Here at the beginning of 2013, we see changes on many levels; in our program, in our department, in our field, and in our country. As usual, some of the changes are welcome, and some, less so.

By Wendy Heller

We started the semester with a Presidential Inauguration on Martin Luther King day. Although previous Presidents have commissioned inaugural poems (Kennedy, Carter, Clinton, and Obama—is there a pattern here?), this seems to be the first time the ceremony featured a poem written by an openly gay, Latino, poet, Richard Blanco.

(You can find the full text and a video of his reading here http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/today-richard-blanco-poem-read-barack-obama-inauguration/story?id=18274653, and for a great story on inaugural poems see http://learningblogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/24/guest-lesson-reading-one-today-and-other-inaugural-poems/).

More positive change was expressed in these words by President Obama; “For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law — for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. Our journey is not complete until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote. Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still approach. Their stance stems from their understanding that addiction hijacks the neuronal machinery necessary for successful decision-making and valuation, essentially stripping the individual of much of his or her real capacity to cease engaging in addiction-based behaviors. The word “addict” originated from a legal term related to placing an individual in slavery to a creditor; the neuronal disorder description of addiction offered by Volkow, Baler, and Goldstein (2011) is not far from this sad idea. Much like someone in a position of absolute bondage may not be ultimately
see America as a land of opportunity — until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country. Our journey is not complete until all our children, from the streets of Detroit to the hills of Appalachia, to the quiet lanes of Newtown, know that they are cared for and cherished and always safe from harm.” Read more: http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/president-barack-obamas-2013-inaugural-address-full-text-86497.

Positive change is happening here on the 7th floor of the Psychology Building. As always at this time of year, we engage in the exciting task of interviewing and identifying the young scholars who’ve applied to our program for Graduate work, and we open new doors for ourselves and for them with the next round of offers for admission. Our field is on the brink of publishing a new version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the DSM-5, due to appear in May 2013. Lots of controversy has boiled up around the revisions. It appears that the controversy will continue, and issues like the dimensionality of personality and the normality of grief will continue to be topics of research and dissention—difficult topics that can be frustrating but are also sources of potential breakthroughs. For me, perhaps the most rewarding experience associated with the new DSM has been reading the essays of our students taking the Introductory Sequence course that I taught for the first time (PSYC 538). They were remarkable in their thoughtfulness and scholarship and reminded me of what I love about teaching, and of what I love about our program, which attracts and fosters such deep and nuanced thinkers. Personally, I’m excited about teaching this class, and about editing this newsletter, new ventures for me after stepping down as DCT.

Some of the changes less welcome include normal fluctuations in our faculty and students as life paths diverge. These we weather with resignation because lots of things can redirect the destinations of our colleagues. We’ve said goodbye to people we valued as co-workers and friends, including faculty, staff, and students who have moved on and away. Yet even as we speak, the hooks are baited and new people are nibbling. If we can reel them in, they will bring new opportunities to our program.

Other recent events are simply heartbreaking and remind us that our work is cut out for us: as Richard Blanco said in his poem, we have experienced “…the impossible vocabulary of sorrow that won’t explain the empty desks of twenty children marked absent today, and forever.”

Some of our students have struggled with the challenges inherent in teasing apart the issues of mental illness versus criminality (see Brett Murphy’s essay, page 1 and bio on page 5). To the degree that we can contribute to a greater understanding of the vagaries of human behavior our work will always be worthwhile, even if we create but the smallest handhold for the next climber. As a fortune cookie I saved once said, “Even the tallest oak was once a tiny acorn that stood its ground.” Maybe someday we can help to figure this stuff out. We must have faith that things can change for the better. Evidence of this? We have a President of color in his second term, as if the fact of the first was not remarkable, who commissioned a poem by a gay man.

