WHAT’S NEW IN NEUROPSYCH? —Edin Randall

Our program is undergoing some exciting and important changes! Dr. S. Duke Han, our esteemed clinical neuropsychologist and second-year assistant professor, has begun to realize his dream of creating a nationally recognized neuropsychology track within Loyola’s clinical psychology program. This year, Duke has aided in the institution of a neuropsychology module, which he considers to be a “testing ground” for what he hopes will develop into a neuropsychology sub-specialty. The required coursework that currently makes up the module is neuropsychology, neuropsychological assessment, and psychopharmacology. In addition to the coursework, students partaking in the module must complete a practicum in neuropsychology assessment.

Duke and the rest of the clinical faculty have worked hard to publicize this opportunity. They have added the module to the Graduate Student handbook and set up a webpage on the psychology department website that describes the module, lists Houston Guidelines (The Houston Guidelines are guidelines for training in clinical neuropsychology agreed upon by the National Academy of Neuropsychology at a conference in Houston), and provides a link to the neuropsychology board certification website. In addition, the department is currently conducting a nationwide search for an endowed chair in pediatric neuropsychology. According to Duke, “Adding a nationally prominent pediatric neuropsychology academic will fit in well with the strength of Loyola’s child-focused program and will help move Loyola towards developing a name for itself in neuropsychological training circles throughout the country.” The psychology program will continue to host numerous guest speakers and organize colloquium associated with neuropsychology. In fact, this March, students enjoyed an informative presentation from Dr. Neil Pliskin, Director of Neuropsychology and Professor of Cognitive Medicine at the University of Illinois – Chicago.

As Dr. Han continues to help develop a potential sub-specialty track, it is clear that his passion for neuropsychology is contagious. Students and faculty alike are expressing interest in joining him in his study of the brain and its cognitive and emotional correlates. More specifically, assistant professors Noni Gaylord-Harden and Amy Bohnert are teaming up with Duke to add the study of executive functioning to their research protocols. More specifically, Noni and Duke are currently collecting data together on how executive functioning might explain differences in coping among African American youth during stressful situations. Amy and Duke are exploring if there are correlates between executive functioning and involvement in activities among a college population. The hope is that with these preliminary data, Duke will work with both Amy and Noni to apply for larger grants. The possibilities are endless...

Top Five Signs That The Clinical Psychology Internship Application Process Has Taken Over Your Life —Brittany Lakin

5. You start a spreadsheet keeping track of how many sandwiches vs. salads you ate this week and separate them by small, medium, and large.
4. You RSVP to events with an e-mail explaining how happy you are to receive this invitation and that you look forward to meeting everyone.
3. You have traveled to more places in the last 4 weeks than in the last 4 years of graduate school.
2. You spent more time planning your internship year than you did your wedding.
1. When making new friends, you open the conversation by describing what qualities make you a “good fit” for this relationship.
We are pleased to introduce our new clinical psychology faculty member, Dr. Colleen Conley. Colleen’s impressive list of accomplishments begins with the publication of her senior thesis, “The Children’s Attributional Style Interview: Developmental tests of cognitive diathesis-stress theories of depression” in the Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, from her undergraduate career at Lawrence University. Before attending graduate school, she took two years off to teach Spanish and work in the Alumni Office of Lawrence University. After filing through piles of applications while working at Lawrence University, she decided to whip one up herself, and was accepted into the clinical psychology PhD program at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Working with Dr. Karen Rudolph on links between social and emotional aspects of youth and adolescence, she was able to merge her interests in developmental psychopathology and adolescence. After five productive years at U of I, Colleen headed to the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for her internship. After her internship, she worked for two years at Knox College, building up her teaching experience.

Colleen has certainly found her niche: Her developmental psychopathology approach and interest in studying the trajectories towards well-being in adolescence and emerging adulthood fits nicely into Loyola’s research program. Colleen has big plans for the direction of her work. She hopes to explore why adolescent girls and young women today are at an elevated risk for internalizing problems, such as body image and eating disorders, depression, anxiety, and self-injurious behavior. After an arduous day exercising her brain, she enjoys the hands-on, brain-off simplicity of cooking. Be sure to ask her about her famous East African Peanut Soup recipe! If you’re looking for Colleen and already scanned the halls of Damen and looked in her kitchen, check the swimming pool next. Colleen loves water sports and was a competitive swimmer in the old days. In addition to swimming, Colleen is a yoga enthusiast and even started a Baby and Me Yoga Class with her daughter Lila!

