



Psychology Department Newsletter Spring 2019

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Congratulations, Grads!

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Marybeth Fennelly
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Brianna Medina-Boyd
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Caitlin O'Brien
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Sarah Steinbock*

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Kelly Bonomo
Alexa Brittain
Briana Brogan
Nicole Cangelose
Aria Craig
Stephanie Dunn
Jennifer Burton
Lauren Heenan
Lisa Hunsberger
Erika Kramer
Athena Lawrence
Margaret Mitchell
Jennifer O'Donnell
Emily Rema
Victoria Ryan
Virginia Wolper
Corey White*

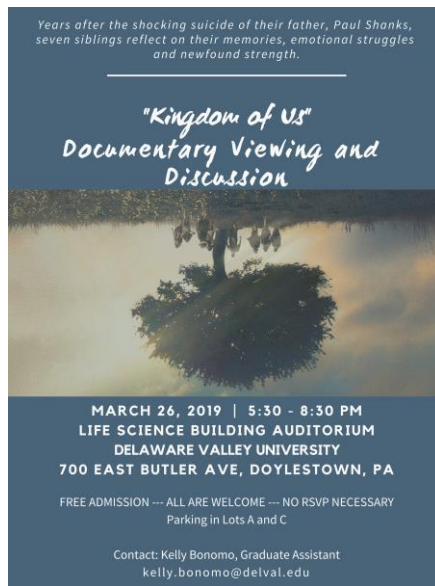
The Graduate Counseling Psychology (M.A.) program is pleased to announce that we have been accredited by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC) for the period of April 2019 through April 2029!



Pictured above: Kwasi Amponsah, 2019 Founders' Award recipient, and Michael Longacre, 2019 Psychology Department Achievement Award recipient, with Drs. Allison Buskirk-Cohen, Matthew Mutchler, and Kathy Wu

Graduate Speaker Series

On March 26, 2019, DelVal's Graduate Counseling Psychology Program hosted the annual Graduate Speaker Series event in the Life Science Building Auditorium. The Speaker Series event included a viewing of the documentary, *Kingdom of Us*, about a British family who lost their father and husband to suicide. The documentary follows the grieving process of the seven children and wife of Paul Shanks. Following the documentary, Emily Vincent, Executive Director and Therapist at the Center for Loss and Bereavement in Skippack, PA processed her reactions to the film, and led a discussion regarding familial responses to traumatic loss. Vincent discussed how the family system had to respond to the loss of the father and ensure survival in the beginning, but once they had survived, they moved towards more in-depth coping with the unresolved and complicated tragedy that occurred within their family.



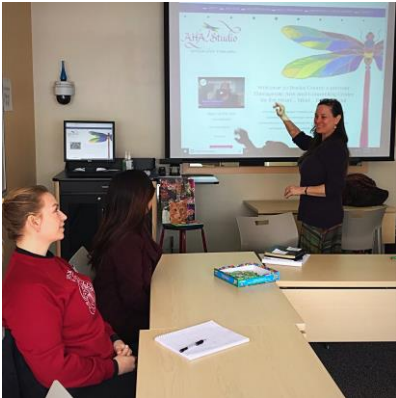
Day of Giving



Counseling psychology undergraduate students participated in a video for DelVal's annual Day of Giving on April 8, 2019. Day of Giving raises funds to support the institution. Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen, Chair of the Psychology Department, was joined by current undergraduates, Jocelyn Balan (pictured left), Stephanie Nolan, and Lisa Schell, and Maggie Levicoff, Class of 2013. Ms. Levicoff is a licensed professional counselor in New Jersey. During her time as a student at DelVal, Levicoff worked intensively on research projects with Buskirk-Cohen, presenting at professional conferences and co-authoring a publication in an academic journal. During breaks between filming, Levicoff spoke with the current students, encouraging them to take advantage of all DelVal has to offer.

Stephanie Nolan, Class of 2019, said, "Getting to speak with Maggie was a wonderful experience. She is so accomplished and passionate about her work; her advice and encouragement were inspiring." For those interested in learning more about supporting DelVal, please contact Rachel Mauer, Director of Annual Giving, at Rachel.Mauer@delval.edu or 215.489.2977.

