I find it jarring to write this, but the 2009-2010 academic year is nearly complete! This year seems to have gone by very quickly, perhaps because it has been such a busy one for both the students and the faculty of the department. Despite the challenges posed to the university and the department this year, we were able to accomplish much (which you will find detailed throughout this newsletter), and I am happy to report that our department remains as strong as ever.

One of our key successes this last year was the hiring of Shuang-Yueh Pui. Ms. Pui will be completing her dissertation over the summer and will be joining us in the fall as our Industrial/Organizational psychologist. Students played a central role in this hiring, as the decision to hire in this area of psychology was in large part a reflection of the frequently heard wishes of our students both past and present for courses in this rapidly growing subfield. Student involvement in this hire was also evident by virtue of the seat on the search committee held by Student Representative Emily Morgan, and by the invaluable input students provided from the candidates' job talks. Thanks go to everyone who contributed to this successful hiring, including all of the members of the search committee (co-chaired by Drs. Pressley and Shen) as well as all of the students who participated!

In closing, I wish to offer heartfelt congratulations to all of our students who will be graduating in the class of 2010! Best wishes in all of your future endeavors, and please don’t be strangers. Drop us a line from time to time to let us know what you’re up to!

Cheers,

Dr. Keith Burton
Interview & Transcription by Lindsey Durbin

**What have you doing since you graduated from UIS?**

I went straight into the work force. I accepted a job as a behavioral therapist for a private company called Circles Behavioral Consultation Services. It's a small private company in Bloomington. I am actually their therapist for the Springfield area. It's a huge need in this area, but no one has been providing therapy for behavior problems. So I accepted that position in the end of July and have been working there ever since.

**What made you decide to go into the job market after receiving your degree at UIS?**

I actually did apply for grad school for psychology and I didn’t get in. So I got a job just to hold me over and then reapply to grad school for next fall and then I landed this job which was technically what I wanted to go into as well. I wanted to get my BCBA, which is a Board Certification for Behavioral Analysis. I will have eventually gotten that so I was like “Okay well I’ll go into a job that’s actually specializes in that”. So, I haven’t applied for grad school, I do plan on applying for next fall to get my certification to be a BCABA and then it will be a three year process to get fully certified.

The job that I have now isn’t necessarily just a job. I see it as a career; I want to stay with this company. Like I said, I’m going back to get certified as a BCABA and then I have to go back to get my masters in either psychology or education. Which I am leaning toward developmental psychology to get a masters degree in, then I can study for the exam to be fully certified. And again, I pretty much plan on staying with this company and helping it grow. It’s a young company that started four years ago. I feel like I’m part of something that is going to be bigger eventually and I’m a part of that and I’m helping it grow. It’s a really good feeling.

The Springfield area is something that is lacking in the behavioral therapy field so it’s a good opportunity for the behavioral therapy field. So it’s a good opportunity to stay in the area.

**What jobs did you find were available for students with a bachelor’s degree at UIS?**

I actually got two job offerings. I applied everywhere around the country. It’s a very tough time right now, but I applied down in Florida for a mental technician and the only thing I got was Hope School called me and offered me a mental technician position, which you didn’t even need your bachelors to do. So it was disappointing, but then I got offered this position which was higher up.

**How easy or difficult was it to find a job after receiving your degree at UIS?**

**Were there things about your education at UIS that set you apart from other job applicants?**

Yes, and I actually talked to my boss about some of that stuff. Probably the best thing I did while I was here [UIS] was I did an internship through the AST office and it was for a summer camp called Camp Aspire. It was working with kids with autism on social interaction skills and my supervisor from that directly referred me to my boss now. So that was probably the best thing I could have done while I was here.

My boss also talked about my experience in the theatre while I was here and that actually set me apart from several other applicants that I was going against. In my field, when you are working with kids, one kid is going to be totally different from another and you have to adjust what kind of therapy you are going to do. Not the technique or the process, that’s all the same, but with one kid you may be working on calming him down. So I’m not going to be like “Ah, hey, let’s go play!”, but with another kid that may be what he needs to get going in order to do the therapy. For every kid, we are changing who we are just to be able to do therapy. That was what my bosses tell me they set me apart from other applicants was my internship here [UIS] and my theatre experience.

**How did the UIS Psychology program prepare you for going into the job market?**

**What specific experiences or educational opportunities come to mind?**

I was a research assistant for Dr. Burton for a couple semesters and that really helped me be able to analyze data. Again, with behavior therapy, one of the biggest things is that we have to be able to document and keep data on every little thing that happens or it’s not valid. So that was a tough transition for me to go into the job and learn the therapy, do the therapy with the child, keep notes on the side, and then right after, do all my data, that was a hard transition, but I think it would be even harder if I didn’t have the background of being a lab assistant.

