

Counseling Psychology

Delaware Valley College

Graduate Program Grows by Leaps and Bounds!

Fifteen new graduate students were welcomed at the Student Orientation on August 21, 2014. This second cohort of Master's level students was joined by faculty and administration as well as the returning seven-member cohort who will be graduating in 2015 & 2016. The DelVal graduate program prepares future counselors focusing on either child/adolescent or social justice tracks.

The first cohort is now deeply engaged in their clinical internship experiences and has been able to secure positions, with the assistance of Clinical Director Chris Walter, at an impressive array of mental health facilities, reflecting the diverse talents and interests of the class. Placements include the Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA), Foundations Behavioral Health, the Council of Southeast Pennsylvania (CSP), Jewish Family Service in Lehigh Valley (JFSLV), and Jewish Employment and Vocational Services (JEVS). Samantha Schuster (CSP) comments, "My experience thus far has been absolutely spectacular. It has definitely allowed me to flex my coun-

seling skills while still allowing me to continue to grow and establish myself." Sean Galiczynski (NOVA) observes, "I am given the opportunity to counsel clients who identify as being victims of crime. The majority of these victimizations are sexual assaults or rape cases. This invaluable



experience has taught me how to positively identify trauma and work with a client to overcome it. After working in such an acute setting, I feel prepared to face any challenges my future professional career may bring."

Second year cohort member, Carrie Uzelac, reflects on her first semester experience as "one of the most notable things I have observed is the incredible

amount of support we receive from the library and the writing center. I did my undergraduate work at a large state university and trying to locate services, let alone use them, was challenging at best. But here at DelVal I truly feel like these services are at my fingertips and everyone is willing and able to help me when I

need it. I'm also really enjoying the coursework - the real world implications of everything we are studying is very exciting. I had heard that master's programs involve a lot of paper writing and I am definitely finding that to be the case here, but it isn't as overwhelming as I thought it would be, as it helps me to consolidate and structure my thoughts. I always feel a sense of accomplishment when I complete a paper!"

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Coming Events:

February 17, 2015

The first Annual Counseling Psychology Speaker Series:

AndreAs Neumann-Mascis, Ph.D

Radical (Dis)ability: Understanding Ableism and Disability Identities & Clinically Meaningful Understanding of Disability and the Impact of Ableism

Conferences and Events

The counseling psychology program is dedicated to inspiring both faculty and students to attend and present at nationally recognized professional conferences. This active engagement provides substantive contributions to the field of psychology and is an essential part of the ethically-mandated pursuit of culturally competent care. The impressive array of conferences attended so far this year include, **The Association for Women in Psychology** (Columbus, OH), the **Spring Conference of the Pennsylvania association for Marriage and Family Therapy** (Philadelphia, PA), the **2014 Pennsylvania Psychological Association Annual Convention** (Harrisburg, PA), and the **44th Annual Conference of the International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning**, (Denver, CO.)

Most recently, the **46th Annual Pennsylvania Counseling Association Conference** took place in State College, PA. DelVal was represented by 3 graduate and 12 undergraduate students, accompanied by professors Ervin, Buskirk-Cohen, Mutchler and Chris Walters who co-presented, a paper entitled, *Divorce: Interdisciplinary approaches for counseling individuals, couples, and children.*

First year graduate student, Elizabeth Swift highlights that the conference was an “illuminating experience” that “made me aware of counselor and personal identities that exist for people in the field and how it’s important to balance the two, set boundaries and consult with colleagues when appropriate.” She added that, through the use of discussion and role play, the presenters encouraged



DelVal faculty, undergraduates and graduates at the 46th Annual Pennsylvania Counseling Conference.

“practioners to integrate new strategies into therapy.” Undergraduate counseling psychology major, Matt Bonham, described attending the conference as “amazing” and “quite simply...one of the most valuable things I have done in my college career thus far.” Clinical Coordinator Chris Walters observed that he found “folks to be friendly, supportive and doing the same things I’m doing—and our students are and will be doing. Great experience for me!”

Alumni Makes Good

Nancy Mullen graduated from DelVal in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in Counseling Psychology and went on to earn her Masters in Social Work at West Chester University, in 2013. Mullen is now a Mental Health Therapist at Creative Health Services in Pottstown, PA, a comprehensive community mental

health center. Regarding her education at DelVal, Mullen says, “I felt that the rigorous expectations in class work gave me a solid knowledge base to begin to practice. I went into my master’s program easily head and shoulders above my peers.” Additionally, Mullen cites the multicultural component of the program as impactful

with long range implications both personally and professionally, as well as the real-life application of discussions around ethics. Mullen continues to stay in touch with the DelVal community as she draws from the consistent support and care that she feels was integral to her growth as a clinician and an individual.



We are proud to announce the addition of five learned adjunct faculty to our graduate program.



Mary Burke, Ph.D

More Details on the DELVAL Website Coming Soon!



