

VCU Psychology Department

NEWSLETTER Fall 2011

Wendy Kliever
Chair

Michael Southam-Gerow
*Director,
Graduate Studies*

Linda Zyzniewski
*Director,
Undergrad. Studies*

Dorothy Fillmore
*Associate Director for
Academic Operations*

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Eric Benotsch
Health

Jeff Green
Social

Barbara Myers
Developmental

Joseph Porter
Biopsychology

Bruce Rybarczyk
Clinical

Marilyn Stern
Counseling

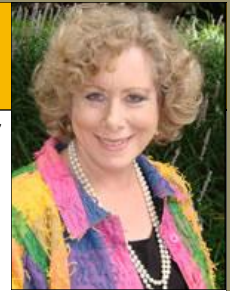
NEWSLETTER

Jennifer Elswick
jlelswick@vcu.edu



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

DR. WENDY KLIEWER



Greetings from 806 W. Franklin St.!

As I write this, we are in the throes of a new academic year, and I am quite excited about what this year will bring. We are looking forward to connecting with many more of our alumni in the coming year (thank you to those who sent in updates in response to our last newsletter). We have some exciting events planned for alumni that I will tell you about in future communications.

We began the new academic year by welcoming a number of new faculty (see articles on Pages 2-4). An earthquake and a hurricane have not dampened the enthusiasm our new faculty bring to our research, teaching and service missions.

We also began the new year with a record number of undergraduate majors (more than 1,600) and doctoral students (131). This year a major focus of our department will be engaging more of our undergraduates in research and community outreach. Many of our students participate in research practica, where they learn first-hand about research or service-learning courses in which they contribute to the community, but we would like to involve a greater percentage of our undergraduate students in

these activities to achieve one of the goals of the university's strategic plan, Quest for Distinction. If you have ideas about how we might do this or want to be involved in this process, we'd love to hear from you.

A second major focus this year will be to continue our high-quality contributions in research and scholarship. Our department does cutting-edge work in a number of areas including health psychology and community-based interventions. We will continue those contributions and increase our scholarship in basic and applied social psychology and in developmental science. Much of our work crosses subdisciplines within psychology and many of our faculty are engaged in multidisciplinary collaborations, including partnerships with international colleagues. We will keep you informed about new scientific developments as they emerge.

Best wishes for a great fall, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Wendy Kliever

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet Our New Faculty Members	<u>2-4</u>	Dr. Shawn Utsey Featured in Recent Article	<u>10</u>
Letters from Our Readers	<u>4</u>	Department Hosts International Students	<u>11</u>
Alumni Updates	<u>5-6</u>	Undergraduate Student Spotlight	<u>11</u>
Alumnus Spotlight	<u>7-8</u>	Counseling Award Recipients	<u>12</u>
Recent Grad Receives Fulbright	<u>9</u>	August 2011 Graduates	<u>13</u>
Job Ad for Health Psychology Faculty Position	<u>9</u>	Dr. Wendy Kliever Launches International Partnership Grant	<u>13</u>
Graduate Student Spotlight	<u>10</u>	Newsletter and Department Contact Information	<u>14</u>

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Dr. Richard Bargdill,
Teaching Faculty

Richard Bargdill, Ph.D., will return for a second year as a collateral teaching faculty member in our department. Last year Bargdill taught the Life Span Development and History of Psychology courses and presented at four conferences – two of which were invited presentations on the link between psychology and art. One of the presentations was at the First International Existential Psychology Conference in Nanjing, China. Bargdill is currently the membership chair and a member-at-large for the Executive Board of the Society of Humanistic Psychology—Division 32 of the American Psychology Association. His main research interest is habitual boredom and its two antidotes—meaning and creativity. In fact, Bargdill has won a number of awards for his visual art and poetry and has even used one of his visual creations as a student “significance award.” This award is presented to undergraduate students in the capstone undergraduate course, History of Psychology, who are judged to have offered the highest-quality presentation at the semester-ending poster session. The lovely wooden structure is crafted by Bargdill in the shape of the symbol for statistical significance (σ) onto which winning students’ names are engraved for posterity. Our newsletter’s

Richmond-area readers might have seen Bargdill on television recently when he was interviewed by Nicole Bell of *NBC 12 News* on the topic of dream interpretation. Shortly thereafter he was also featured on the radio program, “With Good Reason,” speaking on the same subject.



Dr. Hayley Cleary,
Teaching Faculty

Hayley Cleary, M.P.P., Ph.D., is a developmental psychologist who joins us this year as an assistant professor. Cleary earned a Master’s of Public Policy and a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Georgetown University. Before coming to VCU, she held data- and research-based positions with Philadelphia city government and a children’s advocacy nonprofit in Virginia. Cleary’s research interests involve adolescent development in law and policy contexts. She has collaborated with social scientists at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., to study police interviewing and interrogation of juvenile suspects. An enthusiastic teacher, Cleary enjoys teaching Statistics and Lifespan Development at VCU and occasionally guest-lecturing about youth development to police officers at the FBI National Academy. She is interested in finding novel and effective ways to make social science research on adolescent development accessible to policymakers,

law enforcement, program administrators and the public. Cleary lives in Richmond with her husband, Mike, and enjoys walking her dog, practicing yoga and Saturday morning trips to the farmer’s market.



