Faculty, staff, alumni, students, and great friends,

The school year is now well underway, and our faculty and staff are, as always, continuing to do the outstanding work that has made us national leaders. October always is a month for us to reflect on the rare opportunities and privileges that we receive by having our careers, for it is a time when we give back to our communities through the University’s Community Fund Drive. If you follow our page on Facebook, you may have seen some of the activities, including passing a giant inflatable flamingo around to faculty, students, and staff. For a small donation to the Community Fund Drive, participants could send the bird on to the department member of their
choice. The Flamingo was disappointed that it did not get to know everyone during this year, but has threatened to return next year in better physical condition in order to make it to all the offices and labs throughout the department. The Flamingo really enjoyed the rarified air of Burton Hall, joining associate dean of research Frank Symons on his daily putting practice session. (Where is Kinesiology when they are really needed?) But he needed a counseling session with Kelli Howard center himself after that administrative exposure and the rejection from those who too quickly passed Flamingo along to others without getting to know it. Other activities during the Community Fund Drive included: a raffle with four amazing gift packs as prizes, an intra-department penny war pitting programs against each other (I can’t believe that my program, Psych Foundations, won!), and our traditional “dessert cart” mobile bake sale. Altogether these events raised $748 for the community fund drive in addition to the many individual contributions we all made. Did I mention that Psych Foundations “won” the penny war?

The Community Fund Drive is a great reminder of our commitment as a land grant university to give back to our communities. We embody that mission through a lot of the work we do in and with communities, often so intensively we become “of” the community. This work happens year-round. One example of this type effort is professor Scott McConnell’s work with the LENA Research Foundation to help close the word gap across Minnesota by getting more parents to talk to their young children. Read more about Scott’s work. Look for more pieces highlighting the work we’re doing in our communities in future newsletters.

In programmatic news, we’ve begun accepting applications for a new area of emphasis in our M.A. in special education—applied behavior analysis—led by professor and associate chair Jennifer McComas. The new emphasis has been approved by the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) board. It will prepare students to become BCBAs, working with people with disabilities to recognize and analyze problem behaviors and recommend actions to improve their daily lives. According to the Minnesota Department of Economic Development, approximately one in every ten people across the nation has some kind of disability—so there are a lot of people who need this work.

Alumni and friends may remember Sallie Quammen, who has served as grant coordinator for the Department of Educational Psychology for seven years. This fall we are saying thank you and goodbye to Sallie. She is the best of the best and very knowledgeable about all facets of grant management, from
preparation through implementation. She is thorough, organized, and has always been available (even on her day off) as well as being kind, professional, and approachable. Sallie, we will sincerely miss you and wish you all the best in your retirement!

As I mentioned in August, this year we’re focused on our strategic planning work and three core values: (1) continuing to create important and useful knowledge through our research, (2) continuing to ensure that we prepare outstanding students ready to succeed in their work lives, and (3) continuing to address needs of all within our diverse society, especially those from groups experiencing pressing and immediate challenges—students of color, first generation college students, students from low income families, and students with disabilities. Our goals and our work align well with efforts across the college and broader University. We’ve been working this fall to establish benchmarks and set specific, measurable goals and action steps that both help us move toward the goals and document our successes and challenges along the way. Clay Cook, who does this type of work with non-profits, has been facilitating this work for us—thanks Clay! We know it’s harder to do the work with your colleagues.

In all of what we do, we try always to be forward looking, anticipating as best we can what is likely to occur and change in the future as we continue to prepare the next generation of educational psychology researchers and scientist-practitioners who, like you, make a difference in the world around them. We are proud of this work as we are of our community of graduates and current students, and hope we continue to make you proud. Thank you for all you do to support the Department of Educational Psychology.

Best wishes,

Geoffrey Maruyama
Professor and Chair, Department of Educational Psychology

Like us on Facebook

Get regular updates on our research, work in the community and other happenings by liking or following the Department of Educational Psychology Facebook page.
News

New graduate program trains students to analyze behavior, improve the lives of people with disabilities
The new M.A. in special education with an emphasis in applied behavior analysis (A.B.A.) will help meet the state and national need for Board Certified Behavior Analysts.
Learn more.

Empowering parents to help close the word gap
Scott McConnell and his team are partnering with early childhood practitioners across the state to get more parents talking with their young children.
Read more.

Special education bachelor’s degree program ranked third in nation
The special education bachelor of science degree and academic and behavioral strategist (A.B.S.) licensure program in the Department of Educational Psychology within the College of Education and Human Development has been recognized as the number three special education undergraduate program in the nation.
Read more.

More recent news

- Sashank Varma: How we learn: Understanding math patterns
- LeAnne Johnson: Project LEAD and Project Engage: Improving Outcomes in Special Education
- McMaster delivers keynote at Korean Educational Psychology Association
- McMaster, Shin, and Jung present research on data-based instruction

Meet our instructors

Michelle Marchant-Wood, special education ABS licensure & M.Ed. coordinator, lecturer
at ICER in South Korea

- Cook, colleagues receive $2.8 million in grants to support teachers
- Kendeou gives plenary at SciX on science of debunking misconceptions
- McComas presents on telehealth for individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities at BABAT 2017
- Rodriguez appointed chair of Department of Defense Advisory Committee for Military Personnel Testing
- Vukovic presents research on math skills and attitudes of children with reading difficulties
- Kendeou, McMaster co-author Psychology Today post on role of inferences in reading comprehension
- Dr. Samuel Odom gives talk, 'Running with the Wolves of Special Education'
- From Geoff and Jennifer: A note on these turbulent times
- Ed Psych welcomes visiting scholar, Anna Rafferty

Read more.

Alumni in the news

- Narvaez receives Expanded Reason Award for her book on neurobiology, human morality
- Ormasa Receives Alumni Service Award

Read more.

Calendar

December 7
Dissertation: The Effects of Early Numeracy Interventions for Students in Preschool and Early Elementary: A Meta-Analysis

December 14
Dissertation: Introductory statistics students’ conceptual understanding of study design and conclusions

December 8
CEHD Partner Network Event

February 8
College Readiness and Achievement Gaps (CRAG) Talks

March 2
Educational Psychology Graduate Student Research Day (GSRD)

April 23
MN Education Job Fair