

From the Chair's Office:  
**Dr. Gary Dunbar**

[www.chsbs.cmich.edu/psychology](http://www.chsbs.cmich.edu/psychology)



**A Personal Tribute to a Wonderful  
Mentor:  
Dr. Michael A. Kent**

On December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, Dr. Michael Kent will be retiring after 34 years of dedicated service at CMU. Mike served as Chairperson for the Department of Psychology for 17 years, and elevated the stature of our department by setting high expectations, hiring excellent new faculty, and initiating new doctoral programs. He later served as Interim Dean and Associate Dean for the College of Education, Health, and Human Services (later re-named as the College of Education and Human Services). Mike was well suited for these positions because of his keen analytical skills, his great sense of fairness, and his ability to successfully mediate disparate positions in a variety of settings.

I have a personal fondness for Mike because he was a big reason for me enrolling in the M.A. Program in Experimental Psychology back in 1974. Mike was a young, assistant professor at that time and had established a laboratory for teaching and doing research in the area of physiological psychology. Those who had the opportunity to take classes with Mike were blessed with a consummate teacher. He was passionate about his teaching, and delivered the most thoughtful, logical lectures of anyone I've known. I took every graduate course Mike taught during my two years in the program, including Physiological Psychology, Motivation and Emotion, Neuropsychology, and several laboratory components. Throughout my own teaching career, I have constantly attempted to emulate the clarity of presentation that made attending Mike's lectures both enjoyable and worthwhile.

Mike was also a gifted administrator. When I returned to CMU as an assistant professor in 1987, Mike had been serving as an Interim Dean of Education, Health, and Human Services for a year and returned to his duties as Department Chairperson. Mike navigated the Department through some difficult times during my first years as a tenure-track faculty member. The Department was trying to balance the burden of dissertation, practicum, and internship supervision with heavy teaching loads and higher expectations for scholarship.

In addition, there was dissension among some faculty members as to which direction our Clinical Program should be heading, with some thinking that it should adopt a practitioner-only model, while others advocated for a science-practitioner model. From my perspective as the current Chairperson, I have gained even more admiration for the skillful way in which Mike kept the Department together during these times.

## Cont'd from the Chair's Office:

On a more personal level, I, like many of my colleagues, have appreciated Mike's wonderful sense of humor and his penchant to help others. One of his greatest attributes was his sense of finding solutions to difficult problems, whether they involved policies or personnel. Much of his success rested on the sheer power of his logical approach to issues. However, beyond this, there was always a sense of what is fair, as well as a large dose of compassion. I know I speak for the hundreds of students and the many faculty, staff, and administrators in our Department and across the CMU campus, in offering Mike Kent our very best wishes in his retirement. Like many of his former students, my life was enriched through his devoted efforts and commitment, and I owe a great debt of gratitude to this wonderful mentor.

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## Kulhavi, Field, Hulce, and Steinmetz Receive BRAIN Center Awards:

Board of Trustee member, John G. Kulhavi, distinguished neurosurgeon, E. Malcolm Field, and two distinguished neuroscientists, Verne D. Hulce and Joseph E. Steinmetz received honorary awards at the Grand Opening of the BRAIN Center on October 9, 2004.

John G. Kulhavi received a distinguished service and honorary membership award. Mr. Kulhavi, a CMU alumnus, has been a steadfast supporter of his alma mater over the years, and has recently established an endowed professorship in neuroscience. Kulhavi has had a distinguished career, both in the military and as a business executive. He has devoted himself to serving his country, his clients, and his alma mater. His contributions to CMU have improved the learning and living environments for students, and have expanded the research opportunities for faculty. The new John G. Kulhavi Professorship in Neuroscience will help faculty and students in the BRAIN Center in their quest to discover effective treatments for devastating neurodegenerative diseases.

E. Malcom Field received a distinguished service and honorary membership award. Dr. Field has devoted his life to helping others suffering from trauma or diseases of the brain. He established the Field Neurosciences Institute (FNI) about 10 years ago to promote education in the neurosciences, strategies to prevent damage to the brain, and research into innovative treatments for brain injury and disease. Recently, Dr. Field's Institute donated \$250,000 to establish the FNI Laboratory for Restorative Neurology in the new BRAIN Center at CMU.

