Meet the New Department Chair!

Amy K. Marks, PhD was appointed as the new Department Chair of the Psychology Department at the start of the 2017 fall semester. Prior to being appointed Chair, Dr. Marks was the Director of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies for the department since 2010, and has been an integral part of the department since joining the faculty in 2007. She received her doctoral degree from Brown University in Developmental and Experimental Psychology, and obtained a B. A. from Cornell University in Biology. Dr. Marks’ research and teaching interests lie in ethnic identity development and social/peer processes in childhood and adolescence among mixed heritage and immigrant youth. This also includes researching characteristics of social settings that support immigrant and ethnic minority children’s development. Dr. Marks wrote about her scholarship in her fall welcome email to our undergraduate students:

As a researcher and community member, my scholarship has long focused on understanding inequality in young people’s health and wellbeing. I have studied phenomena such as racism and discrimination, risk and resiliency, and their relations...
The Mental Health Counseling (MHC) Program is off to a great start this fall. A strong class of first year students have hit the ground running in our two-year 60-credit Master’s program, while our second year and Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) students are completing a range of practicum and internship experiences at excellent training sites throughout the greater Boston area. Several of our first year practicum and second year internship students are working at a variety of exceptional placements this year, including the Lesley University Counseling Center, the Walker School, the Commonwealth Care Alliance, and Volunteers of America. It is so nice to see so many of our students during non-class hours working and congregating throughout our department—your presence injects a wonderful vibe and sense of electricity into our community.

Our growth in the dual-degree programs mirror the overall program growth, with several in our cohort of first-year students pursuing either the Masters in Mental Health Counseling/Masters in Criminal Justice or Masters in Mental Health Counseling/Masters in Public Administration joint programs. The mutual support between our program, the criminal justice and public administration programs provides our students with a cohesive and rich learning experience. We believe these dual-degree programs represent another unique and innovative way to train our students to respond to the increasingly complex demands of the field and society at large. For those Suffolk undergraduate students who may be considering a career in mental health counseling, but have a strong interest in justice and/or public administration, we encourage you to look closely at our dual-degree options.

We are still accepting applications for our accelerated BS/MS degree program. Junior Psychology majors are eligible to apply upon meeting certain academic requirements with the deadline for applications due on February 1, 2018. Suffolk undergraduates who enroll in the program will take two courses in our program during their senior year (one in the fall and spring semester) and use the credits earned in these courses for both their bachelor and master’s degrees. We think this program provides outstanding Suffolk Undergraduate psychology majors an excellent way to get a sense of our program and its culture sooner than most students. It will also afford these outstanding students both a cost and anxiety savings by waiving the graduate entrance examination requirement for admission and reducing a student’s overall course load. Interested undergraduate psychology majors should speak to their advisors, or contact me at dshumaker@suffolk.edu for more information.

In closing we wish all our students, the department, and the University at large, a happy and safe holiday season.

Interested in a career in mental health counseling?
Visit our webpage to learn more about the Master’s Degree Program!
http://www.suffolk.edu/college/graduate/69292.php
Psychology Department Participates in #SUSS2017

GVT, ECON, PSYCH, SOC, & PPE present the 2nd annual Suffolk University Social Sciences Day (#SUSS2017).

#SUSS2017: Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Join us for any or all of the following events that focus on getting to know your neighbors in other departments as well as how to be good neighbors in the global community.

Come to breakfast on Tuesday to learn details about our scavenger hunt and the prizes you can win!

OCTOBER 3rd & 4th

The Psychology Department, along with Government, Economics, Sociology and PPE, hosted the second annual Suffolk University Social Sciences Day (#SUSS2017). SUSS was started last year as a way to bring the social science majors together to experience the wonderful interdisciplinary partnership between departments, meet professors, learn about different topics from a full social science perspective, and most importantly—meet other majors. This two day event was packed with information sessions to help guide a student’s career, panel lectures on hot current topics in our global neighborhood, and food! The overarching theme for the event this year was “being neighborly” and argyle socks were handed out as swag to those that attended the different sessions. From the Psychology Department, Professors Yvonne Wells, Sukanya Ray, David Medoff, Sue Orsillo and John Smolinsky all participated in well attended panel lectures along with faculty members from the other departments. Student Anna Margaryan from the Sociology Department, won the photo scavenger hunt. And while Psychology lost the winning trophy for Family Feud from last year, there is always next year to regain that title. We look forward to joining Government, Economics, Sociology, and PPE in planning for #SUSS2018!

