



EKU Psychology Department Newsletter

Eastern Kentucky University

Spring 2007

Virginia and Steve Falkenberg Retire

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Doctors Steve and Virginia Falkenberg, long time faculty in the Department of Psychology, have announced they will be retiring at the end of this academic year.

Dr. Virginia Falkenberg joined the Psychology faculty in 1973 and has taught courses in statistics, research methods, and personality throughout her career at ECU. Virginia spent 15 years working in administration (from 1985 – 1999) during which time she served the University in the role of Dean of the Graduate School and later as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. This past fall, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (the regional accrediting association for the university) honored Virginia with a meritorious service award. Upon completing her stint in administration, she returned to the department and continued to teach. She resumed her research in the area of Psychology of Women and earned the rank of Professor.

Virginia has been studying photography for several years and has been developing her skills in the darkroom and with digital color. After taking several photo courses, she has been successful in getting her work exhibited in a juried exhibition. Unfortunately, she has difficulty keeping her work available as her children and relatives have been claiming her photos for themselves.

Dr. Steve Falkenberg joined the Psychology faculty in 1974 and has taught courses in statistics, research methods, physiological psychology, and psychology of religion. His primary research has focused on police personnel systems and he has a number of publications with faculty from the College of Law enforcement. He holds the rank of full professor. Steve won the alumni association excellence in teaching award in 1987 and was selected as a foundation pro-

Virginia Falkenberg retiring after 34 years.



fessor (the highest honor awarded to faculty at Eastern Kentucky University) in 1999. In 1997, Steve enrolled in ECU as an undergraduate art major working on a degree in art. He will graduate this May with a BFA in painting. Steve teases that he is the college parent's worst nightmare; it has taken him so long to complete his degree that he will graduate and retire the same day. After graduation, Steve will devote full time to his career as an artist. His BFA senior show will open in the Giles gallery in the Campbell building on April 28.

Upon retirement, Steve and Virginia will be moving to the Dallas-Fort Worth area to be near family and friends.

Steve Falkenberg graduating and retiring on the same day, 33 years later.





Jim Batts retired in the Spring of 2005.

The EKU has been offering a psychology major for 40 years.

Is There a Life After Retirement? - Jim Batts

Dr. Jim Batts retired after the Spring 2005 semester. This is his report on how retirement has been treating him.

When I have been asked what I have been doing since retirement, I usually reply, *playing*. I ride my bike if the temperature is above 40 and the wind is less than 30 mph. I rode over 2800 miles this past year and in four different states. I am registered to ride in week long rides in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Iowa this summer.

Doug Hindman (retired EKU psychology professor) and I volunteered on a black bear preserve in Minnesota this past summer. We were also fortunate enough to participate in a canoe trip in the boundary waters.

I have also fished a little more this past year especially at Laurel Lake and Lake Cumberland. I have taken extended fishing trips to Tennessee, Louisiana, and Florida. I wish I could say I caught more fish. Gloria (Jim's wife) and I spend as much of our time as possible with the grandkids. We took

them to the Smokies for their fall break.

Professionally, I am working on a limited basis with Fayette and Jessamine County Schools, the Kentucky Department of Education, and on an EKU memorandum of agreement. I am chairing the National Association of School Psychologists Publication Board starting in July and I am currently co-chairing the Kentucky Psychologists Association's (KPA) fall conference program committee. I have enjoyed teaching a graduate course for UK and being able to supervise a couple of their interns and post-docs. I have been serving on a couple of state committees which has allowed me to stay abreast of professional issues. Gloria and I have enjoyed being involved in some local charities, service groups, and our county retired teachers association.

I think I am pretty good at retirement. I try to have priorities i.e., I try to not allow professional stuff to encroach on my play time.

Department Notes - Robert Brubaker

Welcome to the Spring, 2007, edition of the PsyQ. As you'll see, things are hopping in the Psychology Department. The biggest news is the impending retirement of the Drs. Falkenberg. There has been at least one Falkenberg in the department for nearly 35 years. When I meet psychology department alumni, one of their first questions is "How are the Falkenbergs?" Their distinguished records of teaching, scholarship, and service, and their dedication to EKU and our students are unmatched. We all wish them well in retirement.

Our students continue to make us proud. This year we have nearly 500 undergraduate majors and over 70 full-time graduate students. Abigail Head, an undergraduate, was recently named one of nine winners of the new Laura D. Kennamer Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes academic excel-

lence among students in the social and behavioral sciences and carries a \$6,000 award. Congratulations to Abby and to the department's other two nominees, Kaitlyn Placek and Jill Denney. Senior psychology major Amy Karbasi was awarded the 2007 College of Arts and Sciences' Dean's Award of Merit, won last year by our own Emily Bersaglia. The Dean's Award recognizes three students each year who have excelled academically and have made significant contributions to their disciplines.