Dr. Heather Jones,
Clinical Psychology

Heather Jones, Ph.D., joined our department this August as an assistant professor in the clinical program. Jones received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Maryland at College Park and completed her internship at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. She went on to complete a two-year postdoctoral fellowship with the Center for ADHD at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Following fellowship, Jones joined the faculty at the University of Akron and remained as a research psychologist there for three years. This past year, she was also on the training faculty as research mentor for the Akron Children’s Hospital Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship and worked with staff at the hospital on a number of research projects. Jones’ primary research and clinical interests are in evidence-based assessment and treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, particularly within populations that are difficult to engage in mental health services. She has a foundation grant to

(Continued on p. 3)

MEET OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

examine readiness to change in parents of children coming to an ADHD clinic and plans to build on this work with a larger grant to better measure and improve parental readiness to change. Jones also has expertise in parent-child interaction research and is interested in continuing to examine how African-American parents of children with ADHD behave with their children in a number of different situations. Jones is currently working with Joshua Langberg, Ph.D., a fellow newcomer to the department, to establish a collaborative clinical and research ADHD program at VCU. Aside from her academic life, Jones enjoys traveling, hiking, and camping, having spent time last winter camping around the north island of New Zealand. She was raised in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and is thrilled to be back on the East Coast, close to her family.



Dr. Jennifer Joy-Gaba,
Teaching Faculty

Jennifer A. Joy-Gaba, Ph.D., joined the VCU faculty in August as an assistant professor. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Virginia in 2011 and is a 2005 graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park with Bachelor of Science degrees in psychology and mathematics. Her research interests span both cognitive and social psychology and examine how automatic processes influence thoughts, feelings and

behaviors. For example, one project investigates the impact of educating physicians about their automatic racial biases to see if that knowledge mitigates the effects of implicit bias in predicting racial health disparities in treatment. Her secondary line of research focuses on examining whether social factors, such as explicit preference, influence visual perception. Joy-Gaba is currently teaching Learning and Cognition and will be teaching Experimental Methods during the spring semester. She truly enjoys teaching and earned a distinguished teaching fellowship during 2010-2011 at the University of Virginia as a result of her efforts. When she isn't researching or teaching, Joy-Gaba enjoys spending time with her husband, Jonathan, and loves to travel.



Dr. Joshua Langberg,
Clinical Psychology

Joshua M. Langberg, Ph.D., joined the VCU faculty in August 2011 as an assistant professor in the clinical program. Langberg received his Ph.D. in clinical-community psychology from the University of South Carolina and completed his internship at Duke University Medical Center. He comes to VCU from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center where he spent the past four years as an assistant professor in the department of pediatrics. He moved to Richmond over the summer with his wife, Lisa, and their two daughters, Kaitlin, 4, and Alexis, 2.

Langberg's research and clinical expertise is in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. He is a licensed clinical psychologist in Ohio and Virginia and is providing supervision for VCU graduate student training at the [Center for Psychological Services and Development](#). He will be working with Heather Jones, Ph.D., (see p. 2) to develop and expand the ADHD assessment and treatment services offered at the CPSD. Langberg has received grants from the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Education to study the impact of school-based interventions on the academic functioning of students with ADHD. Through these grants, Langberg developed and recently published the *Homework, Organization, and Time-Management Skills* intervention. The HOPS intervention teaches students how to use organization and time-management skills in the school setting to improve academic performance.



Dr. Paul Perrin,
Health Psychology

Paul B. Perrin, Ph.D., joined the VCU faculty in August 2011 as an assistant professor in the health psychology program. Perrin received his undergraduate degrees in psychology and English at the University of Florida before continuing on at U.of F. to earn his Ph.D. in the

(Continued on p. 4)

(Continued from p. 3)

counseling psychology program.

During his time in graduate school, he worked as a researcher at the Gainesville, Fla., Veterans Affairs Brain Rehabilitation Research Center and Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center. There, he was awarded a United States Department of Veterans Affairs Associated Health Pre-doctoral Rehabilitation Research Fellowship grant for a project titled, "The Influence of Race and Culture on Rehabilitating VISN 8 Veterans with Stroke through Informal Caregiving." During graduate school, he also performed clinical work at the University of Florida Counseling Center, the Alachua County Crisis Center and the Tampa Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Spinal Cord Injury and Polytrauma Units. He completed his predoctoral clinical internship at the Baltimore Psychology Internship Consortium, spanning the Baltimore Veterans' Affairs Medical Center and the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Perrin currently lives in Fredericksburg with his partner, Jenna. His research interests are in multicultural health psychology. In particular, he studies the connections

between minority mental health and health disparities; bias, prejudice and stereotyping by health care providers; and the influence of gender, racial and sexual-orientation socialization on behavior and health. Perrin's current studies are examining culturally sensitive mental health interventions for caregivers of individuals with cognitive deficits, such as those resulting from stroke and traumatic brain injury.



