Dear Psychology Alumni,

Greetings!

I hope you are doing well.

I am delighted to write to you and share our latest news. This is my first year as Chair and although I have been at SIU for almost 20 years serving in various capacities (Instructor for Psyc102 and Psyc202, Undergraduate Program Director), this has been and continues to be an amazing learning experience. The department is thriving with the support of dedicated staff (3), dynamic and talented faculty members (20) as well as bright, hardworking graduate (~80) and undergraduate (~450) psychology majors. Our four doctoral programs are flourishing: Applied, Brain and Cognitive Science, Clinical (re-accredited 2013), and Counseling (re-accreditation process this year). We have been maintaining our reputation as one of the strongest programs on campus in terms of enrollment numbers, credit hours, graduation rates, teaching excellence, research productivity, and a diverse student body.

We would love to hear from you and learn more about where you are and what you are doing. I invite you to share your ideas/suggestions about what you would like to see in our future Newsletters. I will do my best to stay in touch and keep you posted on the latest happenings around here.

With best wishes,

Meera Komarraju
meerak@siu.edu

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Welcome New Faculty Members!

Dr. Christina Campbell (PhD, Community Psychology, Michigan State University) is a joint appointed Assistant Professor in Psychology and Criminology & Criminal Justice. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry in the Division of Prevention and Community Research. Her primary research interests include delinquency prevention, risk assessment, juvenile justice policy, and neighborhoods. She has also conducted research on racial and health disparities experienced by individuals who come in contact with the criminal justice and social welfare system, child welfare policy, child maltreatment, prisoner reentry, and program evaluation.

"I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with faculty and work across two departments (Psychology and Criminology & Criminal Justice). I am also excited to work with students and engage them in research opportunities that expose them to issues that impact both juvenile and adult offender populations."
Dr. Karla Fehr completed her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, during which she received training in both pediatric psychology and child clinical psychology. She then completed her internship in child clinical and pediatric psychology at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware. Most recently, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology at the Minnesota Epilepsy Group in St. Paul, Minnesota. Broadly, she is interested in psychosocial outcomes for children with medical conditions, including risk and resiliency factors, coping, prevention, and intervention development and dissemination. Her primary program of research involves developing targeted interventions for pediatric populations by using pretend play as a developmentally appropriate therapeutic approach to teach cognitive-behavioral skills to young children. Currently, she is focusing on her interests in behavioral sleep medicine by developing a cognitive-behavioral play intervention for preschool-aged children with sleep difficulties. Her other research interests include the importance of pretend play for children’s socioemotional development and the development of play intervention protocols to improve pretend play skills in preschool-aged children.

"I am most excited about the students at SIU, being able to teach and learn from the graduate students in the program, and the opportunity to pursue clinical research interests."

Dr. Michael Hylin received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Behavior from Northern Illinois University in 2010, after which he was a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Pramod Dash at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. Dr. Hylin’s research focuses on the biochemical systems that underlie neurocognitive dysfunction following traumatic brain injury (specifically mild and repetitive injury). This includes pathways associated with the extracellular matrix, inflammation and axonal injury. The goal of his research is to determine how manipulation of dysfunctional pathways can lead to behavioral recovery. Part of this strategy involves researching the mechanisms involved in memory recall in order to develop novel strategies for neurocognitive rehabilitation following traumatic brain injury. Another strategy is combining environmental enrichment and cognitive rehabilitation with pharmacological treatments in order to induce functional recovery.

"I am excited that within the psychology program there is a diverse array of research interests. I feel as though there are several professors that have overlapping research interests, which makes for a highly collaborative environment. Further, SIUC has a beautiful campus that is located in a wonderful part of the state. I look forward to working here with my new colleagues."

Meet Our Staff!

Marian Woodside, Office Administrator, has worked in the Psychology Department since 1998, and has worked with five different department chairs. She enjoys working in the department because "there's never a dull moment!"

Cecilia Porter, Undergraduate Program Records Manager, has been working at SIU for seven years, but recently joined the Psychology Department in May 2014. She enjoys working with undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the work environment in the department.

Stacia Werner, Graduate Program Coordinator, joined the Psychology Department in July 2014. She enjoys assisting and interacting with students.
In Memoriam

Philip Andrew Burke, Assistant Professor of Psychology, died on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, at Indiana University Health Hospital in Indianapolis. Philip (40) had Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC).

Dr. Burke earned four degrees at SIU including his BA (Psychology, 1995), Master of Music (opera and music theater, 1998), MA (2002) and PhD (2005), in Clinical Psychology. After completing his doctorate, he provided psychological services (and supervised our graduate students) at the Illinois Youth Center, and maintained a private practice, then joined the SIU faculty. Philip and his wife Jennifer also directed the choir at First Presbyterian Church of Cobden. Philip was named Volunteer of the Year for 2013 for PSC Partners Seeking a Cure and managed their Facebook site. He also created the non-profit organization titled More Than Illness. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, daughter Rachel, and sons, Leslie and Andrew.

