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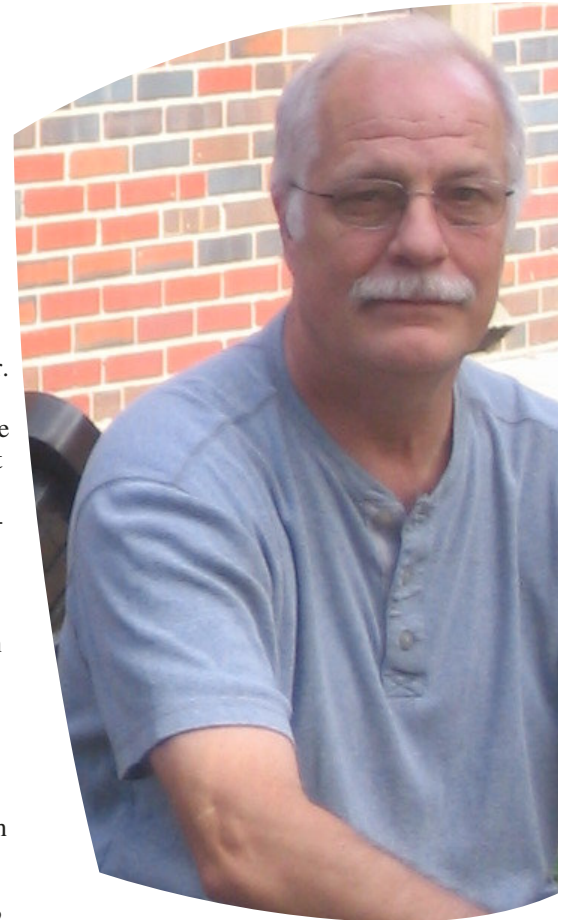
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Psychology News

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
 FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
 SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Summer 2007

Distinguished Professor: Dr. James Snyder



This year marks Dr. James Snyder's 30th year with the psychology department, and fittingly he has been awarded the Katherine & Edith Erker Distinguished Professorship. A portion of the funding for that award will be used to fund his large research lab and numerous studies that focus on the socialization of children and the development of aggression and delinquency. Dr. Snyder came to WSU in 1977 when the psychology department was mainly focused on undergraduate education. Dr. Snyder taught psychology of women, individual differences, and general psychology. Prior to coming to WSU, Dr. Snyder provided clinical services at a residential treatment center for juveniles in upstate New York as well as provided family therapy. He came to WSU to pursue teaching and to begin his research in

prevention and intervention of child and adolescent conduct problems. Locally, Dr. Snyder has worked with Kansas SRS to develop a service model that provided case management for children and families that included in-home therapy and crisis management. He has also worked as a consultant with Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Sedgwick County.

With an increased interest in research, Dr. Snyder began writing grants in collaboration with colleges at the Oregon Social Learning Center and University of Oregon. This partnership led to a NIMH grant to develop and evaluate an intervention that added a sibling-focus to behavioral family interventions for children with conduct problems. Dr. Snyder was also

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New Beginnings In The Clinic

This year we welcomed Dr. Helen Reiner as our new clinic director. Her arrival has been much anticipated and everyone is very excited about her leadership role in the clinic. Dr. Reiner has been a part of the Wichita community for over 20 years now. She came to Wichita via New York to work as an Assistant Professor in the Counseling, Education and School Psychology program. Later she opened a private practice and worked in the community with a number of organizations including Charter Hospital. Just prior to her move

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Dr. James Snyder

awarded a NIMH grant to complete the School Transition Project. The School Transition Project, nicknamed Oz, was a longitudinal study that followed a group of children from age 5 to age 10. The study examined social relational risk factors and processes in family and peer environments that increment risk for the development of conduct problems, anxiety, and depression.

