Spring is here and it is good to know the program is in great shape. Our students matched at 100% once again in capturing an internship. All those going on internship in the fall or now on internship, have made at least two professional presentations or have at least one publication while in the program. Advanced students are continuing through community engagement in external practica in integrative care settings, counseling centers, VAs, and prisons. During fall 2014, Counseling Psychology (CP) students in external practica contributed around 750 hours of community engagement. In regard to social justice, a number of dissertations this past year set the stage for advocacy of diverse, underserved, and underrepresented groups. One of the dissertations on diversity earned the Outstanding Dissertation Citation in the December 2014 graduation. Another dissertation had participants from as far as a monastery in Thailand.

The faculty continues to be energetically mentoring students in clinical work in the PSC and in research. Dr. Wright is on a sabbatical leave working on his research. In this Newsletter we say goodbye to Dr. Sean O’Halloran, who has been affiliated with the CP program and at UNC for 25 years. Dr. O’Halloran’s contributions to the CP program have been invaluable. Her farewell is included in this issue. She will be greatly missed and we are lucky to have had her as a colleague and for students to have had her as a mentor.

At the end of summer 2015 I will be going back to full teaching and research. Dr. Wright will start as the new Director of Training (DT) fall 2015. The program is ready for some new energy and will be in good hands with Dr. Wright. It has been a true honor to be the DT for almost 5 years. It was an opportunity for leadership during a time when changes were implemented in the program. I am the first woman and person from a multicultural/international background to be a DT in the program and I learned a lot. The job got done with the help of many people. Diane, Gloria and Roberta in the main office were there to help unconditionally and with such gracefulness. Caroline Hicks, Rachel Haug, Michael Jenkins, Michael Mahoney, Annette Peters were the most amazing GAs in helping out with the self-study. Annette Peters and Kiersten Eberle were fantastic in assisting me with gathering program news and putting the newsletter together. My colleagues provided me with both support and challenges and I learned a lot in the process. The most fun part of the job was advocating for our students and program. I still have 5 months ahead so it is not goodbye yet!

-Dr. Lia Softas-Nall
Director of Training,
Counseling Psychology
Congratulations to those who successfully defended their dissertations and graduated Fall 2014

**Dr. Karina Samaniego Estrada**
**Current Position:** Dr. Samaniego Estrada is now the Bilingual Clinical Intake/research Specialist at the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center in Texas.

Pictured to the left with her committee  
From left to right: Dr. Cardona, Dr. Softas-Nall, Dr. Karina Samaniego Estrada, Dr. Gonzalez, and Dr. Clukey

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**Dr. Jessica Riedel Chenoweth**
Dissertation: Understanding dialectical behavior therapy through the voice of adolescent clients in a community mental health center.  
**Current Position:** Dr. Chenoweth is currently in Ojai, California working as Lead Clinician at Evolve Growth Initiatives, a residential treatment center for adolescents.

Pictured to the left with her dissertation chair.  
From left to right: Dr. Jessica Riedel Chenoweth & Dr. O’Halloran.

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**Dr. Wipanee Suk-erb**
Dissertation: Resilience and coping: The perspectives of cancer patients, family caregivers, and medical volunteers at Khampramong Monastery, Thailand.  
**Current Position:** Dr. Suk-erb now holds a position as faculty in the Department of Educational Psychology and Guidance at Mahasarakham University in northeast Thailand.

Pictured to the right with her committee & family  
From left to right: Dr. Rings, Dr. O’Halloran, Dr. Clukey, Dr. Murdock, with Dr. Wipanee Suk-erb in the front.

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**Dr. Diana Levas-Luckman**
**Current Position:** Dr. Levas-Luckman is the primary therapist at the Eating Disorder Recovery Center in Denver, CO.

Diana was able to defend her dissertation last summer, walked in spring last year and appears in the previous newsletter.
The Ringing of the Bell

The ringing of the bell by those students who are graduating is a long standing tradition for everyone who enters the program. The bell was given in 1986 by graduates and signifies the celebratory moment of having successfully defended one’s dissertation. And while many of the students await with joy and anticipation the day they are able to ring the bell, they still find themselves ecstatic at finally being able to ring it, leading to some entertaining pictures...

