Dear Alumni:

It is hard to believe but true – another year has passed since we sent our last newsletter. This means I am one year older and hopefully, one year wiser. I guess time passes at the light speed when you are having lots of fun, or perhaps time passes exponentially faster when you get older (hmm, I wonder whether there is empirical evidence for this).

Many things happened during the past year, and I am happy to report that we are still moving forward, as you can see in this newsletter. Also, I would also like you to know that we are trying a new way of delivering our newsletter. Instead of sending our email notification, we are trying to deliver it to your email. Unfortunately “doing a new thing” always takes more time than you anticipate, so please be patient – as you already know, the slope is steeper at the beginning of a learning curve.

In any case, we are happy to announce that our search for two I/O psychologists was successful. These two positions became vacant when Dr. Stephen Wagner and Dr. Simone Grebner moved on to other institutions. Dr. Grebner’s position was specifically designated for Occupational Health. Our original goal was to create a concentration in occupational health for the I/O graduate program, and this plan was back on track, thanks to a new hire Dr. Kim O’Brien. She received her Ph.D. from the University of South Florida and has been working at the Wayne State University for a few years. The other new hire is Dr. Matthew Prewett, who also received his Ph.D. from the University of South Florida. Interestingly, two years ago, we hired Dr. David Acevedo (Clinical) who came from the University of South Florida as well. So, it looks like there is migration of some sort happening from Florida to Michigan. I hope you will be able to come meet our new faculty, as well as other faculty members, at the Homecoming.

I am also happy to report that our undergraduate division is doing well. Dr. Van Horn informed me last year that our Psi Chi chapter was selected as a model chapter for the second consecutive year. In fact, they won this award three times in the last four years, plus two national website awards and the Midwest Regional Chapter award. Congratulations to our Psi Chi students and Dr. Van Horn. Dr. Van Horn is also piloting our PSY 385 Application of Research Methods course using an online format.

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Psychology professor Rick Backs is one step closer to addressing a critical need for increasing driver safety among older drivers and drivers with attention disorders. The CMU Center for Driving Evaluation, Education, and Research (DEER) will provide clinical resources to research and evaluate cognitive fitness for driving. It also will offer educational services to improve the safety of older drivers and drivers with attention disorders, thereby reducing the number of fatal crashes involving these two groups.

This interdisciplinary collaboration between the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences and The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions is a response to an aging population that will affect driving safety throughout the state and nation.

"This will be a state-of-the-art facility and the first of its kind in central and northern Michigan," Backs said. "The clinical and educational services will benefit older drivers and those with attention disorders at a regional level, and our research will impact people on a national level."

The DEER Center will provide clinical and research opportunities for CMU faculty members and students, as well as establish community and university partnerships to improve driving safety throughout the state. "Students from many disciplines will be involved in the evaluation and research aspects of this center," Backs said. "We also have to establish ourselves in the community and establish our referral network of physicians, mental health professionals, and those in other related fields."

Research already has begun on how driver attention changes as people age, especially adults 65 years of age and older. Backs and research scientist and psychology faculty member Nick Cassavaugh also are planning to develop an attention test that will assess such functions as visual scanning, flexibility of attention, and sustained attention to diagnose specific attention deficits. Most of the DEER Center’s initial two-year operating costs will be covered by a $214,163 CMU 2010 grant. Backs still is seeking funding for special equipment including an advanced driving simulator, which is the final step in enabling the center to open its doors.
Doctoral student works to ease discomfort for children with rare genetic disorder

School psychology doctoral student Kasee Stratton is on a mission to learn more about the effects of stress and chronic pain on individuals with a rare genetic disorder.

CHARGE Syndrome occurs in an estimated one in 10,000 births. It involves a large number of physical anomalies present at birth, including heart defects and deafblindness.

"Children with CHARGE commonly exhibit behavior tantrums or explosions that appear to be unexplainable," said Stratton. "With the idea that all behavior serves as a form of communication, I'm conducting research to learn more about the stressful experiences and chronic pain that these individuals encounter. I believe that this will help us to better understand their behavior and potentially find ways to avoid such outbursts."

Stratton has traveled throughout the U.S., Canada, and Australia to interview high-functioning young adults with CHARGE about their education, family relationships, friendships and employment experiences to learn more about their behavioral reactions to stress and pain.

"Stress inducers for individuals with CHARGE include difficulty concentrating due to multi-sensory impairments, limited communication, difficulty creating and sustaining friendships, bullying, a lack of acceptance because of their physical appearances, and obsessive-compulsive disorders," said Stratton.

"Individuals with CHARGE also must endure multiple invasive and painful medical procedures beginning early in life, including heart surgery and choanal atresia surgery to open bone or tissue blockage in the nasal passages. Pain also occurs from cranial nerve anomalies resulting in jaw discomfort and migraines."

Stratton's research shows a lack of appropriate pain management for individuals with CHARGE, often because many have very poor or limited communication abilities.

"Many behavioral explosions are likely the result of intense stress or pain. By teaching family members and medical professionals to recognize non-vocal cues of stress or pain in people with CHARGE, we can assist them in providing appropriate treatment and pain management," she said. "Individuals with CHARGE may express self-injurious behaviors, alter body movements or adjust their eating and sleeping patterns when in stress or pain. Parents need to understand their child's behavior on good days so that they can recognize these changes on bad days or when pain is intense."

International recognition

Stratton has received numerous awards and scholarships and has presented her research at several international conferences, including the 2008 Australasian CHARGE Conference in New Zealand last October. Psychology professor Tim Hartshorne, director of the CHARGE research laboratory at CMU, also attended the conference and says Stratton made a big impression on the audience.

