Message from the Director

Greetings, Alumni, Donors, and Friends!

We’ve had a very exciting year in the Clinical Child Psychology Program. And, while many of you keep track of our current events through our Facebook page and website, we’ve decided to open an additional dialog with you to keep you better informed about your Program. This newsletter is intended to help us spotlight current events, share information among alumni, and highlight the work that our alumni do in their communities.

As many of you know, the Program was evaluated for re-accreditation this year—a process which included an extensive self-study, external site review, and evaluation by the APA’s Commission on Accreditation (CoA). The self-study process allowed me an opportunity to think about the many varied ways that our alumni are contributing to the field. You’re an impressive lot: Front-line clinicians providing services to children and families in need, policy makers and advisors who influence the distribution of attention and resources, researchers developing knowledge that will change people’s lives, instructors/supervisors that are shaping future generations of clinical child psychologists. The program faculty are proud of the work you do! Future issues of this newsletter will highlight some of the exciting ways that CCPP Graduates are leading our field! So be watching out for invitations for Alumni Spotlights.

Speaking of Accreditation—We were very pleased to learn this month that our application for re-accreditation was successful. The CoA announced that we received a full 7-years of accreditation. The Site Visit Team was extraordinarily complementary of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. In both their written and verbal comments the Team noted the strengths our current students, the impressive career trajectories of our graduates, and the dedication and success of our faculty. Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the self-study and in the site visit.

We’ve had significant growth in the Program this year. As highlighted throughout this issue, our Program faculty has grown with the addition of Drs. Christopher Cushing, Matt Mosconi, and Omar Gudiño. We were also enriched this fall by Dr. Anne Kazak’s visit to campus as the inaugural speaker for the Michael C. Roberts Colloquium Series in Clinical Child Psychology. Thanks to the many donors who brought this project to fruition.

Finally, please note that next year (2016) is the 25th Anniversary of our Program! In conjunction with the National Conference in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (a.k.a. “The Kansas Conference”), we will be hosting a reunion. Many of you are regular attendees of the Conference. We hope that all 83+ of our graduates can make it back to Lawrence next October to celebrate the Program’s many successes. Look for more information about specific dates and events in the coming weeks. Best Regards— Ric Steele
Faculty News

Welcome, Dr. Mosconi!

The CCPP is very proud that Dr. Matt Mosconi joined the faculty as an Associate Professor of Psychology and Applied Behavioral Science. His research focuses on sensorimotor issues and underlying brain mechanisms in individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). His lab uses multiple approaches to assess sensorimotor and brain functions, including eye movement tests, tests of manual motor and postural control, assessment of movement kinematics, electromyography (EMG) recording and functional MRI. These different methods will help to determine new behavioral and brain targets for treatment of developmental disabilities, and will establish early emerging biobehavioral markers associated with ASD. As a result, children with ASD will be identified earlier, and offered effective treatments at younger ages, when interventions appear to be most effective. More about Dr. Mosconi’s research is available at https://ccpp.ku.edu/matt-mosconi.

Dr. Omar Gudiño: Langston Hughes Visiting Professor

It has been a pleasure to have Dr. Omar Gudiño in the CCPP as the 2015-2016 Langston Hughes Visiting Professor. As an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Denver, Dr. Gudiño directs the Services for At-Risk Youth and Families Lab, which conducts research on patterns of risk and resilience in ethnic minority and immigrant youth exposed to trauma; ethnic/racial disparities in youth mental health services; and evidence-based assessment and treatment of maltreated youth. In addition to conducting research, Gudiño teaches undergraduate and graduate courses and provides training to the doctoral students in the Child Clinical Ph.D. program. He is a board-certified clinical child and adolescent psychologist (ABPP) and a licensed psychologist in Colorado and New York.

