Department welcomes Five New Faculty Members

The Wheaton College Psychology Department is delighted to announce the arrival of five new faculty members to the undergraduate and graduate programs. Their various backgrounds and interests offer exciting new directions for students as they pursue their education. The Psychology Programs are thrilled to welcome these individuals to our Wheaton College family.

David Boan, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Dr. David Boan has joined Wheaton College as a graduate faculty member and Co-Director of the Humanitarian Disaster Institute (HDI). Prior to coming to Wheaton, he worked as the Executive Director for Innovation and New Products for Joint Commission Resources and Joint Commission International where he led development of change models that lead to sustainable change, defined standards for quality healthcare in developing countries, created tools for building capacity for improvement in international healthcare settings, and the measurement and improvement of healthcare culture. He received his both his M.A. and Ph.D. (Clinical Psychology) from the Rosemead Graduate School of Psychology at Biola University. His current work focuses on topics such as knowledge transfer, community and organizational capacity building, community resilience and faith-based organizations, and public health and disasters.

Elisha Eveleigh, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Dr. Elisha Eveleigh joined Wheaton College in the Summer of 2011 and is teaching a variety of undergraduate courses. She received her M.A. in Social Work and her Ph.D. in School Psychology from Ohio State University. She recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship focused on the evaluation and treatment of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. Her research interests include the effectiveness and efficiency of academic and behavioral interventions, particularly in the urban school setting, as well as effective therapy to address mental health concerns and the development of adaptive functioning among children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Eveleigh is currently co-directing the Community Health and Justice Lab with Dr. Ezer Kang.

Ezer Kang, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Dr. Kang is joining Wheaton College as a core member of the Graduate Psychology Programs faculty and will be teaching primarily in the Psy.D. program. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Kang was an Assistant Clinical Professor in Medical Psychology (Department of Child Psychiatry) at Columbia University and Director of HV Mental Health Services at Harlem Hospital Center. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and M.A. in Theology.

Giving

YES! I would like to support the Wheaton College Scholarship Fund.

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Dr. McNeil, Ph.D. left his position as a Wheaton College Associate Professor of Psychology to take a position at the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology where he is serving as the Senior Vice President for Academics. Dr. McNeil has been a faculty member at Wheaton College since 1996, as well as serving as the Coordinator of Diversity for many years. Dr. McNeil has been a valued member of the Wheaton Psychology Department, teaching classes in Clinical Interviewing Skills, Integration, Diversity, and Family Systems, as well as mentoring dozens of students in their professional and scholarly development. His dedication to teaching, investments in the lives of his students, and overall contribution to the Wheaton Community will be greatly missed, but we wish him the best with his new endeavors in the Emerald City!
Plans for a new M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy Program

Although our Clinical Psychology program has offered an MFT concentration since its inception in 1977, the increasing demand for couple and family therapy in the U.S. and abroad underscores the need for specialized training in family systems theory and techniques. In fact, U.S. News and World Report identified Marital and Family Therapy as one of the 50 best careers of 2010. There is a great need for compassionately trained, systemically oriented clinicians who can serve the body of Christ and those marginalized by society. This new program will produce graduates who are distinctive as Christians in their practice of marriage and family therapy; and who will demonstrate a vision for clinical practice as service, especially to the body of Christ, and to marginalized persons throughout the world. It will prepare students for professional licensure as Marriage and Family Therapists. Consistent with the historic mission of our graduate psychology programs at Wheaton, our vision is to develop whole persons living with HIV.

Sandra Yu Rueger, Ph.D., L.M.F.T., Assistant Professor
Dr. Rueger is joining Wheaton as a member of the graduate faculty. Her current teaching responsibilities include both Psy.D. and Master’s level courses. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College, and prior to embarking on doctoral studies, worked as a member of the graduate counseling center, offering low fee services for families and individuals who cannot afford the traditional cost of counseling and do not have adequate insurance to cover mental health services. Dr. Rueger previously earned her doctorate from Wheaton College in 2002, and is a licensed psychologist in Tennessee. Dr. Pressley’s research most recently has involved trauma and its impact on childhood development.

Introduction of the Humanitarian Disaster Institute (HDI)

The Humanitarian Disaster Institute (HDI) is the newest center within the Psychology Department. Its mission is to equip the church and society to respond effectively to crises, conflicts, and disasters through preparedness, response, and resilience, and thereby to reduce the humanitarian impact of domestic and international emergencies. Organized in a similar way to other centers or programs at the college (e.g., Mennonite Center, HNGR), HDI aspires to collaborate and support Christian disaster and humanitarian service communities worldwide. HDI also seeks to champion development of the next generation of Christian humanitarian practitioners and scholars.

HDI seeks to carry out its mission through applied and basic research to assist and empower communities and humanitarian agencies in preparing for and responding to humanitarian disasters; and to provide technical assistance in evaluation research, impact studies, knowledge transfer, quality improvement, and capacity building.

HDI’s interdisciplinary approach facilitates cultural and innovation efforts and seeks to address a broad range of humanitarian issues. HDI’s collaborative approach builds partnerships with humanitarian organizations, private research organizations, individual scientific collaborators, academic centers and state and federal agencies.

We regret that Alumni Profile and Alumni Announcements were not able to be added to this edition of Liaison. Look for them to return in the next issue!