

THE PSYCHE



Greetings from the Chair

Hello, alumni and friends, and welcome to the Alumni Reunion Special Edition of *The Psyche*. As you know, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our PhD program with a PhD alumni reunion held June 1-3, 2018. Approximately 200 alumni, faculty, grad students, staff and family members took part in weekend events that included a campus 5K Walk/Run Race and Kids' Fun Run, research presentations by distinguished alumni, lunch at Ray's, a banquet with a special appearance by Diminished Faculties the department's all-faculty band (for photos of the reunion – peek inside). Since the inception of our doctoral programs, Kent State's Department of Psychological Sciences has awarded over 700 PhD degrees.

Speakers at the reunion included a presentation by our first PhD, **Don DeRosa, PhD '67**, President Emeritus, University of the Pacific, and keynote speakers **Brian Hall, PhD '11** (University of Macau), **Tricia Leahey, PhD '08** (University of Connecticut), and **Lynn Martire, PhD '97** (Penn State University). **Professor David Riccio** also gave a "last lecture" where he reminisced about his life and career at Kent ([see video here](#)). Special thanks go to alumni reunion planning committee members **Rachel Galioto, PhD '15**, **Anita Gantner, PhD '89**, **Jenny Griffin, PhD '95** and **Bryan Karazsia, PhD '09** for their help in planning such a successful and memorable event.

In this issue also we share some updates, welcome new faces and say goodbye to old friends. We are pleased to introduce the newest member of our faculty, Dr. Bill Lechner, and a new member of our advising staff, Aurora Alexander. We also remember and pay tribute to Dr. Tom Dowd who passed away unexpectedly last year. In other news, we announce that the department has launched a fundraising campaign to renovate and name a behavioral neuroscience laboratory in Dave Riccio's honor.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the Psyche. Please do keep in touch and send us any updates about your activities and accomplishments, which is our greatest source of pride. For up to date information about the department, please visit our website at <https://www.kent.edu/psychology>.

Maria Zaragoza



Meet New Faculty



Dr. William Lechner

What do Anheuser Busch, brain stimulation, and treating alcohol disorders all have in common? Answer: Dr. William Lechner, our newest Assistant Professor who joined the department in 2017. With a Clinical Psychology degree from Oklahoma State University, Bill moved to Brown University for his residency and post-doctoral training. During his interview with *Psyche* (which occurred while sharing some hefty India Pale Ales, his beverage of choice), Bill was chuckling how one of his first jobs involved delivering beer for Anheuser Busch, which ironically contrasts one of his main research foci now – helping others to stop drinking. In fact, he is currently the Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health sponsored clinical trial studying the ability of cognitive training combined with neuro-modulation of the brain (think jolting your brain with a big electrical pulse) to improve executive function deficits as they relate to addictive behaviors – in lay vernacular, he’s helping people recover from addiction. Bill is now living in the Cleveland area with his wife, Dr. Rachel Galimoto, who earned her PhD from our program working with Dr. Spitznagel and currently works at the Cleveland Clinic. In their spare time, they foster dogs and cats, which according to Bill may be as challenging as writing an NIH grant. We hope they enjoy settling down in Cleveland with their animal friends, and please join the *Psyche* in welcoming Bill to the department and wishing him the best of luck stimulating brains, both in the classroom and in his laboratory!



Meet New Staff



Aurora Alexander

Psyche is thrilled to welcome Mrs. Aurora Alexander, who is a new member of the Psychological Sciences Advising Office. Aurora is an Academic Advisor for psychology majors at Kent State. She earned her BA at Marshall University before obtaining an MA in Counseling and Human Development at Walsh University in North Canton. Her passion for advising comes from her pleasure of guiding students through their educational journey. One of Aurora’s jobs is to help students get the most they can from their education, and she argues that a great deal of what a student learns happens in activities that occur outside of the classroom. “It is what students do with what they learn and how they can apply it to real world settings that matters a great deal.” Supporting students to translate their experiences at Kent State to improving their daily lives is vitally important and no doubt challenge. But, Aurora is definitely ready to meet this and other challenges – “This is not a career for me. This is a calling.” Besides helping students excel, you might find Aurora hanging out at a local sushi bar or spending time watching movies and playing games with her family. We are so happy Aurora is part of the Department of Psychological Sciences, and no doubt all the students will be as well!

