Welcome from the Head...

Welcome to the latest update on activities, accomplishments, and developments in the Department. The last academic year has been a typically busy and productive one for us. Not only have a number of faculty members, students, and support staff received awards in recognition of their outstanding work, but the Department as a whole has continued to make a substantial and exemplary scholarly contribution. Indeed, faculty and students combined to: publish 87 articles, 18 book chapters, and 2 books; give 102 conference presentations, and 17 invited presentations and workshops; sat on 17 Editorial boards; held research grants totalling over $8,000,000; and students alone received more than $950,000 in scholarships, awards, and bursaries! This, I am sure you’ll agree, represents an impressive level of achievement, particularly given a teaching mission that also saw the Department provide nearly 50,000 credit-hours of instruction to thousands of students including more than 800 majors and honours students, and 140 graduate students.

By any measure, our Department is one of the largest at the University of Manitoba. It is also, I am sure, one of the most collegial. A large number of special events are held throughout the year to bring people together outside of the classroom and research lab. Our Honours dinner, for instance, which is held in the spring to celebrate the achievements of graduating Honours students, was again a great success with nearly 100 students, family, and faculty in attendance. Similarly, the Department’s Fall Welcome party, at which new graduate students are introduced (and receive welcome gifts) has grown in popularity and become a major focal point for the start of each academic year. In addition to these events, we hosted a number of colloquia, given by both internationally renowned visiting researchers and by prominent local scholars, with all of these accompanied by time for discussion and socializing.

The Department continues to be a vibrant, productive, and collegial community thanks entirely to its dedicated and friendly group of faculty, students, and support staff. I hope you enjoy reading through this issue of Psychobabble and learning about some of these people and about developments in our department.

Cheers,
Todd A. Mondor
MAJOR FACULTY AWARDS

Lorna Jakobson
Faculty of Arts Professor of the Year

Marian Morry
Distinguished Service Award from the International Association for Relationship Research

Debbie Kelly
Named a Fellow of the Association of Psychological Science

Ray Perry
Received the Konrad Adenauer Award from the Royal Society of Canada and the Alexander Humboldt Foundation

Gerry Sande
Department of Psychology Teaching Award (2011-2012)

Jessica Cameron
Rh Award in the Social Sciences category (2011)
Well, it’s January, thirty-something below, I’m walking through B and L lots on my way to the PSC and Duff Roblin. Very much “just like old times”. It’s been a number of years since I’ve made this trip with any regularity and, having been on campus in my position as an instructor in the Clinical and School Psychology programs since July, 2012, I’m very happy to say it’s great being back.

By way of brief history, I graduated from the Clinical Psychology Program here at the University of Manitoba in the early 1980’s. I have had a dual-focus career since then.

On the school side, I’ve been a clinician in the Transcona, Winnipeg No. 1, and Seven Oaks School Divisions. Most recently, I have acted as the school psychology coordinator for the Seven Oaks division, where I still maintain some involvement. I have been lucky enough to be involved in a variety of preventative programs in Seven Oaks, targeting whole families as well as classroom wide interventions. School staffs and children became accustomed to the school psychologist as the one trudging in with a briefcase, test kit, and guitar…a guitar? You’ll need to stop me in the hall to get the full story.

The other half of me established and maintained a private practice in psychology. My practice has included adults, children, couples, and families. Over the years I have travelled to a number of the more remote parts of our province and, within the private practice context, established some of the first school psychology services in a number of Manitoba First Nations communities. My clinical approach has evolved over the years to what I would call an “integrationist” model, the analogy being that of an cook who has selected and researched ingredients to enable the creation of a customized product.

The theme of my recent presentation to the Department was that of seeking the common aspects within the Clinical and School programs and my hope of bringing my experience in both of these areas to bear on my teaching and supervision roles in the Department.

When not walking from the parking lot or through the tunnels between the PSC and Duff I can usually be found on my bicycle (basement in the winter), as deep as possible in the nearest ocean, or practicing guitar…those rock and roll dreams will never die!
SUPPORT STAFF UPDATE

Gloria Derksen
Psychology Graduate Program Coordinator
I began working at the University of Manitoba, in the Psychology Department, in August of 2005. Watching students progressing through their programs and getting to know a few along the way has been an interesting part of the ‘job’. I am thoroughly enjoying the challenges of Psychology Graduate Program Co-ordinator, officially since May 2012, but I’ve been here for two years now. I am also mother to two lovely young women, who are married to wonderful young men. My husband and I are grandparents of two active grandchildren, with another on the way. We even have ‘grandpets’, who visit occasionally!