"Most conference attendees are parents of children with CHARGE and they are eager to learn everything they can to help them raise their children. The professionals in attendance too are eager to add to their understanding and enrich their approaches to working with these children," he said.

Hartshorne will join Stratton in Denmark in October to present research at a special symposium organized around Stratton's research.

"The challenging behavior of children with CHARGE is a huge problem for parents and professionals. It interferes with learning and friendships and threatens the health and safety of themselves and those around them. Any new information that can shed light on this problem is very much welcome. Stratton's research is cutting edge," he said.

Stratton received a bachelor's degree in psychology from CMU in 2006. She will receive her PhD in School Psychology in 2012. To learn more about the CHARGE research laboratory at CMU, visit chsbs.cmich.edu/Timothy_Hartshorne.

With the current state of Michigan's economy, as you know all too well, there are many cuts to budgets everywhere. Thus, although the Central Assessment Lending Library is funded through this academic year, it will not be funded next year. I am going to try to keep it going for one day a week myself (day to be announced later). We set up a gift cost center account for CALL for anyone who would like to donate to the project. This year we are fortunate to have three doctoral students working in CALL; Rachel (Mack) Knight, Danny Drevon, and Andrew Cook. Rachel is the Senior Research Assistant. We have added a number of new instructional materials, as well as new tests and new editions of tests. Please visit our website www.chsbs.cmich.edu/psychology/CALL for a list and brief description of the materials. If you are looking for something that is not on the list, contact us. We do not add materials to the website until we have completed a written review of the material. Consequently, we may have what you are looking for, although the review will follow later. Also, if we do not have the material you are interested in, if it seems appropriate for CALL, we may be able to order it. So e-mail, call, or better yet stop by to let us know how we can be of help. Sharon
The Psychology Undergraduate major is one of the largest programs at CMU. Currently, it claims over 700 advisees. The result has been difficulties in scheduling enough sections of the courses needed to meet the increased demand. The demand is not abating: our Advising Night in October again produced a large number of new majors and minors. And again, CMU and You Day attracted large numbers of potential students to the Psychology table. With the large and increasing number of students at CMU, we expect to have this problem for some time to come. The result of having more students is that we have even more outstanding students.

At the department’s spring 2009 senior luncheon, two undergraduate students, Melinda Curran and Maureen Harke received the Outstanding Graduating Senior award. Melinda worked with Dr. Reilly on her honors thesis about gambling in rats. She is currently working in Dr. Reilly’s lab. Maureen was a McNair scholar, who worked with Dr. Niec on her McNair project and with Dr. Monahan on two research projects. She has presented her research at regional and national conferences and has a peer-reviewed publication on mental rotation. She is currently a doctoral student in the school psychology program at CMU.

At the same luncheon, Caitlin Demsky and Jayne Wakefield won Wilbur Wright Awards. Both students are currently seniors and expect to graduate in May 2010. Caitlin is a McNair scholar, a program for first in family college students who want to go to graduate school, who has worked with Dr. Colarelly on her McNair project and with Dr. Monahan on a research projects. She has presented her research at a national conference. She plans to attend an Industrial/Organizational psychology program in fall 2010 Jayne worked with Dr. Meadows for two years on exposure therapy and is currently working with Dr. Acevedo on a number of projects including a projected publication on academic engagement Latina and Latino high school students. Kendra Marzinski, Chantel Ulfig, Janelle Maxon, Amanda Owen, Erin Hillard, and Amanda Peterson were honored for their achievements in scholarship, research, and volunteerism while undergraduate students. Also honored was PhD candidate Dan Boyll for his outstanding success in teaching PSY 383, Learning and Memory, in 2007-2009 and Dr. Sandstrom for his excellent work in mentoring undergraduate students.

At the department’s December 2009 Senior Luncheon, Stefanie Smith received the Outstanding Graduating Senior award. Stefanie worked with two graduate students and with Dr. Oh-Lee. She has submitted for publication a manuscript on metacognition and Parkinson’s disease. She has been very active in volunteer work. Carl Fraser and Bridgette Wynn were honored for their achievement in scholarship, research, and volunteerism while undergraduate students. Jennifer Ragsdale, an I/O doctoral student was honored for her outstanding teaching, and Dr. Acevedo was honored for his work with and mentoring of undergraduate students.

Our faculty remains active in teaching, research, and mentoring. Dr. Tim Harthorne was awarded the President’s Award for Research. He continues to expand the knowledge base in the area of CHARGE and travels the world to share this knowledge. We have seen a few transitions. Sharon Bradley-Johnson and Carl Johnson’s CALL funding has fallen victim to the state budget crisis. It is amazing the valuable services that program has provided to districts and families throughout the state. If you have not utilized their services, I recommend you visit their website http://www.chibs.cmich.edu/Psychology/call/ to access materials and services. DB Central remains strong. Mike Hixson’s Learning Acceleration Clinic (LAC) continues to help students make outstanding academic progress. Dr. Susan Jacob has turned over the role of director of the Center for Research, Training, and Consultation on GLBTQ Youth Issues to Dr. Katrina Rhymer.

