



## Many changes happening in Fall 2011...

### Within the department: new chairs, staff relocation, faculty moves

We'll be starting the 2011-12 academic year with a new administrative team — **Jose Mestre** (CSTL faculty) will be department chair and **Kiel Christianson** (CSTL faculty) will step into the associate chair role.



Because he enjoys some administrative work — he was an associate dean at the University of Massachusetts and has been serving in the same capacity here — **Dr. Mestre** was pleased, humbled, and a bit surprised when a faculty committee asked him to consider taking on the EdPsych chairmanship. “There is something very enticing about being asked by your faculty peers to chair their department,” especially a department that he finds very collegial. Conversations with current chair Tom Schwandt, and with a wise, retired neighbor who had served as both associate dean and chair of another department in another college, indicated certain advantages to the chair role. “My neighbor said, ‘If you propose something and people complain, you can always just say, well, maybe I shouldn’t be chair anymore,’ and that tends to promote agreement!”

Dr. Mestre is also attracted to the chair position because it gives him an opportunity to help rebuild the faculty given the large number of departures and retirements in the last few years.

The changeover to his new job began before the appointment was officially announced on May 10, through discussion of transition issues with Dr. Schwandt. Dr. Mestre has begun working in areas of the position that would have an impact on the department for the coming academic year. Since Dr. Mestre’s associate dean service terminated on July 1 and Dr. Schwandt plans to be out of town much of the remainder of the summer, they have already officially switched offices.



**Dr. Christianson** noted that his first priority will be “learning precisely what [the Associate Chair] tasks are” as well as starting to plan ahead for welcoming and orienting our new Fall 2011 doctoral students. Since this will be his first experience in an administrative position, he asks for one thing from EdPsych students and faculty: “Patience, please.” Dr. Christianson’s initial service commitment is one year, though he thinks he will probably sign on for a second year. During his tenure as Associate Chair his office will be in room 240 at the south end of our suite.

Three Child Development faculty members are leaving the university. **Allison Ryan** is moving to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to be associate professor in the Combined Program in Education and Psychology, starting in Fall 2011, **Jenny Singleton** has gone to Atlanta, Georgia for a professor post in the School of Psychology at Georgia Institute of Technology, and **Brendesha Tynes** will become an associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Southern California in January, 2012.

Besides new department leadership, EdPsych students and faculty returning to campus in August will find several administrative support staff changes. Based on the current plan, **Beverly Palmer** will be in the new Academic and Instructional Services Office (AISO) on the third floor and **Iesha Johnson** will be located at Special Education’s front desk in room 288, where she will serve as the main contact/staff support for both Special Education and Educational Psychology, as well as working in the new Human Resources office. (See page 2 for



(Many changes, continued from page 1)

more about the College of Education staff restructuring.) **Helen Katz** will be retiring in mid-August (See staff profile on pg. 5). Admissions and degree completion processing for Educational Psychology will move to the AISO. **Julie Kellogg** will remain in room 210C as assistant to the EdPsych chair and a staff member of the Human Resources office.

### **Within the College of Education: support staff restructuring**

Following the recommendations of a College *ad hoc* administrative restructuring task force for a new shared services approach to administrative support, staff from all four academic departments consulted and devised an implementation plan to create five support units: Dean's Administration (within the departments) and Department Support; Academic and Instructional Services (AISO) in rooms 345/351; Finance in room 38; Human Resources in room 288, and Facilities and Operations (location to be determined).

Staff changes like the ones detailed above for EdPsych are being instituted throughout the College. Students from all College departments who need help with, for example, setting up a qualifying exam, will go to the AISO staff. Questions about assistantship appointments should be directed to the staff in the Human Resources office.

EdPsych students with questions about who to see for what should contact Julie Kellogg in room 210C, [jk Kellogg@illinois.edu](mailto:jk Kellogg@illinois.edu), 333-1434. See the July 8 article in the College website at <http://education.illinois.edu/news/2011/first-admin-restructure-retreat.html>. More details about the restructuring will be communicated by the College and the department as they become available.

