The spring semester has been incredibly busy for the Department of Psychology. We searched for two new tenure track faculty members, and in both cases were able to recruit our top choices. Jeremy Gray has a PhD in Psychology from Harvard University, and is currently on the faculty at Yale. He will be joining us this summer and setting up a Cognitive Neuroscience lab. His work focuses on the integration of emotion and cognition, and on individual differences in areas including intelligence, personality and creativity. Alex Johnson received his PhD from Cardiff University, and is currently a research scientist at Johns Hopkins University. He will arrive in August. His research is designed to elucidate the neurobiological factors that govern learning and motivation, and how they can become atypical and contribute to maladaptive behavioral control.

We were treated to an outstanding series of colloquia. For example, Dr. Sarah Jaffee from King’s College in London presented a talk through our Human Development Initiative on relationships between the environment and antisocial behavior. Dr. James Jackson, from the University of Michigan, presented the annual Distinguished Lecture in Multicultural Psychology. His talk was entitled, “The Social Psychology of Populations Differences in Health.” The Cognitive Science Program lecture series hosted Drs. Melvyn Goodale (University of Western Ontario), James Allen (University of Rochester), and Adrian Owen (University of Western Ontario).

The Department also focused on career development this year. We are completing a pilot mentoring program for junior faculty, run by Ann Marie Ryan (member of our Organizational Psychology group). This program was supported by both the College of Social Science and the Provost’s office at MSU. It has provided information and guidance on networking, as well as on a set of topics selected by our assistant professors. Information was collected both on the needs of the faculty members, and the outcomes of our program. We hope that they found the process useful, and we will use the data generated to revise our mentoring procedures in the future.

We are looking forward to the next academic year, and have recruited a terrific class of incoming graduate students. Five of these students received University Fellowships, more than any other department at MSU, and more than all other units in the College of Social Science combined!

As the spring semester winds down, I hope you all enjoy the (gradually) warming weather and have a productive and fun summer.
Welcome to New Psychological Clinic Director
— Pat Roehling —

I am very pleased to join the Clinical Psychology Department as Director of the MSU Psychological Clinic. After spending approximately 20 years teaching at a liberal arts undergraduate institution and maintaining a private clinical practice, this position represents an exciting career change for me. I became interested in a career in clinical psychology when I was in high school, and I maintained that focus throughout college, obtaining a B.A. in psychology from the University of Michigan. After spending a year working in a cognitive development lab at the U of M, I entered the Ph.D. program in clinical psychology at Wayne State University. Upon graduation, I took a position at Wayne County Juvenile Court as a forensic psychologist. After two years at the juvenile court, I embarked on a major career change and accepted a tenure-track position in the psychology department at Hope College and opened a clinical practice. My research areas of interest at that time were the cognitive risk factors for alcohol use among teenagers and the effects of alcohol abuse on the family. After teaching and doing research at Hope College and practicing psychology in Holland for ten years, my family moved to Ithaca, NY where I landed a position as Director of Research at the Cornell Family and Careers Institute, a multi-disciplinary research center focusing on the integration of work and family. This position gave me the opportunity to develop expertise in the work-family area, which had been a growing interest of mine. After two years at Cornell, we moved back to Michigan, where I resumed my position at Hope College and my clinical practice (these moves were the result of dual-career issues). During the last decade and a half, I have continued to maintain my clinical practice and continued to work as a professor at Hope College, where I have served as Chairperson of the Psychology Department and achieved the rank of full professor. My areas of research are: work-family issues, weight discrimination, acculturation, and pedagogy. My clinical areas of expertise are: depression, anxiety disorders, work-family issues and conflicts, parent-teen conflicts, and life transitions. While I have enjoyed teaching, after approximately 20 years of this activity, I found myself longing for new challenges and experiences. The Clinic Director’s position represented an exciting opportunity to apply my clinical interests and expertise to graduate training. Indeed, the MSU Psychological Clinic is an exciting place. The clinical students and faculty are a talented and dedicated group and the mission of the Clinic is inspiring. I look forward to developing new programs and training opportunities for our students while ensuring that the Clinic provides quality mental health care to the community.
Robert Caldwell Selected as MSU’s Fifth Ombudsperson

