
Psyttalk

Newsletter of the Department of Psychology, Kansas State University

Vol. 13, No. 1

October 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD



Greetings to all of our alumni, friends, current students, and staff. I write to you while I am on sabbatical for the fall semester. So far, it has been an interesting experience. Last month, my wife, Nancy, and I were in New Orleans taking our son to start his freshman year at Tulane. We moved him into his new dormitory on Saturday morning and then were told to evacuate that afternoon as Hurricane Katrina was approaching the city. We were

very fortunate to make our way to Dallas and watched the first few days of the hurricane on the television. The evacuation was a particularly distressing process (it took us 5 hours to get to Baton Rouge, a drive that should have taken only about an hour) but we feel fortunate that we were there when the order was given and that we were able to bring Zach home with us. He is currently attending Denver University for the fall term until Tulane can determine its immediate future (they plan to start classes again in the spring).

As I think about the unprecedented decision of Tulane's to close the university for a semester, I realized how far-ranging the influence of a major research university can be. More specifically, how many lives are entwined in the running of an institution, including those of students, faculty, staff, administration, facilities personnel, and the myriad number of workers who make the university run. One comes to appreciate the truly unique and wonderful environment on our campus and how important it is for so many people.

The faculty in our department are working once again on recruiting as the Dean has authorized us to fill one faculty position. Recruiting good faculty is a critical process for any department and, although it is time and labor intensive, these new individuals bring new perspectives and strengths to a department. The main academic issue facing faculty is the assessment of student learning, a university-wide initiative that our department has actually been working on for a few years. Although we know that our students learn a great deal in our program, the assessment process will allow us to focus on some specific objectives that we feel are very important. For example, we have identified written communication skills

as an important learning outcome and we are using materials gathered from our upper level, core courses to provide us with the critical data for assessment.

Our undergraduate students continue to be very involved in the activities of the department. In the spring, Psi Chi sponsored another successful banquet that had its highest attendance in several years. Deserving students, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, received various awards for outstanding scholarship, research, and service. The plaques for each of the awards, with all the names of past winners, were on display at the banquet and it was fun to look at the many years and remember what wonderful students have graced our program. Our undergraduates continue to be heavily involved in research. We held the 21st annual Psychology Undergraduate Research Convocation in the spring with a record number of 18 paper presentations. During the years of this event, we have had over 350 students involved as presenters, a remarkable number which reflects only a portion of the students actually working in labs. This past year, many of these students also presented their research at regional meetings (e.g., Psychology and Education Research in Kansas, Great Plains Students Psychology Conference), winning several awards for outstanding papers.

The graduate programs in our areas of concentration continue to thrive. This fall semester, for example, we welcomed the largest incoming graduate class since the early 1990's. A lot of this is due to the addition of strong faculty through our earlier recruiting efforts. As these faculty develop their research programs, excellent graduate students are invaluable. The Graduate Association of Psychology Students (GAPS) has become more active, also. For example, GAPS recently organized the Graduate Reading Room and catalogued all of the journals that are kept by the department.

You no doubt are aware of our recent emphasis on undergraduate scholarships and seeking monetary support from our friends and alumni. For those of you who have provided donations through the years during the Telefund or in some other manner, we are extremely grateful. I would like to explain the increase in our efforts to secure funds. Recently, the university has decided that each department now has the fiscal responsibility for partially supporting the 4-year scholarship winners (e.g., Putnam, Presidential). For the Psychology Department, this is both an acknowledgment of the strength of our under-

graduates, as well as a financial concern. This past year we had 16 such scholarship winners, clearly an impressive number! Financially, this meant that our department's share of the costs was in excess of \$16,000. It turns out that our scholarship account only generates approximately \$4,000 annually, so we had to utilize other departmental resources to pay the remainder. As you can see, we desperately need to increase our scholarship accounts so that we can generate a greater amount of interest with which to cover our scholarship costs. Our goal is to have enough principal in the scholarship account to generate the income needed for the four year scholarships as well as for those scholarships that are controlled by

the Psychology Department. Again, for those of you who have responded recently or in the past with generous donations, we sincerely thank you.

Although I am on sabbatical, I keep close ties with those in my research laboratory and with Dr. Jerry Frieman who has assumed the Interim Head position for this semester. I appreciate and recognize Dr. Frieman's ability to serve in this position; the department is certainly in good hands. I continue to enjoy hearing from all of our students and friends and hope that, if you find yourself in Manhattan for any reason, you will stop in and say hello.

Stephen W. Kiefer (swkiefer@k-state.edu)

FACULTY NEWS (compiled by Richard Harris)

Mark Barnett (barn@k-state.edu) and his students continue to conduct research on moral cognitions, emotions, and behaviors. Recent studies have focused on (a) the factors associated with children's and adults' likelihood of engaging in various minor moral and legal violations and (b) antisocial and prosocial teasing among children. Mark has been invited to write the section on "Moral Development" for the upcoming Encyclopedia of Social Psychology. Mark's daughter Megan is a third-year law student at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and his son Neil graduated with a degree in business from the University of Kansas in Lawrence and works in Kansas City.

