

Mississippi State University
College of Education
Department of Counseling & Educational Psychology
Spring 2011 Newsletter

PROPOSAL(S) & RESEARCH:

In November 2010, groups of faculty submitted a grant proposal entitled, "**The human-animal bond: An interdisciplinary research grant proposal.**" This effort was a cross-campus interdisciplinary effort and its initial work of brain-storming ideas and actual grant writing was funded by Mississippi State University (MSU)'s Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) for the purpose of holding the initial brown-bag lunch meeting of the group of faculty involved. This grant will provide two years of renewable funding to facilitate collaborative research between the Counseling and Educational Psychology (CEP) and the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) to examine the importance of the human-animal bond across the developmental lifespan, as well as the benefits of animal-assisted therapy for both humans and animals. **Dr. Rebecca Goldberg** was instrumental in requesting the funds from ORED to hold the cross-campus brain-storming sessions to produce grant proposals. In addition, this effort is enabling Dr. Goldberg to earn her Certification in Grief Counseling (GC-C) from the American Academy of Grief Counseling (AAGC). Upon earning her GC-C, Dr. Goldberg will pursue a Pet-Loss Grief Recovery Specialist Certification, also from AAGC. She plans to use these certifications to better assist clients, as well as foster research about grief and the human-animal bond, and the benefits of animal-assisted therapy.

In December 2010, **Drs. Goldberg** and **Reisener** (Co-PIs) submitted a grant proposal to NIH with **Dr. Regina Brotherton** of the College of Veterinary Medicine entitled, "**The positive contributions of human animal interactions on the quality of life in children who live in rural Mississippi.**" This is a multidisciplinary research proposal, involving professional issues surrounding human development, education, counseling, school psychology, and veterinary medicine. The project is designed to: (1) investigate the impact that child and family pet interactions have on children's social interactions and emotional maturity; and (2) determine the impact that child and family pet interactions have on physical activity of both children and pets. Successful completion of the proposed study will facilitate understanding of the role that the human-animal connection plays in development for children in rural Mississippi where access to medical and mental health professionals are limited due to the rural aspects of the state. Drs. Brotherton, Goldberg, and Reisener are actively working on manuscripts for professional, peer-reviewed journals in veterinary medicine and mental health. They are addressing such issues as physical and socio-emotional benefits that arise from human animal interactions, and how relationships with companion animals change as individuals change across the developmental lifespan.

Nikole Roberts conducted a research project which focused on the Cognitive Development of Albright's Hereditary Osteodystrophy (AHO) children. AHO is a rare genetic condition involving primarily the endocrine system. AHO has the implication of multiple hormonal resistances, growth retardation, obesity, breathing difficulties, seizures, and possible cognitive impairments. Currently little research regarding cognitive development is being conducted involving a population of individuals affected by AHO. Nikole is currently working with who she deems to be the one and only researcher of AHO at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. Nikole is studying the effects of early intervention and the cognitive development in AHO children. She surveyed families there to collect the data needed for her research, with the hopes of continued discovery into AHO. The inspiration for Nikole's research originated from the diagnosis of her child with AHO. On December 28, 2010, Nikole, her husband Brian, and her daughter Clara Kate appeared on ABC's *Nightline* with the hopes of educating the public about the syndrome and to discuss Clara Kate and the incredible progress she had made to a better quality of life.

- With respect to scholarly publications during the academic year 2009 to 2010, the faculty (as of today) has published 29 peer reviewed articles, monographs, and book chapters.

AWARDS

There were numerous accomplishments by the faculty of the department, just to name a few: **Dr. Tony Doggett and students** received the 2011 Ron Edwards Dissertation Award from the Behavioral School Psychology Interest Group of the National Association of School Psychologists. Dr. Doggett Served as the Dissertation Director.

Journal Articles:

Received 3rd Place:

- Kazmerski, J.S. (2009). Evaluation of the convergent validity of the functional assessment informant record for parent – checklist with other functional behavior assessment measures with referred children in a clinic-based setting.
- Beveridge, S., & Doggett, R.A. (2010). Using PBIS strategies to improve hallway behavior in an elementary school. Third Annual College of Education Faculty/Student Research Forum. Mississippi State, MS.

Received 1st Place:

- Roberts, R., & Doggett, R.A. (2010). Measuring the effects of consultation methods in the school setting. Third Annual College of Education Faculty/Student Research Forum. Mississippi State, MS.

Dr. April Heiselt: The Foundation for the Mid-South \$50,000 *Do-Gooder Award*. This award was created to generate enthusiasm around the good deeds of nonprofit agencies and individuals in the Mid South—Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The Foundation received over 600 nominations when the campaign was announced. The nomination pool was then narrowed to 18

finalists from the three states. The winners each received \$50,000 to be given to the non-profit of their choice -- to help further their work to improve lives.

Clyde Muse Service Award for the College of Education. Mississippi State University.

President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award.

Co-wrote bid that garnered the 2009 "honor roll" distinction for Mississippi State University. Corporation for National and Community Service.

Drs. Anastasia Elder and April Heiselt:

Richard C. Adkerson State Pride Faculty Award honors faculty who contribute to the tri-fold mission of Mississippi State University (MSU).

