Florida Tech Hosts Annual Autism Conference

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the prevalence of children diagnosed with autism is rising, creating concern and greater interest in the disorder. Currently, one in 150 children are diagnosed with this debilitating developmental disorder. Addressing the need for information on autism, Florida Institute of Technology’s School of Psychology hosted the 2007 Autism Conference, Oct. 18–19.

With more than 250 people in attendance, the conference provided comprehensive information to assist educators, health care and social service providers, students and families in developing effective educational and therapeutic care.

The conference started Thursday, Oct. 18 with a lecture by Anthony Bailey, M.D, the Cheryl and Reece Scott Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Oxford, UK. He discussed interventions for reversing autistic difficulties throughout the life span. Bailey’s lecture was so well attended, the auditorium was filled to maximum capacity, with some attendees even standing.

The following day, the presentations included “The Neurobiology of Autism” by Anthony Bailey, M.D.; “How a Child with Autism or Asperger’s Syndrome Perceives the World” by Dr. Linda Lotspeich, a child psychiatrist at Stanford University; “Autism and the Scientific Method” by Dr. Eb Blakely, a behavior analyst at Quest Inc. and a consultant at Devereux; and “The Benefits of a Language-based Approach in Programs for Children with Autism” by Dr. Vince Carbone, a board-certified behavioral analyst with extensive experience in designing learning environments for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities.

Florida Tech’s School of Psychology has big plans for the future, which include building a new 18,000 square foot Autism Center. The Autism Center will serve seven Central Florida counties, providing service to the communities; training for teachers, parents and Florida Tech students; and contributing to research in the field. One of the main objectives is to provide early intervention for children with autism. The goal is to aid in the identification and assessment of autism so as to begin services for children diagnosed with autism as early as possible. The treatment will be provided by a variety of professionals and students, providing valuable training opportunities to students while simultaneously serving the community. The Autism Center will be multidisciplinary, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, medical consultation and educational services. The center will also conduct clinically based research on what are the best treatment practices for people with autism.

By developing the Autism Center and by hosting conferences such as the one held in October, Florida Tech can help facilitate the education of professionals, students and families, provide and advance treatment for autism, and contribute to the body of research and knowledge regarding autism.
The Diversity Corner: An Introduction
John Roberts, second-year Psy.D. student

Hello and welcome to the Diversity Corner, the newest segment of the School of Psychology’s newsletter. In the future, we will be presenting information and research pertaining to diversity issues in the field of psychology. For now, we’re just going to introduce ourselves and give an overview of our work.

The Diversity Committee is the School of Psychology’s means to promote respect and understanding among its students, faculty and staff concerning issues of diversity. The Diversity Committee was instrumental in drafting the school’s diversity statement, which may be seen at http://cpla.fit.edu/psych/diversity.php. We offer many activities and events to help educate students and faculty about important issues in today’s diverse world. One of our favorite activities is Diversity Out Loud, a discussion-based event which aims to raise awareness about issues pertaining to diversity. The biannual discussions give Florida Tech students and faculty the chance to speak their minds on topics such as gay/lesbian marriage, presidential elections, affirmative action and much more. The Diversity Committee also distributes informational PowerPoint presentations to celebrate heritage months, and we’ve also created cultural festival displays for the School of Psychology lobby. For information regarding an event, event proposal, membership or any other functions of the Diversity Committee, please e-mail John Roberts at jroberts@fit.edu.

The current Diversity Committee members are Dr. Radhika Krishnamurthy, Dr. Frank Webbe, Dr. Vanessa Edkins, Deborah Gambles, Christine Salinas, Jill Nicolina, Ashley Thompson, Haya Saya, Rachel Oppenheimer, Blaise Amendolace, John Roberts, Roxanne Bayan and Jamie Kennedy.

School of Psychology Bestowed 14 Doctorates

Florida Tech’s School of Psychology graduated 14 students with doctor of psychology (Psy.D.) degrees on Sept. 8, 2007. Dr. Luis Anez-Nava, the school’s 2007 Alumnus of the Year recipient, gave the commencement address in the university’s Gleason Performing Arts Center.

