



**The
Looking Glass**

**University of Northern Colorado
Educational Psychology Society Newsletter**

October-November 2008



New Faculty

I had the opportunity to interview Dr. Michael Phillips. Dr. Phillips is a new faculty professor here at UNC in the psychology department. I sat down with Dr. Phillips and asked him several questions regarding his hobbies, research, and teaching experience.

Ben: Where are you from?

Dr. Phillips: Omaha, Nebraska.

Ben: What are your favorite hobbies?

Dr. Phillips: Hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking.

Ben: Where did you go to get your undergraduate degree?

Dr. Phillips: University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Ben: Where did you attend graduate school?

Dr. Phillips: Michigan State University.

Ben: Why did you decide to come to UNC?

Dr. Phillips: After obtaining my doctorate degree in educational psychology I received a job working for an educational research firm in Denver. Although I enjoyed my job, I wanted to focus more on my own research interests and transition back into the world of academia.

Ben: What are your areas of interest?

Dr. Phillips: My main areas of interest are student motivation, the psychology of interest, and educational technology.

Ben: What topics do you conduct your research on?

Dr. Phillips: I conduct my research on the development of interest, motivational factors, and how different cognitive styles can be fostered by multimedia environments.

Ben: What classes do you teach?

Dr. Phillips: I am currently teaching social psychology and human growth and development. In the spring semester I will be teaching human growth and development, research methods, and grant writing.

Ben: What are your plans for the future?

Dr. Phillips: I hope to continue conducting research in my area of interest and stay within the academic setting.

Ben: Are you looking for research assistants?

Dr. Phillips: I am always interested in working with students and getting them involved with research. This really helps students to understand the process of research.

If you have any questions for Dr. Phillip you may contact him using the information below.

Email: Michael.Phillips@unco.edu

Phone #: 351-1296

Office #: Mckee Hall 66

Office Hours: Mon. 10:30-11:30, Tues. 9:30-11:30 & 1:00-2:00



Superstar Spotlight

Lori Reinsvold

Wife, mother, student, educator, and Director of Technology, University of Northern Colorado School of Biological Sciences. These are but a few of the many titles Lori Reinsvold holds. Though currently working on her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, Lori has been with UNC for almost 20 years – from the time the Math and Science Teaching (MAST) Institute was no more than the MAST “hotline,” providing local teachers with information and resources. With a background in biology and chemistry, a Masters degree in education, and a busy-but-rewarding job with the MAST Institute, what possessed Lori to pursue a Ph.D. in Ed Psych.?

Like many of us here, Lori found herself wanting more. “I felt that I had a content background and I have experience in the content in teaching, but I want more of the theoretical perspectives on teaching and learning.” Having worked closely with Dr. Kathy Cochran and Dr. Theresa McDevitt through the MAST Institute, Lori was interested in more closely examining K-12 students’ conceptual changes in science education, as well as teachers’ processes and experiences teaching these concepts.

Recently, Lori and her husband-and-partner, Rob Reinsvold, were awarded a \$240,000 from the Colorado Department of Higher Education to improve teacher quality in math and science. Lori will be partnering UNC’s science and mathematics program, nine high-need or low-performing school districts in northern Colorado, and the Northeast Board of Cooperative Educational Services in order to improve teacher quality. However, this grant is only one of many Lori has applied for and received. She is a wealth of advice and information.

Lori has very much enjoyed her experiences in the Ed Psych program. What lies ahead? The “Big-D” (*dissertation*). And after that? Only time will tell. However, though the future may not be clear, Lore *does* have some very clear advice to offer her fellow graduate students. With regards to partnering with schools for research purposes, remember, “you can’t tell school districts what to do, but [you can] provide them with opportunities.” In other words, it is all about collaboration. Ask administrators and teachers for their input, identify their needs, and explore how you might fulfill them. In fact, network, share and collaborate with the academic community at-large. Meaningful connections can lead to research, funding, and important contributions to society.

And as far as living life, Lori advises, “Just enjoy everything you have. Make every day the best.”

Lori will discuss more on grant-writing at an upcoming Ed Psych Society “Brown Bag Lunch” presentation.

The Graduate



Meet Cassie Russell, new to the University of Northern Colorado Educational Psychology doctoral program. With a Masters degree in psychology and ample teaching experience under her belt (both in-person and online courses, no less), Cassie moved to Greeley in August and has jumped right in to coursework, teaching, research, and a few extra-curricular activities, including serving as the Ed Psych Society web-master (Thank you!). And she is one of the most enthusiastic people you will find!

