

Liaison

A Periodic Newsletter of the Graduate Psychology Programs at Wheaton College

Spring/Summer 2008

Introducing *Liaison*

This is the fifth 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 Psychology, a two-year program, was established in 1977 and admits approximately 30 students each year.
- In 1999, an additional Master's degree was added in Counseling Ministries, a one-year degree for individuals who primarily work through churches or mission agencies.



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Wheaton, IL 60187

COMPARISON OF CREDIT REQUIREMENTS IN PSY.D. PROGRAM

	New Program	Old Program
Core Psy.D. Courses	86	87
Psy.D. Electives	14	16
Bible & Theology Courses	20	22
Total	120	125

Figure 1

Changes Made to the Psy.D. Curriculum

As credit hours to complete degree contract, opportunities to develop professional depth expand.

PSY.D. PROGRAM NOW 120 CREDIT HOURS

A significant alteration to the Wheaton College Doctor of Psychology degree requirements was instituted for the 2007-08 academic year.

Until this year, the degree was 125 credit hours, comprised of 87 core Psychology credits, 16 elective Psychology credits, and 22 Bible and Theology credits. Under the new plan, students must successfully complete 120 total credit hours. These hours must include 86 core Psychology credits, 14 elective Psychology credits, and 20 Bible and Theology credits. All elective courses in Psychology are now 3 credits.

See Figure 1 at left.

The rationale for making these changes is rooted in multiple factors. First, most professional licensing boards require 3-hour courses (rather than 2-hour or 4-hour courses). Many of our students found themselves having to take a 1-hour independent study or an additional 2-hour course to meet the licensing requirement. Conversely, students often end with more hours than needed in other courses when they have a 4-hour course in a particular subject.

Second, students are now being advised to take a coherent sequence of four electives that will help them develop depth in a selected area of practice (e.g., child clinical, assessment, clinical geropsychology, etc.). By offering 3-hour elective courses, students are better able to intentionally pick a course sequencing that will enhance their competence in a specific area of professional practice.

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Last, these program changes bring the Wheaton College Psy.D. Program closer to other Psy.D. programs with regards to overall credit requirements. An important outcome of this change is that it reduces potential student debt load. We desire that students depart into the profession as financially unburdened as possible to meet one of the missions of the Program – to serve the underserved.

EXPANDED CHILD PSYCHOLOGY COURSE OFFERINGS

The Psychology Department added two new courses in the area of child clinical psychology at the request of a significant number of students who wanted to serve this often underserved population. Full-time faculty member, Dr. Kelly S. Flanagan, whose specialty is child clinical psychology, joins Dr. Sally Schwer Canning in offering additional child-focused courses. The new courses are Developmental Psychopathology and Child Assessment. Both are 3 credit elective courses. The department is excited to add these courses and to encourage students to develop more depth in an area of professional interest.

Dr. Kelly Flanagan is a graduate of Penn State University Clinical Psychology Program with a specialization in the areas of child clinical and developmental psychology. Her internship was completed at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Clinically engaged at Heartland Counseling in Elburn, IL (part of the Center for Rural Psychology), Dr. Flanagan provides therapy and psychological assessment, as well as supervision of graduate students in their clinical work with children.

Her research seeks to better understand the reciprocal influences between children's peer relationships and their individual functioning, with a particular interest in negative peer group experiences (e.g., victimization, rejection).

Psychology Department Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL TRAINING



Mark Harwood, Ph.D., is the new Director of Clinical Training and Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at Wheaton College. Dr. Harwood's previous position was as DCT

at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. He received his B.A. in Education from University of Arizona. After several years of teaching in the public and private sectors, Dr. Harwood returned to college and completed a M.S. in Counseling with specialization in Marriage, Family & Child Counseling (MFCC) from San Diego State University. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling/Clinical/School Psychology with specialization in Clinical Psychology from University of California-Santa Barbara. Dr. Harwood has had extensive experience as a clinician, investigator, faculty member, and administrator. He has published widely in professional journals and textbooks with a primary focus on psychotherapy outcome research. Dr. Harwood served for five years as Associate Editor for the *Journal of Clinical Psychology (JCIP)*. Presently, he is on the editorial board of *JCIP* and several other scientific journals.



GRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Ted Kahn, M.A. ('07) joined the Psychology Department in June 2007 as Graduate Psychology

Program Administrator. Ted, formerly a Certified Public Accountant and entrepreneur, brings over 16 years of administrative leadership to the department. He holds a B.S. in Accountancy from Valparaiso University and an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College. His life's passions include encouraging others in their spiritual journeys, his wife Sandi, and watching sunsets.



Alumni Profile: Training the Next Generation of Clinicians in Chile

Nancy Duarte Gomez, Psy.D., is the founding faculty and Chair of the Psychology Department at Universidad Santo Tomas in Concepcion, Chile (a campus of approximately 3000 students). Nancy received both her Psy.D. (2003) and M.A in Clinical Psychology (1996) from Wheaton College.

The undergraduate psychology program which Nancy launched in 2004 at Universidad Santo Tomas is a 5-year program. Nancy and Universidad Santo Tomas hope to see the first graduating class in May 2009. In addition to teaching and chairing the department, Nancy keeps a small private practice providing services to her community and is an active member in her local church involved in leadership and pastoral care ministry. In the past year, Nancy was a keynote speaker at the annual International Council of Universities of St. Thomas Aquinas Conference in Houston, Texas, and presented a paper at the International Conference of Applied Psychology in Athens, Greece.

Alumni News

Congratulations to Charles Parry, M.A. ('86), Director of the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council. Charles has been appointed to the World Health Organization's Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Dependence and Alcohol Problems.

Congratulations to Erica Liu Wollin, Psy.D. ('98) and her husband Wade who welcomed Maya Miao Hua to their family by adoption. Maya was born on January 16, 2004 in Huazhou, China and adopted 18 months later. She joins Cody (8). Erica is the associate director of the Azusa Pacific University Counseling Center.

Jennifer Gorham, Psy.D. ('06) joined Wheaton College as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology. She works primarily in the Undergraduate Program.

Janelle Nelson Kwee, Psy.D. ('06) is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology at Wheaton College working primarily in the Psy.D. Program.

Alumni: Please send news and announcements for the next *Liaison* to ted.kahn@wheaton.edu.

Giving

Yes! I would like to support the Wheaton College Scholarship Fund!

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Please apply it toward:

M.A. Scholarship Fund Psy.D. Scholarship Fund

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

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

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

Your copy of Liaison!

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Announcements

Special thanks to Tracy Lee Bemister, Psy.D. ('01), who served 5 years at Wheaton College as Graduate Psychology Program Administrator and as Acting Director of Clinical Training during her last year. Tracy is focusing her energies on raising a daughter and clinical work in the Wheaton area.

Welcome to Dr. Natalia Yangerber-Hicks who joins the core Psy.D. faculty in 2007-08 after working primarily with undergraduates since 2002.

Welcome to Dr. T. Mark Harwood who joins the Psychology Department as Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Training.

Welcome to Mr. Ted Kahn, M.A. ('07) who is working as Graduate Psychology Program Administrator.

Welcome to Ms. Jennifer Green who is working as the Clinical Training Office Coordinator.