Welcome all to the new academic year. It is with pleasure that we welcome our new faculty member, Dr. Jeffrey Rings, a graduate of the University of Denver. He completed his internship at Colorado State University. During Spring 2011, we said goodbye to Dr. Gonzalez, who had served the Counseling Psychology Program as Coordinator and Director of Training for numerous years. We wish him the best in his retirement.

The doctoral program in Counseling Psychology received the Provost Excellence Award in Scholarship in the Spring of 2011. Provost Abe Harraf honored our program for its excellence and productivity in scholarship. It was a nice moment to be honored; we get so busy that stopping to be acknowledged made us realize how productive and creative our faculty is in regards to scholarly achievements and mentoring students.

There was great representation at APA in Washington DC by both faculty and students; a total of 13 doctoral students and graduates presented on a variety of topics. This newsletter recognizes the work of so many people and topics—please take a few minutes to read through it. I am amazed and impressed by all the great work being done.

As I write this, Dr. Chris Woodson, a 2010 graduate, is being deployed to serve as a psychologist with the U.S. military in Afghanistan. Amy Dreier is a Captain in the US Air Force during her internship at the Wilford Hall Medical Center in Texas. Dr. Ann Ingala, a 2011 graduate and veteran, has been presenting her research at various conferences on veteran’s adjustment returning to college. As this nation is becoming transformed by two wars, students and graduates are making their contribution serving soldiers and veterans.

Best wishes to all nine doctoral students who are on internship this fall. All of them matched and 80% got an APA internship site. We are proud of you!

We also welcome our seven incoming students. They have all been assigned peer mentors who are enthusiastically meeting with them and sharing their wisdom in making it in the first semester of the doctoral program. Harvard Cutter, who had many conversations on the essence of happiness with the Dalia Lama said “There is no getting around these essential ingredients: determination, effort and time. These are the real secrets to happiness.” Every time I see this quote I am reminded that this is what it takes to be successful in a doctoral program: determination, effort and time. And hey, if that brings you happiness too, so much the better!

Last but not least, many thanks to Diane Greenshields, Gloria Sedillos, and Roberta Ochsner, our administrative staff for their support and gracefulness keeping us and the office running and organized. We could not do it without you. Many thanks!

Lia Softas-Nall, PhD
Chair and Director of Training
GOOD LUCK to all our students going on Internship.

Heather Bean: AspenPointe Health Services, Colorado Springs, CO; APPIC.

Jessica Chenoweth: Casa Pacifica, Camarillo, CA; APA.

Cassie Comeau: Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; APA.

Amy Dreier: Wilford Hall Med/Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX; APA.

Lindsay Heath: Aurora Mental Health Center, Aurora, CO; APA.

Denise Lucia: Community Reach Center, Commerce City, CO; APA.

Riley McGrath: University of Michigan-Counseling & Psychology, Ann Arbor, MI; APA.

Lori Romont: Community Reach Center, Commerce City, CO; APA.

Masha Zarleno: Colorado West Regional Mental Health Grand Junction, CO; APPIC.

WELCOME NEW CP DOC STUDENTS

Name: Em Dreiling
From: Los Angeles, CA
Degree: B.A. from Luther College Iowa and M.A. from Pepperdine, California
Fun fact: I did professional theatre in LA for 6 years.

Name: Jessica Chenoweth
From: Casa Pacifica, Camarillo, CA; APA.

Cassie Comeau: Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; APA.

Amy Dreier: Wilford Hall Med/Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX; APA.

Lindsay Heath: Aurora Mental Health Center, Aurora, CO; APA.

Denise Lucia: Community Reach Center, Commerce City, CO; APA.

Riley McGrath: University of Michigan-Counseling & Psychology, Ann Arbor, MI; APA.

Lori Romont: Community Reach Center, Commerce City, CO; APA.

Masha Zarleno: Colorado West Regional Mental Health Grand Junction, CO; APPIC.

Name: Steve Pote
From: Mount Vernon, WA
Degree: M.A. from Gonzaga University
Fun fact: I'm quite good @ Dance Dance Revolution, but let's keep that on the down-low.