One central finding from Oz that has led to further research was peer deviancy training. Along with his colleague, Dr Lynn Schrepferman, Dr. Snyder found that children as young as 5 engage in talk about drugs, sex and aggression during peer interaction that is not monitored by adults. Children who frequently participate in this type of verbal interaction are at increased risk for early and persisting conduct problems. Another major finding from Oz concerned peer aggression and victimization. Peer aggression occurs with very high frequency on school playgrounds, and some children develop a trait-like status as victims during kindergarten and first grade which predicts later depression and conduct problems. Currently, Dr. Snyder and Dr. Schrepferman are utilizing repeated events completing risk hazard analysis to examine events that occur in ongoing social interactions with a specific interest in the expression of emotion in the parent-child interaction. It appears that the child's negative emotions can be exacerbated by parents' coercive discipline and negative responses to such emotions. Children's risk for aggression and for lying and stealing is increased by parent-child interaction characterized by high rates of coercive discipline and negative emotion. The next steps in these analyses will extend the analyses of angry and coercive interaction to risk for depression and to peer interaction. Drs. Snyder and Schrepferman are currently seeking funding to assess these children and their families again at ages 15-16 years.

With all this going on, Dr. Snyder has found time to relax this summer. He and his wife have just returned from Germany where they spent two weeks visiting their son, John, who is a Fulbright Teaching Scholar and teaches English outside of Mainz. His middle daughter, Liz, is getting married this summer and will continue to work on her PhD. in social work. Dr. Snyder also plans to enjoy his garden this summer where he grows vegetables, and spend time with eldest daughter, Abby, and his granddaughter, Jane Sophia who live here in Wichita. Overall, Dr. Snyder enjoys his life and work at WSU and wishes to extend his thanks to Dr. Schrepferman and all his graduate students as well as the psychology department for all their support. He enjoys teaching, working in the community, providing clinical services, and research. He is also very grateful for the Erker Distinguish Professorship and plans to put it to good use, which of course, we know he will!



Dr. Helen Reiner

as clinic director, Dr. Reiner was the program/clinical/executive director of Three Trees, a center for grieving children and their families, providing peer support services, training and education regarding grief and loss. Dr. Reiner's main focus has always been children and families, but she is also experienced in community involvement, program development, and training.

As clinic director, Dr. Reiner will help train the clinical students by teaching the practicum class as well as providing individual weekly supervision to clinical students. She also plans to further develop the clinic by increasing the referrals for therapy as well as assessment, in order to give the students greater opportunities to practice their skills before starting their internships. She would also like to market the clinic more effectively within the community in order to increase the clinic's visibility as an affordable means of receiving therapy. So far, this first year has been quite successful in getting the clinic up and running and Dr. Reiner is looking forward to the year ahead and to being part of the WSU community.

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Human Factors

This Year

Dr. Charles Halcomb retired this year to his new home in Lubbock, Texas and Dr. Alex Chaparro is now the HF program coordinator. The level of external funding for projects has grown considerably this year. One project involves the modernization of UAV operator crew stations. This includes addressing human-machine interaction (HMI) issues such as the ergonomics of the operator station and transitioning to a graphics-based user interface. A second project explores the optimal interface for remote controlled weapons and a third is a review of Human Factors related problems associated with the failure of inspectors to detect cracks in aircraft structures during non-destructive inspection. A fourth project has been with Microsoft investigating the legibility of fonts. A fifth project involves the optimization of input devices for remote control defensive weapons. Dr. B. Chaparro's Software Usability Research Lab also has done several usability evaluations for Fortune 500 company websites and has published two issues of *Usability News* (www.usabilitynews.org).

Three new faculty members have also been hired:

Dr. Victoria Shaffer came to the program in 2005. Her research area is judgment and decision making. Specifically, much of her work has focused on the use of decision aids in medicine. Her recent papers have looked at how patients perceive the use of diagnostic decision aids by primary care physicians and the effect these diagnostic decision aids may have on medical malpractice verdicts.

Dr. Edgar Merkle has been a visiting professor since 2005, but will now be full-time in the fall. He is currently working on a number of projects involving tree-based statistical methods, Bayesian analysis, and cognitive models of confidence and choice. His collaborative projects include tree-based methods for examining font legibility with Dr. B. Chaparro, along with signal detection models for non-destructive aircraft inspection with Drs. A. Chaparro and Shaffer.

