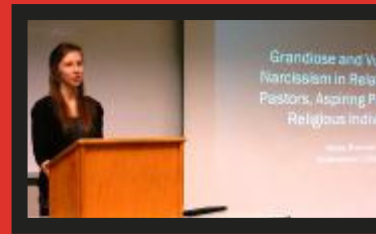


NWCPsychNews

ISSUE

04

December
2012/
January
2013



Senior Alyssa Ronchak presents her senior thesis research (see p. 3)



NWC Psychology Dept. Mission Statement

"Psychology is a rich and diverse discipline that scientifically studies thought and behavior. The psychology department at Northwestern College seeks to acquaint students with the questions asked, approaches used, discoveries made, and explanations offered by this discipline . . . Ultimately, the department seeks to help students integrate their faith and learning into a coherent whole from which they can intelligently and faithfully live their God-given calling."



NWC PsychNews Issue 04

December 2012/January 2013

It is now 2013 and the spring semester is about to begin. Before it does, though, we wanted to connect with you! Each of you play an important role in helping us sustain our love for what we do at Northwestern College. **Alumni:** you inspire us by passionately pursuing your hopes and dreams. **Current students:**

your questions and curiosity challenge us to continue seeking and strengthening our knowledge. And prospective students: your enthusiasm reminds us of the sacredness of our task. Thank you for your presence in our lives—both physically and virtually!

Grace & peace, The NWC psychology faculty

Below: Psychology majors in attendance at the 2012 Siouxland Social Science Conference. (Dr. Feenstra was on sabbatical in Romania when this photograph was taken.)



New graduates Mariah Tappe and Aly Cooper

2012 graduate Mariah Tappe reflects on her NWC experience:

Looking back, what kinds of things were you glad you participated in or habits you developed while a student?

Mariah: I'm a very social person and don't do well doing things alone. When writing papers or studying for tests (ahem, statistics), it was very helpful to work in a small group. Being able to bounce things around with one another helped me tremendously. Also, making up songs to remember certain things is always a good idea!



Video game study break at the Edman house! L to R: Kirsten McConnell, Dr. Sally Edman, Anna Bartlett, Jenny Welch, & Bev Rubel. See more info on department events on p. 3.

Department News

Transitions

We said goodbye to Professor Andy Donahoe in the spring. She and her husband, Ryan, moved to Holland, Michigan where Ryan is attending Western Theological Seminary. Andy is teaching classes at Hope College and serving as a Resident Director at Hope. She is also busy with daughter Moira, and new addition, son Kellan!

Faculty

Our newest faculty member, Dr. Terry Chi, is becoming acclimated to small-town life in his second year at Northwestern. He and his wife, Grace, are frequent attendees of department and college events—although the person who usually gets attention is daughter, Kimberlyn!



Kimberlyn Chi captivates the psych majors at the year-end party.

Dr. Jennifer Feenstra wrapped up a wonderful year as a Fulbright scholar in Romania and returned to Northwestern in the fall. She has resumed her duties as department chair, Psi Chi advisor, purveyor of baked goodies, and resident social psychology expert. We're still wondering how we made it through the year without her!

What do you do if you are a Northwestern psychology professor and classes are not in session? It depends. If you're Dr. Laird Ed-

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man, you don a Dutch costume and join in the Tulip Festival fun in Orange City. Pictured here are Dr. Edman and psychology majors Dani Maurer (2014) and Malea Beeson (2014).



Professor Sandie Kinsinger continues researching the psychology of hope and writes department newsletters in her spare time.

Online Courses

Northwestern College is strengthening its online presence and you might recognize the names of our two online psychology faculty members. Professor Andy Donahoe is teaching developmental psychology courses from Michigan and Dr. Daniela Cambetas Syed is offering general psychology online from her home in Maryland.

Find us on Facebook

If you are a current student or if you have been away from Northwestern for a while, you can stay up-to-date with all the psychology department shenanigans by joining the **NWC Psychology Department** Facebook group. Type the group name into your Facebook browser and request to be added to the group. The posts range from thoughtful to absurd, and the occasional videos are definitely click worthy (don't miss Dr. Edman dancing alongside Kayla and Val Kleinjan at the Siouxland conference—posted June 3).



Reflections from a
2012 graduate,
(cont. from p. 1)

In what ways
did NWC prepare you
for life after college?
Any other advice?