Janet Edgette, PsyD, LLC

Welcome New Adjunct Faculty

Dr. Mary Burke is a Professor of Psychology at Carlow University in Pittsburg, PA where she is the Program Director for the Doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology. Her scholarly interests and advocacy efforts include minority mental health in the context of oppressive systems, gender based violence, trauma and human trafficking. **Dr.** Burke teaches Advocacy and Social Justice Counseling, an online graduate course at DelVal.

Dr. Edgette has a private practice in Exton, PA, focused on child, adolescent and family therapy where she specializes in working with adolescents who have found the experience of therapy unhelpful in the past. **Dr.** Edgette provides clinical training and workshops and is the author of six books in the areas of counseling teens, parenting teens, raising boys, and sports psychology. **Dr.** Edgette will be teaching Advanced Counseling Techniques in the graduate program.

Mr. Ghuman holds an MA in Clinical/Counseling Psychology and is currently, working toward his PsyD in Clinical Psychology at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

His research focuses on Islamophobia and the prevailing fear of Muslims in American society. **Mr.** Ahmed teaches several undergraduate classes at DelVal and will be teaching Human Development, Counseling Assessment, and Multicultural Counseling.

Dr. Raggi works in private practice and has extensive experience with children and adults. Her approach is integrative, specializing in trauma history and relationships, growth, and self-awareness issues. **Dr.** Raggi's experience includes clinical direction of a large hospice center. Her current research interests include trauma, assessment, and the effects of trauma on the therapeutic alliance. She teaches Group Counseling, Internship Seminar II, and Psychology of Gender.

Mr. Walter has a local private practice where he focuses on spirituality, consciousness, trauma, sexuality, and LTbQ issues. Certified in Transpersonal Breathwork, **Mr.** Walter facilitates area workshops and is the Clinical Coordinator for the graduate program. **Mr.** Walter will be teaching Practicum for entering graduate students.



Ahmed Ghuman, MA, LPC



Mindi Raggi, Ed.D, LCSW



Chris Walter, MA, LPC

Dr. Ervin Selected for Forty Under 40 Award!

The *Bucks County Courier Times* and the *Intelligencer* chose Dr. Audrey Ervin as one their annual “Forty under 40” awardees for 2014. Members of this elite class are residents of Bucks and Montgomery counties and are described as the “best and brightest of their generation.” Involved in various backgrounds and efforts in politics, academia, nonprofit organizations and the business world, these honorees have achieved “unique individual success in their field, demonstrated leadership in their organization or showed a definable commitment to improve the lives of others and the greater community.



Dr. Ervin serves as the academic program director for the graduate counseling psychology program and assistant professor of counseling psychology at DelVal.

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT!



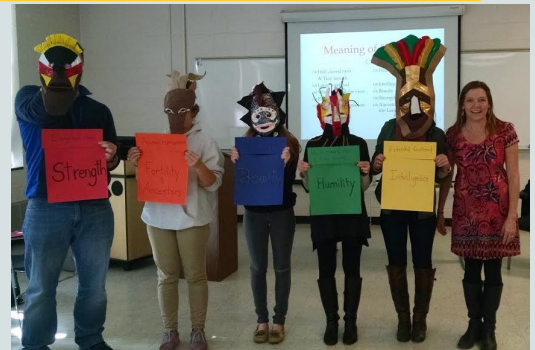
Undergraduate Counseling Psychology major, Almendra Reyes, spent two months in the summer of 2014 volunteering with Save the Children, a non-profit organization

dedicated to giving children a healthy start, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. Reyes, graduating in 2015, worked in Valencia, Spain with 20 children, ages 5-13, in an after-school program that provided fun activities and tutoring. Fluent in Spanish, she was able to provide English classes as well as lead trips to the park, make cupcakes, and sign Karaoke. Describing this experience as “life changing,” Reyes shares that watching the children learn was a rewarding experience. While she says that adjusting to a new culture was at times challenging (except for the 2-hour afternoon naps!), she encourages others to study or intern abroad as a time that will “...never be forgotten.”

Undergraduate Counseling Psychology Students Get a Taste of Different Cultures

Kelsey Gebauer, a graduating senior, commented “while we’re all taught to treat people the same, you really have to have an understanding of people’s differences to treat them the right way.” Kelsey is one of 20 undergraduates, mostly Counseling Psychology majors, in Dr. Ervin’s class entitled, *Multicultural Issues in Psychology*. Each semester, students work on a major project which is the culmination of theoretical and experiential learning. This multidimensional and compre-

hensive group experience includes investigation into a culture other than their own. The project includes researching peer-reviewed and popular articles as well as immersion experiences and interviews designed to stretch each students understanding of the multicultural experience. This semester's projects included focus on the LGB community, Chinese Americans, African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Jewish Americans.



Marghy Mitchell (r) and classmates display African masks that she made as part of her multicultural experience. The masks represent (l-r) strength, fertility & ancestors, beauty, humility, and intelligence.