We are proud to announce our graduates. Gokce Durmusoglu has completed our Ph.D. program in 2009 and Renee Rocca-DiGiorgio and Rebecca Bunn completed their requirements for our specialist degree. In addition, we have Laura (Welch) Kaiser defending her thesis in December, Jason Vladescu, Sara Dory, and Jennifer (Wilson) Reynolds are completing AP-PIC pre-doctoral internships this year. Carrie Fineis, Camille (Brand) Henderson, Allison Warstler, Karina Livingston, Tameron Hough, and Jennifer Ludwig are completing specialist internships. We appreciate the active support of our field supervisors for internship and practica. As always, as our students graduate, we admit new students. Last spring, we admitted a very large class. Lynn Allard, Abbie Barrett, John Brogren, Andrew Cook, Maureen Harke, Robin Kuhn, Maria Ramirez, Jessica Sevecke and Valerie Weber joined our Ph.D. program and Jessica Rames and Lauren Taraski began our specialist program.
Greetings from the experimental program! This past year has been eventful. We had two successful job searches that were replacement hires for Dr. Sonya Sheffert and Dr. Terry Libkuman. Dr. Jane Ashby is our new cognitive faculty member. She received her degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of Massachusetts. Her research involves the cognitive process related to word identification during reading. Dr. Jessica Marcon is our new Psychology and Law faculty member.

She received her degree in General Psychology with a focus on Legal Psychology from the University of Texas, El Paso. Her research involves the processes involved in identification of faces and fingerprints. Both are welcomed additions to the program and complement the unit as a whole.

Five students graduated from the experimental program with MS degrees. Congratulations to our MS graduates: Yohan Cho, Mahlon Collins, Jeffrey Lance, Sally Steffes and Sarah Szymkowicz. We had a strong incoming class this year; we admitted eight new graduate students (four MS and four PhD). Our faculty and students continue to be productive and receive recognition for this productivity. We are publishing in high quality journals and applying for and receiving internal and external grants and contracts. Dr. Michael Sandstrom was elected President of the Michigan Society for Neuroscience. Their annual meeting will be held in Mt. Pleasant in the spring.

As we pause retrospectively, we too look forward to another productive year. I hope that 2010 will be a prosperous and productive year for all of you. So in the words of Garrison Keillor, be well, do good work and stay in touch. We do appreciate hearing from you so please stay in touch.

With warm regards, Mark P. Reilly

Clinical Program: Dr. Reid Skeel

Hello Clinical Psychology alumni! After a successful sabbatical last fall that got me out of writing a newsletter update, I’m back on the hot seat and my how times have changed. E-mailing newsletters, a Facebook account set up for our alumni (search Facebook for Central Michigan University Clinical Psychology), hyperlinks in newsletters... look for Dr. Weed to start Twittering about crazy assessment lab shenanigans any day now.

As I write this, we are in the midst of a busy admissions season. We are coming off a record number of applications last year, and are just under that number this year despite moving our application deadline up one month and two faculty not admitting students this year due to full labs. We look forward to admitting as strong a crew of students as we were able to admit this year (for stat heads out there, click here for data about incoming students for the past seven years).

With regard to the year in review, it goes without saying that faculty and students have been productive publishing and presenting at national and international conferences (click here for links to individual faculty pages with updated info and outdated pictures). Typically, this portion of the update is devoted to faculty and staff comings and goings, but for the first time in my institutional memory, we have had no changes in the past year! This speaks well of the current group of faculty and staff (led by our program MVP Kay Purtill) making the department and program a satisfying place to be (click here for Kay’s World-Famous Psychology-Related-YouTube clip of the week).

Finally, congratulations are in order for Chris Uddell and Chrissy Cammarata for graduating within the past year and beginning to pursue their post-doctoral dreams. We’d also like to thank everyone for the support they have provided the program over the years in helping to develop the CMU name and network throughout the country. It’s very gratifying to regularly receive positive e-mails and comments concerning the performance and achievements CMU students and alumni. With that in mind, I’d like to encourage everyone to send me updates (reid.skeel@cmich.edu) on life happenings for possible inclusion in the next newsletter. Best wishes for 2010, Reid Skeel

Industrial & Organizational Program: Dr. Terry Beehr

As the new director of the I/O Psychology program, I thank Steve Wagner, the previous director, for his service to the program. Steve has moved to Grand Rapids Community College to work on their faculty development team. I’d also like to congratulate Mavis Baden, John Coaster, Abdullah Dumenci, and Annalyn Jacob for defending their Master’s theses and Hyung In Park, Aaron Stehura, Jennica Webster, Jason Williams, and Heather (Kchodd) Wolters for defending their doctoral dissertations. A warm welcome is also extended to our eight new graduate students: Mihyang An, Melanie Essayans, Michael Frueh, Ashita Goswami, Michael Grossenbacher, Brandon King, Cynthia Reeves, and Andrew Speer.

Our biggest goal for the program this year is to hire new faculty. In addition to replacing Stever Wagner, Simone Grebner also left this year to take a job as a professor in Switzerland, and so we would like to hire two new people. We have already advertised, and we will be interviewing applicants in January. It could be an exciting time of change for the program. We also have almost completed shepherding our proposed concentration in Occupational Health Psychology (as part of the Ph.D. program) through the university’s curricular process, and it should be ready next year.

Our final goal for the program this year is to maintain our excellent record of scholarship. We are off to a good start, with publications in 2009 or in press by Jennica Webster with Christiansen and Beehr (Journal of Vocational Behavior), Jay Janovics and Brian Siers with Christiansen (International Journal of Selection and Assessment), Kirsten Gobeski with Beehr (Journal of Organizational Behavior), Kim LeGro, Kim Porter (Franeck), and Nathan Bowling with Beehr (Teaching of Psychology), Sharion Glazer, Larissa Linton, and Curt Hansen with Beehr (Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology), Kate Unterborn and Geeta D’Souza with Colarelli and Poole (International Journal of Selection and Assessment), Tina Elacqua, Curt Hansen, and Jennica Webster with Beehr (Psychology of Women Quarterly), Nathan Bowling and Misty Bennett with Beehr (Journal of Occupational Health Psychology), and Gary Burns and Renee Rozeck with Christiansen (Journal of Personnel Psychology). Congratulations to all, and keep up the good work. The CMU I/O program is continuing to get its name in places that are visible to others in the field!
IOPA has remained very busy this year, as our Brown Bag series has offered a new and diverse schedule. We began the year by asking our own faculty member, Dr. Terry Beehr, to present some of his current research on challenge-hindrance stress. In addition, Dr. Bryan Gibson, an experimental faculty member, presented his work on product placement. This gave our members a chance to see not only what our own faculty is currently doing, but also how affiliated faculty members are working on topics that can be of interest to I/O students.

