

Counseling Psych Newsletter

First Year Students From L to R, Aaron Weiner, Rong Su, Tamilya Reed,



Tamilya Reed

Tamilya is originally from Jacksonville, Florida. She completed her undergraduate education at the University of Chicago in 2004 with degrees in Psychology and Human development. Her research here at UIUC centers around the influence of spirituality on psychological well-being among Black women. Coursework and research have been going well and she says she looks forward to the challenges and rewards of the second year!

Rong Su

Rong joined the Counseling Psychology program in Fall 2007, right after obtaining her Bachelor of Laws and a Dual Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Beijing University, China. UIUC is the first stop in her journey in the United States. She thanks all of the nice people in the UIUC program, as she has been really enjoying her life and study here. Rong's research interests center on vocational psychology and career development over the life span. In China, Rong led the first career-related student association, providing career services for college students while conducting research in the university setting. She is also interested in gender equality and other public interest issues in employment and at work. Her

research in Law was focused on occupational gender segregation and equal employment legislations/policies such as affirmative action. For her current graduate research project, she is working with her advisor Dr. James Rounds on investigating the sex differences in vocational interests and its implications for counseling as well as for the psychological science. Outside school, Rong loves the outdoors, traveling, and photographing. Reading autobiographies, drawing, and designing are also a lot of fun for Rong. Rong is also interested in learning languages and digging out interesting cultures and customs wherever she goes.

Aaron Weiner

Aaron grew up in various Chicago suburbs, spending the majority of the time in Buffalo Grove and Wilmette, IL. He completed his undergraduate degree at Iowa State University, majoring in Psychology with minors in Music and Sociology. His Research interests concern long-distance friendship: primarily whether they provide as much support as geographically close ones, and what the predictors are of friendship decline over time and distance. In his free time, he likes to play Ultimate Frisbee, work out, and sing/compose music. During his undergraduate time he created two studio CDs with an a cappella group at Iowa State, "Shy of a Dozen", and he is currently working on a new album with a graduate-student composed band.

Counseling Psychology News

Lisa Spanierman has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Lisa has also won the College of Education Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award for Faculty. Congratulations!

Changes...

Two of our counseling psychology faculty transferred to other divisions/departments in the past 18 months. These changes were made to match their research interests more clearly with their new home's strategic focus. **Dorothy Espelage** moved to the Child and Adolescent Division of our department, where her research on bullying in schools fits well. **Lydia Buki** moved to the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health in the College of Applied Health Sciences, where her research on health disparities for minority populations (especially Latinas/os) is an excellent match. Although we are sorry to lose these two strong people from our core faculty, both remain involved in our program and teach courses for our students.

Sean Cheng and his wife Hsinlun had a little boy on March 31, 2008. His name is Jayden and he was 7lb 5oz.

Jeremy Henn and his wife Tracy had a little girl on July 8, 2007. Her name is Adwen Henn. She is crawling - make that speed-crawling - and likes to see how far she move before Tracy or Jeremy can catch her. Her big sister Elspeth loves to give her toys to play with.

Hsin-Ya Liao and her husband Danny had their second child, Rhoda Wang, on June 20th, 2007. Danny, Ambrose and Hsin-Ya are happy about the new addition to their family.

Euna Oh was married to Nicolaos Palaskas on her birthday, March 28, 2008. They had a beautiful ceremony in Hollywood Hills, LA

Student Awards

Vetisha McClair & Rong Su received the Robert P. Larson Grant for Research in Career Development 2008 from the UIUC Career Center.

Michelle Birkett won the College of Education Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for Teaching Assistants

Bryana French won the Champaign Area Psychological Association's (CAPS) Arnie Milller Achievement Award, Spring 2008 and the APA Division 35 Section 1 Graduate Student Research Award, Summer 2007

Jeanette Reinhardt won the Arnie Miller Achievement Award from CAPS and the Mendelson Award from the College of Education.

