



GORDON
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Psychology Department Newsletter

Fall 2014

Spiritual Formation at the Center for Christian Thought

By Kaye Cook, Department Chair

Olive trees, hummingbirds, unending conversations with like-minded folks: what an experience! In fall 2013, I spent a semester as a visiting fellow at Biola's Center for Christian Thought. There I worked with many inspiring partners in the enterprise of Christian higher education.

One of my first surprises was that not everyone considers developmental psychology to be at the core of spiritual formation. What?! Indeed, developmental psychologists are relatively rare in the field of psychology of religion. Another surprise was that I could write all day and like it, and be part of a weekly three-hour discussion group that I now deeply miss. I had forgotten that academics could be like this. Far too often, the academic lifestyle is not the life of the mind, but a focus on trivial details.

That makes it sound as if I spent all my time thinking lofty thoughts. Ha! But I did get a lot done. I completed an invited article for the *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, submitted a Templeton proposal (with Janel Curry and Dan Johnson), and wrote two articles that were accepted for publication without revision, one on Korean multicultural Christian college students (with DongGun Sim) and one on Christian college alumni and their questioning about faith. I also gave seven presentations at conferences and various events and revised my Developmental Psychology course as an online course. Busy time.

In between, I spent quite a bit of time outdoors hiking and in Malibu, and enjoyed making new friends and seeing old friends and former students (and wish I had seen more). It was fascinating to get to know another part of the country, another campus, and a whole new group of people who care about issues similar to those we care about.

Thank you to those who made this possible: Gordon College and Janel Curry; the Psychology Department (particularly Bert Hodges, who served as chair); and the students who have put up both with my absence and my overly busy return as I caught up in classes and meeting departmental needs. I have a renewed sense of the breadth of God's kingdom, the strengths of Gordon College (amen!), the place of Gordon in a larger and longer-term enterprise, and the giftedness of those with whom we work in a larger context. Our students and alumni are unbeatable!

A few notable events:

- The largest department in the school for the fourth year in a row.
- Neuroscience Lab opens (spring 2013)!
- Dr. Cook has Leave of Absence (fall 2013).
- Dr. Phillips resigns (spring 2014).
- Dr. Gerber is on sabbatical (fall 2014).
- Students continue to do presentations and papers and interesting and fun things.

Kaye with her kids.



Pray for Gordon. As most of you probably know, this has been a difficult summer at Gordon. We pray for grace and wisdom, and ask for your prayers. We also want to hear from you. If you would like to talk with one of us, please be in contact! You may email or call Chair Kaye Cook: kaye.cook@gordon.edu, 978.821.8456.

An Interview with Suzanne Phillips

Recently, we bid farewell to our beloved Suzanne Phillips. Though she will be missed, we are excited about what God has in store for her in this new phase of life!

Why did you decide to take the job, and what will you be doing?

After teaching for 24 years (17 of them at Gordon), I was ready for a change. After teaching community psychology for 10+ years, I wanted to invest time in “walking the talk”—putting community psychology into practice. My new title is “Institutional Researcher” at White Mountains Community College, in Berlin, NH.



What direction do you think your research and writing will take from here? Will you get to exercise your love for community psychology?

The field of institutional research focuses on meeting the internal data needs of educational institutions. In this work, other people (the senior leadership at the college) will be setting the research agenda for me—that’s something college professors get to do for themselves, so that will be a big change. Likewise, any writing I do will be for use within the Community College System of NH. I don’t expect to do much more publishing in academic journals. In many ways, institutional research is like program evaluation in community psychology—both involve using one’s research and communication skills to study real-world problems that matter to an organization. There is a lot of talk here about data-based decision-making, and I’ll be right in the middle of that.

What are you looking forward to about living in Berlin, NH?

I am happy to return to the northern part of NH, which is where I was born and where I spent many happy summers with my grandparents. I still have cousins here. I like the way the people embrace the outdoors all year round. They can’t wait for snow, so that they can get out to play in it. Skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and camping (all seasons) are big here. I’m good with all that, particularly because I’m renting a house with a garage.



Faculty, staff and students honored Suzanne at a reception this spring.

What will you miss most about being at Gordon?

That’s an easy one—the students, hands down. I love watching all the changes that happen between orientation and graduation. Gordon students have so many adventures, and they give so much to the world. It’s going to be hard for me not to be part of that process.

If they wish, how should they contact you?

As an alumna myself, I will retain my Gordon College email address: suzanne.phillips@gordon.edu. I will also continue to manage the Gordon College Psychology Alumni group on LinkedIn (which you are all invited to join!).

Is there anything you’d like to say to them?

I am glad that we were at Gordon at the same time. I learned so much from you, and I can’t wait to see what the future holds—for all of us. Do keep in touch!

