Message from the Chairman

I am sure that this has been a difficult year for you, and similarly it has been a very challenging year for the Department. Beginning in March we moved to a totally online teaching format, and our faculty, students and staff began to work remotely from their homes. We began our return to campus this summer with a variety of research activities resuming, and classes have now begun in a variety of instructional formats, including live, remote, and hybrid options. They say that adversity reveals character, and the performance of our faculty, staff and graduate students during this crisis has been nothing short of heroic.

This past year we lost a couple of key figures in the Department. Professor Emeritus Keith Scott passed away in February. Keith was a faculty member in Pediatrics and Psychology at UM for over 30 years. He played an instrumental role in the creation of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD), and co-founded the Linda Ray Intervention Center, which provides programs and services to support positive developmental outcomes for at-risk infants and toddlers. We also lost our dear friend and colleague, Richard Williams in July this year. Richard had a distinguished career at UM, serving in a variety of administration roles before assuming the position as Assistant Chair for Finance and Compliance in our Department. For the past 20 years Richard oversaw all of our financial matters, and he did it with patience, humor, and elegance. We will greatly miss both Keith and Richard, and we honor their important contributions to our department.

We are excited about the addition of a new faculty member, Spencer Evans, who will officially join the faculty in January, 2021. Spencer comes to us from the University of Kansas via Harvard Medical School where he was a postdoctoral fellow. His primary interests are the study of irritability and reactive aggression in children and adolescents, and the assessment of emotional and behavioral problems in youth mental health.

We are proud of our accomplishments, particularly our department’s remarkable response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I hope you enjoy learning about these efforts. Once again, let me thank you for your generous support of the department and its programs over the years, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Phil McCabe, Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman
How the psychology department is making an impact on the COVID-19 Pandemic.