

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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Welcome Back

The 2021-2022 academic year is set in gear! The program took off with classes during Fall 2021. Our program welcomed ten first-year students to the program and to start off their School Psychology career. Let's congratulate and welcome:

Chutikarn Cotham, Logan Dasher, Emily Davis, Christian Fary, Courtney Hassan, Michelle Moore, Sa'Mone Moore, Jacob Nadler, Jordan Phipps, and Julia Unger.

BACK TO IN-PERSON CLASSES

After a very trying one and a half years of online and hybrid classes, JMU returns to in person classes, activities, and clubs! JMU School Psychology is ecstatic! In person classes provide students with the opportunity to explore JMU, build professional and personal relationships, and to receive full program experiences.



School Psychology Graduate Student Association

The School Psychology Graduate Student Association is a club made up of school psychology students and those interested in school psychology! The club meets in person on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss new school psychology news, program updates, to plan socials and other activities, and to create an environment to de-stress and to build professional relationships and lifelong friendships.



Interprofessional Social with JMU OT program

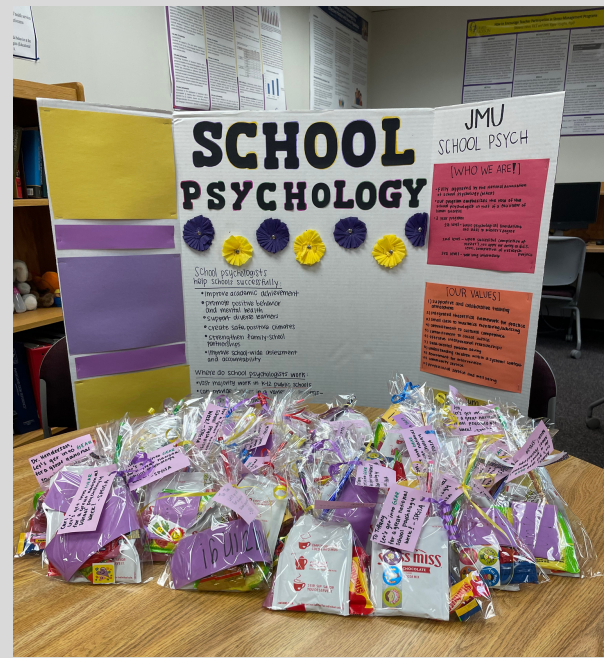
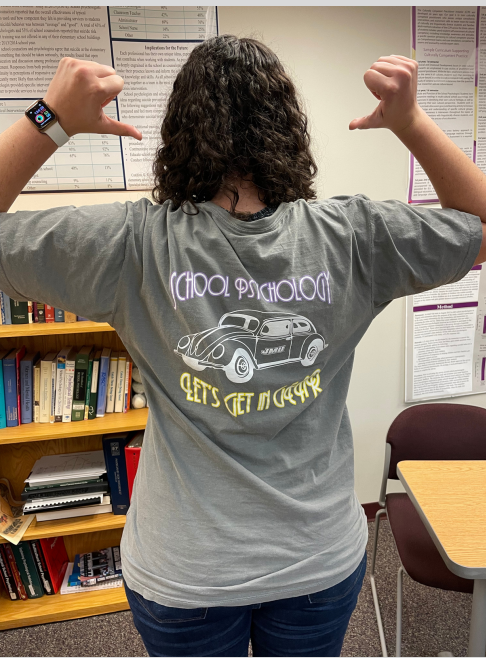
MASTERING SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

The School Psychology program proudly announces the successful completion of Master's requirements for a wonderful group of emerging school psychologists. On August 22nd the faculty, students and their families came together for an intimate and socially distanced gathering to celebrate the first major step on the journey to becoming professional school psychologists. The students have successfully completed their Masters level training. The school psychology program prides itself on assessment, consultation, counseling, crisis management and prevention as well as many core fundamentals in the areas of education and psychology. Congratulations to our Second years on their accomplishments!