Colleen has certainly hit the ground running and proven to be a valued addition to our program. In a few short months, she has started up her lab, supervised second-year graduate students at the Wellness Center, planned the advanced therapy course “Evidence-Based Practice of Clinical Psychology” she will teach next spring, and welcomed the newest addition to her family, Lilia Isabelle!

Pizza, Laughs, and More.... —Kriston Schellinger

Once again, the social committee did not disappoint and organized a great social event! This fall, students, faculty, friends, and family gathered at Piece Bar and Restaurant in Wicker Park for a night of pizza, drinks, and fun. Even though space was a little tight (and sweaty), everyone enjoyed gathering outside of the friendly confines of Damen Hall for good food and conversation! Thanks to the social committee for organizing the event and to everyone who attended the event. The fun didn’t stop there...on April 4th, the spring social was held at legendary Second City comedy club for their show,
2nd Year Update
~Kriston Schellinger

The second years have had a busy year! They are all hard at work on their Masters theses and many have presented posters or given symposium talks at various conferences around the country. They have also enjoyed their first practicum experience at the Loyola Wellness Center and have grown as beginning therapists over the course of the year. Despite typical concerns, there has been a recent sigh of relief as all of the second years received offers from practicum sites for next year. Four of us decided to pursue a neuropsychological assessment practicum: Chris, Edin, and Jamila are all going to the University of Chicago and Bonnie is off to the University of Illinois at Chicago. Kriston and Lauren decided to shake things up and will spend next year therapizing at The University of Illinois Chicago’s Disruptive Behavior Clinical and John Stroger Cook County Hospital Hospital, respectively. It looks like third year is going to be another busy and crazy (for lack of a better word) year for us! You’ll just have to sit tight until next PsyRen to see how it goes...

3rd Year Update ~Sasha Berger

Greetings from the third years! We stepped back onto the newly waxed floors of Damen hall in late August with some trepidation; we’d hear much about this famous “third year,” mainly, that it would be our toughest so far. The general consensus has been...it has lived up to all of its promise! But with the challenges we’ve come some new and exciting developments...theses defended, dissertations taking shape, fellowships applied for, final graduate classes being taken and first undergraduate ones taught. Our own Cynthia recently received news that she is a recipient of the prestigious APA Minority Fellowship, and we couldn’t be more proud. Important personal milestones have not eluded us either, even in the midst of our studies; Caitlin was married this past summer and Rebecca is newly engaged!

Our first year venturing offsite for practicum has been, by all accounts, a resounding success, and we are also excited for our placements next year. Sasha will be at Trilogy Mental Health Center; Cynthia and Lauren will be at Cook County; Christine, Mawiyah, and Rebecca will be at Illinois Masonic; Erica will be staying on at UIC; and Caitlin will be at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. We are looking forward to catching our breath, celebrating our accomplishments, and keeping up the good work!

Fourth Year Update ~Jeff Sieracki

Wow! What a busy year it has been for the 4th years! So busy, in fact, that in order to save space I will just get right to the updating and not even try and crack any unfunny jokes.

Professional stuff: Jen is completing a therapy externship at Cook County Hospital and slaving away on her dissertation. Krista is doing therapy at Mount Sinai and has a publication coming out in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma this summer. Molly has been spending the school year in Ghana, working on her dissertation research on urban parenting styles in Africa. Although she is not on formal externship in Africa, she is volunteering at an orphanage doing grief counseling and working as a teaching assistant for a statistics course at the University of Ghana. Jeff is doing his externship at the Anxiety and Agoraphobia Treatment Center working with anxious kids and adults. He is also teaching and working part-time as a research assistant in a fancy downtown office. Pedja is on externship at UIC neuropsychiatric institute and working on his dissertation.