Laura Brannon (lbrannon@k-state.edu) continues her research in the areas of persuasion and compliance. Laura and her students are working on projects to improve public service announcements promoting healthy behaviors. In particular, she is continuing her work as a co-principal investigator on a \$480,000 grant from the USDA dealing with improving food safety practices of restaurant employees. She continues to enjoy spoiling her two nieces, Caitlyn and Mackenzie.

Dorothy Farrand (farrand@k-state.edu) continues teaching the Concepts of Clinical Psychology class, as well as the Clinical Psychology Lab and Field Placement. She also has a private clinical practice in town. Her son James Fullagar is now a Psychology major at KSU.

Jerry Frieman (frieman@k-state.edu) and his students are continuing their work on social learning and operant conditioning in rats and hamsters. He continues to serve as Coordinator of the Department Heads' Training and Development program in the Office of the Provost. Jerry's wife Jeanne is still in private practice. His son Karl, daughter-in-law Wanda, and their twin children Isaac and Taylor moved back to Oakland, California so that Karl could assume the position of general counsel for a hedge fund in San Francisco. His daughter Varda and her husband Jim still live in Belleville NJ. Varda is a consultant with Affiliated Computer Services. Jerry is also serving as Interim Department Head for the Fall 2005 semester while Prof. Stephen Kiefer is on sabbatical leave.



Professor Richard Harris and his family in front of Mount Ruapehu in Tongariro National Park, New Zealand.

Richard Harris (rjharris@k-state.edu) spent summer of 2005 as a Visiting Scholar in the School of Psychology at Massey University in Palmerston North, New Zealand. This is located in the Manawatu region in the southern North Island. In this capacity he presented three major addresses at Massey and visited six other Kiwi university psychology departments (Massey-Albany, Auckland, Waikato, Victoria, Canterbury, and Otago), as well as consulting on research with numerous people.

Although New Zealand is about the same latitude as the US, with the seasons reversed, the maritime climate leads to much milder temperatures than Kansas year round; thus the New Zealand winter was much more pleasant than a Kansas summer. Richard's family joined him for a month and was able to do considerable traveling around Manawatu, the central North Island volcanic and thermal area, and an eight-day loop around the South Island, which is dominated by the Southern Alps, rising up to about 13,000 feet! Teen children Clint (16) and twins Natalie and Grady (14) thought New Zealand was truly awesome!

New Zealand is a sparsely populated but spectacularly beautiful country. About the same area as Britain or Japan, it has one-fifteenth or one-thirtieth the population.



Professor Renee Slick and her fiancé Dr. Russell Reitz.

Renee Slick (rslick@k-state.edu) has had a very busy and exciting year both personally and professionally. She reports, “Personally I got engaged! My fiancée, Russell Reitz, M.D., proposed on May 20,

2005 and of course I said YES!. Russell is a Radiation Oncology Physician. He founded the Central Kansas Cancer Institute at the Manhattan Medical Center in April of 1999 and has built a thriving and successful practice. My circle of love now grows to a family of 6 including Russell, me and our sons Jarrod Slick (14), Eric Slick (10), Alex Reitz (17) and Radar O’Riley Reitz (2), a boston terrier! All three boys play football and are honor students at their respective schools. We couldn’t be more proud and I couldn’t be more blessed than to have such a loving and supportive family!

“Professionally—My research lab, The STAR (Simulation Training and Assessment Research) Lab continued to grow and flourish. In fact, we will be opening STAR Lab II at the USD 383 School District this Fall with the support of Mr. Brad Wille and Mr. Stan Ward of the Manhattan School District. STAR Lab II will focus exclusively on research aimed at augmenting traditional driver’s education with simulation training and psychological assessment for high school students. Also, with the help of a dedicated and talented team of graduate (Beth Cady and Tuan Tran) and undergraduate students (Elizabeth Cannon, Katie Gibb, Melissa Kletchka, Jennifer May, Michael Smith) we were able to present our work at two National Conferences (American Psychological Society in Los Angeles and Western Psychological Association in Oregon) and two International Conferences (Driving Assessment in Maine and The International Conference of the Social Sciences in Hawaii). In total nine different posters/papers were presented. Elizabeth Cannon, one of my undergraduate research assistants, took 2nd place in the Great Plains Students Psychology Conference in March 2005. This year, I have two new graduate research assistants (John Steele, for whom I also serve as Major Professor; and Jason Brunner). Welcome John and Jason! All in all a wonderful and productive year full of blessings and exciting research opportunities.”

