As my first year as Psychology Department chair comes to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the positive changes we have experienced. The budget has imposed challenges, but staff, faculty and students have all stepped up in ways that I very much appreciate.

For example, we launched a new online office services system that helps fewer staff members to accomplish jobs more efficiently and without compromising quality. In numerous areas, individuals have adapted to doing more with less, and I am grateful that they have done so with extremely few complaints and often a sense of humor.

This good cheer was particularly needed as the university switched to a new electronic system for processing financial and human resource work. It required a huge amount of preparation and training during the fall and resulted in much frustration during the spring semester. However, things are improving, and I want to thank everyone for their patience and the staff especially for their hard work.

We have added two online courses for the summer – Psychology 290 (Psychology Careers), and a new section of 382 (Business Psychology Internship). Psychology 290 was taught during the academic year, but the switch to a summer online format should provide increased flexibility for students who want to take this elective course. This move will also allow our undergraduate advisors, who teach it, more time to focus on other duties during the school year. We have long had a human services internship course, but the addition of a section focused on organizational psychology will provide exciting new opportunities for undergraduates to obtain first-hand experience in places such as DTE Energy in Detroit, Multi Packaging Solutions in Lansing, Burcham Hills Retirement Community in East Lansing, and other settings across the state.
Chair’s Report: Continued ...

One area in which we have resources is the Michigan Twins Project, run by Drs. Kelly Klump and Alex Burt. The university has provided funds that will allow new families to be recruited into this registry that supports work in a range of important health-related areas. It is used by researchers across the MSU campus, and allows them to isolate critical genetic and environmental factors associated with mental health and other disorders.

This year has certainly been demanding in a number of ways for members of the department and families across Michigan. However, I have been impressed with the grace and courage with which people have embraced change, and am excited about new opportunities that are beginning to arise as we find creative solutions in difficult times.

Support Your Alma Mater

Higher education faces a fiscal crisis and MSU is no exception. Now, more than ever, we need the financial support of our friends and alumni. If you visit our web page (http://psychology.msu.edu), you will see a link for Direct Giving. When you click this link, you will be on your way to a secure, encrypted, University Development page that will allow you to make a credit card donation to the Psychology Department at MSU. You can give to the department or to one of the six new funds to support a specific program group.

Thank you for your generosity.
When it comes to the personality of relationship partners, do “birds of a feather flock together” or do “opposites attract?” Many people have the intuition that personality similarity affects the quality of romantic relationships in one of two ways. According to “birds-of-a-feather” perspective, relationship partners who have similar personalities may be particularly likely to agree with one another about hobbies and activities that they find desirable. In addition, they may face day-to-day problems and major life challenges with similar strategies and outlooks. If so, this similarity might be associated with better relationship outcomes such as higher relationship satisfaction and lower risk of divorce. In contrast, the “opposites attract” perspective suggests that different personalities might complement one another. For instance, a dominant person who is paired with a submissive partner may experience less conflict than she or he would if paired with an equally dominant person. Such questions about the interplay between the personalities of two individuals involved in a romantic relationship have interested psychologists for many years. In addition, these issues have applied implications, as the strategies used by dating websites such as eHarmony.com are sometimes based on the idea that better personality matches result in better relationship outcomes.

Recently, Dr. Portia Dyrenforth, a graduate of the Social/Personality Program at Michigan State, along with MSU Professors Brent Donnellan, Debby Kashy, and Richard Lucas, published the most comprehensive examination of this issue ever conducted. In their article (published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and recently featured in the *Washington Post*; see http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/19/AR2010111903852.html), they examined how personality characteristics were related to relationship satisfaction and life satisfaction in a sample of over 11,000 married couples from Germany, Australia, and the United Kingdom. The study, based on Dr. Dyrenforth’s dissertation, found that although people’s personalities mattered for relationship and life satisfaction, these effects were not due to personality similarity. Instead, personality traits had more direct associations with relationship satisfaction and general well-being. This research is important because it shows that personality does play a role in consequential outcomes like life and relationship satisfaction: People who are more extraverted, agreeable, conscientious, and emotionally stable are happier in these domains, and people whose partners are more agreeable and emotionally stable are also happier. Importantly, this research also shows that personality similarity plays a very small role, if any, in subjective relationship outcomes such as relationship and life satisfaction. Future research will be required to determine whether more objective outcomes such as eventual divorce relate to personality traits in the same way. Fortunately, the data from this study come from ongoing longitudinal studies. Therefore, Dr. Dyrenforth and her colleagues may be able to answer this question very soon.
Sarah Reed (Ecological-Community doctoral student) was awarded the inaugural Joseph White Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award from the Center for Multicultural Psychology Research. The award was given for her Master’s thesis entitled: “The pregnancy experiences and motivations of young Black women who have sex with women.” Sarah currently has two “in press” publications accepted from her Master’s thesis project:


