



PsychNews



Department of Psychology
The University of Kansas

Issue 2, Spring 2009

From the Chair

It is time, with this second edition of our annual newsletter, to inform our alumni and friends of activities in KU's Psychology Department. It has been a very big year, in the department and in the University. We welcomed four new faculty members and two new office staff in the past academic year. We learned of the successful reaccreditation of our Clinical and Clinical Child Programs, and received a top-25 ranking by *U.S. News and World Report* for our graduate program. The department underwent a program review, and conducted its second recognition ceremony for spring and summer graduates. Changes in University administration have trickled down to affect our department. Please read on to learn more about these and other exciting developments of the past year. In addition, we hope you will be in touch with us in the coming year. We have a spot on our website for alumni, and we like to hear from you – what you're doing, and what we could do better. We value your input. Once again, I want to thank my assistant, Cindy Sexton, who serves as the editor of this newsletter. Without her help on this and many projects, my own job would be much more difficult.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve the Psychology Department as chair since 1999. I will step away from this position at the end of June, and Dr. Ruth Ann Atchley will assume the position of Interim Chair at least until a full search for a new chair is completed (this is all explained more fully in *Changing Faces*). I will always cherish the time I spent in this position. It has been a time of growth and change in the department, and it has been a very exciting ten years. I know that the department is strong, and that it will have excellent leadership in Dr. Atchley. I want to thank all the faculty, staff, and students for having made my time in this position as rewarding as anyone could ask.

Greg Simpson



New Faces

As mentioned above, we welcomed four new faculty and two staff this year. Drs. Pascal Deboeck and Wei Wu joined the ranks of our quantitative psychologists, coming to KU from Notre Dame and Arizona State, respectively. We now have four faculty members trained in quantitative psychology, the greatest strength we have ever had in this area. Dr. Ludwin Molina, a social psychologist, came to us from a fellowship at the University of Minnesota, following receipt of his Ph.D. at UCLA. Dr. Sarah Pressman, who received her Ph.D. at Carnegie-Mellon University, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, is a health psychologist whose interests span our clinical and social areas. We feel especially fortunate to have been able to bring these outstanding young scholars to KU this year. Given the current economic climate, it is not surprising that very little faculty hiring occurred this year at KU, and Psychology was not among the very small number of departments allowed to recruit. The picture may not be much better next year, so we're doubly glad to have been able to bring four new faculty in this year.

In addition to adding new faculty, there were some changes in the front office as well. Mary Strickell began work in the fall as our Scheduling Officer, coming to us from the central accounting offices. Mary has a business degree from KU, so is a big help in purchasing as well. Janelle Szary took over the front desk as our receptionist. Janelle has been accepted into the graduate program in psychology at the University of California – Merced, so unfortunately will be leaving us soon. We wish her well, but we'll miss her.

We also have a new Advising Specialist. Heidi Waltz joined us in the fall. Heidi has considerable advising experience, and a psychology degree. She has been invaluable in helping students navigate the psychology major, and is the prime organizer of our recognition ceremony.

Under the Microscope

Both the Clinical and the Clinical Child programs underwent APA accreditation visits and reviews in 2008, and both were again recognized as very strong programs. We learned in 2009 that each was reaccredited for seven years, the maximum period for accreditation. We are not only pleased with this recognition of the excellence of these programs, but also relieved that we have several years before we begin this exhausting process again.

This year, the entire department underwent a program review. The University asks that every department and program be reviewed every 5-8 years, and this year was Psychology's turn. The process involves our writing a self study, examining our undergraduate and graduate programs, faculty teaching and research activities, grants, and the success of our graduates. In March four faculty members outside the department (three from other universities) visited the department for two days, to meet with faculty, students, and University administrators. In April, we received their written report, and in the coming months, the department will respond. The entire review process typically takes nearly a year, and while we don't look forward to it, it does help us to receive an objective evaluation of our strengths and challenges, and is a way to make the department even stronger.

Helpful Links:

University of Kansas
www.ku.edu
Department of Psychology
www.psych.ku.edu
Psychology Alumni Information
http://www.psych.ku.edu/alumni/alumni_form.shtml
Edwards Campus
www.edwardscampus.ku.edu
Center for Teaching Excellence
www.cte.ku.edu
KU Endowment Association
www.kuendowment.org
KU Info homepage
www.kuinfo.ku.edu/~kuinfo
Digital Media Services
<http://clas.ku.edu/technology/media/index.shtml>
University Relations
<http://www.jayhawks.ku.edu>
Admissions
<http://www.ku.edu/admissions/>
Fun Stuff
<http://www.funstuff.ku.edu>

Congratulations!