In October we welcomed Dr. Norbert Semmer from the University of Bern in Switzerland, who presented his work on his occupational stress theory 'Stress as Offense to Self'. We also hosted an interactive, online talk with one of our alumni, Dr. Jeff Labrador, a management consultant for Kenexa Consulting. In November, Dr. Rebecca Hayes-Smith held a Hierarchical Linear Modeling workshop for members of IOPA.

The New Year has kicked off with several visits and job talks from job candidates applying for two open faculty positions in the I/O Program. We will be hosting several other Brown Bags throughout the semester, and in April many I/O students will travel to Atlanta, GA to attend the annual conference of the Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Congratulations to those students and faculty members who will be presenting their work at this conference! As always, IOPA has been working hard to encourage the professional development of its members. Thanks to the executive board and all those who make this possible. President, Candace Younkins

We kicked things off this year with a friendly Psi Chi social encouraging everyone to meet and network with other students interested in the field of psychology. We stressed that attending meetings is important to learn from materials presented as well as to share individual experiences and learn from each other.

Based on winning the Midwest Regional Chapter award, the National Psi Chi Website award, and a Model Chapter award in 2008, we applied for the Cousins National Outstanding Chapter award last spring. We placed second and we’re in the process applying again for 2009.

This semester, Psi Chi presented a graduate student panel that was beneficial to seeking advice about graduate school applications, the GRE exam and other common questions regarding Master’s and Ph.D. programs; a Class Hash in which members discussed psychology courses; and a Professionals in the Field panel that discussed the different routes professionals took to obtain their positions. All our activities and programs are open to all CMU psychology students regardless of whether they are members of Psi Chi.

Psi Chi would like to send a huge THANK YOU for all the support we have been given this semester. We could not have been as successful without the help from the Psychology Department faculty and especially the advice and guidance from our advisors Dr. and Mrs. Van Horn. We would also like to recognize and thank our hard-working Executive Board Members: Brad Carmichael, President; Ashley Linden, Vice President; Tasha Nacarato, Secretary; Lindsay Pietruck, Treasurer; Samm Wunderlich, Volunteer/Social Chair; Andrew Franks, Fundraising Chair; Allie Richards, Publicity Chair; Brittany Pietsch, Historian; Molly Deslandes, Webmaster. Thank you everyone for your hard-work, dedication and enthusiasm!

The Clinical Student Association has had an exciting year. This past May, we held our annual end of the year picnic to celebrate a successful year and say goodbye to our departing internship class. We also continued the semester tradition with our annual welcome back picnic in August, in which we greeted our incoming class of new graduate students. Currently, everyone is busy preparing for the Open House for applicants to the clinical graduate program. Members are also working diligently on their research.

Last semester, 7 members attended the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy in New York City. It was a great opportunity for students to present their research, learn more about hot new topics in psychology, and network with other professionals. This semester members will also be attending several other conferences to present research findings. We look forward to another year of helping our members enjoy their time in graduate school and facilitate their ability to disseminate research..
Greetings alumni, faculty, and students! We hope this newsletter finds you doing well and staying healthy. We have had a wonderful start to our year. In April, SASP elected new officials. Congratulations and a very special thank you to this hard-working team: Vice-President, Jennifer Felber, Treasurer, Megan Kleinheksel, Secretary, Renee Bancroft. SASP would also like to thank our previous E-Board for their support!

In September, we kicked off the school year with a welcome back picnic, welcoming in 12 first year students at Island Park in Mount Pleasant. This group of students has really created quite the bond, establishing friendships and a strong support system.

Volunteer projects have kept us busy this fall. After the success of our SASP food drive last year, we decided to repeat it again this year. Once again, we have challenged the other psychology programs to a competition to see which program can donate the most canned goods. We hope to surpass last year’s goal of 350 items. All donations will be donated to the Isabella County Food Pantry the last full week of November. In addition to the food drive, SASP continues our partnership with DeafBlind Central during this holiday season adopting another family in Michigan.

Did you notice CMU’s SASP the Communique? We were mentioned for our efforts in raising awareness about school psychology during School Psychology Awareness Week last year. We have continued this awareness once again on Central’s campus this year. SASP spoke to several undergraduate courses about school psychology, created and distributed a flyer to future teachers at CMU, and created a bulletin board for informational sheets in Sloan Hall. A special thank you goes to Christine Abbuuhl for her help in organizing this year’s awareness week.

Several of our students have presentations this year. Christine Abbuuhl, Camille Brand-Henderson, Danny Drevon, and Kristi Knop will be presenting at NASP. I just returned from presenting in Denmark with Tim Harts-horne at a pain symposium for CHARGE Syndrome. Our students are very active in research and it is great they can disseminate this information!

Speaking of disseminating information, should you have any special cases or research that we could use to continue add to our tool boxes, we would love to hear about it. This would be excellent material to present at our monthly meetings. Email Kasee at strat1kk@cmich.edu.

Have a safe and happy new year!

Kasee Stratton, Third Year Doctoral Student, SASP President

The Central Chapter of the Association for Psychological Science Student Caucus of Central Michigan University (APSSC of CMU) has had a productive semester. We began with a volunteer event with the Down Syndrome Society called the Buddy Walk on September 13th. We met for an afternoon of fun and food at Chippewa-waters park, everyone had a great time.