On January 1, 2012, Bob Caldwell became the University Ombudsperson. He has been a faculty member in the Department of Psychology for 29 years. He was the Associate Chair and Graduate Program Director in the Department of Psychology from 2002-2005, and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Social Science from 2005-2010. Dr. Caldwell becomes the fifth person to serve as Ombudsperson since the creation of the position 45 years ago. It is the oldest, continuously operating University Ombudsperson office in the nation.

The University Ombudsperson is central to protecting the rights of students at MSU. The policies and documents that govern the relationships between students and the University describe a complex network of mutual obligation. Students, faculty, and administrators are all members of a community of scholars, each with a specific set of rights and responsibilities designed to further the goals of the university. The Ombudsperson is one of the main guardians of student rights and the central node of the complex network of mutual responsibility that we all belong to.

“I believe that all of us: students, faculty, and administrators, want to further the broad goals of the university, live up to our responsibilities to each other, and exercise our rights,” Caldwell said. “However, I know that each of us sometimes falls short of those aspirations and conflicts ensue. I believe that most of the conflicts between students and faculty are not born out of malice and ill will, but rather out of ignorance, thoughtlessness, and short-sightedness. Thus, another way the Ombudsman is important is as the provider of clear and accurate information.”

The Ombudsperson has one other important responsibility. By analyzing the pattern of complaints and problems that flow through the office each year, the Ombudsperson is in a position to identify which university policies may need revision or elimination.

When asked about his priorities for the office, Caldwell said, “The protection of student rights has always been and will continue to be the primary priority of the University Ombudsperson. If I am to be successful, the University community must see the Ombudsperson’s office as trustworthy, impartial, fair, and independent. I am committed to maintain the trust, confidence, and respect that the previous Ombudsmen have developed in this office.”

“MSU serves as a national model for Ombudsperson services and this has enhanced our reputation as a university that lives up to its values of quality, inclusiveness, and connectivity. Our excellent reputation in this area has been carefully built and strengthened by my predecessors. Like many important assets, this reputation takes a lifetime to build and one careless moment to destroy. It will be my priority to uphold the highest standards of integrity, fairness, and confidentiality while serving all the members of the university community.”

Congratulations Bob!
Updates from the Consortium for Multicultural Psychology Research

By Professor Frederick Leong, Director

The Consortium for Multicultural Psychology Research (CMPR) is completing its fifth year of operation and has continued its program of activities in promoting more multicultural research in the department. This year’s Annual Distinguished Lecture in Multicultural Psychology was given by Professor James Jackson on Friday, April 20th, 2012 on the topic of The Social Psychology of Population Differences in Health. We presented the Joseph L. White Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award at the beginning of the Annual Distinguished Lecture (see other item in this Newsletter regarding the Award). We have also been funded for the fifth year to offer the APA Advanced Training Institute (ATI) on Research Methods with Diverse Racial and Ethnic Groups this summer. Finally, we had completed the second biennial MSU Symposium on Multicultural Psychology in October of 2011 which focused on Occupational Health Disparities among Racial and Ethnic Minorities: Formulating Research Needs and Directions. This symposium series is beginning to bear fruit and the inaugural volume from the 2009 MSU Symposium focused on Multinational Organization Research (Ryan, Leong & Oswald) has just been published by APA Books (see book cover below).

Congratulations to MSU’s Organizational Psychology, who once again was named the #1 Organizational Psychology graduate program in the country by U.S. News and World Report’s 2013 edition of Best Graduate Schools.
Stevie C. Y. Yap (4th year Social/Personality doctoral student) was awarded the 2012 Joseph L. White Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award from the Consortium for Multicultural Psychology Research. This award was given for his paper, “Mediators of the relationship between identity and life satisfaction in a community sample of African American women and men,” co-authored with MSU faculty Isis Settles and former MSU graduate student Jennifer Pratt-Hyatt.

