

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

James Madison University
Spring 2025
Department of Graduate Psychology

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NASP Convention

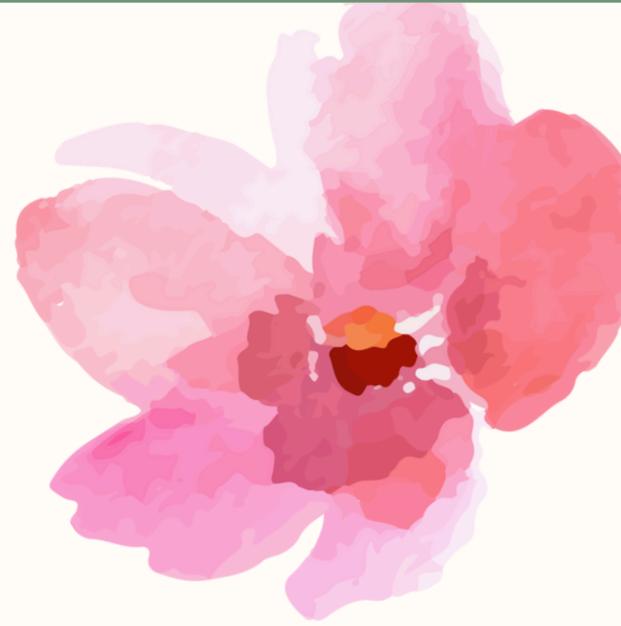


The National Association of School Psychology hosted their annual conference in Seattle this year! Some of our students and faculty were able to attend, hearing live sessions and connecting with school psychologists from other regions. We were so excited to hear presentations from members of our program! Congratulations to Julia Shin and Fatima Rahman-Yu for their engaging presentations at the conference this year!



Johnston Renovation

2025 marks the end of an era. Our faculty, and other JMU faculty, are moving out of Johnston Hall. This building was completed in 1928 to commemorate Professor James Johnston. Johnston Hall will begin receiving renovations soon. Our faculty have welcomed and mentored students in this building for many years. In this time of transition, we will appreciate the memories that took place in Johnston.



Tammy Gilligan Reflects on Her Time in Johnston:

“I’ve been in the same office in Johnston for 27 years. The countless conversations I’ve had with so many graduate students over the years, with topics ranging from how to build rapport with a client, discovering that perfectly worded research question, finding a personal space within the JMU community, and simply reflecting on changes in skills, will always be prominent in my memories. The laughter too...there’s been a lot of laughter in J201!”

Workshops

ASIST Training

Death by suicide continues to be a public health crisis, with rates increasing year after year. Despite its prevalence, suicide is a challenging topic to confront.

On February 6th and 7th, the first-year School Psychology students from James Madison joined counseling students from Eastern Mennonite University for a two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Workshop (ASIST).

Throughout the workshop, students engaged in hands-on practice, discussed real-life scenarios, and explored effective intervention techniques. These techniques can be applied across ages and settings. The ASIST model focuses on identifying risk, providing suicide first aid, and developing prevention and intervention plans.

As a result of ASIST training, our future school psychologists are now equipped and certified in ASIST techniques. They can be more prepared to bring essential suicide prevention skills into their communities!

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS SUICIDAL IDEATION, THOUGHTS, OR BEHAVIORS, PLEASE REFER, OR REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT.

JMU Counseling Center 540.568.6552

JMU after Hours Mental Health Facility
540.568.6552 (press "1")

Sentara RMH Emergency Department
540.689.1414

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988

Welcoming a New Cohort & 2nd Year Updates

2025 Cohort

Caitlin Aldoriso
Jenna Bisson
Emily Chavez
Gracie Conner
Olivia England
Kelly Galitz
Kiera Knuckles
McKenna Mattingly
Alyssah McGuire
Caroline Spencer
Danielle Zebosky

On March 3rd and 7th the program completed two full days of screening days for applicants. The James Madison University School Psychology Program congratulates and welcomes a new cohort to begin their graduate studies in fall 2025!

Second Years: Bringing Their Skills into Internship!

