

## A year of “new”

**A MESSAGE FROM  
ANNE COOK**  
PAGE 1



**INTRODUCTION TO  
THE CLINIC**  
PAGE 2



**MEET THE FACULTY**  
PAGES 2 & 3



**STUDENT HIGHLIGHT**  
PAGE 5

# EDPS STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER



## A year of “new”

Spring is a time of renewal, and appropriately, the theme of the 2015 SAC Spring newsletter seems to be all the new people and places associated with Educational Psychology this year. In these pages, you’ll read about new faculty, our new dean, and the new clinic and lab spaces in (old Milton Bennion Hall). You’ll also read about some of the new ideas and initiatives from our department SAC.

And I’m writing this in my new office in the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts and Education Complex (SAEC). We just celebrated our one-year anniversary of moving into this building, which the College of Education shares with the Tanner Dance Program in the College of Fine Arts. It is a beautiful modern building, with lots of natural light, open meeting spaces for collaboration, a café, and classrooms that are designed for 21st century learning approaches. This space was made possible by generous donations from several department and college alumni and faculty, and it is deeply appreciated by all of its inhabitants.

Some other news from our department this year is that we received word of our successful 7-year accreditation from the American Psychological Association for both the Counseling Psychology and School Psychology doctoral programs. The School Psychology master’s program also received 7-year approval from the National Association of School Psychologists. Faculty in all programs have been busy writing grants, publishing research, and training students, with several individuals receiving

**A message  
from Anne  
Cook,  
Department  
Chair.**

nominations for prestigious awards. For example, Dr. Zac Imel received a University Research Committee Faculty Fellow Award, which will support him as he continues his research on computational approaches to understanding and thereby improving psychotherapy practices. Also, Dr. A.J. Metz has received the University Early Career Teaching Award, which recognizes outstanding young faculty members who have made significant contributions to teaching at the University of Utah.

I look forward to sharing more good news about student and faculty successes and activities in the future. I hope you enjoy reading about our new faces and new spaces.

Sincerely,  
Anne Cook  
Professor and Chair  
Educational Psychology Department



## Incoming Faculty

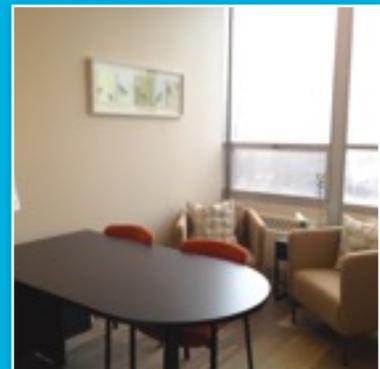
John Davis, from Texas A&M, will be joining as a core faculty member for the School Psychology program in Fall of 2015. Some of John's research interests include examining the effectiveness and efficacy of school-based student-driven interventions for academic and behavioral goals, examining methods of measuring student progress, and evaluating the fidelity and measurement methods for intervention implementation in schools. John has been particularly impacted by individuals with whom he's worked at Texas A&M: Carol Connor, Karen Harris, and Deborah Simmons, due to their thoughtful approach to intervention research.

As a student, John most enjoyed the time he spent in schools due to the opportunities he had to directly impact students and teachers by applying the skills he was learning in class. As a professor, John's goals are to help students become competent in skills necessary for the practice of school psychology. Beyond just understanding the content, John wants his students to be able to fluently apply their knowledge and skills in the school context. Finally, John hopes his students have an appreciation for research.

John and his wife, Heather, have twin 6-year-old daughters, Ruby and Scarlett. Much of John's time outside of work is spent with his family, including 10-year-old Vizsla, Willie. Being from Texas, John is also a big college football fan and his favorite team is the Texas Longhorns. We are very excited to be welcoming John to our department this coming Fall!