Schedule of Events

**Tuesday**

9:30 - 10:40  Breakfast with the Chairs (73 Tremont, room 8004)

10:50 - 12:05  Military First! What makes North Koreans Tick? Special session of Weiqi Zhang’s GVT 281, joined by Prof. Friedrich Lehr, Ron Saleski, and Greg Fried (SMT 217)

12:15 - 1:30  FOOD and FEUD! Watch members from each department square off in a game of FAMILY FEUD, hosted by Dean Toyoda (73 Tremont, room 10100)

1:40 - 2:55  Careers and Cookies (73 Tremont, room 5045)

1:40 - 2:55  Brownie Points for Honors with Elena Laudet, Shahruz Mohaddadi, and Amy Aggian, (73 Tremont, room 1102)

3:15 - 4:15  Internship Info Session with Sue Orsillo, Christina Kalich-Valvulias, and Felicia Wilta, Jeff Johnson (73 Tremont, room 8002)

**Wednesday**

9 - 10  Breakfast with the Chairs (73 Tremont, room 8004)

10:00 - 11:50  Global Neighborhood with Rachael Cobb, David Tuerck, Yvonne Wells, Susan Sered, and Greg Fried (Sawyer 115)

11:00 - 11:50  Challenges to Being Neighborly in the Asian Region with Jonathan Haughton, Sukanya Ray, Friedrich Lehr, and Weiqi Zhang (73 Tremont, room 10100)

12:15 - 1:05  The Wait! Drug Control Policy in the U.S. with Maureen Norten-Hawk, Eric Bellune, Shahruz Mohaddadi, John Smolinsky and Greg Fried (73 Tremont, room 5040)

1:40 - 2:55  Impacts and Responses to Natural Disasters with Carmen Vitoria, Roberto Dominguez, and Amy Aggian (Somerset 326)

3:05 - 4:20  Accelerated Programs with David Medoff, Don Morton, Greg Fried and Brian Conley (73 Tremont, room 1098)
Meet the 2017-2018 Work-Study Students

Isis Almazan Garcia is a junior psychology major working her third year with the department. Isis loves all the opportunities that have been (and still are) presented to her; including: working with talented, intelligent faculty & staff and learning about specific opportunities in the field of psychology. She is planning on applying to Ph.D programs next year and has been hard at work filling her time with research and internships to build her resume and experience. Isis even attended an Honor’s conference in Atlanta to present a poster (see page 14 for details).

Mykala Luk is a sophomore double majoring in psychology and criminal justice. Mykala is also the President of the student run Psychology Association, and was one of the founding members who brought the club back to campus. She is excited about all of the opportunities that come along with working in the Psychology Department and really enjoys the people she is surrounded by. After earning her degree, Mykala plans to expand her knowledge of criminal psychology and hopes to someday become a criminal profiler.

Dex Windevoschel is a Puerto Rican native who is in his sophomore year studying psychology. He enjoys working in the Psychology Department because he believes he's learning a lot of skills that could help him later on in his professional career. After graduation, Dex plans to work and save up money to leave Boston and continue with his studies in Europe, and eventually become a neuropsychologist.

Leilani Chin is a junior majoring in psychology with a minor in sociology that she started this year. Leilani is excited to work in the Psychology Department because it is a great learning opportunity and she enjoys the people in the department. After graduation, she plans on attending graduate school and wants to someday become a clinical psychologist.

