Letter from the chair

Dear Educational Psychology family,

Summer is finally here, and with it the end of another academic year. In what always seems like the happiest day of the entire year, 94 of our graduate students walked across the stage in the College of Education and Human Development’s commencement ceremony in May, and 15 special education undergraduates received their degrees at the undergraduate
ceremony. Congratulations and welcome to all of our new alumni!

We continue to make progress, as can be seen in the graduate school rankings from U.S. News & World Report, which recently were released. Once again, our department ranked in the top 10 of programs nationwide. Educational Psychology was #9 and our special education program improved its ranking to #5 (up from #8 last year).

On March 2, we hosted the 18th Annual Educational Psychology Graduate Student Research Day (GSRD), which celebrates the outstanding research accomplishments of our students. Graduate students present their research and are recognized for that work by peers and faculty. This year, four students presented their papers and 34 presented posters. We continue to be impressed by the scope, innovativeness, and overall excellence of our students’ research.

At the end of the school year, we said goodbye and thank you to Asha Jitendra and Veronica Fleury. Asha, a professor in our special education program, has taken a position closer to family in sunny Southern California, at the University of California - Riverside. Asha has been a valued contributor to our department, conducting research analyzing instructional materials and procedures. This past year she served as coordinator of the special education program. Veronica, an assistant professor in special education and the coordinator of our autism spectrum disorder (ASD) licensure program, also has made numerous contributions to the department. She also opted for warmer weather and being closer to her family. She will be continuing her work at the University of Florida. Veronica coordinated the autism spectrum disorder licensure program here since she arrived four years ago. Please join me in wishing Asha and Veronica all the best in their future endeavors!

With Asha’s departure, Associate Chair Jennifer McComas has taken on the added responsibility of special education program coordinator. Thank you, Jennifer, for your continued leadership during a time of substantial changes in our highly regarded special education program.

In the fall, we will welcome Joseph Rios as an assistant professor in the quantitative methods in education (QME) program. Joseph earned his Ph.D. in educational measurement and psychometrics at the University of Massachusetts in 2016 and has worked for the Educational Testing Service (ETS) since 2013. We look forward to the fresh perspective and needed
expertise that Joseph will bring to the QME program and department.

At our very recent spring faculty retreat, we developed our departmental governance processes and documents, and continued work on setting specific measurable goals based on our core values. Our core values align well with the efforts of the College and broader University: (1) research to advance science and practice, (2) positive climate for all: diversity, equity, and inclusion (3) students as leaders and innovators.

Thank you to all of our alumni and friends for your continued contributions of many types to the department and the field of educational psychology. Your success and support of our work are major reasons we are successful, and help us continue to make an impact in our communities in Minnesota and across the globe.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Maruyama

Professor and chair

Alumni in the news

CSPP alum A. Dale Thompson named president of Society of Consulting Psychology

A. Dale Thompson, Ph.D., an alum of the counseling and student personnel psychology program, was named president of the Society of Consulting Psychology (SCP) for a one-year term at their recent conference in Savannah, GA., which ended Feb. 11.

Other alumni news

- CEHD alum named Spring Lake Park Teacher of the Year
- Four Ed Psych graduates named 2018 CEHD Rising Alumni
- Wackerle-Hollman featured in MN Daily for work with SPPS on Hmong IGDIs
Wolff co-leads fragile X imaging study revealing differences in infant brains

The study—co-led by University of Minnesota researcher Jason Wolff, Ph.D., and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill researcher Meghan Swanson, Ph.D., and published in *JAMA Psychiatry*—shows that there are brain differences related to the neurodevelopmental disorder established well before a diagnosis is typically made at age three or later. This could lead to earlier intervention and potentially better treatment outcomes.
Panayiota Kendeou: 5 Tips for fending off fake news

Misinformation and misconceptions have always been a part of our lives. However, since 2016 misinformation and orchestrated “fake news” on the internet and social media have added dimensions and intensity that we have not seen in the past. Associate Professor Panayiota Kendeou is conducting research to help educators and parents understand the problem and help provide students with tools to identify and refute fake news and misinformation.

Read more

Michael Rodriguez: What we’re learning about gaps
Professor and Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development Michael Rodriguez talks about the state’s stubborn gaps in academic opportunities and achievement.

Meet our instructors

Annie Hansen-Burke

“I wanted to know how I could help make sure kids were not falling through the cracks, give support to those that were at risk for not completing school, and create a welcoming, healthy school climate. When I did an online search for those interests, school psychology kept coming up.,” Hansen-Burke says.

Ginny Zeyer, special ed D.D. supervisor and adviser

Ginny Zeyer started her special education career at 16 years old, babysitting a child with autism. Her drive and willingness to learn led her to earn licenses in every disability, develop work and transition programs, alternative education, and administration. Now, she finds herself as a supervisor of the developmental disabilities (DD) program at the University of Minnesota.

Marguerite Ohrtman, CSPP director of school counseling and M.A. clinical training

Marguerite Ohrtman didn’t always want to pursue teaching and counseling. “My original plan was to major in history to
then attend law school, but my mom encouraged me to also get my teaching license,” she recalls. As a student teacher, Ohrtman taught eighth graders and loved it which led her to pursue a career in teaching. Later, she found she enjoyed working with students on a more personal level and decided to pursue a career in school counseling.

Department news and announcements

- McConnell answers WCCO-TVs Good Question: ‘How much do students lose during summer slide?’
- Kunkel selected for CLD leadership academy
- Ohrtman elected president of MSCA
- Miller to receive WPLC Rising Star Faculty Award
- Kyle Wagner, special ed Ph.D. student, selected for 40th annual CLD Leadership Institute
- BPS features psych foundations study on seductive allure of neuroscience explanations
- Education Week features MYDRG student research on how healthy habits increase college aspirations
- Ed Psych grad students attend Inaugural SRCD Tricaucus Preconference
- Butterfuss receives Graduate Student Research Excellence Award from AERA
- School Psych specialist certificate student receives Doris Duke Fellowship
- Zdawczyk, psych foundations student, receives NSF fellowship to study misconceptions in the science classroom
- Educational Psychology presents at CEHD Research Day
- Tayler Loiselle, psych foundations student featured as an emerging scholar
- Turner testifies before MN representatives on need for school counselor training
- Varma joins Search Institute board of directors
- CSPP students, faculty participate in Minnesota School Counselor Association Day on the Hill
- Kendeou gives talks on reading comprehension at University of Padova, Italy
- School psych Ph.D. student awarded fellowship to prevent child abuse and neglect
- Im to present theory on arithmetic sense at 2018 Doctoral Research Showcase
- Students present research at 2018 GSRD
- Golos receives $1.2 million grant to train teachers to support Deaf/Hard of Hearing children and those with disabilities
• McMaster, colleagues receive Samuel A. Kirk award for article on data-based decision-making
• Kendeou gives talk at University of Quebec on science of debunking misconceptions
• McMaster, colleagues receive AEI’s Honorable Mention Award
• Turner awarded grant to encourage more Native Americans to become engineers