As we sat in our brown bag seminar last week, and enjoyed a session of Jeopardy designed to teach us the procedures at the PSC, two of our talented students (Angela Walden—see some other examples of her creative works on Page 13 and Alice Huang—see her bio on Page 4) created a set of paper cranes (at left). It was a reminder to me that we are beings of mind and heart and soul, and that our thoughts, feelings, motivations, intentions, and conditioning, are always interwoven. Some people scorn the fact that we often find ourselves doing “me-search”. But another way to think of it is that we’re bringing our hearts into our work. That’s a good thing, if we’re honest about it, because that passion gives us the power to stick it out when the going gets boring, not to mention tough, and our own experience gives us unique insight into the problem. This is a reminder, then, to allow ourselves to be inspired, and to honor that which renews us. Your truth may bring about positive change not just in yourself, but in the world. With this in mind, enjoy the talent show featured in this issue, and stay tuned for more.
mentally ill, or criminal?
...continued

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tivity and increased expectation sensitivity conspire to overwhelm the brain’s control circuit. Bioessays, 32(9), 748-755.
Hello I'm Alice. I grew up half in Taiwan and half in the US. During my college at Yale I was a psych major, pre-med, and studied creative writing. I spent some of my most formative years living and working in China and Mongolia, where I was a Peace Corps Volunteer (and conducted research on alcoholism). I hope to continue experiencing and studying cross-culture. I'm interested in depression (and maybe anxiety). Specifically, I hope to find ways to cultivate curiosity, as if it were a skill, to ease depression.

I like doing pretty much everything : )

Hi! My name is Rachel Leipow. I grew up in South Jersey and then attended Hampshire College (where I studied suicide prevention). For the past few years I've been living in Cambridge, MA, where I researched Axis II diagnostics. In my free time (when there was free time in Boston :) ) I played guitar, baked sweets, fire spun, and sometimes hung out at a Vipassana center. I'm excited to meet everyone in the department, and am looking forward to learning with ya'll!

Holla! My name is Michael Perino and I am about to embark on this great adventure known as the Doctoral Program in Clinical/Community Psychology here at UIUC. Before moving to the fields of corn, I finished my BA in Psychology at NYU and my MA in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, followed by a stopover in the city of brotherly love where I studied the neurodevelopment of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The research I plan to tackle in Dr. Edelyn Verona’s lab will examine the aberrant cognitive, affective and neural processes associated with predatory aggression.

When I’m not being studious, I enjoy walking my hulking dog (he’s a four pound Chihuahua), culinary experimentation and enjoying the zeitgeist of my generation.

The Clinical/Community Psychology Graduate Studies Department welcomes the incoming class of students this fall! We wanted to know a little more about every one of them. Here’s what they had to say:
Hi! My name is Aisha Howard, and I will be under the supervision of Edelyn Verona. I came from Tampa, FL, working at the University of South Florida as a Project Coordinator studying divergent pathways to callous-unemotional traits among incarcerated youth.

My research interests include examining biological and environmental pathways to externalizing and antisocial disorders. I am also interested in studying emotional and empathic deficits among youth, utilizing EEG, neuroendocrine, and genetic methods. I also enjoy reading, cooking and making stained glass.

My name is Michael Kruepke and I will be working with Dr. Edelyn Verona during my time here at UIUC. Originally from West Bend, WI, I attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and graduated in 2010 with a B.A. in Psychology. Since then, I have spent time working for Dr. Joseph Newman, Dr. Richard Davidson and Dr. Michael Koenigs. Broadly my research interests are the interaction of cognition and emotion such as psychopathy, BPD and ASPD. I am also interested in moral judgment and meditation research and look forward to working more in these areas during my time at UIUC.

My name is Caroline Tancredy. I have a doctorate degree in Social & Personality Psychology from the University of California at Davis. My husband Chris Fraley and I moved to the Champaign-Urbana area 8 years ago, where we have enjoyed raising our family and working in the psychology department. I am taking a break from teaching psychology to respecialize my degree and work toward a clinical license. My research areas have included attachment in adulthood, twin & sibling relationships, emotion, and bereavement. I’m a volunteer with Carle Hospice and find this work to be very rewarding. One of my goals is to work with the bereaved and participate in their efforts to honor their grief.