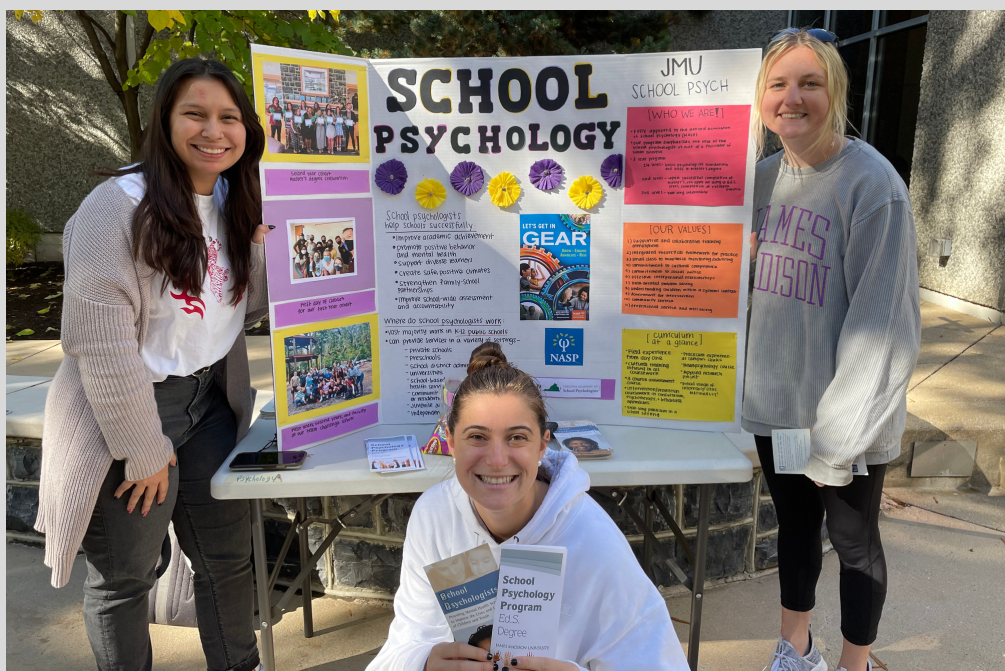
Team Building Challenge

Our program's members had a jump start on team building (literally)! In early September, first and second year students and faculty were invited to partake in UREC's Team Empowerment with Adventure for Madison (TEAM) challenge course. There were several team exercises created to challenge participants, help build relationships, and to enforce collaboration. Although some events pushed participants to work hard and think hard as a program, we learned that the only way to complete each task was together. The program successfully completed most of the activities; and they are determined to improve for next year.