Amy Fransen
Animal Technician
I was very excited to start working as an Animal Technician in the Department of Psychology this past summer having grown up on a farm and having spent the majority of my life working around and with animals. It has been a pleasure getting to know some of the many great people who work here. For those of you who don’t know me, I’ll talk a little about myself. I spend most of my free time with my husband playing video games or watching our favourite TV shows and movies. I also enjoy spending time with my family in Southern Manitoba and hanging out with friends. Some of my other hobbies include singing karaoke, scuba diving, and reading. If you see me around campus, feel free to say hi!

Hillary Hobson
Animal Technician
I started my position as an Animal Care Tech with Psychology in January of 2012. Prior to this position I worked for the university in a similar position for about half a year back in 2010/11. Animals have always been a huge interest of mine and back when I was sixteen I started volunteering with the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre which has been a huge part of my life for the six years that I have been involved with them. I currently devote myself to them by helping with animal care and rehabilitation, helping out the education program, and by being a member of the fundraising committee. When I’m not working and volunteering, I’m taking a mix of courses at the U of M and at RRC, baking "cake boss" style cakes with my best friend Jenelle, participating in various activities and get-togethers with my friends and family, and spoiling the newest member of my family (my nephew) who was born this past November and gave me the very precious role of being an aunt. Those who know me, can say that I’m energetic, caring and rarely slow down.
Support Staff Update (continued)

Jarod Innis  
*Teaching & Research Technology Coordinator*

Having been with the department since September 2002, I had an idea of what to expect when I took over for Phil Gerson. The journey has not been without its speed bumps but thanks to wisdom imparted by Phil over the years, no problems have seemed insurmountable. The changing needs of the department and technologies that can be used to address the problems faced are part of the reason why every day presents a unique challenge that my team and I are eager to face. I look forward to continued collaboration with students, faculty and staff in attaining the research, teaching and administrative goals of the department.

Kelly Kennedy  
*Office Assistant at the Psychological Service Centre*

I am pleased and excited to join the staff at the Psychological Service Centre within the Department of Psychology. Over the last few months I have felt very welcome and am excited to start my new career here. Prior to working at Psychological Service Centre I was a Case Manager at Northern Community Development Services in a small town in North Western Ontario where I counselled individuals in overcoming their barriers to employment and assisted them with reaching their career goals. Much of my time off work is studying and volunteering in the Restorative Youth Justice and I was recently welcomed to the Corrections Services of Canada to sit on their volunteer Citizen Advisory Committee. In my spare time I enjoy travelling and fishing. I have backpacked in five countries and even lived in a van for a year in Australia. One day I hope to travel again.

Ferro Montanino  
*Programmer/Technician*

I have been at the U of M campus since 2000, starting as a student and then working at Computers on Campus from 2005 to 2012. My main loves are Music and Computers. I completed a diploma in Classical Piano Performance through the Royal Conservatory of Music and began computer programming on a Commodore 64 as a child. This led me to studying both Music and Computer Science at the University of Manitoba. I spend my time performing regularly at the Fort Garry Hotel as well as composing / producing music and film scores from my home studio – fusing my two passions.
RETIREMENTS

Three long-serving members of the Department retired in the past year. We are grateful for the contributions each of them made and wish them all the best for the future.

Phil Gerson
Network Administrator

Phil joined the Department in 1976 and retired after 35 years of service.

Roger Wilson
Associate Professor
Brain & Cognitive Sciences

Roger retired on July 1, 2012 after 35 years in the department.

Steve Holborn
Associate Professor
Applied Behaviour Analysis

Steve joined the Department in 1974 and retired July 1, 2012. He will continue his affiliation with the department as a Senior Scholar.
Faculty Update

Randy Jamieson
Granted Tenure

Richard Kruk
Granted Tenure & Promoted to Associate Professor

Ed Johnson
Appointed Director of Clinical Training

Barry Mallin
Granted Tenure

Janine Montgomery
Promoted to Associate Professor

Marian Morry
Promoted to Professor

Melanie Soderstrom
Promoted to Associate Professor
**SERVICE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE!**

Trudy Lyttle

Trudy Lyttle, who has served as the manager of the Department’s animal research facilities for nine years, was awarded a Service Award of Excellence by Learning and Development Services for 2012. This award celebrates support staff members who have exhibited a high level of initiative, dedication and cooperation in their service to students, faculty, staff and the general public.

