Dear Ed Psych Family and Friends,

Fall is here, and another school year is upon us. This year marks the beginning of a new cycle of strategic planning, so we've been thinking about the future of educational psychology both nationally and at the University. We'd love to know what you think the future will bring and how we might prepare ourselves for it. If you have a crystal ball or even good ideas, feel free to email me or Sande Hill to share your thoughts. We will make a list of your comments and include them in our processes.

We kicked off the year at our college and department retreats with extended discussions of strategic positioning/planning. We have been facilitated in our departmental processes by Clay Cook, who has led processes for other organizations—it's nice to have an expert on board! Throughout the year, we will continue this work to establish shared departmental values to guide our goal setting and action plans for the future.

Several faculty have taken on additional leadership responsibility within the department this year. Jennifer McComas has been appointed to a new role as associate chair, and brings great enthusiasm to the role as she has to her work with Anishenabe Academy, the District 916 alternative licensure program, and other projects. As associate chair,
Jennifer will coordinate department community engagement activities and professional development for junior and mid-career faculty members. This past year, Scott McConnell has been leading the counseling and student personnel psychology (CSPP) program and is now officially their program coordinator and clinical director. With Mark Davison out on sabbatical, Michael Harwell has stepped up as acting program coordinator for our quantitative methods in education program. Frances Lawrenz and Sherri Turner are also on sabbatical, and LeAnne Johnson, Nidhi Kohli, and Amanda Sullivan all received competitive single semester leaves.

We are happy to have new faculty and instructors who have recently joined the department. Carolyn Berger is a new assistant professor and Kelli Howard is a new lecturer in our CSPP program. Dr. Berger comes to us from Nova Southeastern University where she was a professor, and Dr. Howard is a recent graduate from the psychology Ph.D. program in counseling psychology here at the University of Minnesota. Janet Caven, who taught ASL for us in the past, joins Debbie Golos this fall in supporting the Deaf/Hard of Hearing M.Ed. and licensure programs in special education. In our popular American Sign Language (ASL) program, Leah Bender, Sherri Rademacher, and David Reinhart have joined us as new instructors. I hope you join me in extending a warm welcome to all of our new department members!

Our department continues to be as productive as ever, with 36 active grants totaling over $27 million supporting our research. For more information on our department research and productivity, view our updated fact sheet. In programmatic news, special education added a new developmental disabilities (DD) M.Ed to its offerings. M.Ed. students can now choose to focus their M.Ed. on developmental disabilities right away or add a DD specialization on to the more general ABS licensure as they have in the past.

As a department, we are proud of our dedication to Family social science student, Ana Lozano presents results of McNair project
McMaster honored with Sara Evans Faculty Woman Scholar/Leader Award
Students gather in Minneapolis to bridge campus-community cultural divides
Psych Foundations students receive travel awards, present at international conference in Germany
Rodriguez talks with Pioneer Press about state math, reading scores
McConnell quoted in MinnPost on new technology to lessen ‘word gap’
Dr. Christ to keynote MDE Back to School Conference
Miller awarded grant to research interventions for children with anxiety
Lawrenz part of first-ever national project to analyze genomic law and medicine
Jitendra named University of Oregon Distinguished Alumni
Kendeou, McMaster and Christ featured in FABBS article for their research on reading comprehension
Kohli, Duranczyk on team awarded NSF grant to study algebra instruction at community colleges
improving educational equity. Look for Michael Rodriguez, Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development and professor in our quantitative methods in education program in the University’s new Driven to Discover campaign.

We are proud of our work to improve educational equity. Some recognition of our work comes from the inclusion of Michael Rodriguez, Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development and professor in our quantitative methods in education program, in the University’s new Driven to Discover campaign. Finally, one of our graduates, Dr. Robert Pianta, will be here this month to receive an outstanding alumni award. All in all, we believe that we continue to be a premier department of educational psychology, and appreciate the support we receive from all of you to help make that happen.

Happy fall!

Geoffrey Maruyama
Department Chair and Professor

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**Calendar**

Dec. 1: College Readiness and Achievement Gap (CRAG) Talks

March 3: Graduate Student Research Day (GSRD)

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**Rodriguez featured in University's Driven to Discover campaign**

The opportunity gap among children in our society is growing, and part of the problem is how we assess and educate them. Professor Michael Rodriguez is working to close the gap by helping schools understand how to work with diverse students, families, and communities. View the campaign.

**IGDILab receives over $4 million in grants to research early language and literacy**

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has awarded the Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDILab) three $1.4 million, four-year grants to expand research in assessment of early language and literacy development of children ages three to five.
Three researchers from the Department of Educational Psychology—Alisha Wackerle-Hollman (school psychology), Scott McConnell (special education), and Michael Rodriguez (quantitative methods in education)—will lead the IGDILab grants. Colleagues (and College of Education and Human Development alumni) from the Universities of Oregon, Washington, and Nebraska and Lehigh University will help conduct the research. Read more.

Special education now offers developmental disabilities teaching licensure and M.Ed.

M.Ed. students can now choose to focus their M.Ed. on developmental disabilities right away or add a DD specialization on to the more general ABS licensure as they have in the past. Learn more.

Nic VanMeerten: Game changer

Doctoral student Nic VanMeerten explores video games for the greater good. Read more.

Three Educational Psychology faculty recognized with endowed chairs and professorships

Recently, three faculty members from the Department of Educational Psychology were honored with endowed chairs and professorships. These appointments—awarded over a period of three years—recognize the professors' professional achievements and the impact of their work. Read more.

Educational Psychology researchers receive IES grant to develop reading comprehension technology for at-risk students

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) recently awarded researchers in the Department of Educational Psychology a three-year, $1.5 million grant to develop a Technology-Based Early Language Comprehension Intervention (TELCI) to improve reading comprehension of students with or at risk for disabilities who experience comprehension difficulties early elementary years (first and second grade). Read more.

Events

Educational Equity in Action: A recap

Over 600 education leaders, researchers, policy makers, and nonprofit employees attended our two-day "meeting of the minds." Attendees left feeling inspired and connected and with
the tools they need to improve educational equity in their organizations and communities. See the full recap.