

## Highlights

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work. In a nutshell, whereas we've done the one etymological meaning of *alumnus* well (as pupil, or "nursling"), there are other root meanings to *alumnus* we would do well doing better - from *alere*, an *alumnus* also "nourishes", and from *almus*, also "nurtures", and from *altus*, "grows" and "makes high".

Beyond the pledge to reach out to you, and the invitation for you to make contact with me, I imagine - with any new chairperson, with any administrative and leadership change - you have questions about the broader philosophical and pedagogical direction of the department. I have heard some of the grapevine talk, some of the rumors and disparaging aspersions about how we've "changed" at Duquesne, about how we're "no longer" the "same"; these may well be true in some senses - we *have* changed, we are not the "same" department of the sixties or seventies. But our fundamental commitment to a human science psychology remains the guiding star we pilot by. We *still* maintain a rigorous philosophical psychology, the only APA accredited doctoral program to do so, we *still* privilege qualitative and interpretative research, we *still* believe that human being

poses a scientific demand that is non-reductionistic, complex, and ethical. Put another way, we take our inheritance of a human science psychology seriously, very seriously, and embrace it with love, care, and a fidelity that demands of us not to seal it in hermetic stasis that is "the way we were", but to reinvent that inheritance, and send it forward, pledge it to a future that is not yet, even as it is, by our work in the present.

Please feel free to contribute to our newsletter - share your accomplishments and personal milestones with us ... we'd like for the newsletter to get bigger and more substantial. But aside from the newsletter, I would also like it very much if you just want to give me a call or drop me an email - let me know what you're up to, what projects you're working on, or how psychology at Duquesne has influenced, shaped, or otherwise been meaningful to you in your professional and personal lives.

Finally, please accept my best wishes, and my sincerest gratitude for the ways in which you do the Psychology department at Duquesne proud.

Leswin Laubscher, Ph.D.  
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# Psychology Alumni Newsletter

## Welcome Letter from the Chair: Dr. Leswin Laubscher

To all Alumni from the Psychology Department at Duquesne University

It is a decided pleasure and honor to address and reach out to you in this newsletter. Some of you, especially more recent alumni, know me already, and may even have had me as instructor, or perhaps I served on your dissertation committee. But I suspect, for the greatest number of you, I am a somewhat unknown quality. In the months and years to come, I hope to correct that unfamiliarity to some degree, as I'd like to have much more frequent contact with you; this newsletter represents that beginning. And, whereas this newsletter is a good start to let you know what we've been up to in the department, and the college in general, what projects we're working on, or anticipating, celebrate comings and goings, achievements and accomplishments, and generally just forge closer ties, I am also dreaming connections beyond the newsletter; perhaps an alumni conference, perhaps inviting some of you to participate in alumni colloquia, or speaker series, perhaps some of you working with us on projects or serving as resources for us and our current students in the communities where you live and

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Connie Fischer Retires



After 46 years of teaching, Dr. Constance T. Fischer retired at the end of June 2012. Connie Fischer dedicated her career to pioneering the human science approach to psychology, and her groundbreaking work on collaborative assessment is gaining widespread

recognition, even in the so called mainstream. We asked her to reflect on her time at Duquesne.

### How did you get to Duquesne?

In 1965 the Lexington VA sponsored a national symposium on "Phenomenology: Pure and Applied," instigated by Erwin Straus. Bill and I (married in 1964) were

amazed when Amedeo (Andy) Giorgi, a psychologist from Duquesne University, told us during a coffee break that his Department was gathering faculty members interested in developing an existential/phenomenological approach as an alternative to the prevailing positivistic, behavioristic psychology. Father Adrian van Kaam, a Holy Ghost father (the order that founded

Duquesne) had chaired the department and in 1966 published Existential Foundations of Psychology. The next year we moved to Pittsburgh, Bill as an Associate Professor at Duquesne. My internship was transferred to what was then the Leech Farm Road VA Neuropsychiatric Hospital. The following year I was invited to join the Duquesne faculty as an assistant professor.

