

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2023 | JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY | GRADUATE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY



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NASP Convention

FEBRUARY 7-10 | DENVER, CO

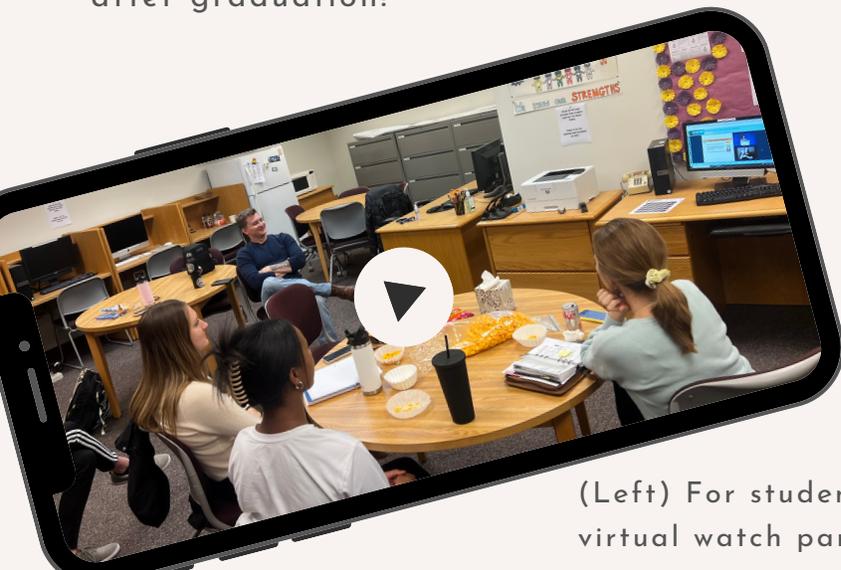
The annual National Association of School Psychology Conference was held in Denver, Colorado this year from February 7-10. Several of our students attended the conference in-person and enjoyed listening to the sessions and meeting with school psychologists as well as other graduate students from across the country.



This year's conference theme of radical hope and authentic healing was echoed by the keynote speaker, Dr. Shawn Ginwright, who delivered an inspiring speech on helping others based on his new book "Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves."



JMU alumni, Madeline Brawley, and Dr. Kipps-Vaughan hosted a mini-workshop on "Teacher Wellness Programming for Stress Management During Stressful Times." JMU alumni, Cara McQuaid, presented her paper on "The Role of Phonemic Proficiency in Reading Performance in Secondary Schools," supervised by Dr. Hornsby. JMU alumni, Andrew Levy, presented his poster on "Exploring Teacher Efficacy as it Relates to Supporting LGBTQ+ Students" under the supervision of Dr. Gilligan. We are so proud of all the work our program continues to accomplish after graduation!



(Left) For students who stayed in Harrisonburg, we hosted a virtual watch party from the Test Library

Student Spotlight



ANGELA JI

Our program would like to congratulate our very own first year School Psychology Graduate Student, Angela Ji, for being awarded the NASP-ERT Minority Scholarship. She was honored at the NASP conference in Denver. Angela is a first-generation Korean American pursuing an Education Specialist degree. She attends the JMU School Psychology Program in hopes of becoming and culturally competent and responsive practitioner. We congratulate Angela for her current successes, professionalism, and advocacy.



Students of Color Succeeding in School Psychology (SoCS)

MENTORING PROGRAM

The program has recently rededicated and refocused our efforts on recruitment and retention of racially and ethnically minoritized students. To further promote a community of belonging, connectedness, and support, a group of our students, Sa'Mone Moore, Arayana Harris, and Liliana Ferrufino, created a frame for a mentoring program, during the summer of 2022, and titled it SoCs - Students of Color Succeeding in Psychology. SoCs aims to provide close one-to-one advising and mentoring of graduate students with mentors of similar racial/ethnic minority (REM) status. Mentors are former JMU school psychology alumni who are now working in the field as practitioners.

"Everything is better in pairs"



Workshops

ADOS TRAINING

In early January, the University of Virginia (UVA), Supporting Transformative Autism Research (STAR), and Blue Ridge LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) provided a three-day training on the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2). Some of our second-year students (Sa'Mone Moore, Julia Unger, Jordan Phipps, Jacob Nadler, Christian Fary, and Emily Davis); Interns (Liliana Ferrufino, Taylor Bronaugh, and Arayana Harris); and core faculty member, Tiffany Hornsby Ph.D., LCP, NCSP, had the opportunity to attend. Our program would like to thank Courtney Burnette, Ph.D., LCP, for presenting and UVA for providing this incredible professional development.



