Dear Educational Psychology family,

It's hard to believe that we already are almost at the end of another school year. Time flies by! It has been an outstanding year for the department, which makes serving as chair more pleasant and fulfilling. Thanks all, for your support of our department and my work as chair. In particular, I'd like to recognize the work done by Sande Hill, our department administrator. Sande keeps the department running and provides important continuity in and knowledge about the broad range of activities happening in Ed Psych. The day-to-day challenges and frustrations we experience are made worthwhile when we can look back and see our faculty and staff receiving recognition for (only) some of their accomplishments.

This past year Frank Symons became a Distinguished McKnight University Professor, joining the University's most distinguished faculty. At the University level, Caroline Burke from CSPP received an Outstanding Advising and Mentoring award from the Council of Graduate Students. At the college level, Robert delMas received the Distinguished Teaching Award, Kristen McMaster the Excellence in Research Award, Marguerite Ohrtman the New Career Excellence Award, Sharon Sawyer the Jeanne T. Lupton Service Award, Amanda Sullivan the Multicultural Recognition Faculty Award, and LeAnne Johnson the Women's

Alumni in the news

[Links to various alumni achievements]

Have a story you want us to tell?

Send an email to epcomm@umn.edu.

Department news

[Links to various departmental news items]
Philanthropic Leadership Circle Rising Star Faculty Award. In addition, two incoming students, Pang Xiong and Mollie Link, received the Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) and Robertson Diversity Fellowship respectively. Faculty and Professional & Academic staff have received a number of new federal grants (awards are still coming in) in research and training of graduate students. We will provide a full listing in our next newsletter. Finally, our faculty continue to receive honors even in retirement. Two emeritus faculty members from our school psychology program have been honored with lifetime achievement awards. James Ysseldyke received the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of School Psychologists, and Sandra Christenson was honored with the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota School Psychologists Association. Congratulations to all who were recognized and to the others who helped make the awards possible. Special thanks to colleagues who took the time to nominate our winners and the Honors and Awards Committee for organizing our efforts and working behind the scenes to increase our nominations for awards.

The quality of our programs and our work continues to be recognized nationally. Graduate school rankings from U.S. News & World Report were recently released, and now we can say that all of our programs are in the top 10 of programs nationwide. Educational Psychology (10) moved up one place to break into the top 10, joining special education (8) and counseling and student personnel psychology (10). School psychology is not ranked by U.S. News, but in rankings of programs by one of the field's flagship journals, it sits at or very near the top. Faculty and staff in our department continue to change. As I reported earlier, last fall Robin Codding, Clayton Cook, Steve Yussen, Elizabeth Fry, Amy Kunkel, Tom O'Grady and Alisha Wackerle-Hollman joined us, and in January Debbie Golos did as well in our Deaf/Hard of Hearing program in special education. Mid-year we also saw retirements of Sandy Christenson and Sue Rose. At the end of the school year, we'll say

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CSPP student receives Women's Philanthropic Leadership Circle Graduate Award

Rodriguez, Sweitzer partner on Minn Post op-ed addressing educational equity in Minnesota

New special education student receives DOVE fellowship

New school psychology student receives Robertson Diversity Fellowship

School psychology student accepts fellowship with STAY!

CSPP student wins MPA poster competition

CSPP students present at the Minnesota School Conference Association Annual Conference

Educational Psychology & Yackel Endowment present Dr. Art Graesser for final 2015-2016 colloquium

Burke honored with Outstanding Advising and Mentoring Award

Ed Psych & CEED partner to research impacts of early care & education on children with special needs

School psychology program named one of the most productive in 100 years

Educational psychology faculty members receive Global Signature Program Grant

Psych foundations student, Zdawczyk, featured in La Cañada Valley Sun Times

Sweitzer quoted in MN Daily on academic performance of minority students

Kohli to speak at APS
goodbye and thank you to Joan Garfield from our quantitative methods in education program. Joan has dedicated her career to exploring how to improve the way students learn statistics. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Garfield on her formal retirement!

This school year we brought back a colloquium series with external speakers, thanks to efforts of Panayiota Kendeou and financial support from Theodore J. Christ. We heard from four nationally recognized speakers on literacy, with topics ranging from pre-k-12 reading comprehension to needs of struggling adult readers. As many of you know, our counseling and student personnel psychology program has been in a state of flux with multiple retirements and the closing of the doctoral program. Under the program leadership of Scott McConnell, we have been working with external stakeholders to begin to re-envision the master's program in counseling psychology in a future-oriented way consistent with our university missions and values while engaging the unique vitality of the Twin Cities counseling community and the many graduates who care deeply about the program. We still are very early in that process, but there seem to be exciting opportunities to create a reshaped and refocused master's program fitting nicely within CEHD. This reimagined program will continue to serve the range of needs of incoming students, while maintaining the unique characteristics tied to our location. Even in the midst of these changes, interest is high; we have over 40 students who are committed to join us in the fall.