Now onto personal stuff: Marriage mayhem abounds among the fourth years! Molly and Jen got engaged (to separate people, not to each other). Molly’s fiancé wins for most creative proposal - over webcam (because she was in Ghana). Molly will be getting married this June, and Jen will be getting married to Jon Goldner, a fifth year in the program, over Labor Day weekend. Jeff is still engaged, and will be getting married in May. Krista, though not engaged, is a new mother...to a new puppy she got right before quals (who, she believes, was a good luck charm). Pedja, in his own words, had “an uneventful year.” I’m sure we can all hardly believe that one... As expected, another impressive year for Jeff, Pedja, Krista, Jen, and Molly!
Meet the First Years!

—Alyx Kesselring

They came from locations far, far away (Arizona) and right around the corner (Chicago suburbs). They agree on the excellence of the food and cultural diversity in Chicago, the unpleasantness of Chicago winters, and the difficulties of balancing work with their personal lives. Meet the first year class - six young women who have weathered the joys and difficulties of their first year at Loyola together, and who are ready to successfully launch into second year!

Andreana Kenrick is from sunny Scottsdale, AZ and graduated from Arizona State University. Her professional interests include applying social psychology concepts to issues in clinical psychology. As a child, she wanted to be either a rock and roll singer or a hair stylist - if you need advice on whether or not to go blonde, then clearly you need to talk to Andreana! If Andreana weren’t studying psychology, she would be a literary type who would travel, write, and teach English abroad. Alyx Kesselring grew up in St. Louis, MO but now calls Evanston home. She’s a Loyola University graduate who once considered pursuing a career as a pastry chef, and who still enjoys baking for family, friends, and unsuspecting classmates. (Ask her about the time Midwest Living stole her brownie recipe.) She is currently studying adolescent coping and depression during the transition to adulthood.

Amy Lyons is a Kentucky native who earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Kentucky (Go CATS!) and her master’s in clinical psychology at the University of Dayton. She is studying clinical child psychology. If Amy weren’t pursuing a psychology degree, she would definitely still be working with kids, probably in the medical field. Katie McGregor grew up in Cincinnati and attended Ohio State for her undergraduate degree. Katie studies pediatric psychology, and would have been a grade school teacher if she hadn’t chosen a career in psychology. Katie particularly appreciates Chicago because “it’s a place people actually choose to visit on vacation.”

Maria Rollins has the cutest pet in the first year class - an adorable two-year old pug named Emma. Maria is an Arizona native/Arizona State graduate who is currently studying culturally-relevant prevention programs for Latino youth. She would have been a sociologist or an artist if she hadn’t majored in psychology. In her spare time, Maria enjoys music, movies, dancing, and politics. Jana Wingo grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, and earned her undergraduate degree at Notre Dame. Though Jana’s alternate career paths include landscape architect and medicine, she is excited about eventually studying the neuropsychological consequences of concussions among professional athletes. In her spare time, Jana loves to travel, and spent three weeks touring Europe before beginning her studies here.

'Twas the Night Before Match Day.... —Brittany Lakin

Dear Diary,

Twas the night before Match day, when all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The process was completed with the upmost care in hopes that a positive MATCH result would soon be there. The applicants were nestled, all snug in their beds, while visions of matching whisked through their heads.

I am no exception. Unfortunately, it is 1:00 a.m. on February 22nd, 2008 and I cannot sleep. I am anxiously waiting for morning to arrive so that I can check my e-mail and learn of my internship fate. I have heard you may receive an e-mail as early as 6:30 a.m. and each hour that passes by seems like days. I lie awake as I reflect on how I spent the last eight months preparing for this moment. My thoughts wander back to last summer when I first began this process. I spent countless hours searching through possible internship sites, followed by more hours filling out forty pages of application materials. I then honed my writing skills by writing and re-writing five essays that were supposed to define myself, my theoretical orientation, diversity experience, research interests, and why I might be a good fit for each of my fourteen sites. I was impressed by my creativity; I was able to say the same point in fourteen different ways. I also began to grasp the

(Continued on page 5)
Engagements, Marriages, and Babies!

