PhD in Clinical Psychology Students Receive National Awards

We are extremely pleased to announce that several of our PhD students have received national recognition for their hard work:

Julie Yeterian’s NIH F31 grant has been funded! This is the first for the Suffolk doctoral program. Julie will receive two years of support for advanced research training through the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) mechanism. This award will be funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and will support Julie's dissertation research and related training opportunities. Julie will be examining the role of spiritual and religious processes in adolescents’ substance use outcomes during and following outpatient substance use disorder treatment under the mentorship of Dr. Krisanne Bursik (Sponsor), Dr. John Kelly (Co-Sponsor), Dr. Amy Marks (Consultant), and Dr. George Vaillant (Consultant).

Christine Andre was selected to attend the American Psychological Association’s Advanced Training Institute on Research Methods with Diverse Racial & Ethnic Groups. Christine was awarded a travel grant to attend the June 2013 training at Michigan State University.

Bridgid Conn will be attending the 2013 APA MFP Psychology Summer Institute this July 2013 in Washington, D.C. This fully-funded workshop provides educational, professional development and mentoring experiences to advanced doctoral students of psychology and psychologists who are in the early stage of their careers.

Eva Woodward has been selected for this year’s Division 44 Distinguished Student Contribution Award. The Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues (SPSLGBTI) welcomes all those interested in psychological research, education and training, practice, and advocacy on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered issues and all lesbian women, gay men, bisexual women, bisexual men, transgendered people, and their allies. This was a competitive year for this award, in which the competition of Eva’s work made the deciding difference. This award will be presented at the Awards Ceremony at the APA Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii on Saturday, August 4th.

Sarah Bankoff was selected as a recipient of a 2013 American Psychological Association Student Travel Award. The purpose of this award is to help her travel to the APA Convention to present her research. The award is based on the quality of her research to be presented.

Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Director Updates</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colloquium Recap</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Psychology Internship Place-ments for 2013-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology First Year Recap</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet the New Ph.D. Students</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate: Psychology Club &amp; Living Learning</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psi Chi Induction</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Highlights</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Announcements, Publications, and Presentations</td>
<td>10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Chair’s Notes</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Psychology and Counseling Awards Announced

We wish to highlight a few of our graduating seniors for their outstanding work during their time at Suffolk.

Elizabeth Williams Award: The department recognizes Sarah Carpenter for her academic excellence (achieving High Academic Achievement) as well as making a significant contribution to the Psychology department, field and community. This award was established in 1990 by Professor Elizabeth S. Williams and her husband Calvin Williams. The fund was created to recognize the many contributions made by Elizabeth Williams, who for 20 years served as a professor of psychology at Suffolk University and as an adjunct at other Boston area schools and agricultural societies.

In addition to our undergrads, we would like to recognize our master’s-level graduate students.

School Counseling Program, Student of the Year: This yearly award is given to a student in the School Counseling program who demonstrates academic excellence. This year’s award recipient is Melanie Kay.

Mental Health Counseling Program, Outstanding Graduate Student: This year’s award goes to Anna Marie Skiotis and Blerina Seiti.
School Counseling Program, Director Update by Dr. Tim Poynton

First, heartfelt congratulations to our 14 graduating students! While you will be missed, I am glad to see you go off and do wonderful work serving students in the greater Boston area and beyond. On behalf of all the faculty, we wish you the best in your bright future.

In program news, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Carol Kerrissey will be joining us as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 2013-2014 academic year. Dr. Kerrissey has been teaching four courses per year as an adjunct for the school counseling program since 2009, and we will all benefit from the extra time and attention we will receive from her as a result of this appointment.

The Visiting Assistant position was created and approved to provide coverage for two courses for me while I pursue research endeavors during sabbatical next year. I am excited to finish research we started last year with 17 high schools here in Massachusetts examining the post-secondary transition of students who graduated in 2012. Of particular interest in this research are exploration of counselor-related and psychosocial variables that influence post-secondary success. We conducted surveys in the 17 schools last year, and are looking to connect with these graduates again in the Fall of 2013 to get a sense of outcomes.

While I will be on sabbatical for the duration of the 2013-2014 academic year, it does not mean I will be completely absent – I will still be teaching the practicum supervision course each semester, be on campus each week, and administer the school counseling program.

The School Counseling class of 2014 will be participating in year-long internships in many area schools, including several Boston schools (EMK Health Careers, BCLA, Brighton, Excel), Canton, Framingham, Milton, Quincy, Watertown, and Weston. I appreciate the contributions these schools and supervisors make to minting the next generation of school counselors!

Mental Health Counseling Program, Director Update by Dr. David Medoff

The first full year of the transition of the Mental Health Counseling (MHC) Program into the Psychology Department has gone remarkably well. Both faculty and students feel fully integrated and we all look forward to future collaborative educational and training opportunities. Our program remains quite robust with a record number of applications for fall 2013, and the quality of our applicants remains strong and competitive.