Name: Elizabeth (Beth) Ruechel
From: Glenwood Springs, CO
Degree: B.A. from UNC
Fun fact: I can whip up some mean black bean hummus!

Name: Janae Sones
From: Originally from Colorado Springs, but just moved from New Jersey
Degree: B.A. in Psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University, College at Florham
Fun fact: I love hiking, biking, rafting and am always looking for someone to come with me!
Presentations & Publications by Faculty, Faculty with Students in 2011


**Presentations & Publications by Students in 2011**


Peters, A. S., Rowatt, W., & Johnson, M. (2011,
Criteria for the award include a thorough knowledge of the academic or professional field, ability to communicate that knowledge in an effective and organized manner, ability to create a positive learning environment, demonstration of respect and concern for students, ability to inspire enthusiasm for learning and high expectations for students’ performance.

**Dreier, Amy:** The faculty of the Department of Counseling Psychology chose Amy to be recognized at the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Graduate Scholar. Students receive this distinction for their academic achievement, research involvement, leadership and potential for success in the discipline. She was recognized at the Honors Convocation Ceremony in April 2011.

**Ingala, Ann & Peters, Annette:** Research Excellence Award Finalists at UNC Research Day 2011.

**Ingala, Ann:** "Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence" for Spring Semester 2011. The Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence recognizes superior academic achievement of students who are candidates for a graduate degree at UNC and are honored at Commencement ceremonies.

**Valdez, Jesse:** Selected to participate in the Early Career Poster Session at the 2011 APA Convention in Washington, DC.

**Wirta-Leiker, Chaitra** successfully defended her dissertation and graduated in Spring 2011. The Graduate School honored Chaitra during the Commencement ceremony with the Outstanding Dissertation Award: A Qualitative Comparison of the Perceptions of Victims and School Authorities in Early Adolescent Female Bullying.

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**2011 Awards**

The Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology Program received the Program Academic Excellence in Scholarship Award from the UNC Provost Office.
Welcome to our New Faculty Member
Jeffrey Rings, Ph.D.

Dr. Rings received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Denver in 2009, teaching several courses in psychology to both graduate and undergraduate students as well as to gifted high school students in the process. He completed his predoctoral internship at the Colorado State University Health Network. This September he completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Advanced Mental Illness Research and Treatment at the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where he also had a joint appointment as an Instructor with the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. In that capacity, he performed suicide-specific clinical assessment work with veterans on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. While there, in addition to serving as a co-investigator on several research studies addressing various issues related to veteran suicide, he also was the Principal Investigator on a study examining the occurrence of prolonged grief symptomatology among veterans and its relationship to suicide risk.

Dr. Rings has published two book chapters- one in counselor development and one in group therapy. In addition, he was first author on an article examining predoctoral internship directors’ views on the implementation of specific clinical supervision competencies. Furthermore, he has two publications currently in press: one book chapter reporting on a current study assessing the effect of blister packaging of medications as a form of means restriction with chronically suicidal mental health patients, and an article examining the implementation of a safety planning intervention with psychiatric inpatient groups. During his colloquium, Dr. Rings presented on the relationship between prolonged grief and suicide risk among undergraduates. His current research agenda centers on this topic with both undergraduates and veterans.

Fun Facts about Dr. Rings
Favorite Food: “My wife’s array of desserts. She’s a trained pastry chef, which is a gift and a curse!”
Hobbies: Travel, music and concerts, getting out in nature (hiking or simply being outdoors), and spending time with his wife and daughter.
Favorite Psychologists: Carl Rogers & Edwin Shniedman
Favorite Color: Heliotrope ☺

How Dr. Rings Wound Up in the Field: “During high school I joined my high school’s peer counseling group on a whim and something just clicked- I knew right away that this was what I wanted to do professionally.”

During his freshman year at Pepperdine University, Dr. Rings and a friend founded the peer-counseling program on their campus, which he then facilitated for the next three years. Soon thereafter, Dr. Rings served on the Board of Directors for the California Association of Peer Programs, where he helped to orchestrate annual conferences and other gatherings for the state’s peer counselors at the middle school, high school, and collegiate levels.

