The opening line to my favorite Bob Seger song is “Seems Like yesterday, but it was long ago…”. Eleven years ago, in fact, when I first set foot on the USF St. Petersburg campus in March 2003 to interview with Robert Fowler, Joy Clingman, David Stenmark, Mark Pezzo, Sarah Partan and Van Hilliard for a position that promised an opportunity to help launch our Psychology Department into a new day. The job ad had caught my eye, touting USFSP as the most beautiful campus in America, and hinting that great things were ahead for a university set to break from its long history as a satellite institution to USF Tampa in the new USF “system”. My daughter Hailey was almost 1 then, and my wife Trang was 6 months pregnant with our son Chris.

When I officially arrived in January 2004, things had already begun changing – world-renowned autism expert Mark Durand had also joined the USFSP faculty as the College of Arts and Science’s Founding Dean, David had lost a struggle with cancer, Joy was in her last semester before retirement, Robert had also begun his exit on a phased retirement. We had 132 majors that year, and a reputation as a department of excellent teachers who cared for their students. Collectively, we resolved never to lose that tradition, even as we forged ahead to build one of America’s best undergraduate programs with a dual teaching and research focus.

A signature accomplishment in that first year of growth was instituting a new tradition at USFSP, the “Tomorrow’s Leaders” symposium (follow this link to the news story and see photo on page 8). This event, now called the Undergraduate Research Symposium, was emblematic of our Psychology faculty’s ongoing commitment to promoting students’ growth as scientists in an environment marked by “elbow teaching”. Our students would learn from us in our research labs, we would learn from them, and the products of the collective effort would make a material difference in our state and nation. We also launched a second new initiative in 2004, reinvigorating a departmental Colloquium series to bring local, national and international thought leaders to USFSP to share their research, life experiences and wisdom with our students. Internationally-recognized personality and health expert Charles Spielberger (Continued on page 7)
Student News

2014 Undergraduate Research Symposium

For the 11th consecutive year, USFSP students are invited to participate in the Undergraduate Research Symposium, the purpose of which is to showcase the innovative research and creative work that students have produced during the year. Working closely with faculty, participating students may display research, exhibit artwork and graphic design, or perform original musical compositions.

“This annual event provides our students with the unique opportunity to present and discuss their research with faculty and other members of the USFSP community,” said Vivian Fueyo, Ph.D., interim regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. “Engagement in undergraduate research is one of the distinctive elements of the educational experience at USFSP.”

Psychological Science Organization (PSO)

Psychology Colloquia Series 2013-14

Under the leadership of Psychological Science Organization (PSO) President Lam Le and through the guidance of faculty, PSO enjoyed a busy academic year of insightful programming.

Fall 2013

Thursday October 10
V. Mark Durand PhD
USF St. Petersburg
Understanding and treating severe behavior problems in persons with autism spectrum disorder

Thursday November 7
Carla Smith Stover, PhD
USF Tampa
Where’s Dad? Engaging Fathers in Interventions to Benefit Children

Tuesday November 12
Preparing for Graduate Study in Psychology

Spring 2014

Thursday January 23
Alejandro E. Brice CCC
SLP USF St. Petersburg
Speech Perception in Bilingual Speakers

Thursday February 20
Zheng (Chris) Chen, PhD
Resources in the Work-Family Interface

Thursday March 27, 2014
Preparing for Graduate

Fun Fact

Over the past ten years (2004-2014), USFSP students first- or co-authored peer reviewed journal publications twenty-nine times, with another 104 student first- or co-authorships on peer-reviewed conference presentations.

Reconnect with us!

Send us some alumni news or update your contact information at psousfsp@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook!
Search USFSP Psychological Science Organization

Please direct anyone who would like to receive our PsychBulletin to those links as well!
Dr. Mark Durand Awarded Princeton Fellowship

Congratulations to USFSP Psychology professor Mark Durand, Ph.D., who traveled to Princeton University in late March as a recipient of the highly regarded 2014 Princeton Lecture Series Fellowship. As a tribute to his career in the field of autism, Dr. Durand was selected to be a keynote speaker at the 20th anniversary of the Princeton Lecture Series on Autism, where experts are invited to present new findings and future possibilities for the treatment and awareness of this complex developmental disorder.