Katharine Stoddard,
*Assistant Director of Academic Advising
and Online Initiatives*

Katharine Stoddard, M.Ed., joined the VCU faculty in August 2011 as the assistant director of academic advising and

online initiatives. She completed both her Master's in education (2010) and Bachelor of Science in psychology (2008) at VCU and has strong a commitment to assisting others from her alma mater. She channels this passion for helping others into her role as supervisor for the undergraduate advising office, an office that is responsible for serving more than 1,600 undergraduate psychology majors. Stoddard coordinates the day-to-day logistics at the advising center, supervises a staff of six part-time graduate teaching assistant advisers and delivers advising support services to sophomore and transfer students through a new one-credit online advising course. Stoddard's beloved husband, Collin, is currently serving a tour of duty in Iraq and will return home in June 2012. While she awaits his return, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends and dog Bailey – her running buddy as she prepares for her first marathon in March 2012.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

As one of Marilyn Erickson's first Ph.D.'s, I was so pleased to read about her professional and personal life since leaving VCU. [p.7 of [summer issue](#)] Dr. Erickson was an inspiration to the few women in our program (Dr. Shelly Milestone and I were the only two women Ph.D.'s in our class of 1979!). I have always been drawn to psychological evaluations and VCU prepared me well in all areas of assessment. I have worked with community mental health centers and local departments of social services performing personality, intellectual and academic assessments with children, adolescents and adults, and specializing in assessing parents who generally have had their children removed from their care due to abuse and neglect. I want to encourage graduate students to consider this line of work as I have found my role in protecting children and making recommendations to the Courts meaningful and rewarding. The demand for these psychological and parenting evaluations is quite high, as we are uniquely qualified to thoroughly evaluate clients, utilizing reliable and objective tests as part of our skill set.

Karin Yoch, Ph.D., Class of 1979
Durham, N.C.

ALUMNI UPDATES: NEW! WHAT'S *YOUR* UPDATE? CLICK [HERE](#)

1950s

Ralph Nagler (B.S. '51) went to receive his master's degree at U.Va. in 1954. He retired from the National Federation of Independent Businesses in 1986. Though a 2004 stroke slowed him down a bit, he is currently a Christian counselor, a member of AACCC and has a Grief Share program in Cape Coral, Fla.

1970s

Dr. Carl Smith (B.S. '70) currently serves as professor and chair of the department of curriculum and instruction at Iowa State University.

Dr. Mark Smedley (B.S. '76) just finished his 29th year as a psychologist with the Anchorage, Ala., school district. During the past 12 years, his primary focus has been writing and managing federal and state grants for students in a state of Alaska juvenile justice facility. He has also recently started a part-time private practice providing counseling and assessment services to children, adolescents and young adults. His daughter,



Richard T. Robertson Alumni House

McKenzie, is heading to Western Washington University this fall, and he is looking forward to retiring by the end of the year and learning to play again.

Dr. Karin Yoch (Ph.D. '79) (see Letter on p.4) has lived and worked in Durham, N.C., since 1979. She is married with a 19-year-old daughter. She has worked with community mental health centers and local departments of social services, performing personality, intellectual and academic assessments with children, adolescents and adults, specializing in assessing parents who generally have had their children removed from their care because of abuse and neglect.

1980s

Terry Elliott Spurrier (B.S. '80) has been involved in various aspects of the insurance industry after graduating in 1980. She currently works with worker's compensation patients coordinating their care and treatment for safe and expeditious returns to gainful employment. She is married going on 30 years this December and has three children. The youngest just graduated with a B.S. in biology and is hoping to attend VCU's DPT program starting in September 2012.

Dr. Wanda Capps McCarthy (B.S. '83) graduated with a master's (1993) and Ph.D. (1997) from the University of Pittsburgh in social and personality psychology. She was recently promoted to the rank of associate professor of psychology at the University of Cincinnati - Clermont College in Batavia, Ohio. In her current position, she teaches courses such as Social Psychology, Personality Theory, History and Systems and Sexuality. She is currently involved in research on intimate partner violence and the use of groups in the classroom. This past



spring, she was the recipient of a Faculty Development Council grant from her university. She currently lives outside of Cincinnati in Maineville, Ohio, with her husband, Jeff, and their three children, Julia, Cara and Sean.

Dr. Al Brockwell (B.S. '86) joined the psychology faculty at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y., in August. After earning his B.S. from VCU in 1986, he earned his Ph.D. in industrial and organizational psychology from The City University of New York in 1993. His career has included working in various roles in the federal government, global corporations and consulting. He continues to consult through Elite Performance Strategies.