Dr. Karina Samaniego Estrada

Dr. Wipanee Suk-erb

Dr. Jessica Riedel Chenoweth
Karina Samaniego Estrada (PhD 2014) was awarded the Graduate Dean’s Citation for Outstanding Dissertation in December 2014. Her dissertation was a phenomenological exploration of Mexican immigrants’ experiences of being undocumented in the United States and the effect on their mental health. Dr. Samaniego conducted and transcribed all of her interviews in Spanish before translating the themes for her dissertation. Dr. Samaniego’s study has significant implications for all those who come into contact with undocumented Mexican immigrants, and contributes to the social justice literature. Dr. Samaniego is pictured above (with Dr. Softas-Nall on the left) during the recognition ceremony, which takes place before graduation.

Dr. Suk-erb (PhD 2014) prepared a wonderful Thai lunch in December. It was an invitation to the faculty, some administrators, her host family, and close friends. This was her way to celebrate her graduation and express her appreciation before returning to Thailand. The menu was delicious and included green curry (Kaeng Keaw Wan), rice noodle with sauce (Kanom Jeen Nam Ya), fried noodle with soy sauce (Pad See Ew), salad, and fruits. Dr. Wipanee Sukerb is now at Mahasarakham University in northeast Thailand as faculty of Educational Psychology and Guidance. Pictured below: Dr. O’Halloran, her Research Advisor, Dr. Suk-erb in the middle, and Dr. Softas on the right.

Left: Dr. Samaniego & Dr. Riedel Chenoweth
Right: Dr. Riedel Chenoweth & Dr. Samaniego with Dr. Softas-Nall and Dr. Wright who both received awards from the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and served as marshals during the graduation.
A Farewell from Dr. O’Halloran

Twenty five years is a long time. It’s the longest time I have ever lived in one place and clearly the longest time I have ever held one (very multifaceted) job. But it’s not too long. It’s not too long to change direction, to learn new things, to remember what it was like to start here in 1990, and to appreciate what a privilege it has been to be a part of our program (or department or division—the names have changed over the years) and the clinic, whose name has remained the same: “the PSC” or “Psychological Services Clinic.”

I don’t know exactly how many clinicians I have trained, classes I have taught, students I have mentored, and service activities I have engaged in. At last count, I have chaired 33 dissertations and served on many committees (thanks to my GA, Tricia Steeves for helping in the count). What I do know is that what MATTERS most to me is the people I work with: Diane, Gloria and Roberta, who deserve a huge thanks for being essential to making all of our programs run and who may not hear thank you often enough. They maintain grace, dignity, persistence, and a sense of humor on a daily basis. Thanks also to the faculty and other colleagues I am fortunate to work with and have collaborated with at many professional levels and to the students in our departments, in the clinic, in externships, and in their research. I know the heart of my work here is the clinic, and for me, it has been my primary career focus. Nearly twenty years ago, then department chair, Dr. Judith Praul asked me to be the Clinic Director. She said that an outside accrediting agency had warned that our clinic “was a lawsuit waiting to happen”; the clinic procedures and polices were informal; the clinic manual, forms, and intake procedures were minimal; there was limited outreach or liaisons with community agencies. She emphasized that the people who founded the PSC had created an amazing resource and did a good job building it. She said it was time to expand the role of the clinic and systematize the way we ran it. I have tried very hard to do that, from creating procedures and many, many forms, to building bridges with community organizations, and, this year, introducing digital technology and electronic health records with the great help of a donor (a former student), the UNC facilities and technology departments and their wonderful staff, and my fabulous GA’s for this year: Hannah and Jason.

It has been wonderful to be a part of this program. Ok, it has been mostly wonderful. The most delightful part is witnessing students doing well and receiving competitive externships, internships, and job placements, hearing how good people around the country think they are, and knowing I have played even a small role in their success. I know I am ready to take on new projects and adventures with my time and my energy, and I also know how much I will miss that part of my work.

I have truly valued teaching and feel privileged that my job required me to continue my training and education. This has included presenting at and attending conferences, conducting research and going through (the often tedious process) of submitting manuscripts and having them published (and sometimes rejected) with graduate students and colleagues. My ongoing training has included workshops and classes: I have been paid to learn and to contribute to others’ learning. How rewarding and fun is that!? I have been fortunate to travel as part of this career and I hope this is part of every student’s career. I have lived, taught, and consulted in Ireland, France, and Thailand. My journeys have taken me as close as Denver and as far as Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. In between, trips throughout the U.S., Europe, Canada, and SE Asia (thank you to the Fulbright Program) and many points in between have invigorated and inspired me. I have brought back to campus new perspectives, ways of teaching, and stories about how students and professionals in other parts of the world help clients, their families, and their communities heal from trauma, build better families, and communicate across cultural divides.

