



# EKU Department Psychology Newsletter

Eastern Kentucky  
University

Fall 2008

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## Virginia Falkenberg

We in the EKU Psychology Department were saddened to hear that Virginia Falkenberg died on September 1, 2008, after a long fight with lung cancer. Virginia was a member of the Psychology Department and an administrator at EKU for 34 years. Her husband, Steve Falkenberg, was also a member of the faculty for 33 years.

Virginia was a pioneer at EKU, the first woman to serve as Dean of the Graduate School, as well as an Associate Vice President. Following 15 years in administration, Virginia came back to the Psychology Department and earned the rank of Profes-

sor. She retired as Professor Emeritus in 2007.

Virginia's accomplishments are too numerous to mention here. As a colleague, we knew her as a wise advisor about Department affairs, a dedicated advocate for students, and a keen intellect with an easy laugh. Many of us marveled at Virginia and Steve's relationship. Few have such abundant and obvious love.

Virginia was ever upbeat, and confronted her cancer with hope and conviction. A colleague, teacher, mentor, and friend, Virginia serves as a role model for those who knew her.



Virginia Falkenberg

Steve lives and paints in Fort Worth, Texas, near his and Virginia's son and daughter-in-law. Their daughter Rebecca lives in Atlanta, GA.

## Political Psychology and the Presidential Election

The 2008 Presidential election served as a convenient backdrop for Dr. Winslow's Political Psychology course this past Spring Semester. Students normally read original research articles on topics such as authoritarianism, social dominance, system justification theory, ideology, framing, media bias, terror management theory, political protest, and prejudice in politics. The course is taught as a seminar, emphasizing class discussion. Class size is usually quite small, around 15 – 20 students, but perhaps because of the election cycle, more students enrolled this past spring, bringing the class size up to 26.

Normally students write a major paper about a topic of interest from

the course, either proposing original research or reviewing literature in a particular area. However, because of the election cycle the class took on a unique assignment: the analysis of the candidates for president in terms of five major ideas from class. Students were allowed to choose their candidate, and thus some students formed groups analyzing a single candidate, and some students had a candidate all to themselves. Either way, each candidate was analyzed in terms of their apparent authoritarianism, social dominance, system justification, use of terror management, and framing. In order to perform the analyses, students had to first develop the criteria for each dimension. The data used to perform the analy-

sis were the candidates' speeches and information from their official campaign websites.

The results of the candidate analyses provided an in-depth portrait of four Democratic and five Republican candidates in the primary elections. Dr. Winslow created a large poster based on the results that is posted in the hallway on the second floor of the Cammack building. The poster will remain posted until at least Election Day, providing psychology students with both a look at what the field of political psychology is all about as well as an analysis of their choices that is not available elsewhere.

## Prejudice & Narcissism



*Narcissistic individuals demonstrate prejudice when they feel immigrants are threatening their employment opportunities.*

In 2007, approximately 37.9 million legal and illegal immigrants were living in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2007). Despite the fact that the majority of Americans can trace their roots to immigrants, these individuals are often targets of hostility and derogation by others. The notion that immigrants threaten job availability is one of the primary reasons for these reactions, and this perceived threat can easily lead to prejudice and violence.

Past research has shown that highly narcissistic people will act aggressively when they feel personally threatened, but no one has examined this phenomenon in the context of prejudice, much less prejudice toward a particular group. Dr. Jonathan Gore

and Tyler Schnieders, a graduate student in the Clinical program, conducted two studies to examine this effect. They found that highly narcissistic college students show little signs of prejudice unless they believe, or are led to believe, that immigrants are threatening their ability to get a job after graduation.

This research has several implications, both in the scientific literature and in the treatment of immigrants nationwide. If a narcissistic person feels that immigrants are threatening his or her ability to get employment, they may become particularly hostile. The results of these studies were presented last year at the Undergraduate Presentation Showcase at ECU, and at the annual Student conference of the Kentucky Psychological Association in Louisville.

## Department Serves Up Its First Service Learning Course

Last year, ECU embarked on an ambitious new Quality Enhancement Plan, and now that it is underway, it has changed to the Quality Enhancement Program. This program is designed to ensure that ECU is meeting its mission. One of the components of the QEP is to increase the amount of service learning that happens on campus. Of course, service is central to our mission. Our institution exists to serve our students, and the ultimate outcome that we want for our students is that they find a way to serve our communities.