Dr. Pete Riebsame (Ph.D. '87) received his board certification in forensic psychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology in 2006.

Dr. Chris Kilmartin (Ph.D. '88) published the fourth edition of "The Masculine Self" (2010), which has also been translated into Korean. He delivered the keynote address at the NCAA Violence Prevention Summit in 2011 and has consulted with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Army and Air Force. He recently concluded a three-year consultation with the U.S. Naval Academy on a revision of sexual assault and harassment prevention curriculum and was a scriptwriter for an Army training film on

(*Continued on p. 6*)

(Continued from page 5)

the same topic. In 2007, Kilmartin was the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in gender studies at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria, one of only 39 such honors awarded annually worldwide. He was elected to Fellow status in the American Psychological Association in 2008 and is a past-president of Division 51 of that organization—the Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity—which awarded him its Researcher of the Year distinction in 2010.

1990s

Dr. Thomas Franklin (B.S. '93) lives in Towson, Md., with his wife, Kimberly, and sons, Connor and Matthew. He is associate medical director of the Retreat at Sheppard Pratt, a private-pay, intermediate length-of-stay residential psychiatric program within Sheppard Pratt Health System. He is a candidate analyst at the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis and is in graduate business school at Johns Hopkins University's Carey School of Business.

Eric McCaslin (B.S. '93) just completed his 12th year as a high school counselor and his seventh year as varsity girl's basketball head coach at Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Va. Before



Thurston House,
808 W. Franklin St.

Battlefield High, he was a counselor at a behavioral treatment center for teens, a residential counselor at a substance abuse treatment center for teens, and a restaurant

manager. He has also coached at the high school level for JV soccer, JV softball, JV basketball, swimming and track. He is married to Elizabeth McCaslin (formerly Dickerson) of Fairfax, Va., and has two children—Caitlin, 10, and Luke, 7. Currently, he is continuing his education in leadership studies.

Marc Stockdon (B.S. '96) received a master's in education in 1998 from VCU and has been working as a school counselor ever since. His current position is with Henrico County Public Schools. All of the students at his school (K-12) have special needs that range from the intellectually disabled to the emotionally disabled. He has been there for 12 years now and thanks the VCU Psychology Department everyday for his psychology background!

Roblyn Mitchell Lewter (B.S. '97) earned a master's of arts degree in counseling psychology from Bowie State University in 2002. She is currently enrolled in the international psychology doctoral program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She is also an adjunct psychology professor at Stratford University and is the program supervisor for the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care Program.

Dr. Kim Floyd Crawford (Ph.D. '98) has had three full-time jobs since graduating from VCU. The first was working as a research associate at the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission and the second was as an evaluator at the Virginia Department of Health for chronic disease programs. She married her husband in 2002 and has since become a full-time mom and a part-time consultant in the chronic disease field with grants and program evaluation. She has also taught piano and is actively involved in her church, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Colonial Heights.

**WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU, TOO !**

Click [HERE](#) and give us
your update to feature
in our next newsletter.

2000s

Joseph Jackson (B.S. '01) received his master's degree in pre-K–6 teaching in early 2003. He is married and has been teaching in Richmond Public Schools at the elementary level for eight years.

Sara Montiel (B.S. '04) is the undergraduate program coordinator for the psychology department at George Mason University. She received her M.S. in educational psychology from George Mason this past spring.

Dr. Kim Rowan (M.S. '04, Ph.D. '07) has been working as a licensed psychologist at Georgia Southern University's Counseling Center. She returned to Richmond to live and work in September 2011. Rowan recently gave birth to her first child, Lillian Dior Rowan-Bender, on Dec. 16, 2010.

Sonya Satterlund (B.S. '09) just finished her M.S.W. with a concentration in social administration and nonprofit management from the University of Pittsburgh. She is looking to pursue a Ph.D. in the education/human services field.

2010s

Ashley Green (B.S. '10) is in VCU's counselor education master's program with a concentration in school counseling K-12.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

RICHARD “RICKY” POND (B.S. ‘05)

Interview by Jennifer Elswick

Ricky Pond earned his B.S. in 2005 after completing an honor’s thesis under the direction of [Dr. Linda Zyzniewski](#). He went on to earn his M.A. in general/experimental psychology at the College of William and Mary and then proceeded on to University of Kentucky in pursuit of his Ph.D. in experimental psychology under the direction of Dr. C. Nathan DeWall.

Please give our readers a brief overview of your research interests.

My current research primarily centers around two main areas of interest. The first area concerns why people become aggressive or violent against others. That is, I am interested in the situational and individual difference characteristics that instigate aggression as well as those factors that buffer people from aggressive behavior. I have examined aggression in the context of stranger interactions as well as within the context of romantic relationships.

