

The CEP Pulse

College of Education and Psychology Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- *Dr. Geiger has recently been promoted to Vice Provost for Academic Affairs*
- *Dr. Sherman will serve as Interim Dean for the coming year.*

Dr. Geiger's Farewell

It is a pleasure to share with you the first newsletter from the College of Education and Psychology at The University of Texas at Tyler. The purpose of our newsletter, which will be distributed three times per year, is to share recent happenings in the college, accomplishments of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

In this inaugural publication, I think it is appropriate to call attention to the vision and mission which reflect the values of

the faculty and staff and guide the initiatives of the college.

Vision

The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of academic excellence, scholarly inquiry, and public service. The college prepares leaders to meet the critical challenges of the 21st Century, to make significant contributions to local and global communities, and to work toward individual and

cultural equity.

Mission

The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contributes to knowledge through scholarly inquiry; organizes knowledge for application,

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William Geiger, Ed.D.

Dr. Sherman's Welcome



Dr. Ross Sherman

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to welcome you to the inaugural edition of *The CEP Pulse*: the College of Education and Psychology's newsletter. Just as a pulse represents the life flow of blood through a human, organizations too have a pulse.

Our pulse as a college starts with the faculty who are committed to providing exemplary teaching to their students, to expanding the knowledge base in their respective fields

through research and to improving our profession and community through service.

Our pulse continues with our students both former and current who add vitality and value to the university and to their respective professions through their service and commitment.

Finally, we want to bid a fond adieu to **Dr. William Geiger** and thank him for being the pulse of the College of Education and

Psychology for the past nine years. Under his leadership many exciting and innovative initiatives were achieved including receiving national accreditation for our School of Education's teacher education program, establishing the UT Tyler Innovation Academy and providing the first mental health community training clinic for psychology.

What an incredible time to be an educator!

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The CEP Pulse—New Programs and People



Dr. Kouider Mokhtari

New Online M.Ed. degree in Education in Reading

The literacy education faculty in the School of Education at The University of Texas at Tyler announces the availability of a new 30-hour master's degree in reading for practicing teachers.

The program is designed to support classroom teachers who wish to enhance their instructional practices and improve student literacy achievement outcomes.

The program incorporates new and emerging literacy research discoveries as well as national and state standards for the preparation of reading professionals, including classroom reading teachers, reading specialists, and literacy leaders.

Candidates who successfully complete the program are eligible for the Texas Reading Specialist and the Master Reading Teacher Certification in reading in K-12 settings.

Candidates admitted to the program will have an opportunity to (a) learn about new and emerging media technologies and how they can be used to promote students' literacy and content learning across the disciplines, (b) use assessment data to inform classroom literacy instruction, (c) address literacy problems and issues within their schools and communities, and (c) design of literacy curriculum and instruction that advances learning for all students,

including English learners.

We expect to admit a cohort of 15-20 practicing teachers per year, with the first cohort to start fall 2013.

For questions or information regarding admission to the new online reading program, contact **Mr. Michael Giordano**, Coordinator of Graduate programs via email mgiordano@uttyler.edu or phone (903) 566-7087.

For additional information about the program, contact **Dr. Kouider Mokhtari**, Program Coordinator via email kmokhtari@uttyler.edu or phone (903) 566-7177.



*Dr. Colleen Swain
Director,
School of Education*

School of Education Welcomes New Director

The School of Education welcomed a new Director to the university this summer. **Dr. Colleen Swain** joins The University of Texas at Tyler from the University of Florida where she was on faculty for the past fifteen years. She brings to the School of

Education a new perspective in teaching and learning, online education, and research and grants. "I am honored to be serving with the School of Education faculty, staff, and students as we work to advance the programs in the School of Education to reach

new levels of excellence and improve the teaching and learning experiences of teachers and students in the East Texas area."



Dr. Wes Hickey

The Opening of the Innovation Academy

The University of Texas at Tyler opened a university-based charter school this fall. Known as the Innovation Academy, the school will open with grades 3-6 and provide a project-based learning (PBL) instructional model based upon the STEM framework. The PBL is supplemented by online learning through educational software. All engagement methods

are supplemented with iPads, so students are able to complete both projects and online assignments with this technology.

