

School Psychology Newsletter

Spring 2018

NASP Convention 2018: Chicago, IL

The National Association of School Psychologists held its annual convention February 13-16, 2018, in Chicago, IL. Second year students, interns, and faculty attended the conference and enjoyed exploring Chicago! Drs. Debi Kipps-Vaughan, Tammy Gilligan, Tiffany Hornsby, and Ashton Trice showcased "JMU School Psychology Initiative for Training Students in Substance Abuse Treatment". Recent grad Elizabeth Coalter presented a poster based on her thesis work "Kindness: Children's understanding of the Prosocial Behavior" with Tammy Gilligan. And finally, Ginger Wayland presented a poster based on her thesis entitled, "Fostering Hope in Alternative Education Students through Goal Setting" alongside Debi Kipps Vaughan.



Current students are excited about the prospect of attending next year's conference in Atlanta!

Clinic Move

The Shenandoah Valley Child Development Clinic recently moved from Rockingham Hall to Campbell, on the corner of Reservoir Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive (Historic Cantrell). Staff are adjusting to life in the new building, while continuing to provide evaluations for families in the area. First year students are looking forward to partaking in the practicum experience that takes place at the CDC over the summer.

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Award Winners

Students in our program were honored at the Department Spring Celebration held on Thursday, May 3rd, 2018.

Students in the School Psychology program were honored at the Department of Graduate Psychology's Spring Celebrations held on Thursday, May 3rd, 2018. Current second year student, Stephanie Smith, was honored with the O. Ashton Trice Award for academic excellence. Maggie Dassira was honored with the first ever Patricia Warner Scholarship. The Outstanding Graduate Service Award was presented to Taylor Carrington for her service to the community. Additionally, current second year student, Lyndsay Greene, received the Tina Kauten Service Award. Current intern, Neo Moss, was presented with the Outstanding Graduate Research Award. Finally, the Community Partnership Award was presented to Terri Sission for her dedication and supervision of multiple graduate students over numerous years! Congratulations to all of our award winners! as



JMU was proud to host the return of all of the interns who received a special recognition at the ceremony before walking in cap and gown at the graduation ceremony that followed on Thursday evening. The interns are thrilled by their achievements and are all ready to begin their careers.



Congratulations to all on your accomplishments and achievements!



Annual Symposium in Research and Practice

The Department of Graduate Psychology held its annual research symposium on April 20th, 2018. This daylong event showcased the hard work of the third year students as related to their thesis or internship experience. The day started off with a Keynote Address from Dr. Deborah Sturm who was honored at the Graduate Psychology's Distinguished Scholar. Her presentation, "The Psychology of Sustainability: Caring for the Planet, Caring for Ourselves" focused on connection to the natural world and mental wellness.



The morning continued with oral presentations from the returning interns. Following a catered lunch for presenters, the sharing of research continued into the afternoon. First and second year students were in attendance throughout the day and gained wonderful insight and tips for structuring their own research. Topics presented on by our interns included:

- Katelyn Hughes: *Truancy--A rural perspective*
- Arsenio Moss: *College success for students with disabilities*
- Jessica Meeks: *Mental health literacy: Investigating adolescents' knowledge of depression and professional sources of help*
- Alexis Morse: *The power of one: How building strong student-teacher relationships can enhance teacher wellness*
- Shana Little: *Restorative practices: Proactive circles and how they are used in schools*
- Ebony Mason: *Rapport during the assessment process: A survey of school psychologists*
- Rachel Larkin: *The school psychologist's role in the problem solving process: How assessment can inform intervention*
- Kaitlynn Carter: *The application of the specific learning disability exclusionary clause as practiced*

Incoming Students

We are excited to welcome the following students for the 2018-2019 first-year cohort! Joshua Knight (Virginia Tech), Anna Weaver (Eastern Mennonite University), Emily Walsh (University of Maryland), Emily Smith (James Madison University), Bailey Brooks (University of North Carolina Charlotte), Laetitia Sakponou (William & Mary), Muna Yusef (University of Virginia), & Kiersten Bell (Kenyon College). We are eager to having everyone on campus in the fall and seeing what next year brings!