Dr. Verne Hulce received a distinguished alumni award. Dr. Hulce was one of the first brain researchers at CMU. As a student and an instructor at CMU, Dr. Hulce helped establish the first physiological psychology lab. Later, he went on for his Ph.D. in neuropharmacology at Michigan State University, and has a distinguished career doing clinical research and directing sleep clinics in hospital settings. During the past decade, Dr. Hulce has served as Executive Director of FNI. Presently, he is involved in collaborative projects with several investigators at CMU.

Dr. Joseph Steinmetz received a distinguished alumni award for his seminal work in learning and memory. Dr. Steinmetz received his bachelors and masters degrees at CMU, and went on for his Ph.D. at Ohio University. He did his postdoctoral work in Richard F. Thompson's lab at Stanford before taking a faculty position in the Department of Psychology at Indiana University. At Indiana, he distinguished himself as an excellent teacher and researcher, and was awarded the Eleanor Cox Rigg Professorship. Dr. Steinmetz has served as Chairperson of the Department of Psychology for the past ten years and continues to serve as the Chairperson.



John G. Kulhavi



E. Malcolm Field



Verne D. Hulce



Joseph E. Steinmetz

# John G. Kulhavi Professorship in Neuroscience

## Dr. Gary Dunbar is awarded the John G. Kulhavi Professorship in Neuroscience

Neuroscience received another boost by the appointment of Dr. Gary Dunbar as the John G. Kulhavi Professor. This endowed professorship was created by the funds donated by a member of Central Michigan University's Board of Trustees, Mr. John G. Kulhavi. The goal of this professorship is to provide support for a senior faculty member in neuroscience to teach, mentor, and conduct research. The duration will be five years with a further opportunity to be appointed for a second term. The selection criteria included national recognition in teaching and/or research in neuroscience. The selection committee was headed by Dr. Hajime Otani (Psychology) with four faculty members serving on the committee: Dr. Richard Backs (Psychology), Dr. Justin Oh-Lee (Psychology), Dr. Michael Sandstrom (Psychology) and Dr. Eileen Malone-Beach of Human Environmental Studies. The winner was announced by Dr. Gary Shapiro (the dean of the CHSBS) at the unveiling of the BRAIN (Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience) Center at the new Health Professions Building. The announcement was made at the award ceremony, which was held after a keynote address by CMU graduate and renowned neuroscientist, Dr. Joseph Steinmetz (Indiana University). It was an emotional moment for Dr. Dunbar who has been struggling for years to establish a nationally prominent neuroscience laboratory at CMU. He thanked his friends and supporters -- including CMU trustee, Mr. John Kulhavi; CMU President, Dr. Michael Rao, and Provost, Dr. Thomas Storch -- who attended the ceremony. During his acceptance speech, Dr. Dunbar reiterated his commitment to find a treatment for Huntington's disease. He said that he was touched by the experience of those who were faced with this deadly disease. But, he said he was confident that in the near future this disease, along with other neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's, would be brought under control.



Dr. Gary Dunbar, Dr. Laurent Lescaudron and Dibya Unni

## Update from the Program Directors:



### Industrial/Organizational Program: **Dr. Stephen Colarelli**

#### **Interdisciplinary Research on Immigration and Productivity**

Dr. Steve Colarelli and CMU Economics professor, Dr. Larry Brunner received a grant from the Earhart Foundation for the 2004-2005 school year. The grant will examine immigration and the impact that it has had on productivity, integrating schools of thought from both psychology and economics. Previous literature on the topic has been inconclusive, reaching differing opinions about whether immigration is helpful or harmful in terms of productivity. The grant will examine state-to-state migration and changes in American immigration policies, along with a focus on global immigration and foreign policies with regard to economic productivity. An evolutionary psychology perspective will also be used to examine immigration issues such as resource competition and in-group/out-group biases. Four I/O graduate students are working as research assistants on the project—Misty Bennett, Geeta D'Souza, Guangrong Dai, and Matt Monnot.



### School Program: **Dr. Susan Jacob**

This is my last semester as Director of the School Psychology Programs. Dr. Tim Harts-horne, who is on sabbatical this fall, will assume the role of Director as of January 1. We welcome Tim back to the Psychology Department and to the role of Program Director.

