

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

Spring 2010

Hello's and Goodbye's

Also in this issue:

Guest Speakers	2
Course Outreach	2
Capstone Projects	2
Tech Savvy	2
Program Support	2

Welcome to the first edition of the Counseling Psychology newsletter! We're planning to release a newsletter at the conclusion of each semester. It's a great way to stay in touch and share all the wonderful events occurring in the Counseling Psychology program!

We are thrilled to announce that the Counseling Psychology major now has enrolled

twenty-two students! Our program's growth is exciting and we look forward to all the new students who will join us in the future.

This year, we also have a new addition to our faculty, Dr. Audrey Ervin. Dr. Ervin is a licensed psychologist whose clinical and research areas focus on multiculturalism with a particular emphasis on gender, sexual orien-

tation, racial identity and international issues. We are excited to have her with us at Del Val!

This May, five of our students started a new adventure in their lives with their participation in Commencement activities. We couldn't be more proud of our first

Students and Faculty Participate in National Conferences

Students Megan Barilla, Linda Dalton, Kathleen Devine and Jessica Meyer traveled with Dr. Ervin to Portland, OR for the Association for Women in Psychology (AWP) conference.



Barilla, Devine, Ervin, Dalton & Meyer at AWP

This conference concentrated on psychological sustainability. Students attended academic workshops and symposiums, viewed poster board research projects, watched short documentaries and connected with psychology graduate students across the nation.

In Philadelphia, Nancy Sy and Nancy Mullen accompanied Dr. Buskirk-Cohen to the Peer Relations Preconference, which is part of the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Adolescence.

Sessions included bullying research; the intersection of social and academic concerns; and the role of race, ethnicity, and culture and peer relationships.

Locally, students also participated in the Bucks County Annual Resiliency Conference which focuses on individuals with special needs.

At all conferences, students were thrilled to not only gain new insights and information, but also for the opportunity to interact with world-renowned experts in this field.

Mullen commented, "I came back energized and with a new perspective on how to approach my education at Del Val and just a general sense of what an interesting and exciting world I may be gaining entry into."



Mullen, Sy & Buskirk-Cohen at the Peers Preconference

Guest Speakers Impress Campus

Two Doylestown psychologists visited Del Val this year, offering advice and sharing their experiences with our students.

Dr. Judy Blau delivered a talk entitled “*Is this relationship good for me?*” Students from a variety of majors attended, gaining insight to their interpersonal lives.

Dr. Pam Ginsberg also spoke with our students. Her talk focused on building a psychology practice. Her first-hand stories were invaluable to our majors, many of whom hope to own private practices one day.

We hope to continue bringing area professionals on campus and will keep you posted!

Senior Capstone Projects Wow Attendees

Megan Barilla, Linda Dalton, Kathleen Devine, Jessica Meyer and Nicole Stefanoni were the first Counseling Psychology majors to present their Capstone Projects, which conclude the Employment Program.

Del Val’s Employment Program requires that students complete 500 work hours related to their major, and write a reflective paper and give an oral presentation about their experience. These activities result in a final grade recorded on students’ transcripts and is valued as a cornerstone of the experiential learning

environment at Del Val.

This Spring, our seniors participated in poster presentations describing their most valuable employment experience.

Faculty and students on campus, as well as area professionals, attended this event. Dr. Bruce Biskin, Senior Associate at Delaware Valley Career Services, served as an external evaluator. He was “gratified to talk with students who are passionate about their work.”

Course Involves Community Outreach

Students in the Substance Use & Abuse course participated in a variety of community service projects and programs including serving as screeners for National Alcohol Screening Day at sites across Bucks County (hospital, community college, court house); participating in student drug awareness programs in area schools; working with the Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence; joining in the Recovery Project Walk where participants walked across the Brooklyn Bridge in support of individuals in recovery; and volunteering with PRO-ACT (Pennsylvania Recovery Organization-Achieving Community Together).



Capstone project presentations

Several of our students were offered full-time positions at the organizations where they completed their Employment Program hours!

Tech Savvy Learning

Marc Prensky coined the term “digital natives” to refer to adolescents who have grown up in the new digital age and are knowledgeable about technology. Students in Adolescent Psychology have incorporated technology in their learning process by creating blogs for the course. Blogs are personalized websites, often used as online diaries or commentaries. For this course, students completed weekly assignments and used their blogs to reflect on those experiences. Students had access to each others’ blogs, which facilitated cooperative learning. Blogging was a fun way for students to share their thoughts with their classmates in a modern, tech savvy way!

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 find additional ways to support the students.

The funds raised will support conference participation, travel, and other educational expenses. We believe that involvement in such activities is key to the academic and professional success

of our students. Students in the Psychology Club hope to assist by sponsoring events this coming year to help raise funds.

Anyone interesting in aiding in these fundraising efforts can do so in a variety of ways. Lunches, auctions and individual donations all bring financial support. Contact Dr. Buskirk-Cohen at 215-489-2234 if you’d like to contribute to our program.