Where Are They Now? Alumni Updates

Emily Fisher Hennessy '05 I am about to begin my third year as a Ph.D. student at Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. My research interest remains around studying adolescent health and development, and I'm working on a large evaluation project to understand recovery high schools and their effectiveness for recovering adolescents. (I have a recent publication about this topic in the *Peabody Journal of Education*, "Recovery Supports for Young People: What Do Existing Supports Reveal About the Recovery Environment?") I've also recently gotten into meta-analysis as a tool for synthesizing existing research. It's a fun tool because there is always data available! And I got married this summer, so I can now be found under the name Emily Hennessy!



Diego Mendes '05 I have been in the SF/Silicon Valley area for over three years now. After working at two successful startups, Chegg (which IPOed) and Meebo (acquired by Google), I am moving to my third startup. I joined Pocket (www.getpocket.com) in late August, creating web and mobile products. Pocket has a free version which is heavily used by academics, students, journalists, bloggers and anyone who likes to consume content on any devices with a screen (computers, phones, tablets and even smart watches). Kira (Landrebe '07) and I have been doing well too. She is a reading specialist at Fremont Christian School, and we are trying to travel at any chance we have, recently having gone to France and Italy.



Brian Denietolis '05 I am assistant professor of psychiatry at the UMass Medical School, clinical director at the UMass Adolescent Continuing Care Unit, and adjunct clinical professor at Antioch University New England. For this position, I completed degrees in clinical psychology at Antioch and pre- and post-doctoral training at Dartmouth Medical School. Content wise, I learned evidence-based, trauma-focused treatments for children, adolescents and families, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Child Parent Psychotherapy, Parent Child Interaction Therapy and Dialectical Behavior Therapy. Over the past several years, I have served severely traumatized and psychologically suffering infants, toddlers, children, adolescents and families. I currently offer evidence-informed treatment to adolescents who have experienced pronounced interpersonal trauma and who require longer-term inpatient psychiatric care.

As clinical director at the UMass Adolescent Continuing Care Unit, I have facilitated multiple program improvement initiatives. For instance, I am in the process of developing the UMass Adolescent Screening Tool, a computer-based diagnostic assessment that will be administered to adolescents upon admission and every five weeks thereafter. This project is in the final stages of approval and has the potential to drastically enhance the quality of care provided to traumatized adolescents. I have conducted workshops and professional presentations on a variety of topics related to adolescent mental health and recovery, and published peer-reviewed papers and book chapters related to residential treatment of adolescents, PTSD and psychosis, as well as complex interpersonal trauma and its sequelae. Organizational leadership and change, clinical supervision and program development have also been strong commitments of mine.

Where Are They Now? More Alumni Updates

Kristelle Lavallee '06 It's been an exceptionally busy but wonderful summer for my husband, Timothy McAndrew, and me. A highlight was taking a new position at the Center on Media and Child Health. As the new content strategist, I am able to utilize my education from both Gordon and Tufts in creating content that endeavors to educate and empower both children and those who care for them to create and consume media in ways that optimize children's health and development. We recently launched our new website, www.cmch.tv, and it has been a rewarding experience learning about how the Center and the site are able to work in people's lives. I am truly thankful for these past summer months, and am looking forward to the fall!



Ivana Moffit '09 I've been on the East Coast my entire life, and when I saw the opportunity to visit California, I jumped on it. Maybe it's the fact that I spent too much time watching Seth Cohen on *The O.C.* instead of studying for Research Methods, but California will always have a significant place in my heart. After one particularly hard day at work, I called a girlfriend of mine to see if we could schedule a weekend getaway to the Jersey shore. Instead of accepting, she invited me to go home with her to Palm Springs for her birthday. This trip was full of wonderful surprises. Surprise #1: A coworker of mine convinced me to leave New York a little early because she would be visiting her family in San Francisco. Surprise #2: Turns out, my former Nyland floormate Caitlin Walsh was also in the area! I had no idea what I signed up for when I agreed to the trip. God blessed me with truly amazing friendships and experiences that I didn't even know to ask for. From Napa Valley to LA to Palm Springs to San Diego, I was truly appreciative of God's handiwork in my surroundings. I can't wait to visit again. In the meantime, I live in New York City and work as an administrative assistant at Partnership for a Healthier NYC.



Brittney (Howell) Pfohl '09 Since graduation from Gordon, I went to grad school at Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions, got married and moved to Syracuse, NY. I work as a family nurse practitioner. My husband, Chris Pfohl '09, works from home for a company in Boston. We just had our first child—a little boy, Ezra David. We are enjoying exploring central New York and live in a wonderful little neighborhood near a pond with some hiking trails.