In September, we submitted a folio to the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) for continued approval of the specialist degree program. NASP's program approval standards changed significantly in 2002, now placing greater emphasis on documentation of whether students are learning to provide effective services. Last year we began encouraging students to prepare a portfolio of their best work to share in job interviews, and we required students to submit to us work samples documenting their success in providing services that resulted in positive outcomes. We are now using the outcomes summaries to evaluate the effectiveness of our training across various domains. This process has proven helpful to us and to students. It has encouraged us to make changes in our teaching and the ways in which we conceptualize what it means to be a successful school psychologist.

The school faculty are, as usual, busy with their teaching, research, advising, thesis and dissertation supervision, and special projects. We have a couple of external grants submitted and hope that both might be funded. I'm serving as co-chair (with Dr. Carl DiMartino, Chair) of NASP's Ethics and Professional Standards Committee. In addition to handling ethics queries and complaints, the Committee will be presenting a session on ethics at NASP in Atlanta. Hope to see you there!

As always, we are proud of the accomplishments of our program graduates. Keep up the good work and please stay in touch.



## Experimental Program:

### Dr. Richard Backs

The Experimental Program students and faculty have been busy and productive since the last issue of the newsletter. We have had eight M.S. students and one Ph.D. student graduate. Our newest Ph.D., Laurie Swan, was one of CMU's students to be awarded the *Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Award* from the Graduate College. Congratulations Laurie!

Other milestones of interest were the completion of the remodeling of the old Psychological Training and Consultation Center (PTCC) in Sloan Hall, the open house for the Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience (BRAIN) Center in the Health Professions Building and the awarding of the Kulhavi Research Professorship in Neuroscience.

The former PTCC space in Sloan Hall has been remodeled for use as psychology faculty laboratories and for the first time each faculty member in psychology has their own research space. This much-needed and long-overdue expansion of the psychology department research infrastructure was made possible by the relocation of the PTCC to the Health Professions Building. The BRAIN Center open house on Homecoming weekend was a great success, with many current and former experimental students in attendance. The keynote address was given by one of our distinguished alums, Dr. Joseph Steinmetz, who is currently the chair of the psychology department at Indiana University.

I briefly mentioned the Kulhavi Research Professorship, which was made possible by a generous donation from John G. Kulhavi, a current CMU Board of Trustees member, in my last column. I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Gary Dunbar is the first recipient of this honor. Congratulations Gary!

One other milestone of a different sort will be reached at the end of the Fall, 2004 semester when Dr. Michael Kent retires. I'm sure that many of you have fond memories associated with the many contributions that Mike has made to the department, faculty, and students that are profiled elsewhere in this newsletter. I know that you all join with me in wishing him the very best!

In closing, I want to continue to encourage you to keep in touch with us after you leave CMU. We have many alums from the experimental psychology program who go out and achieve great things that we would like



## Clinical Program:

### Dr. George Ronan

It is the beginning of November but the weather has yet to change. The typical weather conditions during September and October were sunny and above 55 degrees. The relatively temperate fall weather is similar to the climate within the clinical program: not too hot, not too cold, just about right.

Six students have defended their dissertation proposals and are busy applying for predoctoral internship training. These students are preparing for clinical qualifying exams. They are busy completing their dissertation requirements. The following names are the students applying for internship placements for the 2005-2006 training cycle: Mark Deskovitz, Jason Jent, Lezlie Pickett, Erick Roat, Christian Schutte, and Jennifer Slezak. The new students are adjusting to rigorous academic demands and to life at CMU.

We have made significant inroads adjusting to procedural changes necessitated by our moving the Psychological Training and Consultation Center to the new Health Professions Building. The technology is very state-of-the-art. Recently, I conducted several mock interviews for audiology doctoral students to demonstrate how to manage difficult patients; as well as an initial patient interview for students enrolled in our introduction to psychotherapy course. Both these sessions were "beamed" from the clinic into a classroom. The advanced technology is impressive and is having a positive impact on the quality of the clinical training. Stop by and I will arrange for a tour.

The clinical faculty continue to be proud of the accomplishments of our students. The rate of student presentations and publications continues to rise and we will soon be contacting our alumni to solicit donations for the new annual awards: Annual Student Award for Excellence in Clinical Work and Annual Student Award for Excellence in Clinical Research.