Psi Chi (Undergraduate Honorary Society in Psychology)

Psi Chi had a very active year under the leadership of President Kristen Geri and the other officers. They sponsored field trips to the Ellsworth Correctional Facility and, for the first time, the Glore Psychiatric Museum in St. Joseph MO. Students attending that reported a most interesting look at the not-always-pretty history of the treatment of mental illness. Psi Chi also had a very successful t-shirt fundraising campaign, resurrecting a revised version of the old “Top 10 Reasons for Majoring in Psychology” design. The organization had a record number of members with fall and spring initiation parties. Continuing traditions, they sponsored the rat training for open house and the spring banquet, which was held this year for the first time at Valentino’s Italian Buffet. Officers for 2005-06 are April Jacobs (Pres.), Sarah Koon (Treasurer), Roya Taghizadeh (Secretary), Katie Gibb (Historian), and Reed Peterson and Mike Katz (Vice-Presidents). Richard Harris continues as faculty advisor.

Richard Harris (rjharris@k-state.edu)



A large contingent of K-State Graduate and Undergraduate students show off their awards received at the Great Plains Psychology Students Conference at Creighton University March 2005.

Graduate Certificate Program in the Field of Occupational Health Psychology

In June of 2000, Kansas State University authorized the Department of Psychology to offer a new Graduate Certificate Program in the field of Occupational Health Psychology (OHP). The development of this program was supported by a grant from the American Psychological Association with funding from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The certificate is offered totally online in an asynchronous mode (4 courses). The emerging field of OHP emphasizes the role of psychology in research and practice aimed at the prevention of occupational stress, illness, and injury. The field covers a wide range of topics including organizational risk factors for stress, illness, and injury at work. OHP concerns the application of psychology to improve the quality of work life, and to protecting and promoting the safety, health and well-being of workers. The notion of health "protection" refers to both work site interventions designed to reduce

health/injury hazards and worker education/counseling designed to promote healthy lifestyles and work behaviors. OHP is especially concerned with the dramatic transformation of work and employment that has been underway in industrial economies since the 1980s (e.g., flexible employment and production processes), and how changing organizational structures and processes are influencing the health and well-being of workers and their families. More details on the program and the courses can be found at the Department's web site (http://www.ksu.edu/psych/graduate_health.htm). You can go to the Kansas State University Division of Continuing Education OHP website for details on applying to the certificate program and enrolling in an OHP course <http://www.dce.ksu.edu/occupationalhealthpsych/>. Please contact Dr. Ron Downey for information or questions on the OHP program at 785-532-5475 or downey@ksu.edu.

Distance Master's Program in I/O Psychology

The distance Master's in Industrial/Organizational Psychology (MIOP) program at Kansas State continues to be a success. Revenue from the program is currently funding 5 teaching assistants, travel grants, new equipment, and even undergraduate scholarships. The 38-hour program, which is offered mostly online with a two-week on-campus session, continues to graduate around 10 students each year, with the new class last July numbering at 14 students. The diversity of the students' background and experience is a great benefit to the program and provides a bedrock for which students can see how theories and research can be directly applied to the workplace. In 2004, the University Continuing Education Association recognized Kansas State's MIOP program for outstanding work in the Great Plains Region with a Credit Program Award. The award, along with students' and employers' reactions, are evidence that the program is a success and is part of an elite field of new programs using technology to offer education and experiences to a growing market of working professionals interested in furthering their education. For



I/O Grad Students Travis Flewelling and Joel Lundstrom with Joel's son Tyson.

more information on the program, please visit <http://www.ksu.edu/psych> or contact the MIOP program graduate assistant, Joel Lundstrom at miopsych@ksu.edu or (785) 532-2236.

—Joel Lundstrom and Clive Fullagar

OBITUARY

Merrill Noble (Psychology Department 1954-1967, Head 1962-67) passed away on February 18, 2005 at the age of 81. Merrill earned his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at Ohio State University in 1951, studying under Delos Wickens. During his tenure as Department Head at KSU, he greatly strengthened the program. From KSU he moved on to serve as

Head of the Department at Penn State, a position he held for ten years before moving back to full-time teaching and research. He was Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Pennsylvania State University at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife Joy, son Eric, daughter Margot, sister Margaret Bentley, and two grandchildren.

Research Profile: Student Engagement, Peak Performance, and Flow

Drs. Ronald G. Downey and Clive J. Fullagar announce that they have combined their research teams in hopes of synergizing their efforts. Together with five graduate students and seven undergraduate students they plan on focusing their research on student engagement, peak performance, and flow, while also building on their previous research on these and other subjects such as job burnout, stress, coping, and work/family conflict. One line of research will utilize the Day Reconstruction Method to measure attitudes, stress levels, energy levels, etc. during the day, as well as measuring engagement and flow. Two students presented posters on engagement and flow at the Great Plains Conference in Omaha, NE this past spring and one presented a poster on coping strategies at the I/O-O/B graduate student conference. This year they plan to present papers at the 2006 Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology conference and the Work, Stress and Health 2006: Making a Difference in the Workplace conference. Many of the undergraduates will present papers at the Department's annual undergraduate research convocation.