Anez-Nava, a 1997 graduate of Florida Tech’s clinical psychology Psy.D. program, is an associate professor of psychology in the department of psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine. As director of the Hispanic Clinic of the Connecticut Mental Health Center, he has been overseeing the SAMHSA funded Co-Occurring State Incentive Grant pilot site at the Hispanic Clinic with the goal of increasing the clinic’s capacity to provide comprehensive, integrated and evidence-based treatment services to Latinos with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Dr. Anez-Nava was also recently named coordinator of the Connecticut Latino Behavioral Health System.


Studying Abroad (I/O Psy.D.)
Iris Rivera, third-year I/O Ph.D. student

On the evening of June 30, I boarded the biggest plane I had ever seen. For the first time, I was on my way overseas, to a different country, by myself, to work for a boss I still hadn’t met, to live in an apartment I had never seen. Little did I know that it would be an amazing experience. I quickly began working at Adecco in beautiful Valencia, Spain, where I stayed for two months. At Adecco, I had the opportunity to work in selection and placement. I ran interviews, administered selection tools and evaluated résumés in order to place applicants in the best suited jobs. I also learned about the development and validation of the selection tools we were using. However, there was a twist; the internship was in Spanish!

The most valuable experience I gained from my internship in Spain was learning how business is conducted outside of the United States. I quickly learned that culture influences all aspects of work. While the applied work will help me in the future, I feel that more importantly this internship has given me a competitive edge. I feel better prepared to work with global companies, and I feel confident in my ability to apply I/O knowledge abroad.

My advice to those wanting to find an internship abroad is to not give up. I heard a lot of nos along the way, but I continued to network until I reached my goal. Don’t lose sight of your goals and good things will come. As the Valencianos would say, “Tot Felicitat Canivet” (it’s all good love!)

Christine Salinas, fourth-year Psy.D. student

Having a strong passion for diversity issues and multicultural assessment, I was motivated to initiate a practicum abroad that would allow me to be immersed within a different culture and expand upon my clinical skills. Through networking with professionals within the National Academy of Neuropsychology and Hispanic Neuropsychological Society, I was able to set up an experience in Malaga, Spain, where my family lives.

This past summer I worked on collaborative research projects in aphasia, strokes and Asperger’s Syndrome under the umbrella of the Center for Medical Investigations (C.I.M.E.S.), a multidisciplinary research institute at the University of Malaga. I performed initial and follow-up interviews as well as conducted neuropsychological evaluations in Spanish with elderly adults related to Alzheimer’s Disease, Aphasia and Vascular Dementia. I also engaged in 75 hours of intensive constrained language therapy in Spanish with elderly aphasic patients as part of a drug trial for Memantine. I also participated in weekly didactic training with professionals related to neuroanatomy and brain imaging techniques, including CT, PET and IMRI.

Under the supervision of Dr. Marcelo Berthier, my work resulted in a poster that will be presented in Barcelona, Spain, this November. In addition, we have prepared two manuscripts that are currently in the end stages of completion related to strokes, late-onset OCD and Asperger’s Disorder.

Beyond my professional experiences, I also had the opportunity to live in a dorm at the University of Malaga, which allowed me to make meaningful connections with diverse students from all over Europe. Having lived in Spain for a duration of three and a half months afforded me the opportunity to learn the nuances of the culture as well as engage in self-reflection of my cultural biases, thus increasing my cultural sensitivity. I am looking forward to returning back to Spain in May, and I hope to further develop my knowledge of working with multicultural clients while on internship.

Iris Rivera
Valencia, Spain

The City of Arts and Sciences, Valencia, Spain

The City of Arts and Sciences, Valencia, Spain

The City of Arts and Sciences, Valencia, Spain
As her professional and personal interests and hobbies are diverse, her accomplishments and contributions are also varied. Between her teaching and her employment as a supervisor at the Florida Tech Memory Disorder Clinic, she found time to engage in various activities, including running the annual chili cook-off and the annual chili cook-off competition for the university botanical garden. Dr. Baker also directed the Forensic Research Lab, where she conducted research on the effects of stress on memory. In addition, she was an active member of the Society for Research on Biological and Psychological Measures, where she served as editor of the journal's newsletter.