## Cont'd from Clinical:

The following students either graduated in August or are slated to graduate in December 2004: Theresa Chinery, Jannel Hemme, Corbin Irelan, Anna Muller, Regan Murray, David Sitzer, Justin Yopp and Raphael Ziegler. Now the Alumni Update: I encourage all of you to consider updating us on what you have been doing since you graduated from the program. Feel free to contact me using either surface mail (George Ronan, Department of Psychology, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859) or e-mail ([ronan1gf@mail.cmich.edu](mailto:ronan1gf@mail.cmich.edu)). With warm regards, George Ronan



### Undergraduate Program: Dr. Stuart Quirk

Greetings from the new undergraduate program director! I should introduce myself. I have been at CMU since 1999 and work within the clinical psychology unit as well as teach abnormal psychology to undergraduates. I am delighted to serve as the director of our great program. The undergraduate psychology program remains a perennially popular major at CMU and we have excellent faculty distinguished by experts across the domains of psychological inquiry. It is a strong program with a secured position within the college and university.

I would like to extend a great big thank you to Deb Poole for her excellent service and stewardship of the program for the past three years. I will do my best to fill her big shoes.

#### Help Establish a Psychology Alumni Chapter:

There has recently been an interest in establishing a Psychology Alumni Chapter at CMU. This group would help graduates from CMU's Psychology Department to keep in contact with each other and meet up at conferences and other meetings. Matthew Jans, a CMU Psychology graduate, is spearheading this effort. We need 50 people to express interest in having a Psychology Alumni Chapter to establish the group. If you are interested, please email Matthew Jans ([Matthew.Jans@umb.edu](mailto:Matthew.Jans@umb.edu)) with a brief statement of support.

#### Other recent events and planned activities:

We hosted an alumni get together for CMU homecoming this fall. In addition to the usual fare offered under the tent at homecoming, faculty hosted a get-together for alumni in Sloan Hall. We hope to continue this as an annual event, so please keep this in mind if you plan on attending future homecoming events.



### Psychological Training and Consultation Center: Dr. Donna Wollerman Ronan—Interim Director

**Greetings from our new office space in CMU's high tech Health Professions Building!**

We made the move from our old quarters in Sloan Hall last January and love our ergonomically designed office space and electronic gadgetry. The Clinical Psychology graduate students have made themselves quite at home in the Psychology Graduate Student Office over here, and enjoy access to a variety of treatment rooms with special features for children or adults, and individual or group sessions. The therapists at PTCC have been busy this year; with lots of referrals for assessment, treatment and very active in the specialty clinics.

Some of you may wonder who I am, and, indeed, I am a relative newcomer to the PTCC scene. Dr. David Dush was PTCC Director from August 2000 until he lost his battle with cancer in November 2003. Dave, who was a great colleague and wonderful human being, is very much missed by all of us in the Psychology Department, and by all those in the College of Health Professions with whom he worked with during the years of planning for the move. I came to PTCC as Interim Director in January 2004, having taught at CMU in the Psychology Department for many years, offering courses like Psychology of Women and Psychological Statistics.

There has been a lot of change at PTCC, and a continuing crop of practicum students from the Clinical Psychology and School Psychology doctoral programs. Cybil Flora, PTCC office manager, and I look forward to showing some of our old students the new place!

## The Psychological Training and Consultation Center

Come and see our new place !

**WE'VE MOVED !!**

Our new address is  
1280 E. Campus Drive, Suite 2104  
Health Professions Building



## Student Organizations

### APSSC:

The American Psychological Society Student Caucus (APSSC) became an official registered student organization in 2002. Their main focus this semester was planning their second Research and Publications Workshop; a variety of professors spoke about their research and ways to become involved in research and publication to an audience of undergraduate and graduate students. APSSC has also put on two socials, one at Dr. Monahan's home and the other at the psychology department. Finally, APSSC has become actively involved in volunteering this semester, by raking leaves for the Commission on Aging and being bell-ringers for the Salvation Army this holiday season. Not only is APSSC hoping to grow as a group, they are also hoping to have many of their members attend the American Psychological Society Conference in Los Angeles, California this May. — **Nichole Jaskiw**

### IOPA:

The Industrial and Organizational Psychology Association (IOPA) is the student organization for I/O graduate students. The 2003-2004 school year was a very successful one for IOPA. A popular 'brown bag' lunch series was established where students and faculty have opportunities to present their research. Further, IOPA supported an unprecedented number of student attendees at the national Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) conference in Chicago. Many of our members presented work at the conference, which annually showcases the 'cutting edge' work in the field of I/O. Another big highlight of the conference for us was the alumni party IOPA coordinated. It was a great chance to see old friends from the program and provide a chance for our new students to meet past graduates.