This past summer Dr. Downey mentored two SUROP (Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program) students. Kevin Loo came from the University of North Carolina

and worked with Drs. Downey and Slick on some risk research. Heather Tovey came from Agnes Scott University and worked with Drs. Downey and Fullagar, and Andy Wefald on academic engagement. Both students also helped with various other projects and research assignments.

Drs. Downey and Fullagar and two graduate students (Andy Wefald and Disha Rupayana) also recently collaborated on two book chapters for *The Encyclopedia of Industrial/Organizational Psychology*. Much of the recent work by Drs. Downey and Fullagar focuses on positive psychology, whether it is engagement, flow, or some other aspect of applied psychology that may help improve work, the work environment, or work performance.

The five graduate students this year vary in their respective years in the program. One student is in her fourth year of graduate school, two students are in their second year, and two students are in their first year.

Combining the two research teams will synergize the efforts of everyone involved and increase research and publication productivity. This coming year we are hopeful that our graduate and undergraduate students will have much work to present and publish.

—Ron Downey and Clive Fullagar

ALUMNI NEWS (compiled by Richard Harris)

The news below comes from numerous alumni from our undergraduate and graduate programs across several decades, as well as former faculty. It is always so interesting and gratifying to hear that majoring in psychology can prepare students for an extremely wide variety of careers. While some of our graduates are actively pursuing careers doing exactly what they prepared for at KSU, many others are using their psychology in ways they probably never dreamed of when they were here. Please continue to send us news for future newsletters. Here is this year's news, by order of graduation years. Note that news is alphabetized by last name within graduation year.

Faculty Alumni

William Bevan (Department Head, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Vice-President for Academic Affairs 1950s and 1960s) was honored in 2004 by having the new headquarters for the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) dedicated and named for him. Bevan created the TIP program in 1980 to identify academically talented middle- and high-school students. Over a million students nationwide have participated in TIP's programs in the last 25 years. After his tenure at KSU, Bevan taught in the Psychology Department and served as Provost at Duke University for many years before retiring in 1991. The Bevans have remained strong supporters of the K-State Department of Psychology over the years.

Thad Cowan (KSU 1960s-1990s) moved last January from Ogden UT to Greenfield MA, where his wife Peg Wherry began a new job on the faculty in the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Thad is teaching part-time at the university as well. (tc.pw@relia.net)

Catherine Cozzarelli (KSU 1991-2002) now works as a Social Science Analyst for the Europe and Eurasia Bureau of the United States Agency for International Development in Washington DC (psycozz@yahoo.com).

Karen Matthews (KSU 1976-80) is Professor of Psychiatry, Epidemiology, and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. She is the Director of the Pittsburgh Mind-Body Center and the Cardiovascular Behavioral Medicine Research Training Program. Karen is well-known for her research on behavioral factors in cardiovascular illness.

Peter Spear (KSU 1970s) is retiring this October from his position as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he has worked since leaving KSU in 1981.

Connie Wanberg (KSU 1992-96) continues on the faculty in the College of Business at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Former KSU Psychology Students

1965

Don B. Campbell (B.S.) received his doctorate in statistics at the University of Delaware in 1972 and has been on the faculty in the Mathematics Department at Western Illinois University in Macomb IL since 1972.

1974

Gary S. Gilbert (Ph.D.) is a clinical psychologist in Fair Oaks CA and has been affiliated with the University of California-Davis Medical Center with a specialty in health psychology. Recently he was an invited presenter before the Assembly Committee on Police Selection and Police Conduct of the California House Special Commission on Police Conduct, where he presented his model of traumatic interaction between police and community. (GgilbPsy@aol.com)

1978

Gregory Monaco (Ph.D.) continues as a Research Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at KSU.

1979

William C. Deeds (Ph.D.) is now Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College at Morningside College in Sioux City IA (deeds@morningside.edu).

1981

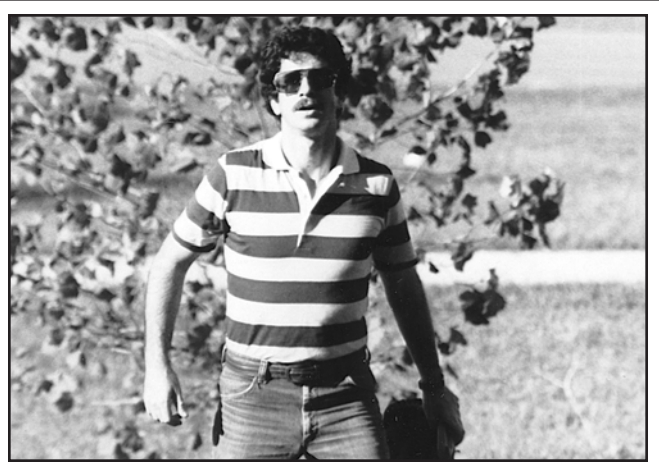
Bernardo Carducci (Ph.D.) continues as Professor of Psychology at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany IN. Bernie has become very well-known for his research and application in the area of shyness. He was featured in a story in The Chronicle of Higher Education on February 25, 2005.

