



**SUFFOLK
UNIVERSITY
BOSTON**

COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Newsletter

Spring 2017 | Volume 20, Issue 2

Dates to Remember

May 20
Graduate
Commencement
Ceremony

May 21
Undergraduate
Commencement
Ceremony

May 22
Summer Module 1
Begins

May 29
Memorial Day—
University Closed

July 4
Independence Day —
University Closed

July 10
Summer Module 2
Begins

August 31
PhD Orientation

September 4
Labor Day—University
Closed

September 6
Fall 2017 Courses
Begin

Psych Club is Back!

A group of motivated students, with the help of some dedicated faculty members, re-vamped the club.

For the first time since the 2012-2013 academic year, psychology students at Suffolk have come together to rebuild the Suffolk University Psychology Association Club (PsychClub) with the help of



L to R: Zach Tyler, Brenda Ntaganda, Arielle Chiarelli, Karin Israel, Mykala Luk, Qin Zhou

faculty members Dr. Debra Harkins and Dr. Sukanya Ray. During the fall semester a group of seven individuals met with one goal in mind: to build a club that would promote growth within the field of psychology and create a strong sense of community between anyone who has an interest in the

field. The club strives to promote professional development within the field, as well as expand student knowledge about psychology, and each other, in fun and interactive ways. Monthly meetings and different events include anything from informative guest speakers who are established in the field, to snacks and interactive games to get to know other psychology majors and connect real world experiences to psychology. After two successful events this year, the PsychClub has some big plans for 2017-2018. We hope to see you next year! If interested in becoming a guest speaker, contact club president Mykala Luk at mluk@suffolk.edu.

The Patriots Parade

2017 marked an exciting year for New England Patriot fans as the team won their 5th Superbowl since 2001.



To see the rest of the story go to p. 4

Meet the new Administrative Coordinator!

Kristin Kelly, a recent graduate from the University of New Hampshire joined the Psychology team.

Get to know more about Kristin on page 4

Inside this Issue

- Psi Chi Ceremony, p. 3
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- Commencement, p. 17



Mental Health Counseling Program Update

By Dr. David Shumaker

The MHC program enjoyed a very positive transition to the new 60-credit curriculum this past year. Our first cohort of students tackled the more demanding 5-course per semester curriculum with grace and determination. It was so nice to see the first-year cohort gel so nicely and support each other in both academics and life. As instructors, Dr. Medoff and myself were so impressed with the skill development our students demonstrated in the on-campus, role-play practicum. Students did a remarkable job of engaging in mock treatment scenarios involving a wide range of DSM-5 presenting diagnoses. We, as instructors, learned a lot from our students and believe this modality of training represents a very promising and critical aspect of our student experience prior to embarking on a second-year internship. We truly appreciate the courage and patience our first-year students demonstrated in rolling with the occasional bumps in the road that comes with launching a new curriculum, and we can't wait to see them thrive on internship next year.

We have also had a remarkable cohort of second-year students who are graduating this spring, many of whom will be staying on for the final year of our CAGs program. We

continue to hear wonderful reports of their progress in their practicum placements this past year, and are glad so many of them will be with us for another year. We also appreciate all of your support and patience this past year as we prepared for the final year of our CAGs program. Two marks of a great therapist are flexibility and openness to change, and you all have demonstrated these qualities in abundance.

Not to be forgotten is our cohort of students who are completing the CAGs program this spring as well. Dr. Medoff and I thoroughly enjoyed working with you and strongly believe we are graduating some very talented clinicians. As always, we hope you will keep us posted on your career progress and carve a path that brings you great satisfaction professionally. You have done some wonderful work already in your graduate training with underserved populations. The sky is the limit for you guys.

Finally, a quick shout out to our wonderful cohort of adjuncts, whom we would be up a creek without a paddle if you weren't with us. I have enjoyed visiting your classes for observations, and seeing masterful teaching at work. Happy summer everybody!

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>



Ceremony attendees from left to right: Christina Athineos, Aybahar Qarqeen, Hannah Carlon, Cynthia Nunez, Dr. Amy Marks, Christopher Cortez, Emily Ford, Alexandra Clarke, Jenny Li, Dr. Gary Fireman, and Elisa Strangie– Brown.

Suffolk Psi Chi Members

Please join us in congratulating the newest members of the Suffolk University Psi Chi chapter!

- Elisa Strangie-Brown
- Hannah Carlon
- Alexandra Clarke
- Christopher Cortez
- Meghan Danaher
- Emily Ford
- Lia Gabrielle
- Susan Lee
- Jenny Li
- Cynthia Nunez
- Aybahar Qarqeen

Psi Chi Induction Ceremony

On April 27th the Psychology Department hosted an induction ceremony for the newest members of Psi Chi, the international honor society in psychology. Faculty, family, and friends attended the ceremony to recognize a total of 11 students who were officially inducted.

Guest speaker Christina Athineos, M.S. (Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Candidate at Suffolk), gave words of encouragement, advice, and shared a few laughs with the new initiates.

In order to join Psi Chi, members had to have taken at least 5 psychology courses at Suffolk University and be within the top 10% of their junior and senior class. Members of Psi Chi have the opportunity to attend professional conventions, serve the local community through chapter service projects, and gain valuable recognition of their academic achievements.

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

Meet Kristin Kelly

Administrative Services Coordinator

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Kristin Kelly grew up in Weymouth, Massachusetts with her parents and two older sisters. Growing up Kristin volunteered for her local youth group, and was a member of the Weymouth High School Track and Field and Cross Country team. As a Psychology major at the University of New Hampshire, she interned for a middle school Counselor providing social, emotional, and academic support to students in both classroom and counselor settings. This experience motivated her to work in a school setting where she could provide hands on assistance to students, and was inspired to try higher education. After Earning her BA in 2016, Kristin worked as a substitute teacher and nanny before starting her full-time position as the Administrative Services Coordinator in the Psychology department. We are happy to have her on the team!

What is it like working in the Psychology Department?

Working in the Psychology Department is different every day. Each day brings a new set of challenges and tasks. It is gratifying to help students while having the opportunity to learn new things along the way. I feel so lucky to be surrounded by such supportive staff and faculty! The team mentality here in the Psychology Department has been evident from the start, and I think that's what makes working here such a pleasure.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to be outdoors, especially with my dog, Nora! I enjoy running, being near the ocean, and anything in the sun. I also love to cook whenever I have the chance to. I am always looking to learn more about cooking and find new recipes, especially healthy ones. In the summertime I spend many of my weekends on the Cape with my Family at our beach house.

Superbowl Champs!

On February 7th, over 1,000,000 sports fans, including many in the Suffolk community, celebrated the Patriot's achievement. Many students, faculty, and staff waited in the cold and rain for a glimpse of the parade, and to see their favorite football players, while many other Suffolk members set up by the windows of the Sargent and Stahl building that overlooked the parade. Despite the weather, spirits were high as the parade rolled through campus. Since 2001 there have been 10 championship wins for Boston from the Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins and Patriots— we hope to have many more wins for our Boston teams, and more parades through our campus!