This semester, students were treated to have Dr. Gudiño teaching Diversity Issues in Clinical Psychology. Bridget O. Cho, a third year student in the CCPP, has found the course extremely informative and enjoyable. She says, “Dr. Gudiño brings his knowledge and experiences into the classroom in a way that makes concepts understandable and applicable to our work. I love that there is a strong emphasis on using diversity-related research to better the lives of the clients we serve and others in the community.” This semester, students are collaborating with the Kansas Adoption Permanency Project to develop diversity-related trainings for parents, youth, and case managers in the Kansas state foster system in order to help increase the stability and health of transracial foster placements.

The University also hosted Dr. Gudiño’s presentation “Understanding and Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Youth Mental Health Service Use” through the Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series in October. In this presentation, Dr. Gudiño presented an overview of research on unmet mental health needs. He also addressed special considerations for understanding service use by children and adolescents, research on disparities in youth access to services across multiple service systems, and he presented preliminary research on approaches aimed at reducing those disparities. Thank you, Dr. Gudiño, for your valuable contributions to the CCPP this semester!

Founded in 1991, the mission of the Clinical Child Psychology Program is to develop leaders in the research, dissemination, and practice of clinical science for children, youths, and their families.
Faculty News (continued)

Dr. Christopher Cushing: Assistant Professor

The Clinical Child Psychology Program was pleased to announce that Dr. Christopher Cushing joined the Program as a tenure track Assistant Professor. Dr. Cushing is a graduate of the CCPP, and previously held a faculty position at Oklahoma State University before coming to the KU CCPP as a Visiting Professor in August 2014. Dr. Cushing’s research lab has been very active since then and is off to a great start this semester, focusing particularly on recruitment for his Affect and Health Behavior study (more information about Dr. Cushing’s lab: [http://phil.drupal.ku.edu](http://phil.drupal.ku.edu)).

Dr. Cushing’s research generally focuses on understanding and improving pediatric health behavior through the use of digital technology. Dr. Cushing is active in the fields of pediatric and health psychology. He serves on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology and Health Psychology, as well as serving as Associate Editor for Journal of Child and Family Studies. Great to have you back in the program, Dr. Cushing!

Student Awards

We are happy to announce that the CCPP was awarded a 2016-2017 Chancellor’s Doctoral Fellowship (CDF), a very prestigious fellowship from the University. This fellowship will provide the program with a very competitive resource for continuing to attract high caliber prospective students.

Congratulations to Spencer Evans on two recent impressive achievements! Spencer was a recipient of the 2015 Elizabeth Munsterberg Koppitz Child Psychology Graduate Student Fellowship, a very prestigious fellowship through the American Psychological Foundation, to support graduate research projects and scholarships in child psychology. Spencer also received the Lillian Jacoby Baur Early Childhood Fellowship from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This fund facilitates graduate research in the areas of early childhood education, socialization, and therapy.

We congratulate Michelle Hendrickson on being awarded a University of Kansas Dissertation Fellowship! This fellowship allows her to work on her dissertation project (entitled Caregiver-Adolescent Emotion Socialization during Conversation about a Devastating Tornado) examining how caregivers respond to adolescents’ emotional expression during conversations about a traumatic event.

Speakers

In October, the CCPP hosted Dr. Anne Kazak as the inaugural speaker for the Michael C. Roberts Colloquium Series in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology.

Dr. Kazak is the Co-Director of the Center for Healthcare Delivery Science (CHDS) at the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children.

Dr. Kazak was chosen as the inaugural speaker for the Colloquium series because of the impact of her research, clinical work, and advocacy on the delivery of psychological services to children and families.

As part of her visit, Dr. Kazak met with students to discuss their professional development and roles within the field of psychology. She also met with faculty and research teams, and delivered a university-wide colloquium on healthcare delivery science.

The Colloquium series honors Michael Roberts’ many contributions to the field, and his role as Founder and Director of the KU Clinical Child Psychology Program.