VASP 2018 Spring Conference

This year, the Virginia Academy of School Psychologists Spring Conference took place in Charlottesville on April 27. Dr. Melissa Reeves presented on two meaningful topics for school psychologists, “DSM-5: Implications for School Psychologists” and “Cognitive Behavioral Strategies for Children and Adolescents.” Six members of the James Madison University School Psychology program were in attendance including professors Debi Kipps-Vaughn and Tiffany Hornsby, along with students Alexis Morse, Katherine Flemister, Victoria Bunting, and Sarah Lanyi. The conference provided attendees with copious amounts of practical information as well as an opportunity to share their ideas with the large group. Both students and faculty enjoyed the day spent with their School Psychologist peers.



A Visit to the Lavender Farm



In celebration of the accomplishments of the year, second year students and Drs. Tammy Gilligan, Debi Kipps-Vaughan, and Tiffany Hornsby visited the White Oak Lavender Farm in Harrisonburg to experience the relaxing and healing properties of lavender. The students learned about the wonderful and natural health benefits of lavender while discussing the importance of proper self-care and mindfulness. The day included a walk through the farm’s labyrinth, visiting with the many farm animals, and a guided tour.

Service Projects

JMU students and faculty have enjoyed many hours volunteering with the Harrisonburg community. A staple of the program, working with schools and the community prove to be an enriching and positive experience for all involved.

Project Read. First year students have been volunteering with Harrisonburg City Schools through Project Read. Beginning at 8:10 and going until 8:35, volunteer readers have the opportunity to bring the excitement of reading to K-3 students before school starts. Literacy Chair Keston Fulcher works hard to continue the development of the program and ensure students are being exposed to a variety of books at any of the five elementary schools that are served in Harrisonburg City.

Fort Defiance High School. First years Jacqueline Billy, Stacey Davidson, Carleigh Fuhrman, and Sarah Lanyi served as reading mentors with 9th graders at Fort Defiance High School this past semester. These high school students have been identified to be reading below grade level. Each week, the students used paired reading and comprehension strategies to improve the students' reading fluency and comprehension. The first years looked forward to reading with their mentees every week.

5K Run/Walk for Autism. The Shenandoah Valley Autism Partnership put on Harrisonburg's Ninth Annual 5K Run/Walk to raise money for research and support of families with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. This year the event was held on April 21, 2018. It was a beautiful sunny day, and our program was well represented with first years, second years, and a faculty member, Tammy Gilligan, in attendance. The day started with touching speeches given by individuals who had children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, raffles, and refreshments. The 5K started and ended at the EMU commons and there was an incredible turn out.



Summer Statistics “Boot Camp”

Back by popular demand, there will be a statistics boot camp offered for incoming first year students to help them prepare for the fall statistics course. The boot camp will be led by Graduate Psychology faculty member, Jeanne Horst. Current first year students who attended the boot camp last summer raved about the content covered and how well prepared they felt going into the fall semester. The dates of the boot camp are August 21, 22, and 23. For more information feel free to contact Jeanne Horst (horstsj@jmu.edu).



Support Future School Psychologists

To support the School Psychology Program and the training of our students, consider making a contribution to the JMU Foundation. Make a donation by logging onto the Graduate Psychology webpage <http://www.psyc.jmu.edu/gradpsyc/supportus.html> and clicking the "Give Now" button listed next to the "School Psychology Program." We value your continued support in maintaining our educational excellence by providing funds that go towards professional development and materials for student research. Contributions can also be made specifically to the **O. Ashton Trice Scholarship**, which awards summer tuition support, and the **Patti Warner Award**, which also helps cover the cost of summer tuition. To contribute to these awards, click on the "Give Now" button listed next to the description (donations made to the Patti Warner Award need to have "put gift towards the Patti Warner award" in the special instructions box).

Please keep in mind, many Graduate Assistantships no longer cover the full 12 credits per semester or any of summer tuition.

Please mail checks to:

Advanced Gift and Record
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Contact Us!

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Check out the JMU School Psychology Website at:
<http://psyc.jmu.edu/school/>

Did we miss someone? Please send us **e-mail addresses** of colleagues who did not receive our newsletter.