Service learning is the idea that classroom learning can be applied to real world settings. Certainly in psychology, almost all of our classes apply to the real world. Thus it makes sense to extend the learning environment beyond the campus. Service learning does just that. It takes students out of the classroom and lets them see how knowledge is applied.

The Psychology Department was one of the first to take advantage of the University's new service learning course designation. Courses that use service learning as a component of the graded work can now be designated with the letter "S" in the course number. For example, Dr. Osbaldiston's graduate course in Research Design and Statistics is now numbered Psy 820S. In this course, students will complete research projects for community

partners like Foothills Community Action Partnership and the Salvation Army. By doing research projects with these groups, the students will get a firsthand view of how to collect data, analyze the results, and make presentations, and the community partners will receive useful information about how to improve services to their clients. In this way, service learning is a win-win situation.

For the Salvation Army project, students will start with the research question "How can bell-ringers raise more money?" The hypothesis is "Bell-ringers will receive more money in donations if they are dressed in festive seasonal outfits than if they are dressed in regular street clothes." Students will actually get to stand in front of retail stores dressed either in red-and-white caps and coats (like Santa outfits) or in regular clothes, and they will carefully keep track of how much money they raise. This is important research that will be useful to the Salvation Army, because when it comes to ringing the bell, it's all about how much money is raised.

ECU hopes to expand the offerings of service learning courses, and at some point in the future, a service learning requirement may be built into the curriculum. The Psychology Department is proud to be on the leading edge of this movement.

## Japanese Studies

This past June, Dr. Wilson participated in the Japan Studies Institute at San Diego State University. This is a three week-long professional development institute for faculty at colleges and universities around the country who are interested in incorporating Japanese Studies into their courses. As a developmental psychologist, Dr. Wilson is interested in Japanese culture because the cultural norms for child rearing and education are very different from, and in many ways more successful than, those in the U.S. The study of Japanese culture can provide students with insight into the profound impact that environment can play on child outcomes.

During the institute, Dr. Wilson and colleagues attended lectures by Japanese scholars from around the U.S. and Japan on topics such as the Japanese economy, educational practices in the Japanese school system, the aging Japanese population, and Japan during the occupation. They learned about business practices from business leaders of Japanese corporations and consultants who train Americans to work with Japanese industry. They heard about Japanese foreign policy and challenges for modern Japan, such as the need to import much of the country's food supply because of lack of farmland. They also learned about Japanese philosophies, religions, and aesthetics, and watched several films and documentaries on Japan and Japanese history. They even learned how to read Manga, and tried their hand at ikebana (the art of Japanese flower arranging), calligraphy, origami, and the Taiko drums!

Lectures and demonstrations were supplemented with field trips to museums such as the Japanese American National Museum and the Pacific Asian Museum in Los Angeles. At the

Japanese American National Museum Dr. Wilson learned about the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. At the Japanese Gallery in the Pacific Asian museum she saw an array of ancient to modern Japanese art. She also visited a Buddhist Temple and spent some time in meditation there. Dr. Wilson toured the Japanese Friendship Gardens at Balboa park in San Diego. In the Japanese Friendship Gardens she was able to see a tea pavilion and Bonsai trees, as well as enjoy the beauty of the garden. At the end of the institute, she participated in a Japanese tea ceremony. On her own side trips, Dr. Wilson ate a lot of sushi and found the Japanese dollar store.

Each day started with instruction in Japanese language, and Dr. Wilson was able to try out our Japanese on shop keepers in a section of Los Angeles called Little Japan. She said she was thrilled when her request to purchase an item in Japanese was understood!

As a part of her participation in this institute, she has agreed to complete a project on Japan at EKU. This academic year, she is incorporating a module or set of activities on Japan into her courses. In her Adolescent Development course, which is an online course, a number of our discussion forums will include a comparison of Japanese and American adolescents. In her Senior Seminar course on Boys, she will discuss differences in aggressive behaviors in Japanese and American boys and men. In her Child Development course next semester, she will discuss differences in the Japanese and American educational systems.

## Psi Chi & Psychology Club News

It looks like another great semester for Eastern Kentucky University's Psi Chi and Psychology Club! Under the leadership of newly-elected chapter President Ashley Candelaria, the club celebrated the start of the semester by co-hosting (along with the Department of Psychology) a free lunch for Psychology majors at the beginning of September. Later that month, the club teamed with Kaplan to offer practice GRE exams to anyone who was interested.