My second line of research concerns the effects of social rejection and acceptance. People have a pervasive need for positive, lasting connections with others. I am interested in how the breaking of social bonds influences our behavior, cognitions and emotional experiences.

I also have secondary research interests in the areas of evolutionary psychology, emotions and self-regulation. My methodological interests concern methods for modeling within-person change (e.g., daily diary methods, multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling) and mediation.

You were mentioned in a recent [New York Times article](#) as a collaborator on research involving the examination of popular song lyrics over time to see if themes of narcissism and hostility have increased.

What did you and your co-authors find?

We examined the lyrics for the top 10 songs on each of the Billboard Hot 100 year-end charts between 1980 and 2007. We found that over time word-use associated with self-focus (e.g., I, me, mine) and antisocial behavior (e.g., kill, hate, swear words) increased, while there was a corresponding decrease in word use associated with other-focus (e.g., we, us, our), social interactions (e.g., mate, child, talk), and positive emotions (e.g., happy, love, nice). These findings mirror cultural changes in individualistic traits previously reported in the literature.

You also have an interest in evolutionary psychology. What is your perspective on these findings from that vantage point? Do increases in vanity and aggression serve some sort of adaptive function?

I don’t think that there is any doubt that, at some level, self-interest and aggression have adaptive value. Aggression can help us gain access to and protect precious resources, including food and shelter. We may also utilize aggression to gain access to mates or to protect our offspring. However, I would be hesitant to interpret the findings above from the vantage point of evolutionary psychology. Instead, I think the findings more likely mirror cultural changes in narcissism associated with the self-esteem movement of the 1980s and 1990s and celebrity culture.



What life experiences (or lack thereof) have served as motivation for your pursuit of these particular inquiries?

For the most part, this research was spawned by the work of Jean Twenge and Keith Campbell (co-authors on the paper) who have reported an increase in narcissistic traits at the individual and cultural levels. Inspiration for this paper came from my adviser, C. Nathan DeWall, after listening to a Weezer song (“The Greatest Man That Ever Lived”), in which the singer sings, “I’m the greatest man that ever lived,” over and over again. We wondered then whether this increase in narcissistic traits could be detected in cultural products, such as music, television, movies and books.



As a culture, we are more interconnected than ever before through innovations in technology (e.g. the prevalence of social media outlets) and the seemingly ubiquitous charge toward globalization. Have these trends led to increased satisfaction with our sense of group cohesion and our interpersonal relationships? Why or why not?

I’m not really sure. The prevalence of blogs and social media, like Facebook or Twitter, have definitely provided us with more opportunities to connect with a much larger network of people who may hold similar beliefs, opinions and attitudes as us. However, these sites also

(Continued on p. 8)

(Continued from Page 7)

allow for the development of superficial “friends,” often numbering into the thousands. Similarly, these sites, through profile pages, encourage self-promotion and shallow communication. I think more research needs to be done in this area in order to really understand how our sense of belongingness and well-being are being affected.

Did your undergraduate experiences at VCU amply prepare you for the rigors of graduate work?

Yes, definitely! Not only did I acquire a breadth of general knowledge about psychology at VCU, but I also received an excellent training in undergraduate statistics and had the opportunity to develop various research skills that are crucial for success in graduate school.

Perhaps the most important experience for my undergraduate career was conducting my senior honors thesis with Dr. Zyzniowski as my adviser. This experience shaped my understanding of how to conduct research in social psychology, from the beginning stages of generating ideas for a study on through experimental design, data collection, statistical analysis and manuscript preparation. This experience gave me an idea of what to expect in graduate school. Moreover, it made me realize that I love conducting research! If I did not enjoy the experience of completing my honors thesis, then I would not have fared well with the research-intensive training one receives in graduate school.



Now that you have experienced several different academic settings in pursuit of your doctoral degree, give us your perspective on what you find particularly unique or compelling about your VCU experience as it compares to your experiences at other institutions.

One of the most unique aspects of VCU is the diversity of the student body. During my studies at VCU, I encountered an assorted group of people with a wide array of beliefs and opinions, more so than compared to my experiences at other schools. I think that a diversity of opinions is crucial for the suc-



“My second line of research concerns the effects of social rejection and acceptance. People have a pervasive need for positive, lasting connections with others.”

cess of a scholarly community, and in this area VCU excels.

Additionally, the psychology department did a particularly good job in engaging their students and providing the much needed research experience for those who were interested in getting it.

Did any particular undergraduate course, professor and/or general experience at VCU help inspire your current research interests?

Yes. It was during my senior year at VCU that I was able to initially explore the consequences of social rejection and that was through my honors thesis experience. This opened up my curiosity on the topic. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to explore my interests in belongingness more extensively, which has eventually spurred my current interests in aggression as well. For example, people depend on others for survival and are motivated to make long-term connections. Why then do we sometimes become aggressive against others? How do we balance and control our antisocial and prosocial impulses? These are just some of the questions that interest me.

