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Tysha Potter
Conni Sharp
Robert Sheverbush
Janet Smith
Donald Ward

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Important Dates**Summer**

June 4—Enrollment for Summer Session I

June 5—Summer Session I Classes Begin

July 2—Enrollment for Summer Session II

July 2—Summer Session II Classes Begin

July -7 Comprehensive Exams for M.S./Ed.S. Students

Fall

August 20—Enrollment for Fall Semester

August 20—Evening Classes Begin

August 21—Classwork Begins

Resurrection of the Psychgeist

David P. Hurford

This issue represents the inaugural issue of the resurrected *Psychgeist*. *Psychgeist*, the Department's newsletter, is our attempt to keep individuals aware of some of the many things that the faculty, students, and alumni of the Department are doing. We are particularly interested in helping students become involved in these varied activities, and to learn more about their chosen field.

The name *Psychgeist* comes from the German word *zeitgeist*, which means the spirit of the times (literally time ghost). *Zeitgeist* indicates what is going on in a field at a particular time and what the prevailing attitudes and knowledge bases are. The term *zeitgeist* can be seen throughout our history of psychology. Of course, psychology is strongly rooted in Germany. We consider the founding of psychology to have occurred in Leipzig, Germany in 1879 with Wilhelm Wundt's development of the first psychology laboratory. American psychology was very much influenced by the German tradition. We borrowed the essence of *zeitgeist* and created the name *Psychgeist* to represent the spirit of psychology and counseling that guides our work in the Department of Psychology and Counseling here at Pittsburg State University. The first issue of *Psychgeist* was published in 1986 and continued until 1989. It is time for it to be resurrected!

It is important to let people know, particularly

our students, about the accomplishments in our Department. Many times, students do not get to see all of what our Department does. There may even be students who think that all professors do is teach their classes and spend the rest of their time sitting in their offices preparing for class. The truth is that this Department teaches a lot of students, we produce some of the most credit hours on campus; we do quite a bit of research; and we have tremendous involvement in public service. Take a few minutes and examine our web site (<http://www.pittstate.edu/psych>). One of the pages of this site concerns the *Center for Human Services (CHS)*. Nearly every faculty member is associated with one or more of the centers of the *CHS*. We are having an impact on Southeast Kansas and will build our programs until we have a broader impact. Get involved. We have a place for you to be involved with some aspect of the *CHS*.

Our students are some of the best educated, motivated, and hardworking students on this or any other campus. The resurrection of the *Psychgeist* is to help **you** get and stay involved in our Department. Even as you complete your studies, we are interested in maintaining our relationship with you.

Lastly, I want to thank the faculty for sharing their interests with us and to my co-editor, Amanda Deal, for her efforts in bringing these interests to light.

Fireweaver: The Story of a Life, a Near-Death, & Beyond

Stephen Hoyer, along with a former student, May Eulitt, will soon be publishing a book entitled *Fireweaver: The Story of a Life, A Near-Death, and Beyond*. The book which centers on a near death experience that Ms. Eulitt had in 1971, will be used in Dr. Hoyer's Near-Death experiences workshop this summer. Rather than focusing on the details of the experience, as many books

on the subject do, this book will look more at putting near-death experience in the context of Ms. Eulitt's entire life, a life which has been quite fascinating.

From the standpoint of spiritual practices, religion, and paranormal experiences, Ms. Eulitt comes from a very unusual background. Going back several generations,

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the women in her family have practiced a form of practical magic that they refer to as the Talent. They have been referred to as witches, gypsies, seers, channelers, or fireweavers (individuals with a telekinetic ability to manipulate fire and other forms of energy). The book describes much of this family background and many of the unusual and mystical experiences that Ms. Eulitt had prior to her near-death experience, such as the time she saw her Great Grandmother use the Talent to summon up a tornado to punish an abusive husband, or the time that she, herself, was nearly killed by a delusional minister who believed she was a witch. After

tracing the family history up to the point of the near-death experience, the book then deals with Ms. Eulitt's struggles to come to terms with the experience in her own life. The main goal of the book is to discover the broader perspective; to find meaning in the near-death experience with regard to spiritual beliefs, religious practices, other paranormal experiences, and life in general.

