

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

Welcome Back!

As we began another wonderful year, we welcomed 9 more students to our program: Becca Bailey, Camilla Moore, Christine Berry, Emma Romuald, Elisabeth Mohney, Jake Albert, Joshua Smith, Lexi Thomas, and Taylor Morgan. Congratulations to them! Students were able to build connections at orientation and the Graduate Psychology picnic. Everyone at the picnic got a plant and was able to paint a pot for the plant. The fall semester was off to a great start!



Contents

- **Fall News & Master's Celebration**
- **Team Building Challenge & IPE Day**
- **Conference & Grads**
- **SP Week**
- **SPGSA**
- **Socials**
- **Thank you & contact us!**



Masters Celebration

The School Psychology Graduate Program would like to congratulate Ben Little, Briana Page, Allyana Musa, Ursula Vogt, Madeline Bishop, Chloe Marsh, Shelley Gies, Sarah Caufield, Rachel Christian, Lauren Deluca, Sarah Eggleston, Samantha Sitzman, and Mallory McIvor for receiving their Master of Arts in School Psychology! On August 18th, the recent graduates, professors, family, and friends gathered to celebrate the hard work, time, and major milestone the group achieved. The students have successfully completed their master's level training and the official first step of becoming School Psychologists. Congratulations to our Second Years!



Team Building Challenge

On August 30th, the first and second-year students and faculty had the chance to participate in UREC's team empowerment with Adventure for Madison (TEAM) challenge course. The course featured various activities to inspire students to work as a team and build communication skills. Teams were given the chance to guide one member who was blindfolded to finding an object in a web of ropes. This activity, among others, encouraged each member of the team to participate, communicate, and contribute problem-solving skills for one goal. This event provided a lot of laughs and improved our teamwork and leadership skills!



Inter-professional Educational Seminar

In late October, the second year students in our program attended an Inter-Professional Education Seminar Day with students from 7 other disciplines. During this seminar, school psychology students presented information on the roles and day in the life of a School Psychologist. They also were exposed to the demands of other professions and spent an enriching day collaborating with students from other programs such as special education, early childhood education counseling, occupational therapy, speech and language, and behavior analysts. It was a unique experience for our students to further their professional development by understanding how school psychologists work with other fields.



Conferences

The Fall 2024 VASP conference took place this September at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Charlottesville, Virginia, where practitioners, trainers, and students came together to reconnect, expand awareness, and strengthen competencies for creating positive, supportive environments where children can thrive. Our very own, Dr. Debi Kipps-Vaughan presented a well-received workshop titled *"Belonging is to 'Be Learning': Supporting Highly Engaged Classrooms."* This session equipped school psychologists with strategies for consulting with teachers to foster highly engaged classrooms. Drawing from Robert Marzano's research, Dr. Kipps-Vaughan discussed the powerful link between students' sense of belonging, their attention, and their engagement in learning environments, highlighting the role of social psychology in enhancing classroom dynamics. Several JMU students were present at the conference and had the opportunity to connect with each other as well as students from other programs at the VASP hosted reception. If you did not make it this time, we hope to see you at the Spring 2025 VASP Conference!



Coming Up: NASP 2025

We're excited to announce that JMU students and faculty will be heading to Seattle for the 2025 NASP conference! This annual event brings together school psychology professionals, researchers, and students from around the country to exchange cutting-edge research, share best practices, and collaborate on advancing the field. Our JMU delegation is looking forward to engaging with new developments, learning from experts, and maximizing this opportunity for growth and connection. Alongside conference sessions, we're also organizing a JMU program gathering and social event—a perfect chance for networking, camaraderie, and soaking in the energy of Seattle's dynamic learning environment. More details about a JMU social will be coming so stay tuned!



Recent Graduates! Where are they now?

Julia Unger – Harrisonburg City Public Schools

Sa'Mone Moore – Loudoun County Public Schools

**Courtney Hassen – Nashua County Public Schools,
NH**

**Jordan Phipps – Chesterfield County Public
Schools**

Jah Cotham – Portsmouth Public Schools

Christian Fary – Newport News City Schools

Logan Dasher – Newport News City Schools

**Jacob Nadler – Regional Services Educational
Center, NH**

Emily Davis – Harrisonburg City Public Schools



NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK!

This year, National School Psychology Week took place from November 11–15th, with the theme: *“Spark Discovery.”* This theme is inspired by the work that school psychologists do to help their communities seek out new ideas, effect change, and expand horizons for children and youth. The school psychology community celebrates this week every year through various activities and initiatives. The JMU School Psychology program has a tradition of gifting goodie bags to school psychologists in surrounding counties to show appreciation for their valuable efforts and contributions to the community. Additionally, students in the program spread awareness of school psychology and embraced the theme by standing near Miller Hall on JMU’s campus and asking community members, *“What sparks joy in your life?”* Participants contributed their answers on sticky notes, which were displayed on a poster to highlight the diverse ways our community finds inspiration and happiness.