I have told my children on numerous times that when they leave a place, they should leave it better than they found it. My hope is that all of our students have the opportunity to leave where they work, practice, supervise and teach a better place than they found it. I also hope they pick up after themselves and leave the caves and the world a neater place! I hope to leave the PSC in a good place and I encourage all of you to continue to ‘grow’ it into the future.

Dr. Sean O’Halloran
Goodbye Clinic

(Inspired by, and apologies to, Good Night Moon by Margaret Wise Brown)

In the great big clinic cave
   There was a ledge
   And a one way mirror
And computers, flat screen monitors, and many pictures, but none of the cow jumping over the moon

And there were five student observers sitting on chairs
   And two people in a session
   And a pair of clipboards
   And a little toy house in the playroom
   And Skippy the dog
And a microphone and a digital recorder and a bottle full of water
   And a few students chatting about comps and dissertations
   And an observant professor whispering “hush”

   Goodnight caves
   Good night ledges
   Goodnight flickering flat screen monitors and microphones
   Goodnight lights and fans
   And the one way mirrors
   Goodnight students with their comps and dissertations

   Goodnight clipboards
   Goodnight people in sessions
   Goodnight toy house
   Goodnight slow clocks
   Good night bottles of water
   Goodnight intakes, case notes, and reporting and termination forms.

Off goes the professor whispering hush
   and with her goes Skippy

   Farewell cave noises
   and Avigilon issues everywhere.

-Dr. O’Halloran
Internship Matches

Congratulations to all those who matched for internships starting next fall. It was 100% match rate. We will miss not seeing you on campus. Best wishes!

Sarah Breseke  
Cheyenne VA Medical Center  
Cheyenne, WY

Marsha Cohen  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN  
APA accredited

Dylan Firsick  
University of Southern California CA/UCC  
Los Angeles, CA  
APA accredited

Jason Kacmarski  
VA Medical Center  
Denver, CO  
APA accredited

Blair Nyline  
State Operated Forensic Services  
St. Peter, MN  
APA accredited

Steven Pote  
Boise VA Medical Center  
Boise, ID  
APA accredited

Janae Sones  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT  
APA accredited

Tanya Watson  
Rutgers Biomedical & Health Sciences  
Newark, NJ  
APA accredited

Given the competitiveness of the matching process and all the hard work that goes into the applications and interviews, it is wonderful to see how our students cope and stand by each other. A big thanks to Tanya Watson who created amazing announcements for everyone’s internship matches, which are hanging in the hallway in the Counseling Psychology bulletin board. The collages were based off nicknames created from comic book characters.
Everyone is invited to come visit our students as they present at the campus wide UNC Research Day this April 9th all day at the University Center. All our pre-internship students will be presenting their own research or research with their faculty mentors. Starting this year, the Counseling Psychology Research Day has been integrated into the UNC Research Day for greater visibility of our students’ work.
Presentations & Publications by Faculty and Students since the last newsletter.


SRM Research Night
December 9th 2104


Future Conferences:

Congratulations to the faculty and students presenting at Rocky Mountain Psychological Association this April 2015 in Boise, Idaho


Congratulations to the faculty and students presenting at APA this Summer 2015 in Toronto, Canada


Peters, A., & Softas-Nall, B., & Ruechel, B. (2015, August). Exploring the process of identifying with more than one nationality.

Roche, J., & Softas-Nall, B. (2015, August). Counter-narratives of adults who are homeless: attachment and resiliency in context.


Counseling Psychology Student Organization

Last semester, CPSO put on multiple events, both social and academic. These included a student led written comprehensive exam informational meeting [separate from Dr. Softas, the Training Director’s] and a board games social night. So far this semester, CPSO has held an external practicum informational meeting which was followed by a social event downtown. We were incredibly excited about the turn out from both students who have gone through the process and were willing to share their knowledge, and new students who were looking for information on applying to an external practicum for the first time. A huge thanks to everyone who was able to be there [pictured to the right].

We have several additional events planned for this semester including informational meetings related to the oral comprehensive exam and internship processes [as additional events beyond those provided by the Training Director]. Keep an eye out for emails announcing these and other events, as well as additional news from CPSO!

In addition, CPSO will be holding elections in April to fill any open positions. All counseling psychology students are encouraged to apply. An email with information has been sent out.

Finally, we are always looking for input and ideas from students. If you have ideas for events, questions for CPSO, or feedback about any of the events held so far we would love to hear them! Just send an email to cpso@unco.edu and we’ll be sure to get back to you.

