



# Liaison

A Periodic Newsletter of the Graduate Psychology Programs at Wheaton College

## WHEATON COLLEGE

### GRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMS:

*Pursue Justice; Serve with Excellence; and Develop Holistically.*

#### **Accreditation: A status update for 3 programs**

The past year has been an extremely busy one for graduate programs in our department. The Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.) program submitted a self-study to the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association in Fall 2014; experienced a site visit in Spring 2015 and was granted re-accreditation for 7 years through 2022.

The M.A.-Marriage & Family Therapy (MFT) program submitted its initial program self-study to the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) in Spring 2015 and welcomed site visitors October 12-13, 2015. At this printing, accreditation outcome was pending. If granted, accreditation will ease licensure burden of alumni.

The M.A.-Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program submitted its initial program self-study to Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) in Summer 2015. A site visit team will be at Wheaton College sometime in Spring 2016 and accreditation is pending.

Psy.D., M.A.-MFT and M.A.-CMHC programs prepare students to become thoughtful, integrative, competent mental health

professionals in their respective disciplines and it is the vision of Wheaton College Graduate Psychology Department that professionally accredited programs shall groom psychologists, therapists and counselors to serve underserved and marginalized populations and the church for the next generation.

#### **Wheaton College's Humanitarian Disaster Institute faculty awarded \$1.9 million Templeton Grant**

The Humanitarian Disaster Institute, housed within the Psychology Department and involving graduate students in research, was awarded a \$1.9 million Templeton Grant to support multi-year research titled, "Earth as a School: Finding Meaning, Relating to God, and Experience Growth After a Natural Disaster." The study examines the spiritual and psychological effects of natural disasters upon humans for the application of helping survivors through trauma and to inform and train local communities in disaster preparedness and response. Several Psy.D. students are engaged in the HDI Applied Research Lab and are planning on defending dissertations related to HDI research. The HDI Applied Research Lab is Co-Directed by Jamie Aten, Ph.D. (Dr. Arthur Rech and Mrs. Jean Mae Rech Associate Professor of Psychology) and David Boan, Ph.D.



# Graduate Psychology IN THE WORLD

Global Engagement in, with  
and through Christ



Benjamin Pyykkonen, Ph.D., Ezer Kang, Ph.D., Hazel Rosete, M.A. and Peninnah Oberdorfer, M.D., Ph.D. after Hazel's clinical dissertation proposal defense in ChiangMai, Thailand. August 2015.



Psy.D. students, Marianne Millen and Benjamin Andrews with Humanitarian Disaster Institute Co-Director, David Boan, Ph.D. listening to and working with church leaders in Kenya about trauma and healing.



Psychology Department Associate Dean, Terri Watson, Psy.D., MFT Program Director, David Van Dyke, Ph.D. and alum, Vitaliy Voytenko, Psy.D. meet in Prague, Czech Republic with leaders from 6 East European countries to discuss faith and clinical practice.

## Psy.D. Program

DR. STEPHEN L. TATE, CLINICAL DIRECTOR  
HPD Psychological Services Division



Born and raised in Findlay, Ohio, I learned of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at an early age largely through my mother and accepted Christ into my life when I was 10 years old. Although my parents divorced three years prior to this event, it didn't deter me from living for the Lord. In fact, this event and several other life events as a youth and teenager convinced me that there are very few things in life that really matter—one of them is whether or not we choose to live for Christ. I found the following statement to be one of the best challenges that brings out that truth: "God's gift to us is our lives; what we do with our lives is our gift to Him."

This passion to see my life as a daily 'gift' to Him has been a single penetrating factor in nearly all of my decision-making—especially for future goals and aspirations (i.e., sports, college, graduate school, dating, friendships, choosing my wife, parenting, and career).

After God greatly blessed me to receive extensive academic training in college, seminary, and finally getting my doctorate degree from Wheaton College Graduate School, my wife and I (with our lovely twins & triplets, who are now, respectively, 14 and 12 years old), moved to Houston, Texas in 2004.

Shortly, thereafter, an incredible door of opportunity opened up for me to become a staff psychologist in the Psychological Services Division within the Houston Police Department in October 2005 where I served in such a capacity for approximately 9 years. While I was content to finish out my career in this capacity, God had other plans. Another door opened up last year to become the Acting Director of this division as my boss decided to retire. I was eventually chosen as the permanent director and have been serving in this unique capacity officially since February 2015. I currently oversee six fulltime psychologists and two administrative assistants. We are responsible for exclusively providing mental health services free of charge to over 7,200 employees (5,200 classified officers & 2,000 civilians) who comprise this unique police department in Houston. Our division sees approximately 400 - 550 patients on a monthly basis.