Trudy has worked exceptionally hard over the years to modernize and develop our animal research facilities while caring for thousands of animals, and training hundreds of assistants, students, and faculty members. She has done so while displaying exceptional care and compassion for the research animals for which she is responsible, and by the exemplary professionalism and collegiality which she brings to bear on her relationships with faculty members, students, external collaborators, and visitors.

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**PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT STAR!**

Kelley Robinson

The Department of Psychology offers an annual prize of $100 and a certificate to a graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in Service, Teaching, and Research.

Kelley Robinson was awarded the STAR award in 2012. In her time as a graduate student in our department, Kelley:

- authored publications in *Journal or Research in Personality*, and in *Social Psychology and Personality Science*
- gave two invited addresses (at Duke University and SUNY Stony Brook University) and 14 conference presentations
- received a Foreign Study supplement that allowed her to conduct research and strike up a collaboration with Dr. Mark Leary at Duke University
- taught four lecture-based courses – and received very good evaluations in all
- co-supervised four honours students and three independent research project students
- served as co-president of GASP and as a graduate student representative on two Departmental committees
- reviewed manuscripts for several journals
- regularly attended colloquia and spearheaded initiatives that encourage learning (e.g., Dyadic Data Analysis book club)
- …all topped off by the Faculty of Arts Graduate Teaching Award!
THE YEAR IN PICTURES

Researchpalooza (March 2, 2012)

Reception following Rapid Fire Colloquium (March 16, 2012)
Third Annual Honours Dinner (April 27, 2012)

Award winners Sarah Raposo, Nick Brosowsky, and Katelin Neufeld with Drs. Jakobson, Wilson, and Mondor
More Photos from the Honours Dinner ...
Second Annual Interdisciplinary Colloquium (November 8, 2012)

John P. Zubek Memorial Lecture (December 7, 2012)
Dr. Laura L. Carstensen, Ph.D., Stanford University
"Emotion and Aging: Exploding the Misery Myth

Dr. Carstensen meeting with graduate students in the Psychology lounge before her lecture
FOCUS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT!

We are fortunate to have more than our share of truly outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. Several of these students were honoured with awards this past year:

Gabriel Schnerch
*Marian & Morgan Wright Award for Clinical Excellence* (for 2009-2010)

Karen O'Brien
*Marian & Morgan Wright Award for Clinical Excellence* (for 2010-2011)

Renée El-Gabalawy
*Alumni Clinical Psychology Student Research Award* (for 2009-2010)
*Department of Psychology Vineberg Prize (Outstanding Graduate Student Research Paper)*
*Canada Graduate Scholarship - Michael Smith Foreign Supplement to study at Yale*

Jennifer Robinson
*Alumni Clinical Psychology Student Research Award* (for 2010-2011)

Kelley Robinson
*Graduate Student STAR Award (Outstanding Achievement in Service, Teaching and Research)*
*Faculty of Arts Graduate Student Teaching Award*

Alexa Yakubovich
*UM Student Affairs Participation Award*

Nicholaus Brosowsky
*Department of Psychology Ten Have Award (Outstanding Honours Thesis)*
*CPA Certificate of Academic Excellence*

Katelin Neufeld, Sarah Raposo
*CPA Certificate of Academic Excellence (Honours level)*

Ashley Boris, Christine Sousa, Alison Cox
*Shannon Hamm Memorial Scholarship*

Benjamin Schellenberg
*Psychology Alumni Faculty Scholarship*

MORE STUDENT KUDOS ON THE NEXT PAGE....
FOCUS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT!

Lydia Worobec, Kylee Hurl
Mark Lewis Nozick Memorial Scholarship

Shauna Sawich
University Gold Medal for the highest standing in Arts
George Mower Memorial Prize

Ross McCallum
Council of Canadian Departments of Psychology Teaching Assistant Award

Jeremy Hamm
CPA Award for Academic Excellence; CPA Outstanding MA Thesis Award

Benjamin Meek, Kristin Reynolds, Sandra Salem
CPA Award for Academic Excellence (MA level)

Kendra Thomson, Jo Ann Unger
CPA Award for Academic Excellence (PhD level)

Heather Simister
Raymond F. Currie Graduate Fellowship

Roxanne Boily
Psychology Alumni Faculty Award

Sarah Rigby
1st place winner of the UM Undergraduate Poster Competition (Social Sciences)