### **Twelve new doctoral students joining EdPsych in Fall 2011**

EdPsych will be welcoming five new Queries students, three Child Development students and four CSTL students at our August 19 new student orientation meeting. The Queries group includes **Cong (Carol) Chen** from China; **Kyehyeon Cho**, transferring to EdPsych from EPOL; **Emily Gates**; **Maria Hidalgo** from Chile, and **Hyeon-Ah Kang** from Korea. **Natalie Farahvar**, **Genevieve Henricks** transferring from Library and Information Science, and **Gabriel (Joey) Merrin** transferring from EPOL will be joining the Child Development division. CSTL's new students include **Yu-Li Hsu** from Taiwan, **Michael Williams** re-entering the department to complete his doctoral program, and **Xin Zhang** and **Peiyun Zhou**, both from China.

The Counseling Psychology division did not accept applications for enrollment this Fall.

### **May 2011 graduates number sixteen**

**Usama Ahmed** (Queries), **James Buell** (CSTL), **Youngshin Chi** (Queries), **Jung Hyun Lim** (CSTL), **Brian Miller** (CSTL), **Jo-Tzu Sun** (Counseling) and **Travis Wilson** (Child Development) were hooded as new Doctors of Philosophy at the May 15 College commencement ceremony. Other on-campus graduates include **Raymond Meredith** (CSTL) who has earned a CAS degree, and three students who have received their master's degrees and are continuing on for their Ph.D. — **Crystal Carlson** (CSTL), **Elizabeth Garcia** (Child Development) and **Brennan Payne** (CSTL). Five online students in the CTER master's program graduated in May: **Morgan Allen**, **Karen Hamilton**, **Andrea Partyka**, **Debbie Plested** and **Stephanie Thien**.



## Dates and deadlines

Dates that relate to degree conferral deadlines can be found on the [College of Education](#) and [Graduate College](#) websites. Other upcoming dates to note:

### Fall Semester 2011

Friday, August 19	EdPsych New Student Orientation
Monday, August 22	First day of classes
Monday, September 5	Labor Day, no classes
Saturday, Nov. 19 — Sunday, Nov. 27	Thanksgiving vacation
Wednesday, December 7	Last day of classes
Thursday, December 8	Reading Day
Friday, Dec. 9 through Friday, Dec. 16	Final exams

### Spring Semester 2012

Tuesday, January 17	First day of classes
Saturday, March 16 — Sunday, March 25	Spring vacation
Wednesday, May 2	Last day of classes
Thursday, May 3	Reading Day
Friday, May 4 — Friday, May 11	Final exams
Sunday, May 13	Commencement

### EdPsych office closures Fall and Spring 2011-12

Monday, September 5	Labor Day
Thursday, Nov. 24 — Friday, Nov. 25	Thanksgiving holiday
Monday, Dec. 26 through Tuesday, Jan. 3	Christmas/New Year's holidays
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day

**THIS YEAR'S FALL EVENT  
WILL BE A DEPARTMENT  
PARTY AT THE HOME OF  
JOSE MESTRE, ED PSYCH CHAIR.**

**DATE AND DETAILS TBA.**



## This and that about who's doing what

### Current students and faculty

*The Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice* accepted a manuscript co-authored by **Jioni Lewis** (Counseling), and she has also won four recent awards: the Robert Ferber Dissertation Award from the Survey Research Laboratory, the College of Education Hardie Dissertation Award, the University of Illinois President's Research in Diversity Travel Award, and selection to participate in the 2011 APA Minority Fellowship Program Psychology Summer Institute.

**Jennifer Weidenbenner** (Child Development) won the Jeffrey W. Moss Outstanding Leadership Coach award from the Illinois Leadership Center in April, 2011.

The new president of the Psychometric Society is **Hua Chang** (Queries faculty).

**Heejeong Jeong** (Queries) won the 2011 Robert Lado award for best presentation by a graduate student at the 33rd International Language Testing Research Colloquium.

Jaewon Matthew Min was born May 12, 2011 to **Eun Sul Lee** (Counseling).

### Alumni

**Matt Tittle** (CSTL 2001) recently moved from Texas to New Jersey to serve as senior minister of Central Unitarian Church in Paramus, NJ. Matt and his wife, Gail, were co-editors of "Bless All Who Serve: Sources of Hope, Courage, and Faith for Military Personnel and Their Families (Boston: Skinner House, 2010). Over 20,000 copies have been distributed to U.S. military personnel worldwide.

