**Susan Cordes Green** is enjoying a sabbatical this year. In addition to time for relaxation, reflection and exploration of scholarly interests, she is collaborating with Sanford Health to develop cooperative learning experiences for psychology students. She is also excited for the arrival of her third grandchild in February. She returns from sabbatical to lead a May Summer School abroad, *Abnormal Psychology: Great Britain and Beyond* during which students will visit some of psychology’s most important historical sites.

**Mark Krejci** returned to the psychology department in 2014 after serving as Dean of the College for 9 years. He has returned to teaching *Abnormal* and *Introductory Psychology*, and for the first time this year is teaching *Statistics* and *Research Methods*. He has begun a research project investigating the faith development of adolescent and emerging adults, which will be a longitudinal study scheduled to run for the next 10 years. Mark has recently completed a revision of his marital enrichment book based on the Beatitudes from Matthew, Chapter 5. Mark is also continuing in his preparation for the diaconal ministry in the Catholic Church.

On behalf of the department, I would like to wish happy holidays to our Psychology Cobbers! There is much to be grateful for and proud of this year. Here are a few highlights and updates about the department.

The Psychology Department has temporarily moved to Old Main while Ivers is being renovated. We are glad that the transition went smoothly for both faculty and students. We have been able to ensure that both faculty and student human subject research have the space needed in Old Main to continue to thrive. We have learned to like our new classrooms in buildings that we have never taught in before. We have even found a way to keep the subject pool running, despite our introductory classes being scattered around campus.

Last year, we administered the ETS field test to our graduating seniors for the first time. This standardized test is used nationwide to test content knowledge of psychology among senior psychology majors. We were delighted to see that our seniors outperformed other psychology seniors in the regional publics, in the regional private, and in comparable privates. These results affirm the good work that our faculty is doing, and we are very proud of all of our students.

I will be going on sabbatical in Spring 2016, after which my term as chair will end and Dr. Mikel Olson will assume the department chair duties. I would like to take this occasion to express my gratitude for the opportunity to chair such an extraordinary department.

Best wishes for a peaceful holiday season and a fulfilling new year! I am looking forward to 2016 being another year of great accomplishments and joy for the Psychology faculty and students.

Mona Ibrahim, Chair

**Mark Covey** continues to teach his Inquiry Seminar, *Evil*, as well as regular offerings of *Research Methods* and *Social Psychology* among other psychology classes. His scholarly interests in evil, crime, and violence, have resulted in him developing a *Forensic Psychology* course for our program. For the first time in many years, he and his wife are without horses on the farm. While he misses them, this does allow more flexibility to travel, including visits to his daughter in Oregon.

**Mona Ibrahim** has recently adopted a “flipped classroom” pedagogy in her *Educational Psychology* course. She is in the process of collecting data from this course and is hoping to better understand student perceptions and performance and how students engage in the flipped class. She tried teaching online for the first time in Summer 2015 and both her and the students loved it. The flexibility made it possible for many students who work or travel in the summer to complete the course. Speaking of travel, Mona had the privilege to participate in Concordia’s Lutheran Heritage Seminar in Germany in May 2015, helping her gain knowledge and understanding of the college’s Lutheran background and giving her ideas for Cross-Cultural Psychology discussion topics.
Susan Larson is currently serving as president-elect of the Council on Undergraduate Research and in June will assume the presidency of this national organization. The timing of this added responsibility is good since, due to science building renovations, we have closed the rat lab down until Fall of 2017. Without a rat lab, Learning will not be taught this year or next. Instead Susan will offer a new 200-level Behavior Modification course. She thinks this is an exciting addition to our department’s curriculum and she also looks forward to applying b-mod principles to better managing her dog’s behavior.

Mikel Olson recently moved from Moorhead to a rural home in Barnesville, where he and his family are enjoying country life. At work, he recently published a research manuscript in Brain Science, co-authored by psychology graduates, Katherine Johnson ‘14 and Anna Ingebritson, ’13 on cortactin and working memory. Mike has also developed a new Credo honors course Stress and the Human Experience. In addition to learning about the topic of stress from a bio-psychosocial perspective students complete a semester-long research project on the topic of stress.

Al Bartz Research Endowment

In 2014 we supported the first summer research students funded by the Albert Bartz Research Endowment. Dr. Darcie Sell mentored Kendra Banwell ’15 and Kayla Berntsen ’15 studying sexism and perceived affect during relationship conflict. In summer 2015, Dr. Philip Lemaster, as part of his Centennial Scholars grant, worked with Sonie Thompson ’16 and Rachael Schauer ’17, two students also funded by this endowment, to research how men and women make financial decisions across the life span. If you are interested in supporting the department’s research endowment and honoring Dr. Bartz, consider designating a gift to the Concordia College Al Bartz Research Endowment.

Kendra Banwell and Kayla Berntsen pictured with Dr. Bartz at the 2015 Celebration of Student Scholarship.

Philip Lemaster is the newest member of the department, arriving at Concordia in Fall 2014. He received his Ph.D. in life-span developmental psychology from West Virginia University. He teaches Developmental Psychology, Psychology of Gender, and Statistics. In Fall 2016, he will begin teaching an inquiry seminar on death and dying. An active scholar, in 2015, Philip had papers published in Psychology of Men and Masculinity and Sex Roles and presented research at the Gerontological Society of America conference in Orlando, FL.

Darcie Sell traveled to the Annual Convention for the Association for Psychological Science in San Francisco with students to present research on happiness at Concordia. She thoroughly enjoyed her time in San Francisco and intends to visit again as soon as possible. She and her collaborators have had a paper on eating disorder prevention programming accepted for publication in Eating Behaviors. Darcie’s children are now 8 and 4 years old, and they are wonderful. They spend a lot of time reading, playing sports, and doing puzzles together.

Stacie Erickson has been the Office Manager for the Psychology Department and the Office of Undergraduate Research for 3 years. She is kept busy by our full-time faculty and many fabulous adjunct instructors who fill in to replace sabbatical and administrative leaves (such as that of Lisa Sethre-Hofstad, who is full-time in the Dean’s Office these days). Stacie has assisted in the transition out of Ivers for the remodeling of the Science building, to re-open in Fall 2017. It has been quite an adjustment in many ways, including that she is farther away from faculty since they are spread out on the 1st floor of Old Main. Stacie misses the conversations that were shared in closer quarters, but she thoroughly enjoys the two big windows she has in her office. She also enjoys being a part of this family we call Concordia.