—Katie McGoron

Though we all know that Loyola’s faculty and students continue to dedicate themselves to becoming stellar scientist-practitioners, they also pride themselves on being well-balanced and family oriented. Yes, life happens outside the bounds of Damien Hall! Here is an update on engagements, marriages, and babies:

Though the details of the proposal remain hush-hush, third-year Jeff Sieracki and his girlfriend of five years, Marci were engaged this past year, and plan to get married May 25, 2008. Fourth-year Jennifer Eddin and fifth-year Jon Goldner met during Jennifer’s first year in the program and have been smitten with each other ever since. Jon and Jennifer were engaged this November and are planning a wedding in Taos, New Mexico next fall. Over the holiday break, Maria Rollins’s boyfriend Nick, used their pug, Emma, to lure her into committing to marriage by putting the ring box in Emma’s harness. Emma denies that her cuteness had any weight in Maria’s decision, and asserts Maria and Nick are truly in love and that Maria would have agreed to marry Nick regardless of how he proposed. Adam Lieb proposed (via crossword puzzle) to Rebecca Wasserman, a third-year in the program, on Valentine’s Day while flying over Ohio on their way to our nation’s capital. Thankfully, Rebecca said “yes.” It certainly would have been a LONG plane ride and vacation otherwise! Our beloved fifth-year, Brittany Lakin, was surprised by 20 friends who accompanied her boyfriend, David Starr, as he asked for her hand at Temple Sholom on March 21. Awe struck (and, surprisingly, at a loss for words), Brittany was able to muster up a teary “yes.” And last but certainly not least, Caitlin Roache, formerly Caitlin Sparks, was wed to her “first ever boyfriend,” Joe Roache, in Cape Cod on July 28, 2007. Though the wedding hoopla delayed the defense of Caitlin’s much-anticipated master’s thesis, she is enjoying married life!

Three faculty members in the past year become brand-new parents. Last spring, post-doctoral fellow Kathy Zebracki, and her husband, Tom, welcomed Ava Sophia into this world on March 21, 2007. Just recently, assistant professor, Colleen Conley and husband of one and a half years, Peter Lindberg, gave birth to Lilia Isabelle on January 28, 2008. And, finally, (even more recently!), assistant professor, Noni Gaylord-Harden and husband of three and a half years, Troy Harden, gave birth to a baby girl, Sanjaya Kali Adia, which means "God's gift of radiant energy", on February 6, 2008.

*Congratulations to all freshly-engaged, just-married, and new parents!*
GOOD NEWS!

2008-2009 Internship placements

Jonathan Goldner: Lincoln Medical & Mental Health Center (Bronx, NY)
Brittany Lakin: Indiana University School of Medicine (Indianapolis, IN)
Kerry O’Mahar: Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital (Hoffman Estates, IL)
Rebecca Cornelli Sanderson: Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital (Hoffman Estates, IL)

2008-2009 Externship Placements

Sasha Berger: Trilogy Mental Health Center
Cynthia Campbell: John Stroger Cook County Hospital
Christine Celio: Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
Jamila Cunningham: University of Chicago, Pediatric Neuropsychology
Bonnie Essner: University of Illinois at Chicago, Pediatric Neuropsychology
Lauren Kelly: John Stroger Cook County Hospital
Erica Luboyeski: University of Illinois at Chicago, Adult Neuropsychology
Amy Lyons: University of Illinois at Chicago, Pediatric Neuropsychology
Mauwah Litchett: Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
Molly Pachon: Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center
Edin Randall: University of Chicago, Pediatric Neuropsychology
Caitlin Roache (Sparks): School of the Art Institute of Psychology (Counseling Center)
Kriston Schelling: Disruptive Behavior Clinic, University of Illinois at Chicago
Jeff Sieracki: The Anxiety and Angoraphobia Treatment Center
Rebecca Wasserman: Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
Christopher Zaddach: University of Chicago, Pediatric Neuropsychology
Lauren Zarenda: John Stroger Cook County Hospital (Adolescent Track)