Howdy! My name is Brett Murphy and I am from Oklahoma. I graduated from Rice University with a B.A. in History in 2004. In 2011, I graduated from Harvard Law School, where I was a student attorney with the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project. I am very interested in researching empathy deficits and impulse control deficits. I will be working with Edelyn Verona at UIUC. I enjoy films, music with cellos and pomegranates.
Hey, my name is Suvarna Menon and I am from India. I recently graduated from the University of Delhi with a Masters in Psychology. At UIUC, I hope to look at community based participatory action research that explores the role of cultural or contextual factors and their influence on the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals post-therapy or treatment. In my spare time, I enjoy photography and dancing - although I am a novice at both!

Hello everyone, my name is Yara Mekawi. I just moved down here from Chicago and I'm very excited to begin this journey! With Dr. Carla Hunter and the talented Cultural Heritage and Racial Identity Lab, I hope to answer questions regarding the relationships between social identities, exposure to discrimination and mental health in racial/ethnic minorities. Though I was born in New Jersey, I spent the majority of my upbringing in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Oman, where my curiosity for understanding how dominant groups’ often oppressive ideologies and systems differentially affected the mental health of disadvantaged groups began. I obtained my Bachelor’s degree in Applied Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where I worked with both social and clinical psychology research groups that aimed to understand the influence of race/ethnicity on a variety of outcomes, ranging from online friendship formation to decisions regarding seeking mental health services. After graduating, I began working in a developmental psycho-pathology lab at Northwestern University where I conducted clinical interviews with parents, and neuropsych assessments as well as observational paradigms with pre-school aged children. I enjoy painting, photography, cooking and hopefully getting to know all the brilliant people in this department!
Presentations


KUDOS & AWARDS

Andrew Case was given the Conference Travel Award from the 9th Division of the APA: Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

Andrew Case was given the Conference Travel Award by the 45th Division of the APA: Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues

Andrew Case was awarded Outstanding Graduate Research Paper from the UIUC Department of African American Studies

Phil Chow was selected by the department as the winner of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. Based on this the department is nominating him for the same award at the next higher level, the LAS award, which brings $2000 to its winners. If he wins at that level, LAS will then nominate him for the campus-level award, which brings another $3500.
Karen Horneffer-Ginter

Www.KarenHG.com

Karen Says:

I graduated from U of I in 1996 after completing my pre-doctoral internship, focused on mind-body health, at the University of Massachusetts. I spent two years educating internal medicine physicians and residents in communication skills, alternative medicine, and holistic approaches to health care, supported by a grant through Loyola University Medical School in Chicago. I then moved back to my hometown of Kalamazoo, MI, and began teaching in an interdisciplinary holistic health care program at Western Michigan University, where I went on to receive tenure and serve as program director for 5 years. Six years ago, I decided to shift to a part-time faculty position to let go of the administrative duties and to co-found the Center for Psychotherapy and Wellness, where I work with 3 other psychotherapists, 3 massage therapists, and an acupuncturist. At the Center, we offer individual services along with groups and classes in mindfulness, yoga, and other such topics. In recent years, I’ve been spending a lot of time writing, and am very excited to have a book coming out through Hay House this December entitled, “Full Cup, Thirsty Spirit: Nourishing the Soul When Life’s Just Too Much.” It weaves client examples, personal narratives, and self-help information from the fields of psychology and both Eastern and Western contemplative traditions. I also feel tremendously grateful to have a 13 year-old son, an 11 year-old daughter, and a lovely husband who all help to ensure that life doesn’t get too serious or too boring. :)

After completing her postdoctoral fellowship on pediatric psychology at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas, TX, Brenda Hernandez is currently working as a pediatric psychologist at La Rabida Children’s Hospital in Chicago, IL.