For more information about the Colloquium Series Fund, please visit [www.ccpp.ku.edu/donate](http://www.ccpp.ku.edu/donate).
Faculty Awards

Congratulations to CCPP faculty member Paula Fite, Ph.D., a recipient of the 2015 Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. Dr. Fite was nominated by KU students Allora Richey and Casey Pederson for her consistent support, mentorship, and guidance in their research careers.

Dr. Fite was also recently awarded the 2015 Steeples Service to Kansans Award. This award was established in 1997 by Professor Don Steeples to honor his parents, Wally and Marie Steeples, and to recognize outstanding service by KU faculty to the people of Kansas. Dr. Fite received the award to recognize her work with the Kansas Strategic Prevention Framework to Reduce Underage Drinking and the Bridge Coalition for Eudora Schools, as well as for her development (with Anne Williford) of the Kansans Against Bullying project—a multi-component, evidence-based, service project intended to reduce the frequency and impact of bullying in Kansas schools and communities.

We congratulate Dr. Michael Roberts on his receipt of the Nicholas Hobbs Award given by the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (Division 37) of the American Psychological Association. This award is presented annually to a psychologist who exemplifies devotion to child advocacy/policy.

Dr. Roberts was also presented with the “Friend of APTC Award” from the Association of Psychology Training Clinics at the Annual Convention for the American Psychological Association in Toronto. The award recognizes Dr. Roberts for “dedication to fostering high standards in professional psychology doctoral training clinic through scholarship, editorial activities, and commitment to providing recognition of the role of clinic directors in promoting excellence in mentorship and public interest in education and training.”

Other Recognitions

♦ Congratulations to CCPP faculty member Yo Jackson, Ph.D. on her re-election as Member at Large for Membership and Public Interest of Division 53 (Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology)!

♦ The CCPP is very proud to announce that the American Psychological Association has conferred upon Dr. Paula Fite the distinction of Fellow of the Association in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the science and profession of Psychology! Congratulations, Paula, on this outstanding achievement!

Alumni, we need your help!!

We hope to include your news in our upcoming Spring 2016 Newsletter! Please send us your announcements regarding promotions, appointments, and achievements, as well as any personal and family announcements (e.g. births) that you would like listed in the newsletter. Also be sure to send us your suggestions for additional content. ccpp@ku.edu
Thank you for your support!

The CCPP has benefitted in many ways from the generous contributions of alumni and friends of the Program. These gifts have advanced our mission of developing leaders in the research, dissemination, and practice of clinical science for children, adolescents, and families by providing research funds, enhancing our instructional space, providing clinical opportunities, and bringing internationally renowned speakers to KU.

Michael C. Roberts Colloquium Series in Clinical Child Psychology Fund

The Michael C. Roberts Colloquium Series in Clinical Child Psychology Fund is an endowed fund that honors its name bearer’s contributions to the field as Founder and Director of the KU Clinical Child Psychology Program. The fund was established in 2012 with initial gifts from Dr. Sarah T. Trane and the Family of Dr. Michael C. Roberts. Donors to the fund include:

- Bridget Biggs*
- J. Dennis & Sheila (Pyle) Biggs
- Julianne & Brad Boydston
- Lisa Buckloh*
- Dennis & Connie Bullock
- John Colombo & Dale Walker
- Christopher* & Angela Cushing
- William & Mary Cushing
- Paula & Jeremy Fite
- Montserrat* & Justin Graves
- Linda Hurley & Tom O’Connell
- Yo Jackson
- David & Keri* Brown Kirschman
- Dawn Koontz*
- Kalani Makanui*
- Mara (Richards)* & Madison Mauze
- Tim Nelson* & Jennifer Mize Nelson*
- William Rae & Constance Fournier
- Camille Randall*
- J. Kent & Winona Roberts
- Carolyn & Steve Schroeder
- Ric & Carol Steele
- Ngan Vuong*
- C. Eugene Walker

Clinical Child Psychology Development Fund

The Clinical Child Psychology Development Fund provides resources for student research, graduate travel awards, instructional technologies, student recruitment, and clinical services for children and families.

