

experience improve  
support practice assist  
**Counseling**  
advice customize focus help care  
encourage individualize comfort guidance  
**Psychology**  
therapy specialize advocate direction  
encounter knowledge

# News from Counseling Psychology

Delaware Valley College

Fall 2010

## Good News All Around

### Inside this issue:

Special Speaker	2	Our Fall semester got off to a terrific start as we welcomed new students to the major.
Student Research	2	Current students continued to impress us with their outstanding class work and participation in national conferences.
Course Highlight	2	Recent alumni have been in contact, sharing stories of job success and preparing for graduate school.
Book Discussion	2	
Program Support	2	

Our faculty have their share of accomplishments as well. Dr. Ervin presented a three-hour workshop entitled "*Psychologist Know Thyself: Furthering Multicultural Competence*" at the Pennsylvania Psychological Association's Ethics and Continuing Education Conference in Exton, PA in November. She is scheduled to present the workshop again at the Pennsylvania Psycho-

logical Associations Annual Convention this coming June.

Dr. Buskirk-Cohen co-authored a paper entitled, "Exploring learner-centered assessment: A cross-disciplinary approach" with one of her colleagues. Their paper will appear in the *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*.

Congratulations to all!

## Students Participate in ISETL Conference in Nashville!

Counseling Psychology students Maggie Levicoff and Ashley Grove joined Dr. Buskirk-Cohen at the International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning (ISETL) conference. The conference brought together experts from around the world to discuss learner-centered principles of teaching, learning and assessment. It was held in Nashville, TN this past October.

Ms. Levicoff submitted a proposal with Dr. Buskirk-Cohen last spring. In the summer, they were thrilled to learn that their submission had passed the peer review process.

Their presentation, "*Instant results: Teacher and learner perspectives on using an online evaluation tool*" focused on an online tool

that professors customize to obtain instantaneous, relevant feedback from students.



Left to Right: Levicoff, Grove & Buskirk-

It is extremely rare for an undergraduate to present at any conference, let alone the ISETL conference. "People were excited to hear from a student about her perspective," Dr. Buskirk-Cohen noted.

Ms. Grove, who participated in the conference as well, remarked, "I think that students being there gave the professors ... a chance to see what students thought about their ideas from a student perspective versus strictly a teaching perspective."

Ms. Levicoff and Ms. Grove were the hit of the conference. They interacted with faculty from around the world in a variety of small-group sessions and informal events.

When reflecting on the ISETL conference, Ms. Levicoff said, "It was absolutely amazing seeing and hearing all the new and improving ways that teachers and professors try to make learning more fun and interesting... It was truly a wonderful experience, and I learned so much from this conference. I look forward to doing it again!"

## Dr. Zawawi Speaks About Meds

Dr. Adnan Zawawi, psychiatrist and medical director at Foundations Behavioral Health in Doylestown, gave a campus-wide guest lecture entitled "*Psychiatric Medications: Your Questions Answered*" in October.

The talk was very well attended and provided an interactive forum for attendees to ask questions about psychiatric medications.

## Students' Research Accepted to AWP Conference

Senior Counseling Psychology students, Nancy Mullen, Catherine Boyer, Jack Finor & Max Colacino, just received notice that their research was accepted to the Association for Women in Psychology conference!

The students co-submitted a proposal with Dr. Ervin entitled "*Facilitating Campus Change via Multicultural Courses:*

*Feminist Approaches to Social Action*". The conference will be held in Philadelphia in March 2011.

This is indeed a great honor as the review process was very competitive and it is unusual for undergraduates to be engaging in such advanced research endeavors. Bravo to these students who worked so hard to make this a reality!

## Course Highlight: Community Involvement through Developmental Disabilities

Students in Counseling Psychology select six upper-level elective courses in the major as part of their program. One of those electives, Developmental Disabilities, was offered for the first time this Fall. In the spirit of experiential learning, students connected with the larger community through guest speakers, class projects, and volunteering.

One of the speakers who visited our class this semester was Megan Esherrick of Canine Partners for Life, an organization that trains and places service

dogs. Service dogs are utilized in a variety of ways. Some dogs are able to detect seizures hours before they occur, giving warning to their owners. Students loved hearing about the interactions between dogs and humans, and especially enjoyed watching the visiting dogs demonstrate some of their skills!

To bring holiday cheer to those living with developmental disabilities, students created holiday cards for clients of BARC Developmental Services. This Bucks County organization provides early intervention pro-

grams, residential services, and vocational services to people with developmental disabilities.

Students also participated in the Special Olympics held at Villanova University. It is the largest annual student-run Special Olympics event in the world. Our students assisted with bocce ball and soccer tournaments.

All in all, it was a great semester and students look forward to more opportunities to connect with people in the community!

## Support Counseling Psychology!

Today's college students face a financial burden unlike anything we've seen in the past. To help meet their need, the Counseling Psychology program plans to begin its own fundraising efforts,

The funds raised will support conference participation, travel, and other educational expenses.

Students in the Psychology Club hope to sponsor events this coming year to help raise funds.

Those interesting in aiding in these fundraising efforts can do so in a variety of ways. Luncheons, auctions and individual donations all bring financial support. Contact Dr. Buskirk-Cohen at 215-489-2234 if you'd like to contribute in some way!

## Campus Book Discussion

In November, students from our Theories of Counseling class and other interested Counseling Psychology students gathered with faculty, staff, administrators and students across campus for a book discussion.

The talk focused on A Viktor Frankl's seminal text "*Man's Search for Meaning*." The book describes Frankl's imprisonment in Nazi concentration camps during the Holocaust and his psychological theory developed from his experience. A very meaningful and intellectual dialogue unfolded.