Eleni Koutsoukou is a senior majoring in psychology and will be graduating in December. Elena is originally from Thessaloniki, Greece. She has worked in the Psychology Department for 2 years and is also a part of the Honor’s college. She loves working with the staff in the department and getting to know the professors. After earning her degree from Suffolk, Elena will be going to graduate school to study business.

Jessie Bui is a junior Honors student majoring in psychology and minoring in biology. This is her 2nd year working in the Psychology Department. Jessie loves working with the staff in the department because they are laid back, and she also appreciates getting to know the professors that seek her help with projects. After earning her degree, Jessie hopes to continue on with her education and get a Ph.D in Clinical Psychology.
Faculty Highlight

Psychology Faculty Member Receives $5.8K Grant

The Psychology Department is excited to announce that Dr. Sarah Schwartz, Assistant Professor, is the recipient of a $580,000 grant for her mentoring research from the WT Grant Foundation. Her study focuses on understanding how to bolster the social capital, networks and information available to first generation college students. Dr. Schwartz has been a member of the Suffolk community for almost three years, and we commend her for her research, contributions to the field of psychology, and obtaining this grant! Please join us in congratulating Sarah and read on to learn more and see what she had to share.

Q + A with Dr. Sarah Schwartz

What do you like best about teaching at Suffolk?
I love getting to know students and the diverse stories and experiences they bring with them. I am continually learning from my students, and their curiosity and enthusiasm is an inspiration. I also appreciate Suffolk's student-centered mission that emphasizes the importance of connections between students and faculty.

What advice would you like to give others thinking about applying for grants?
As Gary Fireman told me when we were discussing whether I should apply, “If you don’t apply, then you guarantee you won’t get the funding” (thanks for persuading me to apply, Gary!). Applying for external funding is definitely a significant time commitment, so it can be challenging to find the time amidst all of our other responsibilities, but I also find that it can be a wonderful opportunity to develop ideas—and I try to persuade myself that it is a worthwhile exercise whether or not the grant is actually awarded!

How will this grant help your research?
This funding will allow us to conduct an evaluation of an intervention that I developed to help underrepresented and first-generation college students cultivate mentoring relationships and other forms of social capital that play such an important role in academic and career success, but are often overlooked. Preliminary studies point to the intervention’s promise (including work that McKenna Parnes, 2nd year doctoral student, is conducting for her masters level research project), but this grant will allow for a more rigorous large-scale evaluation to test the intervention’s effectiveness and mechanisms of change prior to dissemination. The grant also provides much-needed funding for students to assist with the project.

Are you on LinkedIn?
Join the Suffolk University Psychology Department page and stay up to date!
https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5173373
Dissertation Defenses

Congratulations to the following Clinical Psychology students who successfully defended their doctoral dissertations this past summer!

Diana Artnz
Correlates of Healthcare Disparities among Filipino Americans: An Exploratory Study

Vanessa Alvarez
Exploring the Relationship Between Self-Compassion and Other Focused Concern Using a Multimethod Approach

Alyssa Peechatka
Relating Smoking Cue Reactivity with Non-Drug Reward Function in a Sample of Nicotine Dependent Smokers

Aparna Arjunan
Impact of Emotional State on Accuracy of Emotion Recognition: Examining the Influence of Global/Local Processing

Alyson Negreira
Bottom-Up and Top-Down Pathways in Emotion Processing: An fMRI Study to Assess Neuroanatomical Validity

Meet the newest team member: Dr. John Smolinsky

Dr. Smolinsky is a 2007 Clinical Psychology Suffolk University Ph.D graduate, but his connection to Suffolk University dates back to 1993 when he began his undergraduate studies here as well. Although Dr. Smolinsky began his college career in the Sawyer School of Business with a major in marketing, he explains that he was recruited to psychology by Dr. Robert Webb (Professor Emeritus) and returned for his sophomore year as a psychology major. After earning his Bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1997, spending some time living abroad, and studying Mental Health Counseling for a brief period at Lesley University, he couldn’t stay away from the Suffolk community and returned to Suffolk to earn his PhD.

