Greetings alumni and friends of the Department of Educational Psychology!

It has been an honor and a pleasure to take on the role of department chair this fall. I’d first like to extend a sincere thank you to Professor Geoff Maruyama for his six years of service as our chair. He left us poised for continued success and excellence—with a solid strategic hiring plan, a healthy budget, results of a positive external review to help us envision Ed Psych’s future, and several fabulous new faculty and instructor hires. They are:

- **Savana Bak**, PhD, assistant professor in special education. Savana recently completed her PhD at Michigan State University. She conducts research on language and social communication and early intensive behavior intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder.
- **Seungwon Chung**, PhD, assistant professor in quantitative methods in education. Seungwon recently completed her PhD at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She conducts research related to psychometrics, item response theory, cross-classified random effects models, estimation, and model fit evaluation.
- **David DeLiema**, PhD, assistant professor in psychological foundations of education. David completed his PhD at UCLA in 2015 and was most recently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley.
He conducts research related to productive failure, playful learning, embodied cognition, spatial reasoning, and social interaction, focusing on technology-rich environments.

- **Brenna Rudolph**, PhD, Lecturer in special education. Brenna recently completed her PhD at the University of Minnesota, and is providing instruction and leadership in our early childhood special education program.
- **Laura Paczakowski**, MS, adviser in special education. Laura completed her MS in college counseling & student affairs at Minnesota State University, Moorhead, and is advising our undergraduate and MEd licensure students in special education.

We are thrilled to have these new colleagues in our department!

Fall is a busy time in Ed Psych! We are in the midst of a search for two tenure/tenure track assistant professors: one with a focus on school-based data-based decision-making and academic intervention in School Psychology, and one with a focus on mixed methods in Quantitative Methods in Education. We’ve kicked off the EPsy Research Colloquium series featuring a different EPsy faculty member each month (the third Thursday from 4-5 pm in 325 Education Sciences Building; all are welcome!). We’ve launched EPsy Mentors, a peer mentoring program that matches faculty mentors and mentees to provide support in research, teaching, and community engagement. And, we are working to implement an action plan based on results of last spring’s external review—in which we are further articulating our vision for excellence in scholarship and leadership in the field of educational psychology, strengthening our core doctoral program, and expanding undergraduate initiatives in line with department and college missions.

I am excited for the excellent scholarship that continues and is forthcoming in Ed Psych!

Best,

**Kristen McMaster**
 (*Chair and Stern Family Professor of Reading Success*)

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**Alumni in the news**

- **Bye, QME alumni teach RMCC workshop on R**
- **CSPP alumni speaks about cross cultural counseling**
We love hearing from our alumni! Send us a note to tell us what you have been doing (epcomm@umn.edu).

More alumni news

A sign for the community

From a young age, Robin Johnson learned to communicate with his family in American Sign Language (ASL). He, his parents, and all but one of his siblings are deaf. With interpreters, he attended an elementary school with hearing children in his hometown of Deer River in northern Minnesota. In sixth
grade, Johnson’s parents began living in Faribault during the school year so he and his three deaf siblings could attend school at Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf (MSAD). Read more.

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**Inspired by American Sign Language**

In 1987, a deaf student at the U whose first language was American Sign Language (ASL) petitioned to take an English course to fulfill his second-language requirement. After he succeeded, other students began to request ASL be offered as a second language. Read more.

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**Ed Psych welcomes new chair**

Kristen McMaster, Stern Family
Professor of Reading Success, became chair of the Department of Educational Psychology (Ed Psych) in July. McMaster earned her PhD in special education from Vanderbilt University and came to the department in 2002 as a lecturer in the special education program. She moved to a tenure track position one year later and has called the department her academic home ever since.

Department news and announcements

- CSPP student chosen for 2019-20 MSCA board
- Multiple CSPP students chosen to serve on graduate student boards
- Annual Deno Invitational Golf Fundraiser raises $1,000 for Deno Fund
- Berger presents to teachers from China on positive psychology in the classroom
- CSPP student publishes unit for 'Teaching about Genocide 'course
- Varma presents first Ed Psych Research Colloquium of 2019
- Bye attends EMCL8 workshop in Estonia, joins oversight committee
- CSPP student selected as Totino-Grace's 2019-20 counseling intern
- McComas hosts international webinar on RETT Syndrome and telehealth

More Ed Psych news

Events

- Nov. 1: Government & Non-Profit Job Fair
- Feb. 5: Health Sport & Recreation Career Fair
- Feb. 12: CEHD Practice Interview Day
- Feb. 20: U of M Job Fair

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