Dr. Baker is a dedicated teacher and mentor. She has taught courses in psychology and has supervised numerous graduate students in clinical psychology. She has also served as a mentor to many doctoral students, providing guidance and support throughout their academic careers. Dr. Baker is known for her passion for teaching and her ability to engage her students in the learning process.

As a researcher, Dr. Baker has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at numerous conferences. She has also received several awards for her research, including the Outstanding Researcher Award from the Florida Psychological Association.

Dr. Baker is a full-time professor at Florida Tech, where she teaches courses in psychology and serves as a mentor to students. She is also the director of the Florida Tech Memory Disorder Clinic, where she provides diagnostic and treatment services to patients with memory disorders.

Dr. Baker is a dedicated and accomplished professor, researcher, and mentor. She has made significant contributions to the field of psychology and has inspired many students to pursue careers in psychology. Her dedication to her students and her field of study is an example of the best qualities of a teacher and mentor.

Good-bye Dr. Baker!

After more than 22 years of employment and service, Dr. Juanita N. Baker is hanging up the many hats she wears here at Florida Tech. Some may be surprised to learn that Dr. Baker’s influence at Florida Tech has not been limited to the School of Psychology. Just as her professional and personal interests and hobbies are diverse, so are her accomplishments and contributions made to the university and the community.

Over the years, Dr. Baker has brought in more than $2 million in service contracts and grants to help cover the costs of providing psychological services to the community, particularly to children and families affected by sexual abuse. She has brought in another $100,000 in donations for fellowship monies as well as starting the Juanita Neal-Baker Fellowship in 2002, which has already dispersed more than $45,000 to 15 doctoral trainee recipients. Dr. Baker started the Family Learning Program in 1991 and has directed its development from the beginning. In the 16 years since its inception, the Family Learning Program has treated more than 1,000 children and families including victims of sexual abuse, siblings of victims, non-offending caretakers and offenders. Over 180 doctoral trainees have benefited from the experience of working with children and families through the Family Learning Program.

Dr. Baker has chaired or participated in many committees throughout her years at Florida Tech including 36 completed master’s theses. Dr. Baker also took an active interest in expanding the collection and diversity of books available to students and faculty at Evans Library. In 1993 she founded the Friends of the Evans Library Foundation in order to seek donations for the library collection. The foundation has managed to gather a sizable endowment enabling the library to expand its collection and purchase many specialized books for each department upon the request of faculty and students. I’m sure most students, faculty and alumni at Florida Tech have walked by the statue of the Florida panther in Panther Plaza at some point in their stay here. However, I’m also sure that most of you do not know Dr. Baker is the person responsible for having that sculpture brought to our campus after discovering it in Colorado.

With all her efforts to better circumstances and increase resources for students and faculty alike, Dr. Baker has touched the lives of many. She has guided more than 50 graduate students in learning professional and ethical standards of psychology through teaching her Ethics 1 course. She has also advised more than 120 students and supervised many more in clinical practice.

At her retirement party held in the university’s botanical garden, alumna Dr. Sara Howze presented Dr. Baker with an oil lamp. She explained this choice of gifts in a heartfelt speech in which she described the flame of the lamp as symbolizing the continuity of Dr. Baker’s influence and dedication to her students.

“She leaves quite a legacy of determination, tenacity, creativity and compassion” said Howze. “I have admired Juanita’s many talents for years.”

On behalf of the School of Psychology, Dean Kenkel presented Dr. Baker with an engraved silver statue of a bird to acknowledge her many contributions over the years. This gift is of course very suited to Dr. Baker who is an avid bird watcher and has even published a photographic nature book with her husband titled Reflections of Blue Cypress. We can only hope that Dr. Baker will devote as much time and energy to enjoying her retirement as she has to improving our school and community. From the entire Florida Tech community, thank you Dr. Baker for your many contributions over the years and the many lives you have touched along the way. We will miss you!