Undergraduate Alumnus Dr. Earl K. Miller Receives KSU Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award

Just a bit over 30 years ago, you could find Earl Miller attending classes at Kent State and roaming Kent Hall where he earned his major in Psychology. Dr. David Ricco remembers how sharp Earl was and how much potential he had. So, when Dave learned that Earl was not gearing up for graduate school, Dave encouraged him to apply to Princeton to pursue his career. The rest, as they say, is history: Many years after earning his PhD at Princeton, Dr. Miller has become a distinguished and highly influential neuroscientist; he is Picower Professor of Neuroscience at MIT and co-founder of SplitSage, an information technology company that focuses on cloud-based analytics profiles. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the George A. Miller Prize in Cognitive Neuroscience, the Goldman-Rakic Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Neuroscience, a NIMH MERIT Award, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Miller was recently inducted into one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In recognition of his outstanding professional accomplishments, KSU President Beverly Warren presented Dr. Miller with a Kent State Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award at a recent commencement ceremony. Recently, Earl and his wife, Marlene M. Wicherski, pledged \$2 million to KSU as part of their estate planning. This pledge will fund three scholarships: one to support undergraduate students in neuroscience who are first in their family to attend college, one for undergraduate students who are experiencing financial difficulties, and one for academically gifted undergraduates who are majoring in psychological science. The pledge will also endow *The Earl K. Miller Professor of Neuroscience*, a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Psychological Sciences. Dr. Miller notes that "Kent State made a world of difference in my life... I hope these gifts will make a difference to others." We know such gifts will make a major difference for our department and students, and the PSYCHE, faculty, and students of the Department of Psychological Sciences thank Earl and Marlene for their incredible generosity.



Kent State University President Beverly Warren presents Earl K. Miller, Ph.D., with a Kent State Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award during Spring Commencement ceremony at the Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center.

Yossef Ben-Porath Receives KSU Presidential Award



Dr. Ben-Porath received the KSU Presidential Award for his contributions to psychological assessment. More specifically Dr. Ben-Porath is the first author of one of the most widely used psychological tests, the MMPI-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF). The test has been the subject of approximately 330 peer reviewed publications conducted throughout the U.S. and abroad. International recognition of this work is evidenced by the fact that the MMPI-2-RF has been translated and published for use in Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands/Belgium, Spain, and South Korea, and work on translations is ongoing in over a dozen countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe. The English-version is used in Canada, the UK, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. It is used widely in a broad range of psychological assessments. Dr. Ben-Porath is currently also the Editor-in-Chief of the leading scientific journal in psychological assessment, *Psychological Assessment*, published by the American Psychological Association. Dr. Ben-Porath has played a leading role in recognition of the graduate our Assessment specialty area at Kent State as one of the top-five such programs nationally.

Arrivals



2017-2018
Incoming Graduate Students

2018-2019
Incoming Graduate Students



Departures



Dr. E. Thomas Dowd Remembered

We have very sad news from the Department of Psychological Sciences. Professor Tom Dowd, who was a dedicated member of our department from 1995 to 2009, passed away last year. Throughout his life he was always willing to be of service; in the department he served as Acting Department Chair and held leadership positions in Faculty Senate. Professionally he served as President of APA Division 30 (Psychological Hypnosis), President and board member of the American Board of Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology (ABCT), as well as on numerous other committees locally, nationally, and internationally. In 2016 he was presented the “Russell J. Bent Award for Distinguished Service and Contributions to the American Board of Professional Psychology.” After retiring, Tom did not slow down and he focused on his private practice so he could continue to heal and support others in need. He also had a major impact on our department as well. Joel Hughes (Professor, Clinical) praised Tom as “the chair who hired me. He was always supportive. He took a real interest in what I was doing and in keeping me informed of what he was doing. I’m sorry he’s gone.” Tom will be missed.