Although it's a lot to live up to, we are excited about our prospects for this year as well! We are continuing the "brown bag" series, as well as bringing in a number of outside speakers to discuss their research and applied experience from the field. We are also looking forward to the SIOP conference this year in Los Angeles. Our members continue to represent our program and our university well through their conference presentations of research and applied experiences. It is certainly an exciting time to be involved with IOPA here at CMU! — **Brian Siers**

### From the Lab of Michael Sandstrom:

Michael has started a research program in his neurophysiology lab and currently has a group of five students engaged at different levels of the project. His lab is growing with new students joining the fold regularly. He finds the Mount Pleasant community pleasant and the Psychology Department full of great folks he's proud to have as colleagues. He's new, so he doesn't have the history and links with all the alumni yet. But soon he'll have stories to tell.



## PSI CHI:

Psi Chi has always worked to provide its members with a variety of events from academic speakers to volunteer activities in the community. This semester is no exception, as we have already hosted a speaker from Kaplan who spoke on the GRE as well as participated in a Cancer Walk-a-Thon. We have also been collecting plastic grocery bags for a classroom of developmentally delayed children. These bags will be used to help them with their motor skills. In addition to these events, Psi Chi is planning a can drive and T-shirt sale. Proceeds will go toward the previously mentioned classroom of developmentally delayed children and the Adopt-a-Family organization. Future Psi Chi meetings will include information regarding graduate school and elections for our Spring 2005 E-Board. Psi Chi would like to thank the Psychology Department for their continual guidance and support for our organization. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Fall 2004 E-Board: Erin O'Connor, Renee Rocca, Melissa Wilson, Tamara DeCarlo, Alicia Harper, Jenny Nerbonne, Chris Mazzara, Ashley Tloczynski, Melissa Becker, Ian Shaffer, Neal Kimble, and Emily Robinson. — **Roger Van Horn**

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## SASP:

The Student Affiliates of School Psychologists (SASP) had the opportunity to help send a few members to the National Association of School Psychologists' conference last spring. Jane Sturgell attended the conference and Jill Mosack presented a poster with Dr. Matt Burns. Last spring other members of SASP, namely Sandy Klar, Gokce Durmusoglu, and Jennifer Swanson along with Dr. Sandy Morgan presented an in-service on bullying prevention and intervention for the parent-teacher organization at Beal City Schools. The student organization officer positions were passed on to a new class over the summer. Monthly meetings have been held since the beginning of the school year to plan upcoming conference attendance, discuss fundraising opportunities, arrange guest speakers, and just get to know our fellow classmates. — **Jennifer Anderson**

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## Clinical Student Association:

We started the year off by hosting a fall cookout for faculty, students, and staff in the Clinical Program. Despite a little rain, the turnout was excellent. Older students and faculty took the opportunity to meet program first-years. This year we also invited students in the School Psychology program to join us. We enjoyed getting to know those that were able to attend. Currently we are planning another social event for the Winter break.  
— **John Neudecker**

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## Central Neuroscience Society:

The members of Central Neuroscience Society (CNS) along with students, faculty, and staff from the neuroscience program celebrated the grand opening of the Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience (BRAIN) Center in the Health Professions Building on Saturday, October 9, 2004. The grand opening included public tours of the BRAIN Center Laboratories including the Field Neuroscience Institute Laboratory for Restorative Neurology. Dr. Joseph Steinmetz, a nationally prominent researcher in the area of learning and a CMU alum, traveled from Indiana University to enlighten us with his presentation entitled "*From Learning at Central Michigan University to Learning in the Central Nervous System.*" The members of CNS would also like to congratulate Dr. Gary Dunbar, the faculty advisor for CNS, for receiving the first John G. Kulhavi Endowed Professorship in Neuroscience. Dr. Dunbar's dedication is truly an inspiration to all those in CNS. We would like to thank everyone who made the grand opening possible. We look forward to bringing more researchers in the field of neuroscience to CMU in the months to come. Anyone interested in CNS or in finding out more about neuroscience research should feel free to contact Nicholas Dey, [dey1nd@cmich.edu](mailto:dey1nd@cmich.edu) or Rebecca Myers, [myers1ra@cmich.edu](mailto:myers1ra@cmich.edu) for more information.