Tom Brady outside of the Stahl Building holding the Superbowl trophy.

Undergraduate Partnership Highlight

Bay Cove Human Services: Katie Nadeau, Director of CHES & DDDS



Bay Cove Human Services and the Suffolk University Psychology Department have had a partnership for over 5 years. Every year Bay Cove provides at least one Suffolk Student an internship experience. Bay Cove is one of the leading human service agencies in Boston, and has been ranked as one of the Top Workplaces in Boston by the *Boston Globe* for 4 consecutive years. They provide individualized and compassionate services for people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, aging-related needs and/or drug and alcohol addiction. The mission is to partner with people to overcome challenges and realize personal potential.

The **Developmental Disabilities Day Service (DDDS)** provides a comprehensive range of programs that offer education, community integration, employment support and skill development for persons served.

How do interns or service learners enhance your site and the Boston community?

In our programs, interns work collaboratively with direct care support professionals and managers to contribute to the skill development and goal success of the individuals we serve. They become teachers, advisors, and positive sources of support for our participants; helping to ensure a meaningful day and growth towards independence. Interns have the opportunity to support our individuals with therapeutic and Positive Behavioral Supports; to build skills towards competitive employment; to explore our local communities and enhance community inclusion; to practice activities of daily living; to educate and encourage self-advocacy; and to improve physical and emotional health through self-care.

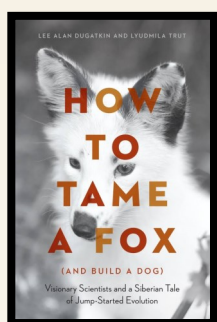
What advice would you give students applying for an intern or service learner position?

Be motivated to learn, be self-driven, be creative, and be person-centered. These qualities are of utmost importance to the intern experience. We look for students that are enthusiastic, energetic and dedicated to exploring careers in human services and we, in turn, provide training and support to help accomplish their learning goals.

What are the benefits of students receiving a hands on experience?

Bay Cove Human Services' goal is to provide full, rich lives for people with the greatest challenges; our interns are able to learn how to provide this directly every day. Skills gained during an internship with Bay Cove provide a foundation for careers in education, public administration, psychology, physical/occupational therapy, case management, social work, behavior analysis, medicine, public health, advocacy, and human services. Working directly with a population that relies on these services will provide greater understanding of how services are offered and utilized, and how they can be improved to meet the changing needs of people in our community.

Additional Information can be found at www.baycove.org or on social media www.facebook.com/baycovehumanservicesinc/ and follow us on twitter @BayCoveMA



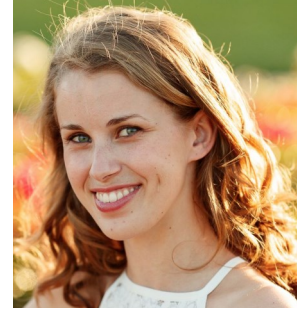
On April 20th the Psychology Department hosted Dr. Lee Dugatkin, an Evolutionary Biologist, Behavioral Ecologist, and Historian of Science who is renowned in his field for his research on evolution and behavior. Dr. Dugatkin lectured to the Suffolk community on his findings from his newest book, *How to Tame a Fox and Build a Dog: Visionary Scientists and a Siberian Tale of Jump-Started Evolution*.

The talk was well attended by both psychology and biology undergraduate students with many questions. Dr. Dugatkin stayed after his presentation to answer questions and sign copies of his book. Additional copies are available for sale at the Suffolk Bookstore or Amazon.com.

“Getting to Know You”- the 2017 PhD Cohort

Join us in welcoming the 2017 cohort of the Clinical Psychology doctoral program. We look forward to working closely with each of our newly accepted students this coming fall!

Laura Austin graduated from Stanford University with a BA in Human Biology and a minor in Psychology. She currently works as an entry level children’s clinician at The Center for Health Care Services, a community mental health provider in San Antonio, Texas. She is thrilled to join Dr. Schwartz’s lab where she’ll explore her passion for adolescent mental health. Laura enjoys songwriting, yoga, hiking, reading, and can’t wait to move to Boston this fall!



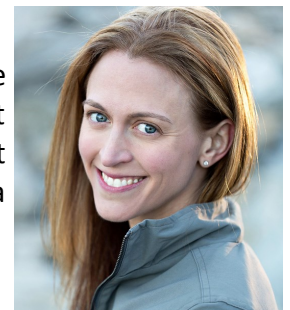
Sarah Hopkins graduated from Elon University with a BA in psychology and minor in Latin American Studies. Sarah currently works at UMass Medical School in the Psychotic Disorders program where she coordinates research studying investigational medication and psychosocial interventions for those with schizophrenia and psychotic-spectrum disorders. Sarah is thrilled to be joining Dr. Fireman’s lab and looks forward to studying vulnerable adolescent populations. As a Massachusetts native, Sarah can’t wait to live in Boston and begin her graduate education!

Rose Luehrs graduated from Valparaiso University with a masters degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling after completing an undergraduate degree in Psychology at Bradley University. She discovered her passion for studying individual differences in post-trauma adjustment during her time as an undergraduate student. Rose is originally from Illinois, but has relocated to Kansas City where she has been working with children at a community mental health center. Rose is super excited to be joining Dr. Suvak’s lab!



Alex Miller graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Music. She currently works in the Iowa Depression and Clinical Research Center where she developed her love for ACT and mindfulness techniques. Alex enjoys singing, cooking, baking, crafting, and being in the sunshine. She also loves to spoil her cat, Cleo. Alex is very excited to move to Boston, experience a new part of the country, and bring her research on minorities and ABBT with Dr. Orsillo!

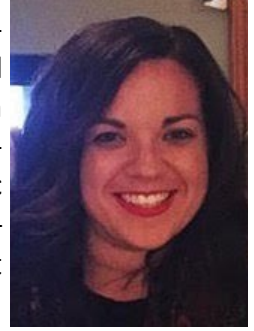
Kristina Pinto holds an Ed.D. in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard Graduate School of Education and is looking forward to being part of the Respecialization program at Suffolk. Her career has focused on intersections between mental and physical health, feminist approaches to health and illness, and clinical psychological assessment. Kristina is also a yoga instructor and enjoys distance running, cooking, and traveling with her family and dog.



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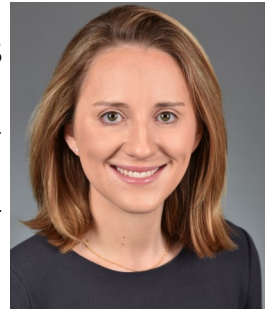
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Lynne-Marie Shea graduated from Providence College with a double BA in Public and Community Service Studies and Spanish. After graduation, Lynne-Marie spent a year with the Good Shepherd Volunteers living and working in a domestic violence shelter in Oruro, Bolivia. Upon returning, Lynne-Marie began working at the institute for the study and practice of Nonviolence where she now serves as the Director of Victim Services, providing outreach and holistic case management to survivors of homicide and violent crime throughout Rhode Island. Lynne-Marie looks forward to building on these experiences in Dr. Harkin's lab and sharing insight and experiences with her Suffolk cohort and the other members of the Suffolk community!