Farewell Dr. Peake!

After 21 years of dedicated service and countless contributions to Florida Tech’s School of Psychology, Dr. Thomas H. Peake was bid adieu this fall at a cinematically themed retirement party organized by his colleagues and students. Popcorn adorned each table, pictures of Dr. Peake from over the years hung on the walls and Drs. Oelschlager and Farro presented personalized tributes including clips from some of Dr. Peake’s favorite movies. As many of you know, Dr. Peake has a special fondness for film; he feels movies are a good vehicle for portraying relevant psychological issues to therapists, clients and the lay public.

In his book, Dr. Peake discussed prevailing and emerging models of life-span development, giving them real-life application by using examples from cinema to animate psychological understanding and application. Keeping with the movie theme, Dr. Kenkel presented Dr. Peake with an Oscar on behalf of the School of Psychology for all he has accomplished over the years.

Dr. Peake came to Florida Tech in 1986 after working at Eastern Virginia Medical School, Memphis University and the University of Missouri at Kansas City. He began as a professor of psychology and director of what is now called Community and Psychological Services (CAPS). Over the years, Dr. Peake was instrumental in developing practicum sites in neuropsychology as well as in the medical field. He developed practica at Holmes Regional Medical Center, Wuesthoff Memorial Hospital and with local cardiologists and neurologists. At these practica, students have the opportunity to gain experience and training in dealing with the aftermath of trauma as well as working with patients and their families.

Dr. Peake also developed the psychocinema program here at Florida Tech, which presents films of psychological relevance to students, faculty and community members alike. Afterwards, discussions were led based on these films. Dr. Peake was instrumental in the recent development of the neuropsychology track now offered to Psy.D. students and served as the director of neuropsychology services at the East Central Florida Memory Disorder Clinic for the past 14 years, where he has been supervisor to countless Psy.D. trainees. Not only was Dr. Peake a wonderful supervisor, he was also an active mentor to many students. He was always willing to involve students in any project he was working on. Whether it was philosophical, research or clinical work, he often collaborated with students, naming them as authors on his publications and book chapters.

Last but not least, one cannot think of Dr. Peake without thinking about his little friend Addison the toy duck. According to his colleagues, Addison and Dr. Peake were always a cheering sight walking through the halls together. Anyone having a bad day was guaranteed to get a laugh out of watching Dr. Peake walk his little wooden duck down the hall or by borrowing Addison to take him for a walk themselves. It goes without saying that Dr. Peake’s cheerful attitude towards colleagues, collaborative approach to working with students and his ability to convey knowledge to others by giving it meaning in a unique way will all be sorely missed here at Florida Tech. Dr. Peake, we thank you for your time and contributions here at Florida Tech and wish you the best of luck in the future.
Dr. Paula M. Wolfteich, Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology Program
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, Purdue University, 1992
M.S., Clinical Psychology, Purdue University, 1986
B.A., Psychology, Northwestern University, 1983

Dr. Wolfteich’s career has focused on the psychological evaluation and treatment of children, particularly abused and neglected children. From 1994 to 2003, Dr. Wolfteich worked at the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Women and Children in Orlando in various clinical and senior administrative roles—as a licensed psychologist on the Child Protection Team, as the director of clinical services at the Developmental Center and as the director of program evaluation at the Center for Children and Families. While there, she developed and implemented two multidisciplinary evaluation clinics—a mental health diagnostic clinic and a communications disorders clinic for children exhibiting language, behavioral and/or autistic features. Since 2003, Dr. Wolfteich has been an assistant professor at Valdosta State University. There she taught undergraduate and graduate courses in child psychology, human development and psychological assessment, and supervised the research and clinical work of master’s students. Her research has two major foci: exploring the effectiveness of strategies to investigate, prevent and intervene with child abuse and investigating developmental delays and early intervention with children. In addition to her faculty duties, Dr. Wolfteich will serve as the director of Florida Tech’s Family Learning Program, a state-funded program that serves sexually abused children and their families. Dr. Wolfteich has three children—Drew, Sara, 20, and Jonathan, 14. She is an avid dog lover and also considers her 15-year-old collie an important part of the family. In her spare time, she enjoys attending her son’s football games, reading and taking step aerobics and dance classes.