The book will be published by Xlibris, an on-demand publishing firm associated with Random House, and will be available for purchase at their website, www.Xlibris.com, sometime before the workshop in June.



Dr. Conni Sharp recently launched a new web site (www.cinematherapy.cc) providing information concerning Cinematherapy as a counseling technique. Cinematherapy is a counseling intervention that is based on the principles of bibliotherapy and the technology of video. Therapists can use this form of media to provide clients with real-life situations

Cinematherapy

that they can identify with or provide insight into resolving conflicts and problems within their lives. According to Dr. Sharp, cinematherapy can be conducted around having the client discuss similarities and possible utilization of successful solutions or resolutions to difficulties that were presented in the film.

Conni's top picks for Cinematherapy include: *Defending Your Life*, *Don Juan DeMarco*, *Ordinary People*, *Mother*, *The Lion King*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *the Grand Canyon*. For more information on these titles and Cinematherapy be sure to check out Dr. Sharp's web site.

Multicultural Mentorship Program

Mentoring is a nurturing process. The College of Education Multicultural Committee at Pittsburg State University recently created the Multicultural Mentorship Program for the purpose of nurturing minority students who are interested in or have enrolled in the teacher education program. Students involved in the program are voluntary participants, some offering their time to mentor, with others expressing a desire to be mentored. Peer mentors are granted one credit hour for their participation, and are paired with their protege based on similar backgrounds, interests, and goals. Ideally, the mentor will guide, encourage, counsel and befriend the protege as needed to help them achieve their goals. The program also offers Faculty and Community mentors who have

volunteered their time and energy should the protege express the need. The Program was developed due to the shortage of minority teachers in American schools today, and a belief that nurturing minority students will create an environment of acceptance and opportunity, and an attitude of confidence and perseverance. We want our minority students to succeed in their coursework, graduate, and find meaning in their work as teachers. If you are interested in more information on the program, contact Tysha Potter at tpotter@pittstate.edu.



New Sexual Assault Response Team Formed at PSU

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is composed of a group of students who are trained to take calls 24/7 from victims of sexual assault, or those who might have questions regarding sexual abuse. The SART will not provide counseling, but will provide information that can help victims make informed decisions about what they would like to do (e.g., find a safe place, go to the hospital or not, call the police or not, seek counseling, seek disciplinary action on campus, etc.). There are a wide variety of options and lots of decisions that need to be made, and often its difficult immediately following an assault, so we are very excited about the 24/7 available service that Alltel is provid-

SART is composed of a group of students who are trained to take calls 24/7 from victims of sexual assault

ing us with four digital phones free of charge.

Rachel Frazier is currently the SART coordinator and serves as a liaison between victims of rape and our university. Rachel's role is educational (she speaks before various groups letting them know of our services) and she provides information to victims of sexual assault concerning available resources for them and about their options. Our goal is to provide a safety net for victims and to let them know there are many options available to them in their recovery process. Students interested in serving on SART can contact Julie Allison at 235-4529 or Rachel Frazier at 235-6067. There is an application process and all SART members must have a criminal background check.

Second University Professor Chosen in the Department of

Beginning in 1999-2000, Pittsburg State added the designation of *University Professor* to recognize continuing faculty accomplishments since promotion to the rank of Professor and overall excellence in performance over the professional career. Those nominated must complete and submit a dossier for review by a peer committee, by the deans, and by the vice-president and president. The dossier must show significant contributions to Pittsburg State University and/or to the professional field in at least two of three promotion categories: teaching, research/scholarly activity, and service. The appointment as University Professor lasts for five years.

We are very pleased that the history of outstanding performance by the Department of Psychology and Counseling has again been validated in the selection of University Professors. Dr. Donald E. Ward was selected as one of the six University Professors chosen in the first year of the designation, 1999-2000, and Dr. Robert L. Sheverbush was selected as one of the new University Professors this year. Of the 11 active University Professors selected in the first two years, the Department of Psychology and Counseling is the only department to have two faculty members who have earned this distinguished title. Although it is difficult to summarize a career of professional achievement briefly, several highlights are described below. Both Dr. Ward and Dr. Sheverbush joined the department in 1976 and are completing their 25th years of service to the Department and University.



