Letter from the Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Professional Psychology Program,

I’m glad to report that the students and faculty of the Professional Psychology Program continue to broaden their active involvement in the science and practice of Clinical Psychology. This summer we took advantage of The American Psychological Association annual convention held here in DC to connect with graduates and to see many of our alumni, faculty, and students present their work to a national audience of psychologists. Within our program, two highlights this year were our fall Early Career Award colloquium with Dr. Rukhsana Chaudry, entitled “Thinking Globally: Working with Trauma from a Psychodynamic Perspective” and our spring colloquium presented by Dr. Paul Wachtel, entitled “Beyond the Therapeutic Culture Wars: Finding Commonalities in Diverse Therapeutic Perspectives and Combining Their Strengths in Effective Therapeutic Communications”.

In our clinic this year we introduced a secure, state of the art video system for research and supervision. Students in our clinic provided hundreds of hours of supervised psychological services, including an increased range of languages available for work with the international community we are part of, and offering an expanded range of group therapy options. Our affiliate programs offering the Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology (directed by Dr. Richard Cooter) and the Certificate program in LGBT Health Policy and Practice directed by Dr. Stephen Forssell honored their first graduates this spring; links for more information about both programs are available on our program webpage.

Here at “Old Main” in late August we welcomed twenty-seven new students to our program; a photo capturing their warm smiles on orientation day follows inside this newsletter, as does an introduction to our newest program members: Department Operations Manager Charles O’Connor, Professor Dr. Katherine Marshall Woods, and Associate Clinic Director Dr. Stacey Dershewitz.

With best wishes for 2014-2015,

Loring Ingraham

A warm welcome to all new members of the Professional Psychology Community!
Welcome Class of 2018!

PsyD Class of 2018 (not pictured: Maggie Watters)

Front row (Left to right): Rebecca Stein, Abby LePage, Akia Dillard, Erik Santacruz, Anita Raman, Jennifer Tollefson, Samuel Salamon, Lyle Vintinner

Second Row: Lauren Cross, Courtney Formicola, Rachel Heimberg, Alesya Nazarova, Jonathan Musman

Third Row: Sonja Johansson, Melanie Soilleux, Zixuan Wang, Eileen Griffin, Jenifer Goldman, Megan Norman, Mylien Yorks

Back row: Lauren Sabol, Christopher Helmink, Grace Lawson, Catlaina Hackworth, Faith Adebule, Matthew Hanley
With the assistance of our beloved Office of Technology Services, Room 101 has been outfitted with the latest and greatest tech imaginable. The lectures, colloquia, and community congregations traditionally held in 101 are no longer limited to the boundaries of its four walls.

What will first strike returning students and alumni is the 90-degree shift of the chairs and lectern. This change brings students closer to their professors, facilitating course discussion and active participation.

Sitting in a student’s chair, one will have to defensively engage in magical denial to not notice the beautiful 80” television mounted upon the wall. With its large, vibrant, and crisp screen, presentations are now accessible to students no matter where they sit in the room. Microphones are installed within the ceiling such that even the soft-spoken will be heard by their colleagues.

From the professor’s viewpoint, myriad options are available that set this system apart from all other classrooms. Standing at the lectern, a camera is mounted to one’s left. Utilizing Skype or other video conferencing software, this camera can broadcast or record live footage. Students can easily view live streaming of their class from anywhere in the world and participate using their own computer (and, as such, no longer have a valid reason to be absent!). Professors can now teach from home if necessary, broadcasting from their computer onto the 80” screen, able to see who is raising their hand via Room 101’s camera pointed at the crowd. We can record the masters of our field who come to share their knowledge, and can archive that footage for future cohorts.

The power of this camera system stretches even further… Namely, into Room 102! No longer must we be limited to a set number of attendees for Brown Bags and Colloquia. A live video stream of Room 101 can be shared to the screen in Room 102 at the touch of a button, allowing for even more space for viewers and participants at our monthly programming.

A tiny, innocuous touch screen device installed on the lectern manages all of this technology. With images included to increase accessibility, five minutes with this device will make you a master at operating Room 101.

Who would have thought that such innovation for teaching and learning would breach our building’s century-old walls? The future has come to the Professional Psychology Program, and it is our task to use it to further our profession in the most creative and inventive ways possible.

-Niles Muzyk, Class of 2016
Get to Know our Newest Program Members

Katherine Marshall Woods, Psy.D. is a licensed Washington, DC clinical psychologist with a rich clinical background. Her specialties include working with children, adolescents and adults who experience mental illness, life transitions and interpersonal difficulties. Dr. Marshall Woods earned her Bachelors of Arts degree in psychology from The George Washington University in 1998. Thereafter, she continued her education at The George Washington University where she obtained her doctoral degree in 2004. Dr. Marshall Woods provided services to school-aged children in her APA approved internship at The Children’s Village in Dobbs Ferry, New York where she obtained advanced family therapy training. Following, she continued to work with school-aged children and adults earning an APPIC approved post-doctoral experience with the Community Service Board of Springfield, Virginia. She served five years within the District of Columbia Public Schools as a certified school psychologist providing primarily psychological assessments. In 2008-2009, Dr. Marshall Woods provided individual, family, and marital psychotherapy to active military personnel within the Middle East of Doha, Qatar. In working with the troops, Dr. Marshall Woods worked individuals with anxiety, mood disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and family and marital conflicts.