Philip will be remembered as a brilliant student/teacher/researcher, an insightful and conscientious clinician and supervisor, a gifted singer, and good friend. In lieu of flowers, Philip requested that donations be given to one of three organizations: PSC Partners Seeking a Cure, 5237 S. Kenton Way, Englewood, CO 80111, www.pscpartners.org/donate, 303-771-5227; First Presbyterian Church, 103 N. Jefferson Cobden, IL 62920, 618-893-4424; and SIUC Department of Psychology, http://psychology.siuc.edu/alumni/support.html, 618-536-2301.

Written by Stephen J. Dollinger, PhD, Emeritus Faculty

Emeritus Faculty "Lunch Bunch"

From left to right: Barbara Yanico (Counseling, Emeritus), Meera Komarraju (Applied), Mary Louise Cashel (Clinical), Karla Fehr (Clinical), Thomas Schill (Clinical, Emeritus), Benjamin Rodriguez (Clinical), John Snyder (Counseling, Emeritus), and Stephen Dollinger (Clinical, Emeritus).
Emeritus Faculty Spotlight: Alan Vaux, PhD

"After 3.5 years, retirement is still wonderful. We are enjoying Chapel Hill and the Triangle area very much. I’m busy reading (fiction & non-fiction), taking OLLI classes at Duke (history, literature, economics, art, etc.), going to plays (13 different theaters!), writing a bit, watching lots of Netflix and Ted Talks, and working on projects with Applied Psychology alumna (now Gallup Europe Director) Sofia Pinero Kluch. Miss doing research and supervising student research. But life is fun!"

Psychology Welcome Back Party

September 19, 2014

From left to right: Dara Weaver-Holmes, President of Association of Black Psychologists (ABPSI); Alex Willis, President of Psychology Student Organization (PSA); Savannah McCord, President of Psi Chi; and Tia Richardson, Active Minds.

From left to right: Dr. Meera Komarraju, Psychology Department Chair; Dr. Susan Ford, Provost; Dr. Jane Swanson, Interim CoLA Dean; and Dr. Benjamin Rodriguez, former Chair, Psychology.

Congratulations, Recent Award Winners!

Faculty Awards

2014 CoLA Outstanding Scholar: Dr. Michael Hoane
2013 SIU UWPA Faculty Mentorship Award: Dr. Lisabeth DiLalla
2012 University-Level Teaching Excellence Award: Dr. Meera Komarraju

Graduate Student Awards

Doctoral Fellowship: Alec Eshelman, Ingrid Hogge, Kyle Bersted, Sam Larson, Kail Seymour
Masters Fellowship: Brian Bettonville and Caitlin Wood
Doctoral Research Award: Sarah Dyer
Morris Fellowship: Megan Morrison

Undergraduate Awards

Psychology Honor Student Award: Erga Lemish
Gordon F. Pitz Research Award: Rachel Swiatek
James McHose Seniors Award: Alicia Olechowski and Emily Koberstein
Robert C. Radtke Leadership Award: Holly Roate and Matthew Jamnik
Alumni Updates

Jaimi Ramsey, PhD, Child Clinical Psychology, 2013
"I just finished my postdoc at Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis and am now working as a Licensed Psychologist at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center which is a children's hospital in St. Louis. My position involves outpatient therapy through Cardinal Glennon's Psychology department as well as pediatric psychology consultation/liasion services. I specialize somewhat in children and adolescents who have experienced trauma, but I also take a lot of other child/adolescent cases. I am also now officially a homeowner!"

Albert Botchway, PhD, Applied Psychology, 2013
"I am currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield Illinois with a primary assignment to the Population Science Program (PSP). The PSP seeks to address the health needs of the largely rural population of central and southern Illinois. In this position, I am currently applying my experience to two funded projects: one being a cross-sectional survey of smoke and smokeless tobacco use among rural and urban residents, and the other being a statewide assessment of local health agency capacity to address the challenges of cognitive decline, including Alzheimer's care. These, and other projects, utilize and build upon my education and skills in psychology, statistics, and health promotion in addressing the health needs of rural populations."