ASIST TRAINING

Death by suicide is a public health crisis that continues to increase year after year. Yet, this remains a challenging topic to discuss.

In 2022, suicide became the 2nd leading cause of death for adolescence in the U.S. On February 2nd and 3rd, the first year JMU School Psychology cohort joined EMU counseling students and others, for a suicide intervention training, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Over the course of the two days, students practiced and discussed real life scenarios and intervention techniques that can be used with people of all ages, in everyday settings. The training shaped students to apply a model of identification of risk, suicide first-aid, prevention, and intervention safety plans. Our future school psychologists are equipped and certified in ASIST techniques.

**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**

Workshops cont'd

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

The second-year School Psychology students in Cognitive and Behavioral Intervention (CBT) course were invited to attend and participate in the Conscious Discipline workshop with Rockingham County Public Schools, on May 5th. The program was run by a Conscious Discipline national trainer and included an overview of the program as well as discussion for implementation. Conscious Discipline is known as an evidence-based program that is used within classrooms around the world. The program helped to increase students' sense of safety, connection, and problem-solving skills. Conscious Discipline was recognized by SAMHSA for inclusion in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices as effective for improving social functioning and competence. The program promises to improve educational achievement and attainment.



LAVENDER FARM: SELF-CARE

Our second-year students were invited to partake in a self-care workshop with professors, Tiffany Hornsby and Tammy Gilligan, on May 3rd, 2023, at the White Oak Lavender Farm in Harrisonburg. The Lavender farm workshop is a way to celebrate the student's accomplishments as well as to teach and engage in self-care. The trip's purpose is to congratulate students on their practicum completion and to encourage the personal use of mindfulness and other self-care techniques. The students are invited to enjoy lunch outdoors, explore the farm, and breathe in the calming aroma of Lavender.



WELCOME TO **JMU**

2024 Cohort

Madeline Bishop, Sarah
Caufield, Rachel Christian,
Lauren DeLuca, Sarah
Eggleston, Shelley Gies,
Benjamin Little, Chloe Marsh,
Mallory McIvor, Allyana
Musa, Briana Page,
Samantha Sitzman, and
Ursula Vogt.

We welcomed back in-person screening days this year for the first time since the pandemic! The School Psychology Program completed two full days of screening for applicants. After the successful experience, the JMU School Psychology Program would like to welcome the new cohort of 13 students, who will graduate in the summer of 2026:

Second Years: Taking their skills out into the world

AS INTERNS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Chutikarn "Jah" Cotham: Portsmouth Public Schools, VA
Logan Dasher: Newport News Public Schools, VA
Emily Davis: Greene County Public Schools, VA
Christian Fary: Newport News Public Schools, VA
Courtney Hassan: Nashua Public Schools, NH
Sa'Mone Moore: Loudoun County Public Schools, VA
Jacob Nadler: Greene County Public Schools, VA
Jordan Phipps: Chesterfield County Public Schools, VA
Julia Unger: Harrisonburg City Public Schools, VA



Annual Spring Symposium

On April 21, 2023, JMU hosted the annual Graduate Psychology Symposium for students to share their experiences and results of their thesis and research projects. Symposium Day began with a Keynote Address from the department's very own Dr. Amanda Evans, recipient of Graduate Psychology's 2022-2023 Madison Scholar Award. Dr. Evans presented her research on "Racial Identity and Discrimination: A Researcher's Journey."



Student presenters from the School Psychology, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling, and the Clinical and School Psychology programs had the opportunity to share their research and areas of expertise.



The following are presenters and topics of the JMU School Psychology Program

- Taylor Bronaugh: From virtual, hybrid, to in-person: A study in collaborative preferences between school psychologists and BCBA's post-COVID-19
- Hannah Delmonte: Supporting military connected families: What schools need to know
- Robyn Devendorf: Perspective taking and social engagement in youth with Autism
- Liliana Ferrufino: Examining intergenerational trauma and mental health supports within the Latinx community: A rapid review
- Mason Folk: Partner or participant? Parent experiences within pre-referral meetings
- Zaakirah Fulani: Representation is everything: The impact of diversity in classroom literature on the psychological safety and racial identity of Black youth
- Arayana Harris: Too much fun: A collaborative autoethnography detailing the significance of friendship between women of color in a school psychology graduate program
- Stephanie Harris: Children of divorce: Are school supports aligning with best practice?
- Jordan Otto: Parent perceptions of their child throughout the RTI process
- Alison Palmer: Identifying challenges and resiliency in adolescents living with parents misusing substances



We're so proud of you!