Kiana Weibe
2nd place winner of the UM Undergraduate Poster Competition (Social Sciences)

Sarah McAmmond
1st place winner of the UM Undergraduate Poster Competition (Natural Sciences)

Duong Ramon, et al
Best Poster Award, Manitoba Association for Behavioural Analysis conference

Thomas Toles
Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!
This year the Graduate Associate of Students in Psychology (GASP) Executive has strived to continue the tradition of holding previous successful annual events and to introduce exciting new ones. We held our 2nd annual interdisciplinary colloquium in the fall, which was a huge success and provided a clear indication of how critical Psychology is in a wide variety of disciplines from surgery to computer engineering. Thank you to all of you who came out. We were also excited to unveil our t-shirts and have been very pleased with the high demand from students and faculty. Also in the fall, we had two successful graduate student parties held at The Hub Pub and Degrees. These events are a great way for students to meet other students and form both personal and professional relationships. Over the next few months, the GASP executive is working hard to plan the 2nd annual rapid fire student colloquium, a graduate student conversation hour and lunch with Dr. Michael Harris Bond, Emeritus Professor of Psychology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and we will also be introducing a Psychological Thriller movie night. In addition, as Kristin and Renée finish up their 2-year term as co-presidents, they hope to establish a strong foundation for welcoming incoming students and easing this, occasionally difficult, transition period. For example, the GASP executive is working hard to create an interactive website that will help students navigate through their respective programs. GASP has also gone social and we have a presence in social media through Facebook. This Facebook group provides important updates about social and academic events. Near the end of the term, we will be making calls for the 2013/2014 GASP Executive. Stay tuned! Being involved in the GASP executive has been, and continues to be, an incredibly rewarding experience. We wish both students and faculty a successful academic term. All the best.

Email us at: gasp@ad.umanitoba.ca
Visit us in person at: P201 Duff Roblin
Visit us on Facebook

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Applied Behaviour Analysis**
- Alison Cox
- Bethany Craig
- Kara-Lynn Giesbrecht

**Brain & Cognitive Sciences**
- Nicholas Brosowsky
- Evan Curtis
- Jacqueline Spear

**School Psychology**
- Jenessa Dick
- Garret Froese
- Robyn Hardern
- Ivanna Lukie
- Cassia Luther-Ruban
- Shelby Nickel
- Roxanne Boily
- Candace Sabiston
- Britton Woods

**Clinical**
- Tara Conway
- Sarah Germain
- Kylee Hurl
- Maia Kredentser
- Jamie Leung
- Margaret Wright

**Social and Personality**
- Katelin Neufeld
- Patti Parker
The arrival of a new year is always a wonderful opportunity to set new or accomplish existing goals, as well as seek exciting opportunities. The Undergraduate Psychology Student Association (UPSA) is a student-run organization committed to representing all undergraduate psychology students in their academic pursuit by providing many services. One of our main goals is to offer opportunities for students to meet other individuals in the program. In order to accomplish this goal, we provide free seminars with guest speakers specializing in many topics of interest for erudite undergraduate (e.g., graduate school, careers, GRE, and specific fields of psychology). In addition, we also forward information from the department and graduate students about up-coming talks, and opportunities, as well as tutoring services. To stay up to date with what’s going on, join our mailing list (http://lists.umanitoba.ca/mailman/listinfo/upsa-list), or check out our facebook page and website (http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~upsa/). We had a very successful fall term with talks on Clinical Psychology and Organizational/Industrial Psychology, as well as our sweater sale and food sale. This term we plan on hosting a mini-lecture series involving all of the fields of psychology researched here at the U of M, as well as a GRE talk and much more! UPSA will also be looking for students, passionate about psychology, to take on executive and other volunteer positions in the 2013-2014 school year. If this sparks your interest, please contact Steve Granger at upsa@ad.umanitoba.ca. We hope to see you at our upcoming events!

Best of effort and luck on your academic journey.

Steve Granger
UPSA President 2012-2013

MILESTONES

These members of the Department celebrated significant milestones in their careers at the UofM …

Warren Eaton 35 years
Melanie Glenwright 5 years
Harvey Keselman 40 years
Mary Kuzmeniuk 30 years

Janine Montgomery 5 years
Ray Perry 40 years
Don Stewart 20 years
TRANSITIONS...