Dr. Pamela L. Neidert, Assistant Professor, Behavior Analysis Programs
Ph.D., Behavior Analysis, University of Florida, 2007
M.S., Special Education, Johns Hopkins University, 1999
B.A., Communication Arts, Salisbury State University, 1993

Dr. Neidert is interested in disorders of learning and behavior, and her research focuses on the assessment and treatment of severe problem behavior and skill acquisition in people with developmental disabilities. Her most recent project involves assessing the functions of self-injurious behavior among individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a relatively rare genetic disorder. Dr. Neidert is a board certified behavior analyst and has substantial clinical experience in the assessment and treatment of problem behavior from the Kennedy-Krieger Institute (Baltimore, Md.) and the Marcus Institute (Atlanta, Ga.). Additionally, she provided clinical behavior services to students at a local special education school and served as coordinator of the applied behavior analysis student laboratory during her graduate student tenure at the University of Florida (Gainesville, Fla.). Finally, Dr. Neidert has taught courses in applied behavior analysis at the University of Florida, which prepares her well for similar teaching responsibilities at Florida Tech. With respect to non-academic interests, Dr. Neidert enjoys any activity that allows her to meet interesting, entertaining people. As a Baltimore native, the thing she misses most since moving to Florida is steamed Maryland blue crabs!

Dr. Vanessa A. Edkins, Assistant Professor, Forensic Psychology
Ph.D., Social Psychology, Quantitative minor, University of Kansas, 2007
M.A., Social Psychology, University of Kansas, 2003
B.Sc., Psychology, Brandon University, 2002

Dr. Edkins’ research has focused on the intersection of the legal system and psychology and has included such topics as jurors’ decision-making, the psychology of entrapment and racism. With funding provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, she developed a scale of general attitudes towards the legal system with a focus on crime control and due process issues. This scale will be an important assessment tool in many forensic psychology studies. Dr. Edkins comes with a strong background in teaching and advising undergraduate students. She has taught courses on social psychology, psychology and the law, and introduction to psychology. With a keen interest in teaching, she has authored and published several instructor manuals and student study guides for courses in her interest areas. Dr. Edkins also enjoys running, swimming and, although the opportunity does not seem to arise in Florida as much as it did in her home country of Canada, snowboarding. Her husband, also Canadian, is teaching math at a local high school and does not anticipate missing the -40 degree winters.
The 22nd Annual Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) conference was held April 27–29 at the Marriott Marquis in New York City. The conference included a wide variety of presentations, seminars, workshops, and other activities related to organizational behavior. The I/O program had one of its best years in terms of submissions accepted. Faculty and students were involved in more than 20 poster presentations and symposia during the three-day conference.

Faculty members in the industrial/organizational psychology program include Richard Griffith, Ph.D., program chair; Patrick Converse, Ph.D.; William K. Gabrenya Jr., Ph.D.; and Erin Richard, Ph.D.

Dr. Richard Griffith and Students


Malm, T., & Griffith, R., A measurement invariance and method bias model of applicant faking.

Peterson, M.H., Burkevich, R.L., & Griffith, R.L., Locus of control and applicant and convergent evidence.


Graduate Students

Mangos, P., & Isaacson, J., Cut score development as an extension of the validation process.


Waggoner, J.A., & Van Driel, M., Knowledge management in some form or another.