Why UNC? When Cassie’s significant-other was accepted into UNC’s (nationally renowned) jazz program, she realized it was the perfect opportunity to pursue her own interests in educational psychology. So she applied to the Ed Psych Ph.D. program, was accepted, and we are excited to have her with us this fall (and for many years to come!).

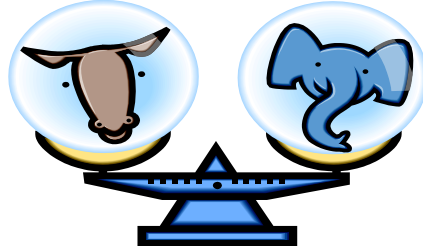
Cassie’s research interests span widely. As she observes, “I can find something I’m interested in just about *every* part of psychology!” However, some key areas include issues of student motivation and

achievement, educators’ roles in motivating students, and helping students connect to what they are learning and apply it outside of the classroom. For her Master’s thesis, Cassie identified underachieving undergraduate students (based on discrepancies between GPA and ACT/SAT scores) and developed an intervention to increase not only academic achievement, but also increase students’ perceived control over learning and motivation to learn. She would like to pursue similar interest at UNC, and has already joined Dr. Kevin Pugh in exploring transformative learning experiences in 6th grade science students. Motivation remains a key interest area, as well, and Cassie’s advice for motivating undergraduate students: “When I teach I encourage people very much to relate things to personal experiences.”

Cassie will present more on motivation at an upcoming Motivation Research Group meeting.

Special Report: 2008 Election

The Presidential Candidates Weigh in on Educational Issues*



Barack Obama & Joe Biden *"Lifetime Success through Education"*

- Current Weaknesses of the Educational System
 - Shortcomings/unfulfilled promises of NCLB
 - Teacher retention
 - Soaring college costs
- Teachers & Teacher Recruitment
 - Incentives for graduates with degrees in math & science to become teachers
 - Boost funding & support for teacher preparation programs (scholarships, accreditation requirements)
 - Expand mentoring programs to help w/ retention
 - Work with teachers to develop "new & innovative ways" to increase pay; allow districts to reward teachers in underserved areas, teachers consistently excelling in classroom, & mentor teachers
- No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
 - Reform, starting by increasing funding. Improve assessments, shift focus to individualized instruction
- Early Childhood Education
 - "Zero to Five" plan – support parents and children from infancy through pre-K
 - Expand Early-Head Start/Head Start
 - Provide affordable, high-quality child care
- K-12 Education
 - Address dropout crisis
 - Expand & Support (i.e., double the funding) for afterschool programs & college outreach programs
 - Math and Science = national priority
- Higher Education
 - Simplify the financial aid process
 - Make college affordable: American Opportunity Tax Credit
- Accountability
 - Improve the current standardize assessments; long-term tracking of student readiness for college and/or the workplace
 - Support schools needing improvement, rather than punishing them

John McCain & Sarah Palin *"Excellence, Choice, & Competition in Education"*

- Current Weaknesses of the Educational System
 - Cultural problems
 - Avoidance of genuine accountability
 - Parents lack power/control/choice
- Administrators, Teachers & Teacher Recruitment
 - 5% of funding set aside for states to recruit teachers graduating in top 25% of class or participating in alternative teacher recruitment program
 - Incentive bonuses for: high performing teachers to locate in "the most challenging educational settings;" teachers in subjects like math & science; teachers who demonstrate student improvement
 - Funding for professional development
 - Localized control of funding (i.e., school principals)
- No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
 - Build on NCLB; shift focus to inspiring individual students vs. assessing group averages
- Early Childhood Education
 - Comprehensive approach, focus on literacy & language development, math, motor & social skills.
 - Direct funding toward early hearing/vision screening, immunizations.
 - Educate parents on preparing children for a productive educational experience
- K-12 Education
 - Keep parents informed of child's performance; Offer parents more choice/control
 - Single criterion: raise student achievement
 - Funding specifically for technological advancement
- Higher Education
 - Simplify the financial aid process
 - Remove/simplify regulatory barriers
- Accountability
 - Every federally supported program MUST include child-centered, outcome-based standards for quality
 - Parents must have more choice/control: Allow parents to pull children from "failing" schools

For more information, visit www.barackobama.com/

For more information, visit www.johnmccain.com/

**The information below does not represent opinions of the editors, members of the UNC Educational Psychology Society, or members of the University of Northern Colorado at-large. The intent is to present an unbiased summary of the issues. Election Day: 11.04.2008*



Election Issues



As the presidential election nears, voters must begin to think about the many issues that are presented on the ballot. Below are several of the issues that may be important for students, teachers, graduates, or new employees entering the work force. Please read carefully and research the issues because they can be worded very awkwardly.