Research studies have found that young women who have sex with women (YWSW) are disproportionately likely to experience adolescent pregnancy, repeat pregnancy, and parenting. Sarah’s thesis was the first qualitative examination of the procreative experiences and motivations of YWSW. Using grounded theory, Sarah examined the pregnancy experiences and desires of 14 Black YWSW, ages 16 to 24, who were part of a lesbian community that participants spoke of as having familial-like qualities. Because communities have different norms and expectations regarding pregnancy and parenting, Sarah explicitly examined the ways in which the lesbian community discourse surrounding sex, sexuality, and gender, impacted reproductive decisions and feelings. Community sexual and gender norms profoundly impacted the pregnancy, mothering, and parenting experiences of YWSW within this community. In particular, participants used pregnancy and parenting experiences as ways of negotiating and contesting aspects of young women’s developing sexual and gender(ed) identities. Feminine lesbians as young as 15 became pregnant through sexual intercourse with males who they referred to as “sperm donors.” For these young women, pregnancy affirmed their sexual and gender identity, pleased their same-sex partners, and provided them with sexual and reproductive agency. Their pregnancy experiences contradict the belief that YWSW seek or value pregnancy because it provides access to heterosexual privilege. In contrast, for masculine lesbians, pregnancy and traditional mothering was a sexually transgressive act because it required behavior (e.g., sex with males) and a role (e.g., mother) that did not align with their identity standards. These YWSW preferred to be “baby’s daddies” (e.g., non-biological parents) because it did not violate codes of gendered behavior and provided them with a rewarding role through which to enact masculinity. Sarah considered the ways in which this community negotiated and contested identity vis-à-vis pregnancy and parenting through the lenses of heterosexual immersion, social valorization theory, and social categorization theory. In addition, she used an intersectional framework that addressed the multiplicative forms of oppression (e.g., socioeconomic, racial, sexual orientation) participants faced as they considered their pregnancy and parenting options.

Sarah’s chairperson for her Master’s thesis was Dr. Robin Miller, and her other committee members were Drs. Rebecca Campbell and Tina Timm.
The CMPR is completing its fourth year of operation and I am happy to report several significant developments. With income generated by the APA Advanced Training Institute, we have been able to permanently endow the CMPR Annual Distinguished Lecture in Multicultural Psychology. Dean Baba also made a significant contribution to the CMPR Endowment to help make this possible. We also received contributions from individual faculty and these are acknowledged on our CMPR website.

On April 1, 2011 we had Professor Ed Diener from the University of Illinois present the 2011 Annual Distinguished Lecture on Multicultural Psychology. The topic of his presentation was “Culture and Happiness Around the World.” Continuing with our tradition, we will be adding the video of Professor Diener’s presentation to our website to the previous Annual Distinguished Lecture videos.

Thanks to the work of our awards committee (Brent Donnellan and Rich Lucas as Co-Chairs, and NiCole Buchanan), we also presented our CMPR Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award at the beginning of this year’s Annual Distinguished Lecture. However, this year we had a special guest to make the presentation. Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Professor Joseph L. White, we have also been able to permanently endow our student award which will henceforth be renamed as the Joseph L. White Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award. We were very pleased that Professor White was able to join us to present the inaugural Joseph L. White Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award. Joe is the first African American graduate of our Clinical program and one of the co-founders of the Association of Black Psychologists. He is Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of California at Irvine. More details on Joe’s background can be found on our website.

As before, the winner of the student award received a monetary award and an award certificate. In addition, the winner will be listed on a plaque to be placed in our departmental display case on the first floor and also on our website.

This year’s winner of the Joseph L. White Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award was Sarah J. Reed for her research project entitled "The Pregnancy Experiences and Motivations of Young, Black Women Who Have Sex with Women." The project was completed under the direction of Dr. Robin Miller of our Ecological-Community Psychology program.

Our next major event is the 4th APA Advanced Training Institute on Research Methods with Diverse Racial and Ethnic Groups on June 21-24, 2011. APA has continued the funding for this week-long training program which is directed by me, hosted by the CMPR, and held at the Kellogg Center. Several of our CMPR core faculty also serve as lecturers for this program. The ATI has been so successful that APA increased the class size from 30 to 35 participants this year.