For his Princeton lecture, Durand drew largely from his research and the resulting popular book, “Optimistic Parenting,” which guides parents and teachers of challenged children on how to develop more positive thoughts and perceptions — a key ingredient of successful parenting and effective behavior management.

“Trying to change difficult child behavior is much more complicated if families are struggling themselves,” says Durand. “What we are learning is that confidence and optimism — having hope — are prerequisites to successful parenting.”

Dr. James McHale to Speak at WAIMH Conference in Scotland

On Monday March 24, the World Association for Infant Mental Health announced their program of Master Lectures to be presented from experts around the globe at the 14th World Congress to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK in June. USF St. Petersburg Psychology professor and chair James McHale, Ph.D., is one of just six U.S. experts invited to address the Congress. McHale will join 17 other speakers from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and North America.

The honor reflects the ten-year anniversary of McHale's having been named the World Association for Infant Mental Health's "Decade of Behavior" lecturer in 2004. At that international Congress, McHale introduced the framework of "coparenting across diverse family systems" as a new and innovative way of thinking about, strengthening and supporting the family systems of all children around the world.

"The coparenting concept is gradually catching on and gaining momentum, but it is still a foreign one in most service delivery systems," McHale said. "Historically, we built systems that delivered supports and services to mothers and infants, but stopped short of strengthening whole families, fathers in particular. This has been as true in the U.S. as it has in countries throughout the world, but we are beginning to feel the winds of change."

Faculty Notes

Dr. Tiffany Chenneville returned to her classes this spring after a very productive fall sabbatical devoted to both ongoing research projects in areas of HIV and research ethics and new projects including a documentary film about pediatric HIV. She is working with filmmaker Kristy Andersen from Bay Bottom News on this project, and hopes to debut the short film at a local pediatric HIV exhibit that she is co-sponsoring. Ultimately, Dr. Chenneville hopes to garner support for a full feature documentary. She is also awaiting news about funding to continue her work in India on issues related to HIV and global research ethics and continues to publish her work in academic journals such as AIDS Care and Ethics and Behavior. While continuing to teach Developmental Psychology at the undergraduate level, Dr. Chenneville is also now teaching several elective courses for the new Master’s program, including Professional and Ethical Issues in Psychology and Developmental Disabilities. While she remains enthusiastic about her work at the university, her greatest joy is her now 12-year-old son, Rivers. She spends many hours in the gym watching Rivers, play basketball in an AAU league. For a look at Chenneville’s work in the area of pediatric HIV, you can view her recent TEDx Talk.

(Continued on page 7)
Upcoming Psychology Department Program Review

As those of you who helped to complete our Alumni survey are aware, our Department is in the midst of an external program review. Each degree-granting program at USFSP is required to take part in such a review every 7 years. Through this process, which includes a “Self Study” that has involve a major and intensive effort by our faculty since August 2013, we examined all aspects of our undergraduate psychology program, its accomplishments, its strengths, and areas in need of further strengthening. The process afforded a terrific opportunity for us to look more closely at our existing curriculum, in terms of both content and structure. Undergoing the external review allows us to ensure that the goals of our program meet the needs of our students and that ultimately we are delivering a curriculum consistent with degree-level expectations. Two external reviewers will visit the Department in April, meet with our faculty and students, and share the results of their assessment with us and with administrators at USFSP – all in an effort to help further strengthen our Department. We thank those of you who took time out to share a little about your experiences with the program, and for giving us a picture of the type of employment and other opportunities our students pursue after completing their degree (see Alumni Notes). Results from this program review will assist us with program planning for the next 7 years.

IFMH Certificate Program Update

The Infant-Family Mental Health Certificate Program graduated its inaugural cohort in December, and our second-year cohort is completing its foundational course, Infant-Family Mental Health. We had a terrific first year, with graduates coming to us with backgrounds in many fields including nursing, social work, and education, from Pinellas County and other areas of Florida. Several students were also able to apply their certificate credits towards other graduate degrees they were working on. Feedback included that the program was the “best online mixed mode class I have ever experienced” and that the “instruction was phenomenal,” provided by “highly-trained, community-involved, hands-on instructors.” The program is offered fully-online, so it is perfect for working professionals, but it also provides ample opportunity for students to interact with each other and the community. As a result, this year’s cohort reported that they did not feel like they were taking an online program, and that they really got to know their fellow students. This year we have added a free, optional clinical component, allowing students to be trained in “Nurturing Parenting,” an evidence-based intervention designed to prevent child abuse, and applying those skills in their internship if desired. For our third year, we are hoping to add students from out of state and even out of the county, and will be marketing the program at the World Association for Infant Mental Health Conference to be held in Scotland this summer. It is not too early to be thinking about joining us next year - we are accepting applications on a rolling basis and would love to have you join us!

