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Many changes are happening in EdPsych

Faculty and staff changes abound as we begin the Fall semester, starting with a new department chair. **Thomas Schwandt** (Queries faculty) has succeeded **Michelle Perry** (Child Development faculty). Dr. Perry began serving as department chair in Fall 2000, took a year off for sabbatical in academic year 2005-6, and served another year from 2006-7.

In Division news, **Dorothy Espelage** has moved from the Counseling Division to Child Development. There are two new division chairs, as well – **Hua-Hua Chang** is heading Queries and **James Hannum** is the new Counseling chair.

Cynthia Carter-Ching (CSTL faculty), who was with EdPsych since Fall 2001, has relocated to the University of California, Davis, as Associate Professor of Education. **Lydia Buki** (Counseling faculty) and **Andreas Klein** (Queries faculty) have also left the department. **Michael Sobczak** is new Queries faculty.

Other faculty changes include three retirements. **Jane Loeb** (Queries faculty) has retired from a career of almost-39- years during which she served in university administrative positions as well as teaching. **Gary Cziko** (CSTL faculty), 28 years with EdPsych, will leave after Fall semester to spend several months in Valparaiso, Chile at La Universidad de Playa Ancha as a Fulbright Scholar teaching and researching the use of technology for language learning. **Erica McClure** (CSTL faculty) is also leaving at the end of this semester after 35-years teaching.

There is also staff news. In the CTER online master's program, **Norma Scagnoli**, who was awarded her Ph.D. in HRE in December, has resigned as program coordinator to take a full-time position with the College of Business as an eLearning Specialist. **Doe-Hyung Kim** (CSTL) will assume many of Norma's duties, and **Tony Hursh** (CSTL) will also be adding responsibilities to his CTER appointment. **Rita Gaskill**, secretary to the Department chair, will be retiring this November, with plans to stay very busy with volunteer work, arts and crafts, photography, travel, and more. Rita notes that when she started working for the University in 1978 "technical reports were typed on stencils and ... parking lot permits cost \$25 a year."

EdPsych Executive Committee for 2007-8

Tom Schwandt (Queries faculty), department chair
Dorothy Espelage (Child Development faculty), associate chair
Carolyn Anderson (Queries faculty)
Jennifer Greene (Queries faculty)
Jose Mestre (CSTL faculty)
Allison Ryan (Child Development faculty)
Jenny Singleton (Child Development faculty)
Michelle Birkett (Counseling), student representative
Matthew Shake (CSTL), student representative

Dates & Deadlines

Oct. degree conferral: 10/15
Office closed: 11/22-23
Fall classes end: 12/7
Dec. degree conferral: 12/17
Office closed: 12/24-27, 1/1 and 1/21
Spring classes start: 1/14

For Oct. Master's degree

Last day to add name to Oct. degree list: 9/7
Last day to submit thesis to College thesis office for format review: 9/7
Last exam day: 9/7
Last day to deposit thesis at Graduate College: 9/21

For Oct. Doctoral degree

Last day to add name to Oct. degree list: 9/7
Last day to submit thesis to College thesis office for format review: 9/14
Last exam day: 9/14
Last day to deposit thesis at Graduate College: 9/28

For Dec. Master's degree

Last day to add name to Dec. degree list: 11/9
Last day to submit thesis to College thesis office for format review: 11/23
Last exam day: 11/23
Last day to deposit thesis at Graduate College: 12/7

For Dec. Doctoral degree

Last day to add name to Dec. degree list: 11/9
Last day to submit thesis to College thesis office for format review: 11/30
Last exam day: 11/30
Last day to deposit thesis at Graduate College: 12/14

The degree deadlines can be found at: <http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/saao/grad/thesis/thesisdeadlines.html>

Grants, Awards, Honors, Milestones

(The following items were submitted by students, faculty and staff who responded to a call for information.)

Christian Berger (Child Development) is spending most of his time off-campus this year, with a three-year Fondecyt grant from the Chilean government to conduct action-research on child social-emotional development. He also earned a scholarship from the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development to attend their "Workshop on Advancing Inter-American Collaboration in Human Development: Research, Methodology, and Training" in Gramado, Brazil last summer.

Hyeong-Jong Lee (Queries) received a Dissertation Research Award last Fall and is now working as a tenure-track assistant professor at Minnesota State University.

Both a William Chandler Bagley Doctoral Award and Phi Delta Kappa mini-grant award went to **Jeong-Ah Shin** (CSTL) in Spring 2007.

In addition to her GA appointment, **Jeanette Reinhardt-Klein** (Counseling) works as a volunteer Emergency Support Officer and as a debriefing counselor for the Champaign Fire Department, and hopes to model for other students the potential for a working alliance between the community and the Counseling Program.