One of the club's biggest events each is attending the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) annual conference. Last year in Charlotte, NC, the club set a record for the highest number of students and faculty from EKU to ever attend this conference. They didn't stop there, though,

setting *another* record as nine students and faculty presented their research to scholars from the Southeast region of the United States. This year the club hopes to meet and exceed those numbers at the conference in New Orleans, LA, on February 18-21, 2009.

Currently, members and faculty sponsors are preparing various fundraising efforts to attend SEPA. Of particular interest are the annual t-shirt sales that will begin in October. Anyone interested in purchasing a shirt, obtaining more information about the Psi Chi/Psychology Club organization, or are interested in donating funds toward this year's conference can contact Dr. Julia Robinson ([julia.robinson@eku.edu](mailto:julia.robinson@eku.edu)) or Dr. Theresa Botts



Ashley Candelaria (left) is the newly elected president of the Psychology Club.



Psi Chi and Psychology Club members gather for a picture at the Southeastern Psychological Association annual conference (bottom).

## 2007-2008 Awards Banquet and Recipients for Psychology Majors

### Clark Hull Award of Excellence

**Abigail Head**

This award is presented to the most outstanding senior psychology major who has achieved excellence in academic work, show significant scholarly promise, and has manifested genuine professional identification and constructive investment in the field.

### William & Pauline Knapp Scholarship

**Melissa Marlowe Campbell**

This scholarship is awarded to an upper division psychology major who has high academic achievement.

### Douglas & Nancy Stewart Hindman Career in Professional Psychology Scholarship

**Jill Denny**

This scholarship is awarded during the fall semester to a student who demonstrates have a "high potential for a career in Professional or Applied Psychology". To be eligible for this scholarship, the student must be a psychology major and have at least a 3.0 overall GPA.

### Psi Chi Research Award

**Steven Lee**

This award is given to the undergraduate psychology student who demonstrates the greatest potential in research.

### Scholarly Writing Award

**Lena Kline**

This award is given to the undergraduate psychology student who demonstrates scholarly writing/

### Dean's Award of Merit

**Abigail Head**

### Laura D. Kennamer Scholarship

Congratulations to Psychology majors Tina Al-Kabandi, Beth Bowling, Megan Byrd, Kari Cotton, Clyde Jamison, Jonathan Kleppinger, Chris Sissle, and Heather Stoneman. They were among the 16 students awarded a prestigious Kennamer Scholarship last spring. The Laura J. Kennamer Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to outstanding students majoring in a social or behavioral science. Awards ranged from \$500 to over \$12,000.

## Outstanding Seniors of 2008 Graduate School Bound

Several of the outstanding seniors in the psychology department at ECU are attending graduate programs. Here is a list of those outstanding seniors from the 07/08 school year who have went on to attend graduate programs:

**Jill Denny:** Ph.D. program in School Psychology, University of Kentucky

**Abigail Head,** Counseling Ed. Program, University of Louisville

**Steven Lee:** Psy.S. program in Clinical Psychology, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

**Jessica Vance Morgan:** M.S. program in Clinical Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University

**Tyler Schnieders:** M.S. program in Clinical Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University

**Sharon Trew:** M.S. program in Clinical Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University

**Anita Lakes:** M.S. program in Clinical Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University

**Jessica Nichols:** Psy. S. program in School Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University

**Megan Post:** Psy.S. program in School Psychology, Eastern Kentucky University

## Alumni Updates

### 1970's

#### **Clayton Maguire**

Degree: M.S. in Clinical Psychology

Date of Graduation: 1973

Accomplishments: Currently maintains a busy private practice in Virginia Beach, Virginia, including special groups for anger and anxiety. Licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist.

### 1990's

#### **Christie Bertram**

Degree: M.S. in Clinical Psychology

Date of Graduation: 1991

Accomplishments: I earned a Psy.D. from the University of Denver in 1998. I have worked mostly in the field of child abuse and neglect, including foster care, adoption, and issues pertaining to custody. Since 2001 I have worked in Memphis, TN, on the evaluation and treatment teams of a child abuse and neglect clinic affiliated with a children's medical center.

#### **Chris Hardin**

Degree: B.S. in Psychology

Date of Graduation: 1991

Accomplishments: Served in the US Air Force. Went to Saudi Arabia. Worked at River Valley Behavioral Health for a year. Worker for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for 7 years as a juvenile social worker. Helped establish the Juvenile drug court in Daviess County. Presently working for the Department for Juvenile Justice as a juvenile counselor. (3 years)

#### **Melissa Hall**

Degree: M.S. in Clinical Psychology

Date of Graduation: 1992

Accomplishments: I became a Licensed Psychological Practitioner in December, 2006, and started a private practice (testing and assessment) in 2007. I am still married to Steven and we have two daughters, Sarah (10) and Rachel (3.)