We are proud to be continuing the more than 30 year history of the MHC Program in a new setting with new colleagues. It is our hope that the strength and vitality of the Master’s Program, coupled with the one year Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) program, brings new energy and resources of its own to the Psychology Department, and that we, together, will continue to prepare students for careers as Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC). It is within this context that our students go on to work in a variety of settings including community mental health clinics, psychiatric hospitals, residential schools, public schools, correctional facilities, and private practices.

Although not the focus of our applied clinical program, MHC Program faculty continue to involve our students in ongoing research leading to publications in both edited volumes and peer reviewed journals articles. For those students who are interested in these types of opportunities, this adds a valued layer of professional experience.

We thank the Psychology Department for its kind and courteous support and we look forward to longstanding mutually advantageous collaborations in the future.

Spring 2013 Colloquium Recap, by Program Coordinator Naomi Gutierrez

Dr. Martin La Roche of Boston Children’s Hospital and the Harvard Medical School gave this spring’s Colloquium lecture on Wednesday, March 27. The lecture, entitled “Cultural Psychotherapy: A Clinical Illustration,” brought undergraduate and graduate students together with faculty to discuss the foundations of cultural psychotherapy and the importance of culture for all individuals, not just ethnic minorities. The lecture also included a case presentation as well as discussion of research assumptions.
Psychology Dissertation Research Award

The Psychology Department plans to acknowledge outstanding academic achievement of a doctoral student engaged in dissertation research through its Psychology Dissertation Research Award. This is a meaningful opportunity for alumni, parents, and friends to contribute to the success of a deserving Ph.D. student.

A heartfelt thank you to all the alumni who generously donated to this award.

You can be confident that your donation of $25 or more will directly benefit the Department’s award winner, to be announced in March. If you have already made a contribution, THANK YOU! If you have not, but would like to, please see the link below to make your gift online. Click on “Donate Now” found in the bottom right corner, and then under “Area of Giving” please select OTHER and enter: Psychology Award.

http://www.suffolk.edu/support.php

If you prefer to send a check by mail, please indicate “Psychology Award” on the MEMO line and remit to:

Suffolk University
Office of Advancement
8 Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

2012—2013 Doctoral Award Recipients Named

Psychology Dissertation Research Award: We had many strong applicants, and in the end are giving 2 awards this year. Both of these individuals scored identically with each other, after 3 independent faculty reviews. Each will receive $750 to help fund their dissertation research. Earlier this semester, two award winners were announced:

Kristen Batejan, Dissertation title: Understanding Non-Suicidal Self-Injury in a Child Inpatient Unit

Mary Beth McCullough, Dissertation title: Examining Factors Contributing to Obesity among Immigrant Youth: A Novel Approach to Understanding the Immigrant Paradox and Obesity

Faculty-Nominated Teaching Award: Zack Held & Vanessa Alvarez
Awarded to both of these students for their combined excellence last year as teaching apprentices in PSYCH 317 – Psychology of Addictions.

Student-Nominated Teaching Award: Kida Ejesi
Awarded for Kida’s outstanding performance as a teaching apprentice in PSYCH 334 – Adolescent Development.

Doctoral Student Publication Awards: Sarah Bankoff, Jill Bloom, Stephanie Jarvi, & Estie Reidler
The faculty wish to recognize these four students for demonstrating commitment to and excellence in research through their 1st authored publications in peer-reviewed journals. The citations for their papers are listed below.


Clinical Psychology Internship Placements for 2013—2014

The faculty of the Psychology department at Suffolk University would like to congratulate our students who matched for clinical internship in 2013. Ten of our thirteen students who participated matched in the first or second phase. That represents a 77% rate of acceptance for our program, which can be contextualized within the 79% nation-wide acceptance rate for Ph.D. programs in clinical psychology.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>KIRSTIN BROWN BIRTWELL</td>
<td>MGH/HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  (BOSTON, MA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>JILL M. BLOOM</td>
<td>HARVARD MED/CAMBRIDGE HOSPITAL (BOSTON, MA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERIKA LYNN CLARK</td>
<td>EDITH NOURSE ROGERS MEM VAMC  (BEDFORD, MA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRIDGID MARIKO CONN</td>
<td>PRIMARY CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER (SALT LAKE CITY, UT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADRIANA L. DEAMICIS</td>
<td>YALE UNIVERSITY-Psychiatry (NEW HAVEN, CT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARLA M. GABRIS</td>
<td>VISITING MENTAL HEALTH (DAVIE, FL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEBRA MICHELLE GLICK</td>
<td>Tewksbury Hospital (Tewksbury, MA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICHELLE JACKSON</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL/VA JACKSON (JACKSON, MS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARY BETH MCCULLOUGH</td>
<td>ALPERT MEDICAL SCHOOL OF BROWN UNIVERSITY (PROVIDENCE, RI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SARAH VALENTINE</td>
<td>MGH/HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  (BOSTON, MA)</td>
</tr>
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What was your favorite memory?
Our favorite memories were our holiday parties. We celebrated Canadian Thanksgiving (seriously, google it, it’s different) and covered Shamiria’s kitchen with food and Christmakkah in Donahue (we didn’t wrap gifts, but we all knew which gifts were for whom). Although not a special holiday, we also celebrated Shabbat at Liorah’s; her husband made us all the best meal we’ve ever eaten!