Today, Dr. Marshall Woods is a partner and President of Psychological Group of Washington and serves as manager, clinician, and supervisor. Dr. Marshall Woods provides psychotherapy to children, adolescents, and adults experiencing academic and interpersonal transitions, and administers psychological assessments. She has extensive experience with performing duties and supervising clinicians working with DC Department of Disability Services. Further, she has been holding an Assistant Clinical Psychology Professor position with The George Washington University since 2007. She also has a monthly-featured column, “Ask Dr. Woods”, in EmPower Magazine. Dr. Marshall Woods has been a recurrent guest speaker at Howard University and additional institutions to discuss various topics that include the DSM, stress management and emotional fitness. She has appeared on a number of media outlets such as News Channel 8, In Transition, NPR, The Huffington Post and WHUR Radio. She has been quoted in many popular magazines including Essence Magazine. Lastly, Dr. Marshall Woods also works with the American Red Cross providing psychological crisis intervention services to those who have experienced trauma by natural disasters.

Charles O’Connor joined the Professional Psychology Program as the Department Operations Manager in July of 2014. Having earned his B.A. in Philosophy with distinction from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences in August of 2013, he is now continuing his GW experience professionally. Prior to his present incumbency, Charles has six years of experience working in both the finance, as well as the safety and security divisions of the university. During this period he administered campus-wide policies and programs as a full-time employee and part-time student. Earlier on, Charles managed a private culinary arts business after training at L’Academie de Cuisine in Gaithersburg Maryland. Having recently assumed the roles of both student and manager, Charles anticipates making a dynamic contribution to many facets of the program and looks forward to collaborating with its members.
On June 20, 2014 students, faculty, alumni and supervisors celebrated the end of another successful year on top of 1957 E Street NW. There was great food, tons of laughter, and priceless views! Celebrations ensued over the new releases of Dr. Ruth’s book "Healing after Parent Loss in Childhood and Adolescence: Therapeutic Interventions and Theoretical Considerations" and Dr. Marmarosh's books "Attachment in Group Psychotherapy" and "Groups: Fostering a Culture of Change".
On Friday, December 13, 2013 GW PsyD Alumni Dr. Rukhsana Chaudry presented a colloquium entitled “Thinking Globally: Working with Trauma from a Psychodynamic Perspective”. Dr. Rukhsana M. Chaudhry is a graduate of the George Washington University (B.A., International Affairs), Pepperdine University (M.A., Clinical Psychology), the George Washington University Doctor of Psychology Program (Psy. D.) and the Harvard University Global Mental Health Program specializing in Trauma and Recovery. She completed her internship at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, DC in 2010 where she provided care to a multicultural, urban, underserved population. She has completed fellowships at the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis and the Baltimore-Washington Center for Psychoanalysis. She completed advanced training in Clinical Psychotherapy Practice at the Washington School of Psychiatry participating in the in-depth study of contemporary psychodynamic theory and application to multiple modalities of psychotherapy.

Dr. Chaudhry has been passionate about community mental health since her undergraduate work and has a special interest in gender-based violence, psychology & human rights, and empowerment, especially pertaining to refugee/immigrant populations and survivors of trauma. Having spent several years prior to entering the field of psychology working for marginalized groups and advocacy organizations, she has a strong passion for using knowledge of cross-cultural communication as a tool for development, peace, violence prevention, and health education.

She has previously worked with girls and women who were victimized due to gender-based violence in rural and urban areas of Pakistan, women in earthquake-affected Kashmir, Latino women in the U.S. seeking asylum under the Violence Against Women Act, and Ethiopian and Kenyan survivors of Female Genital Mutilation. This has been further informed by her work within the Muslim community addressing mental health-related issues, as she currently serves as Chair of Mental Health Education for the American Muslim Health Professionals working in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a national mental health education initiative within Muslim communities. Dr. Chaudhry currently serves on the advisory board of a Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Aid organization in Pakistan.

Following the colloquium, a reception was held to honor Dr. Chaudhry with the First Annual Early Career Graduate Distinguished Contribution Award.

Dr. Loring Ingraham, Dr. Richard Ruth, and Dr. Rukhsana Chaudry
On Thursday, May 15, 2014 we welcomed the class of 2014 and their guests with a reception in Old Main. Classmates that had been apart for almost a year shared internship experiences and plans, while faculty and family members expressed their mutual pride in the graduates' accomplishments. Speaking to the group, faculty noted that the four years spent in our program are short compared to the long future association we hope to enjoy: wherever future paths will lead, The Professional Psychology Program remains a home. Following the reception, we proceeded to the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony where it was noted that the designation of "doctor" signifies an original contribution to knowledge and the readiness to teach others, and where in a long-standing tradition, our students had their doctoral hood placed on their shoulders by Provost Lerman and their Major Area Paper reader.