ALUMNI UPDATES

*Laura Rubin - Laura, Michael, and big sister Hannah Rubin are excited to announce the birth of Allyson Rose, who was born on January 13, 2008. Laura works as a pediatric neuropsychologist doing evaluations and therapy at her private practice (Portsmouth Neuropsychology Center) in Portsmouth, NH.
*Deborah Friedman is working at MGH part-time, with a clinical focus on pediatric behavioral medicine and CBT. She welcomed Cole on June 15, 2007.
*Catherine Romero is getting married on April 18, 2008 to Michael Barber.
*Collette Smart will be done with post-doc in September and then staying on at JFK as full-time staff neuropsychologist. She is also working on an NIH grant to implement an RCT of mindfulness-based stress reduction with mild traumatic brain injury patients.
*Michele (Christiansen) Sarche’s son, Eli, will have a baby brother sometime around April 10th. Michelle also has her fingers crossed to receive a grant to work with a Wisconsin tribe to develop an FASD prevention program.
*Laura Renteria is working for the Isaac Ray Forensic Group and Michigan Avenue Neuropsychologists, seeing both legal and clinical neuropsychology cases. She is also a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UIC and is involved in their didactics as well some research (cognitive deficits in chronic pain & cross cultural neuropsychology)
*Venette Westhoven has a private practice, doing a lot of testing and some therapy. Her son, Patrick will be voting in the presidential election this year. Her daughter, Megan is a freshman, and her son Matthew is 9 years old.
*Karen (Burke) Paull is working part-time at Rainbow, Babies & Children’s Hospital in Cleveland. As part of a multi-site, NIH-funded research project, she is doing neuropsychological assessment with children and adults who have urea cycle disorder. Karen is also co-chairing a fundraising event for the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America this summer down at Progressive Field, home of the Cleveland Indians!
*Jessica (Wolf) Schilling has been practicing at the Human Development Center, a community mental health center in Duluth, MN, for the past 2 1/2 years. She was fortunate to receive a service commitment contract through the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment program, which financially assists clinicians working in underserved areas (it has greatly reduced the amount of her outstanding student loans!). She lives with her husband and pets in a small town about 20 miles south of Duluth.
MORE GOOD NEWS!

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DISSERATION DEFENSES

Holly Hunley
“The Impact of Mental Health on the Decision to Study Abroad and on Students’ Functioning While Studying Abroad”

Barbara Jandasek
“Social Competence in Adolescents with Spina Bifida”

Kerry O’Mahar
“A Camp Intervention Targeting Independence Issues Among Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults with Spina Bifida: A Program Development and Evaluation Study”

Viviana Ortiz
“Comparing the Accuracy of Metamemory of Monolingual English- and Spanish-Speakers: Self Ratings vs. Objective Verbal Memory Performance”

Emily Preheim-Dupre
“The Impact of Religious Forms of Coping for Low-Income African American Middle School Children”

Melissa Robinson
“Effects of Family Factors, Relationship Schemas, Communications About Sex, and Sexual Behavior Progression on the Risky Behaviors of African American Adolescent Females”

Jessica Snowden:
“Predictors of Stepping-Up from Foster Care to Residential Treatment: A profile of Children in the Child Welfare System”

Jill Zukerman
“Achievement of Developmental Milestones in Emerging Adults with Spina Bifida”

FACULTY GRANTS

Grayson Holmbeck:
Co-I: “Family Management of Childhood Diabetes (Type I),” NICHD (N01-HD-4-3363; $1,265,342); PI: Jill Weissberg-Benchell, PhD (2003-2008) (Loyola budget: $205,197)
PI: “Psychosocial Adjustment in Adolescents with Spina Bifida,” NICHD; (R01 HD048629-01; $1,830,722; 2005-2010)

Noni Gaylord-Harden:
PI: “Biopsychosocial Factors as Common and Specific Features of Anxiety and Depression,” Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (APA Division 53) Grant on Empirical Advancement of Ethnic Minority Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology ($10,000, October 1, 2007 to October 1, 2009)

Amy Bohnert:
PI: “Evaluating the Impact of Nutritionally-Designed Dining Ware on Food Choices,” Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) ($10,856, January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007)


