montana Clinical Psychology License
- Dr. Gyda Swaney received the Nancy Borgmann Diversity Award
- Laura Boucher, Lindsay Crosby, Renee Madathil and Jordan Fiorillo all received Graduate TA Excellence in Teaching Awards
- Tory Kimpton was awarded the Bertha Morton Scholarship
- Dr. Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger was instrumental in garnering nearly 1.2 million dollars in grant funding for Missoula County Public Schools
- Dr. Greg Machek was awarded a grant from OPI to provide support for school psychology practicum and internship supervisors in the field
- Dr. Cameo Borntreger received a UM Small Grant for a pilot application measuring trauma for children and adolescents
- Dr. Cameo Borntreger was principal investigator on a Montana Mental Health Settlement Trust grant for a Comprehensive Training Network for a Children's Mental Health Services
- Dr. Cameo Borntreger was awarded a UM Small Grant for a pilot application to treat nightmares in children and adolescents

- The department conducted a School Psychology faculty search and hired Dr. Anisa Goforth as of Fall 2011
- The department conducted an Experimental/Cognitive faculty search and hired Dr. Yoonhee Jang as of Fall 2012
- The department is in the midst of its second search for a Neuropsychology faculty position
- Rita Billow, Mallory McBride, Casey Ruggiero, William Shunkamolah, Grace Silvia, Michael Trahan and Kristen Waldemayer all successfully defended their dissertations and received their Ph.Ds
- Katherine Piercey received her Ed.S.
- Clinical students Katherine Butler, Nicholas Heck, Haley Trontel and School student Christopher Bushard are all currently on internship

It is with great sadness that we let you know of the passing of



Noah Baker, a graduate student in clinical psychology. Noah died in his sleep in late December 2012. He had just turned 29 and was applying for internship with several interviews scheduled. His loss was felt heavily not only in our department, but also with the CSKT Tribal Defender's office where Noah worked. His hearty laugh and his boisterous spirit ensured that he never met an enemy and that he brought joy to everyone who knew him.

A service was held for him in his home state of Iowa and a memorial celebration happened in Missoula at the end of February. Our thoughts remain with Noah's family and his fiancée, Desi Gilbert, a clinical graduate student.

Alumni, we would love to hear from you.

Please feel free to email us with your news:

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