Dr. Julia Porter:

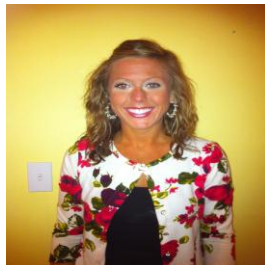
Meritorious Service Award (2010) from the American College Counseling Association (ACCA), a sub-division of American Counseling Association (ACA).

Drs. David and Linda Morse:

The Walter Mathews Historical Contributions Award for 2010 of the Mid-South Educational Research Association.

Jeri Lynn Rushing, a masters' level graduate student in school counseling at Mississippi State University, was recently nominated as the 2010 – 2011 Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA) Emerging Leader. For the past twenty years, the president of MCA has selected two counselors in the state of Mississippi per year to serve in this capacity. Mrs. Rushing is the first masters' level student to receive this prestigious award. As an emerging leader, she will be expected to serve as a leader in the MCA and will be recognized at the American Counseling Association conference this year which will be held in New Orleans.

This insert appeared in Starkville Daily News and it was composed by **Chaiqua Harris**, Ed.S., NCC; a doctoral student at MSU and graduate assistant in the Department of Counseling Education and Educational Psychology.



Congratulations to **Shane Warren**, EPY graduate student. He won 3rd place for the graduate student poster competition at the College of Education's Fourth Annual Faculty/Student Research Forum. His poster was titled: "Inflated Expectations: An Empirical Study on College Students' Academic Entitlement Beliefs." In April, he presented this work in a paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association meeting in New Orleans.

SERVICE(S):

Since November 2009, Dr. Goldberg has been the Clinic Director for the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Grief Counseling and Client Support Services, acting as practicum/internship site host and clinical supervisor for seven masters and doctoral counseling students from the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology. Dr. Goldberg has provided pro-bono grief counseling and support services for hundreds of clients who have companion animals that are patients at CVM; these clients are usually coping with beloved family pets that have illnesses or those that have passed away. This clinic is, in part, funded by a research grant submitted by Dr. Goldberg to the Association for Creativity in Counseling, a subdivision of the American Counseling Association, entitled, "Pet loss and grief counseling" which was funded in March 2010. In addition, Dr. Goldberg provides counseling services and conflict resolution/mediation for the CVM students, she speaks about grief counseling and the human-animal bond at junior veterinary students' clinic orientations, and she also lectures about the human-animal bond and pet loss for advanced veterinary students enrolled in oncology electives. CEP students, who are looking to gain clinical experience with crisis intervention and management, client support, and grief counseling with individuals, couples, and families, as well as animal-assisted therapy, should contact Dr. Rebecca M. Goldberg at RGoldberg@colled.msstate.edu or 662-325-7925 for further information.



Graduate Counseling Students



Dr. Goldberg meeting w/ clients



Dr. Goldberg & Charles Wheeler

MEDIA HIGHLIGHT(S):

Dr. Rebecca M. Goldberg was interviewed for the article, "What happens when mean girls grow up?" written by Laura Sessions Stepp and published in The Washington Post on Sunday, February 20, 2011. Dr. Goldberg's research about relational aggression among females was highlighted. In addition, the article was also published in the February 20, 2011 Education Review edition of The Washington Post Magazine on pages 24-30. You can view the article at the following website: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/11/AR2011021104947.html?hpid=artslot&sid=ST2011021604365>

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS: With the Spring 2011 semester over, we can reflect back on the work that faculty, students and staff have done always striving for excellence and enhancing the quality of the work that we all do at CEP and MSU. We have overcome challenges and achieved much success at the same time; faculty and students have attended in-state and out-of-state conferences to enrich their knowledge and our students are on their way to another exiting Summer and Fall semesters of 2011. A new wave of enthusiastic students has been accepted to our programs at different levels and we are looking forward to this new addition to our MSU-CEP Bulldog family.

- The faculty of the School Psychology program and the Counseling program has made curricula changes for the improvement of the programs and the requirements of their respective accreditation bodies. Thanks for the hard work!

Psychodrama and Sociometry Conference: There was a joint training seminar/conference between our department CEP and the Mid-South Center for Psychodrama and Sociometry held on April 15 and 16, 2011 (9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.). The seminar/conference was held in the Colvard Union Dawghouse and CEU's were available. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the conference.

The course entitled "**Emerging Issues: Working with Veterans, Military personnel and their Families**" (COE4990/6990), will be offered again this coming Fall Semester, 2011. This course is designed to provide skills training to students, professionals, veterans, military personnel and their family members, and other interested individuals in developing skills and knowledge to work with veterans and current military members (especially returning Operation Iraqi Freedom OIF) / Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) veterans), their family members, friends, and supporters. The Department is also offering two new courses entitled: **Introduction to Sign Language (COE 4353)**, and **Developing Community Leadership and Engagement Skills (COE 4999)** for this coming Fall Semester, 2011. Hurry up!! And take advantage of this opportunity to take any of these new Fall 2011 courses that are very popular based on community and society demands.

About the CEP Newsletter: This quarterly Newsletter is primarily an internal publication which aims to inform and help faculty, staff and students to feel connected to the MSU, College of Education, Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology. It tries to keep us all informed about activities, new developments, to provide practical information, as well as to interest and inspire everyone with what people are doing at all levels across our department and the community at large. This CEP Newsletter is produced by our internal administrative office at MSU, COE-CEP. For more information contact **Dr. Daniel W. Wong, Department Head & Professor at: d Wong@colled.msstate.edu**