Mariah: NWC really taught me to have faith in everything that I did. I know there were many times during school where I said I didn't care anymore and wanted to quit because I was so overwhelmed with the amount of work I had to do. But despite all the papers, reports, and presentations and the constant feeling of running around without a purpose, I did find it. From talking with other Psychology majors from different colleges, I feel that NWC does a much better job at preparing you for life after college. Whether that involves going to grad school right away, doing volunteer work, or a full time job. The chaos will be worth it in the end. You will feel accomplished and proud about your work.

NWC Alumni Follow Their Passions



Victoria Karssen Part of the Healing Process

By Amanda Kirsch, 2014



Paul Ryon Exercising Knowledge of Psychology

By Megan Ott, 2013



Victoria Karssen says the education she received at Northwestern College helped her to successfully pursue her passion for serving others as a hospital chaplain.

Karssen, a wife and mother of three, studied mostly part-time at Northwestern for six years before graduating with her B.A. in psychology in 2006. Karssen loved being a student, and learning from devoted teachers made a difference. "My wonderful professors told me I would be successful when I did not know that for myself," Karssen says.

Through her classes Karssen grew from a timid speaker to someone who felt she had a voice. She found her senior thesis project to be "challenging, exciting, and incredibly rewarding." Karssen even had the pleasure of hosting Dr. David Meyers as a presenter for her final project. While at Northwestern, Karssen had an internship working at the Mental Health Institute in Cherokee, Iowa. Through this experience, Karssen was able to complete a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

After graduating, Karssen was accepted into a second unit of

CPE at St. Luke's College in Sioux City. Karssen's career as hospital chaplain began shortly after completing training. Karssen recalls, "Just days after I finished my second unit at St. Luke's Hospital one of the chaplains on staff was hospitalized, and I was asked to fill in for a month or so. I have been at St. Luke's ever since." Hospital chaplaincy comes with several responsibilities, but Karssen explains that the job essentially necessitates compassion and a willingness to listen. "As chaplains we offer spiritual, emotional, and prayerful support to patients and their families, as well as our staff." Karssen's first priority is to respond quickly to a number of critical health situations, such as when someone experiences cessation of pulse or breathing. "At these times we are present with family, are a liaison between them and our doctors and nurses, answer questions of what is happening or what to expect, and if necessary, help them deal with a death." Karssen says her next priority is meeting with patients prior to surgery or high-risk procedures. "We just listen. We don't walk in with an agenda but offer ourselves as a confidential person and

advocate for patients, family, and friends to discuss concerns."

Karssen describes how chaplains at St. Luke's are expected to be non-judgmental of lifestyle or personal beliefs. "As we meet people from every culture and religious background we are deliberate to understand their practices and needs, and diligent to provide care that is meaningful to them, not strict to our personal practices." Although many people assume her job is a difficult one, Karssen believes it is truly an honor and privilege to join patients and family members in their holy space. "We know that being a calm and grounded presence is often enough."

Karssen's own path to chaplaincy has given her insight she hopes to pass on to others. "Do not waste energy qualifying life as good or bad because all of our lives include both. Find ways to embrace the haven and the strength with which you have been rewarded when you see that you have made it through a tough day or experience! It might just be the solid ground you stand on as you take your next step."

Paul Ryon is a 2010 graduate of Northwestern College. While at NWC, Ryon double majored in psychology and physical education and was a part of the soccer team. Ryon recently received a Master's Degree in the Psychology of Sport and Exercise from Illinois State University and is currently in the process of gaining certification in areas related to applied sports psychology and professional psychology associations. Ryon spends time consulting with various sports programs, mainly with coaches and former players, with the goal of creating a "means of increasing accessibility to sports psychology research and methodology."

Ryon states that his interest in sports psychology began in high school. It is a field that combines his interest in problem solving, helping others, and working in a sports exercise environment. "Being able to merge what I know about sports from both a psychological standpoint and being an athlete made it easier to relate and transfer ideas from research into an applied science."

Ryon is currently in the pro-

cess of a finding an outlet to apply his knowledge in sports psychology, and is confident he made the right choice of study. "I really wanted to go into something that I found interesting and that I felt called to. I think that, if used correctly, sports psychology can give individuals a platform to learn all kinds of valuable skills that they can use in all areas of life."