How has your transition to Boston/PhD been?
Getting to know the Beacon Hill area has been very cool. It’s nice to come out of the psych building at night and see the “gaslight” style street lights, cobblestones, and bricks. Our transitions to the program have been eventful and full of learning experiences that are making us grow individually and professionally. Best advice on dealing with a tricky transition? Admit your mistakes, surround yourself with positive people who support and encourage you, take advantage of your mentor’s wisdom, and do what you can to keep moving forward.

Advice for the incoming 2013 cohort?
Future Ph. Ds and colleagues, we advise you to 1) Bond with your cohort. It is the support net that never ends! Remember, you need to spend time with each other outside of school to build a strong support system. 2) Get really organized. The work is manageable, but you have to have a plan that works for you. Maybe get used to academic life before you start hitting the town. It’s always helpful to realize that the intangibles are what can make life a lot easier or more challenging. So if you can pay attention to things like transportation, planning things out in advance, food, etc. those can be really helpful in planning your day. 3) Treat the classroom like an office! And make sure to work in social time after and between classes so you can a) stay sane, and b) maintain that professional distinction. 4) Most importantly, just as Anakin Skywalker said, compassion is central to a Jedi’s life and so it is true of graduate students. Love yourself and practice self-care so you can better care for and support others! .. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed). KID(S), YOU’LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

Advice for undergrad students thinking about PhD programs?
For students thinking about coming: do your research and really learn about programs, course loads, faculty, talk to current graduate students etc. Continue to work on building your resume with relevant jobs and research for the subject area you want to study. Be sure this is the field/occupation that you want. It’s well worth it, but it’s a lot of work. There isn’t really any one “right” path to graduate school or a given profession, and it’s certainly better to find your own way than fit into a mold that isn’t you. If you want a feel for what grad school is like (and the need for humor as a coping skill), get acquainted with whatshouldwecallgradschool.tumblr.com.
Meet the New Ph.D. Students (13-14 Cohort)

Danielle Daley graduated from The University of Connecticut in 2011 with a B.A. in psychology. She is from Milford, CT and currently works as a special-education paraprofessional. In terms of research, her populations of interest include minorities, women, and adolescents. In her spare time she enjoys working out, baking, and writing spoken word poetry. She is extremely excited about moving to Boston and attending Suffolk!

Ally Dick grew up in Brookline, MA. She graduated from Brown University where she majored in Visual Art and completed a Master’s in General Psychology at Boston University. She has worked at a community-based organization serving immigrants in Rhode Island and at the National Center for PTSD at the Boston VA. Her research interests include trauma, PTSD, emotion regulation and mindfulness/acceptance. She enjoys meditation, yoga, spending time outside and going to coffee shops.

Sarah Getz completed her doctorate in Psychology at Princeton. Her doctoral research examined how interference of cognitive control mechanisms load leads to decisions that are impulsive or maladaptive. Other lines of her research, have focused on executive control processes, including working memory training and working memory capacity, and inhibitory control. She is interested in pursuing a career in neuropsychology and looks forward to developing her clinical skills and getting involved in new research projects.

Daniel Glass was born in Miami, Florida but was raised in Mississippi. He has a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in Psychology from SUNY New Paltz. He is interested in evolutionary perspectives on phenomena such as anxiety disorders, emotions, and bullying behavior. His career goal is to remain in academia to teach, conduct research, and write.

Amanda Khan received her B.A. in Psychology from San Diego State University (SDSU) in 2009 and her M.A. in Psychology with a Cognitive Neuroscience focus from SDSU in 2012. Amanda’s graduate research included utilizing fMRI and neuropsychological tests to examine connectivity in Autism Spectrum Disorder. She will begin her doctoral research at Suffolk in the Clinical Psychology PhD program under Dr. Matthew Jerram. Amanda’s research will focus on emotional dominance in Antisocial Personality Disorder.

Leela Holman is from Seattle, Washington. After 22 years in the rainy city, she is ready for some new scenery! She completed a double degree at the University of Washington, with a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Sociology. Leela gained her undergraduate research experience studying tobacco use, and she is very excited to explore new topics such as gender roles, relationships, and ego development. There are so many interesting things to do and see in Boston; Leela can’t wait to join her cohort at Suffolk for new adventures!

Carlos Rivera is originally from Colombia (South America). He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia in Athens. His research interests are in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Relational Frame Theory (RFT), and their dissemination to minorities in the U.S., and Latin American Nations. Carlos loves road trips, reading, doing yoga, running by Charles River, and listening to music, from jazz to salsa to rock :) Oh, and he thinks Boston is awesome!!!

