

Liaison

A Periodic Newsletter of the Graduate
Psychology Programs at Wheaton College

SPRING/SUMMER 2010



Introducing *Liaison*

This is the eighth 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.

Psy.D. Curriculum Changes Coming in Fall 2010

In December 2009, Wheaton College approved proposed significant changes to the Psy.D. curriculum. The changes were in response to feedback received from our alumni, current students, faculty and outside organizations (e.g., APA). The results of the changes are a program which consists primarily of 3-credit Psychology courses, creates a more coherent sequence of courses in core competency areas and provides better documentation of program requirements and milestones.

A Program of 3-credit Psychology courses

Increasingly, states are requiring 3-credit courses to meet educational requirements for licensure. Several years ago, the Psy.D. Program converted all elective courses to 3-credit. This curriculum change completes the conversion process for remaining Psychology courses. Bible and Theology courses remain the same, and the degree remains at 120 total credit hours.

A more coherent sequence of courses in core competency areas

Courses in assessment, research and statistics will be taught in a sequence which provides students an opportunity to have a developmentally appropriate series of learning experiences to build competence in these domains. For example, Assessment I, Assessment II and Assessment III will be taught during the Fall, Spring and Summer of the student's first year of study and will move from cognitive and intellectual testing to psychometrics to personality testing to integrative report writing. A similar approach will be taken to the Research and Statistics I, II & III courses taught during the student's second year.

A better documentation of program requirements and milestones

The curriculum change provides means by which completion of program milestones such as Comprehensive Exam, Professional Qualifying Exam and Clinical Dissertation Proposal Defense are included on the student's transcript. This information strengthens the student's transcript for pre-doctoral internship application and other professional opportunities.

We are excited to be able to implement these changes starting in the 2010-11 academic year. Dr. Helen DeVries, Psy.D. Program Director said, "We are grateful to our alums and students for providing helpful feedback regarding how to strengthen our program. These changes reflect our response to their feedback." ■



Master's in Clinical Psychology recognized by National Board of Certified Counselors

The Master's in Clinical Psychology Program has had its Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor Track (LCPC - IL) accepted by the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) (www.nbcc.org). This means the program can facilitate students' application to be National Certified Counselors and also offer the NCE exam on-site in the student's last semester of study.

From the NBCC website: "The National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. and Affiliates (NBCC), an independent not-for-profit credentialing body for counselors, was incorporated in 1982 to establish and monitor a national certification system, to identify those counselors who have voluntarily sought and obtained certification, and to maintain a register of those counselors."

Dr. Terri Watson, Program Coordinator says, "We hope that this will strengthen our preparation of students for the transition from academia to professional practice." ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Benjiman Pyykkonen, Ph.D. has joined the graduate faculty. Dr. Pyykkonen received his Ph.D. in Clinical and Rehabilitation Psychology from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, and prior to joining the faculty, Dr. Pyykkonen was a post-doc fellow/instructor at Rush University Medical Center: Behavioral Sciences: Neuropsychology. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Pyykkonen to the department.

Sarah Hall, Ph.D. has joined the undergraduate faculty. Dr. Hall received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Pennsylvania State University. This past year, Dr. Hall has taught Introduction to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology and Developmental Psychology to Wheaton College undergrads. We joyfully welcome Dr. Hall to the department.

Kelly S. Flanagan, Ph.D., her husband Kelly and sons Aidan and Quinn welcomed Caitlin Ann to their family on 8 October 2010. We rejoice with Dr. Flanagan on the arrival of her daughter.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jim Marshall, M.A. ('87) recently released *Journey into Love: in pursuit of a Great Marriage*. Journey is a comprehensive interactive multimedia training experience for couples featuring brief audio lessons enhanced by instructional graphics, photography, original music, and numerous topical articles. More information about this digital downloadable product is available at www.JourneyintoLove.com.

Dr. Emmy Gichinga, M.A. ('92) died January 2010 in Nairobi after a battle with cancer. Emmy was the wife of John Gichinga, mother of 2 children, the Director of Gem Counseling Services in Nairobi, Kenya, Professor at the Catholic University of East Africa in Karen, Kenya, Author, Lecturer, and in particular, an advocate for women.

Tyler Bauer, M.A. ('97) became Chief Operating Officer at Hartgrove Behavioral Health System in Chicago in October 2009.

Tracy (Nitta) Takeda, M.A. ('97), husband Eric and sister Lauren welcomed the arrival of Caleb Koichi to their family in June 2009. Tracy is a therapist at Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center in Naperville, IL.

Sandy Johnston-Kruse, Psy.D. ('99) welcomed the arrival of Caleb John Kruse with joy. Caleb joins his family which includes Sandy and her husband Dan and big brothers Joseph (6) and Joshua (5).

Lisa Riemenschneider, Psy.D. ('00) added William Christian "Billy" Riemenschneider to their family this year, joining Teddy (6) and Ellie (4), and are enjoying their second year of homeschooling! Lisa still works part-time at Delnor Hospital in Geneva, IL as a neuropsychologist.

