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PsychED!

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Two new Queries faculty joining EdPsych in January 2009 ...

Joe Robinson and Jinming Zhang will become members of the EdPsych faculty when they begin teaching Queries courses in Spring 2009. Dr. Robinson will teach EPSY 574, Quasi Experimental Design, and Dr. Zhang's classes will be EPSY 581, Applied Regression Analysis.



You might have noticed Robinson here and there. He has been here since August, completing work on his PhD in economics of education from Stanford University.

Robinson's research interests focus on using statistical methods to evaluate the effectiveness of educational policies and practices. A project concerned with children who come from homes where English is not the primary language is described in the Summer 2008 issue of *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*.) Other interests include customized learning environments and their relation to the size of achievement gaps, the careful application of causal inference methodology to determine whether or not policies and instructional practices reduce achievement gaps, and how the decisions other people make, either intentionally or unintentionally, affect different types of students differently.

(continued "Robinson" page 4)



Jinming Zhang is returning to UIUC, where he earned a Ph.D. in statistics in 1996. Currently he is employed by Educational Testing Service

(ETS) as a Senior Research Scientist in the Center of Statistical and Psychometric Theory and Practice.

Dr. Zhang's main research interest covers various theoretical and applied statistical issues involved with educational and psychological measurement.

Leisure time activities include watching movies — often the same one over and over if he likes it a lot — and enjoying music, both listening and singing. "However," he says, "my wife never thinks I can actually sing a single song without losing notes," and adds, "That is true."

A third interest is gardening, although due to allergies to some plants, Dr. Zhang feels that he's "never had a pretty garden."



.. plus a former EdPsych student is teaching for one year

Former student Carol Castellon is back in EdPsych. She'll be teaching EPSY 580 and 480 during the current academic year after retiring from Uni High, where her most recent students were National first place winners in statistics competition. Outside interests include genealogy, working with the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Indians Committee, climbing lighthouses ... and check out the picture — that's Carol in her 2003 Corvette, which she will be driving in the UIUC Homecoming Parade on Oct. 10.

Lifetime Award honors retired EdPsych faculty

Helen Farmer (Counseling), EdPsych Professor Emeritus, has received the 2008 Society of Counseling Psychology Lifetime Mentoring Award from the American Psychological Association. Dr. Farmer joined our department in 1974, two years after earning her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of California.

Dates & Deadlines

Oct. degree conferral:
Wed., Oct. 15

Office closed:
Thu-Fri., Nov. 27-28

Fall classes end:
Wed., Dec. 10

Dec. degree conferral:
Mon., Dec. 22

Office closed:
Wed., Dec. 24 through
Friday, Jan. 2

Office closed:
Mon., Jan. 19

Spring term begins:
Tue., Jan. 20

For December degree

Last day to apply for
Dec. degree list:
Fri., Dec. 5

Last day to take final
master's exam:
Fri., Nov. 14

Last day to submit mas-
ter's thesis to College
thesis office for format
review: Wed., Nov. 19

Last day to deposit mas-
ter's thesis at Graduate
College: Fri. Dec. 12

Last day to take doctoral
exam: Fri., Dec. 5

Last day to submit doc-
toral thesis to College
thesis office for format
review: Mon., Dec. 8

Last day to deposit doc-
toral thesis at Graduate
College: Fri., Dec. 19

Degree deadlines can be found at:

[http://
www.education.
illinois.edu/saao/
tfo.html](http://www.education.illinois.edu/saao/tfo.html)

Grants, awards, honors, milestones

Congratulations to all for helping **EdPsych** earn a 4th place national ranking for 2008 from “U.S. News and World Report.”

Valene Whittaker (Counseling) has won awards for her early research project from both the Association of Black Psychologists and the Department of African American Studies. **Jorja Jamison** (Counseling) earned an APA Outstanding Graduate Student Award. The Best Junior Oral Presentation Award at the 73rd International Meeting of the Psychometric Society went to **Zhushan (Mandy) Li** (Queries) (picture at <http://www.psychometrika.org/meeting/2008/memories.html>).

Kiel Christianson (CSTL) has received support and recognition for three projects, including a grant from the Campus Research Board, an Arnold O. Beckman Research Award, Bureau of Educational Research Summer Support and Bureau Student Support. Kiel has also been invited to serve on four-person review panels for the National Center for Language and Culture Research in Washington, D.C. and the Center for the Study of Language in College Park, MD.