Contributors to the CCPP Development Fund include:

- The Jackson Baur Family
- Bridget Biggs*
- J. Dennis & Sheila (Pyle) Biggs
- Joan Brown
- David and Keri* Brown Kirschman
- Lisa Buckloh*
- LaRisa Chambers
- John Colombo & Dale Walker
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- C. R. Snyder
- Ric & Carol Steele
- Aaron* & Julie* Stratman
- Kari & Michael Struemph
- Jason Van Allen*
- Enrique Varela*
- Eric & Dee Vernberg
- Ngan Vuong*
- Jared Warren*
- Kinnard Wright
- Yelena Wu*

*Program Graduates

For more information about supporting the Clinical Child Psychology Program, please visit our website www.ccpp.ku.edu/donate.
Faculty Developments

Dr. Yo Jackson was promoted to Full Professor. Congratulations on this wonderful achievement!

Dr. Jackson also accepted the appointment to Director of the Child and Family Services Clinic beginning Fall 2015. Past clinic director Dr. Eric Vernberg has stepped down after 21 years of service and the beginning of his sabbatical this semester. Thank you both for your service to the clinic and we wish you the best in this leadership role, Dr. Jackson!

During the Fall 2015 semester, Dr. Eric Vernberg was awarded a sabbatical leave to collaborate with colleagues at the University of Alabama on a series of projects designed to better understand the impact of traumatic stress on child psychosocial development. The work is unique in that it (SEE FACULTY DEVELOPMENTS, page 8)

Admissions

The CCPP welcomed four new students in Fall 2015:

Carolina Bejarano is from Miami, Florida. She graduated with a BS in Psychology, with a second major in Spanish, from Tulane University in 2013. At Tulane she worked in the research lab of Enrique Varela, Ph.D. and completed an honors’ thesis examining anxiety, emotion management, and coping style in Latino youth. After graduating, Carolina moved to Jacksonville, FL where she worked with a team led by Tim Wysocki, Ph.D. at Nemours Children’s Specialty Care. At Nemours, Carolina enjoyed coordinating a variety of pediatric psychology research projects, as well as projects in the contexts of primary care and child psychiatry. She currently works with Christopher Cushing, Ph.D. in the Pediatric Health Insight Team (PHIT). Generally, Carolina is interested in examining relationships between youth’s mental and physical health. She focuses on projects that consider adolescents’ motivation for health-related behaviors, such as diet, as well as how other psychosocial factors may influence habits and decisions related to physical health.

Kathleen I. Diaz is originally from Miami, Florida. She earned her BA in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2012. During her undergraduate career, she worked with Dr. Jonathan Abramowitz where she facilitated a study that examined how pathological doubts and worries about religious or moral issues relate to attention biases. After graduation, Kathleen returned to Florida and worked at the University of Miami with Drs. Annette La Greca, Jill Ehrenreich-May, and Kiara Timpano. At UM, she was the project coordinator of an NIMH-funded Intervention Development R34 Grant, and the research coordinator for the Child and Adolescent Mood and Anxiety Treatment program. Broadly speaking, Kathleen’s research interests focus on the role that family and peers play in the onset, maintenance, and treatment of internalizing disorders. Her goal is to examine how family and peer relationships influence mental health outcomes, in children and adolescents, in order to apply this learned knowledge to the development of preventive interventions.

Stephanie Gusler is from Martinsville, Virginia. She graduated with a BS in Psychology from Radford University, where she researched childhood poly-victimization and adult psychological distress. After completing her undergraduate degree, Stephanie attended Wake Forest University in North Carolina where she received her MA in Psychology. There she completed her Master's thesis exploring the role of young adolescents’ attributions in explaining the connection between authoritarian parenting and peer victimization. Stephanie is a part of Dr. Yo Jackson’s lab and is interested in researching various forms of childhood trauma/victimization and how attributions for traumatic events may impact interpersonal relationships, risk for revictimization, and the development of poor psychological adjustment.