Rachel Ward, Psy.D. ('01) is in a Christian practice with 6 others in Rockford, IL. In Fall 2010, Rachel will begin working with Northern Illinois Cancer Society and three area hospitals by providing a program for parents of children with cancer. Rachel's two boys are a freshman in high school (Will) and sixth grade (Jon). Jon is a survivor of childhood cancer.

Rosalyn Bates, M.A. ('04) recently began serving as local chapter chairperson of the National Black Evangelical Association (NBEA). NBEA, a ministry of reconciliation committed to Biblical and cultural integrity, an organization partially founded by Dr. Ruth Lewis Bentley, a Class of 1955 Wheaton alum.

Heather Hostler, Psy.D. ('05) welcomed Owen David Hostler into the fold in January 2010. Siblings Sadie, Greta, and Asher adore him!

Roselynn Miller, Psy.D. ('05) has recently relocated to Georgia where she serves as a staff psychologist at a pediatric clinic which serves highly impoverished counties in Georgia and Alabama. In this new position, Roselynn will be developing and implementing all psychological services for children and their families at the clinic which previously focused on patients' medical needs.

Lora Weins, Psy.D. ('07) is focusing on suicide prevention for youth, treating trauma, and working with parents of children with special needs at Samaritan Counseling Center in Barrington, IL.

Stephen Ratcliff, M.A. ('09) is working at Namaste Outpatient in Los Lunas, NM.

ALUMNI PROFILE: Charles and Rebecca Parry – Pt. 1 Charles

Note: Rebecca Parry will be featured in the Fall/Winter 2010 issue of Liaison



As I write this South Africa is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. That event played a pivotal role in influencing my wife and I to return to South Africa from the USA in 1990 when my post-doc in clinical services research at Western Psychiatric Institute

& Clinic (in Pittsburgh) ended unexpectedly following a cut in funding from NIMH. I had grown up in South Africa but had left in 1984 to pursue an interest in studying clinical psychology.

The two years I spent at Wheaton (1984-86) was tremendously influential in my life. Not only did I meet my wife there, but it served as a place for me to develop a Christian world view and a clearer idea of how to integrate my faith with my work. The words of David Benner, Fran White and Stan Jones still ring in my head! I am particularly grateful for Rich Butman for the time he made available to talk with me about a variety of issues.

Interestingly, despite completing the M.A. in Clinical Psychology and doing an internship at TriCity Family Services (in Geneva, IL), I never saw clients ever again. At Wheaton I was exposed to Community Psychology and realized that this was the field that could help me combine my interests in mental health and research. Prior to coming to Wheaton I had completed an M.S. in Mathematical Statistics and worked as a bio-statistician at the South African Medical Research Council. With the encouragement of Rich Butman I applied to several Ph.D. programs and was accepted at U.VA. where I completed a Ph.D. in Community Psychology in 1989. My thesis was on the interaction between the mental health and judicial systems. This was followed by a one-year post-doc in Pittsburgh.

My wife and I have now been living in Cape Town for almost 20 years. I am so grateful to the Lord for leading me into a career that has been incredibly fulfilling, though not without its challenges. In the early 1990s I was able to get in on the ground floor of the development of the substance abuse research field in South Africa at a time when the country was being welcomed back into the international community following the dismantling of Apartheid. I had opportunities to gain broader epidemiology and public health experience and to be part of initiatives to draft public policy which have continued

to this day. Even this past week I was involved in writing policy documents for the National Department of Health on alcohol and drug abuse, gave an input on the link between alcohol and HIV to the South African National AIDS Council's HIV Prevention Technical Task Team, and sent a comment to the Minister of Trade & Industry on the draft 2010 World Cup Soccer Liquor Policy.

I currently direct a research program focusing on alcohol and drug abuse. The team comprises 28 core staff based in three sites in South Africa (with another +/- 70 temporary staff of fieldworkers, interventionists, etc.). We currently have 20 research projects that we are conducting with funding from the South African government, the U.S. National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Several are intervention trials focusing on problems such as fetal alcohol syndrome; the link between alcohol/drug use, sexual HIV risk behavior, and violence; and alcohol-related non-adherence to antiretroviral medications.

Our research portfolio has varied over the years and has included topics such as alcohol advertising, drugs and crime, substance abuse and trauma, and methamphetamine use and adolescents. I have learned to do a variety of tasks—from conducting national household surveys to qualitative research with injection drug users; setting up substance abuse surveillance systems in 14 southern African countries; writing journal articles, policy briefs and articles for more general public access; frequently engaging with the media (print, radio, and TV); supervising graduate students; and engaging with policy makers and the policy process at local, provincial, national, and international levels. I have had the opportunity to travel widely in Africa, Europe, Asia and North America, and over the years and have sat on various United Nations and World Health Organization committees. I have certainly learnt a lot and believe that the Lord has also used me to make some significant contributions. Most recently I have been part of an initiative to quantify the burden of harm from alcohol in terms of death and disability, and continue to be active in looking at the link between alcohol and HIV—both to understand the causal pathways and to design practical interventions to address what has become the major health and social burden in the southern part of Africa. ■

Dr Parry is the Director of the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Research Unit at the South African Medical Research Council and an Adjunct Professor in Psychiatry at Stellenbosch University. He is married to Rebecca (MA 1986), and they have two children, Doug (18) and Anna (16). They live in Cape Town.



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