1985

Terrance L. Steele (Ph.D) is on the faculty in the Psychology Department at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee WI, where he has also served as department chair. Terry teaches and does research on captive animal behavior and zoo exhibit design. He lives in Oshkosh WI (tlsteele@stritch.edu)



Amy (B.S., 1992) and Todd Johnson relax at home.



Blast from the past: Who is this young professor who was the athletic star of the 1978 fall picnic?

1986

Kelly (Lemoine) Sisney (B.S.) and her husband David B. Sisney (B.S.) live in Overland Park, KS with their two children Michelle (15) and Blake (19), who is now a psychology major at KSU. Besides raising her children, Kelly now has a successful comedy speaking business called Christian Stagger Ministries (CSM). She travels all around the country telling humorous stories about the Christian life. You can check out her web site at <http://www.kellysisneycomedy.com>. That may be a first for a K-State Psychology grad earning a living doing stand-up comedy!

1990

Margaret ("Peggy") Stockdale (Ph.D.) continues as Professor of Psychology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where she teaches and does research on sexual harassment. Peggy presented a colloquium on her research at KSU in November 2004. She and her husband Michael Heck (Ph.D., 1995), who works for IBM, live in Carbondale IL with their children Sara (17), Susan (8), and Jeffrey (6).

1992

Edmond Leboeuf (B.S.) works as a Special Investigator for the Kansas Department of Transportation in their Office of Chief Counsel. He received a second bachelor's degree, this one in Mass Media, from Washburn University in 2004 and was the cinematographer for a music video in New York City. He is now pursuing a third bachelor's degree, this one in Legal Studies from Washburn University. (Edmond@ksdot.org)

Amy (Morgan) Johnson (B.S.) recently wrote with news of her life. After graduating from K-State in 1992, she went on to obtain her Master's degree in I/O Psychology from the University of Tulsa in 1995. She worked in compensation, starting as an analyst and working up to manager for Thrifty Car Rental from 1997 to 2001, when she went back to school to pursue a second Master's degree, this time in College Teaching, which she received from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah OK in 2003. Since 2001 she has taught at Tulsa Community College as an adjunct in their psy-

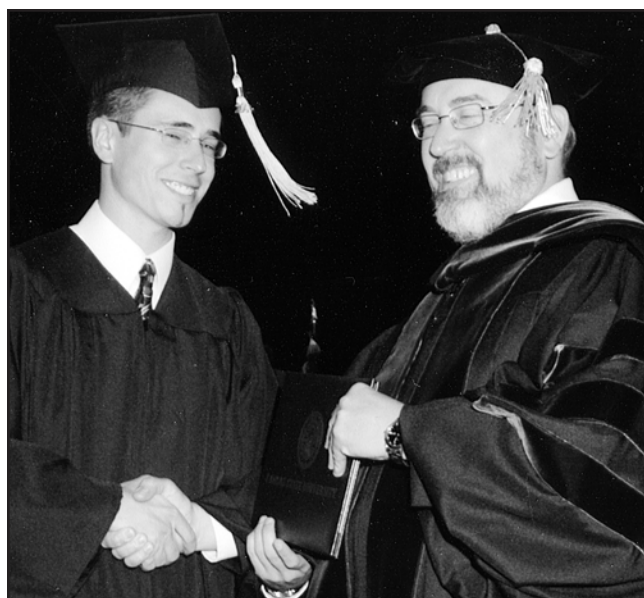
chology department. To date she has taught Personality Theories, Developmental, Human Relations and Human Resources course! This past year she began working on her PhD at Oklahoma State University in Professional Education Studies, with an emphasis in Literacy and Technology. Her research interests are in how we can help those community college students who come in through the open door policy but are not capable of working at the college level. She hopes to graduate in Spring of 08!

On a personal note, she is married to Todd Johnson, who also graduated from K-State in 1992, with a degree in Finance. He now works in Telecommunications. Amy and Todd live in a suburb of Tulsa, OK with no children but they did adopt a standard poodle who thinks he is human! She doesn't seem to have much free time anymore now that she is a PhD student, and her main hobbies are keeping up with her class readings! (amyj@easytel.com)

Elizabeth McGhee Nelson (Ph.D.) recently published a book *Faces of Depression* with Ivy House Publishing Group. This book is a collection of essays by persons experiencing depression. It is written for the general public and Beth hopes it will dispel some myths about depression and help those who live with it in themselves or family members. She continues on the faculty in the Psychology Department at Christian Brothers University in Memphis TN.