Arwen Marker is originally from Columbus, Ohio. She attended Emory University, where she worked in the Spatial Cognition Lab investigating relationships between spatial perception and anxiety in undergraduates. She graduated from Emory with a BA in Psychology in 2012. After graduation, she worked at Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, LA for three years where she conducted research on physical activity and obesity interventions for children and adolescents. Broadly, she is interested in how pediatric health behaviors impact the development of poor psychosocial outcomes and psychopathology. She hopes to explore relationships between physical activity and emotional stability, and to test the effectiveness of incorporating physical activity into empirically supported treatments for childhood depression and anxiety.

We are glad to have you in the program!
We are proud to share news of two recent 2015-2016 internship placements of CCPP students. Laurie Gayes matched at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, with a specialty in pediatric psychology and Becca Kanine matched at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, in the Child-Community track. Congratulations on your success and we wish you the best this year!

Graduations
We extend our congratulations to our recent graduates:

December 2015

Kimberly Canter (The Role of Health Behaviors and Food Insecurity in Predicting Food Intake in Low-Income Children; Co-Chairs, Michael Roberts and Ann Davis)

August 2015

Angela Tunno (Assessing Foster Parent Factors that Predict Placement Disruption of Youth in Foster Care; Chair, Yo Jackson)

Cathy (Odar) Stough (Mealtime Behaviors Associated with Consumption of Unfamiliar Foods by Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Chair, Michael Roberts)

Joy Gabrielli (Relations among Maltreatment History, Substance Use, and Coping in Youth in Foster Care: Examination of Moderation Models; Chair, Yo Jackson)

December 2014

Lisette (Leni) Wilcox (Perspectives about Relocation and Loneliness in Residentially Mobile Adolescents; Chair, Eric Vernberg)

Sara (Beals) Erickson (Shifting Attitudes towards Seeking Help in a Youth Development Program: A Program Evaluation; Chair, Michael Roberts)

Marilyn Sampilo (Enhancing Interventions for Pediatric Obesity among Young Latino Children; Chair, Ric Steele)

August 2014

Erin Hambrick (Recalling a Devastating Tornado: Child and Mother-child Recollections, Meaning Making, and Child Traumatic Stress; Chair, Eric Vernberg)

Sonia (Schwartz) Rubens (Examination of the Role of Health Behaviors in the Relation between Neighborhood Disadvantage and Internalizing Symptoms among Latino Adolescents; Co-Chairs, Paula Fite and Eric Vernberg)

Allison Elledge (Weight-related Teasing and Body Dissatisfaction in Adolescents: Moderated-mediation by Self-perceived Size and Weight Status; Chair, Ric Steele)

Ed Morris (Exploring the Behavioral and Psychological Differences between Male and Female Youth with a History of Fire Involvement; Chair, Eric Vernberg)
A number of exciting projects are currently underway in Dr. Jackson’s research lab. **SPARK (Studying Pathways to Adjustment and Resilience in Kids)** is a federally funded research project which began about five years ago. This project is aimed at understanding factors that help children manage abuse, neglect, and other traumatic stressors. SPARK participants include youth in foster care, their caregivers, and their teachers. The Jackson lab has collected behavioral, academic, and physical health data on over 500 youth ages 8-22 and 302 youth at three time points. CCPP graduate student **Bridget Cho** is currently leading a team to code case files from SPARK, which will augment the data received from self-report.

Data from SPARK have been presented at numerous conferences, such as the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) meeting, and been published by several prominent journals including Journal of Pediatric Psychology, Children and Youth Services Review, Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Psychiatry and Human Development, the Journal of Aggression, and the Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment.