Dr. Smolinsky completed a pre-doctoral internship and a two year post-doctoral residency in clinical neuropsychology at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VA Hospital in Bedford, MA. where he was hired on as a full time member of the psychology staff in 2010. While at the Bedford VA, John oversaw the operations of two residential rehab and treatment programs for homeless veterans, as well as was a practicum supervisor for our clinical Ph.D students. John has also remained an active member of the Suffolk teaching community since graduating as an adjunct professor in both the Mental Health Counseling and Undergraduate Programs and he even participated in this year’s Social Sciences Day giving a collaborative lecture on Drug Policy in the United States. He is now settling into his new role with us as Clinical Training Coordinator where he is working on developing practicum and intern sites for the Mental Health Counseling program. We are so happy to have him as part of the team!

What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Suffolk?

One of my favorite memories at Suffolk was the sense of accomplishment and pride that I felt defending my dissertation before the same professor that convinced me to study psychology fourteen years earlier. My entire dissertation committee was made up of folks who truly meant something to my academic career and that made an important moment feel even more special. To now work alongside some of those same members as a colleague is a rewarding and exciting experience.
Psychology Honor Students Present!
On December 13, 2017, three of our senior honor students presented their research at the annual Honors Winter Symposium in Sargent Hall.

On December 13th, students gathered for a community building event to raise awareness about sexual assault in response to the #metoo campaign. Stop by to see their work now on display in the department.

Psychology Dissertation Research Award
The Psychology Department will acknowledge outstanding academic achievement of a doctoral student engaged in dissertation research through its Doctoral 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!

Thank you!

If you would like to make a donation to the Dissertation Research Award, please visit: www.suffolk.edu/Giving

When donating online, please select Psychology Dissertation Award from the drop down menu.

You can also send a check by mail to:
Suffolk University Office of Advancement
73 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02108

Please indicate Psych Dissertation on the check’s memo line.

You can be confident that your donation of $25 or more will directly benefit the department's award winner, to be announced in March.
Eileen Mieses graduated from Suffolk University in 2014 with a B.S. in Psychology. Immediately upon graduating, Eileen worked as the Administrative Coordinator for the Psychology Department at Suffolk University, where she was also a former work-study student. Her job within the department entailed working with undergraduate students answering questions regarding advising, registration, internship and service learning. She played a key part in helping the department run smoothly. Eileen is currently working as a Pathway Coach in an Early College program at North Shore Community College where she works directly with low income, first generation high school students looking to get a head start on college courses. After careful consideration, she will begin a master’s program for Higher Education and Student Affairs at Salem State University starting Fall 2018.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Suffolk?

A few of my favorite memories as a student include the volunteering opportunities available to me, and the close knit feel in each of my classes. I especially loved the discourse in senior seminar with Dr. Wells, and the consumer psych course with Dr. Ray. I have great memories with both Yvonne and Sukanya and thank them for their advice and patience with me while I narrowed down my interest with the psychology field.

As a staff member at Suffolk University, my favorite memory is Gary running through our old department in Donahue. Gary preferred face to face interaction with his colleagues and was always running out of his office to go and talk with someone. My fondest memory is packing up the department for the move from 41 Temple to 73 Tremont. It felt as though it took forever to happen, but watching the effort of staff and faculty come together was an experience I will never forget.

“I strongly advise all psych majors to use their advisor as a sounding board and to not miss out on their insight!”

Do you have any advice for current undergraduate students?

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL REGISTRATION TO MEET YOUR ADVISOR!!

As an undergraduate student I felt as though I never had time to meet with my advisor until the registration period. It was only until I had my advisor as a Professor that I realized the importance of sharing my academic goals with them. I strongly advise all psych majors to use their advisor as a sounding board and to not miss out on their insight! Chances are the opportunities and information you are searching for online are better conversations had with your advisor.
Brianna Blair, MS, graduated from the Mental Health Counseling program at Suffolk University this past spring, she was also the recipient of the 2017 MHC Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Prior to entering the Master’s program, Brianna received her BA in psychology from the University of Miami in 2015. During her second year in the MHC program, Briana completed her practicum training experience at the Trauma Center at Justice Resource Institute located in Brookline, MA, and upon graduating, the Trauma Center offered her a full time position that she accepted. Brianna is currently a research assistant and clinical interviewer for the Attachment, Regulation, and Competency (ARC) Randomized Control Trial.

