Message from Interim Head

The past year has been an exciting time with many accomplishments and transitions.

During the spring semester, EPC underwent its ten-year Academic Program Review. We received a good review with several constructive comments from our reviewers, which will serve as a foundation for a strategic planning process over the next few months. In this newsletter, you will also read about recent program accreditations. Overall, our students and faculty have continued to make valuable contributions to scholarship in their fields.

The past semester has also been a time of transition. Our five new faculty members from last August have been settling in; this coming August, we will welcome three new faculty colleagues. At the same time, three colleagues have recently announced their retirements: Marianne Woodside, Mary Ziegler, and Jeannine Studer represent a combined total of nearly seventy years of service to UT and will be greatly missed. I would like to thank them for their service and wish them all good things in retirement.

It has been an honor to serve as Interim Department Head for the past year. My door is always open; I look forward to the chance to meet you. Finally, don’t forget to visit the EPC website and Facebook page to get the latest news about what our students and faculty are doing.

I hope you have a great summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

- Ralph

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Academic Program Review

EPC underwent Academic Program Review (APR) March 2-4. The APR was mandated through the UTK Provost’s Office and meant to be a self-study assessing both strengths and weaknesses.

The review team’s impressions were that EPC has faculty who make important contributions to education and publish widely, are student-centered and committed to training and collaborating with students to make sure they are well prepared for future careers, and the department hosts centers that provide valuable services to the community while simultaneously offering real-life learning opportunities and internships to graduate students.

EPC is also beginning a strategic planning process to examine recommendations for improvement from the review team and to create a plan for the future of the department.

Gary J. Skolits was the APR Coordinator for EPC. Special thanks to him, and the many people - faculty, staff, students - who helped!

Communications

The university is in the final stages of rolling out the new Power T logo. EPC is currently using the new logo on our website and Facebook page. As other materials are created, the new logo will be transitioned in.

The university is also going to be launching a new web template. The design focus from Creative Communications has been a “mobile first” mentality – meaning that all sites and navigation tools are responsive and mobile friendly.

The new templates are projected to become available this June.

Accreditations

Five of our programs have recently undergone accreditation reviews.

School Psychology (PhD) has been granted approval until 2021 by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Rehabilitation Counseling (MS) has received their report from the Council on Rehabilitation Education and is developing their response.

School Psychology (PhD) has been granted approval until 2021 by the American Psychological Association.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MS), School Counseling (MS), and Counselor Education (PhD) have been granted approval until 2020 by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Dissertation Defenses

Virginia (Ginny) Britt
PhD in Education with a concentration in Instructional Technology
“Beyond the four walls of my building”: A case study of #Edchat and the power of connectedness

Brittany Daulton
PhD in Educational Psychology and Research with a concentration in Evaluation, Statistics, and Measurement
“Student persistence in career and technical education: A multi-sample, mixed-method evaluation of student services”
Word on the Web

Community Full-Service Schools Recognized by the Carnegie Advisory Committee

The Community Full-Service Schools Program (now called University-Assisted Community Schools), directed by Bob Kronick, was chosen as one of fifty exemplary partnerships by the Carnegie Advisory Committee.

Morrow & Daulton Win Outreach Incentive Grant

Jennifer Ann Morrow, ESM Program Coordinator, and Brittany Daulton, ESM PhD Candidate, have teamed up to win one of only seven Outreach Incentive Grants at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Thayer-Bacon First Woman to be EIC of SPED Journal

Barbara Thayer-Bacon, CSE and LEEDS Program Coordinator, was chosen to be Editor-in-Chief of Studies in Philosophy and Education – marking the first time in the journal’s history to have a female Editor-in-Chief.

Counselor Education Students Take 3rd in ACA Ethics Case Study Competition

Sherrie Bruner, Everett Painter, Alessandra Rhinehart, and Anna Lora Taylor teamed up to enter the American Counseling Association (ACA) Graduate Student Ethics Case Study Competition and placed 3rd overall. All four are in the Counselor Education Program – Bruner, Painter, and Taylor as PhD students and Rhinehart as a PhD Candidate.

DeDiego and Rhinehart Win CSI Leadership Fellowship

Amanda DeDiego, PhD student, and Alessandra Rhinehart, PhD candidate, have each been chosen as one of ten Chi Sigma Iota Leadership Fellows.

New Faculty

We want to congratulate and welcome Casey A. Barrio Minton, Craig D. Howard, and Laura S. Wheat who have been hired as tenure-track faculty members.

Barrio Minton and Wheat join Counselor Education. Howard joins of Instructional Technology and Learning Environments and Educational Studies.
Thompson to be Featured at Annual Flipped Learning Conference

Duren Thompson, Instructional Technology MS student, has been selected as a featured presenter during the 8th Annual Flipped Learning Conference this July.

Four EPC Members Awarded at Chancellor’s Honors Banquet

Jennifer Ann Morrow, Niranji Pathirage, Brittany Pollard, and Alessandra Rhinehart were all recognized at the Chancellor’s Honors Banquet on April 8, 2015.

Wheat Elected to ADEC Board of Directors

Laura S. Wheat has been elected to the Association for Death Education and Counseling’s (ADEC) Board of Directors.

EPC Members Awarded at CEHHS Recognition Ceremony

Sixteen members of EPC were recognized at the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences Recognition Ceremony on April 23, 2015.

School Psychology Students Matched with APA-Accredited Internships

Four School Psychology PhD Candidates - Elizabeth Hays, Megan Schall, Ellie Trant, and Tiffany Watson - were matched with APA-accredited internships.

Spotlights

At the end of the Fall 2014 semester, EPC began running Faculty Spotlights under our News and Events page. These spotlights featured new EPC faculty members and gave them a chance to reflect on their first semester.

At the beginning of the Spring 2015 semester, EPC began running Student Spotlights under our News and Events page. These spotlights are used to recognize and highlight an exemplary student from a different EPC program every month.
On our Facebook

The EPC Facebook page is a social space that shares information - about our department, programs, centers, current research, tips from related professional organizations, job opportunities, and upcoming events.

We also use this format to share photos. Be sure to check out the current albums we have up and tag yourself.

And if you haven’t yet, now would be a wonderful time to “Like” EPC!

Publications


Brinkley, K, Schumann, D. & **White, B.** (in press) Planning a Comprehensive Assessment of Instructional Consultation in Teaching and Learning Centers. *To Improve the Academy*.


Presentations


Burgin, E., & DeDiego, A. (2015, March). “Smiling and ready to learn”: A qualitative exploration of university audit instructors’ experience with students with intellectual disabilities. Invited to present poster and sessoin for College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences Dean’s Advisory Board, Knoxville, TN.


about opening learners to more pluralistic views of academic content. Conversation session facilitated at the Annual Conference for Higher Education Pedagogy, Blacksburg, VA.


Morrow, J. A., & Nadel, S. (2015, May). Yik Yak, is it all “bad talk”: A grounded theory analysis of students’ comments. Poster presented at The Eleventh International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Olsen, T. & Ruttencutter, G. S. (2015, January). Informing faculty development and programmatic planning: The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and student engagement in their courses. Presented at Lilly Conference Series on College and University Teaching and Learning, Austin, Texas.