Dr. Ward's significant accomplishments include developing, coordinating, and teaching in the CACREP-accredited mas-

ter's degree in community counseling program, and serving as the department CACREP liaison, Chair of the Counseling Committee, and Coordinator of the Community Counseling program. Don also has over 80 professional publications in national refereed journals, including often cited training standards for group work, and he was recognized as among the 5% of authors most published in the flagship journal of the American Counseling Association, the *Journal of Counseling and Development*, over the 15-year period from 1978-1993. He has served as chair of a number of national committees of professional organizations, and is a Fellow of the Association for Specialists in Group Work. He is currently the Associate Editor of the *Journal for Specialists in Group Work* and will begin a three-year appointment as journal editor in July of this year. He has also served on the Board of the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) for over six years and is in his fourth year as Vice-Chair of the CACREP Board, which makes accreditation decisions for counseling programs worldwide.



Dr. Sheverbush's accomplishments include having served as department chair for over a decade, during which his vision and innovation helped to move the Department to the forefront of quality academic departments in the University. Since moving out of the administrative role, Bob has directed his great energy and enthusiasm to building a quality family counseling and therapy component in the Department and to helping the Department, the college of education, and PSU to

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M.S. in Community Counseling

The master's degree program in community counseling continues to play a vital role in the Department in meeting student needs. Approximately 10 to 12 students complete the program each year. A major positive change during the last year is the implementation of the new Kansas Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) designation, toward which graduates are eligible to work. Because the program is accredited, students may take the National Counselor Exam (NCE) during the last semester of enrollment and apply for the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) designation immediately upon graduation. This then allows them to gain employment in Mental Health Centers in Kansas and to perform professional duties that involve the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders, and employers can be reimbursed for their services while the graduates gain the supervised experience necessary to be eligible for the LCPC. The LCPC then allows independent practice within the limits of the individual's training and experience. This is a major breakthrough in employment opportunities long awaited by faculty and program alumni.

The community counseling program is now in its second seven-year accreditation cycle by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). A major written program self study will be completed and submitted by June of 2002 in order to achieve a third cycle of accreditation from 2003-2011. We will also host a CACREP team site visit during the Fall of 2002. We will be calling on some of our graduates to help us complete tasks required for the self-study and to be available to talk to the site visitors when they are on campus. We are always interested in feedback from our graduates concerning program offerings and quality as well as concerning changing trends and opportunities in the field. Please contact any of us or Don Ward (620-235-4530; email dward@pittstate.edu) if you wish to share information or if you have questions. We would also like to hear about your achievements and where you are working as you move ahead in your professional career.

PSI CHI/SPA Officer Elections

On Wednesday, March 28th Psi Chi, the professional fraternity for Psychology, and SPA, Student Psychological Association, members casted their votes for the 2001-2002 school year. The annual Psi Chi/SPA Banquet was held on April 3rd to induct the new officers and members. The newly elected officers are listed below.

President: Josh Pemberton Vice President: Kristen McLean
 Secretary: Sara Hawthorne Treasurer: Liz Nicholson
 Psi Chi Newsletter Editor: Bill Jones
Congratulations!!!

Methodological Advance in the Neuro-Sciences

The functional MRI (fMRI) is a new technique used for brain mapping. With this new technology locations in the brain can be pin-pointed and their specific functions can be determined. The fMRI is a combination of the position emission tomography (PET scan) and the MRI. The fMRI measures the level of oxygen in the blood vessels in the brain which allows scientists to locate different areas in the brain that are the most active in persons with a certain diagnosis, such as ADHD, impulse disorders, and conduct disorders. Through various techniques that are now being developed it is believed that we will soon be able to "train" these overactive brain areas in order to overcome disorders like ADHD or impulse disorders.