So what exactly does a sports psychologist do? Ryon explained that sports psychology is similar to many other areas of psychology, but with a focus on topics related to exercise. "For example, there is quite a bit of current research looking at motivation regarding why or why not people participate in exercise. Using a theory like Self-Determination Theory, researchers are trying to figure out some of the intrinsic reasons why people participate in exercise. The goal then is for educators and/or practitioners in sports psychology to teach people how to embrace those intrinsic areas and try to overcome some of the barriers preventing exercise."

Sports psychology is a new and growing field and as such

jobs are competitive. "At the professional level there are a limited number of teams and also a high degree of standards and experience required when working with million dollar investments. On a college level, sports psychologists are becoming more prevalent." The private market is recognizing the value of this field. "The U.S. Army and Olympic Committee both employ a large number of sports psychologists to deal with the pressures of high level athletic or physical training." Professional licensing is available for those desiring to work with individuals, rather than consulting with a team. "But in order to do sports psychology full-time one normally needs to go into education or have a bit of experience and networking available."

Finally, Ryon expressed gratitude for his undergraduate training. "I can't really think of many ways in which NWC didn't prepare me for graduate school. I suppose the only thing that Northwestern didn't prepare me for was how often I was going to say, 'Wow, I already learned this at NWC!'"

Reflections from
a 2012 graduate,
(cont. from previous sidebar)

What did you do as a student that you would recommend to current NWC psychology majors?

Mariah: I would recommend that you start thinking about your Senior Thesis yesterday. You don't necessarily have to be completely pro-active and get it all done before your senior year, but it will help you in the long run if you get a jump-start and have a good understanding of what you want to study.

Also make sure it's something that you are passionate about or it will be a really hard semester. And never, ever, save everything for the last minute. You will regret it!

2012 graduate, Mariah Tappe, is a recovery and admission counselor at Thunder Road Adolescent Treatment Center in Oakland, CA.

Psi Chi@NWC

By Danielle Maurer, 2014



The Northwestern College chapter of Psi Chi has been up to a variety of activities led by co-presidents Kirsten McConnel (2013) and Danielle Maurer (2014). The fall semester started off with a celebration for the new freshmen, as well as welcoming back the returning upper-class majors. A variety of cookies, advice, memories, and fun facts were shared amongst the students and the faculty. After the school year began, we hosted a department party—"Ink Blots and Ice Cream." The students ate eight flavors of ice cream with an assortment of toppings from brownies to sprinkles. They then created their own inkblots and mingled with others while trying to make interpretations [Note: this chapter of Psi Chi does not believe in the validity of inkblots, but they do enjoy their craft projects]. Psi Chi sponsored a trip to the University of South Dakota to hear a presentation by Frank Warren of PostSecret and then discussed the honest and open communication within the Northwestern community while enjoying ice cream. The next event, a video game study break at Dr. and Dr. Edman's house during finals week provided relief from the stress of studying and reminded students that their professors do, in fact, care for them despite assigning challenging final papers and exams.

In addition to being a party planning committee, Psi Chi also initiated enrichment activities. Members sponsored a four-year planning night for new majors to assist in crafting individualized course plans. Additionally, in response to requests from classmates, they planned a series of GRE study sessions. In the fall, Dr. John Vonder Bruegge, taught the group Greek and Latin prefixes which are useful in deciphering unfamiliar words on the verbal section of the GRE. Next semester, Dr. Kim Jongerius and Tom Truesdell will be sharing



Some spring 2012 Psi Chi members: (Front row left to right) Malea Beeson, Dana Franken, Rachel Muilenburg, Dani Maurer, Taylor Culver. (Back row left to right) Amanda Sliva, Kayla Kleinjan, Megan Ott, Val Kleinjan, Kirsten McConnel, Morgan Weis, Amanda Kirsch, Bev Rubel, Katie Plucker.

"Everything I Learned in High School Math" and "The Art of the Standardized Essay." Psi Chi has also teamed up with Campus Ministries to offer a two-part discussion regarding evolution this spring. On January 16th, a panel of professors from varying disciplines will discuss the viability of evolutionary theory and how they are processing it with their faith. The following week, on January 23rd, students will gather and discuss what they believe in light of the information presented by the professors. The Psi Chi co-presidents look forward to this event.

