Dear Educational Psychology family,

Happy spring to all. It's nice to have survived (most of) winter once again, and the longer days remind us that the school year is winding down. It's a busy time for us, and a time to take stock of accomplishments over the past year. Once again, we all should be proud to be part of the Department of Educational Psychology. Our faculty and staff are continuing to produce impressive work across all our missions—research, teaching, and service/outreach. The graduate school rankings from U.S. News & World Report were recently released, and once again, our department ranked in the top 10 of programs nationwide: Educational Psychology (up from #10 last year to #9 this year) and Special Education (#8).

At the end of the school year, we'll say goodbye and thank you to two long-time members of the department, Susan Hupp and Renee Siebert. Susan has served as chair as well as a professor in our special education program. She has dedicated her career to improving the way students with developmental disabilities learn. Renee is a valued member of the American Sign Language (ASL) program, and has been teaching courses for us since 1996. In addition, Christine Peper, who spent a long time in special education as an instructor and recently returned in a part time role, will be leaving us at the end of spring.

Alumni in the news

- CSPP alum, Julie Koch, receives CEHD Rising Star award
- Special Ed alum, Lembke, named Honorary Alumni by University of Missouri College of Ed
- CSPP alum, Dick Senese, named president of Capella University
- CSPP alumnus, Blaine Fowers, receives Joseph B. Gittler Award

Have a story you want us to tell?

Send an email to epcomm@umn.edu.

Department news

- Psych foundations student organizes GLITCHCON track on games that make a difference
- CSPP students meet with legislators at MSCA’s Day on the Hill
- Ed Psych experts quoted in MinnPost on use of student data
- School psychology students
We continue to add new instructors to our department. Rob Henery started in our special education program last fall, and Brad Hardin began teaching ASL classes this spring. Please join me in welcoming Rob (if belatedly) and Brad to the department. We are excited about a new search for an assistant professor in quantitative methods, and hope to report one or two more searches to you next year.

Last fall, we were all deeply saddened when emeritus professor, Stan Deno, passed away. Stan got his Ph.D. at Minnesota and left for a few years at Delaware, but fortunately returned quickly for the remainder of his career. As all of you who knew him must have known, Stan was a wonderful person, with a wry sense of humor and time for everyone. I was fortunate to be a collaborator; my time working with Stan was among the most enriching parts of my professional career. As well as being a great and modest colleague, Stan became a giant in his field. He conducted extensive research on why students fail to develop basic skills in reading, writing, and math, shaping special education through his work developing curriculum-based measurement/assessment work, federally recognized procedures teachers use nationwide to identify and help special education students with mild disabilities who are underperforming in the classroom. As a mentor, he produced an impressive number of highly successful graduate students who occupy positions of leadership across the country and world. In recognition of his work, Stan just received a university-wide outstanding alumni award that recognizes his many accomplishments.

We were saddened also to hear that former professor Clyde Parker passed away. Clyde graduated from the University of Minnesota with his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology in 1957. He served in a number of roles from 1965-1983, including department chair, before leaving for the University of Utah. According to Anna Duran, one of his advisee's and now president of Avatar Research Institute, "Clyde was one of those
professors who influenced the thinking of so many of his students and who also was the quintessential supporter of developing talent of people from diverse backgrounds. He left a premier legacy of educational psychology professionals who went on to make extensive contributions to whatever fields that they pursued."

On March 3, we hosted the 17th Annual Educational Psychology Graduate Student Research Day (GSRD) which celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of our students by providing a format for graduate students to present their research and be recognized by peers and faculty. This year, six students presented their papers and 34 presented posters. As well as being one of the few events that we celebrate department-wide, it provides a wonderful showcase for the excellence and innovation of our graduate students' research.

June 20-21, the Educational Equity Resource Center, housed within Ed Psych, is hosting its second University of Minnesota convening of Minnesota's education leaders, researchers, policy makers, and non-profit organizations committed to improving educational equity. This year's theme is "Working across schools and communities to enhance social-emotional learning." Co-chairs, Michael Rodriguez and Julie Sweitzer, partnered with the Office for Equity and Diversity to organize the Educational Equity in Action event.