—**Rebecca Myers**

## Our Upcoming December 2004 Graduates

### Doctoral Degree

- Theresa Chinnery      Raphael Ziegler
- Regan Murray        Justin Yopp
- Penny Weymouth

### Expected Master's Degree

- Amanda Andrus        Jacob McClean
- Gary Burns            George Montgomery
- Emily Bailey          Derek Morton
- Monica Filipkowski    Brian Siers
- Tina Grialou          Todd Symington
- Elizabeth Hendricks
- Jeff Labrador
- Jeff Lance

### Our Newest Alumni August 2004

#### PhD's

- Shaina Wolcott-Burnam    Anna Muller
- Jannel Hemme            Laura Ann Preston
- Kimberly Hunter         Laurie Swan
- Corbin Irelan            David Sitzer

#### Specialist

- Suzanne Hudak            Matthew Sinor
- Julie McQuaide          Jennifer Surato
- Daniel Pijnappels        Camryn Swiatlowski
- Oleksandra Shapovalova

#### Master's

- Jennifer Surato          Nicholas Von Glahn
- Ryan Wessell

**Congratulations to Erin Vincent**, she has been awarded funds toward her trip to New Orleans, Louisiana for her paper entitled "*The impact of the "Fix My Child" attitude: Assessing parents' readiness for change in parent-child interaction therapy*". Erin is a senior, majoring in Psychology.

## Outstanding Thesis/ Dissertation Award

**Shaina Wolcott-Burnam** has been selected for a 2003-2004 Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Award by the College of Graduate Studies for her dissertation entitled "*Examining Emotional Labor from an Interactionist Perspective: The Impact of Work Conditions on the Relationship between Emotional Labor and Outcomes.*" Shaina is a Ph.D. graduate of the Industrial and Organizational Program. She is employed with the Bank of America in North Carolina.

**Laurie Swan** has been selected for a 2003-2004 Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Award by the College of Graduate Studies for her dissertation entitled "*Does Increasing Cognitive Load and Difficulty of Balance Tasks Influence Postural Sway in Young Adults?*". Laurie is a Ph.D. graduate of the Experimental Program. Laurie is currently working as a faculty member in the Physical Therapy Department.

**Ryan Wessell** has been selected for a 2003-2004 Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Award by the College of Graduate Studies for his thesis entitled "*Effects of NMDA Receptor NR2B Antagonist CP-101,606 on Parkinsonian Motor Symptoms in Rodent Hemiparkinsonian Model.*" Ryan is in the Experimental Ph.D. Program here in the Psychology Department.



### **Graduate Student Research Grants**



**Dan Boyle -**  
Advisor: Sonya Sheffert

**Tina Grialou -**  
Advisor: Tim Hartshorne

**Ted Navidzaheh -**  
Advisor: Rick Backs

**Angela West -**  
Advisor: Tamara Penix Sbraga

## Alumni News



### The first annual Psychology Alumni Event took place on October 9, 2004 in Sloan Hall

By: Matthew Jans

During this year's CMU Homecoming weekend, I had the chance to chat with Dr. Backs for the first time since I had him for PSY 285 (Intro to Research Methods) in 1996. Dr. Backs invited me to share a little about myself for the psychology department newsletter. Since I'm always interested in chatting about where my experiences at CMU have taken me, I immediately agreed.

I graduated from CMU in 1998 with a major in psychology and minors in sociology and family life/human sexuality. As an undergrad, I worked briefly in psychology with Dr. Foster-Lifson, but spent most of my research time with Dr. Phame Camarena and Dr. Pamela Sarigiani in the Human Environmental Studies Department. In my experience, many of my classmates also took advantage of the various options in social and behavioral science training at CMU. The multi-disciplinary training I received at CMU has been priceless and is something I continue to work into in my professional and academic goals.