Listening to Babies 2014 - A Great Success

Last year, in partnership with COQEBS (Concerned Organizations for the Quality of Education for Black Students), the Family Study Center hosted the inaugural Listening to Babies Event. The goal of Listening to Babies is to teach area family service providers and infant-toddler caregivers a common set of best-practice skills to promote healthy social and emotional development, to lay a strong foundation for later school-readiness and to close the achievement gap. This year's program, held February 28 and March 1, focused on "developmentally appropriate discipline;" care was taken to provide the training with respect for cultural differences in child-rearing and discipline practices. Our esteemed speakers, Senta Greene and Deborah Greenwald, discussed the ways in which routines, interactions, and environments help infants and toddlers to become better at self-regulation, which in turn, promotes school-readiness. This year’s program attracted more than 100 service providers for a full day training on Friday, and more than 50 home and center caregivers for a half-day workshop on Saturday. If you work with families of infants and toddlers, we'd love to have you join us for next year's program!
Masters Program Update

The inaugural class is completing the end of their first year and will be taking their qualifying exam in May. An excellent group of prospective students has applied for Fall 2014 but a few spots still remain. If you are interested in applying for Fall 2014 admission to the Master’s Degree program, it is not too late—but you’ll need to act soon, and complete GREs and all other materials before the summer! For full information about the program, visit usfsp.edu/psychology.

As you may, this is a non-clinical skills Master’s designed for: (a) students seeking re-specialization in the field of psychology and/or intensive research experience as preparation for pursuit of advanced Doctoral study in Psychology; (b) students seeking the required 18 hours of graduate coursework in preparation for teaching psychology in a high school or community college; and/or (c) students seeking to work in entry-level positions in health and human service related fields requiring advanced research methods, data collection, analysis, and grant writing skills.

The program is also ideal for in-field professionals seeking a Master’s credential for advancement.

Upcoming GRE Prep Course: Summer Edition

This course is perfect for you if you are considering applying for our graduate program in the Fall 2015, or would like to continue your education elsewhere! It’s open to you, your friends, or anyone who might be interested in receiving assistance in preparing for the test.

USFSP Revised GRE Prep Course: Summer Edition provides experienced course instructors who familiarize you with the revised GRE through test content, question types, and strategies. Take practice questions during class and use the online test prep program at home to maximize your score on test day.

This low-cost intensive sequence runs four consecutive Saturdays for both the GRE Verbal Writing and Math Sections: June 7, 14, 21 and 28. At $180 each, sign up for one section or both depending on your preparatory needs. To register, visit usfsp.edu/GREprep.

Moreover, a USFSP Revised GRE Prep Course Rebate of the course costs is available to those course registrants who fully apply to the M.A. program in Psychology. A full application is one for which USFSP Graduate Studies has received all necessary documentation required by the Psychology Department to render an admissions decision for Fall, including the official GRE score report.

GRE scores must be included to take advantage of the rebate — unofficial scores may be considered to facilitate the processing; however, official scores must be sent to USF St. Petersburg electronically from the testing agency (institution code 5828).
Alumni Notes

Self Study Results

Our recent survey of alumni revealed that go on to take employment in a diverse range of industries, and to pursue advanced study at some of the stronger graduate and professional schools in the U.S. and abroad.

- 96% of graduates surveyed reported that they are either attending graduate school or employed (either part- or full-time); 4% are seeking employment.
- 21% of graduates surveyed reported that they attended graduate school after the first year of graduating from USFSP.
- 33% of graduates surveyed reported that they are currently attending graduate school.
- 90% of graduates surveyed reported that they were satisfied (generally satisfied or very satisfied) that their undergraduate experience prepared them for lifelong learning.

Primary Industries of Employment
- For-profit: 49%
- Non-profit: 19%
- Education: 19%
- Government: 11%
- Other: 3%

Graduate Programs attended by Recent USFSP Psychology Graduates
- London School of Economics
- Oxford University
- New York University
- Boston University
- University of Vermont
- University of Alabama
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- University of Florida
- Rosalind Franklin University
- Antioch University New England
- Texas A&M University
- Georgia State University
- University of Central Florida
- University of South Florida
- University of Washington
- Georgia State University
- Florida State University
- University of Toledo
- Claremont Graduate University
- University of Nebraska
- Nova Southeastern University
- University of North Texas
- Boise State University
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Argosy University

Behind the Scenes: Distance Learning

Many current students and alumni have had opportunity to enroll in one of the Department’s innovative distance learning courses. Professors Mark Durand and Tiffany Chenneville were two of the university’s pioneers in distance learning programming, and Psychology currently offers more online options for its students than any other program at USFSP. Behind the high-quality programming is USFSP alum Nicole Emert, hired three years ago as the Psychology Department’s senior instructional designer. In this role, she works with faculty members to design, create and redevelop our online, hybrid and technology-enhanced courses, using instructional design principles and industry quality assurance standards. As a graduate student of Boise State’s Educational Technology program, Nicole studies current technologies and best practices, and conducts professional development training for faculty members and junior instructional designers. We are very grateful for her talented aid in helping our faculty to bring our majors the very best in online courses and programming!

Memorials & Tributes

Did you know you can make a gift in honor of or in memory of a beloved professor? All donations benefit the Psychology Department and its vital programs.

Upon receipt of a memorial or tribute gift, an acknowledgement letter is sent to the individual or family of the individual being honored. Notification does not include the amount of the gift. As the donor, you will receive a separate acknowledgement for your own records. All Memorials & Tributes donors will be recognized in the next PsychBulletin issue unless you would prefer to be anonymous.

To give online, please visit:
usfsp.edu/giving/make-a-gift/
- Choose USF St. Petersburg Arts and Sciences
- USFSP Psychology Operating Fund (PA0023).
- Include the name of the honoree and address

Giving by Check?

Please make sure to designate the USFSP Psychology Operating Fund (PA0023) as the account and make the check payable to:

USF St. Petersburg Foundation
University Advancement
140 7th Avenue South, WMS 200
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Faculty Notes (cont.)

Dr. Clutter was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in Psychology in Fall 2013. Her research team is currently wrapping up the Teen Asthma Study. She is also developing a proposal for the next project on the mindfulness-based stress reduction in asthma self-management in children with asthma. She has routinely taught Research Methods and Health Psychology (online), and helped many students change their health habits through the Health Behavior Change Project. On a personal front, Dr. Clutter and her family are expecting a baby boy, due early summer.

Dr. Vikki T. Gaskin-Butler continues to focus her teaching, research, and service on multicultural issues, and in Fall 2014 will offer Cultural Competence in our graduate program. Dr. Gaskin-Butler continues to run the Multicultural Research Lab at USFSP and is completing work as Co-Principal Investigator (with Dr. McHale) on a two-year project funded by the Brady Education Foundation. Recently, she co-authored two poster presentations (with three student authors) presented at the Southeastern Psychological Association’s Annual Meeting on the Brady-funded work. When not at USFSP, Dr. Gaskin-Butler continues her engagement in activities designed to assist women and families with healthy mental, spiritual, and physical development. Dr. Gaskin-Butler is happily married to Dr. Malcolm B. Butler and is the proud mother of a budding engineer who wishes to focus on explorative technology, Malcolm Lee (15).

A Note From the Chair (cont.)

was the inaugural speaker in the “new” annual series, which over the past decade has brought such luminaries as David Barlow, Charlotte Patterson, Avi Sagi-Schwartz, and dozens of others to enlighten and inspire our undergraduate students.

As we sought to cultivate excitement in both classroom and outside-the-classroom teaching, we also set to work to elevate our department’s research profile to a level unparalleled by undergraduate psychology programs in the United States. Faculty who joined us over the past 10 years and who constitute the department today – Tiffany Chenneville, Michiko Otsuki Clutter, Vikki Gaskin-Butler, Christina Salnaitis and Jen O’Brien – all came with both sterling teaching credentials and a thirst for pursuit of new discoveries that promise to better the human condition. The research and scholarly records of our current faculty have been astounding; they maintain international research partnerships in India, Italy, and other nations. They have brought in a total of $3,715,173.00 in externally-sponsored awards over the past decade, including multiple awards from NIH and substantial funding from DOE. During a combined 47 years of service at

Dr. Christina Salnaitis is at work on a new research project examining mild traumatic brain injury in bilingual individuals. She writes, “Problems with paying attention, concentration, planning, and organizing one’s life can emerge even in the absence of any detectible brain damage. This can be particularly difficult for individuals who are bilingual; they may show impairment when tested in one language and not the other”. Her methodology is to measure brain activity while bilingual speakers with mild traumatic brain injury are engaged in a word-identification task in search of diffuse impairment across the frontal lobe.