In closing, it is a privilege to lead such an outstanding and vibrant department and to have the opportunity to trumpet our accomplishments. There is much going on here in Educational Psychology about which we all should be proud. Other universities are realizing how much good work is happening here. Simply put, we do it all-from bench science and basic research to classrooms and translational research; teaching and educating our students and educational professionals across the state; and sharing our expertise statewide. We hope you continue to be proud of the work we do.
Sincerely,

Geoffrey Maruyama  
*Department Chair and Professor*

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**Calendar**

**April 6:** College Readiness & Achievement Gaps (CRAG) Talks

**April 7:** CanAm Symposium: Informative Hypotheses as a Methodological Middle-Ground in the Formative Measurement Debate

**May 5:** University of Minnesota Autism Initiative (UMAI) Day

**May 5-7:** 2017 GLITCH CONNECT

**June 20-21:** Educational Equity in Action

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**Ed Psych, special education receive top rankings**

The Department of Educational Psychology and our special education program were ranked in the top 10 of the 2018 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of graduate schools. We maintained a #8 ranking in special education and moved up to #9 in educational psychology. [Read more.]

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**Wolff, Elison part of team identifying biomarkers in infancy**

Using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in infants with older siblings with autism, researchers from around the country—including Jason Wolff, an assistant professor in our special education program and Jed Elison, an assistant professor from the Institute of Child Development—were able to predict which infants would later meet criteria for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at two years of age, with 80 percent accuracy. [Read more.]

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**Meet our instructors**

Get to know our instructors, what brought them to the field of educational psychology and what they are excited about today.
Becca Pierce, lecturer in our special education program and coordinator for the ABS licensure and M.Ed. program, didn't always see herself in the field of special education. It wasn't until Pierce began teaching and working with students with special needs that she fell in love with the field. Read more.

Kelli Howard, lecturer in our counseling & student personnel psychology program, took an interest in psychology at an early age. "I was always fascinated by people and relationships why we do what we do or how we become what we become. I'd figured I'd go into psychology of some kind." Read more.

Andrew Zieffler, senior lecturer in our QME program, didn't always see teaching as his calling. "My dad was a high school math teacher," he says. "It was the one thing I didn't want to do." Read more.

Davison recognized for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education

Mark Davison, John P. Yackel Professor in Educational Assessment and Measurement in the Department of Educational Psychology's quantitative methods in education program, was recently honored with an Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education Award from Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, and the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. This award recognizes excellent teachers who engage students in a community of intellectual inquiry, are significant mentors and role models, and develop and promote activities that help students understand the larger context of their intended professions. Read more.

McComas named CEHD President's Community Engaged Scholar

Jennifer McComas, associate chair and special education professor in the Department of Educational Psychology, is the CEHD nominee for this year's President's Community Engaged Scholar award which recognizes faculty involvement in public service and encourages and emphasizes civic engagement as a permanent priority of the College of Education and Human Development. Read more.
Ysseldyke recognized for Outstanding Contributions to School Psychology Training

Jim Ysseldyke, professor emeritus in the Department of Educational Psychology's school psychology program, received the 2017 award for Outstanding Contributions to School Psychology Training from the Council of Directors of School Psychology Programs. Ysseldyke was recognized for his contributions to graduate preparation and leadership in numerous centers, professional organizations, task forces, and other local, regional, and national organizations that shaped school psychology since he entered the field 45 years ago. Read more.

Johnson awarded APF 2016 Gold Medal for Life Achievement in the Application of Psychology

David W. Johnson, emeritus faculty member in the Department of Educational Psychology's Psychological Foundations of Education program, was recently awarded the American Psychological Foundation (APF) Gold Medal for Life Achievement in the Application of Psychology. Read more.

Events

Register now: 2017 Educational Equity in Action

Register now for the second University of Minnesota
convening of Minnesota's education leaders, researchers, policy makers, and non-profit organizations committed to improving educational equity. **This year’s theme is Working Across Schools and Communities to Enhance Social Emotional Learning.** University of Minnesota faculty, school, community, and youth leaders will present the latest research and programs that are making a difference in the lives of children and youth across the state. [Register now.]