Greetings, everyone. I feel like it is déjà vu all over again. For the fourth time I am the Chair of the Psychology Department. This past fall, while on sabbatical, I took an extended trip to China and Taiwan and gave a series of lectures at three different universities: The Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China, as well as Shih Hsin University and Shih Chien University in Tibet. My talks focused on Positive Psychology and seem to have been well received by the students. They even applauded and asked to have their picture taken with me afterward. I felt like a minor celebrity! While at the universities I was able to collect data as part of a cross-cultural study that was carried out by my students, Felicia Schiefer, Curtis Wojcik, and Gabriella Pietropaolo. We examined cultural differences in attitudes towards altruism, gratitude, and forgiveness, as well levels of psychological well-being and satisfaction with life. The students presented their findings at the First Annual SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference, the 43rd Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference, and the 17th Annual Student Research and Creativity Exposition that was held on our campus.

There were many opportunities for sightseeing. For example, I visited the Chengdu Panda Base and many Buddhist and Daoist temples up in the mountains outside of the city. (continued, next page)
While in Beijing I saw the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, and the Great Wall of China. In Shian I saw the famous Terracotta Army, a collection of terracotta sculptures that were only discovered in 1974. It is estimated that the pits hold more than 8,000 life size soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses, and 150 cavalry horses. I traveled along the Yangtze River through the Three Gorges and spent some time in Shanghai. While in Taipei I visited the National Palace Museum, home to more than 650,000 pieces of ancient Chinese imperial artifacts and artworks and took a gondola high up into the hills. This certainly was an excellent adventure. I encourage you to travel abroad if at all possible as it will no doubt be a culturally enriching experience.

Welcome to Luke Alexander McFall!

While Luke’s not technically a new member of the department, he’s a new member of our departmental family! Dr. Joseph and Lisa McFall welcomed Luke into their family on May 7, 2015. He weighed 8.5 lbs, and was XX inches long. Since he was 10 days overdue, it seems that mostly Dr. McFall was glad he could quit answering the question of “is the baby here yet?” from everyone he saw! Ava (22 months) is learning how to be a big sister. Congratulations, Dr. McFall!

Behavioral Neuroscience Lab Becomes Operational

After years of working to get her lab space cleared out and established, getting the necessary equipment together, and last, but not least, the arrival of the breeding mice, Dr. Creeley’s behavioral neuroscience lab is up and running. The 10 female and 10 male mice arrived in the Psychology Department, one snowy, winter day. The delivery person had been unable to locate Dr. Creeley, and the one person in the Psychology department who answered the phone was Dr. Lisa Denton, so they were delivered to her office. She rallied the rest of the faculty and a number of us were standing out in the hallway wondering what to do with these mice, and where was Dr. Creeley? For those of us not experienced in working with mice, it was a little concerning! Finally, someone got smart enough to knock on her office door, and there she was—and so the mice were safely delivered to her. Students in Dr. Creeley’s lab this semester learned lots of skills: taking care of the mice, weighing the female mice to see if they are pregnant, marking the baby mice for identification, and recording behavior of the mice in a water maze. They worked hard and collected enough data in time for a poster presentation at OSCAR. Congratulations, Dr. Creeley!
Psychology Club News

The Psychology Club had a successful 2014-2015 school year! We’ve held numerous events over the course of the year including pumpkin carving, graduate school night, research and internship night, and a study night, just to name a few. Our big event this year was the Out of the Darkness Walk, which raised money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This year 100 walkers braved the below freezing temperatures to raise over $3,300. We want to thank the students, faculty, and community members for helping make this event a success!

