

Counseling Psychology

Delaware Valley University

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CAPSTONE CELEBRATIONS!



Graduating counseling psychology majors from the undergraduate program spend the day presenting capstone projects. Faculty, Allison Buskirk-Cohen, Matt Mutchler, Chris Walter, and Audrey Ervin (not pictured) were on-board to cheer them on.

All undergraduates at DelVal participate in an experiential learning component that integrates academic achievement with real life application. Our graduating counseling psychology majors interned at various sites throughout the tri-state area and shared this learning through poster sessions and oral presentations on April 2. Each senior provided information regarding their site of work, the positions they held, and the challenges and strengths of the experience. Seniors and their placements include: Cristina Carosiello at the Office

of Resident Life at DelVal, Alexandra Von Barbier at PA Treatment & Healing, Brennan Dougherty at the Center for Psychology & Counseling, Cara O'Donohoe at the Turning Point, Almendra Reyes at Save the Children, Sarah Frier at Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Study Center, Bernard Avery at Learning Support DelVal, Nicole Fournier at the Christian Healthcare Center, and Shannon Barlow at the Social Enrichment Center.



Board of Trustee member, Richard Reif, talks with senior Alexandra Von Barbier.



First cohort graduate counseling psychology students present their capstone portfolio projects.

Sean Galiczynski, Heather Haas, Melissa Moreno, Maria Pistorio, Mariana Rodriguez, Samantha Schuster, and Susan Sklaroff-Van Hook took to the podium on May 11 to present the substantive work they had accomplished during the first two years of the Graduate Counseling Psychology program. Each Masters level student described representative research, assignments, and projects that fulfilled the core competencies of the program, described

their own theory of why and how people make change in their lives and reflected on their professional and personal growth over the last two years.

Maria Pistoria and Samantha Schuster will be graduating this summer with 48-credit M.A. degrees. Ms. Pistoria plans to continue with Master level courses and will be working at the child Guidance Resource Center. Ms. Schuster, who is moving to Oregon, also plans to continue her education and will pursue employment in drug and alcohol treatment.



The Multicultural Forum and Graduate Counseling Psychology Speaker Series

Welcome Dr. AndreAs Neumann-Mascis

“The first thing I am going to do today is talk about the arc of how our understanding of disability has changed over time.” With that, Dr. AndreAs Neumann-Mascis began the first of two presentations, on April 28, entitled RADICAL (DIS) ABILITY: Ableism, Identity and Oppression. Dr. Neumann-Mascis both challenged and welcomed audience members through informative and fascinating conversations around the experience of disability in this culture. The “arc” that Dr. Neumann-Mascis discussed included our cultural evolution which views people with disabilities through the lens of the medical model, social justice, human variability, disability justice and disability pride movements.

According to Dr. Neumann-Mascis, ableism is often expressed through the de-valuing of people with disabilities when they are understood as individuals who do not have resources to offer others or society. In speaking of ableism, Dr. Neumann-Mascis commented, “**This is the ‘ism’ that we are all going to be a part of.** I promise that everybody here at some point is going to experience a level of change with their body or their brain that they are not planning on living with right now. It makes sense to build a world where you get to be a contributing member whether or not your abilities change, because they will.” Further, disability justice demands of us is to say, “not only do I want all of who I am and all of myself in all of my complexity seen, but I also want some recognition that that complexity is valuable and brings to the table something that is inherently good.”

The evening presentation, attended by clinicians and researchers, professors, and future clinicians, focused on clinical applications and included in-depth discussions around such subjects as PTSD, attachment needs, invisible vs. visible disability, the internalization of ableism with other identities, and working as a counselor when one’s own identity includes disability. Dr. Neumann-Mascis discussed the application of self-psychology as a means to understanding and experiencing the “psychological food” necessary for well-being and the underlying need for relationship that having access serves.

A psychologist in the Boston area, Dr. Neumann-Mascis founded The Meeting Point: a Multidimensional Center for Healing and Growth. The Multicultural Forum and the graduate Speaker Series were made possible through the collaboration of the Department of Liberal Arts, the Minority Relations Counsel and Students for Diversity.

“Dr. Neumann-Mascis’ has quite literally redefined my understanding of institutional ableism and the impact it has on individuals living with a disability.”