The newest hire is Dr. Evan Palmer who will be starting in the fall. His research area is visual perception and cognition. He was recently at Harvard University and is the recipient of the 2006 Young Investigator Award for the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

Graduate Interview: Dr. Joe Ludlum

Dr. Joe Ludlum was not a typical HF student. In fact, he is not what most of us at WSU would consider your run of the mill HF psychologist. Joe graduated from the Human Factors program in December of 2002. His first job after graduation was being full-time Dad to his baby girl, Lizzie. Lizzie was born to Joe and his wife Jennie in January 2003. These two met during graduate school in a neurology class here at WSU. Jennie also graduated in 2002 from the Communication Sciences and Disorders Program and was hired by a hospital in Pennsylvania as a speech pathologist. After a year or so, the family moved to Atlanta where Joe took a job in administration with the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Joe is currently the Coordinator of Survey Research for the Office of Assessment at Georgia Tech. In this role, he is responsible for assessing the quality and evaluating the effectiveness of a variety of academic programs and initiatives within the institution. From an evaluator's perspective the graduating students are both consumers of the education programs, as well as "products". The institution's goal then is to insure that the students are satisfied with their education and their experiences at Georgia Tech and that the institution's product is of the highest quality and is performing well in the environment it was intended. In his role as an evaluator, Joe creates and manages the system that tracks this type of data as well as analyzes it on an ongoing basis.

Joe's Human Factor experience serves him well at Georgia Tech. The university's main focus is science and technology and Joe's education in HF allows him to effectively work in this environment. Not only has it given him the perspective to communicate effectively with the faculty, which consists mostly of engineers, it has also given him the tools to make whatever he is doing work that much better. Even though this is not a typical HF job, Joe enjoys the work. He enjoys the applied research setting where he works with people and systems, and he really loves working with data and playing with the numbers.

Lizzie is now four and remains the main focus of her parents' attention. Joe says she loves anything Disney and the family has been to Disney World three times in the last two years. They all enjoy living in Atlanta and Jennie now works for the public school system. When asked about his hobbies, Joe just laughed and said, "I have a four-year-old!" Even still, they are working on home improvements and Joe is sharing his love of rats with Lizzie. As some of you may know, Joe started keeping rats as pets during graduate school and has had a colony of three ever since. He has also started collecting rat memorabilia. Joe says it will be a couple of years before Lizzie can have her own rat, but he's excited about sharing the experience with her. Although Joe might have rather unusual taste in pets and has an atypical HF job, Joe has made a career for himself doing what he likes.



What's New?

Members of the Community program just returned from The Society for Community Research and Action -Community Psychology (SCRA) biennial conference that was held this summer in California. This year's focus was diversity and social justice which was well received and enjoyed by all. The WSU Community Psychology Doctoral program was well represented by both the professors and the graduate students, as there were more presentations and posters from WSU than any other university except DePaul University. Our doctoral program is considered one of the strongest in the county and is recognized as so by others in the field. The next SCRA conference is the International conference that will be held June 2008 in Lisbon, Portugal. All are invited to attend and can find out more information from the website, www.scra27.org. Membership to SCRA is also available which is particularly inexpensive for students and everyone should be on the SCRA list serve, as it is full of great discussion and lots of information about career and jobs.

As far as new developments in the Community program itself there are many. Dr. Ronda Lewis-Moss is

the new Community Coordinator and is focusing her efforts on recruitment. The program plans to expand recruiting by increasing the visibility of community psychology to undergraduates by utilizing a variety of media and by possibly creating a community psychology emphasis here at WSU. We are also interested in expanding the diversity of the recruits as well as possibly adding a Community professor to the program. As far as her own personal research goes, Dr. Lewis-Moss is working with Kansas Gear Up which is a program that helps foster children learn about and attend college. She is also working with the Department of Justice on a project called Weed and Seed, which is aimed at reducing crime and increasing prevention programs.

Dr. Medvene's lab is working on identifying the set of skills that are associated with excellence in caregiving. They are looking at the communication skills and ways of understanding social interactions exhibited by outstanding geriatric nurse aides. Working with the Wichita Area Technical College and Larkfield Place, they are using the findings of their research to design and implement training materials. In the future they plan on working with employers of caregivers to see if we can identify person perception skills, which are predictive of excellence in caregiving.