### **What was your experience as a woman at the time you entered the profession?**

In my first year [at Duquesne University] the Chair of the department was a woman, who left DU the next year, so I was again the only woman, although I didn't think much about that at the time. In my



*Connie Fischer with the Department of Psychology at Duquesne in the 60s.*

second year, our Chair arranged a leave for me the first semester, and Michael was born that October. The Chair arranged a part-time appointment second semester, and for several years the Department arranged teaching schedules that allowed Bill or me to be home with Michael. I planned to continue to teach at DU (and I have), but I found that some colleagues had assumed that I had taught that first year just to stay busy before starting a family. For example, crossing campus my first semester back, a colleague waved enthusiastically and asked what I was doing there. When I answered that I was teaching a class, he worriedly asked if the baby was alright. Later, Andy Giorgi (then Chair) told me that a Department representative to the College Graduate Council had casually reported to him that the Council Chair while guiding a discussion of applicants for graduate faculty status had

held up my folder, mentioned my name, and laughingly put the unopened folder aside, saying, "Didn't she just have a baby? That's not the kind of productivity we're looking for." Andy instructed the representative to be sure my folder was opened next time. I was then approved, with the Chair's remark, "Well, she has indeed produced more than babies."

### **How has the clinical psychology program at Duquesne progressed?**

In the Department, we all had been impressed with psychology's advances in research method but felt strongly that psychology should develop additional methods suitable to humans' character as more than natural objects (see Fischer, 1977). We all sacrificed financially to be at DU. For example, my starting full-time salary was \$6000, a reduction from my internship stipend. In today's dollars that would be \$24,000. A classmate of mine was hired the same year at \$500 more because, the Dean explained, he was a man and besides I was married. One day, walking in Oakland near the University of Pittsburgh campus, I encountered a fellow I had known in Lexington. I congratulated him on his new position at Pitt, but when I told him where I was working, he earnestly replied, "Oh, I'm so sorry." This comment was occasioned not only by DU's being small and poorly funded, but also by the Psychology Department's growing reputation for being somewhat kooky (in the 1960s talking about qualitative research, basing our program on a philosophy that was unfamiliar to mainstream psychology, taking personal agency seriously, etc. was seen as unscientific).

By now, DU is well-funded, has a beautiful campus, and is ranked highly. Our clinical program is APA-approved, and we have an excellent reputation, even internationally. Indeed, our faculty and doctoral students are internationally diverse. Our program continues to pursue psychology as a human science, developing clinical and qualitative research methods that are grounded in hermeneutic philosophy. Our graduates are influential through their scholarship, social critiques, innovative community and professional service, and reputations for clinical soundness and caring.

### **How has assessment evolved throughout the years you have been a professor? How has collaborative assessment added to the field?**

During my graduate training and early professional life, psychological testing and diagnostics were only secondarily for the person who was tested; primarily they were for psychologists and psychiatrists to classify, and to make decisions about, patients. It seemed to me that our testing could become much more useful to all parties if we changed the process in which the testee was seen as emitting responses whose meaning was decided in terms of our theories and constructs. This process could be destructive: it often left the patient feeling as though only professionals could make sense of what was "making" him or her behave in particular ways. Fortunately, at the Lexington Veterans Administration hospital, supervisors allowed me (as a trainee) to go beyond standardized administrations, in order to try to be more helpful to patients. Although tentatively and inconsistently at that time, I talked directly with them about their actual lives, and reflected about how test data might provide additional access to those lives. I shared these hunches with the patients, and we explored them together.



*Connie Fischer with Norma Coleman at the retirement party.*

Later I thought of these practices as life-world exploration, which I pursued much more thoroughly while I was teaching "testing" courses at Duquesne. My goal became to tailor my explorations and the written report so that I could describe the individual client as a person. This individualizing was enhanced by collaborating with the client. The process itself turned out to be affirming and growthful for the person. At that time, except for readers of

Carl Rogers' work, testers worked with "patients" and "subjects," not clients. I searched for a term with which to replace "testing" and "evaluation," and borrowed "assessment" from nonclinical settings.