The Innovation Academy opened campuses in Tyler, Longview, and Palestine with **Mr. Eli Crow** as superintendent. The summer preparation helped create an efficient start to school, and students

started assignments immediately on day one with each campus at capacity. Future plans include adding a grade each year until the school serves 3-12, and addressing facility needs to accommodate larger numbers of students.

The CEP Pulse—School of Education

School of Education Notes

- **Dr. Kouider Mokhtari**, Professor and Anderson-Vukelja-Wright Endowed Chair in the School of Education, recently co-authored *Preparing Every Teacher to Reach English Language Learners: A Practical Guide for Teacher Educators* (2012), Harvard Education Press. More information is available at: <http://www.hepg.org/hepg/book/158/PreparingEveryTeacherToReachEnglishLearners>
- Our Teachers of Mathematics Collaborative (**Dr. John Lamb**, **Dr. Nathan Smith** in mathematics, and **Mrs. Cindy Sherman**) have received additional funding for their professional development work with K-12 mathematics teachers. Congratulations TMC faculty!
- **Dr. Julie Delello** has been doing exciting research with Pinterest in her classes. She's been contacted by other researchers around the state and nation about her work. This work provided the foundation for her to receive a Teaching Excellence and Innovation mini-grant from UT Tyler. This grant was a combined effort with **Dr. Rochell McWhorter** from HRD. The grant was provided by the Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on Technological Innovation.
- **Dr. Frank Dykes** and **Dr. Jessi Rueter** are serving on the Lead Team for the 2013 Council for Exceptional Children International Conference and Expo to be held in San Antonio on April 3-6, 2013. Volunteer opportunities are available for the conference in a variety of areas and receive a 40% discount

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“Our students are making a difference in student learning!”

School of Education Projects

- Our special education students and faculty members have been tutoring students with learning disabilities. Through these experiences, our UT Tyler students are learning more about dyslexia and various other learning issues students have. These experiences have taken place on The University of Texas at Tyler campus as well as at the Salvation Army, local schools, and other locations. If you are interested in learning more about these tutoring experiences, please ask our students or **Dr. Frank Dykes**, **Mrs. Priscilla Gilpin**, or **Ms. Berni Hansen**.
- In a related note, our reading students and faculty, **Dr. Kouider Mokhtari** and **Dr. Joanna Neel**, are working with students at Caldwell Elementary in the Tyler Independent School District to improve their literacy proficiency. This is an exciting new mutually beneficial partnership that better prepares our students in the teaching of struggling readers and helps Caldwell students with their literacy skills.
- Our UTeach students ran a very successful Project Based Learning activity entitled *Saturday Field Activities* with middle school students this past academic year. This opportunity allowed middle school students to learn more about math and science concepts while UTeach students refined their skills in designing project-based learning environments for students.
- The School of Education is committed to integrating technology into the teaching and learning process. As part of this goal, we have purchased 25 iPads that will be used in classes and also available for check-out for educational projects. Faculty and students will be exploring ways to use iPads to enhance student learning this upcoming academic year.



Dr. Joanna Neel

The CEP Pulse—Educational Leadership and Policies



Dr. Ross Sherman

ELPS - The Times, They Are A-Changin'

Since receiving approval in 1984 from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to begin issuing principal and superintendent certifications, UT Tyler has prepared hundreds of educators for key educational leadership positions throughout Texas.

The UT Tyler Educational Leadership program has evolved over the past 25 years from a 45 hour Mid-management to a 36 hour Standard Principal program. Fall 2009 marked an important evolution in this transition as the program moved to a 30 hour online Masters program and a 22 hour online Principal Certification.

Currently hundreds of students from throughout Texas are enrolled and pursuing their Educa-

tional Leadership training through UT Tyler's online Educational Leadership programs. Students represent urban, suburban and rural districts, as well as all parts of the state geographically.

Online or asynchronous learning is designed for the busy professional because it allows students to work from a location and at a time that is convenient to them. However, it is no less rigorous than the traditional face-to-face classes. Our goal is to create online Professional Learning Communities where students are fully engaged.

This continues the proud tradition of UT Tyler graduates serving as educational leaders throughout Texas and adding value to the

Texas educational system and the university.

For additional information about the program, contact Dr. Ross Sherman via email: rsherman@uttyler.edu or by phone: 903.566.7218.