Guest Lecturer



Ms. Karen DeHaven of Aha! Studio visited the Professional Psychology class offered to undergraduate students this semester. DeHaven, MA, BC-DMT, LPC, is the founding director and principal clinician of Aha! Studio. She works with children and families who want to creatively work through emotional and behavioral changes. During her visit, DeHaven spoke about how she incorporates dramatic therapy and narrative therapy into her practice. Jocelyn Balan, Class of 2019, commented, “The way Ms. DeHaven explained how she incorporated her passion into her creative arts therapy approach was inspiring. It emphasized the importance of always bringing a part of ourselves and our own passions into everything we do.”

Graduate Capstone Presentations



On May 2nd, DeVal hosted their annual Day of Scholarship in the Life Sciences Building and Mougis Auditorium. As part of the annual tradition, our graduating Master’s level students from Cohort 4 presented their Capstone poster projects regarding their clinical, professional, and academic growth over their graduate career. These students shared anecdotes from their clinical experiences during their Practicum and Internship placements throughout the last year. Students in the M.A. Counseling Psychology program complete a 100-hour practicum in the spring semester of their second year and a 600-hour internship in their third year.

Graduate Practicum and Internship

Cohort 5 students began their practicum placements this semester, experiencing hands-on clinical observation and work at their sites. Many of our cohort 5 members chose to complete their practicum at Eagleville Hospital, a 305-bed addiction and behavioral health hospital that provides detoxification, co-occurring mental health services, and inpatient substance use disorder treatment. Two cohort 5 students chose local university counseling centers to complete their practicum experience, while others chose behavioral health, wellness centers, and community mental health agencies like Airmid Wellness and Counseling Center, Lenape Valley Foundation, and Hope Springs Behavioral Health.



Student Presentations & Publications

Students in the undergraduate and graduate counseling psychology programs participate in academic scholarship. Some students, like Stephanie Nolan, create their original research study and are mentored by a faculty member. Nolan and faculty member Dr. Matthew Mutchler examined how personality impacts alliance between faculty and students. Stephanie says that working with Dr. Mutchler was great because “he was open to every idea I came up with and helped me to explore every possible area of study... He really made the entire experience enjoyable and exciting.” Other students participate in conference presentations, working alongside faculty members. Cohort 4 member, Ginny Wolper co-presented regarding the ‘#MeToo’ movement and shared that her presentation hoped to bring about awareness and raise discussion surrounding the topics of “sexual assault, gender socialization, and the effects of living in a ‘post-truth’ society since the 2016 presidential election”. Connections with alumni are maintained; Aria Plants, now a graduate student at Marymount University, recently published a journal article with department chair Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen on research they conducted while Plants was a student here. The Psychology Department is incredibly proud of the contributions our students make to the field. Student names in presentations and publications are bolded below.

Buskirk-Cohen, A.A., & **Plants, A.** (2019). Caring about success: Students’ perceptions of professors’ caring matter more than grit? *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 31(1), 108-114.

Balan, J., Schell, L., Buskirk-Cohen, A., & Mutchler, M. (2019, May). *Compassion satisfaction and compassion fatigue in higher education faculty*. Poster session to be presented at the 31st Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

Ervin, A., & **Skarloff-Van Hook, S.** (2019, February/March). *Clinical work in socio-politically charged times: Strategies and support for social justice therapists*. Structured discussion presented at the Association for Women in Psychology, Newport, RI.

Ervin, A., **Barca, B., Dunn, S., Gehman, L., Sjogren, E., Wolper, V., & Yatron, C.** (2019, February/March). Patriarchy, power, & perseverance: Feminist activism and self-care in the #MeToo milieu. Structured discussion presented at the Association for Women in Psychology, Newport, RI.

Longacre, M., Warburton, E., Nolan, S., Buskirk-Cohen, A., & Mutchler, M. (2019, May). *Examining the relation between burnout and self-care among college educators*. Poster session to be presented at the 31st Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Washington, DC.

Mutchler, M.S., Wu, K., **Clawson, M., & Sjogren, E.** (2018, October). *Feedback in 4-D: Using multiple perspectives in counselor skills training*. Presentation at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Nolan, S. (2019, May). Picking favorites: A study on working alliance. Presentation at the Delaware Valley University’s Day of Scholarship, Doylestown, PA.