

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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In this Issue:

**Page 1: Welcome
Back!**

**Page 2: JMU School
Psychology Activities**

**Page 3: Conferences
and Faculty on the
Move!**

**Page 4: Outstanding
Students**

Welcome Back!

The 2019-2020 academic year is off to a great start! The program welcomed eleven new students; AJ Levy, Allison Poggendorf, Cara McQuaid, Davina Putz, Ismael Valdez, Katie Brittain, Kiarra Steer, Madeline Brawley, Maya Rivers, Monica Holtz, and Rianna Taylor.



On July 11th, 2019, the School Psychology program proudly announced the successful completion of Masters requirements to a wonderful group of emerging school psychologists. Students, families, and friends came together to celebrate the first major step in the process of becoming a professional school psychologist. The students have worked hard to complete coursework in child development, statistics and measurement, assessment, and counseling techniques, along with many other topics. The School Psychology program prides itself on training competent professionals in the areas of assessment, consultation, counseling, crisis management and prevention as well as many core fundamentals in the areas of education and psychology. Congratulations to all students on their accomplishments!



Great Start to the New Year!

Students and faculty welcomed the 2019-2020 school year by participating in several activities. In September, students and faculty attended a dinner hosted by Dr. Ashton Trice, followed by Julius Caesar at the American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse. Those in attendance enjoyed time spent with classmates and colleagues. The School Psychology program also brushed up on their teamwork skills by participating in UREC's Team Empowerment with Adventure for Madison (TEAM) Challenge Course. First- and second-year students along with faculty had to work together to complete various "missions." Overall, the participants were able to get to know each other and practice working as a team.

New Friends and Good Eats

The Psychology Graduate Student Council (PGSC) hosted a back to school picnic for all students in the graduate psychology department on September 1st. Students from the school psychology program were able to meet other students and learn more about different programs JMU offers, while enjoying hamburgers, hotdogs, and lots of dessert!



Happy 50th Anniversary VASP!

This year's Virginia Academy of School Psychologists (VASP) fall conference was held in Richmond, Virginia. VASP's 50th anniversary was celebrated with a themed t-shirt and a Conversation Hour for graduate students with current NASP president, Lesly Paige. Graduate students received valuable tips on how to make the most out of graduate school and discussed ways to be involved in the school psychology community.

Dr. Tammy Gilligan and Dr. Debi Kipps-Vaughn presented on "*Fostering Compassion in Schools*" and kept the audience actively engaged during the Friday afternoon session. Students enjoyed networking, learning about hot topics in School Psychology and spending time with fellow students and future colleagues from across the state.



Recent Graduates: Where are They Now?

Katherine Flemister- Anne Arundel County Public Schools, MD.
Kaylor Duncan-Hanover County Public Schools, VA
Lyndsay Greene- Union County Public Schools, NC
Maggie Dassira Arlington public schools, VA
Rick Krogmann- Henrico County Public Schools, VA
Ryan Harting- Loudoun County Public Schools, VA
Sarah Stout- Upper Moreland School District, PA
Stephanie McGrew- Arlington Public Schools, VA
Steve Ferrera-Culpepper County Public Schools, VA
Taylor Carrington- Henrico County Public Schools, VA

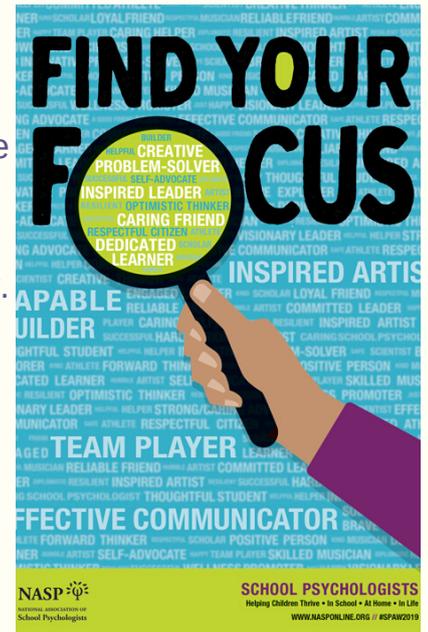
Third Year Internship Sites

Jacqueline Billy - Albemarle County Public Schools, VA
Michelle Bryant - Henrico County Public Schools, VA
Victoria Bunting - Delaware County Intermediate Unit, PA
Kate Curd - Hanover County Schools, VA
Stacey Davidson - Manassas City Schools, VA
Carleigh Fuhrman -Baltimore County Public Schools, MD
Sarah Lanyi - Chesterfield County Public Schools, VA
Aleksa Putnam - Henrico County Public Schools, VA
Jessica Williams-Chase - Greene County Public Schools, VA



Students Preparing for SPAW!

This year, School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) takes place November 11-15. The school psychology community celebrates this week every year through various activities, initiatives, and programs. The JMU School Psychology program has a tradition of gifting home baked cookies to school psychologists in surrounding counties to show appreciation for their valuable efforts and contributions to the community. This year graduate students will assemble on campus to interact with JMU students, highlight the SPAW theme and teach about the power of focusing on the positive. Students will be asked to name three good things that happened that day and to invite the next person they interact with to the same question. In addition, representatives of the program shine a light on school psychology by sharing informational flyers and presenting in undergraduate courses.



Have you heard? The National Association of School Psychologists' 2020 Annual Convention, is taking place February 18–21, 2020, in Baltimore, MD. The JMU School Psychology students and faculty are hoping to organize a meet up with alumni from the program during the NASP convention to connect with alumni from the program. More information to follow.

School Psychology Graduate Student Association

We are excited to announce that JMU now has a School Psychology Graduate Student Association (SPGSA), a student governed association representing and serving the interests of graduate students in the JMU School Psychology M.A./Ed.S. Program. Students will have the opportunity to connect with JMU alumni, NASP representatives, learn self-care routines, and be involved in multiple service projects. SPGSA also welcomes other graduate or undergraduate students with an interest in school psychology as well as alumni from the program to join as affiliated members .

If you would like to connect with students in SPGSA, contact spgsa.jmu@gmail.com.

Faculty On The Move!

Mindfulness Study Abroad

Dr. Gilligan, in collaboration with Dr. Michele Kielty, directed a short term study abroad course, Cross Cultural Mindfulness for the Helping Professional, over the summer. Eleven undergraduates and 1 graduate student traveled to Germany, the Netherlands, and France to learn more about mindfulness in other cultures. The study abroad course included visits to local schools utilizing mindfulness curriculum, a seminar day and visit to the Donders Institute for the Brain and Radboud Center for Mindfulness, and a day retreat with Buddhist nuns at the Maison de L'Inspire. Tammy and Michele plan to offer a similar study abroad course in the summer 2021 and hope more graduate students join them on this journey!



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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:

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Harrisonburg, VA 22807

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