Jessica Pan is a Boston native who graduated from Brown University with B.S. in Human Biology: Brain and Behavior. She is currently working at Massachusetts General Hospital, where her research focuses on structural and spectroscopic imaging in patients with neurogenetic lipidoses. Her clinical and research interests include childhood development, neuroimaging, and neuropsychology, and she greatly looks forward to starting at Suffolk University in the fall! In her spare time, she loves running, cooking, and watching sci-fi.

Kerrie Pieloch is from Nesconset, NY and a Long Island girl at heart, but has been living in Boston (and loving it!) for the past 6 years. She graduated from Boston College in 2011 with a B.A. in Psychology and is now working as a lab manager at the Harvard Lab for Developmental Studies. Her research interests include developmental psychopathology and trauma within immigrant and refugee families. In her free time she can be found singing, reading, or enjoying the great artistic culture in Boston!

The Psychology department would also like to welcome Grace Gu, Kristin Serowik, and Kay Schwader.

Diversity in Clinical Training Seminar by OUTREACH Fellows Aparna Arjunan and Jamila Ray

On March 21st, we were pleased to begin a series of roundtable discussions focusing on specific issues related to diversity in clinical settings. The first seminar featured Dr. Jillian Shiperd, a clinical psychologist in the Women’s Health Sciences Division at Boston’s VA hospital and the chairperson for their Interdisciplinary Transgender Treatment Team. Dr. Shiperd led an interactive and informative discussion about what it is like to work with transsexual veterans, offering insight into the concerns and questions raised by both students and faculty in attendance. We were grateful to Dr. Shiperd for her willingness to come and share her expertise with us and hope that all who attended enjoyed it as much as we did!

The OUTREACH fellowship was developed to attract and support students with a commitment to working with socially and/or economically disadvantaged populations. As OUTREACH Fellows and clinicians-in-training, we hope to contribute to the promotion of diversity within the psychology department by identifying and building awareness of the problems faced by diverse groups. In the coming semesters, we look forward to continuing these events as an outlet for students to discuss and learn from the experiences of faculty members or psychologists from the community, while gaining knowledge of how to successfully serve multicultural clientele. Stay tuned in the Fall for the scheduling of future seminars!
Undergraduate Psychology Club
By Eric Gerdner BS’13

Establishing a club presence has been the central focus for the Psychology Club this year. In an attempt to arrive at our vision, the club held our first ever “Career Panel”! Earlier this spring, local helping professionals came in to speak to the club’s undergraduates with the aim to provide relevant information about the journey into a field-related vocation, as well as provide the undergraduates with practical insight about their career. The event is regarded as a success as it fulfilled what it was designed to do – it brought together plenty of valuable information and friendly new faces alike. Hopefully this will be the start of a new tradition!

Next year’s club officers will be Laurah Shames (President), Maria Lopez (Vice President), Natasha Nathan (Treasurer), and Kara Alexandre (Secretary). I know they will receive a warm welcome as they assume their new roles in the fall, and push the club forward to bigger and better things! As the year comes to a close, I would like to voice my deep appreciation for Dr. Amy Marks’ support, assistance, and charisma. I admire her encouraging and positive demeanor and have relished our time together. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of the Psychology Club with those I came to call my friends. With all sincerity, thank you everyone – and best wishes for the years to come!

Living Learning Community
By Reycine Thomas BS’14

The Psychology Living Learning Community at Suffolk University has had a fantastic year! The students have had the unique opportunity to get more involved in the Psychology community through programming, being a part of a tight-knit community of students within the Residence Halls with whom they share a common major (Psychology), and getting to know the faculty on a more personal level.

For our first field trip of the spring semester, we paid a second visit to the McGovern Brain Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in which we got to hear more about the research going on at MIT and see some of the top-notch facilities and machinery that they have at their disposal. Students got more information about summer research opportunities at the university and also about studies in which they may be interested in being participants. This trip gave students the perfect opportunity to learn more about some fields in psychology that they may not usually consider at first, such as neuropsychology, neurotherapy, and behavioral neuroscience.

For our second trip of the semester, we visited the Suffolk County Jail on Nashua Street (close to the Science Park T-station on the green line). We got a chance to explore the jail and learn more about booking and bail procedures, as well as the screening process for a person who has just been arrested. We got to see the psych ward and the medical ward, the detainees housing units, and we went into one of the cells to see how people in jail live. The best part of the trip, though, was speaking to one of the detainees. I cannot describe the impact that talking to him had on all of us. It was amazing to hear the story of someone who has had several incarcerations and arrests speak about what he has learned for the time that he has been in jail and how much he wants to change his way of life. After he left, the Sergeant that took us on the tour, Sergeant Abe Ayuso, gave us a talk about the kind of people he sees coming through the jail and why it is so important not to fall into bad company. All in all, the jail trip is DEFINITELY one I would recommend for the LLC for the next academic year.

