



School Psychology Newsletter

SPRING 2024 | JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY



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JMU Takes On The NASP Convention!

The annual National Association of School Psychology Conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana this year from February 14-17. Several of our students attended the conference in-person and enjoyed listening to the sessions and meeting with school psychologists and other graduate students from across the country. Dr. Kipps-Vaughan facilitated a poster presentation with former student, Kiarra Steer, on Supporting Self-Advocacy Skills in Students with Disabilities.

This year's conference theme of "A Season for Champions" was echoed by the keynote speaker, Gaelin Elmore, a retired NFL rookie and a dynamic speaker focused on the transformative power of "belonging" in children's lives. Gaelin devotes his career to empowering adults working with at-risk youth, encouraging them to see themselves as the champions young people need. In his own words, "When you are committed to being the difference... You have a chance to meet kids' biggest and most important need - their need to belong. And belonging changes lives. I know because it changed mine."



Our Youth Matter!

School Psychology students volunteered their support for a community -based program on Dec. 12, 2023 held at the Lucy Simms Center in Harrisonburg. The event was sponsored by the Harrisonburg Coalition for Drug Prevention and was titled "Our Youth Matter: A Community Conversation". This conversation was not just an event; it was a pivotal moment for stakeholders to come together, hear from local youth, and address critical issues within the Harrisonburg/ Rockingham County community.

First year School Psychology students, including Ursula Vogt, Lauren DeLuca, and Mallory McIvor helped with set up, registration table and opening activities. Three school psychology interns were also present for the event as volunteers, Emily Davis, Julia Unger, and Jacob Nadler. Jacob was the only JMU graduate student included on the panel of speakers and represented the young professional voice. The students had a positive community learning experience as they heard the comments from local youth and experts in youth culture, substance use, and prevention. This is another example of the dedication and passion our students have for children, youth, and working in communities.

Workshops



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 1st and 2nd, 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

Cultural Responsive Supervision

In February, the JMU School Psychology program invited Dr. Charles Barrett to host a workshop on Culturally Responsive Supervision for our local supervisors. Dr. Barrett firmly believes that his professional practice is always about the children and makes it his life's work to spread that passion. Informed by principles of justice and equity, his workshop was centered on promoting positive outcomes for children's academic, social, emotional, and behavioral well-being.

Dr. Barret is the lead school psychologist for Loudon County Public Schools and author of several publications. He was the recipient of the 2016 School Psychologist of the Year and the 2023 Social Justice in School Psychology awards by the Virginia Academy of School Psychologists.

Motivational Interviewing

On Friday, April 12th, the first-year School Psychology cohort was introduced to Motivational Interviewing, alongside first-year Counseling students. The workshop was led by Paige Hawkins M.Ed., a Substance Use Interventionist at JMU. The session was filled with open discussion and small group practice for applying the concept, Motivational Interviewing, in professional counseling and consultation scenarios.



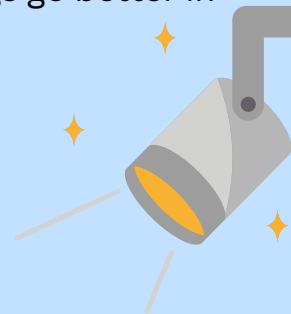
A little bit of lavender and a whole lot of relaxation!

Our second-year students were invited to partake in a professional self-care fieldtrip with Dr. Hornsby and Dr. Gilligan on May 1st, 2024, at the White Oak Lavender Farm in Harrisonburg. The Lavender farm fieldtrips a way to celebrate the student's accomplishments as well as to engage in self-care. The trip's purpose is to congratulate students on their practicum completion and to encourage the personal use of self-care strategies. The students are invited to enjoy lunch outdoors, explore the farm, and breathe in the calming aroma of Lavender.



JMU Diversity Conference

To further promote a community of belonging, connectedness, and support, a group of our students created a frame for a mentoring program 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. Our professors, Dr. Gilligan, Dr. Hornsby, and Dr. Kipps-Vaughan presented SoCs at this year's JMU Diversity conference. Program faculty shared information on the creation, implementation, and current outcome evaluation of SoCs as our program strives to sustain a learning community where all students thrive. As founding students of this program proclaimed, things go better in pairs!