Tara Stewart  
*Psychobabble Covert Opp. Codename: ‘Transition’*

I was asked by Dr. Steve Hladkyj, current chair of the *Psychobabble* committee, to contribute a brief article regarding my recent transition from graduate school to a faculty position. I begin with a bit of background: I completed my graduate training at the U of M under the guidance of Dr. Ray Perry (2010); and SSHRC postdoctoral training under the guidance of Dr. Judy Chipperfield (2012). I recently moved to Pocatello, Idaho where I began a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Idaho State University (August 2012). I’m pleased to report that my transition (although still ongoing) has been relatively smooth. As I’ve navigated the first few months in my new department, all the while on covert assignment for *Psychobabble*, I have compiled copious notes and observations regarding the Dos and Don’ts of being a new faculty member. I share with you now those Dos and Don’ts that resonate most with me.

Once hired, you will arrive bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to begin your new academic position. **Do not:** Be alarmed or discouraged when other faculty members initially mistake you for a grad student (or an undergrad). Bask in the glory of your youthful appearance. **Do:** Accept that as you adapt to your new campus, chances are good that you will get lost repeatedly. You may even forget where your car is parked (twice). I have found that there is no shame in regular, public consultation of your impossibly-oversized campus map. Channel your inner freshman and marvel at how far you’ve come. **Do:** Know that as you adapt to your new campus, chances are good that you will get lost repeatedly. You may even forget where your car is parked (twice). I have found that there is no shame in regular, public consultation of your impossibly-oversized campus map. Channel your inner freshman and marvel at how far you’ve come. **Do:** Know that as you adapt to your new campus, chances are good that you will get lost repeatedly. You may even forget where your car is parked (twice). I have found that there is no shame in regular, public consultation of your impossibly-oversized campus map. Channel your inner freshman and marvel at how far you’ve come. **Do:** Know that as you adapt to your new campus, chances are good that you will get lost repeatedly. You may even forget where your car is parked (twice). I have found that there is no shame in regular, public consultation of your impossibly-oversized campus map. Channel your inner freshman and marvel at how far you’ve come. **Do:** Know that as you adapt to your new campus, chances are good that you will get lost repeatedly. You may even forget where your car is parked (twice). I have found that there is no shame in regular, public consultation of your impossibly-oversized campus map. Channel your inner freshman and marvel at how far you’ve come. **Do:** Know that as you adapt to your new campus, chances are good that you will get lost repeatedly. You may even forget where your car is parked (twice). I have found that there is no shame in regular, public consultation of your impossibly-oversized campus map. Channel your inner freshman and marvel at how far you’ve come.

**Do not:** Be surprised to discover that your assigned office was previously used to store unwanted furniture from the 1970s, old computer monitors, or a gestetner machine. It is an unwritten and unquestioned academic law that the newest faculty member must have the least-desirable office. Never fear: I am told we move up. **Do not:** Be distressed to learn that you have no idea what is going on at departmental meetings. The departmental history that predates your arrival will often dictate discussion and decisions. Everyone will know that you don’t know what’s going on, so don’t bother trying to fake it. Instead, revel in the fact that you are not held responsible for much of the day-to-day running of the department, and recognize that this will not last. Finally, **do not:** Be alarmed if, in your first few weeks, you receive an invitation to a secret union meeting to be held off-campus in an abandoned barn (or similar). Every institution has its politics, and you will now be privy to the political goings-on at your new institution. Keep your ears open, suspend judgment, and commit to nothing: You are spectacularly uninformed and should not feel pressured to take a strong stance on any political issues at this point.

