

DOCTOR OF PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Fall 2008

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Letter from the Program Chair

As I write, our new class of Psy. D. students is settling into their first year with an energy and enthusiasm you share for the study of professional psychology. Each year, our classes seem to have much in common even as they diverge remarkably and naturally, based on the mix of individual students. Our 36 first year students hail from 15 states and several foreign lands. Two-thirds have prior graduate degrees, including psychology, law and economics. More than 20 percent are ethnic minorities. Their diversity and varied experiences enrich our program.

I hope that with this newsletter we may stay in better contact with our program alumni, volunteer supervisors in the community, and our larger community. Please let us know about your professional successes and transitions, as well as your personal mile markers, such as marriage or a notable accomplishment with an avocation. And let us know if we may share them in this newsletter. With your continued help, this community remains vibrant and strong.

Sincerely,

Dorothy E. Holmes, Ph.D., ABPP (Clinical Psychology)



Photos: Above right, Drs. Holmes and Ingraham assisted with the formal hooding of the class of 2008, including Anthony Waters. Left, students from the class of 2012 at a welcoming reception this fall: Hae Sung Han, Candice Crawford, Anne Su, Logan Jones, Caroline Luong-Tran, and Christine Profito.

Recent Program Highlights

Par for the course, faculty, staff and students at the GWU professional psychology have been busy working to improve the program. Recent accomplishments include:

- The American Psychological Association recently recognized the quality of our program with a **five year accreditation**. This is the first time our program has been accredited for 5 years.
- We have enhanced the faculty and opportunities for postgraduate training by upgrading our “post-doc” positions to **two full time postdoctoral** fellowships. Currently we are fortunate to have two exceptional post-docs, Stacey Dershewitz, PsyD and Mathew Merced, PsyD. Both are graduates of our program.
- With the addition of a fourth full-time faculty member, we have developed a **research program** in the clinic and are expanding our child, short-term and group therapy course offerings. We now have one full-time faculty member leading our research efforts (Cheri Marmarosh, PhD) and another heading up our **child track** (Richard Ruth, PhD).
- For the first time ever, we have signed fee-for-service contracts for assessments our students provide, under supervision, at affiliate sites. With the funds earned, we are working to **improve our clinic space**.

We are making other additions to the program, including a new “brown bag” lunch speaker program for students, faculty and supervisors. This new feature emphasizes professional careers in action as exemplified by local clinicians (including graduates) who share with us their experiences. We hope to add continuing education programs for faculty, supervisors and our graduates.

In the future, we hope to add modern technologies to support our students and their efforts in the clinic. In particular we will seek new computer software (and internal networking capability) to facilitate patient record keeping and storage; and a new phone system that will allow each therapist to have his or her own voice message system.

What our Graduates are Up To

Thank you to those who responded to the recent survey of graduates. From the survey, we learned that of the 56 respondents:

- Two-thirds are APA members
- Three-fourths have participated in continuing education programs
- Half have post-doctoral training
- Three in seven have given professional presentations
- About 12 percent have published articles
- Two-thirds are licensed
- Two-thirds spend at least 30% of time doing psychotherapy
- One quarter primarily do psychological evaluations
- One in eight are engaged in research
- Half are in private practice
- Almost one quarter work in hospitals
- One in seven work at a school
- Ten of 56 work in a hospital setting
- Ten of 56 work in a community service agency or other non-profit

Thank You!

The GWU Center for Professional Psychology comprises members of a broad community, without whom we could not function. This program is clearly more than the sum of its parts....

A special note of thanks to our **program supervisors**: With your help, we have gained a reputation as one of the region's best training programs for clinical psychologists. Thank you! As you know, all our supervisors are now required to be licensed in Washington, DC. We pay licensing renewal fees, and award our supervisors the title of Assistant Clinical Professor of Clinical Psychology at The George Washington University Center for Professional Psychology. With this appointment come full on-site and online library privileges.

Congratulations and thanks to members of the program's **Outreach Committee** and other students who recently provided information about our clinic and services at the Foggy Bottom Neighborhood Block Party. Their efforts have already resulted in at least two calls to our clinic.