Educational Leadership Going Global

The University of Texas at Tyler made a commitment to international relationships with the development of GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment) and GATE (Global Awareness Through Education). These initiatives are designed to provide experiences for personal and professional growth through an "appreciation of diversity and the global nature of the new millennium" (UT Tyler Mission Statement). Developing international relationships that can enhance teaching and research is an important component to this mission.

Drs. Peggy Gill and **Wes Hickey**, faculty in the Department of Educational Leadership, have created strong relationships with

principals in southern Belize through ongoing educational workshops and research in a collaborative effort with the humanitarian group *Teachers for a Better Belize*. Drs. Gill and Hickey have worked with the Toledo District Ministry of Education to provide professional development opportunities for campus leaders of these mainly rural schools within the rain forest of this region.

The experiences have been beneficial in building partnerships that positively impact everyone involved. The Toledo district has received important support for campus improvement, and UT Tyler students get the benefit of information obtained through international relationships. Drs. Gill and Hickey have published

several peer-review articles on the schools in the region, and the partnerships that have been developed are evident when in 2011 10 UT Tyler students spent a week working in schools and experiencing the local culture. The relationships have been mutually beneficial and have provided meaningful support for the university's mission.



Dr. Peggy Gill

The CEP Pulse—Psychology and Counseling

Department of Psychology and Counseling: Past and Present

The Past:

The Department of Psychology and Counseling, one of the original academic units at The University of Texas at Tyler, has graduated more than 360 students with Bachelors' degrees and more than 130 with Masters degrees during the past five years.

The Present:

The department currently offers two undergraduate degrees, a B.S. and B.A. in Psychology, and three graduate degrees, a M.S. in Clinical Psychology (specializations in General, Neuropsychology and School Psychology), a M.A. in Counseling Psychology (General or Couple & Family Therapy), and a M.A. in School Counseling, which is now entirely online. Currently we have more than 300 undergraduate majors and more than 300 graduate majors, which is substantial growth that we expect to continue. Our Master's graduates have attained a 100% PASS rate on both the Texas LPC

Licensure Exam and the Texas School Counselor exam for several years. Since 2007, we have grown to include 14 full-time faculty, representing a broad and diverse scope of expertise and interest from basic psychological science to applied psychology to clinical and counseling psychology and school counseling.

Teaching

The primary responsibility of our faculty members is to provide challenging and supportive learning environments for students at all levels and from all backgrounds. Our faculty are committed to the highest standards and best practices in teaching. Five of our faculty have received teaching awards in the past 8 years, including two recipients of the university White Teaching Award.

Research

Research in Psychology and Counseling is a second focus for our faculty, yet is also an expansion of

teaching as we routinely involve undergraduate and graduate students in faculty research projects and grants. In the past two years faculty members, often with student co-authors, have published more than 50 research articles, conference papers and book chapters. Several students have also been able to travel to present their research to national and international professional conferences. We presently maintain five department research labs: The Psychotic Disorders Research Lab, the Social Emotions and Motivation Research Lab, the Clinical Psychophysiology Research Lab, the Investigative Interviewing Research Lab, and the Neuropsychology Memory Lab and Clinic. We also sponsor the annual UT-Tyler Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Conference, at which students and faculty present their research, as well as hear from a prominent invited scholar about their research.



*Dr. Chuck Barké
Department Chair,
Psychology and
Counseling*

Learning and Serving: Psychology and Counseling Training Clinic

The UT Tyler Psychology and Counseling Training Clinic (PCTC) is in its fourth year of a partnership with the Bethesda Health Clinic of Tyler. Advanced graduate students in Clinical and Counseling Psychology have been completing their required practicum experiences by providing low cost counseling services to the greater Tyler area community. Since its beginning in 2009, the number of clients served has

steadily increased, a fact that clearly speaks to the ongoing need in the community for affordable mental health services. At the PCTC, students work with individual adults, couples and families, all under the direct supervision of licensed members of the department faculty. Our clients typically have no health insurance and not enough income to allow them to pay for services at traditional mental health facilities and practic-

es. In the past three years, our graduate students have provided nearly 1,000 hours of mental health services to members of our community, with an equivalent dollar value of approximately \$50,000, at little or no cost to our clients. We especially appreciate the generosity of **Dr. John English**, Director of the Bethesda Health Clinic, in providing us with office spaces in which to see clients.

The CEP Pulse—Odds and Ends

In the words of a recent graduate...