Sadie Larsen has started a new job as Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Staff Psychologist at the Milwaukee VA.

Tamara L. Brown is the new dean of the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology at Prairie View A&M University in Texas. For the past 13 years, she served on the faculty at the University of Kentucky.
Ken Linfield, who graduated in 1999, is an associate professor and the Director of Graduate Training for the School of Professional Psychology at Spalding University. He has put his full minor in Quantitative Psychology to use by teaching graduate courses in Psychometrics, Research Design, and Statistics over the years, currently concentrating on the Program Evaluation course for the doctoral students (hence, the youtube video link below). In addition, he teaches undergraduate courses in Psychology of Religion and Community Psychology. As the Director of Graduate training, he oversees various academic elements of the program like advising and student issues. At a University level, he has chaired Spalding’s Faculty Council and IRB, and currently chairs the University Committee on Rank, Tenure, and Sabbatical. In April, he became an Associate Editor for *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*, the official journal of Division 36 of the American Psychological Association.

Ken and his wife, Amy, live in south Louisville, where they enjoy gardening – concentrating on tomatoes and blackberries. Their son, Cory, is now married and lives in Denver, CO. Their daughter, Kristen, lives in Dayton, OH. Ken likes to run, although he has trouble keeping up with his children who have both run full marathons. He also spins wool into yarn for knitting projects.

Ken recently contributed to the APA Division 36 newsletter – see pages 12 and 13:

http://www.division36.org/Newsletters/v36n3.pdf

He also includes some novel approaches to teaching statistics:

http://youtu.be/oHMq8Q0a5Sg
We have quite a unique group of students and faculty that we are proud to include in the Clinical-Community Psychology Department. Take a look at all of the fantastic things they do!

A photograph taken by Yara Mekawi, titled “opportunity”

Another photograph by Yara Mekawi, 1st year student, titled “Puerto Rican princess”

Ken Linfield spinning wool

Angela Walden uses her adorable dog Digby to model some of her homemade crafts
Angela Walden also creates specialty baked goods! Check out some of these creative confections!
Across

2. If you see a hippo on campus, you’ll never forget it (What part of the brain does this riddle refer to?)

5. Founded the first psychology laboratory in 1879 in Germany

8. Mastermind behind the Stanford Prison Experiment

9. Who will you find in room 705 in the Psychology building?

10. It can be bruised

Down

1. A gene whose influence will be expressed only when it is paired with a second gene like it

3. Dogs and bells and drool… Oh my!

4. Student Guidance ________ - to check on the progress of a grad student

6. A distinguishing characteristic or quality, esp. of one’s personal nature

7. The town in which the Psychology Building is located
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The Clinical/Community Psychology Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a Clinical Science program designed to train scholarly and scientifically oriented researchers and professionals with a variety of interests.

Our program is committed to excellence in scientific clinical training and to using clinical science as the foundation for designing, implementing, and evaluating assessment and intervention procedures. Our educational philosophy emphasizes a creative, scholarly, and socially responsible approach to clinical and community psychology. Our mission is to produce graduates who assume leadership roles and contribute to the discipline and to society.

Psychology at The University of Illinois

The Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a long-standing reputation for excellence. From its inception in 1904, the department has distinguished itself with outstanding faculty, research programs and the best and brightest graduate students.

Consistently named one of the top five graduate programs in the country, the department nurtures an environment of collaborative and independent research and outstanding scholarship. The organization of our department, the variety of divisions, and the strength of our faculty allow students the opportunity to explore their interests across the discipline and alongside some of the finest minds in the country.

At the University of Illinois we provide the resources, the network, and the experience for mature young scholars to become committed professionals who make unique contributions to the field of psychology.

Whatever your professional interests and goals, you’ll find an environment of excellence in which to pursue them and a community of dedicated and experienced collaborators to assist you in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois.