Dear Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends of the UNT Counseling Psychology Program,

Greetings from UNT. I would like to share with everyone the exciting news regarding having a new program core faculty joining us in Fall 2022. After conducting a national search in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, we have successfully recruited Dr. Ingrid Hogge to join our department. Dr. Hogge has been an assistant professor in another APA-accredited counseling psychology program for 3.5 years with excellent experiences in teaching and training. This is a heads-up about the good news and we will provide more information about Dr. Hogge in our Fall issue of newsletter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
substantially above the national match rate of 87% in phase I. This result provides strong evidence for the top quality of clinical training our program is providing to students. We are very proud of these 8 advanced students (Kelzie Beebe, Wan-Ju Chao, Kaleb Cusack, Tosha Griggs, Heather Kiefer, Olivia Knizek, James Rushton, Gabrielle Weierbach). Please help me congratulate them and see page xxx of this issue of the program newsletter for more information about where they are going to complete their pre-doctoral internship training in 2022-2023 AY.

For our alumni who have sufficient financial resources, please consider making a small donation to our program. The department has very limited administrative budgets, especially during the budget reduction time caused by the pandemic. We have a program activity account to receive donation to help cover expenses that are not fully supported by departmental administrative money (e.g., mock internship interviews, campus interviews for admissions, town hall meetings, invited research or professional talks). Any amount ($10-$100) of donation from alumni is welcome for your donation really helps to provide more opportunities to our students. The donation is tax-deductible. If you are interested in getting more information, please contact me at dcwang@unt.edu or at 940-565-2678.

I hope everyone will stay healthy and safe. As always, if any program alumnus has a plan to visit Denton please let me know for I would love to meet up and treat you a cup of coffee or beer to catch up.

Best wishes,

Chiachih DC Wang, Ph.D.
Director, Counseling Psychology Ph.D. Progra
Greetings Everyone!

The UNT Psychology Department has gone through a lot of changes for the better within the past year, with more to come! Most recently, the department has hired two new faculty members: Dr. Holly Levin-Aspenson and Dr. Ingrid Hogge for the Clinical and Counseling programs respectfully, along with Lecturer Dr. Lisa Topp-Manriquez. We couldn't have done it without you all's lively participation and attentive questions! I hope to see your continued support in all future department events as we a work together as a team. Additionally, the Department will be hiring: (a) three additional Lecturers for the UNT Frisco location! And (b) two more Lecturer positions for our campus to be filled by the end of this Summer.

We are now fully styled in the Department Office. We recently welcomed our Office Coordinator Joan (pronounced Joanne) McKay, so if you stop by be sure to extend a warm welcome to Joan! She will be responsible for making purchases on behalf of the Department, as well as managing the Student Assistants at the front of our office. We also have our 3 fulltime Coordinators of the office besides Joan: Heidi Methvin (Undergrad & Event), Brittney Sosa (Grad), and Mary Ellen McComb (Admin). Our Coordinators are here to help, so please do not hesitate to reach out with concerns or questions, myself included!

Graduate Students: Please make plans to attend an in-person meeting with myself to detail priorities for the Department moving forward and address any questions you may have for me. As mentioned earlier, we are a team and we can only make a difference with everyone's participation!

Sincerely,
Don Dougherty, Ph.D.
Department Chair
Happy 2022...though starting off the year with a “surge” can be a bit unnerving. I hope that everyone is doing well and you continue to find peace in whatever normal you have found for yourself and your families. Our normal is, well, normal...Laura continues her work at Children’s in the feeding program and I continue to do what I have been doing for over 30 years now (I must like being here!). As for work, a few updates. First, we changed the name of the Center to the Center for Sport Psychology and Athletic Mental Health. With the clear uptick in mental health concerns in the population at large, and within sport populations, and with our increasing focus on this topic in our research and clinical work, the change was right. Second, my colleagues Dr. Daniel Taylor (University of Arizona) and Dr. Kelli Moran-Miller (Stanford) received funding from the PAC-12 conference to further study the effectiveness of body image program that my colleague Dr. Dana Voelker (WVU) had developed. The grant is for two years and we’ll be training facilitators at various schools to implement the program and then following the athletes for years to see how they respond over time. Third, I was awarded a developmental leave (sabbatical) for spring semester 2023...which will help me in the work I’ll be doing with the PAC-12 and will allow me to head back to England to collaborate with colleagues there (on similar projects). Fourth, we had approved, and have initiated, a new scholarship fund (Sport Psychology – Counseling Psychology Doctoral Scholarship)...we hope to raise 50K to provide support for our students over the next decade.

Now let’s turn to the personal, and probably more interesting updates. Let’s start with Braeden...he had surgery to repair his ACL in November
To conclude, with spring comes internship and new admissions...it is the circle of our life for sure. I want to congratulate Kelzie Beebe (VCU), Kaleb Cusack (Nevada Reno), Heather Kiefer (Iowa), Olivia Knizek (UC Davis), and James Rushton (JMU) for matching...very exciting times and they are scheduled to be roasted on May 7 (if anyone wants to contribute!). I also want to welcome our new members of the program and Center...Isabella Franks, Briana Wallace, and Jessica Renteria. We are very excited to have them joining us.

Again, our best to you and your families...we hope you are well and looking forward to every day you have.

Trent and Laura

Dr. DC Wang and all graduate lab members in the Cross-Cultural Attachment Research Lab have stayed very busy and productive in the past 6 months. I would like to give a big shout-out to Danna (our 6th year student who is currently completing her internship training in New York City) for successfully securing a postdoc position in the Boston Child Study Center in Los Angeles Office. Additionally, congratulations to Wan-Ju Chao and Gabby Weierbach for successfully matching with their top internship sites through APPIC. Wan-Ju will be completing her pre-doctoral internship training at University of Washington Counseling Center in Seattle whereas Gabby will be at University of Texas Health at San Antonio . Last but not the least, our current 2nd year doctoral student, Shiho Toyama has successfully got her master’s thesis proposal approved by her committee. Congratulations to all of our advanced students and current lab members for their accomplishments. You guys are amazing and we are very proud of you.

As we are gradually moving beyond the pandemic, our lab began to resume some social gatherings by organizing outdoor activities. In Fall 2021, we
visited Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) and had a picnic-style lunch in Klyde Warren Park. That was the first social gathering in 2 years and we all enjoyed the opportunity to get together in-person. The attached photo of all lab members attending this trip taken in front of DMA. Our Spring social activity was a field trip to Ray Roberts Lake State Park Isle due Bois last weekend (last Sunday in March). The weather was very nice. Several lab members brought their significant others to join us; after having pizzas and sandwiches in a lakefront pavilion, we hiked for various distances and spent a relaxing afternoon together. The last update is that Danna and her husband, Omar had their wedding ceremony in March 2022 in Austin. My wife and I, as well as a few advanced students in Danna’s cohort from the program, attended her wedding party to celebrate this big day with Danna, Omar, and their families. We wish Danna and Omar happiness, live, joy, and togetherness for the rest of the life.

Here at the Positive Psychology Research Group, we are doing ok. The past couple years have been challenging for everyone, but my students have continued to work hard and make progress on their goals. It has been fun to see some of my students finish up their studies and figure out their next steps. After graduation, Adam Hodge will start his career as a clinical psychologist in the United States Air Force, where he will largely be involved in providing clinical services to service members and their family members. Steve Coomes will start a position as a clinical psychologist in the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SA-RRTP) at the Battle Creek, MI Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Hansong Zhang will start a tenure-track faculty position in the psychology department at Texas Woman’s University. Cameron Davis has been busy interviewing for positions at a variety of counseling centers. On a personal note, our daughter Autumn is 16 months and is so much fun. We went back to Canada to see Jenn’s family over winter break—it was nice to get away and have a white Christmas.
ALUMNI UPDATES

My name is Ling Jin. I graduated from the Counseling Psychology program in 2020. Following my pre-doc internship at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I completed my Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Stanford University School of Medicine. After spending more than 2 years in California, Gabriel (alumni, 18’) and I actually settled down in another country - Canada. It is the third country that we have migrated into throughout both our lives, and we are hopeful to finally call this home.

We feel lucky having been able to join the only social justice-oriented Counselling Psychology CPA-Accredited program through a dual-career opportunity. I am a tenure-track Assistant Professor, and Gabriel is a tenure-track instructor/Director of Counselling Intervention at the University of Calgary. I just extended an offer to two grad students, and I am looking forward to building my own research lab. I am also assigned to teach two Assessment courses (for many years probably). To be honest, Assessment was my LEAST favorite subject in grad school, so my only two cents to current grad students would be “never dislike any subject” otherwise, it is karma that you would have to spend time rebuilding the relationship with that subject. Despite that, I am so thankful for the training and clinical experiences I had from the UNT Psychology Clinic and our Assessment Class, which allowed me to disseminate such knowledge to grad students here. I truly think that UNT provides a top-notch clinical training! Further, I also appreciate the long lasting relationships I built from UNT, I am still learning and collaborating research with Dr. Wang, Dr. Contractor, and Dr. Watkins, so in that sense I never felt that I truly had left Denton. And I will forever hold Denton, and Texas, in a special place in my heart.

Life-wise, Gabriel and I also bought a house in Calgary, so we really enjoyed shoveling snow, smoking BBQ in our backyard, building our basement, and spending time at home. Calgary is a beautiful city and is also home to Métis nation of Alberta, Region III. While acknowledging the ancestral land my house is physically located in, everyday, I am so humbled to learn more about Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation as well as the history of Indigenous people. Finally, I hope that everyone at UNT is staying safe throughout this pandemic, and please feel free to reach out should you have any questions about applying for academia (ling.jin1@ucalgary.ca).
Dear Current, Past and Future of the UNT Counseling Psychology Program,

I find myself sitting in my home, sipping on my fourth cup of coffee and feeling found. Yes, feeling found. And known. I have spent the last seven years or so preparing for this feeling, despite not knowing that I was even searching for it.

My story is not unlike most of yours. I graduated from the program after multiple tribulations, personal and academic, departed onto internship, finished the ever-looming dissertation, eventually graduated, and began my post-doctoral year with an intimidating EPPP exam over my shoulder.

I’m happy to share my experiences in the sport cluster becoming a confident sport psychology clinician with Dr. Trent Petrie, working on research focused on transition and retirement from athletics, my practicum experiences at TAMS, and internship at Texas A&M. However, while the details are important, the lasting sentiment is the most crucial. I did not know who I was when I entered this program, but I certainly am on my way now because of the encouragement to continue to play... and because of my people.

For those of you who know me, or do not, at first glance, you would likely assume you could find me on a bike at SoulCycle and in a Crossfit Gym. And although that is correct, I am also finding myself in the DFW metroplex at the Chrysalis Center and embodying the kind of psychologist I want to be.

What I couldn’t shake however was this unknown desire.

In the program, you could find me amongst the fab 8 (Me, Carlie, David, Laura, Matt, Kendra, Steph, and Sam: iykyk). Although I had the support of many colleagues and program-mates, I would not have found my way without Dr. Carlie McGregor, Dr. Stephanie Barrett and Dr. Kendra Oosterhouse. Their support, dedication to furthering each of our journeys as psychologists and challenging one another every single step of the way was something you read about in books. All of this to say... find your people. Our program at UNT is incredible at teaching us how to be psychologists, but without the mentorship of my incredible peers, Dr. Petrie, my mentee, soon to be Dr. Heather Kiefer...I would have lost myself.

My parents moved to Poland while I was in the program, leaving me with an empty hole, that my incredible peers and friends attempted to fill and support.
I will be forever grateful for those moments, as well as the multitude of responsibilities in the program that kept me busy and focused on furthering my education and career. Now, three years later, my parents have moved back from Poland to Texas. To Fort Worth for that matter. They have reinvented their lives and reintegrated into mine. My spirit has never been happier and has given me energy and a support system that's allowed me to take risks into my exploration of who I am in and out of the therapy room.

At many moments in time during the program and shortly after, I found myself feeling lost. Searching for more. Wondering why I didn’t fit. Why I wasn’t exactly the same thing as who I thought I wanted to be. I often wondered if I was ready, if I was doing the things and if I was making a difference in the work. During internship I was able to solidify my strengths, my passions, dive deep into the populations I struggle with and the ones with whom I maintain great confidence. I found myself realizing that I was ready to take myself into the therapy room and not shy away from my personal “rough edges”. What I still had not realized however, was that I was searching for the freedom and ability to “Fail.”

Now, during my Post-Doctoral Year at the Chrysalis Center (in Southlake, TX) I am lifted up by incredible colleagues who encourage play, drive, passion, experimentation, excellence, humanness and all emotions/reactions/transference in the work. Dr. Zane Dodd and Dr. Carla Pulliam, with Dr. Jimmy McGuffin facilitate an environment where I am able to facilitate relationships in various sports in the DFW community, work with couples and families, continue individual therapy with clients from various backgrounds and presentations with complete freedom and support. Their assistance in helping me reorganize how I see human behavior, the beauty in play within the therapy room, and invitation to bring in my humanness has been instrumental in my development as a psychologist.

To summarize, I was lost, and now I’m found. That does not mean however I will not be lost again, as that’s quite frankly the goal. Thanks to my people: my family, my colleagues, my advisors, who remind me that “failing” is necessary. That falling short or veering into a new direction can certainly be a part of the plan and journey. I am excited to continue to venture out into the great wilderness of humans and psychology, specifically knowing I have people who support me and want me to play, experiment, engage in reverie, blunder, and again find my path.

All of this to say, whether you have concluded your training and are a licensed psychologist practicing daily, a first year in this program attempting to foresee where your career may take you, or in the middle of the program grinding through the various hoops we must jump through, I encourage you to find your people... and remember to continue to try and play within the work. Veering off the path a bit and remembering the power of human connection is what makes us excellent in and out of the therapy room.

I hope that if you wish to search and continue searching, you have your people in your corner. If I can help with information regarding the sport cluster, internship and beyond, please don’t hesitate to ask. I would have never made it through this program or through the day-to-day tribulations without my people.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

MELISSA BRIONES

As third year approaches its end, I am in shock at how I stand at the halfway point already. We were all warned that it would go by so quickly—and while I believed them, I didn’t account for the time warp the pandemic would create. Sometimes I sit in my chair at CTS in between sessions and think, “I’m in my first year, what am I doing here?” In some ways it feels like time has stopped completely, but then it’s gentle reminders like the tasks I must complete that bring me back to the present.

Though I have wavered in my interest in becoming a professor at the end of this journey, I have been fortunate to be part of two research labs that produce research I am passionate about: the CCARL Lab and the BWell Lab. I have also been lucky to find mentors who are so understanding and caring about the person I am, and not just my grades or skills. Dr. Watkins, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Wang have all been so important in this journey and I will always carry a great appreciation for them. Seeing these mentors be the professors they are, affirms that this is the profession for me. There are many skills I have gained through this process that I will return with and serve my community in the Rio Grande Valley through education, research, and service.

My time in this program has been clouded by obstacles at times, both in my personal life and at school, but I am so grateful for the community I have been accepted to.

“MY BIGGEST PIECE OF ADVICE TO ALL WHO ARE GOING THROUGH THIS PROGRAM AND WHO WILL ENTER THIS PROGRAM, IS TO REMEMBER THAT YOUR PEERS CAN BE YOUR LIFELONG FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES.”

MELISSA BRIONES, 3RD YEAR
I feel joy when I walk into every room and find a friendly face; some who I speak in Spanish to and others who offer me a hug on sight. I have made great efforts in serving this program and see it pay off in the lifelong friendships I’ve created here. My biggest piece of advice to all who are going through this program and who will enter this program, is to remember that your peers can be your lifelong friends and colleagues. Keep that zest for life you walked into this program with by working and studying with the friends you make at a new coffee shop you found. Commiserate on the experience of going through a strenuous graduate program (that can be hurtful at times) with dinner at the end of the week. Laugh together on the days you stayed up too late working on that assessment report and get some coffee together at Aura. These are moments you will never regret and a community you will always be supported by. Remember: the work will get done when it gets done, and somehow it always does.

HEATHER KIEFER

You want my advice? A lot of life happens here. Find your people (Hi Dr. Karolina Shander J).

Almost a year ago, embarking on the internship application process, I was asked to begin to reflect on who I am and how my time at UNT has molded and shaped me. The task of summing up the first three years of this program felt daunting. As a member of the last cohort (HI SENSONINE) who experienced a “normal” year before COVID, my time and development has been uniquely and beautifully woven alongside the narrative of a society fighting through a global pandemic, racial injustice, and all of the struggles that accompanied life from 2020-2022.
When I sat down to write my internship autobiography and think about who I have become here, I reflected on the place that held me most when my world was turned upside down:

I have always felt connected to places. Each one holds its own emotions, its own story. I can tell you what my first house felt like, the essence of my favorite playground, what color reminds me of first-grade classroom. To me, places contain memories and serve a unique purpose for the time that I inhabit them. When I reflect on who I am and my growth throughout graduate school, my bedroom during the pandemic stands out among all the memories: three textured white walls, one with wooden panels. The scent of lavender lingering in the air. Walls covered with pictures of traveling through Asia with my dad, visiting my cousin in Alaska, and swimming in the Mediterranean. If walls could talk, my room would write you a novel about where I have been and who I am in the process of becoming.

Everything I knew and the life I had cultivated turned upside down when the words “quarantine” and “social distancing” became commonplace vocabulary. What started as an extended spring break became “back to normal next year,” and I was left mourning the loss of in-person therapy, connection, classes, and training experiences.

As I reflect, I will remember the spaces. I will remember the people, the places, the times we had. I will remember trivia at Armadillo and grading assessment protocols at Fuzzy’s. I will remember getting sunburned sitting outside at Harvest House working on IRC. I will remember game nights at the Pineapple house and fire pits at Ave C. I will remember boat parties and the food trucks at Eastside. I will remember always feeling under dressed at Paschall’s and always feeling right at home under the string lights and pride flags of Oak Street. So maybe I change my advice—find your people. And find your places.

Little did I know, my life would end up taking place inside the four walls of my bedroom.

It became...
My classroom.
My coffeeshop.
My therapy room.
My gym.
My movie theater.
My yoga studio.

My room evolved into my whole world. Those four walls watched me connect with old teammates in Japan and Australia for virtual game nights. My room held the collective trauma of our society and the unique impact that the pandemic, public acts of racism, and a political election had on each of my clients. It was also where my dog got the closest to being a therapy dog that she’ll ever be, laying by my side during sessions. The four walls could tell you that I like my coffee with cream and I’m working on my standing balance poses. It’s where I learned that I became an aunt for the first time. It’s the space that became my constant as the world was anything but predictable.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
2022-2025 INTERNSHIP COHORT!

KELZIE BEEBE
VIRGINIA
COMMONWEALTH
UNIVERSITY

HEATHER KIEFER
UNIVERSITY
OF IOWA

WAN-JU CHAO
UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON
COUNSELING
CENTER

OLIVIA KNIZEK
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA,
DAVIS UNIVERSITY

KALEB CUSACK
UNIVERSITY OF
NEVADA - RENO

JAMES RUSHTON
JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY -
COUNSELING

TOSHA GRIGGS
CENTRAL TEXAS
VETERANS
HEALTH CARE
SYSTEM

GABRIELLE
WEIERBACH
UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS HEALTH
AT SAN ANTONIO

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
2022 AWARD WINNERS!

DR. STEPHANIE BARRETT
APA DIVISION 47 DISSERTATION
AWARD

DEREK SOKOLOFF
APA DIVISION 47 THESIS AWARD
Greetings from your current student reps!

This semester has been a whirlwind as we have been adjusting to primarily in-person activities, witnessing social movements in the institution at large (e.g., counter-protests to anti-trans events) and within our program (e.g., refining Town Hall) while striving to live our everyday lives as doctoral students. Given all that has transpired, please reach out to us if you have any concerns or need any encouragement. Getting through this program is a collective effort, and we’re in it together.

This semester, we collaborated with our program GSAs and hosted a successful virtual interview day! We give a huge shout out to our program GSAs, previous student representatives, and all students who helped out with interview day. We could not have done it without you! Many prospective students noted how comfortable and open they felt throughout the entire process.

As mentioned frequently throughout interview day, our number one program strength really is our current students, for their passion, commitment, and generosity continuously direct our program towards growth. Furthermore, our program is currently in the process of refining Town Hall. We give a huge thanks to our current students for voicing their suggestions to guide us as we collaborate with faculty to make revisions. To our current students and alumni who set the stage for growth, we could not have done this without you!

As previously mentioned, flourishing in this program is sincerely a group effort, and we will do our best to continue to foster collaboration and community for current students in our journey toward becoming multiculturally competent psychologists.

YOU MAY REACH THEM AT:
PSYC-COUNSELINGREP@UNT.EDU

SABRINA (2ND YEAR) & MELISSA (3RD YEAR)

As we reflect on our first year as program GSAs, we are so appreciative of all our peers, faculty members, and alumni who contribute to the success of program events, such as Interview Day, Mock Interview Day, and our Welcome Party. We also want to thank all who have contributed to this newsletter to provide us with updates as well as inspiration and encouragement as we all seek to discover ourselves and our path as psychologists and humans.

If you would like to contribute to our next newsletter or be involved in next year’s events, please email us at maceyarnold@my.unt.edu and hannahhwang@my.unt.edu.