Neurogenesis: New Brain Cells Can Be Produced in Adulthood

In Scientific American's May 1999 article a very exciting discovery concerning brain functioning was reported. In the subtitle of the article the author's state, "Contrary to dogma, the human brain does produce new nerve cells in Adulthood." In the hippocampus, stem cells have been located and these stem cells have been demonstrated to produce new granule neurons. Some



of you might have read about the use of stem cells produced from embryonic cells and used to reverse some early childhood abnormalities. These stems cells were chemically marked and their development was traced in the hippocampus of terminal cancer patients. This chemical marker, BrdU, was used to trace the onset

of new cancer cells in these patients, and "these patients donated their brains to this cause and we owe this proof of adult human neurogenesis to their generosity (pg. 50)." The authors of this article state that the medical applications of this new finding are very exciting.

Visit our Web Site



Sexual Offender Research Continues

For the past few years, Psychology professors, Dr. Jan Smith and Dr. Julie Allison, have been working in conjunction with a mental health center in Kansas City investigating the efficacy of treatment with sexual offenders. Each semester they take a group of students to do chart reviews in order to assess key factors related to treatment. The data they collect is used to help understand the behavior of sex offenders.

Currently, Dr. Smith and Dr. Allison have submitted a manuscript on one aspect of their research and have given two presentations on the subject. Treatment must be completed prior to being able to evaluate how effective it has been, consequently this is an ongoing research project within the department.

To date, they have completed data analysis on empathy levels in sexual offenders, and found that sexual offenders are deficient in empathy for their own victims, but not for other victims. It is speculated that this lack of empathy may be related to cognitive distortions about their behavior with their own victims, and this is their next area of investigation.

Summer Workshops

This summer a wide variety of workshops have been added to the schedule to meet students' interests. Whether you need to pick up hours for your major or minor this is a great opportunity to explore topics that are not generally taught during the spring and fall semesters. Some of the workshops the Psychology and Counseling Department are offering are listed below. Talk to your advisor to see if any of these courses will meet your academic needs or feel free to take a workshop to further your knowledge!

Living With Dying
Dancing Into Recovery
Psychology in the Courtroom
Religious Issues in Therapy
Near-Death Experiences
Working w/ Children of Poverty
Understanding Treatment of the Sex Offenders
Stress Reduction, Health & Wellness
Psychology of Political Motivation
Dream Analysis
Conflict Resolution
Adulthood & Aging
Rape & Sexual Offenders
Counseling Gays & Lesbians
Communication: Love Languages
Personnel Psychology
Midchild & Adolescence
ADHD: Awareness/Interventions in the Schools
Prenatal/Neonatal/Early Childhood

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move ahead in efforts to enhance multicultural training for all students. The Family Counseling Training Clinic, currently located in the basement of Hughes Hall, has been designed and built primarily through Bob's efforts, and master's and educational specialist students are provided with an excellent opportunity to develop their skills in marriage and family counseling. In addition, Dr. Sheverbush, who coordinates the family counseling courses and directs the Family Counseling Training Clinic, has acquired grants to build a Truancy Diversion program, in which graduate students under supervision work with students and their families who have serious truancy problems in Southeast Kansas public schools and are given a choice by the court to engage in counseling. The program has gained significant interest and recognition at the state and national levels, and Bob has received well-deserved awards for his work in this area and the service it provides to the public.

Psychology & Counseling Banquet

The Seventeenth Annual Psychology and Counseling Department Banquet was held Sunday, April 8th at the Cove in Mulberry, Kansas. The evening began with social time and included the presentation of various awards and scholarships. The recipients are listed below.

Outstanding Students for 2000-2001

Undergraduate

Amanda Deal-Scholarship
Stacy Magill-Scholarship
Jennifer Heckadon-Service
Robyn Chaney-Research

Graduate

Leisa Harnar-Scholarship
Anitha Janaprasad-Scholarship
Rachel Frazier-Service
Christine Perez-Service
Linda Lloyd-Teaching
Sheryl Smith-Research

Scholarship Recipients 2001-2002

George Wells Memorial Scholarship
Jeremy Austin & Brian Keegan
Howard L. Siple Scholarship
Elizabeth Cochran, Heather Henderson, Jessica Jagels,
Jeanette Mott, & Elizabeth Nicholson
Ronda Tidd Memorial Scholarship in Family Therapy
Tessie Horning & RohiniKamakoti
H.P. Rumford Psychology Scholarship
Linda Lloyd
George W. & Aileene J. Blincoc Scholarship
Rachal Bouray