Kylie Steinhilber graduated from Boston University this May as a psychology major. She worked in multiple research labs during undergrad, focusing on child temperament, evolutionary psychology, and family and adolescent treatment. Kylie loves Boston and is extremely excited to be staying in the area, attending Suffolk and working with Dr. Ray! She loves to try new things around the city with friends; including restaurants, comedy shows, festivals, etc. Kylie also loves dogs, all things Disney and pizza.

Alice Woolverton graduated from Amherst College with a BA in English and obtained her MS in medical sciences from Boston University with a concentration in mental health counseling. She currently works at Boston Children's Hospital in the Adolescent/Young Adult Medicine division performing clinical research about health disparities, eating and feeding disorders, LGBTQ teens' experiences in healthcare, and weight-related counseling. Alice sails competitively in her spare time and when New England weather allows! She is thrilled to be involved in Dr. Mark's lab and to get to know members of the psychology community at Suffolk!



Dissertation Defenses

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

Christine Andre

Emotion Socialization Practices in Latino/a Immigrant Families: An Integrative Perspective

Yvonne Asher

An Exploration of Factors Impacting Peer Aggression and Prosocial Behavior During School Transitions

Caitlin Chiupka

Examining the Impact of Pejorative Language and Etiological Conceptualization on Mental Illness Stigma

Kida Ejesi

Bias in the Classroom: A Meta-Analysis of the Academic and Emotional Outcomes of School-Based Discrimination in Youth

Jamila Ray

Investigation of the Utility of the V.E.S.T.S. Framework of Fostering Self-Care in Psychology Trainees

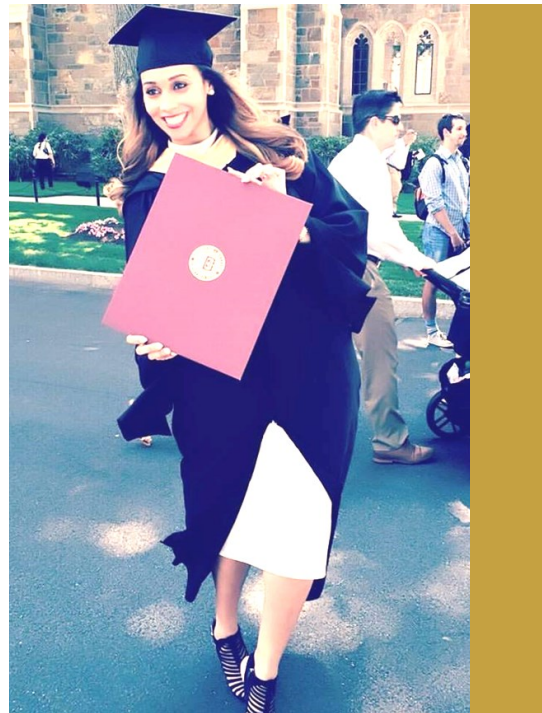
Undergraduate Alumni Highlight

Sandrine Guilherme

Sandrine Guilherme, MSW, LCSW, graduated Cum Laude in 2010 from Suffolk University with a BA in Psychology. Upon graduating, Sandrine worked as a researcher and interventionist with women suffering from mood and anxiety disorders during the perinatal period at Women & Infants Hospital in Providence, RI. Recently, Sandrine obtained her master's degree from Boston College School of Social Work and is currently working as an outpatient and home-based bi-lingual clinical therapist. Sandrine is also working in collaboration with Dr. Maureen Phipps, Executive Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the Care New England Health System on research publications addressing psychosocial issues affecting maternal and child health.

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

I have so many great memories from Suffolk, so it's difficult to narrow down just one. I will note that some of my favorite memories are from being a part of the McNair and Interfuture Scholar Programs. As a first generation African woman attending college, it was important for me to succeed, which these scholar programs helped to reinforce. Both scholar programs also opened up so many opportunities for me, such as traveling and being able to research abroad, networking with other bright minds, and helping me to develop my professional skills. Another great memory was being a part of the Black Student Union and meeting my best friends – so get involved because you never know who may bless your life forever after graduation.



Do you have any advice for current undergraduate students?

You don't have to figure it all out right now. I attended Suffolk because of their strong psychology department, and my goal was to pursue their PhD program immediately after obtaining my bachelors. I was adamant that this was the only path for me to take in order to become a clinician. But, life had its own plan and I'm thankful for my mentor, Dr. Amy Marks, for always encouraging me, and giving me insight on the various routes one may take to achieve their goals! After receiving my bachelors, I worked in research for four years before exploring graduate programs that were a good fit for me. Now seven years later, I have obtained a masters degree in social work, a field I never thought I would have been interested in. It took time to achieve my goals, so never give up, and stay open-minded.

"It took time to achieve my goals, so never give up, and stay open-minded."

Mental Health Counseling Alumni Highlight

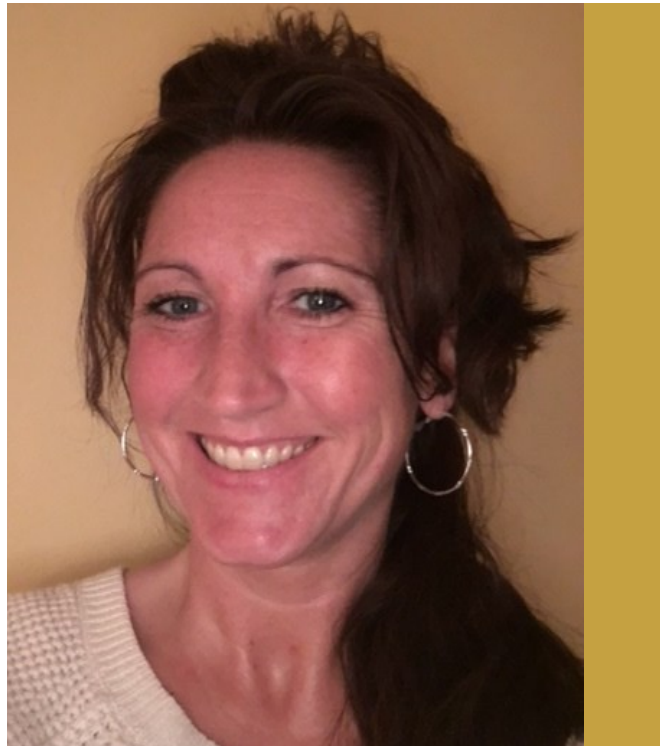
Gina Rabbitt

Gina M. Rabbitt, MS, CAGS enrolled in Suffolk University's joint Mental Health Counseling and Criminal Justice program in 2004 after earning a bachelor's in psychology at the University of Hartford, CT. After graduating from Suffolk with honors in 2006, she continued her training and earned a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Counseling.