Our final program of the year (which was held on April 23rd) was a dinner in which the students had the opportunity to reflect on the year and discuss the ways the LLC may be improved for the next academic year. We also had a presentation by Dr. David Shumaker about “Children that Kill”. In light of the negative events that occurred in Boston on Marathon Monday it was good to learn a little about some of the factors that may lead young people to doing something as extreme as killing another human being. The presentation was very well received and it gave us a chance to get some of our frustrations out about the week of the Boston Marathon. It was honestly a great way to wrap up the year!

I have high hopes for the Psychology LLC for the next academic year. The students thoroughly enjoyed the events this year and feel much more connected to the Psychology department. Taking the same General Psychology class for their first semester, having the opportunity to interact with faculty and staff outside of a formal setting, being advised by the Chair of the Psychology department and advisor for the LLC – Dr. Gary Fireman – for class registration, and having their Resident Assistant (me) as a resource for guiding them through the year has made them all much more invested in paving their future in Psychology. And even though I will be passing on the responsibility of leading the LLC for the next academic year to one of my current LLC residents, Reid Fultz, I know that the LLC is in great hands and that both Reid and Dr. Fireman will create magic for the students next year! I cannot wait to see the growth that the LLC is going to undergo over the next few years and the great things that are to come!
On April 25th, the induction ceremony for 14 members of Psi Chi was held in the Amenities Conference Room with Dr. Amy Marks presiding. Guest speakers, Shamiria Lindsey and Dr. Lance Swenson, of the Suffolk Psychology Ph.D. program, gave words of encouragement to the new initiates. Please join us in congratulating the new members:

Kelli Accardi  
Jennifer Capezzuto  
Ashley Chello  
Amanda Gilsey  
Margaret Hillman  
Thanh Huynh  
Abigail Kim  
Maria Lopez  
Sean Patrick McCormick  
Natasha Nathan  
Vicky Nguyen  
Valerie Ryan  
Ammy Sena  
Jennifer Weber

All of these students fulfilled the following membership requirements:
- Overall GPA > 3.0
- Psychology GPA > 3.4
- At least 5 psychology courses taken in residence at Suffolk University.

To learn more about Psi Chi, contact our faculty advisor, Dr. Amy Marks, at akmarks@suffolk.edu

Above: Newly inducted members pose with advisor Dr. Amy Marks, and speakers Shamiria Lindsey and Dr. Lance Swenson

Below: Dr. Lance Swenson congratulates inductees while offering words of wisdom

Bottom left: Psychology faculty pose with a new member during the post-induction reception

Bottom right: Psychology faculty listen intently as their students are being addressed (Drs. Michael Suvak, Rose DiBiase, Dave Gansler, & Gary Fireman)
Alumni Highlight: Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

Dr. Lauren Mizock ’10 came to Boston from Chicago for the clinical psychology program at Suffolk University and hasn’t left since. As an Outreach Fellow at Suffolk University, she received invaluable support to devote her clinical and research efforts to underserved populations. She continued that focus as a predoctoral intern at the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Mizock went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at Boston University in mental illness research and currently holds a position as Assistant Professor at Worcester State University. In addition, Dr. Mizock carries a practice of outpatient therapy clients in Allston, MA where she specializes in multicultural issues, serious mental illness, and substance abuse. Dr. Mizock has published over 20 articles and co-authored a book with her former dissertation advisor, Debra Harkins, on multicultural research methodology: Researcher Race: Social Constructions in the Research Process. She conducts research with a wide range of participants who encounter stigma related to transgender identity, mental illness, racism, and weight.

What is your favorite memory at Suffolk?
I have so many fond memories of the faculty – thought-provoking discussions in Dr. Harkins’ seminars, sharing our first memories with Dr. Sandberg, celebrating a publication with Dr. Wells, late night neuropsychology lectures with Dr. Moes, analyzing role plays with Dr. Basseches, Dr. Gansler’s assessment demonstrations, talking about self-care in Dr. Ray’s course, mindfulness activities with Dr. Orsillo, learning about resiliency with Dr. Coyne. I remember a particularly funny moment in Dr. Bursik’s teaching psychology course where we became so vivacious during a debate that a faculty member next door had to ask us to quiet down. I’ll also never forget getting the call from Dr. Katz to inform me of my acceptance into the Outreach Fellowship. It was one of my finest days ever.

Do you have any advice for current graduate students at Suffolk University?
Most of my classmates and I encountered at least one roadblock at some point in our trajectory – whether matching to internship, completing research, or passing comps and licensure exams. Reaching out to students ahead of me in the program was invaluable to identifying strategies for overcoming hurdles and preparing for interviews at new sites. Throughout the ups and downs, I have always stayed connected to a sense of gratitude to be a part of such a fulfilling profession where I get to wear multiple hats as a therapist, researcher, and teacher. I recommend that other students stay connected to their mission throughout the process to provide endurance throughout a lengthy, but meaningful journey.