Affiliate sites and the Center Clinic provide the backbone of clinical practice in our program. In addition to providing services through the Center Clinic, our therapists travel to agencies throughout the region to provide psychological services and support. These affiliate sites include public schools, homeless shelters, rehab centers, battered women's shelters, nursing homes and community mental health centers. **New affiliate sites** include: Catholic Charities, St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home, The Washington Home, Emmaus Services for the Aging and Howard Road Academy. Thank you to all our affiliate sites for helping to train our exceptional students.

The Professional Psychology Program was selected to provide an overview of its community partnerships as part of a special welcoming program for **incoming GWU President Knapp**. Thank you to Dr. Michael Barnes of the Child Guidance Clinic in the Division of Family Court Social Services of the DC Superior Court for participating in this forum, with Nooshin Golshani, then an intern. Dr. Golshani works with Dr. Barnes at the family court to provide expert psychological evaluations and recommendations to assist the judiciary in making dispositional and other decisions in the adjudication process.

Have you seen our **new and improved website**? Thank you to Maria Soledad Hiraldo, class of 2010, for her inspiration, guidance, design skills and elbow grease. It is much improved. Check it out at <http://www.gwu.edu/~psyd/>

Thank you to Elizabeth Koprowski, PhD, for making a \$500 **donation** to our program through an aunt's foundation.

Photo: At the APA meeting in Boston last August, Dr. Cheri Marmarosh and GWU PsyD students Katy Rice, Karthik Gunnia, Maxine Nwigwe, Kate Bieri, Colleen Sevilla, Shoshana Beran, and Emilie Stuber, and presented research.



The Professional Psychology (Psy.D) Program The George Washington University



Recognition for Our Program and Faculty

The program demonstrates a commitment to and engages in actions that reflect its **respect for and understanding of cultural and individual diversity**

...Interviews with faculty and first, second, and third year students indicated that multicultural competence is a shared value and that diversity-related content is discussed reliably in classes and supervision groups...the program appears to have designed current mechanisms that systematically insure knowledge of and appreciation for multicultural competence.

Current interns and alumni viewed their **case conceptualization and assessment skills as definite strengths** in comparison with peers from other programs. Supervisors from agencies external to the program reported that program students generally perform very well. They commented that **students demonstrate strong skills in psychodynamic theory and psychological assessment, and excellent case formulation abilities.**

There is a very positive interaction between students and faculty. There is very little tension, and unquestionably mutual respect in every sense. The members of the faculty are very accessible to the students.

—Site Visit Report (Accreditation, American Psychological Association), June 2007

The 2006-07 Award for **Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising** was presented to Loring Ingraham, Professor of Clinical Psychology. Professor Ingraham is known as an inspirational and caring advisor, who encourages academic and professional independence and adventurousness, while providing guidance and succor in times of need. In their letters of nomination, his students credit him with helping them select courses prepare for course and comprehensive exams, keep their research projects well grounded, weight internship options, and forge professional contracts. His every interaction is characterized by grace, generosity, and enormous commitment.

—GWU Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, May 19, 2007

During her distinguished career, Dorothy E. Holmes, Ph.D., has made significant scholarly contributions, particularly to our **understanding of racial, gender and socioeconomic influences** in psychoanalysis and psychotherapy. Her most recent publications examine the “wrecking effects of race and social class on self and success,” race and counter transference as two psychoanalytic blind spots, and racial transferences in psychoanalytic treatment. She has also written on women’s aggressive conflicts, and the psychodynamic manifestations and consequences of “glass ceilings.” In the area of analytic technique her contributions include papers on the steps for effective defense analysis of superego resistances to emerging indicators of ego growth.

Helping others reach for, overcome self-imposed obstacles to, and attain their potential is a thread running throughout Dr. Holmes’s psychoanalytic and academic work. Her work has deepened our understanding of internal conflict-based correlates to the cultural contexts in which individuals strive for adaptation and growth.

—Free Associations, the newsletter of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute and Society, February 2006.