After the first few weeks of initial adjustment, you will begin to settle in and develop a routine. I have carefully monitored, and meticulously...
recorded, my behavior in order to provide *Psychobabble* with this second list of Dos and Don’ts concerning the development of positive Assistant Professor habits. **Do:** Keep your door open. You may be tempted to close it so you can avoid interruptions. First of all, you won’t avoid interruptions because people will simply just knock. Second, the members of your new department want you to feel welcome: They want the opportunity to stop by, introduce themselves, and make sure you are adjusting well. Soak up the social support. In a few months no one will stop by just to ‘see how you’re doing.’ Instead, they will assume you are doing just fine, and they will only stop by to ask you to do things… **Do not:** Forget that your transition is more than academic. It may involve relocation to a new city, a new province, or even a new country. You may have left family and friends behind. You may be separated from your partner or spouse for some time. Physical relocation is a part of most academic careers – and it’s important to acknowledge that it will affect you in many ways (some positive, some negative). **Do:** Become acquainted with co-workers. In the beginning, turn down no opportunities for socialization. If you are lucky, there will be another new hire in your department. Waste no time in making friends with this person. He/she will be an important sounding board as you navigate the transition to a new academic environment and adjust to your role as Assistant Professor. **Do not:** Ignore your health and well-being. It’s tempting to let pesky things like proper nutrition, adequate sleep, regular exercise, and leisure activities go by the wayside so that you can use the extra time to prep or write. Recognize that you’re in transition, and transitions usually mean increased stress, so find ways to take care of yourself. **Do not:** Completely avoid service to your department. Most departments protect first-year faculty from extensive service requirements like committee work or representing the department at university events. Take them up on this. But try to find a small way to begin contributing as a citizen of your new department. Your efforts will not go unnoticed; and neither will a general unwillingness to help out. Finally, **Do:** Find a mentor. Some departments will assign you a mentor; other departments will leave it up to you. Find someone whose career path you admire and who is willing to mentor you on local, institution-specific issues, as well as on more general career-related issues. Do not rush this process: Be selective and find someone you can really learn from.

In summary, my three-month recognizance on behalf of *Psychobabble* has led me to conclude that the transition from graduate school to a faculty position is indeed busy, a little perplexing, and sometimes demanding. That said, this transition is also exciting and gratifying. My appointment as an Assistant Professor has carried with it a deep sense of accomplishment. As graduate students, we commit ourselves to a long-term goal that can, at times, seem impossibly distant. My final piece of advice is this: Once hired, take time to acknowledge and celebrate the realization of your goal. You have worked hard, and I can now attest that it *will* be worth it.

Special agent Stewart (code name: the butterfly), signing off.
Tamara Ansons

When I began writing this Psychobabble entry, I thought it was hard to believe that it had been almost two years since I left the (newly reopened) halls of Duff Roblin. However, as I tallied the number of apartments that I’ve lived in since Winnipeg (five if anyone is interested), two years seems about right.

My time since the University of Manitoba has been incredibly enriching, challenging, and, most of all, rewarding. I finished my PhD in December 2010 and was off to the University of Michigan (the other UofM) for a postdoctoral position in Marketing at the Ross School of Business. My arrival at the University of Michigan was relatively uneventful and, because my postdoctoral supervisor, Dr Norbert Schwarz, held appointments in both Psychology and Marketing, the transition from Psychology to Marketing was relatively straightforward.

The first month or so went by quite quickly as I settled into my new postdoc position. I tried to take full advantage of the many intellectually stimulating seminar series at Michigan. Influenced by my former supervisor, Dr Jason Leboe-McGowan, I’ve always been an advocate of attending seminars and supporting departmental events, and it was through my attendance at these seminar series that I was able to integrate quickly into the Michigan culture. Although academics are notoriously absent from departmental seminars, the culture at Michigan is such that all faculty members and students are expected to attend the weekly seminars. It was a refreshing opportunity to network with other academics, to have engaging discussions about both the research presented in the seminar as well as our own work. This attitude permeated the entire department and was something that most people looked forward to after a week of solitary work. Indeed, life as an academic can be quite lonely at times—we dictate our own schedule, develop our own teaching plans, and focus on research that we are conducting with our geographically dispersed collaborators—and we may rarely interact with those that we work with. Moreover, this type of solitary work can mean that we are neglecting a valuable resource: those that work in the office next to ours. However, setting a cultural expectation that everyone attend the seminar series and other departmental events provided the opportunity to interact with colleagues and build unity in a department that may feel fragmented at times. Obviously, having solid work time is important for an academic; however, I’ve realized that attending these seminars and other departmental events is a good way to build up a support network and is critically important to the success of a new academic.

Beyond the challenge of building a network and becoming integrated into a new department, I also had to resume my research program at a new institute. Fortunately, Michigan has a well-developed research infrastructure, so I was able to get back into my research shortly after arriving at the University of Michigan. I probably benefitted from the University’s Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program most, which is a program that let me recruit an
undergraduate student to help me conduct my research. Luckily, I was able to work with exceptional students throughout my time at Michigan, which meant not only that I could offload some of the time-consuming “grunt work” of research, but that I could also gain valuable experience as a mentor to the undergraduate research students. I believe that this opportunity helped me develop the skills that will be necessary for me to become an effective supervisor in the future.