Alumni Highlight: School Counseling

Allison McNamara ’12 graduated from Boston University in 2007 with a B.A. in Psychology and went on to work there as an Admissions Coordinator in the Undergraduate Admissions Office. Her love of working with students led her to pursue a School Counseling degree, and she graduated with her M.Ed. from Suffolk University in 2012. She is currently working as a high school guidance counselor at Nipmuc Regional High School in Upton, MA, and feels very fortunate to be working with faculty who are supportive and involved. Allison currently lives in Somerville but hopes to move further west soon to cut down on her commute.

What is your favorite memory at Suffolk?
It may sound cliché, but I would say my favorite memory was graduation. Not necessarily in a “oh, thank goodness it’s finally over!” way, but more because it was a culmination of everything we had done to get there. It was a time to reflect back on all the hard work we had done – the papers, the projects, the long internship hours followed by long class hours – and to reflect on the continued support we had from professors, family, classmates, and friends. It was a great feeling to know we had come so far and accomplished our goals. My classmates and I were so proud of ourselves.

Do you have any advice for current students at Suffolk University?
Start your job search early. Make an appointment with the Career Center and utilize their services. They can help you polish up a resume or cover letter, or give you interviewing tips. This is something I never did, but I really wish I had! The job search process can be stressful, but don’t give up hope. If you keep plugging away, you will find something. Do your best to network with professors and people at your internship or co-op, too. You never know what opportunities might be out there.

Want more information about the Office of Career Services and Cooperative Education?
Check out their website: http://www.suffolk.edu/campuslife/3281.php
Alumni Highlight: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Justine Romano '09 has a Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA) in Psychology from Suffolk University, a Masters in Social Work (MSW) from Boston College and is a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) in the state of Massachusetts. She currently holds the title of Clinical Social Worker at Boston Medical Center in the Hematology and Medical Oncology Department. Her role is to provide emotional support to patients and their family members especially throughout the cancer continuum (diagnosis, treatment and survivorship) as well as connect patients with community resources that may serve their needs such as financial assistance, access to food and stable housing etc. Justine works on a multidisciplinary team in order to best serve the patient and increase continuity of care. She provides direct patient care through short term and brief intervention. She is currently the Psychosocial Services Coordinator for the Cancer Care Committee at Boston Medical Center, leads many support groups through our cancer care services at Boston Medical and works closely with the cancer care support coordinator on the development of new groups for our patients. She also heads the social work technology committee at the hospital and has designed and created internal and external websites for social work. Justine is a member of the in-service committee which provides continuing education to social workers in the hospital as well as a member of the bereavement committee for the hospital that works in providing education and resources to staff around end of life issues for their patients. She is certified for critical incident debriefings and provides debriefings to staff when a traumatic situation occurs. Justine is currently leading social work's participation in the Channel 7 Health Expo that will take place this summer, plans to supervise a social work intern in the fall and looks forward to gaining further licensure as a social worker.

What is your favorite memory at Suffolk?
My favorite memory at Suffolk University is working in Dr. Bursik’s research lab. I enjoyed my time assisting with entering data, scheduling and assisting with administering testing to research participants. This experience gave me direct insight into the research field and what it would be like if I were to pursue a career with a research focus. I enjoyed the staff I worked with and was able to get guidance about my future and career decisions.

Do you have any advice for current students at Suffolk University?
The advice I would give undergraduate students would be to take classes of all disciplines to gain insight into other fields which will give you more information about what you picture yourself doing for a career. I started in the business school and once I took my first psych 101 course I knew I truly enjoyed psychology. I continued to take more psych classes and decided to change my major and now I am very thankful I decided to take that psych 101 class.

What else should we know?
My decision to pursue social work was based on the flexibility of the degree. I had options of multiple different environments to work in as well as with many different populations. I enjoy research but my personal goals at the time of graduation were in direct care and intervention.

Alumni Highlight: Mental Health Counseling

Laura Brenninkmeyer ‘09 came to Boston from Toronto to attend undergraduate at Boston College in 2002, after which she stuck around and entered the dual masters program in Criminal Justice and Mental Health Counseling at Suffolk in 2007. After completing her degree Laura worked in the trauma and crisis counseling field. She is currently splits her time working as an Emergency Services Clinician for the Boston Emergency Services Team and Emergency Psychiatric Clinician at Bayridge Hospital.

What is your favorite memory at Suffolk?
The opportunity to work with professors on research studies and collaborate on published papers

Do you have any advice for current students at Suffolk University?
Use the internship and practicum years to explore new areas of counseling that you may not have considered.

Want to stay connected with our alumni network? Update your contact info: http://www.suffolk.edu/alumni/1332.php
Department Announcements

- Dr. Sue Orsillo participated on an expert panel to discuss coping with trauma on Channel 5 (Boston) during the coverage of the Healing Service on April 18th and she was interviewed for a piece on coping with worry that appeared in For Women First.
- Susie Margolis recently accepted a post-doctoral position at Tufts University.
- Stephanie Czech and Johnny Lee both recently accepted positions at Brown University.
- Eva Woodward got engaged to her wonderful partner, Jack, who came with her to Boston all the way from Oklahoma 4 years ago!