A Word from Dr. Rings
I’m genuinely honored to join the department, and I look forward to our work together. I’m excited to help each of you towards becoming professionals within this truly amazing field.

Dr. Rings’ Daughter
Name: Simone Amelie
Age: 2 years, 1 month
Eye color: blue
Favorite toy: her new doll house
First word: “cat” (also her first song)
Favorite Food: hearts of palm

Fun fact: Simone was born on Dr. Rings’ very last day of internship.
About our International Students:

Kyungah Kim is originally from Seoul, South Korea and is fluent in Korean and English. Kyungah lived in Seoul for 32 years where she received her BA in French Literature from Sogang University and her MA in Counseling Psychology from Yonsei University. She moved to the USA in 2005, and in 2006, Kyungah began her MA in Transpersonal Counseling Psychology at Naropa University. Kyungah heard about UNC while living in CO. She decided to attend UNC because of its good reputation and the emphasis on practitioner skills in its counseling program. She is glad that there are well-established international student groups and a lot of support for them at UNC.

Annette Peters is originally from Köln, Germany and is bilingual: German and English. She has lived in several countries including the Netherlands and Switzerland. Her first exposure to the USA was when she was 8 years old and moved to TX with her family. Through this experience she learned English at the local Elementary School and about American culture. She went to High School in Switzerland, the Zurich International High School, where she had the wonderful opportunity to be exposed to multiple cultures and meet many multicultural students and teachers. Annette finished her BA at Baylor University, TX, and then came to UNC to pursue her doctorate in Counseling Psychology. Annette decided to attend UNC because of the multicultural emphasis and strong practitioners approach this program offers. The support that faculty and peers offer has made the process in the CP program enjoyable.

Karina Samaniego-Munoz is originally from Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, and is bilingual: Spanish and English. Karina received her BA from the University of North Texas, and then came to UNC to pursue her doctorate in Counseling Psychology. After living in Dallas, TX for several years, Karina experienced culture shock when she moved to Greeley. Fortunately, there is a large Hispanic community from Chihuahua, which has helped her “feel at home.” She adds that being bicultural is oftentimes difficult, “My accent is not heavy so people usually overlook the fact that I’m from another country.” Nevertheless, Karina is proud of her heritage, “I identify myself as Mexican.” Moving away from Texas, “I realized how important family is to me,” and therefore, “I had to build a strong support system to get me through the years.” Karina has found support in her peers, students from other programs, and community members.

Wipanee (Eadh) Suk-erb is from Surio, Thailand and speaks four languages: Khmer, Thai, English and Lao. Wipanee received her BA from Mahasarakham University in Humanity and Social Sciences (Linguistics) and her M.Sc. in Counseling Psychology from Burapha University.
Upon receiving news that Mahasarakham University was going to grant scholarships to support education, she decided to apply for it. Wipanee received a scholarship to pursue her degree in Counseling Psychology, and in return she will work for Mahasarakham University after she graduates. She learned about UNC from a professor at Burapha University who graduated from UNC 30 years ago. As an international student at UNC, Wipanee has found support in faculty, peers, and an international group that she attends every week. Wipanee stated that she faces, “tons of acculturation, but I'm glad that I made the decision to come to UNC,” because of APA’s accreditation of our program, the great learning atmosphere, close relationship with faculty and peers, and the nature on campus.

**Nai Chieh (Geri) Tien** is from Taipei, Taiwan and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese, English, and Taiwanese. Geri received her BS in Clinical Psychology from Fu-Jen Catholic University and her MS in Human Development and Family Studies with Marriage and Family therapy emphasis from CSU. Geri decided to come to UNC because she wanted to continue her studies in the USA. The UNC Counseling Psychology program has a strong science-practitioner approach. At the time she applied it was one of three APA accredited doctoral programs in Counseling Psychology. Geri wants to eventually return to Taiwan to work, and until then is interested in working with the Asian and Pacific Islander population here in the USA. She likes that UNC has the multicultural houses, the Center for International Educational (CIE) program, and the semester exchange program for international students.