Leaving the Nest

Each year we bid goodbye to our new Ph.D.s, confident that we have prepared them for the positions they are about to take. Again in 2008-2009, we launched several students to excellent positions:

Olivia Chang (Clinical): Staff psychologist on the PTSD unit at the VA Hospital in Salem, MA
Andy Lehman (Clinical): Postdoctoral position at Northwestern University
Brenda Sampat (Clinical): Postdoctoral position at Hines VA Medical Center in Hines, IL
Chantal Young (Clinical): Postdoctoral position with Kaiser Permanente in Santa Rosa, CA
Stephanie Wallio (Clinical): TBD.
Iva Katzarska-Miller (Social): Transylvania University, Lexington, KY
Stephen Reysen (Social): Texas A&M at Commerce, Commerce, TX
Jae Hoon Lee (Quantitative): Research Scientist, Life Span Institute, University of Kansas
James Selig (Quantitative): Faculty position at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.
Vince Staggs - TBD

KU Cracks Top 25

For the first time, KU was ranked as one of the top graduate training programs in the country. Our graduate program ranked 21st among public universities, and 40th among all universities. These rankings represent a huge jump for KU. Last year, we were ranked 46th among public, and 77th among all universities. The improvement represents recognition of the scholarship of the faculty, and their dedication to outstanding graduate education. For many years, our Clinical Program has been recognized among the top 25 clinical programs nationally. Several years ago, they were joined by the Clinical Child Psychology Program, and both programs have been ranked in the top 25 every year since. Both programs were so ranked again this year. The Clinical program was ranked 18th among clinical programs in public universities, and the Clinical Child Program 13th among the same group. We are pleased that now the entire department has been recognized for the quality of its research and graduate training.

Honors and Awards

Again this year, we have had one of our faculty members honored for teaching or advising. Rick Ingram received the John C. Wright Graduate Mentor Award. This award is presented by the office of the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies, among faculty nominated by their graduate students and former students. It recognizes Rick's dedication to graduate education and the excellent job he does preparing his students for life after graduate school.

John Colombo, professor in the department and also Director of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Lifespan Studies (the first from Psychology to be named to this post) was elected to a three-year term as Secretary of the International Society for Infant Studies.

For the second year in a row, one of our office staff has been named Employee of the Month. In 2008, Jama Lickteig, our accountant and a 20-year staffer in the department was so honored. This year, it was the chair's assistant (and editor of this newsletter) Cindy Sexton. Both of these women have given years of dedicated service to the department, and we are very grateful to them, and proud that they have been recognized for their contributions to the department and to KU. Each received a surprise visit by the Provost for the recognition, which includes a monetary award.

In October of 2008, a Festschrift was held for Larry Wrightsman, who retired in 2007. Scholars of psychology and the law came from all over the country to honor Larry for his contributions to (some would say the very invention of) the field. Two days of festivities and scholarly presentation culminated in a look back by Larry on his career and the many relationships he forged during that time. It was a great weekend, and a fitting tribute to a fine colleague.

James Juola, who is on phased retirement, accepted an appointment to the faculty of the Technical University of Eindhoven. He will spend each spring in the Netherlands until his retirement from the KU faculty.



Recognition Ceremony

This year, we held our second Recognition Ceremony at Crafton-Preyer Theatre for spring and summer graduates. Over 100 graduating students went through the ceremony, and were greeted by the Dean and Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Dean and graduating senior Joseph Tennant addressed the graduates and their families, and three student awards were presented. Jay Middleton received the Growth and Achievement Award, RaeAnn Anderson the Award for Outstanding Research by an Undergraduate, and Hollie Dawson the Senior Award for Outstanding Performance. With the size of our department, this ceremony is quite a production, but Heidi Waltz handled the arrangements beautifully, and all the office staff and several faculty pitched in to help as well. It is very clear that this ceremony means a tremendous amount to the graduates and their families, and we are very glad that we are able to honor our students' accomplishments in this way.

Changing Faces

As noted at the beginning of this newsletter, this has been a big year for the University as well as for the department. Chancellor Robert Hemenway announced in the fall that he intends to step down at the end of June 2009, after 14 years in the post, to pursue teaching and writing



Ruth Ann Atchley

projects. Provost Richard Lariviere then was recruited for the presidency of the University of Oregon. These announcements created activity in the upper administration that has been felt in the department. The Chancellor appointed Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (and University Distinguished Professor in our department) Joseph Steinmetz to serve as Interim Provost for 2009-2010. Interim Provost Steinmetz then appointed Psychology Department chair Greg Simpson to serve as Interim Dean of the College during that time. Greg, in turn, has appointed Dr. Ruth Ann Atchley to serve as Interim Chair. After all these changes, Interim Provost Steinmetz was recruited to become Executive Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Ohio State. Vice Provost Danny Anderson was then named as Interim Provost. With the University's budget in a very uncertain state, and not likely to improve in the coming year, this is a difficult time for so much change. However, we have a creative, resourceful, and highly collegial faculty, and we anticipate being able to come through any difficulties intact.

Department Information:

Undergraduate Majors

BS Cognitive Science - 13

Developmental Psychology - 29

BA Psychology - 278

BGS Psychology - 216

Major admissions (Feb. 1-Feb. 15, June 1-June 15,
Sept. 1-Sept. 15)

http://www.psych.ku.edu/psych_programs/undergrad_apply.shtml

New! Minor in Psychology Fall 2009

Contact Heidi Waltz for more information

hhwaltz@ku.edu

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Have a question for KU Info?

Text KUINFO and your question to 66746 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday through Friday. (standard messaging rates apply) Or stop by the KU INFO booth on Jayhawk Boulevard across from Bailey Hall, from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday through Friday during the spring and fall semesters.

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