–Loring Ingraham, Ph.D.
Community Updates

Dr. Joe Gorin is doing a day-long presentation at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology on October 25, 2014. The topic is "Psychological Assessments for Immigrants and Refugees".

Class of 2014 PsyD student Julia Alesbury and her husband are thrilled to announce they are expecting their first child in November 2014!

Dr. Marmarosh was invited to present the Louis R. Ormont Lecture at the American Group Psychotherapy Association's Annual Conference this spring in San Francisco (February 23-28). The Annual Meeting theme is “Promoting Secure Attachments Through Group Therapy”.

Publications this last year include:


Dr. Marmarosh’s students’ presentations at the 2014 APA Annual Convention in Washington, DC include:


Dr. Marmarosh is also thrilled to announce the birth of her daughter, Elan, born on June 21, 2014. She was born 7 pounds 5 ounces and is now a healthy 15 pounds!
Class of 2013 PsyD Alum Keira Boyle has been hired as a staff psychologist at the Grace Webb School at the Institute of Living in Hartford, CT.

Former Associate Clinic Director, Dr. Mann, and her family are doing wonderfully in Denver, Colorado. Their daughter, Sonya, joined them this past summer and is now 3 months old. Big brother Simon, 2.5 years old, is taking good care of her—singing to her and retrieving her pacifier. Dr. Mann is the Director of Clinical Training at a non-profit, Maria Droste Counseling Center that serves as a large training site for local interns. She also teaches as adjunct faculty at University of Denver, and is developing her private practice.

Class of 2017 PsyD Student Angela Termini presented the following research posters at the APA conference in DC in August 2014:


Ave Maria Renard, PsyD, MSN is starting her second year of private practice in semi-rural Greenville, North Carolina. The practice is slow going, but affirming for clients and her. The psychologists in her area of east NC are disconnected from each other, so, with a colleague at East Carolina University, she started an East Carolina University Psychologist Network in February. She also created an "in-house" directory of psychologists. They're just now up and running. Welcome your contact. Dial (202) 236-5893 or email avemaria.renard@gmail.com.

Julie Bindeman, Psy-D will be publishing both a book and a chapter due out in 2015. The chapter will be in the book: The Burden of Choice: Preimplanation Genetic Diagnosis and Prenatal Testing and the book will be published by Hale publishing and is called "Feeling Your Way Through Pregnancy and Postpartum".

She also presented at August's APA convention in DC and last June, and presented at the Postpartum Support International's convention.

During this year’s Div. 39 Spring Meeting in New York City, PsyD student Alex Mattern-Roggelin presented a paper “Creativity, polarity, and conflict: The unmasking of a burlesque persona”. As part of a Graduate panel with our faculty member Dr. King as chair, Panel Title: “Conflicts in Clinical Practice: Taking the Transference and Countertransference” examined the compelling therapy case of a young woman who lived in a conflicted relationship. The focus was on identity development of beginning clinicians.
Three students enrolled in military internships reunited during a training workshop hosted by the Center for Deployment Psychology. Army CPT Julia Alesbury (left) is completing her clinical psychology internship at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Augusta, GA, with a one-year post-doctoral fellowship following in 2015 at the same location. Navy LT Kimberly Holton (center) graduates in October from the Navy Clinical Psychology Internship Program at Bethesda, MD and will assume her initial assignment at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, FL. Army CPT Robin O'Sullivan (right) is completing internship with Army's Clinical Psychology Internship Program, also in Bethesda, MD, and will relocate to Oahu, HI to continue training with a post-doctoral residency program.

Dr. Paul Gedo published the following paper this year:


Alumni Ashley Zavertnik Foresman and her husband welcomed their little girl, Claire Marie to the world on June 11, 2014.

Karla Steingraber, PsyD is currently President-Elect of the Illinois Psychological Association (one year term, then one year as President and one year as Immediate Past President), currently Membership Chair of the Illinois Psychological Association (one year into a 2 year term), was the Chair of the Early Career Psychologists Section of the Illinois Psychological Association (2 year term), has been in private practice since 2009: Aprioris Psychological Health Services, has attended the IPA Annual Convention yearly since 2010 and Presented: Speaking in a Language Children Understand at IPA's 2013 Annual Convention.

Lauren Hayden and Ethan Siegel, both graduates of the GW PsyD class of 2011, were married on April 5th, 2014 in Alexandria, Virginia. Several PsyD alumni were in attendance. From left: Greg Pearson, Elizabeth Wangard, Carey Heller, Annaleah Logan, Michelle Graham, Ethan Siegel, Lauren Siegel, Sarah Weisberg, Karthik Gunnia, Pat O'Connor, and Damien Clark.