During 2012, ten new members were inducted into Psi Chi. In April, we welcomed Malea Beeson, Taylor Culver, Amanda Kirsch, Danielle Maurer, Rachel Muilenburg, Kathryn Plucker, Beverly Rubel, and Nathan Walburg.

In the fall semester, Sarah Simmons and Erin Van Hal were welcomed. During the not-so-formal induction program, it was discovered that Psi Chi has an official song. The co-presidents are currently trying to track down the lyrics and music in order to sing it at the next gathering.



First years Jordan Swain and Allison Klabo take a break from dying Easter eggs at the spring department party.

Students attend Frank Warren's PostSecret lecture at USD



Juniors Laura DeJong and Sadie Mennen celebrate at the year-end party hosted by the Edmans.



Dr. Chi facilitates "interpretations" of ink blots at the fall department party.

NWC Students Present at APS in Chicago!

Two graduating seniors—Mariah Tappe and Morgan Weis—were invited to share their research at the annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science in May 2012. Professor Donahoe and sophomore, Kate Eick, accompanied them. In addition to seeing Albert Bandura's Bobo doll and reaffirming their love of all things psychology, they took in the Chicago sights and tastes.

Presenting at APS is a Northwestern student tradition. It serves as confirmation that effort and hard work do pay!

Morgan Weis's research!

@psychscience presentation about post secret? everyone should check out poster 9!!! #aps2012



Mariah Tappe knows a thing or two about women's self-esteem & self-satisfaction



Senior Thesis 2012

Accumulating experience for Northwestern College Psychology majors is the Senior Thesis (PSY406: Psychology Research Lab). Below is a list of the students and the title of her/his research project for the spring and fall semesters in 2012.

Spring '12 (under the direction of Prof. Andy Donahoe)

Taylor Culver (Sioux City, IA) and Dana Franken (Sioux Center, IA)

The impact of IMPACT (originally presented in Romania, Fall 2011)

Chad Van Ravenswaay (Sioux Center, IA)

Emotion detection and lie detection

Kelsey White (Soldotna, AK)

The effect of group size on cooperation

Fall '12 (under the direction of Dr. Laird Edman)

Jackie Brooks (Sioux Falls, SD)

Emotion regulation strategies as predictors of self-defeating behaviors

Devon Neil Cadwell (Springfield, SD)

The effects of stereotype threat, gender, and religious priming on measures of spirituality and assumptions about gender and spiritual leadership

Rachel Krause (New Richland, MN)

Hope, locus of control, and empathy in relation to post-traumatic experiences

Brett Leifson (Mesa, AZ)

Implications of sleep, diet, and exercise upon depression and anxiety

Kirsten McConnel (Sioux Center, IA)

The intrusion of intuitive concepts in an online processing task: The theological correctness effect



A group of fall presenters (L to R): Megan Ott, Alyssa Ronchak, Amanda Sliva, Kirsten McConnell, and Adam Wolthuizen

Mike O'Brien (McHenry, IL)

Athletic performance under pressure reducing interventions

Megan Ott (Clear Lake, IA)

Predicting emotional suppression: The effect of Christian affiliated education

Alyssa Ronchak (Eagan, MN)

Grandiose and vulnerable narcissism in relationship to pastors, aspiring pastors, and religious individuals

Amanda Sliva (Ashland, NE)

Hope, locus of control and interpersonal trust as predictors of potential leaders in diverse communities

Jenny Welch (Storm Lake, IA)

Expansion of time perception influenced by spiritual and natural awe

Adam Wolthuizen (Sioux Falls, SD)

Personality and religious coping: Predictors of posttraumatic stress in emergency responders



Adam Wolthuizen presents his research

Thinking of Graduate School?

Two Current PhD Students Offer Insight

We asked Northwestern alumni Rachael Wittern Green (2008) and Sarah Connolly (2009) to answer common questions about graduate school. Here's what they had to say.

Is it realistic for Northwestern psychology majors to consider graduate school?

Rachael: Northwestern College is a great school that prepares its students well for graduate studies in psychology. Do not think that graduate school is unattainable; it is a reasonable goal for the dedicated student. However, a graduate program—especially a PhD program—requires a significant commitment in both time and money. Do not enroll in graduate school if you want to have money right after college! You will be stressed and busy and poor for a while, but it is ultimately worth it if you are striving toward your passion.