Amanda Jantzer, PhD, Counseling Psychology, 2009
"Since my internship at the University of Minnesota and my graduation in 2009, I moved to Brookings, SD with my partner Dr. Jacob Jantzer. I have been employed as an instructor in the Department of Psychology at South Dakota State University until this semester when I happily received a promotion to Assistant Professor. I have enjoyed teaching a variety of introductory and applied courses here, including Cross Cultural Psychology, Psychological Therapies, Psychological Testing and Assessment, and Psychology of Abnormal Behavior. Most of my current research activities are in the area of vocational psychology, specifically on gender issues in the workplace. Notably, I have been collaborating with our Provost and colleagues across the university and the state to prepare two large-scale NSF grant proposals aimed at recruiting, retaining, and promoting more women in STEM. I am also collaborating with other colleagues in my college to examine issues related to breastfeeding in the workplace, which is in support of their larger aim to make Brookings the first breastfeeding or baby-friendly community in the nation. Last, but certainly not least, Jake and I have welcomed two wonderful little boys to our family. This is a very busy, but also a remarkably full and happy time for me and my family."

Joseph Geeseman, PhD, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, 2012
After graduating from the Brain and Cognitive Sciences program at SIU, I found my way into the US Navy as an Aerospace Experimental Psychologist. Once I completed Officer’s Development School, I spent about 6 months in Aeromedical Officer Training, Aviation Preflight Indoctrination, and Flight School. I also completed an abbreviated flight school where I learned how to pilot fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft - this was a highlight during my first year in the Navy. Once I completed all of the training, I reported to my first duty station at the Naval Air Systems Command in Patuxent River, MD. At this command, I am able to put my graduate training to work with basic-level research. In addition to my own research projects, I manage research projects funded from the Navy for top-tier academic programs, design research programs for international research efforts, and work on a team to develop new flight rules for integrating unmanned aerial vehicles into national and international airspace. I am involved with many projects and programs, but this diversity and high-speed environment makes me excited to go to work every day. In October, I was able to travel to SIU to collaborate with faculty and graduate students on one of my projects. The visit was also a good opportunity to speak to the BCS program and undergraduate psychology students about being a uniformed scientist. It was a great visit and it was fantastic to see all the changes on campus."
Kaci Clark, BA, Psychology, 2013

"I am currently a second year school psychology graduate student at Eastern Illinois University. For both years of my graduate schooling, I received a graduate assistantship that provided free tuition and a monthly stipend. As a first year, I worked for the online research program and this year, I obtained the Presidential IQ graduate assistantship. As a school psychology student, I have been working in area school districts, learning how to do tasks that school psychologists typically have, such as academic assessments and consultation. I have begun working on my graduate thesis, which will explore sleep hygiene in adolescents."

Updates on Former Faculty Members

**Dr. Eric Jones** is an Assistant Professor at Calvin College. "My teaching load includes courses in Statistics, Social Psychology, and Personality Psychology. This winter, I will teach a 3-week course on Psychology and the Law. I have also been able to involve students in the same research topics that I was investigating at SIU (group performance, juror decision making). Taking this job meant that I returned to my hometown of Grand Rapids, MI. I wasn't sure how I would re-adjust to the snow. Last winter, we had over 115 inches of snow, which made it the second worst winter on record. Sadly, I was expecting worse, so it didn't seem so bad. When not working, I have found new groups to play volleyball, softball, and basketball with."

**Dr. Michael Young** is the Head of the Department of Psychological Sciences at Kansas State University. Although a significant amount of his time now entails managing budgets, hiring and evaluating personnel, overseeing policies and curriculum, fundraising, and other activities for which a doctorate does not prepare you, he still makes time for the classroom and the lab. Although much of his maroon clothing is wearing out, Dr. Young hasn't forgotten SIU and keeps in touch with a number of his old Saluki students. He is still publishing research with current and previous SIU undergrad and grad students with three articles published in 2014 alone. As of September 2014, he is a grandfather for the first time and a father-in-law for the second time.

**Dr. Peggy Stockdale** is the Chair of the Psychology Department and Full Professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. "One thing I’m working as chair is a proposal to start a PhD in the I/O program that will be called Applied Social and Organizational Psychology. Also, since I’ve been here, I worked on a team to develop an NSF proposal for the ADVANCE-Institutional Transformation program. Although our proposal wasn’t selected for funding, it has helped to initiate changes on this campus to facilitate the development of female leaders and for success for women in STEM academic disciplines. My other research has focused on studies of stereotypes of female scientists compared to male scientists, as well as research on women’s workplace experiences (e.g., sexual harassment, occupational segregation, stereotyping, etc.). I have been working with doctoral students who were my mentees in the Applied Psychology program at SIU to help them complete their dissertations, and that has been very rewarding. Our family is adjusting well to the move to Indiana, but we miss our Carbondale friends very much."

We hope you have enjoyed the first issue of the Psychology Department Newsletter! For more information or updates, please see the department website at: http://cola.siu.edu/psychology.

If you have news you would like to share in an upcoming issue, please contact us at gradpsyc@siu.edu. We would love to hear from you!

In the forthcoming Spring 2015 issue...

- Newly cross-appointed faculty members and current students
- Additional alumni and faculty updates
- 2015 award winners