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# News from Counseling Psychology

Delaware Valley College

Fall 2012

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## Announcing Master's in Counseling Psychology- Open House on Feb 6th!

Delaware Valley College is excited to announce the addition a Master's degree program in Counseling Psychology!

Join us on Wednesday, February 6th for an Open House to learn more about this new graduate program. The Open House begins

at 6pm and will be held in 114 Feldman Hall.

Students will customize the program to fit their needs. They select the number of credits that match their professional goals, and select a specialization of either Social Justice Community Counseling or Child and Adolescent

Therapy.

Applications are now being accepted for the fall 2013 semester! For additional information, please contact the program director, Dr. Audrey Ervin at [Audrey.Ervin@delval.edu](mailto:Audrey.Ervin@delval.edu) or check Del Val's website.

See you on February 6th!

## Student Shines at Texas ISETL Conference

Senior Maggie Levicoff participated in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning in San Antonio, Texas. The conference brings together experts in higher education to discuss ways to engage students in and out of the classroom.

Levicoff presented work from her student research project with Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen. Their session was entitled, "What teachers do right in the classroom." For this project, 240 Del Val students completed a survey Levicoff had designed.

Her results demonstrated that good teachers are effective story-tellers who engage with students in a pro-

fessional manner. Levicoff plans to further analyze this data next semester.

Participants rated Levicoff and Cohen's presentation as the second best of the day- only the organization's President scored higher with her presentation.

This year marked Levicoff's third year and final year at the conference, since she graduates in May 2013.

Levicoff reflected, "The ISETL conference has been one the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. It has helped to shape not only my college career, but who I am as a person. It has been such an amazing journey, and every year at the conference I am astounded by all that I learn."

## Smiles All Around

The Counseling Psychology program co-sponsored the Advancing in Recovery Conference in October. The theme of the conference was "Finding Your Path as a Volunteer."

Twenty-five students participated in the conference, with nine volunteering at the event. Students connected with the keynote speaker, Drew Horn. Horn is founder of the Turn a Frown Around Foundation.

Inspired by Horn's work, Del Val students started a "Smile Station" whereby student volunteers visit area mental health facilities and nursing homes to befriend residents.

They are currently working with Bucks County Behavioral Health Deputy Director Armond Diyenno, who will mentor some of the students.



## End of Life Decisions- Never Too Early

As part of the Life Span Development class, Mrs. Evelyn Thompson and Mrs. Diane Buskirk led a discussion regarding end of life choices.

Thompson has worked as a hospice nurse for much of her career, while Buskirk is a geriatric expert with experience in assisted living and nursing homes.

During their visit, Thompson and Buskirk emphasized the importance of discussing end of life matters now—rather than waiting until it is too late. They discussed various types of treatment options available, and reviewed the ideas behind medical directives and living wills.

Students received a copy of "Five

Wishes," a document accepted in most states to establish an individual's desires for end of life care. Most students had never heard of this document and were excited to share it with their families.

Junior Maddie Raville remarked, "As much as no one wants the conversation to be about losing a

loved one, you realize that the small things, even in the end, will matter. It is something family and friends should know so that when the time comes you can gather strength knowing the person who has been such a significant part of your life is receiving the last wishes they asked for."

## Visitor Lifts Spirits and Changes Hearts

Kathryn Drenth visited the Developmental Disabilities class with her mother, Mariah. They spoke with the undergraduates about Kathryn's adventures in elementary school and at home. What makes their story unique is that Kathryn has Down Syndrome.

Prior to their visit, Dr. Buskirk-Cohen asked students to reflect on their expectations for Kathryn. Students were concerned that she might be a bit shy and

quiet. They thought about ways to engage with her, and make the young girl feel welcome.

They had no need to worry.

Kathryn eagerly took over the role of "teacher," and placed herself front and center in the room. She shared stories, told jokes, and performed a dance for the class.

Senior Hannah Lee commented, "Kathryn and Mariah's visit was an educational delight. You can read and learn about Down Syndrome,

but never truly understand it until you spend time with someone who has it. Kathryn was a real treasure who brightened everyone's day with her dancing and autographs. This experience has really opened my eyes and my heart to the real world of developmental disabilities."



## Two Presidential Fellows

Counseling Psychology proudly announces that two of its student, Barb Krier and Stephen Sheriff, have been accepted to the Presidential Fellows Program!

According to Del Val's website, "The Presidential Fellows will gain insight into themselves and the mission of Delaware Valley College. Fellows will learn from key College stakeholders the necessary skills to be effective leaders."

Both Krier and Sheriff were lauded for their work to improve campus climate. They actively serve on the Race, Culture and Diversity Committee and facilitate Stop the Hate training sessions on campus.

During their time in the fellows program, Krier and Sheriff will collaborate with administrators, alumni and community partners. We congratulate them and look forward to hearing more about the program!

## May Voyage to 7 Cities in 6 Countries

Three Counseling Psychology students will join Drs. Allison Buskirk-Cohen and Audrey Ervin aboard a May voyage.

Krista Shaeffer, Barb Krier, and Sarah Stout will spend two weeks aboard the MV Explorer, the ship affiliated

with the Semester at Sea program.

They will travel to Le Havre, France; Antwerp, Belgium; Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Leith, Scotland; Dubin and Belfast, Ireland; and Dover, England.