#### **Stephen Konz**

Degree: M.S. in Clinical Psychology

Date of Graduation: 1997

Accomplishments: I recently joined a small private practice counseling group in Fort Wayne, IN. I worked in two community mental health centers (Northeastern Center and Bowen Center) for the 10 years prior to going into private practice. I was able to work very closely with the psychologists, psychiatrists and case managers in this setting. I was also able to provide some school-based counseling, and offered a number of presentations to middle school students on various mental health issues/topics.

### 2000's

#### **Dennie Cravens**

Degree: B.S. in Psychology

Date of Graduation: 2003

Accomplishments: Received a MA in Mental Health Counseling from ECU in 2005 and a LPCC in KY in 2008. Currently working as a therapist for a private foster care agency in Louisville.

#### **Britta Gibson**

Degree: B.S. in Psychology

Date of Graduation: 2004

Accomplishments: Received a MS in College Student Personnel from the University of Tennessee. Currently working as the Assistant Dean for Student Services at Pikeville College.

#### **Kelly Thorne**

Degree: B.S. in Psychology

Date of Graduation: 2004

Accomplishments: - Founder of iBloom -  
- Instructor for Life Purpose Coaching Centers International  
- Published Author & Speaker  
- Currently pursuing Masters in Ministry Leadership from Rockbridge Seminary  
- Workshop Contributor at American Association of Christian Counselors  
2007 National Conference

#### **Alicia Buchanan**

Degree: B.S. in Psychology

Date of Graduation: 2006

Accomplishments: I've been living in Seoul, South Korea for the last year or so teaching English. I'll be attending graduate school at Korea University to obtain my Master's in International Development. I'm looking to start a career in international aid work.

#### **Natausha Givens Gunn**

Degree: B.S. in Psychology

Date of Graduation: 2006

Accomplishments: State Counselor at Dismas Charities-Nov 2006-July 2008, Transition Coordinator July 2008-present .



## Eastern Kentucky University

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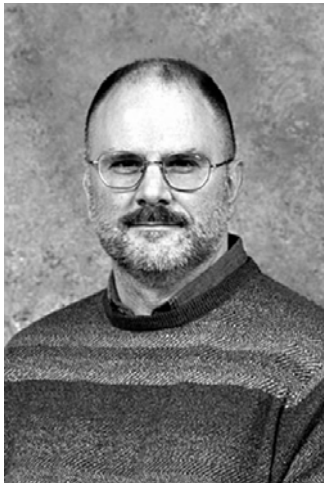
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### Dr. Bob Mitchell Receives Foundation Professorship



Dr. Bob Mitchell

In 1987 the Eastern Kentucky University Foundation established a program that was aimed at recognizing and honoring 'creative, self-motivated exemplars of the ideal college professor'. Being named a Foundation Professor honors faculty members who have shown outstanding performance as teachers and are recognized by their peers as exemplifying outstanding qualities related to teaching, service and research. Dr. Bob Mitchell received this prestigious award for the 2008-2010 school years. The Psychology Department is proud of Dr. Mitchell's many achievements.

### PSI CHI T-Shirts for Sale

PSI CHI/ Psychology Club have begun their annual t-shirt sales! Two designs are offered, both in short- and long-sleeved styles. The first design says, "You call it JUDGING. I call it DIAGNOSING." and is on a green shirt with white lettering. The second design reads, "Psychologists do it APA style" and is on a grey shirt with black lettering. Short-sleeve shirts are \$12, and long-sleeved shirts are \$15. Those interested in purchasing a shirt should contact Dr. Julia Robinson at [julia.robinson@eku.edu](mailto:julia.robinson@eku.edu). As always, thank you for supporting our local chapter.

### Let's Hear from Alumni

We love to hear from our alumni. After a rough past couple of years in publishing the PsyQ, we want to know what you have been up to so that we can include an alumni update section in the PsyQ. Please send us your updates by e-mailing Dan Florell at [dan.florell@eku.edu](mailto:dan.florell@eku.edu). You can also submit your updates to Dan Florell by accessing the Psychology Department at [www.psychology.eku.edu](http://www.psychology.eku.edu). This page will provide you with an Alumni link where the Alumni Questionnaire is located.