CPSO

Psychological Services Clinic Announcement

The new recording system, Avigilon, was installed in the clinic over the break. This new installment has moved us to a completely digital system, with brand new cameras, televisions, desks and a new computer system. Additionally, this semester will see the beginning of the roll out of Titanium, an electronic health records system, for our clinic. Overall it has been a busy semester for all those involved!

Many thanks to Diane, Dr. O’Halloran—our Clinic Director, Hannah—the assistant Clinic Director, and Jason—who is the clinic tech GA, all of who helped and continue to help in the transition to bring our clinic technology to the 21st century!

Pictured from left to right: Jason Kacmarski (Tech GA), Hannah Kreider (Clinic GA), Dr. O’Halloran, & Diane Greenshields

Additionally, congratulations to Barry Motter who will be taking over as the 2015-2016 Clinic GA.
Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Karina Samaniego Estrada** (PhD 2014) and Erick, who met in Colorado, married in Utah just after she finished her internship. So in a period of a few months, Karina finished her internship, finished her dissertation and won an award for it, got married, and walked during graduation in December 2014. She had a productive year! Oh, and she just recently got a job!

![Image](image.jpg)

Congratulations to **Annette Peters** who married Benjamin Claussen—who is doing his doctorate in Nursing here at UNC—last December while she was on internship in Florida!

![Image](image2.jpg)

Awards

**Janae Sones** received this year’s Honors Convocation Award for counseling psychology. Janae has been active in many capacities as a doctoral student. She has made contributions through community engagement and involvement; scholarly activity such as co-authorship of a book chapter and numerous professional presentations; effective teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level; serving as the student representative in the Colorado Psychological Association; and serving as the student representative to the Counseling Psychology faculty. Janae is good natured, highly motivated, and exhibits great interpersonal skills. As a student she has represented the program in an outstanding manner in scholarly activity, clinical work, and service.

![Image](image3.jpg)
Dr. Marie Lepeltier (PsyD 2008) and her husband welcomed a baby girl into their lives a year and a half ago. She took the EPPP while eight months pregnant and she is now a licensed psychologist in North Dakota. She continues to work full time as a clinician in a human service center, working with adults, children and families with a variety of presenting issues. She also provides on-call crisis services, which have exposed her to working in various settings, including the emergency room.

Dr. Michael Jenkins-Guarnieri (PhD 2013) is currently working full time in private practice in Tacoma, WA, conducting psychotherapy with adults, couples, and adolescents. Additionally, he is providing cognitive and psychological assessment services.

Dr. Michael Mahoney (PhD 2014) sent us this beautiful picture of the back of his and his daughter's heads from Hawaii where he is doing his post doc. And yes, we are all jealous of the beauty you are surrounded by.

Dr. Brian Drodz (PsyD 2008) is currently working at the Drew University Counseling Center. Drew is a small, private, liberal arts college in Madison, New Jersey.

Dr. Travis Heath (PhD 2010) and his partner, Allie, are the proud parents of an (almost) 3-year-old daughter, Tia. In April 2014 he was voted by his students to receive the 2014 Metro State University in Denver Psychology Department Outstanding Mentor Award. In May 2015 he will be giving a workshop to an international audience at the Vancouver School for Narrative Therapy.

Dr. Liz Legg (PhD 2013) is the Founder and Owner of The Road Less Traveled Counseling, a private practice near downtown Denver, where the focus of her work is to help individuals overcome the impact of trauma, couples to increase the emotional connection and security within their relationship, and to provide consultation and supervision to therapists.

Congratulations to the graduates who are now Licensed Psychologists!

Lindsay Heath (PhD 2013)
Emily Richter (PhD 2013)
Laura Oyer (PhD 2013)
Marie Lepeltier (PsyD 2008)
Liz Legg (PhD 2013)

News from those on internship now:

Meag-gan Walters accepted a fellowship position at Stanford in California for next year.

Dayna Northart accepted a post-doctoral position at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, CA.

Jeff Roche accepted a post-doctoral position for next year at University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Ricki Walker received an offer for the assistant director of Psychological Resources for University of Oklahoma’s Student-Athletes.
Faculty & Staff News

Congratulations to Dr. Sean O’Halloran who was awarded the 2014-2015 College Service Provider Award!

Our thanks and congratulations to our own sweet Gloria Sedillos on being recognized for 15 years of service to UNC at the annual classified dinner. We appreciate you, GG!

The last Thursday during finals week the faculty celebrate the holidays and upcoming break.

Keep in touch and let us know your news!
Contact Dr. Softas-Nall and/or Kiersten Eberle if you have something to share!
We are happy to hear of your professional and personal news.

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/.