APA Alumni Reception
This year at the 155th annual APA convention in San Francisco, Florida Tech psychology alumni, former and current faculty members, and current and former students gathered at Zizzi's Restaurant to share memories and catch up with old friends and colleagues over wine and appetizers. Special thanks to hosts Allison Waterworth ’97 Psy.D. and Rhonda Lindsey ’96 Psy.D. who did a wonderful job putting it all together. Drs. Baker and Peake were honored for their 44 combined years of service at Florida Tech and countless contributions made to the program and students over the years. Attendees included those pictured below as well as John Capps ’96 and his wife, George DeRoock ’83 with wife Cara DeRoock, Scott Meit ’89 with wife Laurie Waisel, Susan Rosenzweig ’94 with husband Isaac Simkin and daughter Alonna Simkin, Gregory Waugh ’96 with son Christian Waugh, Kristi Van Sickel ’06, former faculty and present deputy CEO and chief operating officer of APA Mike Honaker, current faculty Frank Webbe, and current doctoral candidates Deborah Gambles ’09, Donna Burrowes ’09, Trent Devore ’08 and Donald Respass ’09 with wife Althea and daughters Camille and Jasmine.

Military Scholarships Awarded to Psychology Students
Several students in the clinical psychology program have been awarded military scholarships through the Air Force and the Army. The scholarships allow the students to gain valuable experience in the armed forces while applying what they have learned from their program at Florida Tech.

Donna Burrowes was commissioned into the Air Force for 10 years, she is quite familiar with military life and has grown to appreciate the hard work and dedication these men and women give to our country. In addition, she has experienced the hardships connected with loved ones being sent overseas. She believes that joining the Air Force will enable her to have a sense of purpose while being able to serve her country while doing so.

Alonna Simkin, Gregory Waugh ’96 with son Christian Waugh, Kristi Van Sickel ’06, former faculty and present deputy CEO and chief operating officer of APA Mike Honaker, current faculty Frank Webbe, and current doctoral candidates Deborah Gambles ’09, Donna Burrowes ’09, Trent Devore ’08 and Donald Respass ’09 with wife Althea and daughters Camille and Jasmine.

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1983
J. David Meyer, Psy.D., ABPP
I just completed ABPP Board Certification in clinical health psychology. I sat for the exam in Washington, D.C., in September and just received confirmation. Obviously I’m excited and feel honored.
I still work at Franciscan Skemp Healthcare (multidisciplinary medical center) in La Crosse, WI, and continue to race bicycles most weekends from March through September each year.
I am busy but I still enjoy the physical and mental stimulation.

1984
Leslie Higgins, Psy.D.
I am still in New Orleans, which is an interesting place to be Post-Katrina. My house was adjacent to the 17th Street canal and received four feet of water. Given that it is right next to the major flood prevention project going on in the canal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning to buy it and demolish it. Practice wise, things are incredibly busy. My private practice is thriving, and I serve as a consultant to some special programs in a neighboring school district two days a week. I remained in 2004, and my daughter is getting ready to start high school. New Orleans is still tons of fun…come visit!
My e-mail is clencre@cox.net.

1995
Shelley M. (Plaut) Prisco, Psy.D.
I am now married, and my husband Jim and I are expecting a boy in October 2007. I have stepped down from training director of the Northwest Georgia Consortium as of Sept. 1, 2007, since I will be on maternity leave. I plan to return to my job as a forensic psychologist with the state of Georgia once my leave is over.

1997
Jerry Thompson, Psy.D.
I am currently the president/chief executive officer for Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. Coastal is a Saratoga-based, not-for-profit company that provides behavioral health services in Sarasota, Desoto, Charlotte and Lee counties. We provide a continuum of services ranging from acute psychiatric inpatient to outpatient to residential. We serve children, adolescents, adults and families. We have approximately 300 employees and a yearly budget of $20 million.

2000
Jodi Owen, Psy.D.
I am in the end of my fifth year as clinical director of Capital Area Counseling (CMHC) in Pierre, S.D. I am into my second year of being student-loan-debt free with the help of National Health Service Counseling (CMHC) in Pierre, S.D. I am into my fifth year as clinical director of Capital Area Counseling (CMHC) in Pierre, S.D. I am into my second year of being student-loan-debt free with the help of National Health Service Counseling (CMHC) in Pierre, S.D. I am into my second year of being student-loan-debt free with the help of National Health Service Counseling (CMHC) in Pierre, S.D.

