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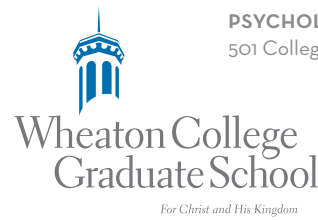
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## Liaison

A Periodic Newsletter of the Graduate Psychology Programs at Wheaton College

Your copy of *Liaison*  
 FALL/WINTER 2013

## WHEATON COLLEGE GRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY IN THE WORLD: *Global Engagement in, with and through Christ*

### Wheaton College faculty and graduate student teach in Nepal

In June of 2012, faculty Dr. Sarah Hall and Dr. Terri Watson and graduate student Mandy Kellums traveled to Nepal to teach and conduct research. In collaboration with alumna Becky Thorson and several local agencies, the team taught three week-long classes. Dr. Hall taught a course on child and adolescent disorders and counseling skills to professionals such as therapists, teachers, and nurses. Dr. Watson taught a course on clinical supervision to mental health professionals. Finally, Dr. Watson, Dr. Hall, and Mandy co-taught a course on healthy family life to a group of Christians, covering topics such as child development, parenting, marriage, and communication in practical ways informed by Scripture and psychological research. Discussions with participants aimed to contextualize the material for Nepali culture.

The team also conducted a small study, surveying helping professionals about mental health needs and challenges in Nepal as well as their own experiences and symptoms. Analysis of this data, which will be presented at the meeting of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies in April, 2013, is in progress. Preparation for the trip and analysis of the research data have been the work of the Nepal Outreach Group, which includes several other graduate and undergraduate students. This trip was both rewarding

and challenging as the team spent time teaching, collecting data, sightseeing, and engaging with both Nepalis and expatriates working in the country. The faculty hopes these experiences in Nepal will continue to impact our teaching and mentoring of students as well as faculty personal development.



#### INTRODUCING LIAISON

This is the tenth publication of Liaison and is designed for alumni and friends of the graduate psychology programs at Wheaton College, including doctoral and master's level curricula.

#### FACTS

- The Psy.D. program in Clinical Psychology was established in 1993 and has been continuously accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1998. This five-year program admits some 18-20 students annually.
- The M.A. program in Clinical Psychology, a two-year program, was established in 1977 and admits approximately 30 students each year.
- In 1999, an additional Master's degree was added in Counseling Ministries, a one-year degree for individuals who primarily work through churches or mission agencies.



### Where in the world? - A photo game for us to play!

Send in the best pictures of you wearing (or somehow including) the Wheaton College logo with a brief description of where the picture was taken and your photo could appear in the next Liaison, get published to the Wheaton College website or Wheaton Graduate Psychology Facebook page. Originality is valued. Have some fun and your photo may get published next!

Email to [TED.KAHN@WHEATON.EDU](mailto:TED.KAHN@WHEATON.EDU).

### “Like” us on Facebook and “Follow” us on Twitter

The Wheaton Graduate Psychology Program can now be found via social media! Be sure to check out Wheaton Graduate Psychology on



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## In my own words.

### ALUMNA PROFILE: BECKY THORSON



I grew up in a rural village in Upstate New York, venturing out of the state for the first time on a short trip to Canada when I was 12. I never dreamed that I would someday live on the other side of the world! But maybe I did - as I was growing up I often drew pictures of mountains with rivers flowing through the valleys and little houses on the hillsides. I believe God had put Nepal in my heart, even though I had never heard of it.

I majored in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Psychology at Houghton College. After graduating, I worked as a medical research technician during my husband Stephen’s medical school and residency. We had clearly sensed God calling us to Nepal while we were in college, and spent 3 months there at a remote village hospital in 1980. Our call was confirmed, and we moved to Nepal and joined the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) in 1984 with our 2 small children. (UMN is a multi-denominational and multi-national Christian development organization with a unique and remarkable history).