Brianna plans to pursue a PhD in Developmental Psychology, and is excitedly applying to programs for the fall of 2018. In the future, she hopes to teach at a university and conduct research focusing on developmental psychopathology. Briana says she owes this career epiphany to one of her former professors in the MHC program, Dr. Rosemarie DiBiase, whom she did research with during her time at Suffolk.

Do you have any advice for current graduate students?

My advice for students is to always remember why you decided to pursue this program in the first place. Find what you’re passionate about, and keep that in the front of your mind; use it to keep you motivated. Balancing papers, exams, practicum, and a job definitely won’t be easy, but it will always be worth it. This field will challenge you and push you to new limits, but the reward is so special. Also, don’t forget to sneak a few good laughs in there -it’s good for your health!

“What is your fondest memory of your time at Suffolk?”

I have so many wonderful memories from my time at Suffolk, and many of those memories are of thanks to my cohort, especially during our practicum supervision class with Dr. Smolinksy. Although grad school was quite challenging at times, this class was always such a fun and enjoyable experience (and sometimes a much-needed vent session). There is something really special about enduring two years of grad school with a small, tight-knit group of people. Everyone was always so supportive of each other, and I learned just as much from them as I did from my courses.

Speaking of courses, my other favorite memory at Suffolk is without a doubt the professors. The core faculty of the program, Drs. Shumaker, DiBiase, and Medoff, are three of the best professors I’ve ever had. They not only taught us, but they challenged our ways of thinking and supported us every step of the way. Having faculty that were invested in our success and well-being was so meaningful and made the program that much more enjoyable.
Dr. Jordan enrolled in Suffolk’s Clinical Respecialization Program in 2010 after receiving his Ph.D. from Stanford and his B.A. from Harvard. He completed his internship and postdoctoral fellowship at VA Boston. He then worked as a clinical research psychologist at VA Boston and as an assistant professor at the Boston University School of Medicine before joining the staff of McLean Hospital and the faculty of Harvard Medical School. At McLean, he provides behavioral case formulation and psychotherapy as part of a multidisciplinary team at The Pavilion, an intensive residential program dedicated to comprehensive consultation, assessment, and intervention for individuals with complex and treatment-resistant psychiatric conditions. Dr. Jordan also operates a private practice.

Outside his clinical work, Dr. Jordan is an adjunct professor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, where he teaches ethics to MBA students and provides leadership coaching in the executive education program. He also serves on the faculty of Dartmouth’s Master of Health Care Delivery Science program. In 2015 and 2016, he had the pleasure of teaching social psychology to Suffolk’s doctoral students.

“What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Suffolk?”

I loved pretty much all the time I spent in the psych department itself (back then, the sixth floor of Donahue!). The faculty and the students were so warm, smart, interesting, and interested. Just as much as the conversations in the classrooms, I enjoyed the hours between classes, studying and socializing with other students in the lounges. I also recall fondly the practicum courses and the meetings around internship, which provided such good guidance and a reminder of how each of us was not alone in the challenges we faced. In all respects, I found Suffolk to be an incredibly collaborative and supportive environment, just what’s needed during the emotional and intellectual trials of clinical psychological training.

“Do you have any advice for current doctoral students?”

Get to know lots of people at Suffolk, at your clinical placements, at conferences, etc. These connections will yield value in so many ways that are hard to predict!

Practice prioritization. It’s impossible to do everything super well when you’re a doctoral clinical student. Learn to tolerate putting forth “good enough” effort on the things that aren’t most important to you and your aspirations.