I hope you enjoy the new PsyQ format. The editor-in-chief, Dan Florell, has updated the look and instituted a new feature spotlighting faculty research activities. Dan has also taken over responsibility for the department website. Please keep in touch and let us know what you're up to. It's always good to hear from our alumni.



Cammack Building—home to the psychology department.

Faculty Research

Is That Another Monkey in the Mirror?

Dr. Robert Mitchell and his graduate student Stephanie Macintosh have been working on a project concerning a long-tailed macaque's understanding of mirror reflections. Most ape species, and some cetaceans (dolphins and killer whales) and elephants respond to mirrors suggesting that they understand that the mirror image is of themselves. For example, they might use the mirror to look at parts of their body that they couldn't see without the mirror, like their rump.

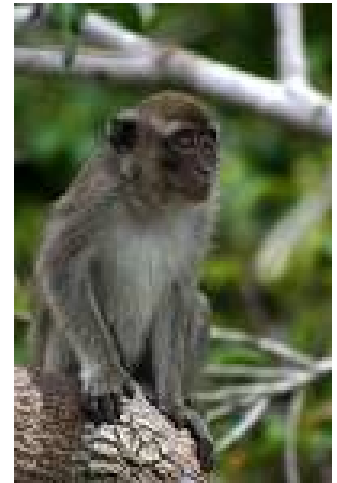
Macaques and other monkeys don't seem to recognize themselves in the mirror, so the question is, what do they see? Dr. Mitchell and Ms. Macintosh are exploring whether monkeys see a monkey, and how the monkeys interpret that monkey.

To that end, they are examining the responses of Rodrique, a long-tailed macaque, to mirror images in two kinds of mirrors: concave mirrors and flat mirrors. In a concave mirror, the image of the monkey seems to be upside down and inside the

bowl of the mirror, whereas in a flat mirror the image seems to be on the other side of the mirror.

They are working to analyze Rodrique's behaviors, which have been captured on videotape, to see if they can learn more about what he actually sees, rather than simply pointing out that he doesn't seem to recognize his own image as himself.

They are only in the preliminary stages of analysis, but Rodrique is showing interesting behaviors. He tries to reach behind the flat mirror, and he tries to groom the image in the concave mirror, even to the point of attempting to lick the image. Both actions suggest that he sees a 3-D monkey in the mirror, which he interprets as real. Stephanie will be looking into the grooming patterns of long-tailed macaques to see if they act differently toward male and female monkeys, in order to determine if Rodrique recognizes that the image is of a male monkey.



Long-tailed macaque

People work harder when considering how their goals are in the interest of their current relationships.

-Jon Gore

Motivation for Pursuing Goals - Jon Gore

Psychologists studying human motivation have found that our success depends on the reasons, or *motives*, we have for pursuing our goals. Although many people argue you should "do it for yourself," Dr. Gore's research suggests otherwise. He defines *relationally-autonomous reasons* (or *RARs*) as reasons for pursuing goals that reflect the interest of oneself and a close other (i.e., pursuing this goal for "us").

The results of his previous work have shown that people work harder and therefore attain what they have been striving for simply by considering how their goals are in the interest of their current relationships, which can include their friends, family

and/or romantic partner.

Currently, Dr. Gore and his researchers are investigating how pursuing goals for "us" can lead to the attainment of self-improvement goals. They believe that these findings have direct implications for psychotherapy, as well as for rehabilitation and exercise programs. This spring, three undergraduate research assistants from his lab will present some of their findings at the Student Conference for the Kentucky Psychological Association (KPA) in Lexington, and at the Undergraduate Presentation (UP) Showcase at Eastern Kentucky University.



Having motivation to pursue goals such as climbing a mountain.



Jon Gore joined the staff in the Fall of 2005.

New Faculty—Jon Gore

Jon Gore grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan and received his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Michigan. In 1999, he started his graduate training at Iowa State University where he conducted research with Dr. Susan Cross, and he earned his doctoral degree in 2005 with a minor in statistics.

Later that August, he began his career at Eastern Kentucky University as a social psychologist. His research interests include the self-concept, cultural psychology, goal motivation, and close relationships. His current research examines the influence of close others (i.e., family, friends, romantic partner) on people's goals to improve, the

processes through which the self-concept changes during times of transition (e.g., moving away to college), and regional predictors of collectivist/individualist subcultures within the United States.

Over the past 4 years, he has presented at the international conference for the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. He also teaches courses in research methods to undergraduates and social psychology for both undergraduate and graduate students. He and his wife, Kate, live in Lexington and enjoy dining out, concerts and the theater.



Julia Robinson joined the faculty in the Fall of 2006.

