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"There is nothing so practical  
as a good theory."  
~Kurt Lewin

## PSYCH News—The Alumni Newsletter of the USU Psychology Department—Winter 2011

We are excited that our new Psychology Department website is up and running. Check it out at [psychology.usu.edu](http://psychology.usu.edu). A big thanks goes to Dr. Scott Bates. Scott chairs our website committee and was instrumental in overseeing the redesign of the website. We are still adding content and making some improvements to parts of our site—especially the new Alumni and Friends section. If you have feedback or information you would like to see on the website, please let us know. We will be posting our newsletter on-line and will eventually phase out our print newsletter.

Another exciting announcement is that we are



actively working to build our scholarships for students—see the story inside on the Carolyn Barcus Diversity scholarship. Our ability to provide scholarships to students is currently limited and we're hoping to expand over time. If you are interested in learning more about our scholarships, please look on-line or contact me ([gretchen.peacock@usu.edu](mailto:gretchen.peacock@usu.edu)).

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season!

*Gretchen Peacock*

### Colloquium Series off to a Great Start

Three colloquium speakers presented information on their areas of expertise this fall. The September colloquium speaker was Jamison Fargo, who spoke on his experiences working with the National Center on Homelessness among Veterans.

October's speaker was Mike Himle, from the University of Utah. Dr. Himle's topic was the behavioral management of Tourette Syndrome in children including recent advancements in conceptual-

ization and treatment.

William Baum, currently at the University of California, Davis, was the November speaker. He discussed a new framework for understanding behavior, context, and consequences.

Speakers for Spring 2011 include Stephen Fowler, from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Kansas, Jessica Cantlon, from the University of Rochester, and Iser DeLeon, from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. All colloquia are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am in VSB 130. All are welcome.

## The Carolyn Barcus Diversity Scholarship Fund

The American Indian population in the United States is significantly underserved in the areas of mental health and education. Delivery of needed services is complicated by a shortage of American Indian psychologists.

The Psychology Department at USU has a 25-year history of recruiting and supporting American Indian students, and more recently Latino/a, Black/African-American, and Asian, through the American Indian Support Project (AISP). The AISP is committed to training American Indian and ethnic minority graduate students in school psychology and in the Combined Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychology PhD program.

Lack of financial resources is the biggest barrier for most American Indian and minority students in higher education. Many of the minority students at USU come from impoverished homes. In many cases, graduate students cannot depend



on their families for financial assistance for school. That assistance must come from the Psychology Department, the USU Graduate School, or external funds.

A new scholarship has been established in the name of Carolyn Barcus, former director of the AISP, which will help provide much needed financial support for students. For 25 years Carolyn, a member of the Blackfeet tribe of northern Montana, has served ethnic minority graduate students, leading, guiding, and mentor-

ing them to successful careers. Recently “retired” she continues to serve part-time assisting the new director, Gayle Morse, a member of the Mohawk tribe.

This scholarship gives us, the friends of Psychology, an opportunity to honor Carolyn by supporting a cause that is dear to her heart. To contribute to this scholarship fund please contact Gretchen Peacock at 435-797-0721 or [gretchen.peacock@usu.edu](mailto:gretchen.peacock@usu.edu).



### Meet Chenika Fowler— Martin Luther King Fellowship

Chenika Fowler, one of this year’s newly matriculated graduate students in

the Combined PhD Program in Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychology, was born and raised in Houston, Texas. Chenika received her BA in psychology from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and is the grateful recipient of the Martin Luther King Fellowship. This award was established by Dr. and Mrs. Allen W. Stokes to help deserving African American students achieve a graduate education at USU. Chenika feels blessed to have been awarded the Martin Luther King Fellowship. Without it, she would have had a much harder time transitioning to graduate school.

One of the main reasons Chenika chose to major in psychology is because she loves helping people. Chenika explains that she “figured in order to do a good job of that, I needed to be able to understand people’s judgments and reactions, along with their personalities.”