ADJUNCT SPOTLIGHTS

Dr. Nick Curtis teaches the Psychological Foundations of Education course (PSYC 527) to the first-year students! After earning his B.S. in Psychology and M.A./Ed.S. in School Psychology at JMU, he pursued his passion further by completing a PhD in the Assessment and Measurement program. A standout achievement for Dr. Curtis is his upcoming keynote presentation at an international conference focusing on student partnerships in higher education assessment. Beyond his academic prowess, Dr. Curtis recently celebrated a personal milestone—he just got married! Congratulations to Dr. Curtis and his partner on this new chapter in their lives.

Dr. Ginger Griffin teaches Assessment III (PSYC 779) to the second-year students! She has worked at the JMU SVCDC for over 21 years. Gr. Griffin received her doctorate in 2020, after attending school part-time, working full-time, and raising a busy family (aka. superwoman). In her free time, she enjoys watching her kids' sports games and reading!

Dr. Molly Bowman teaches Introduction to Practicum (PSYC 695) to the second-year students! She was promoted to Assistant Clinical Director of the JMU SVCDC and on the weekends, she bakes bread for her family every week – current flavor is sourdough!

“A Practicum Student Again”

Once a week on Tuesday or Thursday, Dr. Tiffany Hornsby packs up her bag, grabs a coffee, and takes a short commute to Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro, Virginia. There, she serves as a professor-in-residence (PIR). The

PIR program is housed within the Office of Inclusive Excellence and Engagement at JMU and is led by Dr. David Owusu-Ansah. The program is designed “to promote postsecondary attainment and college aspirations of underserved and underrepresented students at Virginia’s middle and high schools” according to the PIR website. Dr. Hornsby sees her participation in the program as a reciprocal relationship: while she is supporting the school system in various ways, she is also reconnecting with her roots as a school psychologist immersed in a school system. “It’s like I’m a practicum student again,” she states as she explains her role to students and colleagues.

Like entering any system, Dr. Hornsby has spent a lot of time this year engaged in systems learning: she’s attended meetings involving various constituents including the assistant superintendent, administrators, various school-based mental health professionals, as well as general and special education teachers.

She has observed classrooms and provided modeling and feedback on classroom management and instructional strategies; participated in Tier 2 support and attendance meetings; consulted with English Language Learner (ELL) teachers and provided resources for the district-wide professional development day in March; and assisted with the rollout of the Governor’s ALL-IN initiative. At Kate Collins, ALL-IN is an hour-long tutoring session that occurs during the school day. Students are divided into groups of 10 and work with a teacher on reading or math 2-3 times a week. This has given Dr. Hornsby an opportunity to independently run reading groups and connect more with the students this semester.

When reflecting on the time she’s spent at Kate Collins so far, Dr. Hornsby shares, “I’ve only just begun. As I continue to become part of the school community, I look forward to collaborating with students, teachers, and administrators in new and exciting ways!” She hints, “I can see future partnerships on the horizon between JMU’s School Psychology Program and Kate Collins.”



Taking Their Skills Out Into The World

The second-year students will be interns at these sites during the 2024-2025 school year. Congratulations, Second Years!

Lisandra Artiles: School District of Palm Beach County, FL

Kayla Hearl: Albemarle County Public Schools, VA

Angela Ji: Arlington Public Schools, VA

Fatima Rahman: Loudoun County Public Schools, VA

Julia Shin: Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

Sharice Mehlenbacher: Newport News City Public Schools, VA



Annual Spring Symposium

On April 19, 2024, 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. Amanda Evans, who is our department's Madison Scholar and a panel of faculty and students involved in the RISEUP grant program. 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:

Jah Cotham: Teaching reading comprehension to ELLs in a system with a low proportion of language minority students

Emily Davis: Professional's perspectives on the concept of an alternative to drug culture