Dr. McHale also stayed busy this past year. Besides his work with the World Association for Infant Mental Health (see article), he and Dr. Gaskin-Butler are now drawing to completion the groundbreaking “Figuring It Out for the Child” partnership with Mt. Zion Human Services. The project delivered an innovative prenatal coparenting intervention to over two dozen unmarried Pinellas County families expecting a first child together, and preliminary reports from the study have documented significant positive changes for the families. The Family Study Center which Dr. McHale directs was awarded one of just six grants awarded nationally by the national Zero To Three organization to help strengthen the community of care in Pinellas County for families with infants and toddlers.

Dr. Mark Pezzo is on sabbatical, continuing his work on judgmental biases. He is getting married in May, and will return to being the Graduate Director in the Fall.

(Continued from page 3)

(Continued on page 8)
A Note From the Chair (cont.)

USFSP alone, our 7 tenure-line faculty have generated 147 publications (12 books, 71 peer-reviewed publications, 41 book chapters, 23 non-refereed encyclopedia entries, briefs, technical reports and other manuscripts), and 226 national and international Congress presentations -- including over two dozen major keynote and plenary addresses. They have won several state, regional, and national awards in their guilds and from their peers, and been active leaders in their professional societies. Students have been by our faculty’s side as both TAs and research assistants, learning the nuts and bolts of classroom and online teaching, helping to write grants, assisting on major federally-funded research programs, and making exciting new discoveries themselves (See Fun Facts sidebar). Not surprisingly, dozens have been accepted for graduate study at esteemed universities around the world, bringing with them unusual maturity cultivated in their work as TAs and RAs, and hundreds more have gone on to make contributions in business, industry, education and the private sector. From 132 majors in 2003-04, we now have over 400 Psychology majors at USFSP, a number that climbs each and every year.

In 2013, USFSP Psychology took a further bold leap forward. We launched, for the first time in the university’s history, two graduate programs in Psychology: the only Masters of Arts (M.A.) program in Psychology in the Tampa Bay region, and one of the nation’s first (and best) graduate certificates in Infant-Family Mental Health (see related stories). Both programs capitalize on our faculty’s collective commitment to promoting the health of the region, for research summarized by the CDC (visit this link) has revealed that health throughout the lifespan -- not just mental health, but health, disease and illness -- can be traced back to early childhood experiences. If our nation is to ever prevent and recover from our worst health and social problems, we need to tackle and reduce the number of children suffering adverse childhood experiences. Our faculty maintain collaborative partnerships with health and human service agencies throughout Pinellas and Pasco counties, especially the county and region’s infant-family and early childhood mental health systems. We have also begun discussing a future USFSP Institute for the Promotion of Psychological Resilience (IPPR), another first-of-its-kind innovation that we foresee being an important catalyst in the department, the university and Pinellas County.

You’ll be hearing more about the future IPPR, and about ways that you (our cherished alums) can help to mentor a new generation of Psych majors and support IPPR development, in future newsletters. Future news will be shared with you by my successor, Dr. Tiffany Chenneville, for after a decade at the helm of our Psychology Department, I am finally completing my tenure as Chair next month. Hailey will be 12 years old in a couple of weeks, a middle schooler now, and Chris will enter middle school himself in August. They have grown as has our department, and I look forward to cherishing the next few years with them before I bat an eye again and they have become college students themselves. I will continue my directorship of the USFSP Family Study Center (see link), and an exciting new partnership with All Children’s Hospital on new initiatives that promise to have significant positive impact on the health of families with infants and toddlers in our region and state. More on that in future newsletters, too. I am certain that our Department will benefit immeasurably from the new energy Dr. Chenneville’s leadership will deliver as we take our next quantum leaps forward.

I and we were privileged to have spent a meaningful stretch of time with you during your years as USFSP Psych majors, and we look forward to our continued association for decades to come!
Come discover the USFSP Advantage.