2003
Sara Lupo, M.S.
I just wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the program you have created. It has enhanced my professional skills. It has grown over these past few years, and after talking with my colleagues, I am now even more amazed at the overall quality of the program. I feel I was able to get one of the best possible educations in I/O. I am currently working as a human resources analyst in a group of five people, four of whom have at least a master’s degree in I/O. Everyone cannot believe all I experienced as part of the program, including item writing, project management, creating a cost estimate, validation studies and the depth of the statistics. On top of that, they are impressed with my background in employment law and everything else. Thank you again for working with me and the rest of the students and pushing everyone to ensure we had all of the necessary skills and knowledge to work in any field we ended up in whether it be applied or research oriented.

2004
Suzy [Young] Winter, Psy.D.
After graduating from Florida Tech in 2004, I completed postdoctoral training in clinical neuropsychology (two years) under the supervision of Dr. Patrick Gorman in Winter Park. Following the completion of my postdoctoral training (which was awesome, by the way) I opened a private practice in Jacksonville, Fl. Currently, I have my private practice, am teaching two sections of psychology at the University of North Florida and am the consulting neuropsychologist at a transitional living facility for persons with traumatic brain injury. I love my job and am very thankful to the professors at the University of Florida, especially Dr. Weibe, Peake, Ellmore, Gorman and Dr. K for preparing me so well for the positions I now hold. I realized in my internship at the VA in St. Petersburg how great the Psy.D. program at Florida Tech was and hope that its standards continue and are never compromised.

2005
Alexandra M. “Allie” Price, Psy.D., HSSP
I recently accepted a position at Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg Va., and just relocated to the East Coast. While I learned a great deal during my postdoctoral year and subsequent employment in Indiana, there is greater room for growth at ESH. My new position will be as a unit psychologist for the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program, with a focus on DBT and intake assessment, and also offers the opportunity to supervise practicum students and interns. I also hope to teach a few night courses at William and Mary. I must say that one of the smartest decisions I made in the past 18 months was to bank my credentials with the National Register.
The state of Indiana endorsed me as a Health Service Provider in Psychology (HSSP) earlier this year, and this coupled with the credentials bank has allowed for an exceptionally easy transition to a new jurisdiction. Transferring my license to a different state was a much easier affair than organizing the moving of my books and furniture! I send my best to everyone at Florida Tech and hope to make it back to visit sometime soon!

2006
Meghann Arshad, B.A.
I graduated from Florida Tech in 2005 with a B.A. in psychology with a clinical concentration. I am currently working on my master’s in applied behavior analysis from Western Michigan University. I just started my second year. Michigan is very different from Florida (especially the weather!), but I believe more comfortable here now than I’ve been here for almost a year. After graduation, I hope to work in the United States for a year and then move back to Pakistan. I’d like to go back home and apply what I have learned seeing as how it’s really needed there.

2007
Greg Waugh, Psy.D.
Hello all and greetings from the desert Southwest. I am here in the Phoenix area where I run and am the sole therapy provider for a female sex offender treatment program serving women incarcerated in the state prison. I feel truly lucky to have this rather unique position, as it is rather uncommon for incarcerated females (as opposed to males) in the U.S. to have access to this type of program.
I am also vigorously making numerous professional contacts both in the public and private sectors. Additionally, I have presented my program at the state level on a number of occasions and have received a great deal of interest and feedback about the program. After having studied for and passed the EPPP, I am now finishing my clinical neuropsychology (two years) under the supervision of Dr. Patrick Gorman in Winter Park. Following the completion of my postdoctoral training (which was awesome, by the way) I opened a private practice in Jacksonville, Fl. Currently, I have my private practice, am teaching two sections of psychology at the University of North Florida and am the consulting neuropsychologist at a transitional living facility for persons with traumatic brain injury. I love my job and am very thankful to the professors at the University of Florida, especially Dr. Weibe, Peake, Ellmore, Gorman and Dr. K for preparing me so well for the positions I now hold. I realized in my internship at the VA in St. Petersburg how great the Psy.D. program at Florida Tech was and hope that its standards continue and are never compromised.