Our first social this year was at Dr. John Monahan’s home. We sincerely appreciate John Monahan and his wife Carolyn for hosting the social and Jessica Marcon for discussing the importance of research and informing us about the type of research she is bringing to the psychology department here at Central. Our second event of the semester was our Research Workshop, held on November 18th. We would like to thank Dr. Carl Johnson (Experimental Psychology), Dr. Sharon Bradley Johnson (School Psychology), Dr. Terry Beehr (U/O Psychology) and Dr. Stuart Quirk (Clinical Psychology) for speaking at our workshop. They discussed aspects of their research as well as what they looked for in student research assistants. This was a great way to get students thinking about what type of research they would like to be involved in, and which program in psychology may be the best choice for them. We also anticipate similar workshops for the spring semester.

The APSSC of CMU is a student organization with two important goals. Our primary goal is to promote and advance student involvement in research activities in the scientific study of human behavior and application of psychological research to human welfare. Our second goal is to educate not only our members, but also all psychology students about professional development, standardized exam preparation, graduate school admissions, and careers in psychology. Our chapter helps support the Psychology Department by assisting with advising night and spreading the word about psychology and research to all CMU students. As with any student organization, our success depends heavily on the support of the faculty, the university, and alumni. They have been instrumental in our success and we thank them very much for their continued contribution. For the upcoming semester, we look forward to another social and workshop as well as fundraisers. We look forward to your continued support and look forward to seeing some of our alumni at the annual APS conference in Boston in May 2010. Jennifer Cousineau, APSSC of CMU President

This semester MPSS focused on helping freshman and sophomores make the transition to college level work, and to give guidance on how to get the most out of their psychology major or minor. We hosted a psychology advising night which gave students the opportunity to ask questions about classes, how to obtain research opportunities, and how to best prepare for graduate school.

MPSS is currently looking to recruit new members this semester, but also welcomes all CMU psychology students who are interested. During this semester we plan on hosting events such as a practice Graduate Record Exam (GRE) given by Kaplan, having professors from varying universities speak about the different careers students can go into, and possible research opportunities students can obtain. Our continued research efforts are towards understanding the experiences of diverse psychology majors and minors at CMU. None of this would be possible without the hard work of our advisor, Dr. David Acevedo-Polakovitch and executive board members: Elizabeth Taylor (President), Kayana Sanders (Vice President) and Bridgett Wynn. If you are interested in joining MPSS or simply learning more about our programs or research, please e-mail us at mpss.cmu@gmail.com.

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The APSSC of CMU is a student organization with two important goals. Our primary goal is to promote and advance student involvement in research activities in the scientific study of human behavior and application of psychological research to human welfare. Our second goal is to educate not only our members, but also all psychology students about professional development, standardized exam preparation, graduate school admissions, and careers in psychology. Our chapter helps support the Psychology Department by assisting with advising night and spreading the word about psychology and research to all CMU students. As with any student organization, our success depends heavily on the support of the faculty, the university, and alumni. They have been instrumental in our success and we thank them very much for their continued contribution. For the upcoming semester, we look forward to another social and workshop as well as fundraisers. We look forward to your continued support and look forward to seeing some of our alumni at the annual APS conference in Boston in May 2010. Jennifer Cousineau, APSSC of CMU President

This semester MPSS focused on helping freshman and sophomores make the transition to college level work, and to give guidance on how to get the most out of their psychology major or minor. We hosted a psychology advising night which gave students the opportunity to ask questions about classes, how to obtain research opportunities, and how to best prepare for graduate school.

MPSS is currently looking to recruit new members this semester, but also welcomes all CMU psychology students who are interested. During this semester we plan on hosting events such as a practice Graduate Record Exam (GRE) given by Kaplan, having professors from varying universities speak about the different careers students can go into, and possible research opportunities students can obtain. Our continued research efforts are towards understanding the experiences of diverse psychology majors and minors at CMU. None of this would be possible without the hard work of our advisor, Dr. David Acevedo-Polakovitch and executive board members: Elizabeth Taylor (President), Kayana Sanders (Vice President) and Bridgett Wynn. If you are interested in joining MPSS or simply learning more about our programs or research, please e-mail us at mpss.cmu@gmail.com.
The award goes to...

**Faculty Recognition Award:**

**Fall 2009**
David Acevedo

**Wilbert Wright Award:**

**Spring 2009**
Mareen Harke

**Fall 2008**
Caitlin Demsky & Jayne Wakefield

**Outstanding Undergraduate Award:**

**Spring 2009**
Maureen Harke & Melinda Curran

**Fall 2009**
Stephanie Smith

**2009 Service Award:**

Dr. Larissa Niec—10 years
Dr. Hajime Otani—20 years
Dr. Stuart Quirk—10 years
Dr. Steve Wagner—10 years

**Congratualtions!**

Graduate Student Research & Creative Endeavors Grant

**Spring 09**
Emily Abbenante – Niec
Candace Younkins – Beehr
Mavis Baiden – Wagner
Stephanie Tuttle – Backs
Michelle Oliver - Backs

**Fall 09**
Andrew Eagle – Oh-Lee
Matt First – Christiansen
Caitlyn Johnston – Oh-Lee
Steve Lowrance – Dunbar (Neuroscience)
Jessica Matchynski – Dunbar (Neuroscience)
Dustin Smith – Backs
Kevin Triemstra – Niec

**Dissertation Research Award:**

**Spring 09**
Heather Wolters – Beehr
Hyung-In Park – Beehr

**Fall 09**
Andrew Eagle – Oh-Lee
Shelly Leininger – Skeel
Anica Pless – Meadows
Andrew Fox – Reilly
Michael Hoerger – Quirk
Kate Unterborn - Christiansen
Dr. Jane Ashby joins the Psychology Department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Ashby holds a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Massachusetts and a Master’s in Education from Harvard University. Her research examines how children and skilled readers understand what they read. She uses eye-tracking to study the interface between linguistic and visual processes in reading, and applies this research to further our understanding of reading development. Her current research projects examine how more and less skilled readers process similes and metaphors, the development of orthographic pattern recognition in early readers, and the connection between rapid-naming, phonological processing, and reading fluency.