Like many psych undergrads, my specific career plans changed many times during my years at CMU, and since (from therapist to professor to teach; from clinical psychology to cognitive psychology to developmental psychology). The department (not to mention options outside of the department) provided an environment in which all these interests could be explored, and it only seems to be getting stronger.

Although I did not immediately go on for a Ph.D. after my bachelor's degree (a decision I haven't regretted for a moment, and one I would recommend to many), I did earn a Master's degree in Applied Developmental and Education Psychology from the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. Currently, I am completing a Master's degree in Critical and Creative Thinking at U Mass Boston in which I am focusing on developmental theory and research methodology.

My career path took me from Mt. Pleasant to Boston (originally via Boston College), where I am currently an Assistant Study Director at the Center for Survey Research at U Mass Boston ([www.csr.umb.edu](http://www.csr.umb.edu)). In this role, I am responsible for helping design and manage social science survey research projects (everything from questionnaire writing and sample design to ordering materials and managing data collection).

Six-and-a-half years and one-and-a-half Master's degrees have done much to help focus my professional and academic goals. I feel ready to take on the next big challenge in my career. By this time next year, I plan to be enrolled in a Ph.D. program following up on something that was my original goal as I finished my undergrad studies at CMU. My plan is to focus on applied and technical problems in research methods and statistics (via a Ph.D. program in either educational research methods or survey research methods).

All of this extrapolation and mild self-aggrandizing is to make the point that my undergraduate years at CMU prepared me well for the professional and academic experiences I have had so far, and likely for those yet to come. In my current coursework, I still rely on concepts and ideas that I first learned from Dr. Backs in Intro to Research Methods, from Dr. Poole in Intro to Psych, and from Dr. Foster-Lifson in History and Systems. The passion for research and methodology imparted by faculty in all my courses in the department, a treat which I've come to discover is all too uncommon, has helped shape my personal career choices.

I'm currently working with the CMU Psychology Department and Alumni Office to start an alumni chapter specifically for graduates of the department (see announcement in this newsletter). I look forward to hearing from all of you as we begin to organize this alumni chapter. I can't wait to hear all of your own post-CMU stories!

## Other News

### Psychology Alumni Group Starting Up

During the 2004 CMU Homecoming weekend, the psychology department took the first steps in establishing an alumni chapter for department graduates (majors and minors, graduate and undergraduate). The homecoming event and forthcoming group received strong support from many of the department faculty and particular assistance from Dr. Dunbar and Dr. Wagner.

The purpose of this group is to provide a mechanism for social and professional networking among psychology graduates (as well as with faculty and current students). Events will likely include social gatherings in conjunction with major psychology conferences (and perhaps outside of the conference circuit as well), gatherings at CMU Homecoming, and professional outreach to current CMU psychology students.

At this point in time **we need alumni to express interest in this group**. No commitment of participation is required. Rather, we simply need you to say that you think such a group would be a worthwhile endeavor for the department and alumni office. Leadership positions will certainly be available for those who are so inclined.

**We need 50 alumni to express interest in the group** in order to become chartered by the alumni office and receive their assistance. We currently have less than 10 names of interested alumni, so we are far from our goal.

*Please email your name and contact information to (or call) Matt Jans, psych alumni liaison (matthew.jans@umb.edu, 617-822-3063) or Chris Austin, Associate Director of Alumni Relations (austi1cr@cmich.edu, 800-358-6903).*

Please share this message with fellow alumni with whom you may be in touch. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at future Psychology Alumni Associate events.

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### The McNair Program: Reflections from the Other Side

In 1986, in memory of the Challenger astronaut Dr. Ronald E. McNair, the United States Congress established the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The program was created to increase educational opportunities to students who are from low-income, first-generation families, and/or those who are from ethnic backgrounds who are traditionally underrepresented in graduate education. The program gives these students the opportunity to work with university faculty in conducting their own original research project as well as receive training in writing, communication and graduate school preparation skills. The project and seminars are designed to mirror the process of research and scholarly life that is encountered in graduate school.