New Faculty - Julia Robinson

Julia Robinson joined the Psychology Department in Fall 2006. Prior to her appointment at Eastern Kentucky University, she was at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Louisville.

Her research interests include cognition, development, attention, and populations at-risk for developmental and academic delays. Specifically, much of her work has explored the relationship between attentional processes and parent-child interactions in children from low-income families, children who are deaf/hard-of-hearing, and children born prematurely.

New Faculty - Teri Nowak

Teri Nowak joined the Psychology Department as a school psychology faculty member in Fall 2006. Prior to ECU, she was the coordinator of a national research center through the University of Kentucky. Her degrees are from Southern Illinois University, Nicholls State University (Louisiana), and she is scheduled to defend her dissertation at the University of Kentucky this spring. Ms. Nowak's research interests include early childhood, special needs, temperament, and assessment.

She has over 20 years of work experience associated with people with disabilities and their families. The age range in which Ms. Nowak has worked is from pre-term infants to adults as a teacher, school psychologist, primary evaluator, program coordinator, and project coordinator.

The venues in which Ms. Nowak held these positions are equally varied, serving on local, regional, state and multi-state levels. Experiences include coordinator of a local interagency coordinating council for Louisiana's early intervention system as well as coordinating a school district's infant/toddler, preschool, and child find programs.

Ms. Nowak played a key role in opening up service delivery options in her school district from segregated preschool classrooms to offering a continuum of choices that included interagency agreements with a variety of community sites.

Before coming to ECU, Ms. Nowak was the project coordinator for the National Early Childhood Transition Center; a national research center focusing on school outcomes of young children with disabilities to preschool and to kindergarten.



Teri Nowak joined the faculty in the Fall of 2006.

New Faculty—Andrea Hale

Andrea Hale is in her second year as the School Psychology Program Coordinator at ECU. She graduated with a Bachelor's in psychology from ECU in 2000 and has enjoyed coming back home. After completing her bachelor's degree, Dr. Hale continued her education at the University of Tennessee. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the May Institute in Norwood, MA. Dr. Hale received her Ph.D. in August of 2005.

While at the May Institute she had an opportunity to work as a therapist and consultant for children diagnosed with autism. Dr. Hale consulted with both families and schools regarding the educational program for their child/student diagnosed with autism. She also had the opportunity to

provide direct therapy services to several children diagnosed with autism as well as one student diagnosed with traumatic brain injury. In addition, Dr. Hale conducted several diagnostic evaluations for this population of children as well. She continues to have an interest in working with this population, but has put this on hold while she pursues other areas of interest.

Her active line of research is targeted toward the investigation of new reading assessments that can be used for progress monitoring. Dr. Hale plans on extending this line of research to investigate the effectiveness of reading interventions. Other areas of interest include consultation, response to intervention, and positive behavior support.



Andrea Hale joined the staff in the Fall of 2005.

PsiChi and SEPA

Psi Chi, the national honor society in Psychology, and the Psychology Club have been busy with a variety of activities this year. The club includes over 50 members and two faculty advisors, Drs. Theresa Botts and Julie Robinson. Aside from monthly meetings and a variety of fundraisers, a group of students and Dr. Robinson traveled to New Orleans in February to attend the Southeastern Psychological Association's annual conference. Brandy Parker, a senior Psychology major and the chapter President, represented the University as she presented findings from two research projects that she was involved in this year. Aside from learning more about research currently being done in the field, the students were also able to network with students from other universities as well as take in many of the cultural experiences post-Katrina New Orleans had to offer.

Though the academic year is almost to an end, Psi Chi and the Psychology Club have a number of exciting activities scheduled for the end of the spring semester. In particular, the Chapter will continue fundraisers to support activities such as future conference attendance, award and grants programs, and various social and academic functions. Officer elections for the 2007-2008 year will take place in late March. Additionally, the club, with support from the Psychology Department, will host an Awards/Induction ceremony in April.



PsiChi students presenting at SEPA and enjoying New Orleans.



Graduate Program Updates



Dr. Brubaker awarding the trophy to the winner of the graduate psychology games.

I/O research from EKU has been cited on ABC News, CBS News and the Wall Street Journal



Graduate students at the beginning of the year graduate school picnic.

I/O Jerry Palmer – Coordinator

The I/O program has experienced several highlights over the past couple of years. With the recent departure of Eric Popp, the I/O program was able to hire Jaime Henning of Texas A&M University, and she will be starting at EKU in Fall 2007.

The I/O website was revised and now lists all alums and what they are currently doing. In addition, the number of graduate applicants have doubled since 2003.

The majority of I/O classes now have “real-world” projects. Recent clients for these projects include the Dept. of Workforce Education, Toyota Tsusho, Gearhardt Communications, St. Joseph Healthcare, the City of Richmond, Intertape Polymer, Osram Sylvania, and Tokiko. Stu-

dents have developed training courses, job interviews, performance appraisal systems, and disciplinary guidelines, among other projects.