Deirdre McDonald joined DB Central as an Administrative Secretary in April 2009. Deirdre received her BA in Sociology and Women’s Studies from The College of William & Mary (2005) and is currently pursuing her MA in Educational Leadership at CMU. Her previous administrative experience includes working as an Immigration Paralegal at a boutique immigration law firm in Washington, DC, and serving as an Admissions Clerk in CMU’s Physician Assistant Program since September 2008. In addition to working and studying full-time, Deirdre is married and has an 18-month-old son. She looks forward to pursuing a terminal degree in School Psychology in the near future.

Dr. Jessica L. Marcon joins the Psychology Department as an Assistant Professor. She comes from the University of Texas at El Paso’s Legal Psychology Program where she received her Ph.D. Her work is focused on the cognitive and social psychological processes involved in the identification of faces and fingerprints. Her current research projects examine ways to improve recognition of other-race faces, whether jurors follow instructions on the cross-race effect, and how the distinctiveness effect and investigator bias play roles in fingerprint identification.
The CMU Center for Driving Evaluation, Education & Research (DEER Center) has been very busy since the last Psychology Department newsletter. The DEER Center is a collaboration between the College of Humanities, Social, and Behavioral Sciences and the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions and is a component of the Carls Center for Clinical Care and Education in the Health Professions Building. The mission of the DEER Center is to provide clinical services to evaluate cognitive fitness to drive, to provide education to improve older driver safety, and to conduct research on older drivers and drivers with attention disorders, with the long range goal of increasing driving safety in Michigan by reducing the number of fatal crashes involving older drivers.

In the last issue, I reported that Dr. Nicholas Cassavaugh has been promoted from Research Scientist to Research Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department and Assistant Director and AAA Michigan Simulator Manager in the DEER Center. I am now happy to report that we have added Dr. John Lenneman as a part-time Research Scientist in the DEER Center. Dr. Lenneman is a recent graduate of our Ph.D. program in Applied Experimental Psychology. Also, it is with great pride that I can report that a current doctoral student, Stephanie Tuttle, has obtained an internship at Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA. The Volpe Center is a major research center for the U.S. Department of Transportation, other Federal, state, and local government agencies and international entities as well. Although we will miss her at the DEER Center, this is a great opportunity for Stephanie and hopefully for future Experimental program students.

I am also happy to report that the DEER Center is now open for evaluations of senior drivers and drivers with attention or other neuropsychological disorders. More information on our evaluation program can currently be found on the Carls Center website at http://www.cmich.edu/chp/x13697.xml.

Our funded research activities continue to grow. Since the last newsletter, the DEER Center was awarded a two-year $150,000 contract from the Michigan Department of Transportation to review and evaluate the effectiveness of various behavioral countermeasures to improve driving safety. Although we may not be familiar with the term, we encounter a countermeasure every time we drive over an edge-line rumble strip that warns us that we should stop talking on our cell phone and pay more attention to where we are in the road. Dr. Lenneman is the primary investigator for the countermeasures project. We were also very fortunate to receive $30,000 in internal funding from the CMU Research Excellence Fund to begin work on a portable senior driver.

If you would like more information about any of these activities or the DEER Center, please visit our website at http://www.deercenter.org. If you would like to help us with a donation you can find information on how to direct your gift elsewhere in this newsletter. There is also information on giving at our website.

A Visit from Sloan Hall Past

Great example how friendships can last a life time!

The ladies picture on the left paid a visit to Central Michigan University’s campus early spring of 2009. All are members of CMU Alumni graduating classes of 1957 and 1958. Their reunion tour made a stop at Sloan Hall. They were all very excited to see what their past place of residence had become after so many years. The ladies all took turns sharing stories of Sloan past and visiting offices they once called home.

Pictured on the left: Mary Dawson, Mary Dunlop, Joan Hoggatt, and Carol Kerby
Psychology Alumni Contributors

Mrs. Donna Anderson*  
Mrs. Kathleen Anderson  
Dr. Wallace Balcerzak*  
Mrs. Michele Berres  
Mr. Steven Bow  
Mr. John Campbell*  
Mrs. Ann Canastra  
Mr. Michael Carbaugh*  
Mr. Brad Carmichael  
Ms. Jennifer Cook  
Mrs. Laura Cosby*  
Mrs. Cindy Hoffman Dame  
Dr. Harvey Dulberg*  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Evers  
Mr. Carlos Gallusser  
Dr. Barbara Gardecki  
Dr. Donald Gouwens*  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Griswold*  
Mr. Christopher Grupp*  
Dr. David Gudanowski *  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Haffey*  
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Hall  
Mr. Thomas Halsey*  
Ms. Rebecca Houle  
Drs. Sharon & Carl Johnson*  
Dr. James Jordan-Wagner*  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kent*  
Mr. Thomas Lyon  
Dr. Charles Moore*  
Dr. Lamar Neal*  
Mrs. Malissa Patrick*  
Mr. Eladio Quintanilla  
Mrs. Cheri Pomaville Reeves  
Dr. Catherine Riordan*  
Mrs. Terri Robinson*  
Mr. John Rossa*  
Ms. Karen Russell*  
Mr. Joseph Seddon  
Mr. Christopher Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Thome  
Mrs. Julie Wagner  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Wegener  
Executive Talent Management, LLC  
*continued support

The CMU Department of Psychology continues to strive for the highest level of achievement in academics, research, and student and faculty development. We are proud to be a part of CMU and the Mount Pleasant Community, and appreciate the continued support of our Alumni and Friends.