2007 Queries graduate **Victoria Hammer** is working in the Office of Deputy Secretary in the Race to the Top program, Department of Education, Washington, DC. She finds it interesting but "I miss the life and people at U of I."

**Paul Schneider** (Counseling 2000) has a new position as Senior Vice President of Business Development for dominKnow, a collaborative Web-based e-learning software company.

The Spring 2011 issue of *Vitae Scholasticae*, the journal of educational biography, contains an article by **John Wakefield** (1981) on "The Second Great Awakening and American Educational Reform: Insights from the Biography of John Milton Gregory." Gregory was the first president of the University of Illinois.

**Melissa Holt** (Counseling 2002) is leaving the Centers for Disease Control to start a faculty position in Counseling Psychology at Boston University.

CSTL 2009 alumni **Veronica Sardegna** is Assistant Professor in the Foreign Language Education Program of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the College of Education at University of Texas at Austin, and her book --*The Practiced Business Writer: An ESL/EFL Handbook*--won an award under the Category "Business/Writing Publishing" in *The 2011 International Book Awards*. She feels that the education she received at this university prepared her well to manage research, teaching, service, and family.

**Li-Jen Kuo** (CSTL 2006) is an assistant professor in educational psychology at Northern Illinois University, is going up for tenure and is expecting her second baby this summer, a matter of great excitement for older sister Cynthia.

**Staff profile:****Helen Katz retiring as admissions and degree completion specialist**

*PsychED! stopped publishing staff profiles several issues ago because all the support staff, present and past since the feature's inception, had already been profiled. Except one. Me. And as writer/editor of the publication, I made the executive decision to skip myself. Now, however, with my mid-August scheduled retirement looming closer and closer – and with a summer newsletter edition called for by all the major changes to our department – I figured, sure, go ahead with a final staff profile. Of course, since I write the things, who's going to interview me? I guess that would be ... me! So, here goes!*

Q: When did you join our department and what were you doing before that?

A: My first day on staff was August 9, 2001. Just before that, since moving to Urbana the previous November from Galesburg, IL, I was working for a publication services company in Champaign. But in my previous lives I had been a typesetter (an occupation now close to obsolete) and later, tired of desk work, became a middle-aged first-time waitress. After five years of that my feet said “no more,” and I spent my last 16 months in Galesburg delivering pizza and doing sundry other part-time endeavors to put together something resembling a full-time income -- including presenting one-person dramatic programs about the Underground Railroad in area schools.

Q: So you've been here 10 years. Have they been happy ones?

A: Sure have. I came here to (a) be close to my new grandson, and (b) get a job that did not involve sausage and green peppers. Working with admissions and degree completion issues in a great graduate department has been an excellent experience, one I would be happy to continue for many more years if I hadn't waited till my mid-50's to start it! It's great fun seeing students embark on the challenging goal of acquiring a doctorate and several years later watching them be hooded at commencement. Lots of pieces of paper had to be filled out and signed and submitted to make that happen, and sometimes getting all the paperwork done, not to mention finding a time when all members of a doctoral committee can meet, is as much a challenge as research and writing.

Q: What are some other highlights of your C-U life?

A: There was the opportunity to take free undergrad courses and graduate with a BA in rhetoric/creative writing in May 2007 – a mere 44 years after first enrolling here in 1963. And finding outlets on and off campus for theatrical pursuits, and writing a column for the DI for one summer. Most recently I've co-founded and co-administer the Soul Miners Children's Theatre Company, a local group dedicated to helping children “build character on stage” by providing professional theatre arts education grounded in the study of universal virtues, from an interfaith perspective.

Q: Do you have any retirement goals?

A: A major goal is economic survival! I'll need income sources to supplement Social Security and my state pension, and am planning to build that income with self-employment and free-lance work that involves writing, editing, and resurrecting my professional acting work in schools and other venues. One reason for wanting to have a flexible, home-based work schedule is to provide more opportunities for travel with my daughter's family, which now includes two grandsons.