Sarah: The psychology department at Northwestern did an outstanding job of preparing me for graduate school. Graduate level academic work was not as daunting to me as it was for some of my peers. At Northwestern, I was provided with a strong knowledge base of the research process and of statistics, theory, and application. Writing an IRB or research paper was nothing new for me, so I felt confident when I approached faculty to participate in research. Serving as an undergraduate tutor for several classes also allowed me to be better prepared for teaching opportunities that I have had in graduate school.

Which undergraduate courses have been helpful to you as a graduate student?

Sarah: My program has a strong neuropsychology focus so I was glad that I took the neuroscience classes at Northwestern. The NWC statistics class was extremely important and I came to Ball State having more knowledge of research methodology and statistics than most of my peers. I also was glad that I took a few education classes at Northwestern, since this familiarized me with knowledge of educational trends that are relevant to school psychologists.

What can I do beyond coursework to enhance my acceptance chances?

Sarah: After my junior year of college, I did a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Western Kentucky University where I collaborated in research with faculty. When it came time to request letters of recommendation, I had faculty from two different institutions supporting me. I was also able to mention this during interviews, and even when graduate schools were not familiar with my specific REU program, I was able to say that I participated in a program that was funded by the National Science Foundation.

I have no idea where to start the graduate school application process. Any advice?

Rachael: Make sure you research the programs you are interested in so you pick one that is a good fit. Not all psychology programs are created equal. Narrow your search to APA accredited schools. When writing essays for graduate school, be confident in what you know and in what you want to do. Take some time to figure out who you are and what makes you feel alive. Figure this out NOW.

Sarah: When I decided I was going to pursue a doctorate in psychology, I used the APA accreditation website (and books available in the psych department) and made these programs my first choice. I spent the fall of my senior year educating myself about graduate school, taking the GRE (I took it twice), visiting schools, and getting everything ready for application season. I made a spreadsheet that included a list of all of my schools of interest, deadlines and requirements. I contacted professors about letters of recommendation, specifically asked, "Can you write me a strong letter of recommendation?" and tried to make the work for them as easy as possible (e.g., giving them deadlines and requirements in writing and providing them with addressed and stamped envelopes). In the spring, I was invited for several interviews and decided where I would be going by March of my senior year. I was glad that I had applied to several types of programs, including "dream schools" (i.e., those that were a stretch), "realistic schools" (those that I thought I was competitive for), and a few "slam dunks" (those that served as my backups).

Psychology Tutors: Student Teaching

One of the ways that Northwestern students become knowledgeable about the field of psychology is through sharing what they have already learned with others. Psychology majors are capable students whose academic strengths are quickly noticed by Northwestern faculty. Consequently, they are frequently employed as peer tutors, offering support to other students through individual and group assistance. While peer tutoring benefits classmates, it also provides some important benefits to the tutors as well.

Psychology majors often care about people and have a strong desire to serve. Bekah Wicks, 2014, agrees. "I like helping people. I love it when someone has that 'AHA!' moment—when a student understands something about the subject that I love." Tutoring students one on one provides opportunities to meet others in a meaningful, personal way. Tutors feel blessed when their efforts lead to a fuller understanding of the materials their tutor partners are studying.

At a very basic level, peer tutors also use



Kirsten McConnell, 2013, leads a General Psychology exam study session

psychological helping skills to enhance the performance of their classmates. Scott Van Ravenswaay, 2015, tutored first-year students in the fall semester and realized the exam study sessions were "more of a time to help students feel calmer before tests and less of a time to help teach anything." As a hand-picked liaison between professor and students, tutors are well-versed in the style and preferences of the professor and can convey important information about how to be a successful stu-

dent in a particular course.

Psychology majors who tutor for psychology courses have a further advantage. In addition to being able to revisit interesting topics, some of the course information is mentioned again in later courses. "Finding ways to explain these concepts to other students keeps the information fresh in my mind. It's like getting paid to review, and let's be honest, who wouldn't want that?"

What if I decide not to go to graduate school right away?

Rachael: It is okay to take some time off before graduate school to get additional experience and figure out which part of our diverse field you want to specialize in!

Sarah: Although I was fully prepared for the academic demands of graduate school, I was not as developed in my clinical skills. Hands-on experiences in mental health settings during my time at Northwestern included work during the summer, jobs in the community, and an internship during a study abroad trip in London. [Note: These experiences can also be acquired after graduation!]

Is there anything else you think I should know?