The paper explored the mechanisms through which racial identity, or the importance of racial group membership, affects well-being for racial/ethnic minorities. Using a community sample of 161 African American adults, this study examined whether the association between racial identity (centrality, public regard, and private regard) and life satisfaction is mediated by two identity functions, belongingness and discrimination. Results indicated that the relationships of centrality and private regard with life satisfaction were mediated by perceptions of belongingness. Furthermore, gender moderated the strength of each of these mediating effects, such that belongingness mediated these relationships for women but not for men. Results also indicated that the relationship between public regard and life satisfaction was mediated by perceptions of discrimination. Furthermore, higher public regard was related to lower perceptions of discrimination for women but not men. However, a combined model for public regard and life satisfaction as mediated by discrimination failed to show moderated mediation.

The Hurley Endowed Fellowship Award

This award, in honor of the late Professor John Hurley, is given to the best dissertation in clinical psychology 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 Sarah Racine, who received the 2011 Hurley Award in December. Sarah Racine is a 5th year doctoral student in the clinical psychology program, working with Dr. Kelly Klump as her advisor. Her research is broadly focused on the biological basis of eating disorders. She has adopted a multi-method approach to examining biological risk, including the use of behavioral genetic methodologies, molecular genetic techniques, and neuroendocrinological measurements. She is particularly interested in how psychological factors interact with biological vulnerability to influence individual differences in risk for eating pathology. Her clinical training has included a variety of psychotherapy and assessment experiences with children, adolescents, and adults, as well as specialized training in the treatment of eating disorders in college students. She is pleased to be nearing the end of her graduate student career, and she will be completing her Predoctoral Internship training in Clinical Psychology next year at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.
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 Katherine Pickard received the John and Margo Reisman Award. Katherine received her B.A. in Psychology from Harvard in 2011, and will complete a Masters degree in Social and Developmental Psychology from the University of Cambridge in June of 2012. Her recent training experiences were funded by a Bill and Melinda Gates Scholarship. This fall, Katherine 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 Katherine!

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/Alumni/Donate.aspx](http://psychology.msu.edu/Alumni/Donate.aspx) 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 ten new funds to support a specific program group.

Thank you for your generosity.
Recent Graduate Student Awards

Felix Cheung, Carmel Martin-Fairey and Nkiru Nnawulezi received AGEP Scholar Awards for Spring, 2012.

Felix Cheung was selected as one of the top 20 finalists in the Art in Bloom Poster competition, and one of his art pieces will be displayed in downtown Holland, Michigan’s Tulip Festival. Here’s a link to the picture: [http://www.hollandarts.org/index.php?pageid=129](http://www.hollandarts.org/index.php?pageid=129)

Catherine Dodson was awarded a National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship.

Jessica Keeney received a scholarship from the American Psychological Foundation/Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology for her dissertation.

Brent Lyons and Charlotte Powers received the UCI Center for Global Leadership’s Summer Fellowship in Research Translation for Practice, 2012.

Jennifer Mortensen (and her advisor Pennie Foster-Fishman) received a grant for $22,000 from Community Connections, Inc., entitled Evaluation Proposal for Phase Two of the West Virginia NYLI Project.

Nkiru Nnawulezi was awarded a Psi Alpha Omega National Honor Society Travel Grant.

Sarah Racine received the John Hurley Endowed Fellowship Award, Best Clinical Psychology Dissertation Proposal, Michigan State University.

Sarah Reed was awarded a grant from the Tides Foundation to evaluate LGBT inclusion under Michigan Law.

Stevie Yap received the 2012 Joseph L. White Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award from the department’s Consortium on Multicultural Psychology Research (see article in this newsletter)

Recent Graduate Student Publications