Dr. Meissen's research team is involved in a number of studies around mental health consumer run organizations (CRO) and the Self-Help Network provides capacity building and leadership development assistance to these 25 very special mutual-help organizations statewide. They are currently working on a 3 year research grant funded jointly by NIMH & SAMSHA to determine components of CRO that

could be considered best practices in helping members in their recovery. A new project is starting in the fall that includes education for mental health consumers to become Certified Peer Specialists who will work in mental health centers as full time staff which is one of the first in the country and research on the impact will be conducted at the individual, organizational and systems level. The research team is also involved in another statewide project attempting to understand how to enhance the after-school programs from a settings perspective, which is funded by the WT Grant Foundation.

Graduate Interview: Elizabeth Ablah

Dr. Elizabeth Ablah comes from a long line of Wichitians who are concerned about this community and its residents. She is carrying on this legacy in her tenure track position at the University of Kansas School of Medicine's Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Ablah graduated from the Community program in 2005 and received a Masters of Public Health from KU Med in 2004. Elizabeth's main interest is in health promotion. For her dissertation, she examined the factors that limit healthy eating and physical activity for WIC participants.

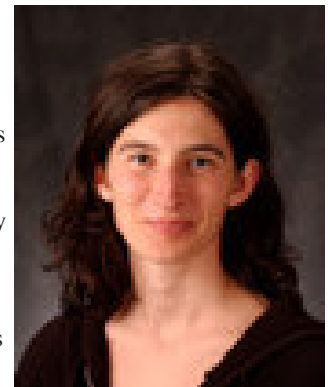
Currently at KU Med, Elizabeth teaches a variety of classes including Management of Public Health Data, Scientific Writing, Community Nutrition, and Program Development and Management. She is also the program director for Emergency Preparedness. In this role she is working with KU Med Kansas City and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to evaluate continuing education trainings for health professionals in emergency preparedness. She is also working with a number of universities in New York including Columbia University to evaluate similar trainings there. Lastly, she is also working to provide and evaluate preparedness training for low-income community health care facilities across the nation as part of the National Training Strategy.

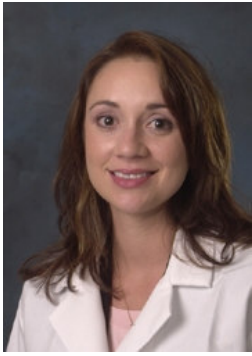
Elizabeth has also been involved with numerous other projects in her role as a public health educator and evaluator. She has continued her work in health promotion by partnering with Healthy Congregations in Action and Walkin' Wichita. Together and along with the individual congregations, they create and evaluate long-term interventions designed to increase the health of their members. Elizabeth has also partnered with Dr. Kore Liow, a leading epilepsy specialist, to examine a variety of issues surrounding epilepsy. These include: prevalence in rural Kansas communities, physical activity, quality of life, alternative medicines, surgery options, and the usage and effect of generic medications.

On a personal note, Elizabeth is living happily in Wichita with her puppy, Obie. She enjoys quality time with her family and volunteers at the Lord's Diner. She has started kickboxing again and is also starting to learn how to play golf. Elizabeth has a wide variety of interests and enjoys helping others. She is looking forward to continuing her work at KU Med and is looking to promote health in Wichita, in Kansas, and beyond.



Community





Graduate Interview:

Dr. Mariann Suarez

In 2001, after completing an APA approved internship in clinical psychology at Boys and Girls Town USA, Nebraska, Dr. Mariann Suarez graduated from the Community-Clinical program (back in the day when training was in both disciplines). She then was accepted for an APA accredited two-year post doctoral fellowship in Clinical

Psychology, specializing in Pediatrics/Child Maltreatment at the Center of Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. On her fellowship, she worked on a federally funded demonstration project, the Infant Parenting Program, a comprehensive treatment program for court mandated, pregnant women and parents of infants who were prenatally exposed to alcohol and drugs and their children. During this time, she became part of the International Association of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT). Dr. Suarez led an outcome trial investigating the effects of Motivational Interviewing (MI) on parents' use of illicit substances, participation, and adherence with treatment. While completing her fellowship, Dr. Suarez became engaged to Dr. Mike Schoenberg, (a WSU graduate), whom was also completing a post doctoral fellowship at OUHSC in Clinical Neuropsychology.