After my first term, I taught on a summer program that is designed to help international students prepare for the start of their MBA program in the fall. Despite having taught at Asper while doing my PhD, I had never taught MBA students and felt uneasy about teaching students at this level. However, I was able to use my resources at Michigan to develop course material and to get feedback on plans that I had for the lectures that I gave. In the end, this teaching experience has proved to be extremely beneficial in my new position as an Assistant Professor of Marketing in the Warwick Business School (WBS) in the United Kingdom, which I started in September, 2012.

The transition from postdoc student to faculty member in a leading Business School involved a more significant adjustment compared to my transition to my marketing postdoc. In addition to the move itself being more difficult (and more eventful due to the logistical nightmare involved with moving two cats to the UK), the most substantive change was having to develop and teach a module for a Master’s program shortly after my arrival. Despite having little time to settle into my new position before teaching my first course, I was able to draw from the material I developed at the University of Michigan. In addition to preparing the course content, I had to quickly learn the bureaucratic differences between North American and UK institutions. Fortunately I’m working with some wonderfully supportive colleagues and extremely knowledgeable support staff that have helped me familiarize myself with the way Warwick operates. Given that I have only been here at WBS for a couple of months, I’m still getting myself settled. However, I have tried to use what I learnt during my time at the Universities of Manitoba and Michigan to ease the transition into my new position.

My post-PhD life is perhaps not the typical path of most psychology students. However, I don’t think what I do is exceptionally different from the life of an academic in a psychology department. Certainly, the teaching material is different—I never would have expected that I my future would involve teaching things like “SWOT Analysis” or “Customer Lifetime Value”. I also find that business students are a more challenging group compared to more “typical” university students—I find that they are more involved in lecture and expect instructors to keep up-to-date with the ever-changing business world. The teaching involves more work than I expected, but I have learned a lot and am enjoying the business side of things. My research program hasn’t changed significantly since leaving psychology. I’m still interested in and able to research how cognitive processes influence judgment and behaviour; however, the focus for me now is on slightly more practical issues, such as how these cognitive processes change customer satisfaction with products. The practical focus is particularly important at Warwick, given its strong links with industry. Unfortunately, the infrastructure for conducting behavioural research is far less developed in many Business Schools compared to most psychology departments. The situation has improved over the last few years, as many North American Business Schools have developed research labs and participant pools that are very similar to the ones used in psychology. Although UK Business Schools are perhaps slightly behind North American Schools in terms their research capabilities, WBS is not the typical UK Business School and has a Behavioural Science group and recently opened a behavioural research lab; as such, I have had a much easier time getting my research up and running.

A lot has changed for me in the past few years, but looking back I know that the opportunities that have come my way have been largely due to
the wonderful training I received at the University of Manitoba. I’m particularly thankful for the exceptional guidance that my PhD supervisor, Dr Jason Leboe-McGowan, provided. It was through his connections that I was first introduced to the notion that a psychologist could end up working in a business school. A PhD in psychology signals rigorous training and therefore provides a strong foundation to pursue a career in a number of different fields (e.g., Marketing, Organizational Behaviour, Medical Decision Making, Law, Education, Public Policy). Although I may not work in a psychology department, my psychological training will define me forever. Moreover, my training in psychology has and will continue to open the door to more possibilities than I could have expected when I started my graduate work. I firmly believe that as psychologists we have knowledge capabilities sought out by many fields, so it is just a matter of figuring how to showcase those capabilities in the field that is most appealing to you.

Jady Wong
Taking it One Term at a Time

I was led down the hall at Keyano College to see my office for the first time. I tried to stay focused but I was jittery and my heart was racing. I frantically searched for a sign, I needed a sign. I sighed in relief when at last I found the sign. That is, a sign outside my office door with my name on it. I thought to myself, this is awesome! I couldn’t help but grin at the thought that I did not have to make my own door sign and stick it up with tape. I was tempted to give it a polish on the way out. My joy of an assigned office space was short-lived when I began to focus on how different it was to work at Keyano College and live in Fort McMurray.

For example, getting exams scored was a simple task at University of Manitoba. I simply submitted the exams to administration for scoring and picked them up a couple of days later. Ultimately, my understanding of how the scantron machine scored exams was equivalent to my understanding of how the caramel gets inside the caramilk bar; it just happens.