My advisor was Sheryl Reminger and I think, especially during my internship, she was my AST advisor as well, so since I worked with kids during that time I had to report to her every week and we would talk about things. I think that really opened my eyes to how it was going to be and to prepare myself for getting into this field.
What was the most challenging thing you faced in your job? How did your education at UIS Psychology program prepare you for this? Where there classes in particular that helped you better prepare you?

I would say two things.; being able to multitask as much as we do with the data, doing therapy, and being able to play with the kids naturally as well because that’s a big part of it. I guess the other thing would be the families. It’s hard because when you walk into a home, I do in-home therapy, and the kid is all excited for you to play with them. In order for the therapy to work, it has to continue after I leave and sometimes that doesn’t happen. It’s really hard to be like “Wow, I’m working my butt off for this kid, trying to get this kid to say two words, but I can’t be the only one doing it.” I think families when they look into behavioral therapy that it’s going to be this magic cure and the therapist is going to come in and work with the child a couple times and they’re going to start talking. That’s not how it works. At the same time, it’s one of the only proven treatments for autism right now. So yea we’re helping them and you’re going to see results, but it’s not the magic cure. Sometimes parents get caught up in that and they don’t understand that you’re hiring me not only to work with your child, but to train you as well. To help you understand what is going on and how to teach your child, that they have to be a crucial part of that therapy or it won’t work. So that’s probably the hardest thing, getting parents to see and understand that.

What was the best experience you had while you were enrolled in the UIS undergrad program that lead to your success?

I guess I would have to go back and say definitely that I would my internship. Obviously, that opened up doors for me. It was an amazing experience and I worked really well with the AST office. They really went above and beyond to get me the internship and to help me figure out thing and whatever I need. The experience itself was awesome. You played with kids, very fun. But also the networking that I gained. The world of families with kids with autism is small and they’re a tight community in this area. My biggest advocates are my families and so that networking in very important in my field.

If you had a chance to re-do your educational experience at UIS, what would you do differently?

I went to Lincoln Land and then transferred here; I live in the area so I never actually had the dorm experience and living on campus all the time. It really didn’t bother me, but there was a little part of my college experience that wasn’t complete. So I wish that I would have lived on campus for at least on semester. But that would be one thing I kind of regret.

What recommendations would you have for students who are planning on looking for a job after their degree at UIS? Any tips or advice for those students getting close to being done with their junior/ senior year?

Make sure you do an internship! I would also say get involved with anything involved in your field, whatever you want to get into. Networking is a huge part of even finding a job to begin with, but even going to grad school, having those strong letters of recommendation behind you, so if you can turn around and pick ten people you’ve met that can say “Yea she’s good, or he’s awesome” that is what’s going to get you somewhere. Internships all the way! If you can do it, do it.

Where Are They Now???

Amanda Davis is currently a graduate student in the UIS Human Development Counseling.

Shannon Lubin will be attending Marylhurst University in Fall 2010 to pursue a MA degree in Art Therapy.

Rosanna Ramilo will be a graduate student in the UIS Human Development Counseling starting Fall 2010.

Jeannine Sellman will be a graduate student in the Industrial/Organizational Psychology Program at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville starting Fall 2010.

Aaron Shilling is currently a graduate student in the Experimental Psychology Program at Western Illinois University.

Brett Stallone will be a graduate student in the Clinical PsyD Program at Adler starting Fall 2010.
Currently, there are two student organizations affiliated with the UIS Psychology Department: Psychology Club and Psi Chi. **Psychology Club** is a student organization that is open to all UIS psychology majors and minors. **Psi Chi** is the National Honor Society in psychology. Its purpose is to encourage excellence in scholarship and advance the science of psychology. Membership in Psi Chi requires the completion of a minimum of 12 semester hours of psychology courses at UIS, no more than 8 hours of incomplete courses, and a GPA ranking within the top one-third of the class. This year, the **Psi Chi President and Webmistress is Jeanine Sellman, Psychology Club President and Secretary is Alison Davis, and Psychology Club Vice-President is Michael Stephens.** Dr. Karen Mooney is the faculty advisor and sponsor of Psychology Club and Psi Chi.