Psi Chi News

Student Award Winners

Congratulations to our student award winners for the Spring 2015 semester:
Merit Award—Jill Burgess
Honorable Mention for Merit Award—Stacey Caron

Don Lehr Teaching Award—three winners; Sarah Anderson, Stacey Caron and Jessica Pelz

Faculty News

Dr. McFall has been busy on campus serving as the Co-Chair of the General Education Committee and then agreeing to be a member of the Transition Leadership Team for the new general education program. Off campus, he serves on the local Rotary Club, and helps to plan the Chautauqua County Walk to End Alzheimer’s Disease. Dr. Dyck served on the Women’s and Gender Advisory Board for the Fall semester, but let Dr. Denton take over her official position on the board in the spring semester. Off campus, Dr. Dyck serves as a volunteer longarm quilter for Quilts of Valour, Canada.
Student Plans after Graduation

Sarah Anderson - Greater Rochester Consortium Master's in Social Work program (Brockport)
Mary Bruton (2014) - Greater Rochester Consortium Master's in Social Work program (Brockport)
Priscilla Cerdas – Lesley University, MA in Dance Therapy
Amanda Cocchiara - University of South Carolina - Aiken, MA in clinical psychology
Derron Hilts – Dusquene University, MA in school counseling
Pamela Kus - MSW program at University at Buffalo
Jessica Pelz – SUNY Brockport, School Counseling MA program
Gabriella Pietropaolo—SUNY Brockport, MA program in Clinical Research
Stephanie Thompson -- Master's of Social Work, Syracuse University
Dominique Tucker -- Master's of Social Work, University at Buffalo
Kathleen Urtz— Master’s of Industrial Engineering (Human Factors), University at Buffalo

Recent Publications and Presentations by Psychology Faculty*

*student authors in bold


All of the following presentations were made by Psychology students at the 17th annual Student Research and Creativity Exposition, sponsored by OSCAR on April 30, 2015 at SUNY, Fredonia.

Rape myth acceptance, psychopathy and acceptance of interpersonal violence
Courtney Smith, Delaney Dretto  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Darrin Rogers

How extraversion personality traits and distraction levels affect math performance, while looking at high-school class size
Brittany Graw, Jacob Abraham, Robert Cooper  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Dyck

Cross-Cultural Differences in Attitudes Toward Altruism, Forgiveness and Gratitude
Gabriella Pietropaolo, Felicia Schiefer, Curtis Wojick, Psychology  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jack Croxton

Butch & Femme Gender Roles
Amanda Pruden  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Denton

One dimension of bifactor acculturation moderates the relationship between just world beliefs and rape myth acceptance in Hispanic students
Courtney Smith, Delaney Dretto, Avishai Afek, Ariana Grisanti  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Darrin Rogers

Bossy vs. Boss: The Role of Feminist Stereotypes and Identification in the Endorsement of Leadership Gender Roles
Curtis Wojcik, Kara Hall, Bradley Volz  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Dyck

The Effects of Aspartame Use on Spatial Orientation and Memory Span
Jennifer Beaton, Matthew Bussmann  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Dyck

Correlation between Body and perception of others
Ariana Grisanti, Devan Nichols, Lauren Ciulla  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Darrin Rogers

The role of agreeableness in sexist attitudes
Raven Hess, Avishai Afek  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Darrin Rogers

Parent Modifications to a Dialogic Reading Program Based on Child and Other Characteristics
Kelsey Travers, Psychology  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen

Is Sexual Fluidity Influenced by Biological or Cultural Factors?
Bridget McKnight, Psychology  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Dyck

Relations Between Academic Year and Internal Locus of Control, Academic Self-Efficacy, and Effective Study Habits in College Students
Nichole Whiteford  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen

The developmental and behavioral effects of neonatal exposure to lithium
Aman Kumar and Kelli Michel (Biology), Elizabeth Shaw (Chemistry), and Kate Urtz, Victoria Barbis, Jessica Young and Jessica Miller (Psychology) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Catherine Creeley

Dating and Friendship in Lesbian Relationships
Jessica Miller, Kathleen Urtz  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Dyck

Can Music Alter Mood?
Rachel Dunn, Benjamin Carlson, Elizabeth Mastro Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Dyck

Temperament and Cognition Through Adulthood
Hailey Griewisch, Amanda Cocchiara  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joseph McFall
College Students’ Perceptions of Literary Characters
Rebecca Kohl, Cassandra Weiner, Richard Belz  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Dyck

Parent-Kindergartener Shared Reading Pilot Intervention
Brooklynn Ruggieri, Melissa Guida, Psychology  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen

Barriers of Service Learning
Sarah Titus  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen

The Effect of the Actor-Observer Bias on Moral Decision Making
Jillian Burgess  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Dyck