



Psychology News

Wichita State University Department of Psychology
Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Summer 2006

What's New For The Psychology Department: A Note From The Chair

Points of interest:

- We're accredited!
- Dr. James Snyder has received the Katherine & Edith Erker Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship!
- The Self-Help Network has relocated to a wonderful new space in downtown Wichita !
- Learn about our distinguished professor, Dr Elsie Shore, winner of the Carnegie Foundation Kansas Professor of the Year.
- Read about some of your fellow graduates! What are they up to now?
- **We need to hear from you for the next installment of Psychology News!**



Well, this is our first attempt at a newsletter! We are going to try to publish one every summer. As with this issue, we will be focusing on one faculty member, but the emphasis will be on you graduates. We really want to keep contact with you, and we thought this would help! If you move, would you please email your new contact information to Marci, marsyl.nelson@wichita.edu.

For those of you who haven't been around for a while, we now have three doctoral programs, Clinical, Community, and Human Factors. The HF program is accredited by HFES, and as of Spring 2005, the Clinical program is accredited by the APA.

There have been a few retirements lately, over the last year Drs. Greenberg and Turner, and next year, both Drs. Halcomb and Shore will retire. They're all going to be missed.

This newsletter is and will continue in the future to be done by a grad student. This year's editor is Carissa Coleman. Again, please keep us informed of your "whereabouts". We would love to hear from you!

-Charlie

One Woman, Many Hats

Dr. Elsie Shore is probably as many of you remember her. You can still find her running up and down the 4th floor hall as she works on her research or teaches class, having conversations with her colleagues, meeting with community members, or hanging out with her two dogs, Zoom Zoom and Dudley. Dr. Shore has worked for WSU for 25 years now. She originally joined the Psychology Department to work on substance abuse issues and still does through the substance abuse counselor training program, but after a sabbatical in 2000, she turned her attention to shelter animals and their impact on the community. Dr. Shore has volunteered for the Kansas Humane Society for nearly 20 years and is very committed to their efforts. Over the course of only six years she has done seven different studies that have increased community awareness, changed thinking in the shelters, and has significantly increased the literature in this area.



One of her most famous studies, "The Poop Study", examined dog illnesses in the shelter. She discovered that many of the illnesses for which the shelter was blamed were actually illnesses that the dogs contracted prior to entering the shelter and that the shelter itself was doing a good job containing the illnesses. Another set of studies examined why people relinquish their pets and what part attachment plays. What she discovered was that many people relinquish their pets because they are moving and have limited options. Many of these people do feel attached to their pets and care for them, but attachment does not keep the pet from relinquishment. In yet another study, Dr. Shore found that there are different behaviors associated with different levels of attachment. People who are more highly attached are more likely to take part in "luxury behaviors" such as giving the pet a holiday gift or doing agility work.

Continued to Page 2

In this issue:

What's New?	I
One Woman, Many Hats	I-2
Graduate Stories	2-3
More Contact Info	2-3



Judy and Marci with Elvis!

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Keep in Contact.

Next summer we hope to include more information about our graduates. Please keep Marci up-to-date. Let her know about what you are up to - where you are working, your family, etc. and provide us with an email where you would like to be contacted by fellow graduates and we will include it in the next newsletter. Email her any new information at: marsyl.nelson@wichita.edu or give her a call at: 316 978 3170. She would love to talk!

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We're on the Web!

psychology.wichita.edu

One Woman, Many Hats: Dr. Elsie Shore cont.

Dr. Shore has also examined why adoptions fail. A large part of failed adoptions are due to behavior problems exhibited by the newly adopted pets. However, these behavioral problems are for the most part fixable, but it seems that the new family is not willing or able to address the issue. Dr. Shore is currently analyzing the results of a study that examines when and where people would get help for their pet's behavioral problems. So far, it seems that people are willing to seek free information from the internet, but when it comes to paid services, people want personalized help.

Dr. Shore's current project, which is funded by the ASPCA, is called Pets Are Neighbors Too (PANT). It addresses spaying and neutering issues. The project is interested in finding a way to prevent unwanted animals and is focused on a long-term attitudinal change that connects pet ownership to spaying or neutering. Dr. Shore is working with two neighborhoods to learn what specific issues people have with spaying and neutering and then will create targeted interventions to address those issues.

As you can see, Dr. Shore is a busy woman, and on top of all this research, Dr. Shore was honored with the Carnegie Foundation award as the Kansas Professor of the Year. The Carnegie Foundation Award is a national foundation that acknowledges achievements in teaching and the support of higher education. Dr. Shore received the nomination from the Dean of WSU. Unfortunately, Dr. Shore was unable to accept the award in person in Washington, D.C. due to a broken airplane, but fortunately, Dr. Burdsal provided margaritas and the Psychology Department and the University were able to celebrate with her!

Sadly, this next school year will be Dr. Shore's last year with the Psychology Department. She will be "retiring" in May. Dr. Shore will not stop working, but instead, is looking to find a new career, a new passion, to add to her eclectic mix of interests. But for now, it's summer and Dr. Shore is enjoying it. She plans to take a road trip with her niece and nephew as well as spend some time in New Mexico.