Issue 46: Prohibits preferential treatment based on ethnicity, race, sex, and color. This includes selection processes that may take place at colleges, universities, and employment positions.

Issue 47: Prohibits an employer from requiring an employee to be a member of a labor organization.

Issue 49: Prohibits a government payroll system from taking deductions out of your paycheck to fund the payroll system.

Issue 50: This issue, if approved would apply revisions to gaming in casinos. Specifically, it would extend hours of operation and raise maximum bets among other adjustments. This would cause a growth in gaming tax revenue. About 78% of gaming tax revenue would go to funding financial aid and classroom instruction at community colleges.

Issue 51: State sales tax would be increased and the revenue would go to long-term services for persons with disabilities.

Issue 55: Would require employers to establish a just cause for the discharge or suspension of a full-time employee.

Issue 56: Would require employers to provide healthcare to employees, if they employ more the twenty people.

Issue 57: Would require employers, with ten or more employees, to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Issue 58: Would raise tax on gross income of oil and gas extracted from the state to 5%. About 60% of revenues from the tax would fund scholarships for Colorado residents attending state colleges and universities.

Issue 59: Any revenue that the state would be required to refund because of constitutional limits on state spending in a fiscal year would be transferred into the state education fund.



Announcements



Motivation Group

Every other Wednesday beginning October 30th, a motivation group will be meeting. At these meetings issues involving motivation and related concepts will be discussed. Also, the group will discuss current and previous research conducted surrounding motivation. For now the meetings will take place in Dr. Pugh's office. If you are interested please contact Dr. Pugh or I by email.

Dr. Pugh email: Kevin.pugh@unco.edu

Ben Heddy email: Benjamin.heddy@unco.edu

Psi Chi Fundraiser

The UNC chapter of Psi Chi is selling discount cards as a fundraiser. These cards will afford a purchaser many opportunities to save money at several of the hot spots in Greeley. The cards are only 10\$, and the savings will be worth much more than this small price. Also, your money will go towards a good cause. If you are interested please contact the members of Psi Chi listed below.

Kevin Borbelon email: Psi.chi@unco.edu

Kyla Scherr email: kcbbelt@aol.com

Educational Psychology Board of Trustees

The educational society has elected new members to the board of trustees. We look forward to the 2008-2009 school year. We hope to be as productive and dedicated as the society has been previous years. If you would like to speak at a meeting and present your research please contact any of the following members. We wish everyone a wonderful and exciting school year.

President-Crystal Spindler

Vice President-Becky Jobes

Treasurer-Sarah Wilson

Secretary-Katie Cooper

Website Coordinator-Cassie Russell

Co-Editors of the Newsletter-Karen Schmidt & Benjamin Heddy



Dates, Events & Deadlines

Ed Psych Society Events:

- 10.30: Brown-bag Talk
Dr. Michael Phillips
"The Influence of Situational Factors
on the Nurturance of Personal Interest
& Perceived Competence"
11:00-12:00 a.m., McKee 424

Conferences:

- **American Educational Research Association**
<http://www.aera.net/>
April 13-17, 2009, San Diego, California
Student presentation applications were due 8.1.08
- **American Psychological Association**
<http://www.apa.org/>
August 6-9, 2009, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Student presentation applications due 12.1.08
- **Association for Psychological Science**
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/>
May 22-25, 2009, San Francisco, California
Student presentation applications due on 1.20.09
- **International Neuropsychological Society**
<http://www.the-ins.org/>
February 11-14, 2009, Atlanta, Georgia
Student presentation applications were due 9.3.08
- **National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology**
<http://www.nitop.org/index.html>
January 3-6, 2009, St. Pete Beach, Florida
Student presentation applications were due 10.1.08
- **Rocky Mountain Psychological Association**
<http://www.rockymountainpsych.org/>
April 16-18, 2009, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Student presentation applications due 1.16.09
- **Society for Research in Child Development**
<http://www.srcd.org/>
April 2-4, 2009, Denver, Colorado
Student presentation applications were due 8.22.08
- **Southwestern Psychological Association**
<http://www.swpsych.org/>
April 2-4, 2009, San Antonio, Texas
Student presentation applications due 11.24.08
- **Western Psychological Association**
<http://www.westernpsych.org/>
April 23-26, 2009, Portland, Oregon
Student presentation applications due 11.15.08