Within the larger SPARK project, CCPP graduate student **Lindsay Huffhines** is currently preparing her Task project, which examines the impact of maltreatment and coping on behavioral outcomes. Last summer, Lindsay presented a poster titled, “Maltreatment and Chronic Illness in Youth in Foster Care” at the 2015 APA conference in Toronto and presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) conference in November on the effect of placement type on coping strategies for youth in foster care.

The Jackson lab is also working on three program evaluations, which are at varying stages of completion. The fourth year of data collection is currently taking place at **The Children's Place** (TCP), a nonprofit agency that provides both day treatment and outpatient services for preschool-aged children who have experienced abuse and neglect. The program evaluation for this agency is focused on examining the effects of interventions on the children's social, emotional, and developmental functioning. Data have been collected from parents, teachers, and therapists on over 300 children, and students provide bi-annual presentations of findings to the agency and their partners. This data collection is being managed by CCPP graduate student, **Katie Stone**, who is also organizing the second phase of the research project.

A second program evaluation that the Jackson lab is working on is with the **Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association** (MFCAA), an advocacy center which provides a wide range of resources to youth exposed to abuse and neglect and their families. This program evaluation will examine the effects of this intervention on placement outcomes (e.g., reunification or adoption) as well as youth’s emotional and behavioral outcomes. Currently, this project is being managed and organized by graduate student **Shaquanna Brown**, who is working with Dr. Jackson to collect and organize existing data and partner with the agency to select measurement tools.

Most recently, the Jackson lab has begun designing a program evaluation for Spofford’s **Ready to Soar** program. **Ready to Soar** is a therapeutic preschool program that is designed for children with severe behavioral and mental health needs, many of whom have experienced traumatic events such as child abuse and neglect. The program provides treatment for children and their parents and is often the last resort in getting these children ready to enter a standard school setting. Graduate students **Stephanie Gusler**, **Lindsay Huffhines**, and **Katie Stone** are currently researching measurement tools which will give Spofford a full picture of the impact of their program on children, parents, and the entire family unit.

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENTS (cont. from page 6)**

allows a longitudinal investigation of the impact of a specific traumatic event (tornado exposure) on a sample of children with a known vulnerability (i.e., children already receiving psychological services for aggressive behavior) as compared to a sample of children with no known psychological difficulties. The project is also unique in its ability to consider pre-trauma social, environmental, and biological risk and protective factors as predictors of post-tornado outcome.
Highlighted Publication

John Cooley, a fourth year student in the program, recently published first author work with faculty member Dr. Paula Fite:


In a recent study, graduate student John Cooley and faculty member Paula Fite examined whether children’s ability to regulate their anger and sadness moderated the prospective relations between peer victimization and physical and relational forms of aggression over a 6-month interval. As anticipated, high levels of anger regulation attenuated the link between peer victimization and physical aggression. Contrary to expectations, however, high levels of anger and sadness regulation exacerbated the association between peer victimization and relational aggression. Thus, it appears that victimized youth who are better able to manage their emotional experiences may refrain from physically attacking or verbally threatening their peers and instead engage in more relational acts of aggression (e.g., rumor spreading, social ostracism) in order to obtain revenge and maintain and/or increase their social status. Based on these findings, John and Paula suggest that an important focus of interventions may be to address children’s positive evaluation of aggression and to equip them with more adaptive strategies for regulating discrete emotions in response to peer victimization (e.g., conflict resolution, advice seeking).

Join us October 14, 2016 for a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Clinical Child Psychology Program.

The anniversary event will be held in conjunction with the National Conference in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (a.k.a., the Kansas Conference), October 13-15, 2016. More information will be available in the coming weeks! Be on the lookout for program information on our website and Facebook page.

Newsletter Editorial team

Student Editor: Carolina Bejarano
Other contributors include: Ric Steele, Stephanie Gusler, Yo Jackson, Tammie Zordel, Bridget Cho, John Cooley

Keep up with the latest CCPP news online at

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