Finally, our other major event is the biennial MSU Symposium for Multicultural Psychology which has been scheduled for Fall 2011. The theme for this year’s symposium is “Occupational Health Disparities among Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups”. A volume from the 2011 conference will be published in the MSU Symposium Book Series. The 2011 MSU Symposium has been funded by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and we are happy to announce that Dr. John Howard, Director of NIOSH will be one of our keynote speakers. The MSU Julian Samora Research Institute, under the directorship of Professor Ruben Martinez is a co-sponsor of this Symposium.
Organizational Psychology Professor Ann Marie Ryan recently received MSU’s Distinguished Faculty Award, an honor bestowed annually to recognize faculty’s “outstanding total service to the University.” No one in the department was surprised by this news, as Ann Marie is a leading international scholar in organizational psychology. Her research interests are focused on diversity and justice in the workplace and improving the quality and fairness of employee selection procedures. She has made significant contributions to work-family conflict, cultural values as they impact selection procedures, applicant reactions to employment practices and the role of stereotypes in employment decisions.

Ann Marie is past president of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology and past editor of Personnel Psychology. She also has served in an advisory capacity to many private and public organizations, including the National Academy of Sciences and the Defense Advisory Committee on Military Personnel Testing.

Her involvement with student learning both in the classroom and through external projects makes her an excellent contributor to graduate and undergraduate student education. Her one-on-one work with students is recognized throughout the college, and she regularly provides an excellent learning experience for students she mentors through the McNair Scholars mentoring program. She is an active mentor to junior faculty in the department and is involved in mentoring programs with the graduate school. She does an unusually large amount of graduate student advising and mentoring and is in heavy demand from students in organizational psychology and related programs.

Ann Marie said upon hearing of the award: "Being chosen for this award is truly an honor. Achieving such a distinction has been possible because of the high value that MSU places on outreach and applied research, allowing scientist-practitioners like myself to engage with organizations to enhance fairness in the workplace. I am particularly grateful to my colleagues in organizational psychology, and to the many graduate students whose energy, curiosity and passion keep mine renewed."

Congratulations, Ann Marie!
Clinical Psychology Awards

The John and Margo Reisman Award

This award is given to a strong applicant for clinical psychology doctoral training to aid in recruitment. Dr. John M. Reisman is Emeritus Professor of Psychology at DePaul University in Chicago. He is a graduate of Rutgers University and Michigan State University (Masters 1955, Ph.D. 1958) and is the author of “A History of Clinical Psychology” and “Principles of Psychotherapy with Children.” Margo Reisman is a graduate of Michigan State University (B.A., 1956). The scholarship award they have endowed helps recruit and retain exceptional students of unusual promise, who in turn have the potential to elevate the clinical psychology program to new levels of excellence. The scholarship is awarded in situations where additional funding, over and above what could otherwise be offered, will make the greatest differences in recruiting top clinical psychology graduate students of the highest caliber. The scholarship provides a distinct honor to the student whose accomplishments merit such recognition.

This year Natalie Berger received the John and Margo Reisman Award. Natalie received her B.A. in Psychology from Dartmouth College in 2009. Her senior thesis, supported by a grant from the Kaminsky Family Fund, used event-related potentials (ERP) to compare semantic processing of texted and English sentences. This work was published in 2010 in *Brain and Language*. Since graduating from Dartmouth, Natalie has worked as an associate for a consulting firm in Boston. This Fall, Natalie will be joining the Clinical Psychology Program where she will study social-communication development and intervention in children with autism with Dr. Brooke Ingersoll as her advisor.

Congratulations Natalie!

The Hurley Endowed Fellowship Award

This award, in honor of the late Professor John Hurley, is given to the best dissertation in clinical each year, by a committee of clinical faculty. John Hurley was Professor of Psychology at MSU for forty-five years. He earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Iowa in 1953 and later earned a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Hurley was nationally known as a scholar in the area of group psychotherapy through his study of T-groups, group therapy processes, interpersonal theory, leadership in groups, and interpersonal perceptions. He served as the president of the Michigan Group Psychotherapy Society. Dr. Hurley developed a unique three-tiered class format which led students from the recognition of their own group behavior tendencies (and how to research them) to the observation of group dynamics in others and finally to develop and hone group leadership skills themselves. It is in the spirit of this thoroughness that the Fellowship is offered. Award recipients must be current graduate students demonstrating exceptional academic achievement.