In addition, second year students from the PSY 844 course developed study materials for the PHR certification exam. All of them intend to take the exam and our track record so far is good – all alums who have taken the exam have passed on the first try.

The media coverage of the research on credit reports in employee selection has picked up again. It was covered in January 2007 by, for example, the Christian Science Monitor, ABC News, CBS News, Wall Street Journal, and several blogs.

School Psychology Andrea Hale - Coordinator

The school psychology program is continuing to be a dynamic graduate program. We have made some changes in the program that are exciting for both us and our students.

Because of our dedication to increase the research activity of our students, during the Fall 06 semester we began having our students involved in research groups based on the students’ interests. Our students are gaining valuable hands-on-experience that is resulting in a variety of experiences (e.g., presentations, writing for publication, research data collection). We are excited by this new development and hope to see our students presenting in a variety of conferences as we gain momentum with this new research effort.

Our program has also recently received NASP approval until December of 2008. We are excited about this as well and will continue to strive to meet the requirements for NASP approval. We continue to

attract several good applicants each year and anticipate that our application numbers will continue to increase in both number and quality.

We currently have three full-time school psychology faculty which has shown itself to be a tremendous blessing to the continued development and growth of this program. We continue to make significant efforts in making sure our students are well-prepared for their future positions as school psychologists. We are providing training to our students that will benefit them greatly as we move into the Response to Intervention (RTI) model of service delivery.

Overall, the program is active and growing stronger each year. We continue to have numerous previous students serving as on-site supervisors for our practicum students. We are so appreciative of this service and it is wonderful to see our past students taking on such an important role.

General Psychology Robert Mitchell - Coordinator

The Psychology Department has recently begun an MS degree program in General Psychology. This program offers students advanced training in the core areas of psychology and the opportunity to develop and explore

specialized areas of interest. Students work closely with a faculty mentor to design an individualized course of study that combined classroom training and hands-on research experience.

Graduates will have a solid foundation for

pursuing doctoral-level training in psychology and related fields or for entry into a variety of work settings. So far we have one graduate, and two students working on projects in cognitive and comparative psychology.



Graduate students participating in the graduate program games at the beginning of the school year.

Clinical Psychology Don Beal - Coordinator

The Clinical Psychology Program continues to be a vibrant program featuring challenging academic classes, a variety of clinical training experiences involving the EKU Psychology Clinic along with exciting practicum and internship placements. Our graduates continue to do extremely well going on to a variety of academic and clinical positions.

In terms of clinical training, the EKU Psychology Clinic continues to offer a variety of challenging and exciting treatment experiences for our graduate

students. In addition to providing psychological assessment and treatment for children, adolescents, and adults, from the community, we have expanded our therapy programs to include several group programs at nearby nursing homes in the Richmond area. The Developmental Disabilities Clinic continues its active programs for individuals with Aspergers Syndrome and Autism, along with a variety of group programs for children and adolescents in nearby schools.

Our practicum placement pool continues

to expand. The newest addition to the practicum pool includes three positions at the Sanders-Brown Center for Aging at the University of Kentucky Medical Center where the students are gaining neuropsychological assessment skills.

Of the members of the 2006 graduating class, four have gone on to doctoral programs, with two in Clinical Psychology Ph.D. programs, and two in Counseling Psychology Ph.D. programs.

The Psychology Department has expanded its' graduate programs by adding the Master's in General Psychology.

Senior Psychology Major Presents at Posters-at-the-Capital

Amy Karbasi, senior Psychology major was awarded the William & Pauline Kapp Scholarship for high academic achievement award last year. In the fall, 2006 Amy completed a PSY 401 literature review project which focused on medical treatment compliance. This research was accepted for presentation at the Posters-at-the-Capitol Conference in Frankfort, KY. Posters-at-

the-Capitol is designed to celebrate the research, scholarly, and creative accomplishments of undergraduates at Kentucky's eight public universities and to provide legislators with the opportunity to better understand the importance of faculty mentored undergraduate scholarship to the overall education of Kentucky students.

Presenters at Posters-at-the-Capitol are se-

lected through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. Thus, it is quite an honor to be chosen to present. Currently Amy is expanding her research for her Honors Senior Thesis: *Interventions to Enhance Treatment Compliance in Patients with Schizophrenia*. Amy's future plans are to attend a doctoral program in clinical or counseling psychology, and then to work as a practitioner.



Amy Karbasi presented at the Posters at the Capital



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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 or sending us something in the mail.

Please include the following information.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Degree & Date of Graduation: _____

Professional/ Personal Accomplishments (OK to Publish in next PsyQ and department website: YES or NO)