Gina's passion for teaching in higher education has led to a rewarding career as a Visiting Lecturer within the psychology department at Salem State University, teaching primarily adolescent psychology and group dynamics. She has also taught various criminal justice and sociology courses at Endicott College, Middlesex College and North Shore Community College. Gina is also an outpatient mental health clinician at Stoney Brook Counseling Center in Chelmsford, MA. Her clinical interests include adolescent and adult mood and anxiety disorders, involvement in the criminal justice system, vocational and family counseling, substance abuse and recovery, trauma, and suicidal and homicidal ideation.

What are some of your favorite memories from your time at Suffolk?

I was fortunate to be a part of the unveiling of the new library at 73 Tremont Street. I recall the late nights studying by the fireplace in an atmosphere that made me feel most privileged and welcomed. This beautiful building also became the new home for the mental health counseling program where I had the pleasure of being taught in the classroom and mentored by former Department Chair, Dr. Glen Eskedal, and current professor Dr. David Medoff.



These two professors, along with other outstanding faculty, were largely distinctive in helping me realize my potential clinical excellence and further exposed me to counseling and forensic psychology. The passion for teaching, among many of the Suffolk faculty, also helped fuel my desire to educate others.

I also cannot forget the amazing 2004 Boston Red Sox World Series team! It simply was a great time to be a student at Suffolk University in Boston.

Do you have any advice for current graduate students?

I would advise that you formally introduce yourself to professors and colleagues. Suffolk's unique and intimate environment allows for excellent rapport-building and substantial opportunities to learn from full-time and part-time faculty members and fellow peers. It is a small world; I have crossed paths with current and former Suffolk professors and students during my career as a University faculty member and mental health clinician.

PhD Clinical Psychology Alumni Highlight:

Kirstin Birtwell



Kirstin Birtwell, PhD, is a 2014 graduate of the Clinical Psychology program at Suffolk University. Currently, Dr. Birtwell is a staff psychologist at the Lurie Center for Autism (Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School), where she also completed her Post-Doc. Her time is split equally between clinical practice and research. Clinically, she provides diagnostic and neuropsychological evaluations and behavioral/cognitive behavioral therapy to children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other neurodevelopmental disabilities and psychiatric disorders. Dr. Birtwell is also the principal investigator on a recently-funded study that is designed to explore how an innovative, interactive technology, called *Sidekicks*, may enhance existing therapeutic interventions for school-aged children with ASD. She also has a small private practice in Watertown, MA.

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

It is hard to pin down just one, my best memories include: teaching undergraduate classes; participating in and leading workshops with Dr.

Lisa Coyne; attending conferences like ABCT and ACBS; the many, many hours spent at the Ballotti Learning Center; and spontaneous (often stress-induced) drinks/dinner around Beacon Hill with my classmates.

Do you have any advice for current doctoral students?

I would strongly encourage current students at Suffolk to use the incredible personal and professional resources within the psychology department. Faculty and other students were (and still are) immensely supportive of both my personal well-being and my career development. For example, I entered the program with a specific interest in autism and chose Suffolk even though it did not have as strong of an ASD emphasis as some other programs. Given my interest, faculty members actively helped me find practicum and research opportunities within ASD so I could gain more experience. I truly love what I do today and am so grateful to the Suffolk community for the central role that it has played in my career path. Suffolk has such a great community and I encourage all to participate in it!

How do you like to spend your free time out of the workplace?

I love to spend as much time as possible with my 11 month old, Eleanor (“Ellie”)-oh yeah, and with my husband. I also love doing anything outdoors, especially skiing, hiking, walking our beloved dog, running, and more recently, cycling. I will be riding in my second PanMass Challenge this summer to raise money for the Dana –Farber Cancer Institute.

“Suffolk has such a great community and I encourage all to participate in it!”

Undergraduate, Mental Health Counseling & Doctoral Program Awards

The Psychology Department is proud to announce this year's award winners!

Undergraduate Awards

High Academic Achievement Award: **Christopher Cortez**

This award is given to the psychology major with the highest psychology GPA. We are pleased to award this to Christopher in recognition of his outstanding academic performance both in psychology and in the curriculum as a whole.

Elizabeth Williams Award: **Elisa Strangie-Brown**

Dr. Elizabeth Williams, served as a professor of psychology at Suffolk University for 20 years. The award is given to an undergraduate psychology major who has Honors in Psychology and has made a significant contribution through the Psychology Department to the field or community.

Mental Health Counseling Award

Mental Health Counseling Outstanding Graduate Student Award: **Brianna Blair**

This award is based on three domains including overall GPA, Clinical Competence, and Development of Professional Identity.

Doctoral Awards

Psychology Department Dissertation Research Award: **Kristin Serowik**

Kristin will receive a \$1,000 alumni-donated cash prize to support her research for her dissertation, titled "The Mindful Way Through Primary Care."

Faculty-Nominated Teaching Award: **Casey Evans**

Awarded for her outstanding performance as a teaching apprentice during the past year.

Doctoral Student Publication Award: **Kerrie Pieloch & Regina Musicaro**

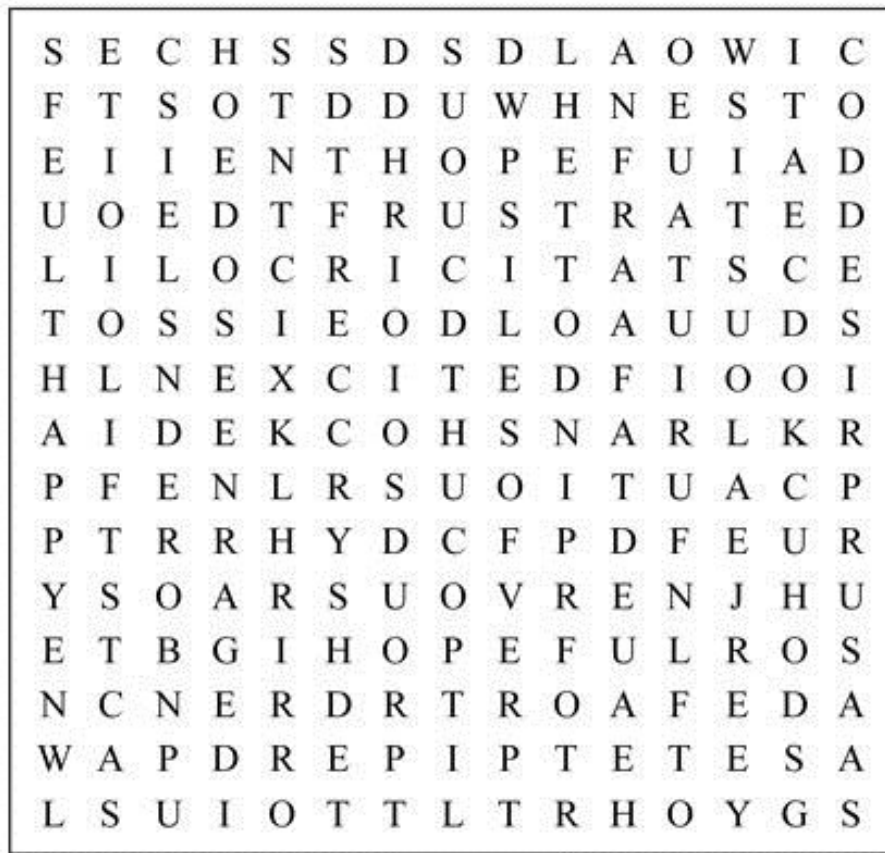


Congratulations to all our award winners!