This past spring I became the Graduate Assistant for the McNair Program here at Central Michigan University. The position was a perfect fit as I had been a McNair Scholar during my undergraduate career at Truman State University. I pounced upon this serendipitous opportunity as my chance to give back to the program that has been so influential in my own life. My GA position with the McNair Program involves extending the goal of helping these students get accepted to graduate school and eventually obtain their Ph.D. As such, I serve as a mentor for the Scholars, answering questions about graduate school, revising curriculum vitas, and helping with research. Moreover, as a McNair Scholar and a fourth year doctoral candidate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, I can relate to the experiences and challenges that face the scholars and provide a model of how they can be overcome. The relationships that I have developed with the McNair Scholars have definitely been my most fulfilling and rewarding experiences in graduate school. I encourage any interested faculty or students to become involved with the program and make a difference in a student's life. It will be an unforgettable experience! — **Melissa R. Brittain**

## Alumni Contributors – Psychology

*Ms. Rebecca Jo Blevins and Mr. George C. Anast*  
*Mr. Gregoire M. Bolduc*  
*Mrs. Carol A. Doll*  
*Ms. Paula J. Erdelyi*  
*Mrs. Mary E. Fletcher*  
*Mr. John D. Hollingsworth*  
*Mr. Robert A. Hove*  
*Ms. Melaina M. Jenkins*  
*Ms. Larissa A. Mead*  
*Dr. LaMar J. Neal \**  
*Mr. Richard M. Puffer*  
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## Wilbert Wright Contributors

*Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Cynthia Walker*

**Congratulations to the following students who have been nominated for our “Outstanding Graduate and Recognition of Excellence” Awards.**

Janelle Compton  
Andrew Eagle  
Erica Erskine  
Jacqueline Norton  
Erin O’Conner  
Nathan Smith  
Jennifer Sobczak  
Dawn Wheeler

## New Staff:

**Welcome to the Department of Psychology  
Kay Purtill and Joan Maul**



**Kay Purtill** joins the Psychology Department as the Secretary in the main office. She is a Mount Pleasant native. Kay comes to the Psychology Department from the College of Graduate Studies here at CMU. She enjoys her time with her pride and joy, her daughter.

**Joan Maul** is the Administrative Secretary for the Experimental and I/O Programs. Joan comes to the Psychology Department from the Business Information Department and the SAP University Alliance Program. She and her husband John; reside in Mount Pleasant. They have five children and 11+ grandchildren. Joan enjoys her family, especially the grandchildren, reading, gardening, traveling and quilting.



# Making a Donation

Central Michigan University's Department of Psychology relies on the generosity of our alumni and friends to raise funds to enhance student education. If you would like to be among those who help provide a high quality education to our students, we invite you to consider a gift to one of our existing funds, or you are invited to establish an endowment to support student education in a manner most meaningful to you.

The following are accounts within the **Department of Psychology** in need of on-going support:

● **Psychology-Alumni Development Fund (#44006)**: Provides assistance to the Psychology Department to enhance student education by supporting student and faculty scholarly and creative activities.

● **Psychology Training and Consultation Center (#43104)**: Funding to train CMU students enrolled in the applied psychology graduate program in the application of psychological science for resolving human problems.

● **Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience (BRAIN) Center Award (#66494)**: Scholarship awards to students researching effective pharmaceutical interventions for neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington's Disease and Parkinson's Disease.

● **Anne K. Quimper Memorial Prize Endowment (#66462)**: Scholarships for CMU graduate students in the School Psychology Program.

● **Wilbert Wright Endowment (#66551)**: Scholarships for first generation college students attending CMU full time and majoring in Psychology. This award is intended for the purchase of textbooks or other non-tuition expenses.

● **Joanna M. Russ Endowment (#66686)**: Awards will support primarily undergraduate students who are interested in research on genetic syndromes and low incidence disabilities, funding their research materials and expenses to travel for presentation.

Please send your contributions to:

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Please return this form to: CMU – Department of Psychology, Sloan Hall, Room 101A, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859 or you can email your updates to [barb.houghton@cmich.edu](mailto:barb.houghton@cmich.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!!

Psychology Newsletter  
Fall 2004

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Central Michigan University

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Fax: 989-774-2553  
Email: psy@cmich.edu



**A Center for Excellence**

*The CMU Department of Psychology is a Central Michigan University Center for Excellence. The department continues to strive for the highest level of achievement in academics, research, and student and faculty development. We are proud to be a part of CMU and the Mount Pleasant Community, and appreciate the continued support of our Alumni and Friends.*

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