However, at Keyano College, I was responsible for using the scantron machine to score multiple-choice exams. I anxiously sat in front of the machine and lifted the plastic cover off for closer examination. I gave myself another pep talk (one of many that first week at Keyano College) and, began to read the stack of written instructions that were piled neatly beside it. After a few scanning errors and paper jams, I successfully printed a score sheet with the help of a friendly staff member.

While I was learning more about the resources and people at Keyano College, I was also trying to overcome my homesickness. I wondered if my cravings for dim sum from Winnipeg’s China Town, or gelato from Osborne Village would subside. However, I soon realized that I had access to everything I needed while living in Fort McMurray. I could watch wonderful plays at Keyano Theatre. If I needed anything, I was sure to find it at one of the local malls. Although,
I did not find a place that served dim sum, I did find some great sushi restaurants.

Keyano College in Fort McMurray Alberta

I enjoyed what Fort McMurray offered and the beautiful mountains that surround it, however, I spent most of my time indoors during the first academic term preparing lectures. I taught a full course load, participated in departmental activities and collaborated on a research project. There was a lot to learn and do, but the transition from being a graduate student to a faculty member was not as turbulent as I anticipated. As a result of my graduate training with Dr. Jason Leboe-McGowan, I developed teaching and research skills that helped ease me into a faculty position. That is, by the time the fall term had come to an end, I was already accustomed to life in Fort McMurray and had settled into my role at Keyano College.

My journey from graduate student to faculty member has been exciting albeit stressful at times. I relocated, learned new things and met new people. I found that working at Keyano College is not very different from my days working in a carrel space at University of Manitoba. Instead of orange doors, there are brown doors. Instead of carpeted hallways, there are floor tiles. The prairies that I used to call home are now the beautiful mountains of Alberta. Overall, the scenery changed but the important things remained the same. That is, staff and faculty are friendly and students are motivated to learn. I took it one term at a time and applied my knowledge that I acquired as a graduate student to my work. By doing so, I survived the first term and I am prepared to begin the next.
When I found out that I was selected for the Rhodes Scholarship, I was in the amusingly tiny and frigid Saskatoon Airport. Having been politely forced out of my hotel room at noon, I had the privilege to shiver for five hours in that airport, ruminating over all the mistakes I felt I had made in my interview. As a chronic worrier, I had reached what I thought was the peak of my anxiousness. I was wrong. When the phone call came and I heard the good news, my anxiety skyrocketed to uncharted, interstellar levels.

The Rhodes Scholarship is the most terrifying honour I have ever received. In addition to the enormous expectations that are associated with the Rhodes, it also means that I have to leave Winnipeg, the town I’ve affectionately complained about for my entire life. I’m extremely excited about the opportunity to study at Oxford, but I will be leaving behind so many great friends, loved ones, and teachers. The scholarship presents me with the most enormous transition I have faced in my life to date, besides perhaps the day in high school that I switched from corduroys to jeans and became socially acceptable.

At this point, I’d like to extend a huge thank you to the University of Manitoba’s Department of Psychology for teaching me so much over the past four years. Though I will not study psychology at Oxford (I would like to teach English Literature and Film Studies someday), the skills I have learned while completing my honours degree in psychology will be invaluable throughout the remainder of my life. Psychology has improved my ability to think critically and has heightened my understanding of those mysterious beings called people. The study of psychology has helped me to think of human cognition and behaviour in a more open, careful way.

Upon being asked during my Rhodes interview about the qualities of a great leader, I cited my honours thesis advisor, Dr. Randall Jamieson, as an example. He is obviously the professor I have worked with most closely, and he quickly became a role model to me. His passion and sincere belief in the value of what he studies has inspired me not just to tackle my degree requirements, but to see more fully the significance and sophistication of psychology as a discipline. He made cognitive processes so interesting that I even opted to write and record a short rap about garden path sentences. However, Dr. Jamieson is just one of the many excellent teachers and researchers working at the U of M.

As much as I want to succumb to the temptation of making a single-factor causal attribution for my academic success thus far, those who study psychology know that there must have been numerous different factors involved. That said, I certainly owe a large portion of my success to the terrific people I have had the good fortune to encounter along the way. Though I’d love to leave you with an uplifting cliché or piece of wisdom, I fear it wouldn't be supported by empirical evidence.

Thomas Toles – on the threshold of a new adventure
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Let us know what position you currently hold, tell us about your family, etc.

We would like to share this information with staff and students and other former alumni, through features such as those in this issue.

In short, let’s hear from you!

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