Besides guiding me through my honors thesis experience, Dr. Zyzniowski nurtured my fondness for statistics and was also the first to introduce me to evolutionary psychology. Each of these influences has had a lasting impact on my graduate career.

Do you have any words of advice for budding social psychologists back on West Franklin Street?

First and foremost, get as much research experience as you can as an undergraduate. It gives you a taste of what graduate school will be like, while also helping you build relationships with faculty members who want to see you succeed. Moreover, find out what research areas interest you early on, but don't be afraid to branch out of your comfort zone. Last, I think that the most important quality for success in graduate school is not natural talent or intelligence, but perseverance. You have to have the drive to keep going when you are faced with failure.



Congratulations to **Bruce Jun Park, Jr.**, a recent VCU Psychology graduate who was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to pursue his research interests in South Korea. Read the full VCU News article [HERE](#).

2011-2012 PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY SEARCH

JOB AD

The Department of Psychology of Virginia Commonwealth University is seeking to hire a tenure-track faculty member at the assistant professor level in the area of health psychology to begin August 2012, pending budgetary approval. All applicants must have the potential for a major research program and show evidence of success in publishing their work.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. in health psychology or a related discipline with a major, established research program in health. Special consideration will be given to candidates with a research focus on health disparities, broadly defined. The successful candidate will possess the ability to interface with colleagues at our Medical Campus. Virginia Commonwealth University has Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health, as well as an Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies, a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center, a Health and Human Services-Designated Institute for Women's Health, a Center for Health Disparities and the Center for Clinical and Translational Research. The successful candidate must have demonstrated experience working in and fostering a diverse faculty, staff and student environment or commitment to do so as a faculty member at VCU.

The position involves teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and advising graduate students in their research. High-quality teaching and research are both needed to obtain tenure. The department has considerable strengths in health psychology and behavioral medicine and in prevention and intervention work with a strong focus on youth and families. Within the health area, the department has considerable strengths in substance abuse, cancer and prevention methods. The department has APA-accredited Ph.D. programs in clinical psychology and counseling psychology, a Ph.D. program in health psychology and Ph.D. in general experimental psychology with three divisions (biopsychology, developmental and social psychology). The department has 38 full-time faculty members, 130 doctoral students, and more than 1,600 undergraduate majors. Collaboration with colleagues both in psychology and in other disciplines is highly supported. VCU, a major urban research university, offers 162 baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, professional and certificate degree programs and enrolls about 32,000 students.

Applicants should electronically submit a statement of research interests, teaching philosophy and interests, a current curriculum vita, representative publications and at least three letters of reference to Jennifer Elswick at jlelswick@vcu.edu. Additional information about the department and the program can be found on our homepage at <http://www.psychology.vcu.edu>. Application review will begin Oct. 15 and will continue until the position is filled. (Position is contingent upon funding).

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women, minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.



GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BRAD ANTONIDES, COUNSELING PROGRAM

As a nearly 20-year veteran of the United States Army, Brad Antonides has been immersed in a uniquely diverse population rich in culture and experiences. He is often asked if it was a difficult transition to an academic setting from the tightly structured environment of the Armed Forces. His response to most is that his experiences in the Army and in war have helped him learn to appreciate different perspectives, though he admits there have been rough patches. "It's hard to separate your feelings about being in graduate school and what you know are the influences of having been a part of something bigger than yourself. I miss it, and being here sometimes reminds of that." Antonides grew up in Newport News and graduated from Kansas State University after the Army relocated him and his wife, who also served 10 years in the Army.

Antonides is in his third year in the counseling psychology program under the guidance of [Dr. Steven Danish](#). After successfully defending his thesis this September, he has received funding through the Army to complete his doctoral training and continue his service as a clinical psychologist. He looks forward to applying for internship at one of five major medical centers in the Army before continuing



Image from 2010 Boston Marathon.
Good luck, Brad!

his career on active duty. Antonides is also engaged in research involving the self-constructed experiences of combat veterans. His research goals are to demonstrate that service member distress is not exclusively the result of a posttraumatic experience. "Combat changes how service members see themselves and how they judge their worth. Sometimes those systems become unstable when trying to reintegrate back into society even though there is no obvious trauma to point to. This can be an overwhelming thing to try to figure out on your own. I'm hoping to convince service members that they can untangle these things and not feel ashamed about getting help in understanding what their identity as a combat veteran means to them and to a grateful nation."

Antonides credits his family, his love of running and especially his fellow classmates as his motivation in persevering through the program when times are stressful. "My cohort energizes me and whether they realize it or not, I lean on them. That is something I definitely learned how to do in the Army." He also admits to being obsessed with qualifying for the Boston Marathon, which he is still minutes short of after four tries. He feels good about his next attempt, which, he reports, will be his last for a while. Brad and his wife, Sheila, are expecting a new addition to their family in April.