UNC & Community Events:

- **10.20-10.31:** Early Voting open at select locations
- 10.28: Blackboard Open Lab
2:00-4:00 p.m., Michener L12
Contact: CETL 351-2885
- 10.29: Communication Research Colloquium
Cheryl Pawlowski,
"TV: A Member of the Family"
2:30-3:15 p.m., Candelaria 2005
Contact: Charles Soukup 351-2059
- 10.30: Expressions-Poetry, Open Mic & More
7:00-9:00 p.m., UC Panorama Room
Contact: Kimberly Ford 351-1341
- 11.04: The Mathematics of Voting presentation
2:30-3:30 p.m., Ross 2275
Contact: April Judd 351-2891
- **11.04: Election Day, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. – GO VOTE**
- 11.06: Women of the World Potluck
5:30 p.m., Women's Resource Center
No Males over the age of 10, please!
- 11.07: Talk on the Fall of Societies
Dr. Tim Sheehan & Dallace Unger
"A Politically Incorrect Examination of
the Dynamics of Civil & Social Unrest
from a Warrior Perspective"
6:30-8:00 p.m., UC Columbine A & B
Contact: David Bruce 303-886-3063
- 11.13: Women's Resource Center Guest Speaker
Mary Lightfine, RN
Author "Nurses, Nomads, & Warlords"
7:00 p.m., UC Ballrooms
Tix Required, free @ B&N ticket office
- 11.18: Speak Truth Not Ignorance, Part V:
Stereotypes
6:00-8:00 p.m., UC Ballrooms
Contact: Kimberly Ford 351-1341
- 11.26: **Fall Break – NO CLASSES**
- 11.27-11.28: **Thanksgiving – UNC CLOSED**

Important Academic Dates & Deadlines:

- 10.31: Payment for October Bills DUE 5:00 p.m.
- 11.07: Last day for Defense of Dissertation
- 11.08: GRE Subject Test, UC 2166, 8:00 a.m.
- 11.14: Last day for filing results of Written Comps
- 11.14: Last day for filing thesis/doctoral dissertation
- 11.14: Nominations DUE for outstanding thesis/diss.
- 11.15: PRAXIS II exam, McKee L150, 7:00 a.m.
- 11.18: Complete withdrawal deadline
- 11.26: **Fall Break – NO CLASSES**
- 11.27-11.28: **Thanksgiving – UNC CLOSED**

- **University Schools**

- Research partnerships
- Volunteer aides and tutors
- Contact: Sherry Gerner, 506-7001

- **Monfort Early Education Center**

- Research partnerships
- Volunteer aides
- Contact: Linda Neigherbauer, 339-6275



If have any further potential volunteer partnerships, please contact a member of the Ed Psych Society

From The Editors:

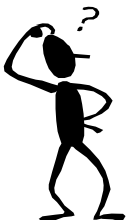
Edutainment Link of the Month:

PBS "The Secret Life of the Brain" <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/brain/index.html>

You Might be a Graduate Student If...

you have ever, just for kicks, performed social experiments on your friends without their knowledge.
you are startled to meet people who neither need nor want to read.
you have ever brought a scholarly article to a bar.
you rate coffee shops by the availability of outlets for your laptop.
everything reminds you of something in your discipline.
you have ever discussed academic matters at a sporting event.
you have ever spent more than \$50 on photocopying or printing while researching a single paper.
you actually have a preference between microfilm and microfiche.
you can tell the time of day by looking at the traffic flow at the library.
you look forward to summers because you're more productive without the distraction of classes.
you consider all papers to be works in progress.
professors don't really care when you turn in work anymore.
you find the bibliographies of books more interesting than the actual text.
you have given up trying to keep your books organized and are just trying to keep them in the same general area.
you have accepted guilt as an inherent feature of relaxation.
you start referring to stories like "Snow White et al."
you often wonder how long you can live on pasta without getting scurvy.
you look forward to taking some time off to do laundry
you wonder if APA style allows you to cite talking to yourself as "personal communication"

Questions, Comments, Corrections or Concerns?
Have an Event or Announcement You Would Like Included?
Suggestions for Future Articles?



Contact your local friendly editors and let us know! Thank you!!!

Ben Heddy
Karen Schmidt

ben.heddy@unco.edu
karen.schmidt@unco.edu