This past year has also provided a start for chairs of the three psychology departments (Child Psych, Ed Psych, and Psych) to work together around areas of common interest. Our first initiative was asking our departmental diversity committees to work together. Rose Vukovic (Ed Psych) chaired the committee this year. The committees sent the chairs a request for support for an invitation that they would develop and review for students to submit proposals that would cross the three departments and engage students working together on issues of diversity. We supported the proposal, the committee (Tri-Psych) has approved

**Annual Convention**
- M.A. student, Colton, receives Potential School Counselors Scholarship
- Ph.D. student, Van Boekel, featured at 2016 doctoral research showcase
- Professor Lawrenz receives AERA’s distinguished scholar award
- Professor Davenport receives Diversity in Research Award
- Students showcase work at graduate student research day
- 2015-2016 colloquium series: Educational Psychology & Yackel Endowment host Dr. Goldman
- Rodriguez works to address the graduation gap and educational equity in Minnesota
- Professor Jitendra awarded Special Education Research SIG Award
- Psych Foundations student, Christina Zdawczyk, receives National Science Foundation fellowship
- Psych Foundations student, Nic VanMeerten, receives two prestigious grants
a proposal, and a new interdepartmental initiative is starting.

Recently, we received sad news that emeritus professor, John Rynders, passed away. John was a professor in our special education program and pioneer in early education for children with Down syndrome. He founded the long-term study, Project EDGE (expanding developmental growth through education), and wrote the book, *To Give an Edge*. According to former University president and Ed Psych faculty member Robert Bruininks, Dr. Rynders left an important legacy. "Many of those children with Down syndrome went on to ... live very productive lives," Bruininks told the Star Tribune. Since John's passing, we've received an outpouring of support from his former colleagues and students. Long-time colleague and fellow emeritus professor, James Ysseldyke, described John as "a gentle person, a good scholar, a person of high integrity, a strong advocate for kids with disabilities, a good family man, and a person of very deep faith." He will be missed.

June 20-21, the Educational Equity Resource Center is hosting the first ever University of Minnesota convening of Minnesota's education leaders, researchers, policy makers, and non-profit organizations committed to improving educational equity. Co-chairs, Michael Rodriguez and Julie Sweitzer, partnered with President Kaler's office to organize the event.

Today, 102 of our graduate students walked in commencement to celebrate the successful completion of their degree programs. Congratulations to all of our recent graduates; we are proud to call you Department of Educational Psychology alumni! Welcome to the Ed Psych family.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Maruyama

*Professor and chair*
Calendar
May 12: CEHD commencement
June 20-21: Ed Equity in Action: A statewide convening at the University of Minnesota

Educational Psychology boasts three top ten U.S. News & World Report rankings

U.S. News & World Report recently released it's list of top graduate schools, and we, once again, had three top ten rankings, including:

#10 Educational Psychology
#8 Special Education
#10 Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology

Check out the rankings.

Empowering teachers to help students succeed

Tech start-up FastBridge Learning provides the next generation of classroom assessments-twice as fast and half the cost. "FAST is made to empower teachers," says Theodore J. Christ, professor in the school psychology program. "They don't have to rely on experts form somewhere else -- they can collect data and discover what works in their classrooms, with their students, in real time." Read the article.

Clay Cook featured in Forbes article

The Department of Educational Psychology's faculty member, Dr. Clayton Cook, was recently featured in a Forbes article that highlighted the importance of stress management and engagement in behaviors that promote well-being. Read the article.

Steve Yussen: The Publication Gap: Western Bias in Educational Psychology Journals

Throughout my career, I've been interested in studying children's memory and learning, particularly as it relates to reading and comprehension. In these and other areas of educational psychology there's been a large base of research accumulated, but how much of it is really accurate for children around the world? Based on a study of three of the world's leading journals
of educational psychology, I found a troubling bias towards the publication of studies based in first-world, English-speaking countries and European countries with English language reports (e.g., French, German, Spanish). This means that much of what we consider “facts” and best practices in educational psychology may not apply to a vast majority of the world’s children. In short, it’s very possible that we don’t know nearly as much as we think we do. Read the article.

Ernest Davenport: 30 Tips for ACT and SAT standardized test prep

For the last 25 years, through a partnership between CEHD, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and a host of other organizations, I’ve conducted ACT and SAT preparation classes for under-represented high school students. Over that time, I’ve learned a lot about the best standardized test prep strategies, what works and what doesn’t. Read the article.

Emeritus professors, James Ysseldyke & Sandra Christenson, honored with lifetime achievement awards

Emeritus professor, James Ysseldyke, received the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The NASP Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an outstanding school psychologist who has had a national impact on the field and has dedicated his/her professional life to the development and improvement of school psychology. Dr. Ysseldyke joined the department and school psychology program in 1975 and was program coordinator from 1988 - 1993. Read more.

Emeritus professor, Sandra Christenson, is the recipient of the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota School Psychologists Association. This award recognizes outstanding school psychologists who have dedicated their professional lives to the development and betterment of school psychology. Read more.

Events

Still time to register for Educational Equity in Action

Register now for the first ever University of Minnesota convening of Minnesota’s education leaders, researchers, policy makers, and non-profit organizations committed to improving educational
equity. Groups of three or more can register for the low rate of $75 per person. The statewide event runs June 20-21.