Paul Poteat won the Barbara A. Kirk Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research for his 2007 sole-authored publication in Child Development entitled "Peer Group Socialization of Homophobic Attitudes and Behavior during Adolescence." This award recognizes one student each year, and this year identifies Paul's article as the most exceptional student-initiated research in the field of Counseling Psychology. **Rong Su** won the 2008 American Psychological Association Travel Award to present her research in Boston this August.

Valene Whittaker won the Department of African American Studies outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award



CPP Faculty:

Jim Rounds, Jim Hannum, Lisa Spanierman, Helen Neville



Sean Cheng, Hsinlun Kuo, and Baby Jayden



Baby Adwen Henn



Ambrose Liao and Baby Rhoda Wang



Euna Oh and Nicolaos Palaskas

Alumni Corner

This year the Counseling Program contacted alumni from the past 10 years in order to keep track of their licensure status (as required by APA). During this process, many alumni were kind enough to update us on their professional lives. Below we list updates on CPP alumni who graduated from 1997 to 2000. We are so impressed at the success these Alumni have had professionally.

1997 Graduates

- Janice Altman: Staff Psychologist at VCU Counseling Center.
- Mary (Williamson) Bischoff: Psychologist at Residential Treatment Facility in Pennsylvania. Currently pursuing her School Psychology License.
- Mary Zwoyer Anderson: Associate Professor in Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology (Grad Dept.) at Western Michigan.
- Lenore Tipping: Private Practitioner in Bangor, Maine.

1998 Graduates

- Susanne Johnson: Has her own private practice based in Downers Grove, Illinois. Her practice is split equally between individual and couple's therapy.
- John Jones: Private practitioner in Champaign, Illinois.
- Heather Kirkpatrick: Director of Behavioral Science for Internal Medicine, Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

1999 Graduates

- Diane Berg: Assistant Professor, Program in Human Sexuality/Center for Sexual Health Medical School, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota.
- Saul Chapman: Clinical Neuropsychologist, Center for Neuropsychology & Applied Cognitive Neuroscience, Carbondale, IL.
- Susan Day: Author and Research Scientist, University of Houston, Educational Psychology.
- Susan Giurleo: Private Practitioner specializing in neurodevelopmental disorders, such as ADHD, autism spectrum and specific learning disabilities.

2000 Graduates

- Claudia Carroll: Associate Director for Training in University Counseling Services at VCU.
- Rebecca Conrad: Staff Psychologist at University Counseling Center Bowling Green State University.
- Suzanne Mazzeo: Associate Professor of Psychology, VCU.
- Paul Schneider: Owner of GeoLearning, Business Consultant in Iowa.

Do you have other information about UIUC alumni? Or would you like to have your information printed in our newsletter? Please send it to us at birkett@uiuc.edu or jwhannum@uiuc.edu.

Interview with Alumnus, Dr. Alvin Leung, Professor at Chinese University of Hong Kong

What were some of your most memorable experiences during your time at Illinois?

I did my undergraduate and graduate studies at Illinois, and I have fond memories of the Education Building and Psychology Building where I spent a huge amount of my time in various activities. I worked very hard, and academic pursuit was my passion at the time. I have vivid memories of many sleepless nights studying or preparing for classes (or classes that I had to teach in my role as a teaching assistant). I am most grateful of the opportunities given to me. I was not a native English speaker, and I remember my struggles in practicum as well as in my TA assignments. Yet my teachers had confidence in me and my ability, and their support and trust were instrumental in keeping me going. Lenore Harmon was my mentor and supervisor, and I learned so much from her as her student and research assistant. I was not confident that I could secure a pre-doctoral internship, but I ended up getting more than 10 offers, and that was the most memorable success experience. The program at Illinois prepared me well for the professional journey.

Tell us a bit about what you are doing now at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

I am now professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. I teach masters and doctoral-level courses in counseling. I also supervise students who are working on their doctoral dissertations. I coordinate a practicum counseling service where many of our master-level students do their counseling practicum. I am actively involved in a number of research and writing projects, and serve as Editor of a counseling journal in Hong Kong called *Asian Journal of Counseling*.