Madeline Bishop: Internship Secured
Sarah Caufield: Frederick County, MD
Rachel Christian: Augusta County, VA
Lauren DeLuca: Denver Public Schools, CO
Sarah Eggleston: Arlington County, VA
Shelley Gies: Cabarrus County, NC
Benjamin Little: Harrisonburg City, VA
Chloe Marsh: MSD Decatur Township, IN
Mallory McIvor: Westport Public Schools, CT
Allyana Musa: Alexandria City, VA
Briana Page: Anne Arundel County, MD
Samantha Sitzman: Rockingham County, VA
Ursula Vogt: Fairfax County, VA

Spring Symposium

On May 2, 2025, JMU hosted the annual Graduate Psychology Symposium for students to share their experiences and results of their thesis and research projects. The day began with a welcome from the department head, Dr. Robin Anderson, and a presentation by Dr.

Yu Bao, who is our department's Madison Scholar and presented her work on "*From Theory to Practice: Advancing Diagnostic Classification Models for Educational and Psychological Assessment*".

Student presenters from the School Psychology, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, College Student Personnel Administration, Assessment and Measurement and the Clinical and School Psychology programs had the chance to share their developments and expertise. The following are presenters and topics of the JMU Graduate School Psychology Program:



Lisandra Artilles Suarez: Cultural considerations and efficacy of mindfulness-based practices for Hispanic/Latinx immigrant youth in schools

Julia Shin: Uncovering the hidden high school experiences of Asian American young adults

Fatima Rahman-Yu: REM student experiences in VA school psychology graduate programs

Angela Ji: The invisible lives of student caregivers

Kayla Hearl: You are a social detective! Exploring the effectiveness of a group social skills intervention for students with autism spectrum disorder



Graduating Class



The JMU Graduate School Psychology program would like to congratulate and honor our graduating cohort: Kayla Hearl, Julia Shin, Angela Ji, Lisandra Artiles, and Fatima Rahman-Yu. The program admires and acknowledges their hard work, dedication, passion, and advocacy throughout their graduate school experiences and start of their School Psychology career.

Regardless of where their path takes them, this cohort, together and independently, represents an open-hearted and professional bunch. We wish you luck and support through your future endeavors.





Award Recipients

Outstanding Service - Kayla Hearl

Outstanding Teaching - Sarah Eggleston

Outstanding Research - Fatima Rahman-Yu and Julia Shin

Tina Kauten Memorial Service Award - Sammi Sitzman

Patricia Warner Leadership and Advocacy Award - Lisandra Artiles Suarez

O Ashton Trice Scholarship - Sarah Eggleston

Distinguished Teaching, Service, and Research - Taylor Morgan

Community Partner Award - Kate Collins Middle School All-In-Initiative

A few words from Mallory McIvor on receiving the J Davis Scholarship award

I am very excited and honored to be selected as one of the recipients of the Jonathan D. Davis scholarship! This opportunity brings me one step closer to my goal of supporting suicide prevention, awareness, and PTSD research and practice. I'm especially excited to continue this commitment during my internship, where I'll have the opportunity to support students and put my passion into meaningful practice.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients! Your hard work and commitment does not go unnoticed! These awards reflect honors in service, research, teaching, and more. We are proud to celebrate your accomplishments and contributions for our program, and the broader community. Keep up the incredible work!



School Psychology Graduate Student Association (SPGSA)

The School Psychology Graduate Student Association (SPGSA) is a JMU organization designed for both Graduate and Undergraduate students who are passionate about the School Psychology field. SPGSA holds monthly meetings to talk about relevant topics in the field, create appreciation cards for local practitioners and JMU faculty, provide support for current students, and much more!

Follow Us on Instagram!
[@jmuschoolpsych](https://www.instagram.com/jmuschoolpsych)





SPGSA



Out of the Darkness Walk

To support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's mission to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide, some members of SPGSA showed support by doing the Out of the Darkness Walk. This event brought together individuals who are personally affected by suicide in some way to raise money and awareness. We are proud of SPGSA for supporting this cause alongside other members of the community.



Transition in Program Leadership



We are pleased to announce a transition in leadership within our graduate program. Dr. Hornsby will be stepping into the role of Program Director. Dr. Hornsby brings an abundance of leadership experience to guide our students continued growth and academic excellence. We want to emphasize how Dr. Hornsby was recently awarded with the Distinguished Teaching Award in Graduate Psychology, highlighting her dedication to this field and the program. We extend our sincerest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Gilligan for her dedicated service and contributions over the years. Dr. Gilligan will be stepping into a new role as Practicum Coordinator! The School Psychology Program is looking forward to a new chapter under Dr. Hornsby.



Contact Us & 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 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. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Contact our faculty!

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visit our website

<https://www.jmu.edu/chbs/gradpsyc/school/index.shtml>