Take a break from reading and try to “find-a-feeling”!

Find-A-Feeling

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



SURPRISED
 NERVOUS
 AFRAID
 CAUTIOUS
 CONFUSED
 ECSTATIC
 EXCITED

ENRAGED
 HAPPY
 ANGRY
 FRUSTRATED
 BORED
 JEALOUS
 WORRIED

PROUD
 PROUD
 CONFIDENT
 LONELY
 SHOCKED
 HOPELESS
 SAD



(L to R) Lara Crouch (UTSA), Dr. Sarah Schwartz, Belinda Harmon (Texas Mentoring Partnership), Dr. Michael Karcher (UTSA), Mayor Ivy Taylor, and Desiree Robertson (Grizzlies Foundation).

Faculty Highlight:

Dr. Sarah Schwartz was invited to be the plenary speaker at the Texas Mentoring Summit. The theme of the Summit was: Mentoring: A Pathway to and through College and Career. In her talk, she shared highlights from her research on innovative approaches to mentoring high school and college students. Following Dr. Schwartz’s talk, the Mayor of San Antonio spoke to voice her support for mentoring initiatives.

Psychology At STEM

The Psychology Department was excited to be joining the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative at Suffolk University for a third year. Faculty representative, Dr. David Gansler, assisted in preparing for and planning this year's STEM reception held April 27th in Somerset Hall.



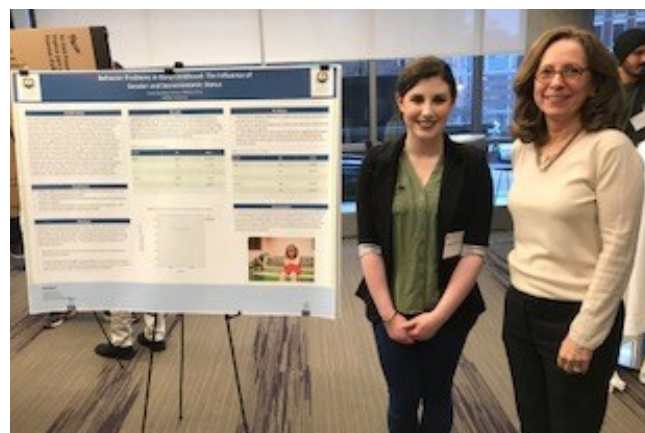
This year's key-note speaker was a Suffolk alumna, Gail Begley who majored in Biology. Dr. Begley is now the Director of the University Pre-Health Program at

Northeastern University, where she is also a professor. Dr. Begley runs an undergraduate research program focused on utilizing naturally occurring microbes to degrade toxins in the environment.

The Psychology Department was represented at the reception by two exceptional psychology undergraduates, Kendra Lee Asaph and Sarah Burnham, who presented posters in conjunction with Dr. David Gansler and Dr. Rosemarie DiBiase. Both students conducted extensive research, designed informative posters, and gave outstanding presentations at this year's reception. If interested in presenting next spring, contact Dr. Gansler in the fall.



Dr. David Gansler & Kendra Lee Asaph



Dr. Rosemarie DiBiase and Sarah Burnham

Title: Cognitive Functioning Following Proton Radiation Therapy for Pediatric Brain Tumor: Early Attention and Executive Function Outcomes

Authors: **Kendra Asaph, Casey L. Evans, Dr. David A. Gansler, & Margaret Pulsifer**

Title: Behavior Problems in Early Childhood: The Role of Gender and Socioeconomic Status

Authors: **Sarah Burnham and Dr. Rosemarie DiBiase**

Faculty Highlight:

In February, Dr. Amy Marks was interviewed for a 45-minute radio show and pod cast called "Thinking Aloud." Hosted by Marcus Smith, this program creates a space for academics, researchers, and other "thinkers" to consider pressing questions and topics. The podcast and broadcast have hundreds of thousands of subscribers, mainly in the West and Midwest US, and is run out of Brigham and Young University. Amy was interviewed about her latest book

Transitions: The Development of Immigrant Children, which won the Society for Research on Adolescence 2016 Social Policy Book Award. During the program, Marcus and Amy discuss myths and misconceptions about immigration, and what some of the unique developmental aspects of being an immigrant child are right now in the US. To listen, check out the program archives: <http://www.classical89.org/thinkingaloud/archive/>

Clinical Psychology Internship Match

The faculty of the Psychology Department at Suffolk University would like to congratulate all seven of our students who matched for clinical internship in 2017! This year, we are pleased to announce that we received a 87.5% match rate for our program. The overall national average is a 87.5% match rate across all programs and 88.4% match rate among clinical doctoral programs.

Lindsey Backer-Fulghum	Wichita Collaborative Psychology/Wichita State Counseling Center (Wichita, KS)
Daniel Glass	Green Chimneys Children’s Services (Brewster, NY)
Zachary Held	University of Utah Neuropsychiatric Institute (Salt Lake City, UT)
Shamiria Lindsey	Bronx VA Medical Center (Bronx, NY)
Carlos Rivera	Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Health Alliance (Cambridge, MA)
Liorah Sabbah-Talasazan	VA Boston Healthcare System (Boston, MA)
Maria Valmas	St. Cloud VA Health Care System (St. Cloud, MN)



Continuing Education *Update* By Dr. Gabrielle Liverant

The Suffolk University Psychology Department was granted five years of re-accreditation as a Continuing Education (CE) program provider by the American Psychological Association. On April 3rd, the department offered a successful event with Dr. Jillian Shipherd, clinical psychologist at the Women’s Health and Sciences Division of the National Center for PTSD, as the featured speaker. The talk was titled, “Transgender People: Understanding Stressors, Mental Health Concerns, and Opportunities for Intervention.” The program was attended by undergraduates, doctoral students, psychology department faculty, Suffolk Counseling Center staff, doctoral program alumni, and community training/education partners. We had representatives from local schools, university counseling centers, clinics, and hospitals join Suffolk students and staff for this community education event. The CE committee will continue to offer these types of programs to build new, as well as maintain, existing relationships with area training sites. Our goal with these community building educational activities is to provide applied learning and training opportunities to benefit our Suffolk undergraduate and graduate students. Please stay tuned for additional programs over the course of the year, or feel free to email us at phd@suffolk.edu.

Doctoral Program Update

By Dr. Lance Swenson

As I write this, the sun is shining on my face. Hopefully the cold, wet weather is finally behind us – maybe, just maybe, spring is finally in the air!

I am privileged in writing these updates for the newsletter, as it gives me a chance to reflect upon the past academic year. And what a year it has been for the Clinical Psychology PhD program! Congratulations to our first-year cohort: Lauren Grenier, Denise Kyte, Kayla Lord, Elena Molokotos, McKenna Parnes, Natasha Ramanayake, Alora Rando, and Abby Waters. These eight students successfully completed their first year of coursework, proposed their Early Research Projects, and are preparing for their first year of practicum training – and most of them are still smiling (at least every once in a while). I would also like to congratulate our second years (Casey Evans, Shelley Kind, Katie Kozak, John McKenna, Alison Sagon, and Olivia Tousignant) on the excellent oral defenses of their ERPs!