1995

Julie Haffner Carroll (B.S.) received a law degree from the University of Kansas and works in Great Bend KS as an Assistant Attorney General with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation prosecuting drug-related crimes. Her husband Brian Carroll is a KBI agent working out of the same office as Julie. Their first child, daughter Brecken Mykel, was born October 25, 2004.



Professor Patrick Knight proudly awards the diploma to his son Malachi (Mac), who received his bachelor's degree in Music Education from KSU in May 2005.



Ande (Ph.D., 1995) and Buffy Johnson's daughter Ellye proudly holds her new baby sister Aeva.

Ann Hackett (Ph.D.) and her husband had a baby, William Henry Esry, on December 3, 2004. (ann.m.hackett@accenture.com)

Andrew T. Johnson (Ph.D.) took a sabbatical from his teaching job at Park University in Parkville MO in the fall of 2004 to work setting up their introductory course for on-line teaching. Also last fall he was honored as the Park University recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching by the state of Missouri. Ande and his wife Buffy welcomed their second daughter, Aeva Celeste on March 21, 2005. Ande, Buffy, and big sister Ellye live in Kearney MO. (andrew.johnson@park.edu)

Carrick Williams (B.S.) and **Camilla (Forshay) Williams** (B.A.) have both completed their Ph.D.s at Michigan State University, Carrick in cognitive in 2003 and Camilla in Clinical in 2004. Carrick worked on a postdoc at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst 2003-05 and Camilla worked in the counseling center at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley MA.

1996

Julie A. Partridge (B.S.) is beginning her second year in a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in Sport and Exercise Psychology in the Department of Physical Education at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Julie received her M.S. from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and her Ph.D. from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley CO. She and her husband Phil and their pet beagle live in Carbondale.

1997

Sarah Moeller Swan (B.S.) received her Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy (FSHS) from KSU in 1999 and shortly afterward was married to Jared Swan in July 2000 and moved to Omaha, NE. Although she initially pursued a career in therapy, she quickly realized her passion was in education and currently works as a training and development specialist in Omaha, NE. Sarah and Jared's son Jackson Swan was born August 11, 2004. (samnjds@cox.net)



Blast from the past: Can you identify this young man? Perhaps you took Learning or Quant Methods from him in 1978 or thereabouts?

1998

Michael Renfro (M.S.) lives in Windsor, Colorado, where he runs a small engineering consulting firm, which does work around northern Colorado for both large and small companies. He has three other Human Factors engineers who work for him and a variety of other engineers doing information engineering (technical writing), software development, graphic design, and software testing. He also does Human Factors consulting for both hardware and software products. Mike and his wife Laura have three children: Eli (12), Solomon (9), and Abi (7). (E-mail: michael.renfro@renfroconsulting.com).

1999

J. Andrew Karafa (Ph.D.) has earned tenure at Ferris State University in Big Rapids MI, where he is an Associate Professor and Psychology Program Coordinator.

2000

Janis Crow (M.S.) recently received a grant from the Decision Risk and Management Sciences program of the National Science Foundation to support her research on consumer decision making, which she is pursuing as part of her dissertation at KSU. Jan is studying unstructured consumer decisions when choices or alternatives are not specified in advance and the decision maker must create an ideal product. She is examining customized products and how consumers make decisions regarding them online. Jan has designed a Web-based interactive simulation, Interactive Choice, that mirrors electronic commerce web sites. This web site has customized products where consumers choose features and make selections from products like pizza, athletic shoes, and cell phones. Ultimately, she will create an electronic decision aid to help consumers make decisions. Jan wants to know if technology helps or hinders decision-making processes. So far, she has found that consumers view more expensive products quite differently than less expensive products. An electronic decision aid is a goal of this research.

Steven J. Hoekstra (Ph.D.) married Anne Hobson in Salina KS on May 21, 2005. In a memorable and truly fitting ritual, their wedding featured the crossing of the swords using Star Wars light sabers. Guests included several K-State alums and staff, including Andy Karafa, Thuy Pham, Richard Harris, Helen Kaczmarek, and Jeff Sable. Steve continues on the faculty in psychology at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina KS (hoekstr@ksu.edu).

Christy L. Scott (Ph.D.) is teaching in a tenure-track position in the Psychology Department at St. Mary's University of California in Moraga CA. Previously she taught one year at Tennessee State University in Nashville. It has also been a very sad year for Christy, as her mother Carol Scott of Santa Clarita CA passed away in August 2005 from pancreatic cancer.