Congrats to the Graduating Class

The JMU Graduate School Psychology program would like to congratulate and honor our graduating cohort: Taylor Bronaugh, Hannah Delmonte, Robyn Devendorf, Liliana Ferrufino, Mason Folk, Zaakirah Fulani, Arayana Harris, Stephanie Harris, Jordan Otto, and Alison Palmer. 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.



The RISE-UP Program (Rural Interdisciplinary Services and Education: Unlimited Potential) was collaborated on by the Clinical Mental Health, School Counseling and School Psychology programs with the help of the HRSA grant. Principal Investigator, Dr. Evans, and Project Directors, Dr. Gilligan, Kielty and Atwood, created this program to train RISE-UP Fellows in providing evidence-based behavioral health services in rural populations. Appointed Fellows are awarded grant money throughout the course of either a practicum or internship at an approved site while working to effectively address the behavioral health needs of children, adolescents, and transitional age youth. The program has been able to accept all the students in the current first year who are eager to participate next year!



20

23

RISE-UP and HRSA Grant

Award Recipients

Outstanding Service:

Julia Unger was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Service Award. This award is given to a student who goes above and beyond in serving the schools that they work in. The work that they do surpasses course requirements and supports the community via school psychology services.

Outstanding Teaching:

Jordan Phipps was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award. This award is given to a student in the Program who goes above and beyond in their teaching positions here at JMU. The work that they do goes above and beyond course requirements and supports the department of Psychology and its faculty.

Outstanding Research:

Arayana Harris was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Research Award. This award is given to a student in the program who goes above and beyond in their research positions here at JMU. The work that they do surpasses program requirements and supports the development of the field.

Distinguished (Service, Teaching, Research):

Zaakirah Fulani is the recipient of the Distinguished Service, Teaching and research award. This award is given to a student in the program who has engaged in outstanding contributions in multiple areas while a graduate student.

Tina Kaiten Memorial Service Award:

Sa'Mone Moore is the recipient of the Tina Kauten Memorial Service Award. The Tina Kauten Memorial Service Award is presented to the School Psychology Program student who has made significant contributions to the program, to the professional growth of other students, and the profession.

Patricia Warner Leadership and Advocacy Award:

Logan Dasher is the recipient of the Patricia Warner Leadership and Advocacy Award. This award recognizes future leaders in the School Psychology Field.

O. Ashton Trice Scholarship:

Jacob Nadler & Emily Davis are the recipients of the O Ashton Trice Scholarship. This memorial scholarship is open to all school psychology students and is awarded to the students with the highest GPA and exceptional academic performance, honoring the intent of the donor.

School Psychology Graduate Student Association (SPGSA)



The School Psychology Graduate Student Association (SPGSA) is a JMU organization for Graduate and Undergraduate students interested in the School Psychology field. SPGSA meets once monthly to discuss current matters within the field, make appreciation cards for local practitioners and JMU faculty, support current students, and more!



If interested in joining or wanting to learn more about our program follow our Instagram account or reach out by email: spgsa.jmu@gmail.com

SPGSA Updates:

SCHOOL PSYCH STUDENTS & HOPE WALKS HERE

On April 2nd, 2023, some of our students participated in Hope Walks Here #STOPSUICIDE, supported by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Out of the Darkness Campus Walks, and JMU. The event included a 5k walk, fundraising efforts, and tables of materials and supplies to help raise awareness to suicide prevention and to honor and support those who are or have struggled with suicide, attempts, or ideation. Participants were invited to wear colored beads to represent their reasons for walking. Why do you walk?



HOPE WALKS HERE



OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS:

- Movie on the field: watched Top Gun at Bridgforth Stadium
- Cheered on Logan at her intramural soccer tournament's final match!
- Happy hours in downtown Harrisonburg

CONTACT US!

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AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.jmu.edu/grad/programs/snapshots/psychology-school-psychology.shtml>

Support our Future School Psychology Students

Make a donation to the Program and training of our students by going on to the School Psychology Webpage and clicking 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. Ashton Trice Scholarship and the Patti Warner Award, which both award summer tuition support. Please keep in mind that 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 it to the address below:

Advanced Gift and Record
James Madison University
800 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22807