#### What successes have you had while at Duquesne?

I am a full professor at Duquesne, and I have received the President's Awards for Excellence in Scholarship, and in Service, and was appointed the N. J. Dick Endowed Chair of Community Outreach for rendering academic material useful to the public nationally and locally. In regard to professional organizations, I have served as President of two APA divisions (Theoretical and Philosophical, and Humanistic), as President of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association and later

as its Representative to APA's Council of Representatives. I felt honored to receive the Humanistic Division's Carl Rogers Award. I am most proud that in 2006, the Society for Personality Assessment presented me with its Bruno Klopfer Award for "unique and distinguished contributions to personality assessment." I doubt that my assessment work would have become particularly influential had it not been for opportunities to share and learn from colleagues at SPA.

#### What has Duquesne meant to you and how will you carry these memories with you in your future?

I retired from the Psychology Department at Duquesne University after 47 years of participating with faculty and graduate students in developing a viable

human-science approach to psychology. I am fortunate to have been part of this meaningful undertaking, as well as to have found supportive and inspiring colleagues and dear friends as within the Division of Humanistic Psychology, and the Society for Personality Assessment.

I've moved to join friends in a nearby lively retirement community. I will continue part-time private practice, and will stay involved with SPA, and continue working on research and writing projects already underway—carrying on!

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Yael Goldman ('04)

Yael Goldman Baldwin is a psychologist and the Chair and Associate Professor of Psychology at Mars Hill College in Asheville, North Carolina. She is a member of the Associated Psychoanalytic Workgroups. Her publications have appeared in the *Lacanian Compass*, the *International Lacanian Review*, *Methods: A Journal for Human Science*, and *Theory and Psychology*.



Yael's publication of *Lacanian Addictions* is a compilation from a 2006 conference where Lacanians from around the world gathered to speak about addictions. More and more, addiction treatment is turning away from psychological and psychoanalytic theorization and towards psychopharmacological measures; this anthology attempts to rectify that situation.

### Stephanie Swales ('11)

Stephanie S. Swales maintains a private practice in which she works from a Lacanian orientation, conducting therapy both in person and by phone.

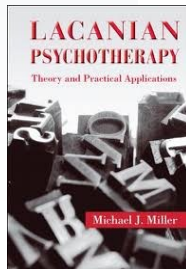
In her publication of *Perversion*, Stephanie Swales provides a close reading of what Lacan said about perversion and its substructures. Lacanian theory is carefully explained in accessible language, and perversion is elucidated in



terms of its etiology, characteristics, symptoms, and fundamental fantasy. Referring to sex offenders as a sample, she offers clinicians a guide to making differential diagnoses between psychotic, neurotic, and perverse patients, and provides a treatment model for working with perversion versus neurosis.

### Mike Miller ('07)

Michael J. Miller is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at SUNY Upstate Medical University in New York and an adjunct professor at Syracuse University. He has been published in *The Humanistic Psychologist* as well as *Lacanian Addictions* (Karnac, 2011), and has presented to groups of psychoanalytic clinicians on clinical applications of Lacan.



Mike's publication of *Lacanian Psychotherapy* was published in 2011; the central concern of the book is the usefulness of Lacan's notion that the unconscious is structured like and by language. This concept implies a peculiar manner of listening ("to the letter") and intervention, which Miller applies to a number of common clinical concerns.

### Brent Robbins ('03)

Brent Dean Robbins is the coordinator of the Psychology Program at Point Park University. He is editor-in-chief of *Janus Head: Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature, Continental Philosophy, Phenomenological Psychology, and the Arts*, and his most recent book, *Drugging Our Children: How Profiteers Are Pushing Antipsychotics on Our Youngest*, and *What We Can Do to Stop It*, co-edited with Sharna Olfman, is gathering lots of attention.

**Congratulations to Brent Robbins on his election as the new president of APA Division 32, the Society for Humanistic Psychology**



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT (cont'd)

**Amy Taylor** ('12) is doing her post-doc at Austin Riggs Center in Massachusetts

**Sipho Mbuqe** ('10) is working at North Carolina University's Student Counseling Center

**Shane Chaplin** ('12) is a Psychologist in the Student Wellness Center at West Virginia University

**Kurt Kumler** ('06) was promoted to the Director of the Counseling Center at Carnegie Mellon University

**Joshua Gregson** ('09) was recently elected President of the Greater Pittsburgh Psychological Association

**Amanda Lowe** ('12) was recently elected to the Board of Greater Pittsburgh Psychological Association

**Daniel Warner** ('09) was promoted to the Director of Clinical Services at Nulton Diagnostic and Treatment Center

**Get Connected!**

Keep us up to date with your latest milestones and accomplishments by reaching out to [psychology@duq.edu](mailto:psychology@duq.edu).

