Letter from the chair

Dear alumni and friends of the Department of Educational Psychology,

First and foremost, I write this message with sincere hopes that you and your loved ones are healthy, safe, and well. All of us in Ed Psych are deeply concerned about the current situation and the impact that COVID-19 is having on the lives and wellbeing of those in our community and around the world. I have been heartened and encouraged by the strength, generosity, creativity, humor, kindness, and patience of Ed Psych students, staff, and faculty even as they juggle the range of responsibilities and personal challenges that this crisis has presented. Though our classes and meetings are all conducted at a distance, people are working together to make it through, and for this I am very grateful.

If you are wondering how you can help at this difficult time, the University of Minnesota has established three new funds focused on providing COVID-19 relief to core priorities: student need, health care support, and emergency support. You can learn more and give to any of these funds at: https://give.umn.edu/covid-19.

Though spring semester in Ed Psych has been highly unusual, we are still celebrating our students who are completing their years of hard work toward their undergraduate and graduate degrees. The University of Minnesota will be holding a virtual graduation on May 16 with the theme “Hail to Thee” to acknowledge the strength and resilience of U of M students. Here in Ed Psych, we are also
planning virtual ways to recognize our soon-to-be graduates’ many achievements.

Our spirits were also lifted a bit this spring with the release of the 2020 U.S. News & World Report rankings. We were rated #9 in the nation among educational psychology graduate programs. Our special education and counseling and student personnel psychology programs were also rated in the top ten, #9 and #10 respectively. We are grateful for this recognition of our top-notch academic programs and scholarship.

We continue to work to develop and improve upon our strong graduate and undergraduate programming. Following recommendations from our 2019 external review, we are working to strengthen our core Ed Psych graduate curriculum and experiences. At the same time, we are enhancing our focus on undergraduate programming, including developing new courses and two new minors (a special education minor and an educational psychology research minor). We are excited to roll out these new changes in the coming semesters.

Thank you for all you do to support Ed Psych, the College of Education and Human Development, and the University of Minnesota. We are grateful for our strong community.

Wishing you well,
Kristen McMaster
Ed Psych Chair
Stern Family Professor of Reading Success

Ed Psych students present research at GSRD 2020
The 20th Annual Educational Psychology Graduate Student Research Day (GSRD) was held on February 28 to celebrate outstanding student accomplishments in research. GSRD provides an opportunity for graduate students to present their research and to be recognized by peers and faculty.

In Memoriam: Kay Herting Wahl

Dr. Kay Herting Wahl passed away after a courageous battle with lung cancer on December 24, 2019. Dr. Herting Wahl was an emeritus professor in the Department of Educational Psychology's counseling and student personnel psychology program. Prior to her retirement, she served as the director of school counseling. Dr. Herting Wahl was named the American School Counselor Association's Counselor Educator of the Year in 2010. In 2013, she was also named Post-Secondary Counselor Educator of the Year by the Minnesota School Counselors Association.

A memorial fund has been set up in Dr. Herting Wahl's honor. Support school counseling students by contributing to the Kay Herting Wahl Memorial Fellowship.

Alumni news

Have your own alumni news to share? Send a note to epcomm@umn.edu.

- Farnsworth quoted in Minnesota Reformer on struggles of distance learning for kids with disabilities
- APA interviews Kendeou, incoming editor, Journal of Educational Psychology
- Kendeou elected AERA fellow
- Three Ed Psych graduates honored with Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Panaviota (Pani) Kendeou, PhD announces incoming associate editors of Journal of Educational Psychology

Recent news

- Bart: Why you should consider learning chess online
- NCME Researcher Spotlight highlights Rios
- Cook presents at Whole Child Virtual Summit
- 10 Reading + Learning Lab presentations accepted to ST&D, APA Division 15 conferences
- MYDRG to present eight times at ITC
- 23 Ed Psych presentations accepted by AERA, NCME
- Sullivan develops resources to support early career scholars, school psych faculty during COVID-19
- Romano receives PDGR award from UMRA
- CSPP student named potential school counselor of the year
Calendar of events

- April 28: Dissertation: Sources of variance in reading comprehension research: The role of measures and interventions
- May 5: Counseling and student personnel psychology MA info session
- May 14: Dissertation: Pulling Back the Curtain on Stereotype Threat: Testing a Mediation Framework of Identity Change and Belongingness
- May 16: Virtual commencement
- May 18: Dissertation: How Teacher Self-efficacy and Mindset Influence Student Engagement and Math Performance

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association has a number of events designed to support alumni and their families through COVID-19. Check them out here.