My many roles in Nepal have included: wife and mother, language student, bacteriologist (1986-1991), and teacher of ESL, Social Science and Psychology at Tribhuvan University’s (TU) Lalitpur Nursing Campus (1992-2003). I had quite a struggle with cross-cultural adjustment, and also a strong desire to help others in emotional distress since my teens. Both of my Wheaton MAs (Intercultural studies '92 and Clinical Psych '04) have enabled me to counsel and teach other cross cultural workers and Nepalis.

I have been coordinator of the UMN Language and Orientation Program since 2003. This role has seemed like a perfect fit for me as it brought together my background in Intercultural Studies, language teaching, and Counseling as well as years of experience in Nepal. I have also had short term roles in Recruitment for UMN, and Pastoral Care.

Several times a year I have given seminars on personality types in the workplace to UMN multi-national teams. Recently I have taught classes on Personality and Psychological Assessment to students in the Diploma in Counseling Program of TU in Kathmandu.

The way God has guided my steps over the years amazes me - always preparing me for what was coming, even though I didn’t know myself. I am thankful for all the rewarding roles He has given me and look forward to what may come in the future!



## Graduate Psychology IN THE WORLD

### Psy.D. students working in Guatemala with M.A. alumna

In Summer 2012, PsyD students Heather Mitchell, Emely de la O, and Stephanie Griffith (pictured above) traveled to Antigua, Guatemala to integrate faith with psychology in a very tangible way. Guatemala has been affected by civil war, attempted genocide of the indigenous people, poverty, and the ever-reaching effects of individual and communal trauma. Dr. Kelly S. Flanagan developed La Voz de Esperanza (The Voice of Hope) at Wheaton College to partner with MA Psychology alumna, Rebecca Loveall, and her husband, Andrew, in Antigua. These missionaries founded a grade school as one of their primary tools for ministry and hope in this community. These PsyD students’ most recent trip included a series of teacher workshops focused on a strengths-based model of resiliency. Additionally, this group continued research which will provide focus and support for the school. Emely interviewed 18 faculty, former students, and parents for the purpose of research, but it also became a powerful intervention which left many feeling empowered and encouraged. La Voz de Esperanza will continue to build strong relationships in this community, drawing from psychology to join in Christ’s powerful redemption in this part of the world.

### Psychology Department expands to occupy entire Mezzanine of Billy Graham Center

The Billy Graham Center underwent some major changes during the summer of 2012. With the completion of the fifth floor renovations, the Bible Department was re-homed, allowing the Communications and Intercultural Studies Departments to move entirely onto the second floor. As a result, the Psychology Department has now received full use of the Mezzanine, enabling faculty offices previously located in the Science Center to relocate. Additionally, all psychology research labs now have their own offices also located on the Mezzanine. Although this shift has created some chaos as faculty members shift offices, new faculty move in, and research labs are established, the department is excited to see how the move will enable the department to become even more cohesive as faculty, students, and research centers become more centrally located.

### Master’s program in Marriage and Family Therapy

We are delighted to welcome 18 students as the first cohort in the new M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy program. Dr. David Van Dyke, a past president of the Illinois Association of Marriage and Family Therapists is the program’s director. Visiting faculty for 2012-13 include Dr. David Cook, current Chair of the State of Illinois Licensing Board and Past President of Illinois Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and Dr. David Norton, founding member of the State of Illinois Marriage and Family Therapist licensure board and Past President of Illinois Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. The program is assisted administratively by Miriam Mindeman, M.A. ('12). The program will be adding 2 full-time faculty for 2013-14.

Visit [WHEATON.EDU/GRAD-PSYCH](http://WHEATON.EDU/GRAD-PSYCH) for more information about the program.

Row One: Natalie Kiefer, Natasha Kiefer, Dr. David Van Dyke Program Director, Miriam Mindeman Program Administrator, Christina Hernandez, Megan Reeder  
Row Two: William Cleary, Beth Leipert, Kathleen Powell, Christine Kim, Juliana Lucareviski, Kyriaki Gerogiorgis-Shaffer, Alyssa Collura, Stephanie Christensen, Mishel Bunkley, Julia Sellers, Angela Blocker  
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