Rachael: Study hard at Northwestern, but do not neglect your friends, because they are vital to your success in graduate school. Learn to love the research methods course sequence. You will be glad you did.

Sarah: I think it is important to mention that graduate school is not for everyone. It is hard work and requires a lot of sacrifices. Graduate school is not simply "more college." It involves a completely different lifestyle that many of your working peers will not understand. The transition out of NWC and into the "real world" is also an extremely stretching experience for most graduates. When this is coupled with the academic demands of graduate school, it can make the adjustment during the first year very difficult. For some though, myself included, the benefits outweigh the sacrifices, and it truly is a rewarding experience.

Rachael Wittern Green (2008) and Sarah Connolly (2009) have both earned master's degrees. Rachael is a fourth year doctoral student in clinical psychology at Fuller School of Psychology and Sarah is completing doctoral work in School Psychology at Ball State University.

Alumni Updates

Faculty

Andy Donahoe and her husband, Ryan, welcomed Kellan Stephen Hicks Donahoe to the family in August 2012. He joins big sister Moira.



Kellan Donahoe

Dr. Doug Trimble sends his greetings! He is the Director of Assessment and Institutional Research with Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan.

2000

John Paul (JP) Sundarajan serves as India-Asia Director for Audio Scripture Ministries and splits time between Holland, MI & Bangalore, India. In May 2011, a son, Reuben Alagar, was welcomed by JP, his wife Katy, and daughter Leila.

2004

John Ranney is a fourth year doctoral student in social/health psychology at North Dakota State University.

Andrea Price Robinson

earned a M.S. in psychology and is a licensed marriage and family therapist. She is the Project Manager and counselor for a middle school mental health program with Communities in Schools of Houston which serves underprivileged families who normally wouldn't have access to free mental health services.

Matt Schuring is currently enrolled in the MDiv program at Fuller Theological Seminary and teaching at Valley Christian Schools in Cerritos. He is married to NWC graduate, Tara (Schnoes), and has two children.

Melanie Coulter Worstel moved from California to Nebraska where she is managing a Christian bookstore with her husband, Tim. She is happy to be back in the Midwest and is hoping to find a job where she can use her M.A. in art therapy.

2005

Jeremy Koerselman joined Creative Living Center, PC in Rock Valley, IA as a registered play therapist and participated in the formation of the Iowa Association of Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health. He

lives in Sioux Center with his wife, Lisa, and two children, Logan and Marci.

Carrie VanderStoep Scheevel is a direct care provider at Cardinal of Minnesota, Ltd. She and her husband, Brandon, have three children, Malachi (5), Micah (2), and Molly (1).

2006

Michael Christians is currently working as a business resource manager at Meta Payment Systems specializing in prepaid financial products. He and his wife, Tara, live in Sioux Falls where she owns a photography studio (huiskenphoto.com). Most nights and weekends he is either being her "assistant" or working on their old house in the McKennan park area.

Aaron Haverdink continues his work as the Assistant Director of Sioux County Community Services in Orange City, IA. He and his wife have two children, Bethany (1 1/2)



Bethany & Samuel Haverdink

and Samuel Aaron (4 months). **Ryan Holt** earned a M.A. in higher education at Geneva College and now works in student development at Geneva where he is responsible for freshman orientation, student activities, and intramurals.

Amanda Gordon Thomas and her husband, Aaron, welcomed a daughter, Bridget, in 2011.

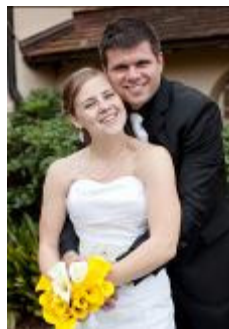
2007

Amanda Brown Brouwer completed a PhD in Experimental Health and Social Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in July and is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Winona State University in Winona, MN.

Amy Vander Holt Lockard completed a MFA degree in Art Direction from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. She lives in New York City with her husband, Isaiah.

2008

Jillian Groeneveld Combs married Jared Combs in April 2012. Jared is an addictions counselor and Jillian continues her work as Director of Recruitment at Pioneers, a missionary-sending agency in Orlando.



Jillian & Jared Combs

Rachel Wittern Green is a fourth year Clinical Psychology PhD student in the neuropsychology track in the School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. She is currently doing an externship in neuropsychology at Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

Emily Meyerink Griese is a doctoral candidate in educational psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her dissertation research is focused on behaviors as a protective factor for children's peer victimization and hopes to finish in the next year. She and her husband are Husker fans!