Please join us on Facebook

- CMU School Psychology
- CMU Clinical Psychology
- CMU Psychology Department Alumni
Graduate Students staying busy...  

SASP Food Drive

SASP hosted our second annual food drive for our local soup kitchen. We had a friendly competition with the other Psychology Student Organizations to see who could collect the most. In all everyone collected 686 items, which surpassed our amount from last year. Way to go everyone!

Pictured in this photo are SASP members Abbie Barrett, Jessica Sevecke and Danny Drevon.

Thank you to an anonymous alumnus: A short story about the effects of random acts of kindness.  Rick Backs

A few months ago, one of you reading this newsletter (I hope) was passing through St. Louis, MO and ran into my father and brother having breakfast at Denny’s. My father always wears his CMU gear that I give him every Christmas, and you went up and introduced yourself. After a brief conversation about CMU it turns out that you were one of my former students. You told him your name, which my father promptly forgot. Of course, these chance meetings happen, but what does not often happen is that when my father went up to pay he found out that you had already taken care of his bill! He and I both want to thank you, but what makes this incident even more special for him (and for me) is that my father is not doing so well and your generosity was a bright spot that really cheered him up and gave him a great story that he enjoyed telling. My father passed away on January 9, 2010.

President’s Award: Tim Hartshorne

Tim Hartshorne is an international leader in research on CHARGE syndrome, which is the leading cause of congenital deaf-blindness. His work has been featured in numerous publications, and his presentations around the world have created awareness among the medical, psychological and educational communities about the complications of CHARGE. Dr. Hartshorne also is a past recipient of the Excellence in Teaching and Faculty Distinguished Service awards from CMU, making him only the second person to receive all three awards.

Research Excellence Funds Awards: Rick Backs

Created by the State of Michigan in 1986, this fund was designed to support high quality research and the creation of research centers. Originally, the funds were to promote economic development, lead to technological discoveries, or improve the quality of life in Michigan. "Development of Software for Driver Assessment and Rehabilitation".
2008-2009 Recipients of Alumni Funds for Presenting at Conferences

Katrina Bell. Empirically supported treatments for anxiety disorder: Dissemination among social workers, counselors, and psychologists (Dr. Meadows)

Matt Bombard. Use of a dietary supplement consisting of anti-oxidants and omega fatty acids 3,6, and 9 to reduce behavioral deficits in the R6/2 mouse model of Huntington’s disease. (Dr. Dunbar)

James Bomersbach. Problem-solving strategies reduce violence: A component analysis. (Dr. Ronan)

Samanatha Bosch. Incongruent probability and congruity with touch color response (Dr. Monahan)

Yohan Cho. Cultural effects on the asymmetric beliefs of interpersonal knowledge in vertical and horizontal relationships. (Dr. Otani)

John Coaster. Economic impact stress in organizations: A new utility model. (Dr. Christiansen)

Catherine Currell. Perceived negative effects of the sex offender registry on demoralization and adjustment (Dr. G. Ronan)

Pam Dolbear. Reliability of the DPICS: A Parent-Child observation measure for evidence-based treatment of oppositional defiant disorder. (Dr. Niec)

Sara Doty. Assessing Advanced Phonics Skills (Dr. Hixson)

Daniel Drevon. Implementing habit reversal through parent consultation (Dr. Hixson)

Carey Fitzgerald. The limits of Altruism: Genetic relatedness and reproductive limitations. (Dr. Reilly)

Fox, Andrew. Further failure to demonstrate blocking of response acquisition with delayed reinforcement with End-of-Delay stimuli. (Dr. Reilly)

James Gerhart. Cued recall and the impact of anger arousal on attention allocation. (Dr. Ronan)

Dennis Hand. Response acquisition with signaled delayed reinforcement in a Rodent Model of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (Dr. Reilly)

Maegan Hatfield-Eldred. The effects of working memory capacity on impulsive decision-making (Dr. Skeel)

Erin Hawks. The role of traumatic event exposure in predicting panic-relevant responding to a voluntary hyperventilation challenge among youth (Dr. Meadows)

Michael Hoerger. Self-report and performance-based measures of emotional intelligence demonstrate similar predictive validity (Dr. Quirk)

Kristi Knop. Types of prompts and their implications for errorless teaching practices (Dr. Hixson)

Shelley Leininger. The effects of reward magnitude discrepancies and uncertainty periods on Michigan Gambling Task (MGT) performances (Dr. Skeel)

Steven Lowrance. Use of a dietary supplement consisting of anti-oxidants and omega fatty acids 3,6, and 9 to reduce behavioral deficits in the R6/2 mouse model of Huntington’s disease (Drs. Dunbar & Sandstrom)

Jessica Matchyski. Use of a dietary supplement consisting of anti-oxidants and omega fatty acids 3,6, and 9 to reduce behavioral deficits in the R6/2 mouse model of Huntington’s disease (Drs. Dunbar & Sandstrom)

Kimberly Maurelli. The impact of life-style factors on responsiveness to violence reduction training (Dr. Ronan)

Kristi Pienkosz. Incongruent probability and interference with touch color responding (Dr. Monahan)