Department Publications and Presentations

**Publications**


**Presentations**


Injury in a College Sample. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, National Harbor, MD.


Danitz, S. B. (November, 2012). Panelist in J. Block-Lerner & L. Cardaciotto (Chairs), Building psychological flexibility within and outside of the classroom: ACT-Based Approaches in higher education. Panel presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, National Harbor, MD.


Symposium presentation for the Mas-
munication among Adult Internet Users

Orsillo, S.M., & Roemer, L. (2013, March). The Mindful Way through Anxi-
ey: Acceptance-based Behavioral Thera-
pies in Practice. Invited Master Lecture at the New Jersey Association of
 Cognitive Behavioral Therapists, NJ.

Negreira, A.M., Gansler, D., Jer-
ram, M. (2013). Cerebellar Contribu-
tions to the Processing of Dominance in Emotion. Presented at the 6th Annual
Conference on Social and Affective
Neuroscience, San Francisco, CA.

Poynton, T. (Presenter & Author). Evidence Based School Counseling
Conference, "EZAnalyze TimeTrack-
er," Northern Kentucky University,
 Erlanger, KY. (March 19, 2013).

Poynton, T. (Presenter & Author). Evidence Based School Counseling
Conference, "Advanced Data Analy-
sis," Northern Kentucky University,
 Erlanger, KY. (March 18, 2013).

Poynton, T. (Presenter & Author). Evidence Based School Counseling
Conference, "Analyzing Data and Interven-
tion Evaluation," Northern Kentucky University,
 Erlanger, KY. (March 18, 2013).

Quiñones, T., Wells, Y., & Swen-
son, L. (2013, January). Political Or-
tention, social desirability, and multi-
cultural competencies: Intersecting variables in
multicultural education. Poster present-
ed at the National Multicultural Sum-
mit, Houston, TX.

Ray, S., Arntz, D. L., Coville, L.
(2012, October). Teaching Psychology
from Social Justice & Global Perspective:
An Experiential & Integrated Approach to Learning. Symposium presentation for the New England Psychological Association 2012 Annual Meeting,
Worcester, MA

Ray, S., Asher, S., Arntz, D. L.,
Coville, L., & Muscolino, A. (2012, October): An Exploratory Study on
Offscale Characteristics and Offline Com-
munication among Adult Internet Users. Symposium presentation for the Mas-
achusetts Psychological Association

Annual Conference 2012, Nor-
wood, MA

Rood, B. & Pantalone, D. (2013, March). Distinct coping combina-
tions moderate the relation between depression and support-service utili-
zation for HIV-positive men who have sex with men. Poster present-
et at the Annual Meeting and
Scientific Sessions of the Society of
Behavioral Medicine, San Fran-
cisco, CA.

Ruiz, S.M., Oscar-Berman, M.,
Gravitz, Z., Luhar, R., Valmas,
M., Parikh, P., Sawyer, K.S., Lehar,
S., Harris, G.J. (2012) Hippocam-
pal subfield volumes in chronic alco-
holism: Associations with drinking history and memory ability. Society for
Neuroscience Meeting, New
Orleans, LA.

Seaboyer, L. M., Batejan, K.,
Swenson, L.P., Muenlenkamp, J.
J. (2013, May) NSSI Severity as a
Moderator of Gender and Others’ Knowledge of NSSI. Poster presenta-
tion accepted at the annual
meeting of the Association of
Psychological Sciences, Washin-
gton, D.C.


Swenson, L. P., Jarvi, S. M.,
Batejan, K. L., & Muehlenkamp, J.
J. (2012, November). Dietary Habits, Physical Activity, and Non-
Suicidal Self-Injury. Poster present-
et at the annual conference of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, National Harbor, MD.

Taylor, N. D. & Fireman, G.
(2012, November). Trait hostility, perceived stress, and sleep quality: Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Thera-
pies, Baltimore, MD.

Valentine, S. E., Pantalone, D.

Syndemic indicators predict poor medication adherence and in-
creased health care utilization for urban HIV-positive sexual minori-
ty men. Poster presentation at the 34th Annual Meeting & Scien-
tific Sessions of the Society of
Behavioral Medicine, San Fran-
cisco, CA.

Valmas, M.M., Gansler,
D.A., Oscar-Berman, M.
(2013). Construct and criterion
validity of social cognition
measures in alcoholism. Poster
to be presented at the Interna-
tional Neuropsychological Soci-
ety 41st Annual Meeting in
2013, Waikoloa, HI.

nection in Women’s Resilience and Posttraumatic Growth, poster presenta-
tion, Eastern Psychological Association, New
York, NY.