Spend plenty of time with loved ones who are outside your program and outside psychology altogether. This can really help to put into proper perspective all the grad school experiences that can be draining, from a poor practicum evaluation to the rejection of a cherished manuscript.
Fall 2017 was another busy and exciting semester for the Clinical Psychology PhD program. At the beginning of this year we welcomed the eight members of the 2017/2018 cohort, which includes Laura Austin (mentored by Dr. Sarah Schwartz), Sarah Hopkins (mentored by Dr. Gary Fireman), Rose Luehrs (mentored by Dr. Michael Suvak), Alexandria Miller (mentored by Dr. Sue Orsillo), Kristina Pinto (a respecialization certification candidate), Lynne-Marie Shea (mentored by Dr. Debra Harkins), Kylie Steinhilber (mentored by Dr. Sukanya Ray), and Alice Woolverton (mentored by Dr. Amy Marks). Please join me in congratulating the new cohort on successfully completing semester one of the program! We wish them the best as they continue with their first-year coursework and prepare their Early Research Project proposals.

At the other end of our program’s training continuum, I am pleased to report that 9 students are currently completing their year-long clinical internship, the “capstone” experience of clinical doctoral training. These students include: Lindsey Backer-Fulghum (Wichita State Counseling Center), Daniel Glass (Green Chimney’s Children’s Services), Zack Held (University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute), Shamiria Lindsey (Bronx VA Medical Center), Alyssa Peechatka (Harvard Medical School/McLean Hospital), Carlos Rivera (Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Health Alliance), Liorah Sabbah-Talasazan (VA Boston Healthcare System), and Maria Valmas (St. Cloud VA Health Care System). Once again our program successfully achieved an internship match rate at or above the national average. Currently we have 9 students who are applying for clinical internship for the 2018/2019 training year, and we wish them all the best as they engage in the next stages of this arduous task.

In another big of major news, our re-accreditation site-visit will be taking place on December 19th and 20th. We thank you all for your patience with our numerous requests for information and asking for your participation in the two-day site visit. It will be a wonderful opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our program, the successful outcomes we have seen these past 10 years (e.g., licensure rates, internship match rates, employment opportunities) and share our plans for the future. I look forward to reporting on the outcome of the re-accreditation process in our Spring 2018 newsletter!

The Psychology Department will be hosting Dr. Anu Asnaani from the University of Pennsylvania for a continuing education event at Suffolk on March 26, 2018. Dr. Asnaani’s topic will be navigating cultural issues in clinical practice. The event will be held from 4:30-6:00pm. Only those who RSVP will be able to attend. Open to all Licensed Psychologists, Graduate Students, and Suffolk Training Partners. Email correspondence will come at a later date with more information to sign up. If you have any questions please contact phd@suffolk.edu.

Mark your Calendar! 3/26/18
We are extremely pleased to announce that Kerrie Pieloch, a 5th year student in the PhD program has received the Grant-in-Aid from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI). The Grant-in-Aid program helps fund research aimed to target different social issues and encourages projects from underrepresented institutions, graduate students, and junior scholars. This grant is helping fund Kerrie’s dissertation, “Multilevel resilience characteristics of children with trauma histories.”

We had a chance to catch up with Kerrie and asked her to share with us her research, career goals, and some words of wisdom for future students interested in applying for grants. Please join us in congratulating Kerrie and read on to learn more and see what she had to share!

**Q+A with Kerrie Pieloch**

**What advice would you give to students thinking about applying for this, or similar, grants?**

I would suggest researching grants early, even if you are not yet eligible to apply, so that when you are eligible you have a list of different grants to apply to. I would also recommend that students seek out different funding sources in addition to grants from APA or APAGS to try to find grants that fit the niche of their research project. Also, apply to as many grants as you can and try not to be discouraged by rejections, instead take any feedback you get from rejections to improve your grant writing.