Check out this [article](#) in the Richmond Times-Dispatch on Dr. Shawn Utsey's oral history project about to launch. He and his team will be recording the histories of Virginia schoolchildren denied an education when localities during desegregation cut off funding to public schools to protest the Supreme Court's decision. Utsey will travel to South Africa this December for specialized training for this project at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, one of VCU's international partnership universities.



Dr. Shawn Utsey

For more information about VCU's international partnership with UKZN, click [HERE](#).



This summer, our department welcomed two undergraduate psychology students from the [University of West England](#), a VCU international partnership university. Richard Daws (left) and Anna Sandham (right) worked in [Dr. Marilyn Stern](#)'s research lab as short-term scholars. Here the students are seated with our director of undergraduate studies, [Dr. Linda Zyzniwski](#).

For more information on VCU's international partnership with UWE, click [HERE](#).

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SHANICE COLEMAN

Article by Dorothy Fillmore and Katharine Stoddard

Research comes naturally to Shanice Coleman because she is at heart a questioner. "Why are things the way they are?" "What are the data to support those conclusions?" As soon as she became a psychology major, Coleman knew she wanted to pursue a research internship, PSYC 494 experience. She started working with Dr. Natalie Shook in the social program and her longitudinal study researching freshmen and their relationships with their interracial roommates. Since VCU is such a diverse community, Coleman knew there was going to be a range of responses. Encouraged by Coleman's keen interest in this experiment, Shook recommended that Coleman apply for a summer fellowship from VCU's Office of Student Research, allowing Coleman to continue to work with the study's results. Awarded this reputable fellowship, Coleman presented her work on this project with Shook at the Office of Research's symposium in May.

During her time in Shook's lab, she learned not only what to expect from graduate school but also the experience allowed her to begin thinking about the areas she wanted to study further – the health and well-being of communities. Coleman graduated with honors this May 2011 with her B.S. in psychology, and starting in fall 2011, she will be attending Emory University in Atlanta where she began pursuing a master's of public health. Coleman chose the behavioral and health education concentration with a focus on maternal and child health. She aspires to work at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a research assistant and, one day, as a public health specialist.



COUNSELING PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Article by Marilyn Stern

American Psychological Association (APA)

Convention 2011 --- The counseling psychology program is proud to have two major award winners this year. Dr. Everett Worthington is the winner of this year's **Dorothy Booz Black Award for Outstanding Achievement in Counseling Health Psychology** and Dr. Donnie Davis is the winner of the 2011 **Outstanding Graduate Student Award** from the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs.

The Dorothy Booz Black Award is given to encourage and award outstanding research and practice in counseling health psychology. The award has an associated monetary prize, which is funded by Consulting Psychologist Press Inc. Nominees must have made a primary contribution in research and practice of counseling health psychology focused on health-related processes and outcomes.

Worthington received glowing reviews from those who recommended him for the award. A sampling of:

"Ev's scholarly productivity and influence are truly awe-inspiring. In reviewing his vita, one is not only struck by the extent and breadth of his work, but also of its importance. Ev has been a dedicated and consistent contributor to health psychology in general and in particular to counseling health psychology."

"Ev's contributions to counseling health psychology reflect his research interests over the trajectory of his career. His more contemporary work in the study of forgiveness — in which he has advanced a theoretical and empirical agenda concerning the concept — has resulted in a series of studies that illustrate his influence in counseling health psychology — and beyond. Ev has always put his theoretical notions to the test in rigorous laboratory and field examinations, making him a true scholar and important figure in our field. Ev's contributions to counseling health psychology are apparent in his scholarship, training and mentorship."

"I believe he represents the true ideals of our scientist-practitioner model, and he has exemplified these ideals in the work most relevant to counseling health psychology."

Our counseling program is the only program in the country that has two winners of the Dorothy Booz Black award (Dr. Marilyn Stern, program director, received the 2005 award). Having two winners is a great source of pride for the program and, we believe, sets us apart from other programs around the country.

Worthington's mentee, Dr. Donnie Davis, received the prestigious Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the CCPTP. The CCPTP established the award program in 1998 to recognize graduate student excellence in counseling

psychology. Each year at the council's business meeting at the APA convention, the award is given to a student who has demonstrated an outstanding record of scholarly and professional development. The award carries a \$500 book credit from Sage Publications Inc. as well as a \$500 cash award from the CCPTP. Nominees for the are evaluated on the following domains: (a) strength of endorsements, (b) evidence of the quality and distinctiveness of scholarly contributions, (c) evidence of the quality and distinctiveness of professional contributions, and (d) candidate's overall promise as scholar-professional in counseling psychology.