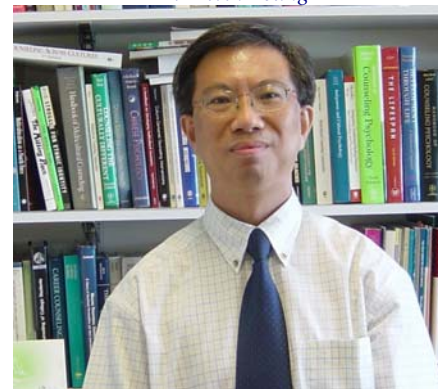
I have conducted career development and counseling training courses for teachers and social workers. Through a number of training grants and programmatic initiatives, I have developed structured career counseling training modules for social workers who are working with unemployed high-school leavers, and for high-school teachers who are responsible for career guidance programs.

I have been blessed with the experience of teaching in the United States and in Hong Kong. Since I moved to Hong Kong in 1996, I have kept and expanded my collaborations in the United States and in other parts of the world. International collaborations are never easy, but they have been simplified by the communication technologies that are now easily accessible. I have served as a U.S. journal associate editor (*The Counseling Psychologist*) and served on many editorial boards without having to leave Hong Kong. I have engaged in international research/writing projects with collaborators in diverse locations from around the world. Currently, I serve as one of the chairs-elected of the International Section of the Society of Counseling Psychology of APA. I have greatly enjoyed having a “global” dimension in my professional work.

Any additional information about your life and family would be welcome!

I met my wife Annie while we were both students at Illinois in the early 1980s. We have now been married for 23 years. We have three children, and our oldest daughter, Erica, will be a freshman at a university in the U.S. this coming August. Spending time with my family as well as regular exercises have always been important parts of my life.

Dr. Alvin Leung



Interview with Alumna, Dr. Dianne Berg

What were your most memorable experiences at U of I?

Struggling to survive any classes that had to do with statistics, Practicum-related coursework which really help shape my identity as a clinician (including the many ways that Jim Hannum provided mentorship to me), Teaching the Ed Psych 250 (career development) sections with Mimi Ormerod as a helpful mentor, Meetings with Terry Tracey about my never-ending dissertation, The incredible stress associated with sitting for 2 days in that little room with a blank computer screen in front of me taking qualifying exams, Eating at (what was it called?) Coslos?

What are you doing now at the University of Minnesota?

I work at the Program in Human Sexuality. The Program in Human Sexuality is one of the largest clinical (approximately 1,200 patient visits per month), teaching, and research institutions in the world specializing in human sexuality. We have a strong research agenda in HIV prevention, sexual aggression and compulsive sexual behavior, transgender health, and women's sexual health that has been supported by millions of dollars in state and federal funding, and we have developed innovative and effective treatment approaches to sexual problems.

I am involved in providing clinical services to adults, adolescents and children with sexuality concerns. My areas of interest are compulsive sexual behavior, transgender issues (including gender identity disorder in children/adolescents), and the treatment of sex offenders. I recently began working in conjunction with pediatric endocrinology, urology, genetics and MDH newborn screening to establish a multidisciplinary clinic for children/adolescents with Disorders of Sex Development (DSD).

I also have a CDC funded grant where I look at the application of attachment theory to the identification of risk factors specific for sex-related offending behavior in adolescents. And I am also a community faculty member of Metropolitan State University, where I teach a course on the prevention, assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

My partner (Suzy) and I have a three year old daughter (Solvei) who is, of course, the most delightful kid ever. Being a parent is the best thing ever. Suzy is a theater artist (director, performer, educator and writer) so, through her work, I get to experience creativity and continue to be intricately involved in my own love of the arts. Solvei is already singing harmony and can pick out various instruments when we listen and play music together. I love my job and I love my family and I love living in Minneapolis. Those 10 years (yep, count them) messing around in graduate school really has paid off for me. There were times when I didn't know what the heck I was doing but it all turned out just great!