**Tell us a little bit about your research:**

My research investigates resilience characteristics for children and families with trauma histories. I view resilience as more than something someone “has” or “doesn’t have”, instead I think resilience can occur in multiple domains and can also occur even though someone has a mental illness or trauma history. Therefore, my research aims to explore resilience at multiple levels including the individual level (e.g., problem solving skills), the family level (e.g. parent-child attachment), and the community level (e.g. involvement in religious activities). I am using a mixed-methods approach and collecting data through questionnaires and interviews that I conduct with children ages 10-18 and their parents. All of the families in my study have received in-home therapy in the past and many of the families live in low-income and urban environments. I hope that my research can help inform treatment for families in similar situations and tell us something about what resilience looks like for children with different traumatic experiences.

**What are plans upon graduating?**

After graduating I plan to continue my work with children and families with trauma histories. I am passionate about clinical work and hope to work in a community or hospital-based setting with children with traumatic experiences and help them build resilience characteristics and coping skills. I also enjoy family work and plan to gain further experience with family therapy after graduation. While I plan to have a career in clinical work, I would also like to work in a setting that allows for research opportunities to help advance the field of child clinical psychology.
This fall, the department offered a successful talk with one of our own internationally recognized professors, Dr. Sue Orsillo. The program was offered as part of a doctoral student’s dissertation and was titled *The Mindful Way through Anxiety in Practice: Helping Clients to Worry Less and Live More*. It was well attended by licensed psychologists, social workers and mental health counselors from the surrounding community. The CE committee will continue to offer these types of programs to build new, as well as maintain, existing relationships with area training sites. The committee is in the process of planning an event for the upcoming spring and will be hosting Dr. Anu Asnaani from UPenn on March 26th, 2018. Dr. Asnaani is an expert on diversity issues related to CBT and other empirically-supported treatments. Please stay tuned for additional details about this event, or feel free to email us at phd@suffolk.edu.
Examining the Effect of Trauma on Community-Level Resilience in Children

Isis Garcia, a junior CAS honors student, is studying psychology with a sociology concentration in health and society. At National Collegiate Honors Council in Georgia she presented a poster on interconnectedness as a community-level resilience characteristic that can be examined to further understand how close one feels to their community. Isis conducted research with English and Spanish speaking children, and their parents, to see if there is a correlation between interconnectedness and how they may cope with traumatic experiences. Results from her study can inform best practices for providing therapy to youth and traumatic experiences.

Suffolk Psychology Club Update
By Mykala Luk

During the Fall 2017 semester, the Psychology Association (SU-PA) continued to connect psychology students with each other, as well as faculty members and liaisons in the field. Over the course of the semester, the Psychology Association held general meetings with faculty members and graduate students within the Suffolk Psychology Department. The first guest speaker was John Mckenna, a current Ph.D graduate student, who shared his wealth of knowledge about the graduate application process and his experiences going through a PhD program. Dr. Amy Marks, Chair of the Psychology Department, also attended a club meeting. She discussed her path within the field of psychology, as well as her ideas and aspirations for the Psychology community at Suffolk as the new chair of the department. Dr. Matthew Jerram was another guest speaker, sharing his experience in clinical work, as well as his recent research and interesting findings. Each guest gave a unique perspective on all of the possibilities that a degree in psychology has to offer, and the Psychology Association would like to thank our guest speakers for allowing us to pick their brains and gain invaluable knowledge as we dive deeper into our academic careers.

The Psychology Association also held a Halloween event this semester, “SU-PA Spooky”. This event was all about the five senses, with activities like a 3D sound workshop, as well as mystery boxes with strange textures inside. The club welcomed three new e-Board members for the 2017-2018 year: Treasurer Marianne Mouawad, Communications Chair Sara Mendoza, and Secretary Kate Eaton. Previous Secretary Zachary Tyler was promoted to Vice President.