I would also like to commend Vanessa Alvarez, Christine Andre, Aparna Arjunan, Diana

Arntz, Jose Arauz, Yvonne Asher, Caitlin Chiupka, Sara Danitz, Kida Ejesi, Alyson Negreira, Jamila Ray, Sana Sheikh, Alison Skendo, and Stephanie Jarvi Steele. You are weeks away from completing your year-long clinical internship, and I am confident that you performed admirably throughout this challenging year. Our program is lucky to have you as ambassadors. If you have any words of advice for those who will be going on internship next year (Lindsey Backer-Fulghum, Dan Glass, Zack Held, Shamiria Lindsey, Carlos Rivera, Liorah Sabbah-Talasazan, and Maria Valmas), I am sure they are all ears!

In these newsletter updates I typically comment on those at the beginning and end of the training program, given space constraints. The Clinical Program Doctoral Faculty are very aware of the 20 doctoral trainees who were not called out by name, and we applaud all of your accomplishments and successes this past academic year. Thanks also to Grace Gu, Sarah Levy, John McKenna, and Alex Wheeler for serving as the 2016/2017 Graduate Student Representatives, your assistance

was invaluable.

On May 1st we submitted our self-study to Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. This is part of the re-accreditation process, and it provided a nice opportunity to consider all that we have accomplished these past seven years and to reflect upon ways we can further strengthen our training program. We anticipate that our site-visit will be scheduled for mid- to late-Fall 2017, and we are eager to demonstrate the quality of our training program to the site-visitors. I hope you are eager too – because trust me, in the next few months I'll likely be reaching out to you (again!) for support in this effort!

Be well, and if it's still sunny when you are reading this then I encourage you to put the newsletter down and go enjoy some sunshine.



Make a donation today!

Your donations help fund our departmental awards that greatly benefit our current students! If you would like to make a donation, please visit: www.suffolk.edu/giving. To make your gift to the Psychology Department, indicate *Psychology Awards* in the “other” category under “fund.” Our sincerest **thank you** to all who have donated in the past and to those who continue to donate!

Psychology Department

News & Announcements

6th year student, **Diana Arntz**, accepted a postdoc position in the Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery at the Bedford VA Hospital. Diana will be focusing on interprofessional clinical, research and program development supporting veterans with serious mental illness.

Elena Molokotos, a first year Clinical PhD student, won a graduate student award at Cognitive Neuroscience Society's conference for her research on twins and the genetic influences on brain structure. To see the full article: <https://www.cogneurosociety.org/twins-illuminate-genetic-influences-on-brain-structure/> (picture below).

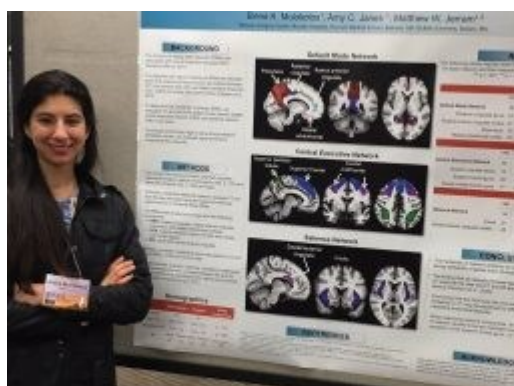
Program Administrator **Jessica Valente** and husband Michael welcomed Stella Jean Valente on 3/31 (picture below).

While on a February vacation to Thailand 4th year student **Leela Holman** got engaged to Matt Farina.

5th year student, **Caitlin Chiupka** got engaged to Brett Claggett Woods on March 26th (picture below) and also accepted a psychologist position with the Ottawa Institute of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in Ottawa, Canada.

6th year student, **Sarah Danitz**, is getting married to Noah Steinhardt on September 3, 2017, and also accepted a research post-doctoral fellowship at the national center for PTSD at the VA Boston starting this summer!

On April 1st, 6th year student, **Stephanie Jarvi** and partner Elizabeth Steele were married at the Foster's Pavilion on the Boston waterfront.



Cohort Pride:



On Saturday, January 21st, the entire 1st year cohort, along with thousands of others, participated in the Boston Women's March that started in Copley square and ended in the Commons.

May 2017 Commencement Ceremony

The 2017 Graduate commencement ceremony was held at the Westin on Saturday, May 20th. Faculty member Lance Swenson, was the key note speaker.



Special thanks to Suffolk University photographer Michael Clarke for contributing commencement photographs to our spring newsletter



Ph.D. Psychology

Left to right: Caitlin Chiupka, Kida Ejese, Sara Danitz, Jamila Ray, Stephanie Jarvi-Steele, Yvonne Asher & Marie-Christine Andre

M.S. Psychology



Doctoral student's Shelley Kind, Katie Kozak, Associate Dean Bursik,
John McKenna & Olivia Tousignant
Not pictured: Alison Sagon & Casey Evans

*Congratulations to all
undergraduate and graduate
students who received their
degrees at the 2017
ceremony!*



*There were lots of original caps
at each ceremony*



M.S. Mental Health Counseling

*Back row left to right:
Martine Janvier,
Samantha Harkey, Julia
Grimm, Yamileh Dure,
Cara Daly, Chris Cason,
Brianna Cato, Connell
Brown, Brianna Blair,
Nicole Bauer
Front row left to right:
Mackenzie Sheridan,
Marissa Morrill, Priscilla
Mendez, Joanna Marrero,
Rebecca Jean-Baptiste,
Abigail Lalone*



PhD Clinical Psychology graduate Stephanie Jarvi-Steele being hooded by research mentor Dr. Lance Swenson



PhD Clinical Psychology graduate Yvonne Asher being hooded by research mentor Dr. Gary Fireman



PhD Clinical Psychology graduates Caitlin Chiupka and Sara Danitz



PhD Clinical Psychology graduate Marie-Christine Andre being hooded by research mentor Dr. Amy Marks



PhD Clinical Psychology graduate Jamila Ray receiving her diploma from Dean Toyoda



Dr. Rose DiBiase and Dr. David Medoff, congratulating Abigail Lalone as she receives her diploma



Master's of Mental Health Counseling graduate Martine Janvier shanking hands with acting President Marissa Kelly