The College of Education has designated **Lisa Spanierman** (Counseling) as Distinguished Scholar and **Helen Neville** (Counseling) as Senior Distinguished Scholar for 2008-09, and honored Lisa with the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award for Faculty. Lisa has also been promoted to associate professor with tenure, has been awarded a Clinical Research Loan Repayment Grant from the National Institutes of Health, the Charles Dunn Hardie Collaborative Research Stipend, and has been appointed co-chair of the Society of Counseling Psychology’s Special Task Group on Hate Crimes and Racial Bias in Institutions of Higher Education. **Carolyn Anderson** (Queries) has been promoted to full professor. **Fred Davidson** (Queries and CSTL faculty affiliate) was promoted to full professor effective Aug. 25, 2008; his department is now in Linguistics due to a FLB reorganization.

Richard Anderson (CSTL) is chairing a working group of the National Academy of Education to formulate policy on literacy for the next president, and serving on a similar committee for the International Reading Association. **Liz Stine-Morrow** (CSTL) was appointed Center for Advanced Study Associate for one semester of the 2008-9 academic year. Robert P. Larson Grants for Research in Career Development 2008 from the UIUC Career Center went to **Rong Su and Vetisha McClair** (both Counseling).

College of Education provided summer research/graduate research assistantship support to **Michelle Perry** (CSTL and Child Development), and College awards went to **Brendesha Tynes** (Child Development) for the Spitze-Mather Faculty Award for Excellence and **Michelle Birkett** (Counseling) for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for Teaching Assistants (*see Birkett student profile on page 3*).

A \$500,000 four-year grant from the National Science Foundation has been awarded to the Department of Physics (PIs: Gary Gladding, **Jose Mestre** (CSTL), Tim Stelzer and Mats Selens) for developing and evaluating web-based multimedia modules intended to teach basic content prior to class so that students come to physics class prepared to refine their understanding via active learning. **Jennifer Greene** (Queries) will be the evaluator for this multi-university project.

Phil Rodkin (Child Development) and Scott Gest of Penn State University were awarded \$500,000 from a joint competition of the William T. Grant and Spencer Foundations for a three-year longitudinal study of teaching practices, classroom peer ecologies, and youth outcomes during the elementary school years.

(*See Spotlight Grant on page 4.*)

Alumni News

Paul Poteat (Counseling), now on the faculty of the Lynch School of Education at Boston College, has received the Barbara A. Kirk Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research for a 2007 sole-authored publication.

The department’s new postdoctoral fellow for a National Science Foundation Grant led by **Jennifer Greene** (Queries) is **Maurice Samuels** (Queries). Maurice received his Ph.D. in May. Other new alumni from the May and August degree conferrals include Ph.D. grads **Christian Berger** (Child Development), **Anita Hund** (Counseling) and **Il-Hee Kim** (CSTL), and CTER Ed.M. grads **Jack Adwell**, **Mark Emmons**, **Robert Hayes**, **Sarah Hendrix**, **Erin Kilroy**, **Adrian Rosu**, **Katie Shiflett**, **Steven Svendsen**, **John Tubbs**, and **Renee Urban**.

Meet our new Ph.D. students

Seven of our eight new Fall 2008 students have provided PsychED! with some introductory bits and pieces about themselves.

CSTL ... “I will not bite and you can always ask me questions,” is the message from **Gabrielle Jones**, who communicates with American Sign Language, lipreading (including some foreign languages) and speaking. More of her message to fellow department members is “do not hesitate to ask me to repeat” and be prepared for her to ask the same. Gabrielle, who grew up in France and has spent a year in the Soviet Union, is an “avid reader, a courageous traveler, and a gourmet fan.” ... **Hyojin Jenna Chi**, originally from South Korea, transferred into EdPsych from Linguistics and made another major life change on June 28 when she married Isaiah Kim, a UIUC student in Aerospace Engineering, while collecting data in Seoul ... Texas born and bred **Leigh Mingle** tried working in the business world following her graduation from Southwestern University in Austin, but decided she was more suited for academia and is excited to be able to study here. Her roommate is a dog named Todd, and she enjoys hiking, traveling, old movies and “too much TV.”

Queries ... **Michael Culbertson**, also a Texas transplant, taught for a year in France and aims to use his UIUC education to give educational policy makers the tools to make better decisions. He often sings in choirs, sometimes plays the violin, and enjoys reading socially relevant mysteries and other fiction genres ... “I firmly believe that this year will be the year” for the Chicago Cubs, says **Tim Cash**, who transferred to EdPsych from Curriculum and Instruction. Before coming to UIUC he was a high school softball coach. Wife Jennifer is a graduate student in the Medical Scholars Program.