And don't forget to join our new Facebook page:

[Facebook.com/duquesneclinicalpsych](https://www.facebook.com/duquesneclinicalpsych)



### Personal Milestones

**Katy Sampson** ('09) got married to Mike Cincala in October 2012.

**Tanya Brown** ('08) got married to Morten Haugaard in April 2012.

**Mark Kroll-Fratoni** got married to Katharina Kroll in July 2011. Katharina came to Duquesne in 2010 as a foreign exchange student.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Recent Student Presentations

Four students—**Jose Arroyo**, **Ariel Larson**, **Camille O'Connor**, and **Jacob Rusczek**—presented papers at a ninety minute panel discussion at the 31st International Human Science Research Conference at the University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada on June 27, 2012.

The panel was arranged by Dr. Roger Brooke and titled: *The upright posture, with (our!)*

*happy and tragic deformations: papers in honor of Erwin Straus.* In addition to Straus, the papers dialogued with the writings of Iris Young and Franz Fanon. The papers were of such outstanding quality that they were all selected to appear in *The Humanistic Psychologist* in 2013.

### Internship Matching 2012-13

Congratulations to our new interns:

**Jessica Callanan:** Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow, NY

**Mark Kroll-Fratoni:** Cornerstone Behavioral Health, Evanston, WY

**Thomas Hallinan:** Department of Veteran Affairs, Southeast Louisiana, New Orleans, LA

**Joseph Hamer:** Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

**Cody Maddox:** Penn State Center for Counseling and Psychological Service, Penn State University, University Park, PA

**Congratulations to Joseph Hamer for receiving the 2011-2012 Psychology Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award!**



## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### RECENT DISSERTATION DEFENSES

- Taylor, A.** (2012). *Embodying technology: A hermeneutic inquiry into corporeality and identity as manifested in a case of strap-on dildo use..* Director: Eva Simms
- Geib, M.** (2012). *Coming to terms with abusive childhood sexual experiences.* Director: Russ Walsh
- Yennari, A.** (2011). *Living with Schizophrenia: A phenomenological investigation.* Director: Russ Walsh
- Tran, E.** (2011). *Co-Sleeping with her baby: A qualitative study of adaptive and precriptive voices in parenting decision making.* Director: Eva Simms
- Swales, S.** (2011). *Neurosis or Perversion? A Lacanian Psychoanalytic Diagnostic and Clinical Approach to the Treatment of Paraphilia at a Forensic Outpatient Setting: A Case Study and Exegetical Method..* Director: Bruce Fink
- Risko, J.** (2011). *The experience of being thrown back in encounters for adults who were physically abused as children by a parent or caregiver: An empirical-phenomenological investigation.* Director: Connie Fischer
- Rickard, K.** (2011). *Gay identity formation: An (auto)ethnographic look at Gay Volleyball.* Director: Martin Packer
- Mest, R.** (2011). *Finding voice: An introduction to philosophy and psychotherapeutic practice.* Director: Eva Simms
- Danna, J. V.** (2011). *Therapist and client experience of collaborative psychological assessment: A qualitative study.* Director: Connie Fischer
- Cuello, D.** (2011). *Karen Horney's three character styles [Neurotic styles] responses to early maternal deprivation and unmanageable rage: Three illustrative case studies.* Director: Roger Brooke
- Ahern, J.** (2011). *Encountering questions of religion in psychotherapy: A hermeneutical-phenomenological study of religious patients' experiences.* Director: Will Adams

### SIMON SILVERMAN PHENOMENOLOGY CENTER 30TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

“What is done  
out of love  
always takes  
place beyond  
good and  
evil.”

- Nietzsche



Each year, the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center holds a Symposium on a specific theme, featuring internationally renowned scholars in phenomenology.

The Spring 2013 Symposia will feature:  
**Merleau-Ponty: Into the Future**

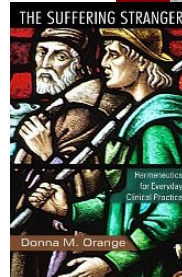
Stay tuned for more information, or follow up at [phenomenology@duq.edu](mailto:phenomenology@duq.edu) or 412.396.6038.