Betsy Gettis '11 Since graduation, I've received my M.Ed. in Multicultural Education from Eastern University and am currently working on the creative arts team at GT Church in Reading, PA, as well as teaching preschool this year! This summer has been spent going to baseball games, taking trips to the beach—and even kicked off with heading to the North Shore for a Gordon wedding (which are my favorite!). I still get to take frequent trips to Boston, as my boyfriend is finishing up his degree at Berklee, and every time I come back, it feels like going home again. It's always so great to reconnect with Gordon friends!



More Faculty Updates



JP Gerber, Robert Joss (retired 2012), Bert Hodges, Kaye Cook, Bryan Auday, Suzanne Phillips (resigned 2014)

Our faculty are staying busy as always with research and other pursuits. Read them below!

Jonathan Gerber

Teaching this year was great. I ran a new course in psychology and music, along with the regulars of social psychology, intro, and stats and methods. I was also quite busy professionally, with a couple papers coming out, one on rejection and another on cross-cultural similarities in nostalgia. I organized two symposia (one at APS, one at EPA) to celebrate the 60th anniversary of social comparison theory, and enjoyed a trip to San Francisco. My research students were busy collecting data on what makes a party great, how to measure coolness and how rejection affects how people perceive art. Some of these projects are quickly becoming collaborations with researchers at UConn, Rhode Island College and Penn State, and I hope to write up all these data sets on my sabbatical in Australia this fall. Working in the department continues to be a joy.



Bryan Auday

Even though it feels like I arrived at Gordon—my first “real” job—no more than a few years ago, in reality, I’m beginning my 29th year! In that span, more than 900 psychology majors have graduated, and now I am teaching children of my first students! I wish I knew what each of you were doing. This past year was exhausting but very rewarding. Besides teaching, I co-edited *Salem Health Magill’s Medical Guide*, which is published in five volumes (over 3,000 pages!). This past year we also celebrated the opening of our new neuroscience laboratory, which triples the previous lab space and contains the latest in EEG technology, including a 40-channel brain imaging system. This year we are planning to study how cognitive and emotional systems come into interplay when we make a moral decision. We then study the brain wave patterns that are synchronized at the moment the moral decision was made. Hopefully, I will be able to report the results in our next newsletter.



In other news, I will be teaching a PE course this fall, and in terms of fun, I’m an avid sea kayaker. If you are around Cape Ann, look out into the ocean and if you see someone in a red kayak, it could be me. This most recent graduation I was honored to have been selected for the “Senior Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year” award at Gordon.

Faculty Update and Giving Opportunity

Bert Hodges

The last couple of years have been wonderful in many ways, but challenging as well. The department faculty and students have had to work with extra diligence and verve since Dr. Joss's retirement with no immediate replacement for him. On the whole we have done remarkably well. Though the coming year looks particularly daunting given Dr. Phillips's resignation, I am nevertheless confident that we will have a good year if we work hard, laugh as often as possible and trust God. Over the past two years I have continued to have a delightful time teaching and doing research with students. Highlights from the past year or so include the following:



- Last fall I did a workshop for faculty at Southern Denmark University on values and psychology, and then participated in a conference organized around my work on values-realizing psychology. It was a little odd to be the center of attention, but it was encouraging to find that my work has been interesting and helpful for others.
- I have published journal articles on (1) non-conformist behavior in social psychology, (2) the influence of language on where Chinese speakers tend to look, (3) the relation between imitation and conformity, (4) ecological approaches to language and (5) the effects of language use on color perception. Perhaps the most satisfying of these was the one on non-conformity. I, and a large number of students, four of whom were co-authors, had worked several years on this project!
- This summer I organized and hosted an international conference on language use ("Finding common ground"), held at the University of Connecticut, where I am a senior research scientist. I usually spend one a day a week there.
- Finally, two students worked with me this summer on research, one focusing on mimicry and imitation and the other on cultural evolution and conformity. It's been fun having students around during the summer. Soon many more will join them and we will be back at it. I'll be starting my 43rd year. Wow!

Want to make an impact? Consider a gift to the Psychology Development Fund.

We are in need of funding to complete **two psychology labs in the basement of KOSC**. We would be blessed by your support. No gift is too small. One lab space is designated as a perception/action lab, and the other as a learning/memory lab.

Neither have been named! Research Methods (for those of you who would like to give money toward the statistics course) will also take place in those labs.

Questions? Email development@gordon.edu and kaye.cook@gordon.edu. To make a gift to the Psychology Development Fund:

Snail Mail: Development Department, Gordon College, 255 Grapevine Road, Wenham MA 01984. Please make check payable to Gordon College and be sure to specify "Psychology Labs" on the check.

Online: www.gordon.edu/gordonfundgift, specify "Psychology Labs" in the "Other" field.