- Ann Marie Galioto, Graduate Counseling Psychology, Class of 2017

Conferences and Events

Coming Events:

Advancing Recovery” conference on Friday May 22 from 8:30 am – 2:15 pm in Mounngis. Sponsored by Megellan Healthcare

New Student Orientation for Cohort 3 Graduate Counseling Psychology students, August 20

International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning Conference, October 15-17

PA Counseling Association Conference, November 6-8

Association for Women in Psychology will be accepting a call for submissions, summer 2015

DelVal University counseling psychology students and faculty volunteered to assist with implementation of the third annual conference on Crimes Against Children, a day-long event held March 18, hosted by the Bucks County Children’s Advocacy . The conference attracted more than 300 working professionals and delivered current information on prevention, treatment and investigative techniques. On hand to assist were: Raphael Alfaro, Bernard Avery, Jenna Bishop, Brennan Dougherty, Sean Galiczynski, Courtney Green, Dominique Howard, Priscilla Jackson, Hadar Kenig, Kim Lopez, Marghy Mitchell, and Drs. Matt Mutchler and Allison Buskirk-Cohen.

Graduate Counseling Psychology student Susan Sklaroff-Van Hook (pictured above-right with Dr. Derald Wing Sue, famous for his original research on microaggressions) attended the American counseling Association (ACA) 2015 National Conference & Expo, in Orlando Florida, March 12-15. Along with 3,500 other attendees, Ms. Sklaroff-

Van Hook took advantage of various educational sessions by leaders in the counseling and research field. Ms. Sklaroff-Van Hook was especially intrigued by the Adlerian, Solution-focused, Multicultural, Social Justice, and Neuroscience sessions she attended and valued the opportunity she hear original research and network with both students and professionals in the field.

During March 19-21, Sean Galiczynski and Dr. Buskirk-Cohen attended the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Conference held in Philadelphia. According to Mr. Galiczynski, this national con-



Dr. Derald Wing Sue and Susan Sklaroff-Van Hook

ference “brings together the best researchers in the field of child research and an amazing opportunity to network.” Interested in adolescent bullying, he was able to converse Drs. Anthony Volk and Stephen Leff, two notable figures in the bullying research field.



Students and faculty volunteer at the 3rd Annual Crimes Against Children conference.

Faculty Profile

Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen

Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen, associate professor at DelVal University since 2008, instructs courses in both the undergraduate and graduate counseling psychology programs. A prolific lecturer and writer, Dr. Buskirk-Cohen has two newly published pieces to add to her list of accomplishments. Dr. Buskirk-Cohen is the editor of the latest edition of *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Lifespan Development*. This fifth edition of the textbook is designed to provide students and instructors with controversial and classic issues in a debate-style format. Dr. Buskirk-Cohen's expertise and background in developmental psychology helped to inform the rigorous format in this text which includes researched articles, summaries, and insightful questions to help stimulate learner's consideration of the issues being presented. The instructor's version of this text also includes quizzes and essay questions to be applied in the classroom. Per Dr. Buskirk-Cohen, "I've contributed chapters to textbooks before, but *Taking Sides* marks the first time I've edited an entire textbook. It was an exciting and nerve-wracking endeavor! I've used this series in classes before, and felt a lot of pressure to



select content that would really speak to students and represent the issues well. I'm looking forward to receiving feedback from students and other instructors; I hope they find it interesting and useful!"

Effectiveness of a Creative Arts Summer Camp: Benefits of a Short-Term, Intensive Program on Children's Social Behaviors and Relationships, published in March

of 2015, in the *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*, highlights the benefits of a social skills therapy program delivered through a creative arts summer camp. Designed for children with social, emotional, and learning differences, Dr. Buskirk-Cohen determined, through a pilot study at a local camp, that during an intense, yet brief period of time, participants experienced improvements in acting-out and shy/anxious behaviors, learning problems, frustration tolerance, social assertiveness, task orientation, and peer sociability. Heather Haas, a DelVal graduate counseling psychology major, Class of 2016, connected with the camp through a class she was taking with Dr. Buskirk-Cohen, as an undergraduate. Ms. Haas worked with children at the camp in 2012 and 2014 and comments that she "definitely grew from the experience. Each child was very special and we were able to incorporate their strengths into activities."

Alumni Makes Good - Maggie Levicoff

Maggie Levicoff graduated from DelVal in 2013 with a BA in counseling psychology feeling "entirely prepared" for the challenges of graduate studies. Today, Maggie is finishing her MA in clinical mental health counseling at Rowen University where she is completing practicum hours at Rowen's Counseling and Psychology Services Center. Maggie is also the individual therapist intern for college-aged students, co-leads a weekly group therapy session entitled Integrated Body Image,

and is the Graduate Coordinator in the Testing Center. Maggie's goals are to work with adolescents/young adults suffering from eating disorders, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and sexual orientation and body image issues. She describes her experience at DelVal as helping her to feel "more confident and comfortable in my own skin" and attributes this to an open and supportive relationship with professors, rigorous course work, and opportunities for research and public speaking. Congratulations Maggie!