When she completes her degree, Chenika hopes to own a practice and be known as a “psychologist who tried to make a change in the world by helping people feel better about themselves.”

When asked why she chose to come to Utah State University, Chenika said, “Honestly the reason why I came to Utah State is because I fell in love with the Psychology Department. The faculty and students were just so warm and welcoming to me during the interview process—they made me feel that this program is where I belong.”

Getting to graduate school and then getting through graduate school has been a challenge, at times, for Chenika, but she acknowledges that “life is full of obstacles, and although some might be harder to overcome than others I will continue to do my best to succeed and make it through this chapter in my life.”



### Welcome Back, Jamison Fargo!

**Jamison Fargo** has returned to USU after a one year leave at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the nation's oldest universities. As a senior research investigator Jamison used his skills as a biostatistician in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Jamison was also an associate fellow in the Center for Public Health Initiatives. He is currently lead statistician with the National Center on Homelessness among Veterans and holds two adjunct appointments at the University of Pennsylvania. Jamison's experience was an enriching one in which he was able to accomplish much.

"I'll never forget our time there," said Jamison. "While at Penn, I was able to extend many of my research interests into a primary focus on homelessness prevention and intervention. I was also able to develop a relationship with the Department of Veterans Affairs and became a collaborator with the National Center on Homelessness among Veterans."

Jamison is continuing his collaborations with researchers at Penn and the VA and has expanded his work in this field locally. At USU Jamison is working with colleagues within the Experimental and Applied Psychological Sciences specialization to develop a training emphasis in Sociobehavioral Epidemiology. Sociobehavioral Epidemiology or SE is an understanding of the frequency, distribution, and sociobehavioral determinants of physical, mental, and social health. Jamison's research with colleagues is focused on prevention and interven-

tion efforts that seek to enhance health and social well-being and to decrease negative outcomes for individuals and communities

"It's great to be back at USU and in the West, which I consider to be my home," said Jamison, "and I look forward to exploring and developing other opportunities in the coming years!"



### Congratulations, Mark Innocenti!

**Mark Innocenti** (MS, PSY, '84; PhD, PSY, '92) is the new Director of the Research and Evaluation Division at the Center for Persons with Disabilities, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. He also holds an appointment as an associate professor in the Psychology Department.

Mark has over 30 years of experience working with at-risk infants and young children as well as with children with disabilities and their families through multiple research and model demonstration projects. His approach to issues is based on an interdisciplinary model that recognizes the contribution of different disciplines and stakeholders. Mark has served as principal investigator on a number of research projects including the ten-year Longitudinal Institute on the Effects and Costs of Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities and the Bilingual Early Language and Literacy Support Project. Mark is currently the co-principal investigator for the Cache County site of the National Children's Study.

Mark has extensive experience in model demonstration and training projects that have examined areas such as social interaction, child transition, naturalistic intervention, parent-child interaction, and service systems. Current projects focus on development of assessment measures and curriculum, home visiting, and evaluation.

Mark was a midcareer fellow with Zero to Three from 1999-2000. Currently, he serves on a number of editorial boards for professional journals and has served on a variety of advisory boards for both local and national groups. He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Council for Exceptional Children and is the past-president for the Division for Early Childhood of CEC. Congratulations to Mark, on his new appointment!

### Welcome, Gregory Madden!

**Gregory J. Madden** received his PhD from West Virginia University in 1995. He then completed a three-year, NIH-sponsored, post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Vermont. Greg comes to USU by way of the University of Kansas where he was a professor and Director of Graduate Training in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science.

Greg's research is broadly defined as behavioral economic, with an emphasis on impulsive decision making and addictions. He is the recipient of four NIH grants and one USDA grant.

His current research in the basic-science lab is designed to explore ways to train rats to be less impulsive and to determine if this decreases the probability that they will take drugs and gamble. His applied research is designed to increase fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary school children.

Greg has published over 50 articles and book chapters, is the co-editor of the recently published *Impulsivity: The Behavioral and Neurological Science of Discounting*, and is the Editor-In-Chief of the forthcoming *APA Handbook of Behavior Analysis*. Greg is also the Editor-Elect of the *Journal of the Experimental*



*Analysis of Behavior*—the flagship journal in his field of study.

