The George Washington University
Professional Psychology Program
Fall 2012 Newsletter

Letter from the Director

Dear colleagues & friends of the Professional Psychology Program,

Looking back on the past year, I am awed and delighted by what our community accomplished together. We have introduced several scholarly initiatives of which we can be proud:
- Continuing education workshops for faculty and supervisors
- A joint case conference with the GW University Medical Center Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
- A Major Area Paper symposium presenting our students' work
- An end of year celebration for students, supervisors and faculty

Each event was well attended with lively discussion and useful insight; we will be announcing more such events in the coming year.

Our students have participated in nearby professional meetings as well as traveling to New Orleans, Santa Fe and Montreal to present their work and meet with colleagues; we were also well represented by students and faculty at the APA annual meeting in Orlando.

From a pool of more than four hundred applicants, on August 27th we welcomed twenty-eight outstanding new students to Old Main and the Professional Psychology Program and are enjoying getting to know each other this fall.

With best wishes for 2012-2013,
Loring Ingraham

A warm welcome to all new members of the Professional Psychology Community!
Welcome Class of 2016!

Top Row 1, left to right: Anthony Nogueira, Elena Rakhaeva, Kelsie Salmen, Nisha Sachdev
Row 2, left to right: Jennifer Lloyd, Jessica Pavlick, Jaclyn Pembleton, Emily Ring, Emily Rotbart, Laura Reid
Row 3, left to right: Avi-David Margolies, Cody McGinnis, Niles Muzyk, Yan Ni, Cristina Nesci
Row 4, left to right: Kasia Garland, Austin Greaves, Alexis Herman, Janine Jakob, Dawn Johnson, Natasha Kaufman
Bottom Row 5, left to right: Maryam Amiri, Hanna Berleth, Elizabeth Bowen, William Cheng, Joshua DeSilva, Tasha Dorsey
Get To Know Our Newest Member

Introducing Post-Doctoral Fellow
Dr. Andrew Moon

Dr. Andrew Moon has joined The George Washington University community after completing his pre-doctoral internship at James Madison University’s Counseling & Student Development Center in Harrisonburg, VA. He graduated from The College of William & Mary in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. After leaving Williamsburg, VA, he moved back to the D.C. Metro area where he worked as a Residential Counselor for adults who were diagnosed with chronic/severe mental illness and as a Case Manager at a homeless shelter.

Dr. Moon competed educational training at Loyola University Maryland (formerly Loyola College in Maryland) in receiving his Clinical Psychology and his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in May of this year. During his time in Baltimore, he completed training in a college counseling center, a mental health clinic, and a maximum security, prison.

Though he considers himself a generalist in practice, his clinical interests include Psychodynamic/Interpersonal psychotherapy, supervision, and teaching, and has a passion for outreach and issues of diversity, in all forms. He is excited to be joining the GW community and looks forward to a great year with the Professional Psychology Program.
On July 6, 2012, students, faculty, staff, supervisors and their families gathered in the City View Room of the Elliot School to celebrate a great year of work together and progress in the clinic. The gathering provided an opportunity for students from different class years to get together outside of the clinic, and for rising 4th year students to see everyone one more time before heading off on internship. Attendees heard remarks from Drs. Ingraham and Hansell and enjoyed refreshments provided by the Program.
Clinic News

It has been a busy and productive Spring and Summer in the Clinic, as we prepared to say goodbye to our departing externs and to welcome our returning and new externs. The new Clinic year brought a host of changes to the Clinic – new externs learned about these in skills prac and returning externs became oriented (along with other didactics) in their advanced seminar. Among the recent and upcoming changes at the Clinic:

- Transition to Titanium on July 1
- New, simplified, and updated consent forms and fee policies
- Monthly all-staff meetings, which began in the Fall term
- Weekly “Clinic office hours”
- Videotaping initiative for Clinic offices – in the works, stay tuned!
- Dr. Mann returned in August!
- Our new postdoc, Andrew Moon, arrived in early August, and our two wonderful current postdocs became half-time senior postdocs.