Logan Dasher: Investigating help-seeking behaviors of adult children with parents with mental health conditions

Christian Fary: Personality assessment of non-binary youth: Current practices

Courtney Hassan: LGBTQ+ adolescents share their experiences with and the impact of online space

Sa'mone Moore: Taking steps forward with SoCS: A mentoring program for students of color

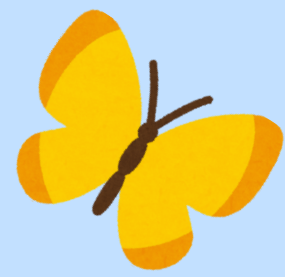
Jacob Nadler: Teacher wellness CBM...not your typical CBM

Jordan Phipps: Supporting students with ACEs: Middle school teacher perceptions

Julia Unger: Parental stress and perceived school-based support among parents of children with Autism



As we say farewell to the
graduating class...



The JMU Graduate School Psychology program would like to congratulate and honor our graduating cohort: Jah Cotham, Logan Dasher, Emily Davis, Christian Fary, Courtney Hassan, Sa'mone Moore, Jacob Nadler, Jordan Phipps, and Julia Unger. 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.

We are so excited to welcome
the class of 2027!

The JMU School Psychology Program is thrilled to announce the completion of our interview days held on February 23 and 26. This marks the second time since the pandemic that we have conducted in-person interview days! After two successful days of meeting and evaluating our applicants, we eagerly anticipate welcoming the new cohort of students, set to graduate in the summer of 2027:



Jake Albert
Becca Bailey
Christine Berry
Lissy Mohny
Camilla Moore
Taylor Morgan
Emma Romauld
Joshua Smith
Lexi Thomas



Rise-up & HRSA Grant

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!



AWARDS

Jah Cotham 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.

Julia Shin 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.

Christian Fary 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.

Jordan Phipps 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.

Kayla Hearl 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.

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

Julia Shin is the recipient 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 an 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 SPGSA social media (Instagram: @jmuschoolpsych)

-By email (spgsa.jmu@gmail.com)

Hope Walks Here

On April 7th, 2024, 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?



Congratulations to the new SPGSA Board!

President: Ursula Vogt

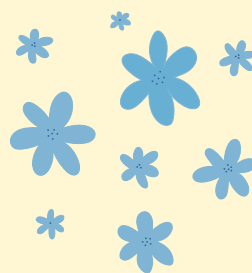
Vice President: Sarah Eggleston

Secretary: Chloe Marsh

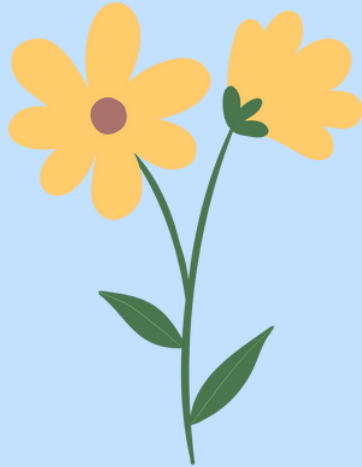
Treasurer: Briana Page

Social and Philanthropy Chair:
Lauren Deluca

Social media Chair: Mallory
McIvor



CONTACT US!



Tammy Gilligan, Ph.D.

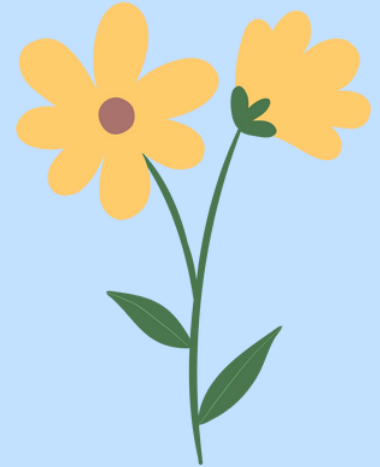
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And visit our website!

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

Support our 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.

If you wish to send a check, please mail them to:

Advanced Gift and Record

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Harrisonburg, VA 22807