Greg is excited to be able to collaborate with colleagues at USU. And, beyond loving his job, he loves his wife and two children, and enjoys hiking and skiing with them whenever he can. Welcome, Dr. Madden!



### Hello, Carrie Madden!

**Carrie Madden** received her BA in psychology from the University of Tennessee and her MS in school/child clinical psychology from the University of North Texas. Since earning her degree she has worked as a clinical and school psychologist, as the program coordinator for a child development research and care center, and has taught courses in educational and developmental psychology

at three universities. Carrie's seven-year teaching stint at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire convinced her that teaching psychology is what she loves.

At Utah State University, Carrie is teaching *Infant and Child Development* (PSY 1100) and *Educational Psychology* (PSY 3660). Online, she is teaching 2950/4950, *Orientation to Psychology* and undergraduate apprenticeship.

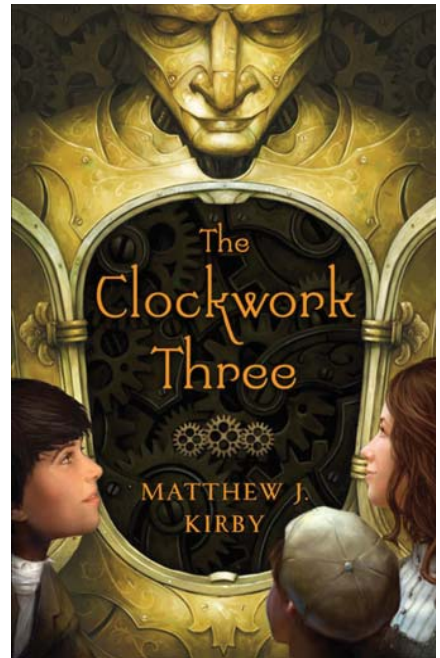
Like Greg, Carrie is excited about Logan. The Maddens had a wonderful introduction to the area by coming in June, when they were able to do a lot of hiking and site seeing. Their two children, aged nine and 15 are adjusting well to their new home and their new schools. Carrie says that both she and Greg really like the department and what they are doing at USU.

"It was a good choice for us," she says.

### Alumni Notes and News

Two Psychology Department graduates are new authors. **Rachelle Christensen** (BS, PSY, '99) has published two books—a fiction book titled *Wrong Number* and a nonfiction book, *Lost Children: Coping with Miscarriage for Latter-day Saints*. **Matthew Kirby's** (BS, '03, History; MS, '08 School Psychology) book for young readers, *The Clockwork Three*, has been picked up by Scholastic Books.

Rachelle was born and raised in a small farming town in Idaho and describes herself as a "dirt between the toes, irrigation-boot-wearing, ponytail-flipping-in-the wind as I drive the 4-wheeler FARM girl!" Currently she resides in Utah County with her four wonderful children and her husband, Steve.



Matthew was born in Utah, but was raised all over—Maryland, California, and Hawaii. He majored in history as an undergraduate, then earned two degrees in school psychology. Ten months out of the year he works with students, and the rest of the year he writes. He and his wife currently live in northern Utah.

Utah Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. **Rick Miller** (MS, PSY, '97) was given a standing ovation by Kaysville Utah Junior High School students at the school's November 11 Veterans Day Assembly. Miller served at the school for 13 years as an assistant principal and is now the assistant principal at Syracuse Junior High School. Miller was deployed in January to serve in Iraq as a first sergeant with the 151st Squadron. The heavy-equipment supervisor returned in July.

**Scott E. Blickenstaff** (PhD, PSY, '91) retired this fall after 24 years of employment with Bear River Mental Health Services, Inc. Scott has achieved invaluable accomplishments in community relations and outreach education and is the cofounder and principal instructor of the local Crisis Intervention Team. He has continuously counseled, taught, supervised, and helped others and has been an invaluable asset to the community.