Woodward, E. N., Pantalone,
D. W., & Gray, T. W. (2013, January). Evaluation of an inter-
personal theory of suicide in a sex-
ual minority sample. Poster pre-
sentation at the 8th Biennial
National Multicultural Summit,
Houston, TX.

Woodward, E. N., Pantalone,
D. W., & Gray, T. W. (2012, November). An empirical test of Joiner’s interpersonal theory of suicide risk in sexual minori-
ty men and women. Poster pre-
sentation at the 46th Annua-
1al Convention of the Associa-
tion for Behavioral and Cogni-
tive Therapies. National Har-
bor, MD.

Zinoviev, D., Stefanescu, D.,
Swenson, L., & Fireman, G.
(2012, November) Semantic
Networks of Interest in Online
NSSI Communities. Paper pre-
sentation at the annual meeting of
ACM Web Science, Evanston,
IL.

Dissertation Defenses

Sarah Bankoff successfully defended her dissertation on

Katherine Bedard successfully defended her dissertation on April 8th, 2013: Mixed-Methods Development of the Female Adoles-
cent Sexual Identity in Context (FASIC) Measure.

Stephanie Czech successfully defended her dissertation on April 9th, 2013: Characteristics of Depressive Subtypes among Type 2 Diabetic Patients in Primary Care and Their Asso-
ciation with Glycemic Control.

Mallory Dimler successfully defended her dissertation on April 4th, 2013: An Examination of Skin Color Dissatisfaction and Skin Color Altering Behaviors among Asian Women Living in the U.S.

Parastoo Ghazi successfully defended her dissertation on April 11th, 2013: Female Sexual Response to Female-Oriented Pornogra-
phy: Video Versus Narrative.

Debra Glick successfully defended her dissertation on March 28th, 2013: A Comparison of the Effects of Two Interventions for Reduc-
ing Academic Procrastination: Acceptance-Based Behavioral Therapy vs. Time Manage-
ment.

Tristan Guarini successfully defended his dissertation on April 1st, 2013: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Identity Formation in Female-Assigned Transgender People.

Madeleine Karpel successfully defended her dissertation on March 28th, 2013: Non-Suicidal Self-

Congratulations Graduates!

Injury: The Predictive Contributions of Dissociation and Executive Functions.


**Krystle Rivera** successfully defended her dissertation on April 8th, 2013 entitled: Psychological Adaptability, Immigrant Generation Status, and Ethnic Identity Development across the College Years.


**Alysha Thompson** successfully defended her dissertation on April 1st, 2013 entitled: The Role of Parental Social Support and Psychological Flexibility in the Transmission of Depressive Symptomatology from Mother to Child.

Left: Ph.D students, Mary Beth McCullough and Bridgid Conn presenting at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in April 2013 in Seattle, WA.

Right: Ph.D. students, Tim Quiñones and Eva Woodward presenting at the National Multicultural Summit in January 2013 in Houston, TX.
Chair’s Notes by Dr. Gary Fireman

To all our Undergraduate, Masters, and Doctoral students who have graduated this year, Congratulations! This is a fantastic accomplishment. An event that is worth recognition for your time and effort along with great appreciation for the support provided by those dear to you. At every level, Suffolk’s psychology students have achieved notable accomplishments and are ready for your next professional steps in the workforce or in furthering your education. Our past graduates have gone on to careers in a range of exciting areas and, with the addition of our two new Masters programs, this track record of accomplishment will certainly continue to improve. Several examples of alumni accomplishments are noted in this newsletter! We truly thank all the Psychology students and those that supported them for making the Suffolk University Psychology Department such an exciting place to learn and grow.

During the past year our undergraduate have won several awards, presented posters at National Conferences, engaged in community service, and completed internship experiences throughout the Boston Metropolitan area. You have provided essential feedback that has been utilized in our curriculum review and a new Majors Curriculum design has been developed. This will be implemented for incoming Freshman. Further we have two new courses to be offered in the future, Forensic Psychology and Psychology of Emotion, both in response to your feedback. Thank you for helping us to provide an educational foundation that is useful to you in your professional lives.

Our graduate students have also had an excellent year in presenting posters at National conferences, publishing papers in journals and book chapters, applying for and obtaining Grants and National Awards, and providing valuable school based, mental health counseling, and clinical services throughout the Boston Metropolitan community. Our students are partnering with some of the most prestigious institutions in the region and the country (e.g., see this newsletter for internship placements). The integration of the two Masters programs into the department has been smooth and to our advantage as a whole. Thanks Masters folk!

I also encourage everyone to congratulate Professors Amy Marks and David Shumaker. Both were promoted to Associate Professor and awarded Tenure this Spring. This is a huge accomplishment and well deserved by both. We are so fortunate as a department and a community to have such wonderful faculty. I am thrilled for them both and feel lucky to be their colleague.

This is an exciting time to be part of the Psychology Department and to be part of Suffolk University. Several positive changes have and are taking place. Please visit the newly redesigned web pages to get some insight into what is happening in our community. Go Rams!