Community Graduate: Megan O'Brien



Dr. Megan O'Brien graduated from the Community program in 2002. While completing her PhD, she also completed her MPH from KU Med. She then began a postdoctoral fellowship in Drug Dependence Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The job was supposed to be a two-year fellowship but she ended up staying for three. Megan thought it was an incredible experience and she really misses Hopkins. However, she is glad to be back in Kansas and is now working for KU's School of Social Welfare where she is revamping a large, annual statewide satisfaction survey of children's mental health services. She also plans to continue her work in drug dependence epidemiology. She is interested in looking at the epidemiology of methamphetamine use nationally and in Kansas and how it affects children and families.

Megan is now married to Jeff, who she met while working at KU Med. They have a son, Kevin, who is two. They have also been preparing for the birth of another son who just arrived July 7th who they named

Andrew. Megan is currently trying to balance her career and two young children, but Kevin, who Megan says is Mr. Personality, is very happy and Andrew is turning out to be a very good baby. Megan loves living in Lawrence and she and Kevin are enjoying lots of ice cream this summer down at Sal and Mattie's while they discuss Kevin's love of tractors and lawnmowers.



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Volume 1, Issue 1

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Wichita State University Psychology Faculty

- Paul Ackerman, HF
- Charles Burdsal, Com, Clin
- Alex Chaparro, HF
- Barbara Chaparro, HF
- Darcee Datteri, HF
- Darwin Dorr, Clin
- Charles G. Halcomb, HF
- Rhonda K. Lewis, Com, Clin
- Daniel S. McConnell, HF
- Louis Medvene, Com, Clin
- Greg J. Meissen, Com, Clin
- Edgar Merkle, HF
- Helen Reiner, Clinic Director
- Victoria Shaffer, HF
- Elsie R. Shore, Com, Clin
- James J. Snyder, Clin
- Robert Zettle, Clin

Find more information about the faculty including their emails by visiting our website at:
<http://psychology.wichita.edu>

Human Factor Graduate: Michael Bernard

Ahhhh New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment, made of beautiful high-desert mountains and wide-open spaces filled with the famous colors of the Southwest. This is the land where Dr. Michael Bernard now lives and works. Mike graduated from the Human Factors program in 2002 and now lives in Albuquerque, NM. After graduation, Mike took a post-doc with Sandia National Laboratories, which then hired him as full time. Sandia is a non-profit organization that is interested in the research and development of new technologies in the areas of energy and defense. Sandia is mainly funded by the government, but works with industry and academia in many area of research. Mike works specifically in the Cognitive and Exploratory Systems of Simulation Department, which is a newer department that began four years ago when Mike was hired. Currently, he is working on several projects with his team, which is made up of a variety engineers and several psychologists. Together they are trying to model and simulate human cognition for computer software.



On a personal note, Mike is now married to Jennifer, who is a graduate student in the Clinical program at University of New Mexico, and they have a 2 year-old son, Nathaniel. The three of them live on Albuquerque's eastern mountains in the village of Tijeras, and live yards from the Cibola National Forest where Mike enjoys mountain biking and hiking with his family. Mike and his family enjoy living in New Mexico and try to take advantage of its many offerings. Recently, they've been exploring Northern New Mexico where Santa Fe continues to be one of their favorites. However, this summer, Mike and Jennifer are taking Nathaniel to Florida to see the ocean for the first time. They are looking forward to a little rest and relaxation in the sun and surf.



Clinical Graduate: Katherine Mick

Dr. Katherine Mick seems to be a very non-traditional clinical psychologist, which is exactly what you would expect from a graduate from our unique program! Katharine graduated in 2005 from the Clinical program, but feels she has a degree in both clinical and community, and on top of that, Katharine was already a prescribing nurse practitioner when she entered into the program. After completing her community practicum, she split her internship between the Developmental Disability Unit at KU Medical Center in Kansas City and Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence where she provided therapy for children and families. While at KU Med, Katharine did testing and collected data for her dissertation, which is on autism. After Katharine finished her internship, she was hired at Prairie View in Newton where she finished her dissertation during her first year of full time work.

At Prairie View, Katherine has a variety of roles due to her unique qualifications. Currently, she provides outpatient therapy for children under six and their families. She also specializes in autism and is interested in increasing the pre-natal part of her practice. Also, because Katherine is also a licensed PRN, she is one of the few psychologists in the state that can prescribe medication if necessary. Katherine was also hired to pursue research opportunities and to develop new programs and is in the process of working on several grants.

Katherine's personal life is also busy, as you would expect. Katherine and her husband, Ted, have been living in Newton for some time now. Ted is working for the phone company and managing several properties in Larned. Ted and Katherine have four children who are all grown, and in fact, Katherine decided to pursue her PhD when she and Ted became "empty nesters". Katherine's oldest son, Chris, is getting married this fall to Shelby who is also a clinical psychologist. Katherine's daughter, Kelly, and her husband, Zach, live in Illinois and have Katherine's only granddaughter, Kiva, and are expecting another child this fall. Katharine's third child, second son, James is the Director of String Music for a nationally known middle school program in Plano, TX. Lastly, Katherine's youngest, Daniel, has worked with Mother Teresa in India and is living in Japan and teaching English. So when Katherine is not working or keeping track of her large and very talented family, she is quilting which she loves. In fact, her last statement to me was "There's a big quilt show in Wichita this weekend and I hope I can make it, but I don't know." Imagine that.