Congratulations to Alexia Spanos, who received the 2010 Hurley Award in December. Alexia Spanos is a 5th year doctoral student in the clinical psychology program, working Dr. Kelly Klump as her advisor. Her research interests focus on the etiology of eating disorders using a behavioral genetic approach. She is particularly interested in using twin methodology to understand the interplay between genetic and environmental influences on the development of disordered eating attitudes and behaviors. She has focused most of my independent work on understanding genetic and environmental mechanisms in the development of disordered eating, for example exploring personality as a mechanism for genetic and environmental risk. Her clinical training has included a variety of psychotherapy and assessment experiences with children, adolescents, adults and geriatric populations, informed by both cognitive-behavioral and psychodynamic orientations. She is pleased to be nearing the end of her graduate student career, and will be completing her Predoctoral Internship training in Clinical Psychology next year at McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School.
**Recent Faculty Grants**

Robin Miller (with J. Ellen, PI) was awarded the grant “Enhancement of Connect to Protect (C2P) to Increase Structural Change and Reduce HIV Risk: Phase IV” from the Adolescent Trials Network. 2011-2016, $108,000.

Robin Miller (with C. Wilson, PI) received a grant from NICHD/NIDA/NIMH entitled “Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Coordinating Center.” 2011-2016, $333,000.


Ann Marie Ryan, Dave Bartram, Ilke Ingeolou (both of SHL), James Grand, Juliya Golubovich and Matt Reeder (of MSU) received a small-grant-award from the Society of Industrial/ Organizational Psychology (SIOP) to survey international testing practices.

Laura Smale, Tony Nunez, and Lili Yan received a National Science Foundation grant, "Chronotype differences in the acute behavioral responses to light and darkness and their neural subtracts." 2011-2014, $600,000.
Recent Faculty Awards

**Chris Hopwood** won the University of Chicago Samuel J. and Anne E. Beck Award for Outstanding Early Career Research from the Society for Personality Assessment.

**Bert Karon** (Professor Emeritus) was the first recipient of The Empathic Therapy Award from the Center for the Study of Empathic Therapy, Education & Living for "his unique combination of humanity and scientific discipline."

**Frederick Leong** received the Dalmas Taylor Distinguished Contributions Award from the APA Minority Fellowship Program at their 2010 annual convention in San Diego.

**Ann Marie Ryan** received the Distinguished Faculty Award from MSU (see page 6).
J. Audie Black received the David Caul Graduate Research Grant from the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation to help fund his dissertation, “Intimate partner violence, developmental trauma, and impaired executive functioning in preschool-aged children.”

Felix Cheung, Tiffeny Jimenez, Carmel Martin-Fairey, and Nkiru Nnawulezi received Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Scholar Awards.

With Professor Ann Marie Ryan, Juliya Golubovich, James Grand, and Matthew Reeder received a SIOP Foundation Small Grant Award, Cross-cultural comparison of testing practices, $6,700. (3/07-3/08).

Marina Pearce applied for and received the "University of California Irvine's Center for Global Leadership Fellowship in Research Translation for Practice" ($3000) for summer 2011.

Jodi Petersen received the Outstanding Research Presentation Award and the Outstanding Student Poster Award at the Midwest Ecological-Community Psychology Conference.

Steven Pierce received the Society for Community Research and Action (APA Division 27) 2011 Best Dissertation on a Topic Related to Community Psychology.

Sarah Reed was awarded the Student Multicultural Research Award from the MSU Department of Psychology's Consortium for Multicultural Research (see page 4).

Christine Shenouda won the First Place Award in poster presentations (session 1) at MSU's Graduate Academic Conference (GAC).

Jessica Suisman received the Academy for Eating Disorders Early Career Investigator Travel Fellowship for the 2011 International Conference on Eating Disorders.

Kate Thomas is the new President-Elect for the Society of Personality Assessment Graduate Students.
Recent Graduate Student Publications


After about 5 years of part-timing (his early-retirement proposal went ignored), alumnus Lou Lippman finally fully retired at the end of 2008 and has continued to pursue musical ventures (as he gradually becomes more and more deaf). These include solo background piano, accompanying singers, playing a variety of pick-up groups, and two Dixieland bands. Probably his favorite group is The Prawns (www.prawnjazz.com), a jazz trio. The long-standing klezmer band, What The Chelm (www.whatthechelm.com), just came out with another CD—probably its best yet. The world-music ensemble, Millie and the Mentshn (www.millieandthementshn.com) also has made recordings, and has played in Minnesota, Alaska, and for the first "klezfeista" in Argentina. This last summer they had another short tour in Minnesota. Otherwise, Lou and his wife, Marcia, are pleased that their two children both have jobs with medical benefits. Marcia enjoys spoiling their granddaughter rotten, and they just celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

Lou received his Ph.D. from MSU in 1966. Marcia received her M.S. in 1966, and then earned her Ph.D. from UBC in 1970. Both taught in the Psychology Department at Western Washington University.