After getting married in 2003, Mariann and Mike moved to Cleveland, Ohio after he accepted a faculty position at Case Western Reserve University (CASE) School of Medicine. A quick update on Dr. Schoenberg is as follows. He is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at University Hospitals Case Medical Center and CASE, became board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology in 2005 and this winter will be publishing his first book, *The Black Book of Clinical Neuropsychology*.

In 2004, Dr. Suarez also became faculty at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at MetroHealth Medical Center, a tertiary teaching hospital for disadvantaged populations. She is also an Assistant Professor of Psychology for the Clinical and Pediatric Psychology doctoral programs at Case Western Reserve University. Her primary clinical responsibilities are working with medically fragile and developmentally disabled children and their families. She also treats children exposed to trauma, and is investigating the effects of MI with children that are obese. She enjoys working in the Department of Pediatrics, being able to collaborate with different specialty providers and providing direct patient contact in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Dr. Suarez's secondary responsibilities are in teaching and service. Her teaching responsibilities include the instruction and



New Developments

Certainly the biggest news from the Clinical program is that we are now APA Accredited. This distinction is very important as many of you know, but most notably it will help with recruitment as well as provide a wider array of internship opportunities and job possibilities for our graduates. APA was impressed with the community-clinical philosophy of the program and we were accredited for five years as of 2005 which is excellent considering most "new" schools are usually only accredited for three. We are also very proud that our graduates are scoring in the upper quartile on the national licensure exam and are doing as well as other graduates in the state. This academic year there were 6 new graduates and we are working on hiring a new faculty member to replace Dr. Shore who retired in May.

Dr. Dorr's lab is continuing their work in psychometrics with adult and adolescent psychiatric inpatients at KU Med. Currently, they are working on the discriminate validity of the MMPI-II. They are examining the new Restructured Clinical Scales and have found them to be distinct as well as heterogeneous. The next step will be a concurrent validity study to compare the restructured clinical scales of the MMPI-II to the original scales and the MMCI-III. They hope that these new restructured clinical scales will be cleaner and increase the overall validity of the MMPI.

Dr. Zettle's lab is examining the relative efficacy of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) vs. cognitive therapy in treatment of depression as well as conducting more basic research investigating core processes that contribute to both the maintenance and alleviation of human suffering. Much of this latter work involves comparing how subjects who vary in their levels of experiential avoidance respond to and cope with psychologically challenging situations such as procedures that induce physical pain, dysphoria, and other forms of emotional distress. Other happenings in the department include: the new clinic director, Dr. Helen Reiner, and Dr. James Snyder's work which are both highlight in separate articles in the newsletter. Overall the Clinical program is thriving and we are very proud of all the new developments and achievements of the faculty, graduates, and students!

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Highlights

Research from Current Students

Human Factors: Dawn Shaikh

Dawn graduated in May 2007 and will be working for Google in Kirkland, WA as a User Experience Researcher in late September. Here is a summary of her dissertation research:

Three studies investigated the perception of onscreen typefaces. The first study investigated the perceived personality of 40 typefaces using 15 semantic differential scales. The results of a factor analysis revealed 3 correlated factors (Potency, Evaluative, and Activity) that explain the perception of onscreen typeface personalities. Participants also rated each typeface on perceived legibility. Results indicated that serif and sans serif typefaces are perceived as more legible than display and script/handwriting typefaces. In Study 2, participants used a paired comparison methodology to determine the appropriateness of typefaces on a variety of onscreen documents. The results of this study were Thurstone Scale Scores that indicate the position of several typefaces on appropriateness continuums. General results imply that for documents such as website ads, the most appropriate typefaces have personalities that are somewhat congruent with the featured product's personality. For all other onscreen documents (assignments, email, resume, spreadsheet, and website text) the most appropriate typefaces were those that were also high in perceived legibility (serif and sans serifs). Study 3 examined three aspects of six onscreen documents (website ads, assignments, email, resumes, spreadsheets, and website text): personality of the document, perception of the author's ethos, and participant's typeface preferences. The personality of the typeface was found to influence the Potency and Activity scores of the document's perception. The level of typeface appropriateness was more likely to affect the document's score on the Evaluative factor. The ethos of the author was negatively affected by using an inappropriate typeface. For the website text and resume, the perception of the author was negatively affected by both the neutral and the inappropriate typeface. On the website ad, participants preferred both the neutral and appropriate typeface almost equally. On the other 5 documents, the appropriate typeface was most preferred.