Dr. Dianne Berg

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent: Spring 2007, Summer 2007, Fall 2007

* Michelle Birkett, TA, EPS 427
Alexis Clarke, TA EPSY 202
* Bryana French, TA EOL 199, EDPSY 220
* Allison Grupski, TA EPSY 220
Jim Hannum, EPSY 520
* Saroj Hardit, TA, EPSY 202, 236
* Jeremy Henn, TA, EPSY 201, 430
* Josh Kingsbury, TA, EPSY 201
* John Knorek, TA, EPSY 201, 220
Sarah Mebane, TA, EPSY 220, 420
Melanie Marklein, TA, EPSY 430

Megan Mayberry, TA, EPSY 236
Tiffany McCaughey, TA, EPSY 220
Jeri Newlin, TA, EPSY 220, 420, 430
Jim Rounds, EPSY 511
Tiffany Schiffner, TA EOL 199
Melissa Selem, TA, EPSY 220
Jason Soble, TA, EPSY 420
* Lisa Spanierman, EPSY 420, 520
Jo-Tzu Sun, TA, EPSY 220

* The Instructor Ratings were Outstanding



Mrinalini Rao and Melanie Marklein



Graduating Students This Year

We congratulate our six new graduates: **Anita Hund, Megan Mayberry, Luana Nan, Paul Poteat, Mary Russell, and Tiffany Schiffner.**

Megan Mayberry is doing a Post-Doc at Northwestern University.
Paul Poteat accepted a tenure-track faculty appointment in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College.
Tiffany Schiffner accepted a Post-Doc at Duke University.
Anita Hund, Luana Nan, and Mary Russell have all accepted positions at the University of Illinois Counseling Center.



May Graduates: Tiffany Schiffner, Anita Hund, Mary Russell, Luana Nan, Paul Poteat, and Megan Mayberry

Internship Successes!

Four of our students participated in the internship match this year and all were placed in great internship sites.

Allison Grupski will be going to the *James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital (Tampa, FL)*

Jorja Jamison was accepted at the *Duke University Counseling Center (Durham, NC)*

Sarah Mebane is headed to the *University of Maryland Counseling Center (College Park, MD)*

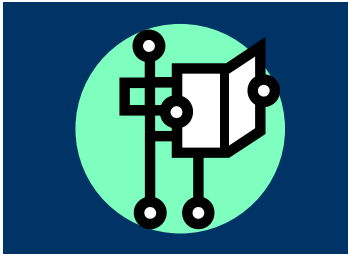
Jeanette Reinhardt will be working at the *The Ohio State University (Columbus, OH)*

Nationally, over 32% of the candidates in the internship process were not matched in 2007. Contrast that figure with the one from our program: Since the year 2000, 45 students have participated in the internship match program with only 1 not placed in the initial match (this student was successful the next year).

Congratulations to this year's internship group!



Valene Whittaker, Jioni Lewis, and Vetisha McClair at the Internship Match Celebration

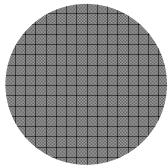


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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/EdPsy/
areasofstudy/counseling/](http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/EdPsy/areasofstudy/counseling/)

Want to find out more about students in our program?

A new addition to our website is the student perspective section where you can get to know more about the students in our program.

<http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/EdPsy/areasofstudy/counseling/studentperspectives.html>

Interview with Helen Farmer

The March issue of the *Counseling Psychologist* features an interview with Professor Emeritus, **Dr. Helen Farmer** authored by another former faculty member, **Dr. Lenore Harmon**. This article is a very interesting and important interview with one of the first female faculty in Counseling Psychology.

Harmon, L. (2008). An interview with a persistent woman: Helen Farmer. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 36(2), 325-341.

*Lisa Spanierman, Jo-Tzu Sun, and Rong Su
at the Internship Match Celebration*



Invitation To APA 2008

Are you going to APA in Boston this August? If so, please let us know. Many of our students and faculty attend every year. There may be opportunities to meet up with current students and faculty at one of the Division 17 Social Hours.

Keep in contact with us...

We love hearing from alumni from our program and would love to know what you're up to. Please email us with any updates on where you are and what you're doing. We want to keep in contact with you!

If you would like to share your news, please email the Newsletter Editor and the Counseling Psychology Graduate Assistant, Michelle Birkett, at [**birkett@uiuc.edu**](mailto:birkett@uiuc.edu).