Kent Lee (CSTL) has received a Beckman Institute Cognitive Science/AI award/grant.

The Doris Hoskins and John Lee Johnson Community Linkage Award was given to **Bryana French** (Counseling) by the African American Studies and Research Program.

Jorja Jamison (Counseling) won the 2007 College of Education teaching award.

An interdisciplinary \$1.2 million grant to promote conceptual analysis and student learning in physics has been awarded through Beckman Institute to a research team that includes **Jose Mestre** (CSTL faculty).

The following EdPsych faculty and students made the Spring 2007 ICES "Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their students": Child Development: **Dorothy Espelage***, **Jeffrey Goetz**, **Sarah Kiefer***, **Josh Kingsbury***, **John Knorek**, **Allison Ryan**, **Travis Wilson**. Counseling: **Alexis Clarke**, **Allison Grupski***, **James Hannum**, **Saroj Hardit**, **Jeremy Henn**, **Melanie Marklein**, **Megan Mayberry**, **Tiffany McCaughey**, **Jeri Newlin**, **James Rounds**, **Lisa Spanierman**, **Jo-Tzu Sun**. CSTL: **Cynthia Ching**, **Gary Cziko**, **Gabseon Lee**, **David Zola***. Queries: **Jennifer Greene***, **Ji-Young Kim**, **Katherine Ryan**, **Tom Schwandt**. (*=ranked as outstanding)

And it only took 44 years (OK, OK, with a 35 year break!) for **Helen Katz** (staff) to get her Bachelor's degree in Rhetoric, awarded in May 2007.

Department involvement helps in success of Chinese venture

EdPsych faculty and students have taken leading roles in work with the Tianjin Municipal Educational Admission and Examination Authority (TAEA), one of the best testing companies in China. A May 2006 visit by a TAEA delegation to Champaign, where they signed a contract for UIUC to provide certified training to testing professionals in China, was followed in December by a trip to China by a UIUC delegation led by **Hua-Hua Chang** (Queries faculty), **Lizanne Destefano** (Queries faculty) and Larry Hubert (Dept. of Psychology faculty), and including **Hongling Sun** (Queries). The UIUC group visited TAEA and successfully conducted a joint Psychometric and Evaluation workshop in Tianjin, attended by about 130 testing professionals. Dr. Chang notes that "clearly, there is a potential market for doing certified training in China."

TAEA is responsible for the development and administration of assessments designed for many educational purposes (e.g., entrance examinations for High School and Universities, achievement tests, language proficiency tests). The municipality served by TAEA has over 10 million residents and TAEA has the prospect of networking with similarly large municipalities in P.R. China.

This and that about our new students

In our never-ending search for the most important EdPsych news, we asked our new Fall students to respond to four highly significant questions, and are happy to provide you with the thoughts of the brave souls who responded.

She didn't have him long ("my mom made us give him away") but **Tamilia Reed** (Counseling) still considers her first pet, a dog named Lucky, that she found with her brother, as her favorite ... **Rhonda Jamison** (Child Development) said that her favorite pet is her current cat, a Norwegian Forest named Ali. And by the way, "she'll need a petsitter whenever I go out of town. Any takers?" ... Another cat fancier is **Rae Clementz** (Queries), whose two cats "love technology" and "have completely taken on [her and her husband's] personalities." ... **Rong Su** (Counseling) also named her current pet, a seven-year-old goldfish known as Orange. ... **Aaron Weiner** (Counseling) couldn't be pinned down to one favorite pet because he's "been smitten with all the cats and dogs that have come through my life thus far (at least eight cats and four dogs)." ... **Yeon-Sook Yi** (Queries) hasn't had a pet but if she did, she'd like to have "an eclectus ... a kind of parrot which is known to be one of the two smartest kinds." And because **Haiyan Lin's** (Queries) baby daughter was born in the year of the dog, she doesn't need any other pets, she has "this little cute puppy now."

From favorite pets to favorite TV shows, or more to the point, "If you could live in the world of a TV show, present or past, which one would you choose?" (Don't ask what point, just read on!) Rae "cried when Mr. Hooper died," so it's not surprising that she's always wanted to live on Sesame Street ... Rong named *Discovery*, *Growing Pains* and *The Apprentice* but added she enjoys "living in the real life and directing my own play" ... Not a big TV watcher, Aaron had to scratch a little to come up with an "obscure reference," i.e., "the live-action world of *The Tick*" ... Rhonda chose "*Grey's Anatomy*" because the characters are "smart and sarcastic, which is always the perfect combination" ... Haiyan named *CSI: Las Vegas* and *Friends*, noting that while she likes to watch *24 Hours* she wouldn't want to live there! Tamilia would move into *Star Trek* if she could "because there are infinite possibilities," and **Julie Brick** (CSTL) wants to combine *Teletubbies* with "any cooking reality show" and move right in.