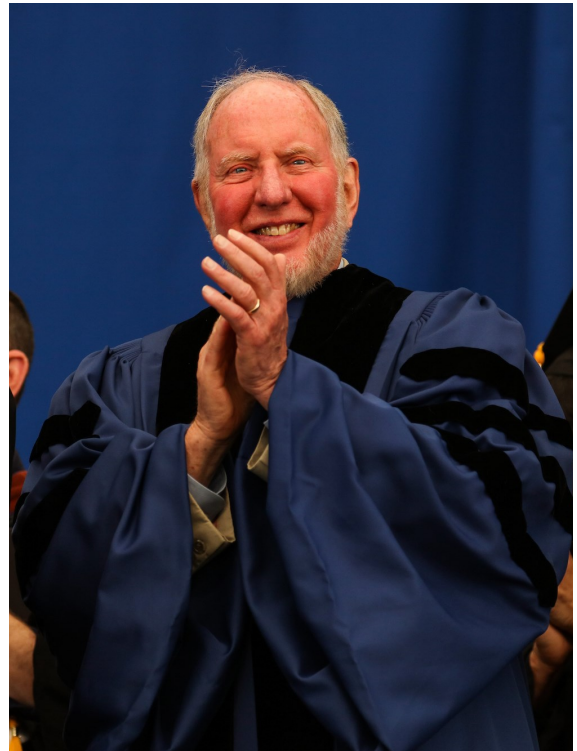
Psychology Faculty members preparing for the processions. From Left to Right: Drs. Lance Swenson, Rose DiBiase, Michael Suvak, Gary Fireman, Yvonne Wells, Sarah Schwartz, David Shumaker, David Medoff, and Amy Marks



Elizabeth Williams Award Recipient, Elisa Strangie-Brown about to receive her diploma



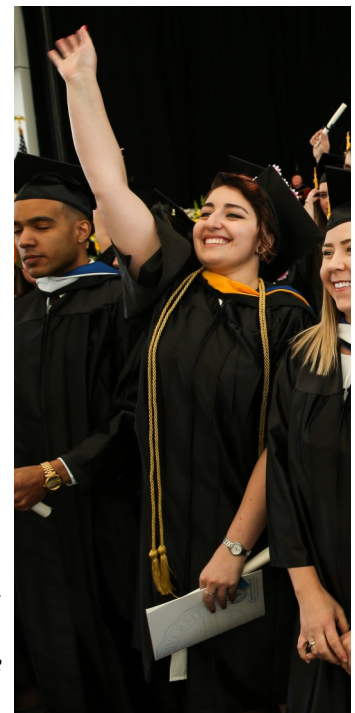
The 2017 Undergraduate commencement ceremony was held at the Blue Hills Pavilion on Sunday, May 21. Guest speaker, Robert D. Putnam, gave an encouraging speech on letting your actions speak louder than your words.



(right) Psychology major, Vanessa Monti, waves to a member in the crowd upon receiving her diploma.



(left) Dr. Fireman has a laugh backstage at the baseball graduation with Acting President Marisa Kelly, Acting Provost Sebastian Royo, and Associate Dean Lisa Celovsky. Senior members of the baseball team had a separate graduation because they were competing in the NCAA Div III tournament.



For more photos and information on the Graduate and Undergraduate Ceremony visit:

<http://www.suffolk.edu/campuslife/6443.php>

Presentations

- Asher, Y. & Fireman, G.D.** (2017, May). *Stress, peer aggression and prosocial behavior during school transitions*. Poster to presented at the Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.
- Blair, B.M., & DiBiase, R.M.** (2017, March). *Predicting Externalizing Behavior Problems in Preschoolers*. Poster presented at the 2017 Eastern Psychological Association Conference, Boston, MA.
- Dick, A. M., Protasio, T. B. R. & Suvak, M. K.** (2017, May). *The relationship between emotion regulation strategies and compassion*. Poster accepted for presentation at the 29th APS Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Evans, C.L., Levy, S.A.,** McDonough, E.K. (2017, May). *Neurodevelopmental Factors related to Negative Urgency in Children and Adolescents*. Association for Psychological Science 29th annual meeting, Boston, MA.
- Gansler, D.,** Nyenhuis, R.J., Wassermann, E., Huey, E.D., Grafman, J.H. (2017, February). *Measuring Patient Self-awareness Deficit (PSAD)*. North American meeting of the INS International Neuropsychological Society, New Orleans.
- Godoy, C., Marks, A. K., Harkins, D., Swenson, L.** (2017, April). *Legal Vulnerability Among Latino Immigrant Families: Liminality's Psychological Costs*. Society for Research in Child Development, Austin, TX.
- Jarvi, S. M.,** Björgvinsson, T., & **Swenson, L. P.** (2017, May). *What Implicit and Explicit Identification with Non-suicidal Self-injury tells us: Understanding Identity and Self-injury from a Mixed Methods Perspective*. Poster presented at the Mind Brain Research Day at Brown University, Providence, RI.
- Kaitz, J.E., Ray, S.,** Cole, C. (2017, August). *Barriers in Addressing Body Image Issues in Primary Care: An Overview of Women's Narratives*. Poster submitted for presentation at American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Society for the Psychology of Women (Division 35), Washington, D.C.
- Kyte, D.M., DiBiase, R., Wheeler, A.** (2017, March). *Attachment, Theory of Mind, and Temperament as Predictors of Maternal Acceptance in Pre-Schoolers*. Poster presented at Eastern Psychological Association in Boston, MA.
- Lord, K. A., Parnes, M., Alvarez, V. A., Dick, A. M., Smidt, K. E., & Suvak, M. K.** (2017, May). *Latent structure of the Self-Compassion Scale*. Poster accepted for presentation at the 29th APS Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Mace, R.A., Waters, A., Levy, S.A., Turrisi, T., Sawyer, K., Gansler, D.A.** (2017, June). *Comparing the Neural Architecture of Cognitive-neuroscience Based and Traditional Neuropsychological Tests*. Poster presented at American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Boston, MA.
- Marks, Amy K.** (2017, April). *(Un) documented: Exploring the mental health, family well-being, and educational experiences of legally vulnerable immigrant youth*. Presentation at Society for Research in Child Development Austin, TX.
- McKenna J. L.,** Bedard, K. K., Pantalone, D. W., **Fireman, G., & Marks, A. K.** (2017, April). *Female adolescent sexuality support in context (FASSC) scale: A mixed-methods measurement development study*. Poster presented at the Society of Research in Child Development (SRCD) Biennial Meeting, Austin, TX.
- Pan, J.J., McDonough, E.K., Sawyer, K.S., Gansler, D.A.** (2017, May). *Cognitive, Neuroanatomical, and Genetic Predictors of Executive Function in Children and Adolescents*. Poster presented at the 29th annual meeting of APS, Boston, MA.
- Park, J.M., **Stark, A.,** & Wilhelm, S. (2017, April). *Clinical Characteristics and Neuropsychological Functioning in Children and Adolescents who hoard*. Symposium presented in *Advances in Hoarding Disorder Across the Lifespan* (Chair: Park, J.M.) at the 37th Annual Convention of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA), San Francisco, CA.
- Pieloch, K.,** McCullough, M. B., & **Marks, A.K.** (2017, April). *Resilience of Children with Refugee Statuses: Research Review and Intervention Recommendations*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Austin, TX.
- Raposa, E., Raposa, R.J., **Schwartz, S.** (2017, February). *New Findings from the Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring*. Presentation at the National Mentor Summit, Washington, DC.
- Schwartz, S.** (2017, January). *Youth Initiated Mentoring: Expanding our Approach to Youth Mentoring Interventions*. Texas Mentoring Summit University of San Antonio, Texas.
- Schwartz, S.,** (2017, February). *Rising Stars in Mentoring Research: New Findings from Early Career Investigators*. National Mentor Summit Washington, DC.
- Schwartz, S., Kanchewa, S.** (2017, February). *Connected Scholars: Supporting Students Transition to College by Cultivating Informal Mentors*. Presentation at the National Mentor Summit, Washington, DC.
- Schwartz, S.,** Kanchewa, S., **Stark, A.,** Cunningham, J., Kupersmidt, J., Rhodes, J. (2017, April). *An evaluation of a brief Youth Initiated Mentoring intervention for underrepresented students transitioning to college*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SCRD), Austin, Texas.
- Schwartz, S.,** Kanchewa, S., **Stark, A.,** Cunningham, J., Kupersmidt, J., Rhodes, J. (2017, April). *An Evaluation of a Brief Youth Initiated Mentoring Intervention for Underrepresented Students Transitioning to College*. Presentation at

Psychology Department

Presentations

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Austin, TX.