Only one nomination can be made by each CCPTP member program and Davis received a unanimous nomination from our own. The quantity and quality of Davis's scholarly contribu-

tions are truly impressive. Davis came to the program with little background in doing research and in fewer than five years has published more than 20 empirical articles, 10 chapters and has nearly as many in progress or under review. He was also a co-investigator on a sizable grant from the Templeton Foundation. Davis is clearly on his way to becoming a top-level scholar and begins this fall as an assistant professor at Georgia State University's counseling psychology program. Besides his productivity as a scholar, Davis is a well-liked and compassionate young man who also excelled in his teaching and clinical activities. We are proud to call Davis a graduate of our program and look forward to hearing of all his great accomplishments to come.



Dr. Everett Worthington (left) and Dr. Donnie Davis (right).

CONGRATULATIONS, AUGUST 2011 GRADUATES!

Doctor of Philosophy

Don E. Davis
Margaret R. Gsell
Raquel W. Halfond
Hana Kim
Maria I. Kuznetsova
Sally A. Mays
Kathryn R. Reid-Quinones
Benjamin T. Wood

Master of Science

Brittany M. Berry
Cassandra D. Pasquariello

Bachelor of Science

James E. Allen
Lauren M. Almond
Justin N. Bagley
Jillian L. Beach
Yossera Bouchtia
Diamond N. Budy
Tia L. Canada
Bradley R. Childress

Sci E. Clements
Allison L. Conner
Yolonda B. Crocker
Anne Marie M. Dumain
Krystal K. Edmonds
Haley T. Elkin
Eric T. Fowler
Amanda L. Garrity
Gabrielle M. Hartman
Aeisha S. Holder
Sequoia R. Howell
Christopher T. Jones
Harpreet Kang
Rachel L. Kashy
Bianca K. Lawrence
Austin T. Marks
Laporsha C. McKayhan
Jonathan M. Melvin
Kathleen M. Meyer
Angelica F. Milan
Patrick D. Miller
Jessica L. Myers
Huy H. Nguyen

Kathleen E. O'Brien
Mariam A. Osman
Jung S. Park
Saemi V. Park
Jesse D. Parsons
Kathryn E. Pemberton
Jamia N. Pickett
Jennifer R. Rockwell
Jordan C. Rudat
Heather D. Rutherford-Small
Nathalie M. Shaw
Amanda C. Spence
Sarah L. Stewart
Jessica M. Tilley
Zachary M. Vargas
Tabitha D. Wilson
Jonathan C. Wingfield
Heather N. Wolverton
Samantha L. Wood
Ameenah N. Yusuf



Read this [article](#) from VCU News about [Dr. Wendy Kliever](#)'s new international partnership grant funded through the Global Education Office, Psychology and the College of Humanities and Sciences here at VCU. The grant was awarded to launch a research project examining the challenges facing Durban, South African, children and why some succeed despite seemingly overwhelming odds. The grant is a result of the work Kliever began as part of her Fulbright scholarship with the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa.

Kliever (left) and her UKZN sponsor professor Basil Pillay (center), head of the Department of Behavioural Medicine at UKZN, and his wife, Cecilia (right) prepare to enjoy a traditional African dinner at a local restaurant.



HAPPY FALL TO EACH OF YOU!

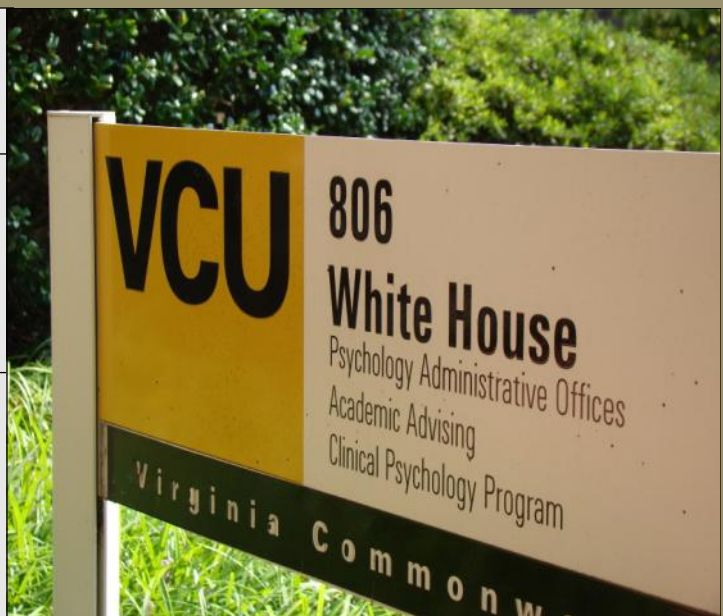
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH
UNIVERSITY

College of Humanities and Sciences
Department of Psychology
806 W. Franklin St.
P.O. Box 842018
Richmond, VA 23284-2018

Phone: 804-828-1193
Fax: 804-828-2237

Web address: www.psychology.vcu.edu/
Newsletter comments: Jennifer Elswick, jlelswick@vcu.edu

Thanks to Melanie Irvin in Development and Alumni Relations
for her editing assistance!



Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action university providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation or disability.