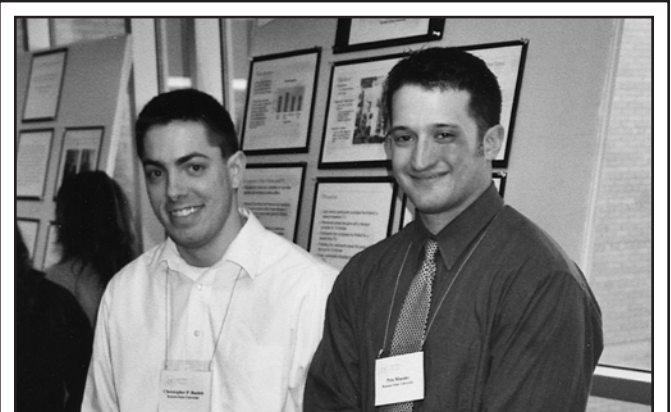
2002

Richard Best (Ph.D.) is a Research Health Scientist at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio TX. He also is a Faculty Associate in Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the KSU Psychology Department, where he assists with the Occupational Health Distance Certificate program. (rbest@verdict.uthscsa.edu)

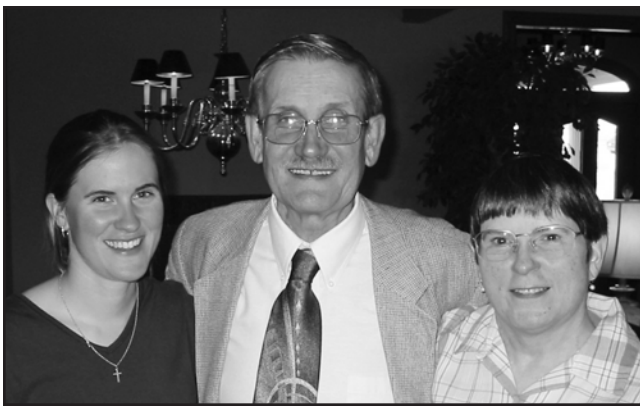
Susan Burns (Ph.D.) recently won one of three prestigious 2004 Sharon Walker Faculty Excellence Awards at Morningside College in Sioux City IA, where she teaches in the Psychology Department. Winners were selected by an outside committee from nominees on the criteria of teaching excellence, effective advising, scholarship, and service. The award, funded by a major endowment, consists of a \$10,000 honorarium and \$3000 for faculty development.

David O. Egleston (M.S.) and his wife Lee welcomed their second child, Brian Phoenix Egleston, on Feb. 24, 2005. He joins David and Lee and big sister Jessica. David works for the K-State Foundation.

Logan Lechner (B.S.) is a third-year medical student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. (2707 Eaton St., Kansas City KS 66103, loganlechner@hotmail.com)



Grad student Chris Barlett and his undergrad assistant Pete Muenks share the poster on their research on video games.



Professor James Shanteau is congratulated by his daughter Jill and wife Doreen on the occasion of his being named University Distinguished Professor by the Graduate School.

2003

Akua Crum Cosby (B.S.) recently began study for her Master's in Counseling at Mid-American Nazarene University in Olathe KS. Akua and her husband live in Lenexa KS.

Terrance Gaylord (Ph.D.) is a Senior Analyst in Organizational Development at Payless Shoe Source in Topeka KS. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the KSU Psychology Department, where he assists with the Occupational Health Distance Certificate program. Terry lives in Lawrence KS.

Whitney Gebhart (B.S.) is beginning work on her M.S. in Elementary Education at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley CO.

Natalie Nygaard (B.S.) is working on her M.S. in Clinical Psychology at Washburn University. She will graduate next May.

Michael Tagler (Ph.D.) has been Assistant Professor of Psychology at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln since 2004. (mtagler@nebwestyuan.edu). He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the KSU Psychology Department, where he assists with the Occupational Health Distance Certificate program.

Irene Zarazua (B.S.) recently began studies at the Erikson Institute in Chicago. Their program focuses entirely on child development.

2004

Christopher Barlett (B.S.) continues in the graduate program in Cognitive Psychology at KSU. He does research on effects of video games and muscled action figures.

K. Savannah Downey (B.S.) is beginning studies for a master's degree in clinical psychology at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield MO.

Taylor Esposito (B.S.) is beginning studies for his Psy.D. at the Adler Institute of Psychology in Chicago IL.

Martin Griffith (B.S.) is working as a rehabilitation counselor in Emporia KS and beginning work toward his M.S. in Rehabilitation Psychology at Emporia State University.

Julie Hermes (B.S.) is beginning work on her M.S. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Emporia State University in Emporia KS. She was also recently married.

Megan John (B.S.) works as a Physical Fitness Specialist at the Fort Riley Sports Department at Fort Riley KS.

J. Bret Knappenberger (B.S.) is working in retail in suburban Chicago.

E. Peter Muenks (B.S.) is starting work toward his M.S. in Clinical Psychology at Washburn University in Topeka KS.

Sara J. Smith (B.S.) is back at KSU and beginning graduate school in Social Psychology at KSU.

Adam Speck (B.S.) is in his second year of work on his M.A. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Minnesota State University in Mankato MN (245 Briargate Rd. Apt. J46, Mankato MN 56001, adam.speck@mnsu.edu). Last May he spent two weeks in Singapore on a study trip.