Community: Hannah Wolcott

Hannah Wolcott finished her practicum last fall and is working on developing ideas for her dissertation. She is interested in examining the communication and caregiving skills of medical students and the RCQ. Here is a summary of her Master's thesis.

Recent research suggests that effective communication between residents and certified nurse aides (CNAs) can improve the quality of care residents receive, as well as the CNAs level of job satisfaction. In this study, sixteen "outstanding" CNAs were identified and recruited from seven nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Ninety-minute digitally recorded interviews focused on information concerning CNAs' use of verbal and non-verbal communication behaviors and strategies. Few studies have focused on verbal and non-verbal behaviors with this population. Through these interviews, the present study found that many of the behaviors CNA's described using when working with residents were similar to behaviors found in doctor/patient interactions and nurse/patient interactions. Additionally, CNA's described using behaviors similar to those identified by Carl Rogers regarding person-centered care (ex: giving positive regard and giving choices). Results identified useful communication behaviors, which are teachable to CNA students for caregiving and relationship building.

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Highlights Continued

Clinical: Sonya Padilla

Sonya Padilla is working with Dr. Dorr and the UKSM-Wichita/WSU Research Colloabroative on her dissertation proposal. Her dissertation is a concurrent validity study examining the MMPI-2 Restructured Scales and the MCMI-III scales. Her Master's thesis, which is summarized below, examined the relationship between psychosis and psychopathy among adolescents and has been accepted at the APA National Convention this August in San Francisco.



Patterns of covariation between Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-Adolescent psychotic-like and psychopathic-like scales and Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory psychopathic-like scales were examined. Of the 329 adolescent inpatient sample, 143 were male. Age ranged from 13 to 18 years. Ethnic demographics were: 86% Caucasian, 8% African American, and 5% Hispanic. Maximum Likelihood with an oblique promax rotation was conducted. Five criteria were used to determine the appropriate number of factors to rotate. This lead to the most satisfactory solution constructed of four factors, which were General Psychoticism, Psychopathy, Delinquency Without Distress, and Delinquency With Distress. The results indicate no link between dimensions of psychopathy and psychoticism. However, the results indicated clear evidence of the multiplicity of dimensions of adolescent acting out behavior.

Dr. Suarez

supervision of cognitive behavior therapy and motivational interviewing to medical students, Pediatric medicine residents (MD's) and fellows (MDs) and psychology doctoral students. She is evaluating the short and long-term outcomes of MI skills acquisition and clinical utilization in a sample of Pediatric medicine residents whom complete a 4 week seminar in MI. For the Department of Pediatric Psychology, she teaches a course in MI, and provides clinical supervision to doctoral students each year during their clinical practicum at the hospital. Other responsibilities involve serving on the MetroHealth Medical Center Institutional Review Board (IRB) and providing services in Spanish to patients and their families.

In addition to her teaching interests, Mariann's research centers on MI. She has published on the topic and has recently been contacted to edit a book on Motivational Interviewing with children and families (currently in the proposal stage). Dr. Suarez has given invited workshops at national and international conferences on the application of MI to children and families, as well as numerous regional presentations on MI to a variety of community agencies in Ohio and Michigan.

Other exciting news includes board certification in Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) in 2006 and becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology in 2007. The last couple of years have been busy for both Mariann and Mike, but they find time to relax and be together. They enjoy traveling and this spring vacationed in the Caribbean, which was well deserved!

Psychology News



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