2008
Gina Larisa Salisbury, Psy.D.
I am living in Muncie, N.C., doing my postdoc as a staff psychologist on the Adult Admissions Division of Broughton State Hospital. Here, I work with acute and persistently mentally ill adult patients. I am in charge of a ward of 19 male patients, and I have contact with most of the patients on the division through groups I run. We are enjoying the area and its small-town charm, although it is conventionally located within an hour of Asheville and Charlotte. My dog, Nellie Louise, and cat, Frieda Rome, are still doing good and getting fatter by the day. My husband, Travis, is working as a store manager for Rite Aid, and I am still doing photography on the side.

2009
Amy Rowe, Psy.D.
Currently, I am in the process of completing officer training at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Al. Following, I will be stationed at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Ms. I am very much looking forward to beginning my master’s level experience as a psychologist in the Air Force and thus far have met some wonderful and supportive people to help me through the transition from student to professional, as well as civilian to military. I am grateful for my time at Florida Tech and plan to come visit as soon as possible. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend graduation as I will be involved in a pre-deployment mission in which we have to build a hospital and mental health facility from the ground up, as though we were in Iraq.

Amanda Ficsen, M.S.
After graduating with my M.S. in ABA, I have since moved to Portland, Ore., to pursue my Ph.D. in social work and social research at Portland State University. I plan to use my background in ABA and specifically my organizational focus in the field to help create change and better systems within child welfare populations.

Tina Malm, Ph.D., and Shawn Burkevich, M.S. ’06
This summer, we moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and are now acclimating to the West Coast lifestyle. Shawn works as a senior employee development generalist for Headway Technologies. His first project is focused on revamping their PA process and developing/implementing training on effective feedback delivery. Most of his days are spent wishing he had more time to do his research. Dr. Steinman’s insight. I’m also involved in a couple of exciting employee/labor relation issues for a diverse workforce composed of 20+ different nationalities. Now he also wished he had stuck around Florida Tech long enough to take Dr. Gabrenya’s classes.
Tina joined Google as an HR analyst, where she monitors employee engagement and productivity through developing/analyzing surveys, focus groups and HRIS databases. While it’s easy to be engaged, being a productive Googler is challenging considering the many diversions offered (e.g., massages, video games, table tennis, scooters, etc.) Tina is particularly thrilled for the free food available at 11:30 am International employees lunch and the ability to pay back her enormous student loans. She’s currently trying hard to not give her “Noogler.”

We absolutely love the bay area and it’s not all about work. We still find time to explore the bay area. We’ve taken to “City to Sea” tours where we cycle 26 miles along the south side of the bay and then catch a ferry to SF. We’ll be capable SF SMEs. Life’s good!

P.S.: Dr. Griffith, we still can’t believe we deserted the 1 side either!

PPS.: Dr. Gutman, you’re quite the matchmaker!
Where are they now?
Do you know a former alum who has said to you “I don’t ever get a copy of Journey.” Or “I wonder why so-and-so doesn’t write to me from Florida Tech anymore.” Well—maybe they are among the missing. Each semester when we send out Journey, we receive a multitude of address updates and a goodly number of “return to sender—address unknown.” If you know someone who may not have let us know of their recent move, or recent change in e-mail—call them, e-mail them, contact them in some way and ask them to get in touch with us. We are always interested in hearing what our alumni are up to, where they are headed and what wonderful accomplishments they are making. Let us hear from you. We want to expand our alumni update section. Send your information any time throughout the year, not just when you hear from us about the next issue of Journey.

Take care, be well and keep in touch. Send your updates to jmccray@fit.edu.

P.S. Your pictures are a welcome addition, please include yourself in the pictures of your children and pets…after all…we went to school with you!

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