In the Loop



Dr. Paula Hartman-Stein earned her doctorate from Kent State in 1982 (working with Dr. Jeanette Reuter), and since then she has become a leader in the field of health care for older adults. In fact, she was recently awarded the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Independent Practice. The introduction for receiving this prestigious award, "[she] dedicated her career to enhancing the lives of older adults through direct service provision, education and training of professionals across disciplines, and advocacy for increased availability of and reimbursement for behavioral health services. She has also been a respected journalist for the *National Psychologist* on Medicare and aging issues for the past 20 years. It is the unique independent practitioner who devotes as much time and attention to service, training and advocacy as Dr. Hartman-Stein." We decided to check in with Paula and no surprises from this *Psyche* interview, she continues to go full speed on many fronts!

***Psyche:* Where are you working right now?**

Paula: After over 20 years in private practice I closed down my office in Kent in September 2015 and since then I have developed an independent consulting practice in geriatric behavioral health. I teach several CE programs each year for Cleveland State University on geropsychology topics, conduct webinars for the Univ of Massachusetts Medical School online program on Primary Care Behavioral Health and other national organizations and am active with the North Carolina Mental Health and Aging Coalition. I also serve on two technical expert panels for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid on screening for depression and elder maltreatment. Medicare and geropsych practice issues are my "beats" for *The National Psychologist* newspaper, where I have been writing news articles for 20 years.

***Psyche:* Are you still living in Kent?**

Paula: For the last few years my husband, Robb, and I have split our time between Kent, Ohio and our home in the mountains of western NC near Asheville. Robb continues to work as a labor arbitrator and mediator. In the not too distant future we hope to spend more time in the Asheville area but may keep an apartment in Kent.

***Psyche:* Are you still into spelling bees or have you picked up a new hobby?**

Paula: For the last few years I have led a monthly mindful meditation group at the Kent Free Library and in Asheville I recently organized the OWLs (Orthographers and Word Lovers), a group of adults who pursue cognitive enhancement by enriching their vocabulary and spelling skills. In July this year I plan on entering the National Senior Spelling Bee in Knoxville, Tennessee. I'm using all the memory strategies possible (including the ones in the book chapter you wrote) to master the 8,000 word list just distributed to the competitors in this very challenging event.

As for hobbies besides spelling, I love to spend time with my two Himalayan cats and as an outlet for creativity I write poetry and lead expressive writing groups "en plein air" in parks in Ohio and NC. I have a book contract for an anthology of the writings from these groups. I'm also interested in eco-psychology and spreading the word about the evidence of the health, cognitive, and creative benefits of spending time in nature.

The Psyche wants to thank Paula for this great interview. We want everyone to get back In the Loop, so join us and tell us your stories!

Campaign Launched to Name David C. Riccio Behavioral Neuroscience Lab



After 53 years on the faculty, Dave Riccio will be retiring in June 2019, thus marking the end of an era the department. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to our department and the university, the department has launched a fundraising campaign to name a state-of-the art neuroscience laboratory in his honor. Funds will be used for a complete modernization of the space and for equipping the laboratory with leading-edge neuroscience technology.

In addition to being one of KSU's most visible and prominent scientists, Dave is perhaps best known for his enormous devotion, loyalty and dedication to his students. It is fitting to name in his honor the research laboratory where he has trained legions of students and conducted his scientific work. The David C. Riccio Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory will continue his distinguished legacy of breakthrough advances in the study of learning and memory and training the next generation of scientists.

Please join us with your support of this initiative to honor this exceptional faculty member. [Make a Gift](#)



Gifts from alumni and friends are crucial to achieving our goals. Special thanks to our recent donors!

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2018 ALUMNI REUNION



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