Elizabeth White, School Psychology

## Educational Assessment and Student Support Clinic



The Educational Assessment and Student Support Clinic, operated by the Department of Educational Psychology, recently moved from the Annex building to Milton Bennion Hall. Check out the new space! We'd like to send a big thank you out to those who helped renovate and setup the new clinic space and also to the clinicians and supervisors who continue to provide high quality care to the community! To learn more about the clinic please visit [clinic.ed.utah.edu](http://clinic.ed.utah.edu).

Mackenzie Boon  
Assistant Clinic Director

## Meet the New Faculty:



### Uma Dorn

Uma P. Dorn, Ph.D. completed her undergraduate education in the areas of psychology and family consumer sciences at Berry College. Following her undergraduate career, Dr. Dorn worked with children affected by maltreatment and also became the director of a nonprofit organization working with children who are medically fragile. While working as the director, Dr. Dorn started to pursue both Masters and Specialists degrees in Professional Counseling; she received both degrees from Georgia State University in 2006 and 2007 respectively. Dr. Dorn then went on to pursue her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Georgia. She received her degree in 2011 and completed her post-doctoral fellowship in Clinical Child Psychology at Emory School of Medicine. Dr. Dorn recently started a private practice, providing both assessment and therapy services to children, adolescents, and adults, with particular emphasis on child evaluations for autism spectrum disorders. Dr. Dorn's primary research interests include the following: child maltreatment, assessment practices, and multicultural and eco-systemic research. Currently, Dr. Dorn is working on starting an international consulting firm.

Dr. Dorn was born in India, but attended elementary school in the United States and has been here since. Dr. Dorn recently moved to Salt Lake City from Atlanta.

Mackenzie Boon  
School Psychology



### Aaron Fischer

In the fall of 2014, Dr. Aaron Fischer joined the school psychology department. In the months since, he has made impressive strides in developing numerous research and clinical practice projects. Dr. Fischer created a student research group that has expanded to include 11 graduate students and 2 undergraduates. Under Dr. Fischer's supervision, this group has conducted a diverse variety of research, the majority of which centers around the integration of technology into school psychology practice. One study has already been sent for review, and many others are near completion. In one such study, conducted in collaboration with the University of Southern Mississippi, students from Utah consulted with teachers in Mississippi to develop and implement behavioral interventions to assess the effectiveness of videoconferencing software as a medium for consultative service delivery. Another study evaluated the validity of behavioral observations conducted remotely by comparing data collected from observations conducted via videoconferencing software to those conducted live in the classroom. Other studies include a meta-analysis examining the effectiveness of mindfulness-based interventions and a model for school-based support for youth with GD and ASD. In addition, Dr. Fischer has received over \$20,000 in grant funding so far this year, with additional grants under review totaling upward of \$100,000. Recent grant funds have been used to

purchase a mobile robot. Dr. Fischer and his team plan to conduct research examining innovative uses for this robot in school psychology practice, broadening the potential scope of practitioners' impact. With many projects in the pipeline, Dr. Fischer and his research group will continue to explore the use of technology in school psychology

Dylan Richardson  
School Psychology

## Eric Poitras

**INTRODUCING DR. ERIC POITRAS WHO RECENTLY JOINED THE DEPARTMENT AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN & EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY (IDET)!**

BY SARAH DAVIES, LEARNING SCIENCES

### WHAT LED YOU TO MAKE A CAREER IN THE LEARNING SCIENCES?

The Learning Sciences is an interdisciplinary field that combines several areas, including education, psychology, and computer science. It provides unique opportunities for creative and applied work to provide insights into the challenges faced by instructors and practitioners.

### WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH?

The College of Education at the University of Utah is a top tier research institution that offers great opportunities for graduate students as well as junior and senior faculty. The collaborative atmosphere in the department as well as the facilities and equipment are conducive to developing research programs that can successfully launch academic careers. These conditions translate to better training opportunities for graduate students, which is ultimately the most important goal for building these research projects.

### CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE RESEARCH YOU ARE WORKING ON?

The model that we have in place in the Advanced Instructional Systems and Technologies laboratory leverages several projects that are conducted with collaborators from both the University of Utah and other institutions. These projects share a common objective of improving the adaptive capabilities of technology-rich learning environments by designing systems that analyze learner behaviors and prescribe the most suitable instructional content. One of the most exciting aspects of our work is our recent focus on web mining techniques to crawl the edublogosphere in order to develop an intelligent web browser that enhances teacher professional development. To learn more about the lab, visit us at [www.assistuofu.com](http://www.assistuofu.com).

### WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY OUTSIDE OF WORK?

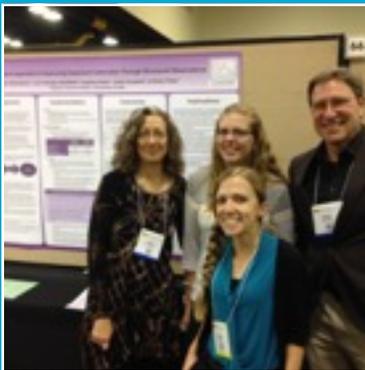
Spending time with my family. Our 1 year-old daughter keeps both myself and my wife, Natalie, very busy. I also enjoy visiting coffee shops and the downtown library. I read a lot of biographies to and from work on the TRAX streetcar.

## Karen Tao

Dr. Karen Tao's research interests involve mixed method approaches to examining the experiences of historically marginalized groups in educational and mental health



## *National Association of School Psychologists 2015 Annual Convention*



Many students and faculty of the School Psychology program went to Orlando, Florida from February 16-20 for the annual convention of the National Association of School Psychologists! Congratulations to the students who had presentations and posters at this conference! We'd like to send a big thank you out to those who helped with the annual Children's Fund auction! Fun was had by all!

Bradley Bloomfield  
School Psychology

contexts as well as the effects of cross-cultural interactions (e.g., microaggressions) and multicultural competencies in psychotherapy process and outcome. Recently, she presented a study on the impact of impostor phenomenon on women graduate students in STEM at the Association of Women in Psychology (AWP) conference. This spring she initiated a school-university collaboration with Rose Park Elementary, which involves a project focused on enhancing an educational culture of inclusion and cultivating students' positive ethnic and racial identity development. Karen is also a licensed psychologist with clinical experience providing therapy and consultation to a wide range of individuals and groups in community, hospital, and university settings. Karen also serves on the Implementation Collective for the national AWP organization and is a co-chair of the department's Diversity Committee. Dr. Tao is pleased to announce the acceptance of her first doctoral level advisee, Kayvious Campbell, who is beginning the Counseling Psychology PhD program this coming fall 2015.

Aaron Dembe  
Counseling Psychology

## Learning Sciences Student Highlight:

**POOJA PATNAIK**

BY SARAH DAVIES, LEARNING SCIENCES

Pooja is a doctoral student in the Learning Sciences Program with a research specialty in deception detection. Pooja first became interested in this field when she read about innocent individuals who had failed the polygraph test and who were, thus, wrongfully convicted. This sparked an interest which led her to work in two deception detection labs and to come to the University of Utah to pursue graduate study in deception detection with Dr. John Kircher.

Since coming to the U, Pooja has been trained in the use of the Ocular-motor deception test (ODT), which detects deception from patterns of reading behaviors and measurements of pupil diameter. She has helped her lab to design and implement various experimental manipulations in order to improve the accuracy as well as the cross-cultural validity of the ODT.

In March, Pooja gave a talk at the American Psychology-Law Society conference in San Diego, California, to present findings from four laboratory ODT studies (including her master's thesis work). Good work Pooja!

# Annual College of Education Student Research Fair

**ON APRIL 1, STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE ACROSS THE COLLEGE SHOWCASED THEIR RESEARCH IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION STUDENT RESEARCH FAIR. HERE ARE SEVERAL EDPS STUDENTS EXPLAINING THEIR WORK TO FACULTY MEMBERS.**