Please find and follow us on Facebook at Suffolk University Psychology Association (SU-PA) where meeting information and guest speaker announcements will be posted regularly. General meetings are held every other Thursday from 12:15-1:30 in Somerset 219, please refer to the Facebook page for more details. Contact Club President, Mykala Luk, at m luk@suffolk.edu with any questions. We hope to see you next semester for more fun events and meetings!
Abigail Waters, a 2nd year doctoral student, received the International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropsychopharmacology Junior Investigator award for work done on her ERP research project. She was invited to Chicago to present and her research was published in the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.

Respecialization Alumna, Alex Jordan, who graduated from the program in 2013 (and is featured in our alumni highlight), was married on September 30th to Jessica Bruckert. Their announcement was published in the October 1, 2017 New York Times Vows edition.

On October 20, 2017, fifth year doctoral student, Jessica Pan (pictured below), married longtime partner, Mike Brickhouse.

January 2018 graduate of the PhD program, Aly Negreia, accepted for a Post Doctoral Fellowship at the Clinical Neurosciences Division of the National Center to PTSD (NCSPTSD) at the West Haven VA/Yale.

On November 5th our Program Coordinator, Katie Bolgioni, ran the Vermont 10 miler in Stowe and won first place for her age group and came in 6th overall out of 610 females.

Amanda Khan, a 5th year doctoral student, attended a Level 2 Complicated Grief Workshop at Columbia University in New York City from June 8-9th.

This year marks the 20th anniversary for Dr. Debra Harkins and Dr. Sukanya Ray with Suffolk University. Dr. Amy Marks, Dr. David Shumaker and our Program Administrator, Jessica Valente, are celebrating their 10 year anniversary with the Psychology Department.

On September 16th, Clinical Ph.D alumni, Mary Beth McCullough, married Mckinley Schroeder. The photographer was also a Suffolk psychology alum, Alysha Thompson Clouse.


Marks, A.K. Responding to Charlotessville: Classroom inclusivity and teacher biases. Lecture given at Suffolk University. (October 12, 2017).


Ray, S., Solley, S., Daly, R., Elliot, E., Dunlop, M., Monticello, A. (2017, May). FPLC Breakfast Event CTSE Suffolk, Showcase Presentation on FPLC Interdisciplinary Project, Suffolk University, Boston, MA.


Schwartz, Sarah. (2017, October). Expanding our approach to mentoring. European Center for Evidence Based Mentoring/Mass Mentor, International Short Course on Mentoring, Boston, MA.


From Left to Right: Lourah Kelly, Leela Holman, Dr. Sue Orsillo, Amanda Khan, Kristin Serowik, Aly Dick, and Grace Gu at the 51st Annual ABCT Convention in San Diego, CA.
Chair’s Notes

A promise to our students

As my first semester as Chair comes to a close, I look back on the whirlwind that this Fall has been. A whirlwind of social change and challenge – from controversial national politics to a new movement of sexual assault awareness – as well as a time of transition in our department. Gary Fireman served as Chair for 8 years, and his departure to the Provost’s office this Fall left huge shoes for me to fill. Gary was beloved by students (and still is!), and fearlessly lead our faculty through many transitions. Under his watch we merged programs with our Mental Health colleagues, re-vamped our undergraduate curriculum, moved out of the 6th floor of Donahue to our new 73 Tremont digs... all while ushering our Clinical Ph.D. program to its next re-accreditation this December. Though he now works tirelessly on behalf of the entire University to promote evidence-based learning, we miss him on the 8th floor of Tremont. “Thank you” just doesn’t capture the totality of our gratitude – but in a newsletter, it will have to do.

Looking toward the future of our Department, I feel constantly humbled and grateful. I’m humbled by the amazing colleagues I work with, and the inspiring students I get to know. I’m optimistic for our next chapter - one that will hopefully build new and lasting learning opportunities for students at all levels of their education and training. Lastly, I’m grateful. I’m grateful for the support of my colleagues and students and for their sincere commitment to bettering the lives of the individuals and communities around them through the science and practice of Psychology.

Peace and best end-of-semester wishes,

Psychology Faculty Fall 2017

Not pictured: Krisanne Bursik, Gary Fireman, Rose DiBiase, David Gansler, David Medoff

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