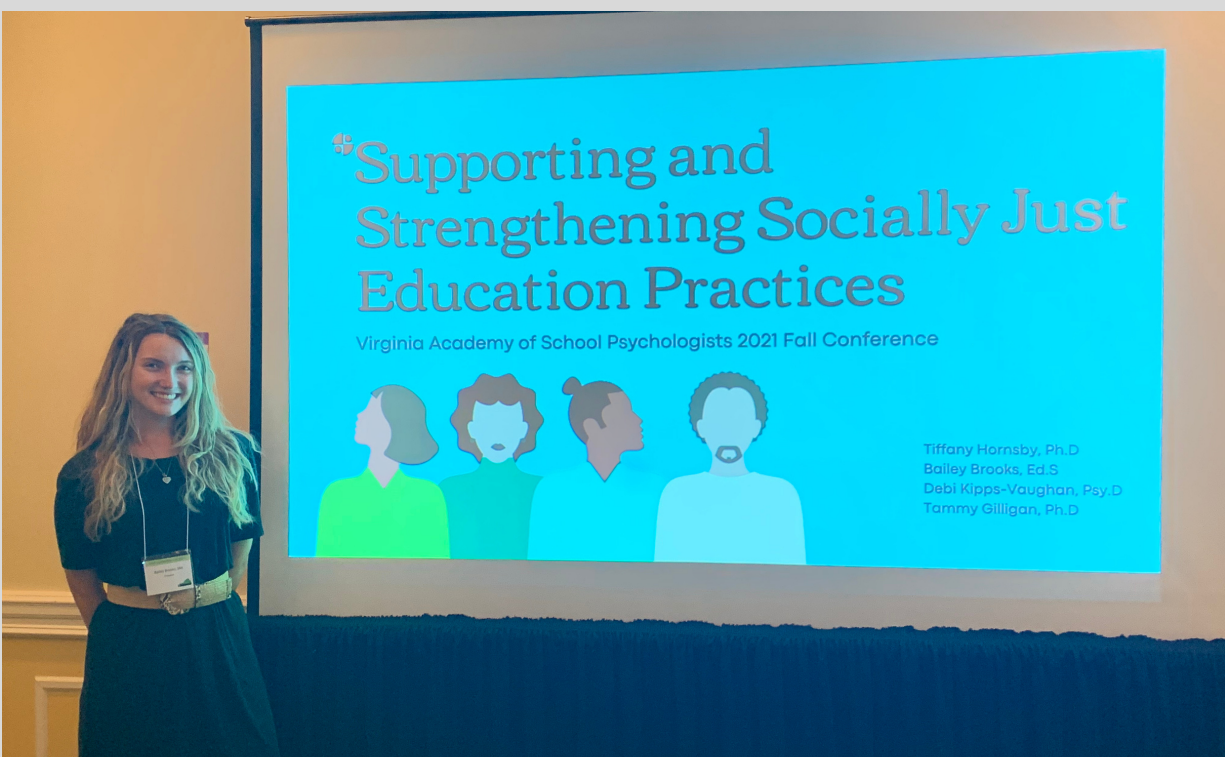
National School Psychology Week

National School Psychology Week (NSPW) returned from November 8th -12th ! The School Psychology program spent the week spreading knowledge and awareness about their field to the public and undergraduate students on JMU's campus. The School Psychology students spent time putting together and delivering goody bags to faculty, graduate assistants, and practicum supervisors who help with the program. A table, full of candy, smiling faces, and great information, was set up in front of Miller Hall with the purpose of informing undergraduate students about the program here at JMU. Undergraduate classes also had the opportunity to hear more about our program and what it means to be a school psychologist through presentations by current School Psychology students.



VASP FALL CONFERENCE

After being restructured into a webinar last year due to COVID-19, this year's fall conference was once again held in person! It was held in Hot Springs, VA at the Omni Homestead hotel, although the conference was still accessible to those wanted to attend virtually. Several of our faculty members were able to present with previous graduates of the program this year! Bailey Brooks, Ed.S presented with Tiffany Hornsby, Ph.D., Debi Kipps-Vaughn, Psy.D., and Tammy Gilligan Ph.D. on a presentation titled "Supporting and Strengthening Socially Just Educational Practices". In addition "From Ally to Accomplice: Bridging the Gap between Best Practices and Reality for LGBTQ+ Students" was presented by Emily Walsh, Ed.S., and Anna Weaver Ed.S., with Tammy Gilligan Ph.D.



ASIST Training

During the summer semester, the current second year graduate students attended a two day training titled Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). This workshop was facilitated by Jane Wiggins and Debbie Kats. Over the course of the two days students learned suicide first-aid to help a person at risk stay safe and seek further help as needed. The presenters used roleplay and group simulation's while teaching students how to use a suicide intervention model. Students were taught how to identify people with thoughts of suicide, how to find a shared understanding of reasons in identifying people with thoughts and helping to develop a Safeplan based upon a review of risk.

INTER-PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SEMINAR

On October 29th the Inter-professional Education Seminar was held to train nursing, occupational therapy, school counseling, school psychology, special education, speech language pathology and school social work professionals on how they can come together in a school setting to help children, families and communities. The first half of the workshop we learned about all the different disciplines and were able to ask each other questions about each discipline. The second half of the workshop we were split into groups and read over a case study to determine how we would all help this child and what part we would each play in all of it. The groups were challenged to problem solve as a group and come up with a solution together rather than each discipline problem solving by themselves.



REVIVE Training

Students attended a training in October with presenters Larry Friedman and Erin Bodkin, where they learned how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency using Naloxone. Our students were also given time to discuss with those in other professions how this training could be used in their chosen field.

PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS

The JMU School Psychology program would like to thank our practicum supervisors and sites for agreeing to help our students learn. The program would also like to extend a special thanks to the sites and supervisors who are working with us for the first time or have come back to help after a few years off!

T.J. Wills
Todd Coughenour
Kate Grisdale
Jason Rutt
Gretchen Baugher
Philip Wickline
Lori Golden
Jeremiah Jordan
Jennifer Martin
Shannon DuBois
Kristi Estep

Recent Grads: Where they've landed

Kiersten Bell – Chesapeake Public Schools, VA
Bailey Brooks – Spotsylvania County Public Schools, VA
Joshua Knight – Spotsylvania County Public Schools, VA
Laëtitia Sakponou – Loudon County Public Schools, VA
Emily Smith – Loudon County Public Schools, VA
Muna Yusuf – Fairfax County Public Schools, VA
Emily Walsh – Frederick County Public Schools, MD
Anna Weaver – Greene County Public Schools, VA

Please join us in congratulating the following members of our learning community for their outstanding accomplishments!

Second year student, Arayana Harris, M.A., has been awarded the O. Ashton Trice Memorial Scholarship for Academic Excellence!

Recent graduate, Laëtitia Sakponou, has been nominated by the JMU School Psychology Program for the VASP Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year!

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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 School Psychology webpage and click the “Give Now” button. 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. If you wish to send a check, please mail them to: Advanced Gift and Record James Madison University 800 South Main Street Harrisonburg, VA 22807 Support Future School Psychologists!

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