Jennifer Sperflage (B.A.) is working as a paraprofessional in education with plans to begin a Ph.D. in English in Fall 2006.

Molly Toll (B.S.) is in graduate school in psychology at Emporia State University in Emporia KS.

2005

Brittany Blattner (B.A.) is teaching English in Daejeon, a city in central South Korea with about 1.8 million. She left in early October and will stay there for at least a year. She will then decide whether to stay longer or come back for grad school.

Andrea Brown (B.S.) is beginning work toward her doctorate in Student Personnel in Higher Education at the University of Kansas.

Erica Dieker (B.A.) spent the summer studying in Costa Rica and now is beginning work on her M.S. in School Psychology at Emporia State University in Emporia KS.



Some of the new graduate students beginning the program in August 2005 pose outside Bluemont Hall.



Melissa Kletchka, Tuan Tran, and Kim Raddatz present their poster on driving research.

Kristen Geri (B.A.) is beginning graduate school in cognitive psychology at KSU. Her husband Chad Geri (B.S., Microbiology, KSU, 2005) is beginning Veterinary Medical School at KSU.

Rosemary Ha (B.S.) is beginning graduate work in Neuroscience/Animal Learning in the Psychology Department at KSU.

Lindsay Johnson (B.S.) is beginning work on her M.S. in Clinical Psychology at Washburn University in Topeka KS.

Chelsea Mueller (B.S.) is beginning work on her M.S. in Clinical Psychology at Washburn University in Topeka KS.

Adrienne Olney (B.S.) is beginning work on her M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy at KSU.

Tenisha Pettus (B.S.) is living in Wichita and applying to grad school for next year.

Sarah Pfeifer (B.S.) is a case manager in Wellington KS.

John Raacke (Ph.D.) is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City IA.

Kelli Rodvelt (B.S.) is beginning graduate school in learning and neuroscience at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Matthew Shull (B.S.) works at Capitol Federal Savings Bank in Manhattan.

Michael Smith (B.S.) is beginning work toward his Ph.D. in I/O Psychology at KSU.

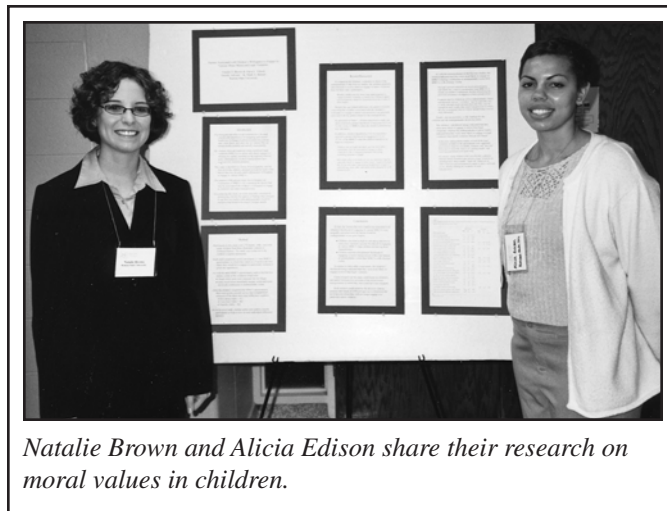
Bikat Tilahun (B.S.) is beginning work on her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena CA.. She is working on a research grant for a new project about HIV/AIDS and Trauma in sub-Saharan Africa.

Laura Wagner (B.A.) is beginning work on her master's degree in Urban Planning at the University of Kansas, where she plans to specialize in Historic Preservation.

Amy White (B.S.) is working in Kansas City.

Psytalk editor: Richard Harris

Photo credits: Chad Geri, Richard Harris, Ronald Downey, Amy Johnson, Natalie Brown, Renee Slick, Kristen Geri, James Shanteau, Andrew Johnson, Amanda Higley, K-State Photo Services.



Natalie Brown and Alicia Edison share their research on moral values in children.



Psi Chi students visit Glore Psychiatric Museum in St. Joseph MO on November 2004 field trip.

Kansas State University
Psychology Department Newsletter
492 Bluemont Hall
1100 Mid-Campus Drive
Manhattan, KS 66506-5302

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #525
Manhattan, KS 66502

Please write, e-mail (rjharris@ksu.edu), or fax (785-532-5401) us and tell us what you are doing. Feel free to include professional and/or personal information, whatever you think would be of interest to fellow alums. You may also send photos, which will be returned to you in October 2006.

Name _____

KSU Graduation Year/Degree _____

Address _____

e-mail _____

Would you like us to print your postal and/or e-mail address in next year's newsletter?

Yes (which one?) _____ No

News from you: _____

Send to:

Psytalk Newsletter
% Dr. Richard Harris
Department of Psychology
Kansas State University, 492 Bluemont Hall
1100 Mid-Campus Drive
Manhattan KS 66506-5302 USA
(or by e-mail to rjharris@ksu.edu)