Schwartz, S., Kanchewa, S., Stark, A., Gowdy, G., Horn, J.P., Cunningham, J., Parnes, M. (2017, June). *A Mixed Methods Examination of the Impact of a Novel Mentoring Intervention on First-Generation College Students*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Austin, Texas.

Schwartz, S., Parnes, M., Stark, A. (2017, June). *Mentor Characteristics and Student Attitudes Around College*. Poster presented at the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), Austin, Texas.

Stark, A., Parnes, M., Kanchewa, S., Schwartz, S. (2017, May). *Student Relational Attitudes are Associated with*

College Preparedness. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science (APS), Boston, MA.

Stark, A., Strangie-Brown, E., Tousignant, O., Fireman, G. (2017, May). *Differences in Primed Memories of Bullying Experiences*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science (APS), Boston, MA.

Tousignant, O., Taylor, N., Stark, A., Suvak, M., Fireman, G.D. (2017, May). *The reciprocal relationship between perceived stress and sleep quality: A bivariate latent change analysis*. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

Waters, A., Mace, R.A., Levy, S.A., Turrisi, T., Sawyer, K., Gansler, D.A. (2017,

June). *A Comparison of Quality Assurance Methods for Freesurfer Reconstruction*. Poster presented at American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Boston, MA.

Wheeler, A., DiBiase, R. (2017, May). *Parent-Child Interaction Stress as a Measure of Goodness-of-Fit and its Interaction with Impulsivity in the Prediction of Early Behavior Problems*. Poster presented at American Psychological Society in Boston, MA.

Woodward, E., Flynn, A., Banks, R., Mereish, E., Marks, A.K., Pantalone, D. (2017, March). *A Qualitative Examination of Resilience Resources for HIV Prevention among Sexual Minority Men at High Risk*. Presentation at Society for Behavioral Medicine, San Diego, CA.

Psychology Department

Publications

Arauz, J., Danitz, S.B., Orsillo, S.M., & Coyne, L.W. (2017). A preliminary exploration of education values, distress, and acceptance among self-identified white and non-white incoming college freshmen at a private university. *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science*.

Conn, B., Marks, A. K. (2017). An ecological approach to understanding adolescent prescription drug misuse. *Journal of Adolescent Research*. doi: 10.1177/0743558415589369

Frazier, E. A., **Swenson, L.**, Mullare, T., Dickstein, D. P., Hunt, J. I. (2017). Depression with mixed features in adolescent psychiatric inpatients. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 48, 393-399.

Gansler, D. A., Huey, E., Pan, J. J., Wassermann, E., Grafman, J. H. (2017). Assessing the Dysexecutive Syndrome in Frontotemporal Dementia. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry*, 88, 254-261.

Hoepfner, B., Hoepfner, S., **Kelly, L.M., Schick, M.R., & Kelly, J.F.** (2017). Smiling instead of smoking: Development of a pos-

itive psychology smoking cessation smartphone app for non-daily smokers. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. doi: 10.1007/s12529-017-9640-9.

Jacobson, N. C., **Lord, K. A., & Newman, M. G.** (2017). Perceived emotional social support in bereaved spouses mediates the relationship between anxiety and depression. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 211, 83-91.

Jarvi, S. M., Swenson, L. P., & Batejan, K. L. (2017). Motivation for and use of social networking sites: Comparisons among college students with and without histories of non-suicidal self-injury. *Journal of American College Health*. Epub ahead of print published online 31 Mar 2017. doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2017.1312410

Kelly, L., Becker, J., Graves, H., Wolff, J. & Sprito, A. (2017). Interactive effect of parent and adolescent psychiatric symptoms on substance use among adolescents in community treatment. *Community Mental Health Journal*, 53, 383. Doi 10.1007/s10597-017-0110-2

Kertz, S. J., Kelly, J.M., Stevens, K.T., Schrock, M., & **Danitz, S.** (2017). A review of free iPhone applications designed to target anxiety and worry. *Journal of Technology in Behavioral Science*. doi 10.1007/s41347-016- 0006-y

Lee, A. K., **Gansler, D. A., Zhang, N., Jeram, M., King, J. A., Fulwiler, C.** (2017). Relationship of mindful awareness to neural processing of angry faces and impact of mindfulness training: A pilot investigation. *Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging*, 264, 22-28.

Mace, R. A., Gansler, D. A., Suvak, M., Gabris, C., Arean, P., Raue, P., Alexopoulos, G. S. (2017). Therapeutic relationship in the treatment of geriatric depression with executive dysfunction. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 214, 130-137.

Mansbach, W. E., **Mace, R. A., & Clark, K. M.** (2017). The efficacy of a computer-assisted rehabilitation program for patients with mild cognitive deficits: A pilot study. *Experimental Aging Research*, 43(1), 94-104. doi: 10.1080/13825585.2016.1143443

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Katie Bolgioni, *Lead Editor*
Kristin Kelly
&
Jessica Valente



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 their next professional steps in the workforce or in furthering their education. We truly thank all the psychology students, and those that supported them, for making the Suffolk University Psychology Department such a full and exciting place. You now join the broader Suffolk family of over 78,000 alumni! Please keep in touch, we would love to include your stories in a future newsletter.

Suffolk psychology undergraduate and graduate students continue to impress with their accomplishments—winning awards, presenting posters and papers at National Conferences, publishing articles, and engaging in community service and experiential learning. Your efforts in partnering with organizations throughout the region and the country have had a positive impact. You have been great ambassadors representing Suffolk University, and we are proud of all that you do.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the department strives to improve our community and promote inclusiveness and the highest quality of learning. To

support those efforts, we had a faculty training facilitated by the Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence on best practices in promoting inclusiveness in the classroom. It was a wonderful program with excellent discussion. I know that I learned a great deal. We plan to hold annual events of this type to promote our understanding and sensitivity to access and inclusion, part of Suffolk's founding mission.

I also encourage everyone to congratulate Professor Michael Suvak who was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded Tenure this Spring. This is a huge accomplishment and well deserved. I look forward to his continued outstanding teaching, scholarship, service and good humor.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to meeting the new first-year students in the Fall.