### Spring 2010 Events

This Spring, Psychology Club and Psi Chi worked together on several philanthropic events through the semester:

- **Bowling Fundraiser** (January 24) — raised over $300 to purchase food for the Washing Street Mission Breakfast
- **Washington Street Mission Breakfast** (February 6) — cooked and served breakfast to over 200 people
- **St. Patrick Day’s Bake Sale** (March 8) — raised over $200 to help send psychology students to the 2010 Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago, IL
- **Psi Chi Induction Dinner** (April 8) — 24 students were inducted into Psi Chi for the 2009/2010 academic year. We celebrated with a dinner at the Olive Garden.
- **End of the Year Pizza Party** (April 28) — social to celebrate the end of the year and all the successful events from the previous academic year
- **Midwestern Psychological Association Conference** (April 30 to May 1) — Psi Chi will be sending 6 students to attend MPA at no cost except for meals.
**FACULTY & STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**

**DR. KEITH BURTON**

Dr. Burton is studying the psychophysiology of emotion and emotion regulation across different phases of the menstrual cycle. He is working with Biology graduate student Brett Stallone and undergraduate Psychology students Jeanine Sellman and Amy Hargis on this project. He is also supervising Jeanine and Amy in their student project which is examining the relationships between a variety of variables related to workplace display rules, emotion regulation, personality characteristics, and well-being. Dr. Burton also presented two posters at the annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research last October in Berlin. Those posters addressed some preliminary work on the menstrual cycle study data and a collaboration with an undergraduate student RA on the chronometry of facial expression.

**DR. KAREN PRESSLEY**

Dr. Pressley and Amy Quarton are in the process of finalizing a research project that they began together in the summer 2009 on “Attention modulation and Electroencephalography”. The data for this research study has been collected and is currently being analyzed. They presented part of this dataset as an abstract for the Cognitive Neuroscience Society Conference in April 2010 in Montreal, QB.

**DR. FRANCES SHEN**

Dr. Shen, Amanda Davis, Michael Stephens, and Linda Crider are currently working on two research projects. The first is a qualitative research project that examines the effects of internalized stereotypes on Asian American students. Data has been collected thus far, and currently several UIS psychology students are helping with the transcriptions of the interviews, including Patrick Abler, Lindsey Durbin, Elisha Hughes, Lucy Parker, Stacey Potts, Lisa Russow and Alicia Wilson. Data analysis of this project has begun and will continue through the Summer semester. The second research study is a path analysis project that examines the relationship of internalized stereotyping on the career development of Asian Americans based on the Social Cognitive Career Theory. Initial data collection has begun on this webservice study, and will continue through the Fall semester.

**DR. CARRIE SWITZER**

Dr. Switzer and Molly Meinhardt are currently collecting data for the Educational Aspirations study. The purpose of the study is to examine the relationship between psychosocial characteristics (e.g., personality, educational motivation, educational self-efficacy, perceived barriers to education, and expected educational outcomes) and educational aspirations of traditional and non-traditional aged college students and community members who have not attended college. It is hoped that potential differences between the three groups will lead to meaningful strategies to recruit and retain undergraduate students.
Introduction to UIS Psychology Department’s New Faculty Member

Born and raised in Malaysia, Shuang-Yueh Pui, moved to the United States in 2001 to obtain her bachelor’s degree in Psychology at University of Idaho. After her undergraduate education, she went to Wayne State University for her graduate degree in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. Within two years, she followed her advisor, Dr. Margaret Brooks, and transferred into the Industrial-Organizational Psychology program at Bowling Green State University. It was at Bowling Green State University that she obtained her Master’s degree and will be defending her doctoral dissertation in May 2010. She has three main areas of research: The first applies judgment and decision-making principles to issues in personnel selection. Her second area of research examines the relationship between workaholism, hostility in the workplace, and employee well-being and performance. Finally, her third area of research focuses on linking judgment and decision-making to the work-family interface.
In May 2010, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will be hosting the sixth annual reception for its graduating seniors. During this ceremony, various departments in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will be giving out awards to their outstanding graduates. In the Psychology Department, the following graduating seniors will be receiving departmental student awards:

- **Amy Quarton** will act as the **Psychology Department Student Marshal** at the 2010 graduation ceremony. This honor is given to a graduating senior who best exemplifies the goals and spirit of the department. At the graduation ceremony, the student marshal leads the other psychology graduates through the procession and the presentation of their diplomas.

- **Jeanine Sellman** will receive the **Outstanding Student Research Project** award for her independent student research project.

- **Amanda Davis** will receive the **Outstanding Psychology Student Scholar** award for her excellence in academic performance and her extensive involvement in faculty research.

- **Emily Morgan** will receive the **Outstanding Service to the Psychology Department** award for her work as the Department Student Representative.

- **Kimberly Denney** will receive the **Outstanding Psychology Senior Seminar Portfolio** award for creating exceptional portfolios in the Senior Seminar capstone course.

### UPComing CONFERENCES

**American Psychological Association**

- **Date:** August 12 to 15, 2010
- **Location:** San Diego, CA

**Association of Psychological Science**

- **Date:** May 27 to 30, 2010
- **Location:** Boston, MA

**Midwestern Psychological Association**

- **Date:** April 29 to May 1, 2010
- **Location:** Chicago, IL