The JMU Graduate School Psychology Program would like to thank and bring attention to all School Psychologists for their advocacy, dedication, and drive to help children and adolescents. Your work does not go unnoticed.



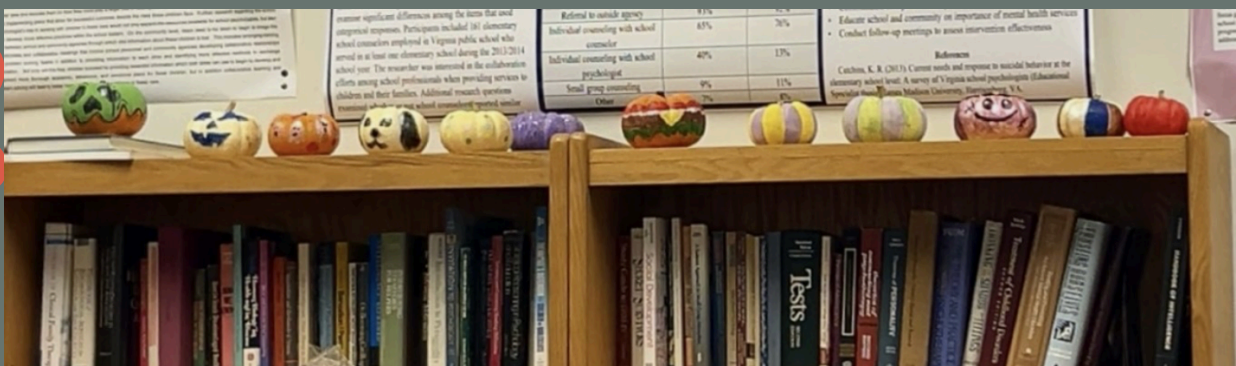
SPGSA

The School Psychology Graduate Student Association is a JMU organization for Graduate and Undergraduate students interested in school psychology. SPGSA meets monthly to connect with other students about current matters in the field, support each other, show support for local practitioners and JMU faculty, and more! Several of the SPGSA events focused on self-care. Members got the chance to paint a pumpkin as a way to welcome fall! We also were able to make friendship bracelets and design our stickers! SPGSA is a great way to learn more about school psychology and connect with those in the field!n the field! “SPGSA provides a valuable avenue for our students to connect and engage meaningfully with one another. We aim to foster genuine connections, promote self-care and resilience, and raise awareness of our program and field. By appreciating not only students but also faculty and community practitioners, we’re strengthening our sense of belonging and building lasting relationships with those who continuously support our program” - Ursula Vogt (SPGSA President).

If you are interested in hearing more information about our program:

Follow our Instragram @jmuschoolpsych

Reach out via email spgsa.jmu@gmail.com



AWARDS



The O. Ashton Trice Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Sarah Eggleston for her academic excellence and highest GPA within the program.

Congratulations to Sarah!



Celebrating Dr. Tiffany Hornsby!

We are thrilled to share that our very own Dr. Tiffany Hornsby has been honored with the Distinguished Teaching Award from the Department of Graduate Psychology! This well-deserved recognition highlights Dr. Hornsby's incredible dedication to teaching and her unwavering commitment to fostering professional growth and learning within our community. Her passion and expertise inspire us all, and we are so grateful to have her as part of our program.





PRACTICUM SITES

The JMU School Psychology Program would like to thank our practicum sites and supervisors for teaching and guiding future school psychologists through their professional journey. We would like to welcome the new supervisors and practicum sites for volunteering your efforts to assist our graduate students. The JMU School Psychology program is grateful for the opportunities and experiences these supervisors offer.

**Harrisonburg City Schools: Maria Toggas, Jacqueline Billy,
Jason Rutt, Melanie Pruitt**

**Rockingham County Public Schools: Jen Martin, Lori Golden,
Mandi Simmers, Krista Gale, Phil Wickline**

**Waynesboro City Schools: Amy Hutcherson, Amy Gilbert,
Lacey Bauman**

Augusta County Public Schools: Kim Catalano

Rockbridge County: Taylor Bronaugh, TJ Wills

Shenandoah Valley Child Development Clinic: Ginger Griffin





CONTACT US!

Support our 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 toward professional development and materials for student research. Contributions can also be made specifically to the O. Aston 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 the "Give Now" button listed next to the description (donations made to the Patti Warner Award need to have "put gift toward 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.

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Tammy Gilligan, Ph.D.
Gilligtd@jmu.edu

Debi Kipps-Vaughan PsyD
kippsvdx@jmu.edu

Tiffany Hornsby, Ph.D.
hornsbtc@jmu.edu



**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**