My experience in the graduate program in psychology at UT Tyler has been life changing. From the very beginning, I found the advisement and support to be helpful and personal. The faculty and staff genuinely cared about both my academic experience and me as a person. The program emphasized and delivered a curriculum that promoted individual growth by looking inward, and I

learned to think critically yet fluidly about the complexities of the human mind and soul. The program challenged me intellectually to examine myself and the world around me with increased psychological awareness and insight. I cannot overstate the support that I received from the faculty members who invested in my personal and professional growth as they took the time to get to know me.

Because of their commitment to excellence I feel prepared to take the next step as a doctoral candidate. The faculty at UT Tyler are more than academic teachers; they are personally committed to preparing the best clinicians to enter the field. They are professional role models, and I am so proud to have learned from them.
— Robin Stevens, first year Doctoral Student at Texas Women's University

Dr. Geiger's Farewell (continued)

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understanding and communication; and provides leadership and service. Additionally, the college is committed to affirming and promoting global perspectives, cultural diversity, and respect for individual differences as a means of enhancing learning, service, and scholarship.

Many of the items in the newsletter will reflect key ideas from the vision and mission statements – teaching, scholarship, service, appreciation for individual and cultural differences, and a global perspective.

I invite students, stakeholders, alumni, and friends of the college to share items they think will be of interest to the audience of the newsletter. In particular, news related to awards or honors you have received, scholarly accomplishments, professional service, or experiences that have helped you grow in your appreciation of the diversity of our communities, country, or planet are welcome. You can submit your items to **Michael Giordano** at

mgiordano@uttyler.edu.

It is ironic that in this first issue of our newsletter I must tell you that effective this past September 1st I accepted the position of Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the university. My nine years as Dean of the College of Education and Psychology were professionally very rewarding. I had the pleasure of working with exceptional colleagues and had the opportunity to collaborate with a wide range of talented and generous stakeholders and friends of the college. **Dr. Ross Sherman** from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies is now interim dean of the college and continues as chairperson the department. I anticipate that a national search will soon be undertaken for a permanent dean for the college.

“My nine years as Dean of the College of Education and Psychology were professionally very rewarding.”

[Ed. Note: Submissions to the newsletter should be limited to 100 words. They will be published at the discretion of the newsletter staff in a section called CEP Community News]

The CEP Pulse—Odds and Ends

She Named Our Newsletter!

We are pleased to announce the winner of the newsletter title contest. **Cynthia Harris** submitted the entry *The CEP Pulse*, which received overwhelming support, having nearly twice as many votes as its nearest competitor.

Ms. Harris will receive a prize worth about \$50 for her winning entry.

Entries tied for second place were *The Ed-Psych Hype*, submitted by **Tammy Noecker**; *The CEP Information X Change*, submitted by

Kouider Mokhtari, and *The CEP Pipeline*, submitted by **Robert Stevens**. There were 29 entries into the contest, and over half of the people eligible to vote let their voices be heard,



Cynthia Harris

School of Education Notes (continued)

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on registration. Contact **Dr. Dykes** or **Dr. Rueter** if you are interested in volunteering at the conference. We hope that UT Tyler is well represented at the Council for Exceptional Children conference.

- **Dr. Julie Delello**, was named as Kappa Delta Pi Teacher of the Year. Congratulations **Dr. Delello**!
- We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Lawrence Anderson**, on behalf of himself and his wife, **Dr. Sasha Vukelja**, and in memory of his mother, **Betty Ann Ward Anderson** has given a gift of \$30,000 to the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System to establish an

endowment for the benefit of The University of Texas at Tyler. This endowment honors the memory of Mrs. Betty Ann Ward Anderson who taught thousands of primary grade children to read during her nearly 40-year career as a classroom teacher. Mrs. Anderson was noted for her excellent teaching of reading, which was recognized with numerous awards and accolades from students, parents and administrators.

Funds made available from Betty Ann Ward Anderson endowment will be used to support teaching, research, and service-related activities aimed at strengthening the preparation of literacy teachers and enhancing children's literacy achievement outcomes.

For more information about this endowment, contact **Dr. Kouider Mokhtari**, Anderson-Vukelja-Wright Chair in the School of Education.



Dr. Julie Delello
Kappa Delta Pi
Teacher of the Year



The University of Texas at Tyler

College of Education and Psychology

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College of Education and Psychology Mission and Vision

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local and global communities, and to work toward individual and cultural equity.

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