Welcome to our new faculty and staff

Takuya Minami, Ph.D.
Tak returned to Boston after a 3-year hiatus working for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he also received his degree in 2004. Proceeding, he worked at our competition, Northeastern University, for 2 years. He is a psychologist (HSP) in Massachusetts since 2009. His research interests revolve around effectiveness of psychotherapy. He is excited to be back in a city where many hole-in-the-wall restaurants serve food from all over the world.

Steven Vannoy, Ph.D.
Steven moved from the University of Washington Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences where he conducted mental health services research focused on suicide prevention in medical settings. He was also a clinical supervisor for the APA internship program at UWMC’s psychiatric inpatient unit and outpatient clinic. He’s excited to be here to help build the new doctoral program and to further develop his teaching portfolio. He’s sad to be giving up fresh salmon from the Pacific Northwest, but particularly delighted to be able to get fresh, local lobster.

Janet Beard
Janet Beard recently moved to Boston from Columbus, OH where she was working as a program coordinator in the College of Engineering at the Ohio State University, as well as teaching screenwriting at the Columbus College of Art and Design. Originally from east Tennessee, she studied dramatic writing at NYU and went on to earn an MFA in creative writing from The New School, where she also began her career in academic administration. Her first novel ‘Beneath the Pines’ was published by Two Dollar Radio in 2008, and she is currently finishing work on a second.

“What can psychologists do about these enormous human problems? Our first task is to make vocal what is now silent. It is to make conscious what is now unconscious. It is to resist being co-opted by an exploitative social system that pays us well with status, income, and upward social mobility in exchange for our remaining silent about injustice.” – George Albee
Darren Freeman-Coppadge, Pharm.D.

Darren comes to the UMass counseling psychology doctoral program from a non-traditional path. His training is in psychiatric clinical pharmacy. He earned his doctor of pharmacy from the University of Maryland Baltimore in 2005, and later completed a residency in psychiatric pharmacy practice at the same institution. He spent several years as a clinical pharmacist in Maryland state hospitals where he provided pharmacotherapeutic care for patients with schizophrenia; consulted with multidisciplinary teams to provide drug treatment plans; taught psychopharmacology to healthcare students, psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, and direct care staff; and supervised pharmacy students and residents on their experiential rotations. Wanting to broaden his scope of knowledge and practice, he is now pursuing a career in psychology. When not at school, he enjoys traveling with his husband and completely vegging out on sci-fi entertainment.

Whitney Kleinert, M.Ed.

Whitney is from the rural mountain region of northeast Georgia. In 2011, she received her bachelor of science in psychology from the University of Georgia. In 2013, she received her master of education degree in school psychology from UMass Boston. Whitney is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in school psychology at UMass Boston. She works primarily with Dr. Robin Codding on mathematics intervention research as well as with Dr. Tak Minami on her therapy animal project. When she is not in school, Whitney enjoys traveling with her husband, going to the gym, and spending quality time with her two cats (Bambi and Newbury).

Kathryn Cantrell, M.A., CCLS.

Kathryn received her master of arts in child development from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, and her bachelor of arts from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Prior to joining UMass Boston, she worked at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, as a child life specialist where she provided psychosocial care for children, adolescents, and young adults with HIV, cancer, and hematological disorders. She is thrilled to have the honor of continuing her education at UMass Boston as part of the Counseling Psychology PhD program where she looks forward to further developing her research interests in health psychology. Kathryn is excited to be working with Dr. Gonzalo Bacigalupe and Dr. Steven Vannoy on topics related to eHealth for chronic illness populations and mental health services delivered in medical settings.

In her spare time, Kathryn loves to paint, bake pies, and hang out with her cat, Gris Gris.

Meghan Ray-Silva, M.A., CAGS

Meghan just graduated from Rhode Island College with her MA/CAGS in School Psychology. She is very happy to be at UMass Boston starting her doctoral degree in a field that she loves and to be working with all of the great faculty in the CSP department. Meghan is excited to be working on the research teams of Dr. Methe and Dr. Hayden, and furthering her interest in student acceptability. Growing up in upstate New York, Meghan is a fan of the New York Yankee’s, but after spending the last 9 years in New England she has also come to love the Celtics and the Bruins. In her free time, Meghan can be found playing with her 1 year old dog Bear, running, and trying new recipes in the kitchen.
Tangela Roberts, M.S.

Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Tangela studied psychology and women’s studies while as an undergraduate at St. John's University in New York. She just recently completed a MS in Community Counseling at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is very excited to have the opportunity to continuing her education at UMass Boston as a PhD student in Counseling Psychology. She is very grateful to have the chance to learn and work with Dr. Sharon Lamb, Dr. Kiran Arora and Dr. Sharon Horne in their research teams. Her research interests include the intersections of sexual orientation, race and gender, social support & resiliency in minority populations and feminist therapy. In her free time, Tangela enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, boxing, writing poetry and learning how to bike. Although she has moved around quite a bit in her life, she is happy to be able to find a home in Boston and in the CSP program.

Victoria Sheppard, M.A.

Victoria was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. She holds a bachelor of arts in psychology from Millsaps College and a master of arts in clinical psychology from Columbia University. At Columbia, Victoria examined social stress in LGB young adults who grew up in supportive environments versus those who grew up in non-supportive environments. Victoria’s research interests include bully prevention and system-wide approaches that are designed to promote positive mental health in schools. She is excited to pursue her PhD in school psychology at UMass Boston and to be working with Dr. Melissa Pearrow’s research team on the integration of behavioral health services in schools. Although Victoria is elated to make Boston her new home, her NBA loyalty is to the New York Knicks. In her free time, Victoria enjoys finding interesting and delicious recipes on Pinterest, going to the gym (or hot yoga), planning her August 2014 wedding, and playing with her cat, Alley.

Elena Tsoy, M.Sc.

Elena received her BA in Psychology from the American University of Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) in 2010. As an undergrad, she interned at the Republican Center of Mental Health (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and the Social Relations Lab at Columbia University, which prompted her interest in neuroscience. She moved on to doing her MSc in Clinical Neuroscience at Roehampton University London, mostly working in the Clinical Lab and Radiobiology Lab on the effects of prenatal dexamethasone treatment on the central oxytocin receptors in adult rats. She was a fellow of the OSF Academic Fellowship program, working as a psychology instructor at the American University of Central Asia. Her research interests include neurophysiology of various clinical conditions, social and emotional aspects of psychological disorders, and the interplay among these variables. Elena is excited about working with Dr. Boaz Levy and Dr. Takuya Minami and looks forward to being a part of their research teams. Also, Elena is very excited about her recent engagement!

Message From the Directors – Dr. Sharon Horne and Dr. Melissa Pearrow

We are off to a great start in the second year of our CSP PhD program! We are fortunate to have seven new doctoral students joining us for our 2013 cohort, and two new doctoral faculty members, Steven Vannoy and Tak Minami. We are hoping to add another school psychology faculty member to our community as well and we have an active search for this candidate underway. Our second year students are in full swing with their community practicum placements in area schools, hospitals, and university counseling centers, and planning for the international social justice project. Our first year cohort is busy with the local social justice project and making a visit to the state house. Our research teams are bustling with projects and preparing for APA and NASP submissions. It's hard to believe it's almost time for admissions for our third cohort for next fall!
SUMMER AND FALL 2013 RESEARCH

The following CSP students and faculty presented their research at conferences across the country:

- American Family Therapy Academy 35th Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, June 5-8.
  - Dr. Gonzalo Bacigalupe and Ali Plocha presented *Gluten free diet adherence among families with a celiac disease child: Barriers and successful strategies.*

  - Dr. Robin Codding spoke about applying RTI to mathematics.

- Annual American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI, August 4.
  - Dr. Sharon Horne and Emily Wheeler presented *The psychological development of transnational LGB activists.*
  - Dr. Gonzalo Bacigalupe and Ali Plocha presented *Family strategies for adhering to a gluten free diet after the diagnosis of celiac disease.*
  - Dr. Gonzalo Bacigalupe presented *Family psychology 2.0: Emerging information communication technologies, family, and health.*
  - Dr. Sharon Lamb, Elena Kosterina, and Ali Plocha presented *What is sexy? What is sexualization? Girls of color discuss.*

- Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health, Arlington, VA, October 3-5.
  - Dr. Melissa Pearrow and Erik Maki presented *An Urban Model of Comprehensive Behavioral Health Services.*

UPCOMING 2013 CONFERENCES

- Massachusetts Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Meeting
  Where: Worcester, MA
  When: November 16, 2013
  Topic: Violence: Behavioral Health’s Challenges and Contributions Assessment, Research, and Integrated Practice

- Rhode Island School Psychologists Association
  Where: Providence, RI
  When: November 15, 2013
  Topic: Making it Work: Practical Applications for Behavior Intervention & RTI