Counseling ... After getting her bachelor’s in psychology from UIUC and a master’s from Indiana University in Bloomington, **Jacquelyn Beard** is back and has joined EdPsych to research multicultural issues such as white privilege and Native American mascots. A sports fan who enjoys “playing basketball with my brother” as well as watching college games, Jacquelyn loves dogs and hopes “to get one of my own in the near future.” (Stated in an August e-mail, maybe there’s a new furry friend in the Beard home by now!) ... **Milo Dodson** is also a basketball player in his spare time, as well as video game fan, pianist, saxophonist, snowboarder and poet. Originally from California, he earned his bachelor’s at Notre Dame and praises his single mother for teaching him “the invaluable worth of a tenacious work ethic.”

Child Development ... **Jennifer Weidenbenner**, another transfer from C&I, has also joined EdPsych.

Student Profile:

She keeps busy!

Let’s play Jeopardy ... in the category of EdPsych Achievers, the answer is: she’s a Research Assistant for Dorothy Espelage, the Graduate Assistant for Counseling, plus has a volunteer job. And the question (actually the answer in Jeopardy-speak) is: who is **Michelle Birkett**?

Michelle entered our Counseling Psychology program in Fall 2004 after completing her undergrad degree in psychology at UIUC. She characterizes her Counseling job as a “liaison between students and faculty” and says that organizing data and records, creating reports, and planning and coordinating area of study functions has given her “a lot of insight into the day-to-day activities of faculty and administrators.” Next year, however, Michelle expects to be fulfilling her internship requirement and is currently applying to programs around the country.

Michelle’s research deals with peer influence on homophobic attitudes among middle school students. Her educational experience has also included teaching EdPsych classes and providing clinical services, mostly with children and adolescents through the UIUC Counseling Center, Carle Clinic and Hospital, and Cunningham Children’s Home. She loves both teaching (*see award information on page 2*) and research and hopes to get a faculty position after graduation.

Let’s see, what did we leave out ... oh, yeah, the volunteer job ... that would be Director of Rock Music at WEFT Community Radio. So of course, she likes to listen to music in her spare time (maybe a couple minutes here and there?) as well as socialize and cook.

Spotlight Grant:**Ryan, Chang receive four year grant for \$1,250,000**

A new Illinois State Board of Education four year grant of \$1,250,000 has been awarded to Queries faculty, **Katherine Ryan** and **Hua-Hua Chang**, serving as PI and Co-PI respectively, for *External Review of the ISBE Large Scale Assessment and Accountability*. In addition to **Dr. Jill Bisping**, project coordinator, four Ed Psych graduate students will be involved in examining portions of the ISBE assessment and accountability system.

The project evaluates key components of the current Illinois system using a mixed-methods evaluation design. Two aspects of the *Enhanced Illinois Standards Assessment Test (ISAT)*, the IL NCLB accountability assessment for grades 3-8 in Reading and Mathematics, will be studied: a) the intended and unintended assessment consequences and b) *Enhanced ISAT* test equating and linking. The evaluation findings are intended to contribute to a plan for a long term IL assessment and accountability program.

Did you know?

Cupid must have paid a recent visit to Child Development because two of their students, **Travis Wilson** and **Jeffrey Goetz** have announced engagements. Travis' fiancée is Sonya Irving, a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction. Their wedding is scheduled for November 29, 2008. Jeff will be marrying Amanda Looney next summer. Apparently the engagement happened last summer while he was directing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company.

Jeri Newlin (Counseling) is happy to report that her son graduated from high school in May and is now a student at Northern Illinois University.

Brenden Paul Rempert joined the family of **Tania Rempert** (Queries) via home birth on August 3. He made his debut "10 minutes before the doctor arrived and while his big sister Lillian (age 3) slept in her bedroom down the hall ... a great surprise for her ... in the morning!"

Beverly Palmer (staff) has passed her 20th anniversary as a UIUC employee, including 18 years with EdPsych.

Department governance for 2008-2009

Area of Study Chairs: **Phil Rodkin** (Child Development); **Michelle Perry** (CSTL);
James Hannum (Counseling); **Katherine Ryan** (Queries)

Executive Committee Members: **Thomas Schwandt** (Queries), Department *Chair, ex officio*;
Dorothy Espelage (Child Development), Department *Associate Chair, ex officio*; **Carolyn Anderson** (Queries), **Jose Mestre** (CSTL), **Allison Ryan** (Child Development), **Jim Rounds** (Counseling), **Lisa Spanierman** (Counseling) [also serving as Departmental Senator]

("Robinson," continued from page 1)

Robinson describes his teaching interests as primarily in applied statistics and research methodology. In particular, he is "passionate about teaching how to use causal inference methods (e.g., instrumental variables, propensity score matching, regression discontinuity) for estimating program effects," and looks forward to teaching courses on these topics.

Asked about his non-academic interests, he countered with a question of his own. "Is there such a thing?" then added that he enjoys cycling, hiking, and watching design-themed reality TV shows, such as Project Runway, Top Design, and Top Chef.