While space doesn't permit me to discuss all that we do, I can definitely say that I have an exceptional opportunity to enhance God's Kingdom, to be a light in the midst of darkness, and to bring hope amidst cynicism and trauma that many of the men and women face on a daily basis as law enforcement officers. It has been and IS a privilege working for the Houston Police Department and I have my professors from Wheaton's PsyD Program to thank, in part, for paving the way for me to serve in the capacity I now enjoy.

The Psy.D. program at Wheaton College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association and The Commission on Accreditation can be reached at:

American Psychological Association  
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation  
750 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242  
Telephone: (202) 336-5979  
TDD/TTY: (202) 336-6123  
Fax: (202) 336-5978  
apaaccred@apa.org



# Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program



(This picture is from the 2014 MHM conference and includes faculty, nine students from the Graduate School Psychology department, and Wheaton College alumni)

## Mental Health and Missions Conference

Three of our faculty spoke at the annual Mental Health and Missions Conference this year with Dr. Richard Butman covering the topic of “Integrating Theology and Religious Issues in Member Care,” Dr. Pam Davis and student Melissa Warner speaking on “Why Play Matters: Integrating Theology and Spirituality in Counseling Children,” and Dr. Tammy Schultz presenting a poster on “The Effectiveness of a Scripturally Based Trauma Healing Model for Adults in Nicaragua.” Each year, scholarships are provided by alumna Fran White for

students in the Psychology Graduate Department to attend the conference, and this year ten scholarship recipients were awarded. Wheaton College has historically had a significant presence at the MHM Conference, which is indicative of the way our faculty and students are invested not only in those they encounter in the immediate community, but also in the larger mental health world.

The Mental Health and Missions Conference took place in Angola, Indiana on November 19-22, 2015.

## International Diversity

We are delighted to welcome the CMHC class of 2017, which includes an incredibly diverse representation of international students. The cohort includes individuals like Yong Chen who came from Beijing, China and has a background in business and computer science; Evgeniya Fazletdinova who arrived from Novosibirsk, Russia and is fluent in Russian, English, and some German; Jemima Wesley Williams who moved from Chennai, India where she started an organization with her husband to conduct seminars and counseling for the surrounding community; and Jian You who traveled from Beijing, China where she had a background in accounting and law. We are excited to see how God will use this talented cohort to impact the counseling world both locally and overseas.



## Marriage and Family Therapy Program

### MFT ALUMNI PROFILE: FIONA ARTHURS, M.A. ('15)

As a recent graduate of the Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Program, I am thankful for the education that I received. The MFT program was academically challenging and also emotionally intense, as the program seeks to ensure that students become competent counselors.

My training in MFT certainly prepared me for what I am now doing. It is my desire to serve the underserved in mental health, and I believe the church is the best place to share the message. Historically, for African Americans, the church has been the safest and most trusted place to receive information, so I plan to continue using this platform. However, instead of using mental illness/health, the response has shown the term Emotional Health is more accepted and opens the heart of people to receive the message.

In addition to speaking at local and international conferences, I am working with a team at my

local church to open up a center that will provide services to juvenile offenders and at risk youth. There will be trade job-training opportunities in fields like welding and cosmetology. In addition, spiritual and psychotherapy counseling services will be offered to the youth and their families. The hope is to reduce recidivism rate in the African American population, which we have found not only in research but also in our personal experience to be quite high. Research shows that about 70% of the African American juvenile delinquents have some sort of mental illness that goes untreated and incarceration often exacerbates the illness. We want to do something to change the trajectory of these youth who often lack parental monitoring and good role models.

Since graduation, I finished my first book, *Foolish Things Wives Do To Mess Up Their Marriages*, which is due to be released December 1st.

# Giving

**YES!** I would like to support the Wheaton College Student Emergency Fund.

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply it toward:

- M.A. Student Emergency Fund
- Psy.D. Student Emergency Fund

Please make payable to Wheaton College and mail to:  
Wheaton College, Graduate Psychology  
501 College Avenue  
Wheaton, IL 60187

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

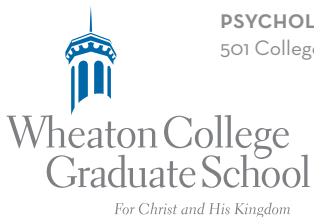
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Contributions are tax deductible. For a tax receipt, please make sure to include your name and address.

[wheaton.edu/grad-psych](http://wheaton.edu/grad-psych)



**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**  
501 College Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187



*Your copy of Liaison*  
2015-2016

**INTRODUCING LIAISON**

This is the tenth publication of Liaison and is designed for alumni and friends of the graduate psychology programs at Wheaton College, including doctoral and master's level curricula.

**FACTS**

- The Psy.D. program in Clinical Psychology was established in 1993 and has been continuously accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1998. This five-year program admits some 18-20 students annually.
- The M.A. program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (formerly Clinical Psychology), a two-year program, was established in 1977 and matriculates approximately 25 students per year.
- The M.A. program in Marriage and Family Therapy, a two-year program, was established in 2012 and matriculates approximately 24 students per year.