- James Hansell, Ph.D.
  Director, Center Clinic

Congratulations Dr. Hansell!

Dr. Hansell received a grant of $14,400 from the CCAS University Facilitating Fund for a project examining similarities and differences in various psychotherapy manuals, using “text-mining” software. Dr. Hansell’s research group is excited about moving forward with this and other projects.
Titanium

Titanium is happening! On Friday, June 1, Leslie Trumble and Michael Blake led an orientation to Titanium for faculty and returning Clinic externs. Rising second years became oriented to Titanium during their skills prac in June, and the formal shift to electronic records on July 1 went smoothly. Many people have worked very hard to make this happen, and appreciation is due to Dr. Marmarosh and her research team for obtaining the grant that paid for Titanium and to Leslie Trumble, Michael Blake, David Drowos, Leslie Stelljes-Nanson, Stephanie Turner, Drs. Buddensick and Figueira, and Matt Harper who have all made important contributions. We’re also pleased to report that Leslie Trumble has accepted the position of “Titanium Coordinator” (aka Titanium Tsar) and has become the point person for our electronic records and the interfaces with research and budget matters. Leslie has been assisted by undergraduate interns, Molly Ackerley and Samantha Chew, who have proved invaluable as well.

Summer Clinic Committee

Pictured: Danielle Rothman, Dr. Julie Buddensick, Michael Blake, Dr. James Hansell, Dr. Mariana Figueira, Shira Gottlieb, Matt Harper, Leslie Stelljes Nanson.

[Not pictured: Melissa Hoffman, Sonia Kahn, Nora Posner, Joseph Schmidt, and Leslie Trumble]
Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has been steadily building its membership and programming throughout the past year. We have worked to update the referral binder by adding more Community Mental Health Centers and also teamed up with local emergency help lines to increase awareness of our clinic. In light of the recent increase in awareness of bullying, the Outreach Committee has enlisted the help of other students in organizing bullying awareness clinics and workshops with teens at local shelters. These events have been immensely successful and we hope to continue raising awareness about and preventing bullying. Finally, we also coordinated our first joint Case Conference with the GW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, which featured presentations by a member of our program as well as the Chief Resident. This was followed by refreshments, intermingling and discussion among members of our two disciplines.


March of Dimes

helen DeVinney would like to extend her profound gratitude to the GWU PsyD program for their generous support of Team DeVinney in the 2012 March for Babies. helen formed Team DeVinney after her daughters were born 10 weeks early and had extensive stays in the NICU. Today, both girls are healthy and vibrant, and this is the team’s third year walking in celebration of their journey. The team was comprised of 23 walkers, and several individuals within the program helped the team to raise $2,868 for the March of Dimes. In addition, many members of the community offered many good wishes and encouragement, all of which were greatly appreciated. helen feels lucky to be a part of graduate program that supports its students as people as well as developing clinicians.
2012 Graduation

On May 17th we welcomed the class of 2012 and their guests to 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 graduates' accomplishments. Speaking to the group, Dr. Ingraham 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 to our graduates. 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.

Joint Case Conference

On Thursday, May 31, members of our program gathered with members of the GW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences for the first joint case conference between the two programs. Robin O'Sullivan (class of 2014) and Dr. Meghan Magley presented on a patient they both treated to highlight the way psychologists and psychiatrists can work together to enhance a patient's treatment. The engaging presentation, followed by a reception at the Professional Psychology Program in Old Main, will hopefully be the first of many collaborative efforts between our programs.

Photos courtesy of Alexey Tolchinsky

Photographed: Robin O'Sullivan, Dr. Meghan Magley, Hallie Strauss
Dr. Sandra Mann and husband, Jonathan, welcomed their son, Simon, on March 30th. Simon is growing fast and all are well and enjoying quality time together. Simon looks forward to visiting GW soon to say hello!