Jennifer Ragsdale. Gimme a Break: Subjective recovery mediates the illegitimate task-stressor-well being relationship (Dr. Grebner)

Jennifer Reynolds. 1) Computerized instruction and curriculum steps to facilitate mathematics facts mastery and 2) Identification and discussion of behavioral cusps in children with autism (Dr. Hixson)

John Smethells. Feeding regimen and impulsivity in the rat (Dr. Reilly)

Jessica Sobanski. Empirically supported treatments for anxiety disorder: Dissemination among social workers, counselors, and psychologists (Dr. Meadows)
2008-2009 Recipients of Alumni Funds for Presenting at Conferences Cont’d

**Kasee Stratton.** "What’s there to stress about? The case of CHARGE" (Dr. Hartshorne)

**Natasha Swan.** The development & validation of the Swan Physical activity outcome expectancy measure (Dr. D. Ronan)

**Stephanie Tuttle.** Attention functions structure of older and younger adult drivers (Dr. Backs)

**Chris Udell.** Application of video and role-plays for the assessment of social problem solving in participants of a violence reduction training program (Dr. G. Ronan)

**Chantel Ulfig.** Incongruent probability and congruity with typed letter responding (Dr. Monahan)

**Kate Unterborn.** Effects of applicant attractiveness and racial prototypicality on Affirmative Action (Dr. Christiansen)

**Jason Vladescu.** Types of prompts and their implications for errorless teaching practices (Dr. Hixson)

**Jennica Webster.** Prejudice perceptions and organizational commitment (Dr. Grebner)

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Greetings from the Psychological Training and Consultation Center

**Clinical Faculty**
I. David Acevedo-Polakovich, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Meadows, PhD
Larissa Nicc, PhD
Stuart Quirk, PhD
George Ronan, PhD
Reid Skeel, PhD
Nathan Weed, PhD

**School Faculty**
Sharon Bradley-Johnson, Ed.D.
Timothy Hartshorne, PhD
Michael Hixson, PhD
Susan Jacob, PhD
Sandra Morgan, PhD
Katrina Rhymer, PhD

**Current Practicum Students**
Kim Maurelli
Erin Hawks
Joe McLaughlin
Brianna Dixon
Elizabeth Goss
Dharm Suraweera
Pam Dolbear
Catherine Currell
Jim Gerhart

Greetings to all you PTCC alumni out there! As you can see, we have a full house of practicum students this year, and even more keeping themselves busy with the Specialty Clinics! The big news this year is the new medical school, which will be housed in the Health Professions Building. We are looking forward to expanded facilities, but not looking forward to the construction, which is set to start later this year!

Wishing you the best in the upcoming year, Donna Ronan
Request for Information Form

Please send us news on your accomplishments - job, marriage, and children.

Name __________________________________________

First Middle Last Maiden

Address _________________________________________

Street City State Zip

Telephone ( ) _______________ Email __________________________

Degree(s)/Major(s) you received ____________________ Year you graduated _________

News ____________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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Please return this form to: CMU – Department of Psychology, Sloan Hall, Room 101A, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859 or you can email your updates to nesto1ma@cmich.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!!
Central Michigan University’s Department of Psychology relies on the generosity of our alumni and friends to raise funds to enhance student education. If you would like to be among those who help provide a high quality education to our students, we invite you to consider a gift to one of our existing funds, or you are invited to establish an endowment to support student education in a manner most meaningful to you.

The following are accounts within the Department of Psychology in need of on-going support:

♦ Psychology-Alumni Development Fund (#9400012): Provides assistance to the Psychology Department to enhance student education by supporting student and faculty scholarly and creative activities.

♦ Psychology Training and Consultation Center (#9400051): Funding to train CMU students enrolled in applied psychology graduate programs in the application of psychological science for resolving human problems. (Please make sure you indicate on your donation it is for PTCC)

♦ Brain Research Endowment (#66494): Research in the Field Neuroscience Institute Laboratory for Restorative Neurology is focused on recovery of function following brain damage and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Huntington’s disease (HD), Parkinson’s disease (PD), and Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The goal of our research lab is to discover potential treatments for brain injury or disease. Our current lines of research include using adult-derived stem cells, genetic engineering, neurotrophic factors, drug therapy, and dietary supplements/nutraceuticals for treating cognitive and motor deficits in rodent models of injury and disease, particularly HD and AD, for which no effective treatments are currently available.

♦ Wilbert Wright Endowment (#66550): Scholarships for first generation college students attending CMU full time and majoring in Psychology. This award is intended for the purchase of textbooks or other non-tuition expenses.

♦ James and Catherine Steinmetz Graduate Scholarship (#64646): Provides scholarships for graduate students in the master’s program in Experimental Psychology.

♦ Central Assessment Lending Library (CALL) (#9300042)

♦ Driving Evaluation, Education, and Research (#42063): Funding for research on the psychophysiology of attention in human performance in CMU’s new center for Driving Evaluation, Education, and Research. Supports research on topics such as attention and distraction during driving for young and old adults.

♦ Anne Miller-Quimper Memorial Award (#66462): Scholarships for CMU graduate students in the School Psychology Program.

♦ STRUTS (#42061): Building Support for Youth -Center for Research, Training, and Consultation

♦ Joanna M. Russ Endowment (#66686): Awards will support primarily undergraduate students who are interested in research on genetic syndromes and low incidence disabilities by funding their research materials and expenses to travel for presentation.

♦ Engineering Psychophysiology Laboratory (#9200045): Funding for student research in the psychophysiology of attention in human performance. Supports research on topics such as attention and distraction during driving for young and old adults.

Please send your contributions to:

Central Michigan University
Department of Psychology, Sloan Hall 101
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

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Amount of contribution ____________
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