Kristin Lorey lives in Los Angeles and works at an ed-

ucational literacy-based non-profit called 826LA where she coordinates a program focusing on creative and expository writing skills with school-aged students.

Kelsey Arvidson McCollum is working towards a RN BSN at Herzing University with plans to graduate in August 2013. She also works at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN as a PCA in the float pool.

2009

Sarah Connolly is a fourth year PhD student in school psychology at Ball State University. Her dissertation research is exploring the use of web-based training as a means of empowering parents of children with autism to

advocate for efficacious treatments within the school setting. She hopes to complete her doctorate in the summer of 2014.

Kara Johnson Fifield is pursuing a M.A. in counseling at Bethel University with plans to complete training in 2015

Sara Kuehler graduated with a M.A. in counseling from Sioux Falls Seminary in 2011. She is working as a Mental Health Counselor Intern with Sioux Falls Psychological Services, a nonprofit outpatient mental health clinic affiliated with Sioux Falls Seminary. She is pursuing LPC-MH.

Jordan Plummer earned a M.A. in marriage and family counseling from Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago in August 2011. He married Sarah in September 2011 and moved to Madison, WI in October 2011 where he works as a therapist.

Rachel Posthuma is a fourth year doctoral student at Wheaton College Graduate

School. She is working at Streamwood Behavioral Health in the outpatient unit.



Jaime & Greg Weeks

Jaime Haverly Weeks moved to Eden Prairie, MN in 2011 and works at Target headquarters as a Business Process Consultant. She married Greg in March 2012.

Stephanie Yeasel-Hardin is a stay at home mom enjoying time with her husband, Brad, who recently returned home from Afghanistan. They welcomed a child in 2011.

2010

Paul Ryon is in the process of finding a job after graduating from Illinois State University with a M.A. in psychology of sport and exercise. He is also pursuing certifications related to sports psychology and other psychological associations. **Hannah Watters White** works for Zach Johnson Foundation's Kids on Course program where she is a site coordinator at Harrison Elementary in Cedar Rapids, IA.



Paul Ryon at his master's hooding ceremony

2011

Chelsey Bohr is in her second year of master's work at Emporia State University where she is a graduate teaching assistant and an intern at a local mental health center. She plans to pursue a PhD beginning in the fall of 2013 and is leaning towards becoming a professor and practicing part-time.

Brittany Wichers Laackmann works at Hope Haven in Rock Valley, IA at the Westview home as an Associate Instructor.



NWC psychology majors and faculty gather after 2012 graduation

2011

Rebecca Bagley works at Centro Legal de la Raza as a community legal advocate working with clients in the areas of housing and employment. In August, she will move back to Orange City to marry Dan Mangold.

Christian Butler began a M.A. at the Cal Baptist School of Behavioral Science.

Aly Cooper is a Resident Counselor for troubled teens at Quakerdale of Manning, IA where she provides individual, group, and family therapy for boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 17 in a residential treatment facility. **Dana Franken** spent the summer as a tutor/counselor with high schoolers for TRIO Upward Bound in Emmetsburg, IA. **Carrie Jones** began graduate work at University of North Carolina-Wilmington where she is pursuing a M.S. in applied gerontology.

Valerie Kleinjan is doing graduate work at South Dakota State University in communication studies, rehabilitation and mental



Kirsten McConnell & Christian Butler

NWC Psychology Major Wins Award

The Northwestern psychology department tradition of academic excellence continued in April when **Kelli Brands** was awarded the best research paper prize at the Siouxland Undergraduate Social Science Research Conference. Her study, *The effects of religiosity and forgiveness on attributions about poverty*, was chosen by a panel of readers and recognized for its academic rigor and excellence.

Kelli is shown at right accepting the fifty dollar prize.



What else do psych majors do at NWC?

- RAs
- O-Staff
- LaMosaic
- HeemstraHeckling
- DormEvents
- DiscipleshipGroups
- HonorsJazzBand
- Wrestling
- DramaMinistries
- StudyAbroad
- Softball
- SSPPraiseTeams
- RUSHSOS
- Choir
- Tutoring
- Basketball
- Soccer

Val Kleinjan

... and more!