Angela Cerkevich worked with a women’s health organization in Ramallah to facilitate a train-the-trainer program in yoga and meditation. The program was conducted during July 2012 and its objectives included: providing alternative techniques for affect management and healthy lifestyle promotion, women’s empowerment for community health and illness prevention, and teaching individuals working in areas of violent conflict techniques in mood management and relaxation in order to facilitate a safe and peaceful atmosphere for conflict resolution. The participants are comprised of women who have been trained in health and fitness and who will open centers in Ramallah and Bethlehem to work with other women and children. Sustainable programming was delivered by facilitating train-the-trainer workshops in which individuals integrate the techniques learned into the delivery of services within their local communities.

Maury Joseph attended the 33rd International Audio-Visual Symposium on Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy at the invitation of Habib Davanloo, M.D. The topic was removal of resistance and psychoanalytic investigation of the unconscious and the technique of major mobilization of the unconscious.

Alexandra Mattern-Roggelin (Class of 2015) attended the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture & Society (APCS) Annual Conference: Pathos, Politics, & Passion (November, 2011). The Conference was held at the Rutgers University Continuing Education Conference Center, New Brunswick, NJ. As part of the panel “Masochism, Ghosts, and Collective Memory,” Alexandra presented a paper titled “From Masochism to Compassion: Cultural Implications and Personal Remarks.” In her paper, she addressed the concepts of relational masochism, internal and external shame and reflected upon the question of how human beings can embrace emotional immunity without drowning in apathy. Her interest in the topic stems from personal encounters and experiences she has had as a recent immigrant to the US.

During the same conference, Alexandra, as part of a round table discussion (“Perceiving Truths, Developing a Professional Voice, and the Politics of Power for Career Advancement”), presented her thoughts on starting in a doctoral program as a career transitioner and non-traditional student. The title of her presentations was “Rewind or Forward: Personal and Professional Identity Development through Professional Encounters and Personal Dialogue.” She shared some experiences related to her professional development and identity formation as well as some her fears and hopes about entering a new professional field later in life.
Alexandra and Rebecca Abell (also a 2nd year student in the program) gave a poster presentation at this year’s APA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL, entitled “DSM-5 Task Force: Secondary Data Analysis of an Online Petition”.

Koko Nishi recently presented a paper entitled “Narratives of the Japanese American Internment: Are pardons and apologies healing?” as part of a symposium on Racism and Racial Discrimination Issues at the second biennial APA Division 45 (society for the psychological study of ethnic minority issues) conference held in Ann Arbor, Michigan from May 24th-26th, 2012:

During World War II about 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans were unfairly placed in internment/incarceration camps. In 1988, President Reagan apologized to the internees, and surviving internees were awarded $20,000 in symbolic redress together with a letter of apology. This study aimed to gain an understanding of the psychosocial and behavioral impact of the Japanese American internment and whether the apology has promoted healing. From data gathered thus far, we gained an understanding of internees’ experiences in the camps. Some of the salient features included whether and what support, if any, was and is currently available to them. Although monetary reparations did not restore lost years, erase painful memories or rectify past injustices, offering restitution was seen as a sincere apology and acknowledgment of past wrong doing, potentially supporting healing and recovery from an adverse event.

Mollie Straff, through work at her externship site, the Youth and Families division of Alexandria Mental Health made an anger management presentation for 9th grade students at Minnie Howard School. The topic was selected by the students who participate in Building Better Futures, an after-school tutoring and mentoring program. Approximately 12 students attended the presentation, titled "Understanding Anger", and provided a great deal of positive feedback about the information I presented on recognizing and coping with feeling of anger and the use of interactive role plays. Joyce Draper, the Building Better Futures Program Coordinator said, "I wanted to let you know how much we appreciated having Molly come to our Building Better Futures Life Skills class last Wednesday. The various role plays that she had the students work through were perfect, and so very appropriate. Thank you once again!"


and


Here is to a happy and successful spring semester!