And one of Tamilia's possibilities surfaced in her answer to the question of what kind of vehicle she would like to be. Her answer? A space vessel, of course! Rhonda would be a Vespa, Rong would be a hot air balloon, and Aaron would definitely NOT be an SUV limo. Haiyan doesn't care what kind of car she uses so long as she gets to travel and Rae wants to be a mini Cooper, although preferably not till it's a hybrid.

OK, time to get a little more serious here. When asked for her favorite ancestor, Rong chose two role models not directly related to her – Madam Curie and Mahatma Ghandi ... Haiyan noted that according to Chinese tradition, people with the same last name can be considered ancestors, so she selected Zexu Lin, famous for saving millions of lives around 200 years ago by destroying tons of imported opium ... Aaron picked his Grandma Kate, a Russian émigré, while Tamilia noted that "I learn so many new things each day about my maternal grandmother that I am NEVER bored"... and Rhonda told of getting to know her grandfather through the letters he wrote to her grandmother while he was a soldier.

When asked what else she'd like to tell us about herself, Tamilia said she is "seriously addicted" to Sci Fi (are we surprised?), as well as loving "good belly laughs" and "quirky people." Rae's "personal life philosophy is one of being open to serendipity." Yeon-Sook talked about the importance of family and both she and Rong mentioned the big role meditation plays in their lives. For Rhonda, music is a daily necessity. Although Julie's undergraduate degree was in neuroscience, she's been teaching Italian for the past four years and that led to her interest in the relationship of language to "human cognition and human learning," which brought her to EdPysch.

Finally, one other tidbit about another of our new students. **Tzu-Jung Lin** (CSTL), who was married in May, met her husband in their school orchestra – "he played the clarinet, and I played the flute." What's that old saying about making beautiful music together?

Did you know?

The news is almost all babies this issue ... **Hsin-Ya Liao** and her husband and son welcomed Rhoda into the family on June 20 ... **Jeremy Henn** (Counseling) reported that his daughter, Adwen Kate, was born on July 8 ... Mahmoud Usama Sayed was born on July 3 to Yasmine and **Usama Ahmed** (Queries) ... **Veronica Sardegna**'s (CSTL) second child, Tatiana Isabel, was born on June 25 ... and the next day Benjamin Matthew Johnson joined the family of **Jeremiah Johnson** (Queries). So if you see one of these students sleeping in class, don't be surprised!

Jorja Jamison (Counseling) reports that she and her partner, Melinda, are engaged and planning a commitment ceremony for next summer.

Life after UIUC

Let's take a quick peek at some of our alumni and see where they are now. First, we'll visit **Marlene Schommer-Aikens**, an advisee of **Richard Anderson** (CSTL) who graduated in 1989. Her first stop after UIUC was California State University, then she became an assistant professor at Wichita State University, where she remained and is now the Chair of the Counseling, Educational and School Psychology Department. Her dissertation involved the study of students' beliefs about the nature of knowledge and learning, or epistemological beliefs, and she has continued to research and expand on this area.

More recent graduates (2005), **Patrick Armstrong** and **Cara Hale Armstrong** are enjoying married life while sharing their professional lives at Iowa State University. Patrick is an assistant professor in psychology and Cara is a psychologist at the Counseling Center. And **Jessica Walters** (2004) serves as a staff psychologist for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health-Juvenile Justice System.

Numbers in and out

Twelve new Ph.D. students are beginning their UIUC EdPsych career this semester, and 24 new students started the CTER online master's program in the Spring and Summer 2007 cohorts. Meanwhile, 14 of our Ph.D. students and 15 CTER students graduated between August 2006 and May 2007.

In memoriam: Nicole Laws-Carroll

"She believed in the goodness of people." **James Hannum** (Counseling faculty)

"It's easy to be dedicated in Nicole's class because she is a dedicated teacher." Heather Wiley (junior in English)

"Nicole was a natural at counseling." Lori Davis (pre-practicum teacher)

"Seeing Nicole's excitement challenged other TAs to do better." **Jeremy Henn** (Counseling)

These are typical examples of the comments that **John Knorek** (Counseling) collected as he interviewed people for a video about **Nicole Laws-Carroll**, a FA06 Counseling student who died at age 34 on April 24, 2007, in Carle Hospital, Urbana, of a recurrence of cancer.

Although Nicole was unable to continue taking classes in SP07, she taught her section of EPSY 201 under **David Zola** (CSTL faculty) for most of the semester.

A large number of EdPsych faculty, students and staff honored Nicole by attending an April 28th gathering at the home she shared with her children and her husband, Jeff, in nearby St. Joseph, IL.

Anyone interested in having a DVD of the video when it is completed can contact John at jknorek2@uiuc.edu.