### MINI COURSE: DONNA ORANGE

**Donna Orange** will be our distinguished visiting scholar in **February 2013**. She is a lifelong student of philosophy with a midlife addition of clinical psychology and psychoanalysis.

Donna teaches at the psychoanalytic institutes: IPSS (Institute for Psychoanalytic Study of Subjectivity, New York), ISIPSe, and the NYU Postdoctoral Program in the Psychoanalysis—Relational track. She also teaches in humanistic psychotherapeutic settings worldwide and in private study groups.

Donna's recent books are: Thinking for clinicians: Philosophical Resources for Contemporary Psychoanalysis and the Humanistic Psychotherapies (2010), and The Suffering Stranger: Hermeneutics for Everyday Clinical Practice (2011).



## UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

### *Duquesne Psychology Clinic*

Providing affordable psychological services to the university and the greater Pittsburgh communities.

Special services include **Spanish services** and **military services** which are free to both military members and family.

For more information, contact Clinical Director, Jessie Goicoechea, Ph.D. at [goicoecheaj@duq.edu](mailto:goicoecheaj@duq.edu) or call 412-396-6562.

### THE CENTER FOR INTERPRETIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH and THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY present...

**Mary Watkins**, Ph.D., from the Depth Psychology Program at Pacifica University

Public Presentation on Nov. 7th: *Towards Psychologies of Liberation* addresses the importance of participatory action research and its dialogical ethics, liberatory pedagogy, community and ecopsychological fieldwork, and psychosocial accompaniment as ways to redress the underlying coloniality of Euro-American psychology.

Public Symposium on Nov. 8th: *Up Against the Wall: Re-Imagining the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* proceeds from a Freirean framework to understanding Mexican "border" art in terms of a liberatory psychology and towards a human rights based approach to forced migration.

What makes this presentation even more special is that Dr. Watkins is also an alumnus (MA '75). Welcome back.

For inquiries, contact Fred Evans at [evansf@duq.edu](mailto:evansf@duq.edu)



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### Have you seen them?

If you know the whereabouts of any of the following alumni, please ask them to contact us so we can include them on our mailing list:

Kyle Arnold  
Brandy Bass  
Richard Baur  
Jeannette Baur  
Donna Beres  
Melchor Bernal  
Rebekah Bissell  
Olufemi Bolaji  
Christine Bracken  
Jamie Bromley  
Rachael Burgunder

Eric Burney  
Kevin Byrne  
Christopher Captline  
J. Carey  
Cindy Carraway-Wilson  
Michael Casari  
Harold Chacon  
Janette Charlton  
Chih-Ying Chou  
Riffat Chughtai  
Scharmen Confer

Kimberly Cooke  
Wanda Copp  
Joseph Corbett  
Howard Corcoran  
Lawrence Cross  
Teresa Cunningham  
Scott Cunningham  
Matthew Curtis  
Susan Custer  
Sandra Czybora  
David Danto

Richard Dayton  
Heather Defoggi  
Phyllis Derienzo  
Deborah Di Lazzero

Please have them contact:  
[psychology@duq.edu](mailto:psychology@duq.edu)

### In Loving Memory



**Michael Flynn** ('00) passed away in September 2012 at the age of 50. Michael was a Professor of Psychology at York College, an Associate Director of the Center on Terrorism at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a practicing Psychotherapist. An accomplished therapist and scholar, Michael's extensive record of publications provides ample testimony to his passionate and impressive academics.

**Salvatore Palazzolo** ('07) passed away in April 2012 at the age of 58. Salvatore served as a major in the Air-force, was a former nursing professor at Duquesne, an active member of St. Louise DeMarillac Church, and an accomplished and much loved therapist. In addition to his clinical practice, Sal continued to wrestle with matters academic, and participated in the Humanistic Psychology Conference at Point Park University a mere few weeks before his death.

**Fr. David Smith** passed away in July 2011 at the age of 79. Father Smith guided the Duquesne psychology department as chair from 1976-85, and directed the Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center from 1994 - 2004. A festschrift in honor of Fr. Smith is in press, with contributions from several of our faculty.