**Cultural Houses and Resources:**

Cesar Chavez Cultural Center: [http://www.unco.edu/cccc/](http://www.unco.edu/cccc/)

Marcus Garvey Center for Black Cultural Education: [http://www.unco.edu/garvey/](http://www.unco.edu/garvey/)

Asian / Pacific American Student Services: [http://www.unco.edu/apass/](http://www.unco.edu/apass/)

Native American Student Services: [http://www.unco.edu/nass/](http://www.unco.edu/nass/)

Center for International Education (CIE): [http://www.unco.edu/cie/](http://www.unco.edu/cie/)
News from the Counseling Psychology Student Organization (CPSO)

Word from Meag-gan Walters, Social Chair: The Counseling Psychology Student Organization is off to a great start! The first meeting was held in September in which the officers and members covered up-coming club events like colloquia and speakers. The officers also addressed important topics such as self-care and time management. If you would like to join or attend the club meetings it is not too late. Check the listserve for CPSO emails as well as looking for notification flyers in the resource room.

September 6th, 2011: Applying for Internship: Saving Yourself From Drowning (Speaker: Catherine Phillips)
5:30PM, Tuesday

September 21st, 2011: Career Services Evening: Resumes, Vitas, and Powerful Interviews
5:00PM, Wednesday

October 3rd, 2011: Colloquia event: Acceptance & Commitment Therapy
5:00PM, Monday

October 24th, 2011: CPSO Officers’ Meeting
5:00PM, Monday

October 27th, 2011: Comprehensive Exams: Tips and Prep from Your Fellow Students
5:00PM, Thursday

November 8th, 2011: Colloquia event: Trauma: Impacts and Treatments
5:30PM, Tuesday

Student Representatives

We all know the importance of communication between faculty and students. This academic school year Marsha Cohen and Meag-gan Walters will be serving as a liaison between the student body and faculty during bi-monthly meetings. Michael Mahoney will be the student representative for the APA faculty meetings. Michael Jenkins-Guarnieri is also serving as a faculty student liaison. An important role of the student representatives is to assist with admissions in the spring and to let faculty know of any student concerns. You can contact your student representatives via email or in person. Take the opportunity and utilize this avenue of communication as it is for your benefit.

Words of Advice from Meag-gan Walter 3rd year student.

Finding Your Footing

Academics:
You are already skilled in this area! Do not be too intimidated, particularly if you are entering with a B.A. This is the next level, but take comfort and confidence in that you’ve made it this far. In addition to your normal academic style:

- Seize opportunities to gain new experiences through GA positions.
- Communicate your areas of interest to your faculty advisor and your GA professor(s).
- Attend conferences, workshops and trainings that interest you! We have funding support through the GSA: http://www.unco.edu/gsa/grantfunding.html and http://www.unco.edu/glhta/safezone.html
- It is never too early to start presenting. If you have conducted research, keep your eyes open and network about places to showcase your work. http://www.unco.edu/hsl/researchday.html
Administrative News

During the summer several administrative changes took place. Provost Abe Harraf had to take a leave of absence to return to his homeland due to a family loss. Dr. Robbyn Wacker, who was the Dean of the Graduate School, became the Acting Provost for the University. Dr. Linda Black, who was the Chair of the Department of Counselor Education and Supervision (CES), became the Interim Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Heather Helm became the new Chair of the CES department and Dr. Elysia Clemens (CES), became the new Coordinator for the Professional Counseling Masters’ programs.

Have a good semester everybody and remember to let us know of your news and accomplishments. This goes for both current students and graduates. Many thanks to Annette Peters for her creativity, interviewing skills and for formatting this newsletter.

APA President Dr. Melba J.T. Vasquez and Dr. Lia Softas-Nall at the Interamerican Congress of Psychology in Medellin Colombia, South America. The theme of this conference was on Health of the People: A Psychology Committed to Social Transformation [Por la salud de los pueblos: Una psicología comprometida con la transformación social].

Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program

For more information visit: http://www.unco.edu/cebs/counspsych/index.html.

For more information regarding program accreditation, contact the APA’s Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, 750 1st Street NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242 or at (202) 336-5979 or at www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/.