

# Department of Graduate Psychology

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## Research Spotlight

Dr. Elena Savina is piloting the *Journey Around the World* curriculum at Spotswood Elementary School in Harrisonburg. Mrs. Suzanne Gilchrist-Thompson is implementing the curriculum with first-grade students three times a week. She is a teacher with a great passion for socio-emotional education. The *Journey Around the World* fosters children's prosocial and global competencies through language arts instruction. It further develops socioemotional skills which allow children to be open to cultural diversity, establish positive interpersonal relationships, work collaboratively with others, and take responsible social actions. This project is a bridge between the campus and local community and is an exemplar of connecting research with educational practice.



## Important Dates in February and March

### February 3, 10, 13 & 17

CSPA Interviews

### February 13

Counseling and Supervision  
Interviews

### February 17

Psychological Sciences  
Interviews

### February 17 & 20

CMH and School Counseling  
Interviews

### February 24 and 27

C-I Interviews

### February 24

Craig Enders Talk

### February 27 and March 3

School Psychology Interviews

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## Program News and Noteworthy Happenings

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### Assessment and Measurement

**Dr. Sara Finney**, serving as the chair of the Technical Advisory Committee for the GRE test, attended a three-day GRE Board meeting in Princeton, NJ. During this meeting discussions centered on outcomes assessment in higher education.

**Dr. Keston Fulcher** accepted an offer from the National Institute of Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) to serve on its advisory panel. This is a progressive, world-leading organization in higher education. Serving on this panel will allow JMU to learn about the latest advancements in higher education and allow us to share our innovations with other leaders.

**Dr. John Hathcoat** gave a presentation to students in PSYC 651 at SIM University. In this virtual environment, students were assigned to serve as the director of a department in student affairs at a simulated university. As part of their position, they were asked to create an assessment plan. The presentation focused on introducing students to student outcomes assessment and how to write objectives.

**Dr. Hathcoat** was also interviewed by the Chronicle of Higher Education regarding the Multi-State Collaborative. John's interview can be found here: [The next great hope for measuring learning](#).

**Dr. Allison Ames** was awarded the Office of Sponsored Programs New Faculty Award for high quality proposal seeking external funding during her first year at JMU.

### CARS Talk

On February 24, **Dr. Craig Enders** (pictured) will be presenting "A Gentle Introduction to Multiple Imputation." The talk will be held in Lakeview 1104 from 10:00 am to Noon. Craig is a Professor at The University of California and has research and teaching interests in multiple imputation; maximum likelihood and Bayesian estimation with incomplete data; multilevel modeling; and longitudinal modeling. The purpose of this talk is to familiarize participants with multiple imputation and to demonstrate its use with the Blimp software application. The talk will be accessible to researchers with a foundation in multiple regression.

**Nick Curtis**, of the A&M Program, was appointed to the JMU-Kosovo Steering Committee.

**Liz Pyburn**, of the A&M Program, had a publication in the College Student Affairs Journal titled, "Birds of a feather cluster together: Noncognitive attributes and international student success." The work merges CARS assessment consultation with student research, and met a need requested by the Office of International Programs.

Assessment and Measurement/CARS has completed their faculty search. **Brian Leventhal**, who is coming from the University of Pittsburgh, will be starting July 1.



## Clinical and School Psychology

**Dr. Gregg Henriques** is busily planning the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology's midwinter conference, which will be held in Richmond, VA in March. Several faculty and graduate students will be offering presentations, including two seminars on the C-I Madison Model of Training.

**Dr. Henriques** continues to advance his Well-Being Initiative, and gave a talk on it to the UREC Staff for their full-day retreat in January and will also discuss it as part of his Plenary Address for the Madison Leads Conference on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Elena Savina** is conducting research in Russia on using games with rules to promote self-regulation in preschool children.

**Dr. Savina** together with C-I students **Jennifer Mills, Kelly Atwood, and Jason Cha** published an article "Digital Media and Children: A Primer for School Psychologists" in the journal Contemporary School Psychology. This article provides school psychologists with a comprehensive literature review about the effects of digital media on various aspects of children's functioning including physical and mental health, attention, cognition, and socio-emotional development. School psychologists are provided with recommendations on how to incorporate information about digital media in their work with parents, educators, and youth in order to promote healthy digital media use.

**Dr. Anne Stewart** has been elected to Distinguished Fellowship of the National Academies of Practice in Psychology. Her induction will take place the weekend of March 17-18 in Philadelphia, PA.

**Dr. Craig Shealy** is the President-Elect for Division 52 of APA, International Psychology. He most recently attended their mid-winter meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Several C-I students will be attending and presenting at NASP in San Antonio, TX this February, including **Caroline Conners, Kirstin Drucker and Virginia Larsen**. **Dr. Elena Savina** will also be presenting at the conference.

The C-I Program's self-study was evaluated and the program was approved for a site visit that will occur during the spring of 2017.

## Counseling Programs

### Faculty News

**Drs. Debbie Sturm and Lennie Echterling** will soon be publishing an article in *Counseling Today* about the implications of climate change. The article is titled: *A Just and Kind World: Preparing for Mental Health Impact of Climate Change*.

**Drs. Eric Cowan and Lennie Echterling** have written "The influence of sacred Indian literature in Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*," which will be published in *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*.

You won't be seeing **Dr. Michele Kielty's** smiling face around campus much this semester, as she is on academic leave (but she will be smiling☺).

**Dr. Debbie Sturm** recently spent 12 days in her beloved Malta to do some research, teach for ISAT at the University of Malta, and work out some details for her upcoming May Study Abroad.

### CSPA

There are a few conferences coming up that CSPA students often attend. The first is NASPA March 11-15, taking place in San Antonio, TX.

ACPA takes place a few weeks later, March 26, in Columbus, Ohio.

Interviews for CSPA will be held starting the first Friday in February and continuing for the next few weeks.

### Psychological Sciences

**Dr. Jennifer Roche**, a 2008 graduate of the MA program in Psychological Sciences, came back to JMU on Monday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> to give a talk to the current MA students in her former program. After graduating with her MA, Dr. Roche completed her PhD in Cognitive Psychology at the University of Memphis. After a post doc at the University of Rochester, she is now an assistant professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Kent State University. Dr. Roche's main research areas are in the cognitive mechanisms that drive communication and whether they are successful or unsuccessful. Her talk to the graduate students and

**Agnes Carbrey**, a Clinical Mental Health Counseling student, was a fellow-in-residence in a beautiful studio at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Sweet Briar over the Holiday break. This residency gives composers, writers, and visual artists "retreat" time to focus exclusively on their work.



### Planning Ahead

**TGS Travel Grant Deadline**  
March 31

**Spring Break**  
March 6-10

**Grad Psych Symposium**  
April 21

**Spring Celebration and Graduation**  
May 4

faculty reflected her research career at Kent State. She also opened the conversation to address questions the graduate students had on how to manage a career progression in research science. The Psychological Sciences Program is very proud of their graduates! Thank you, Jennifer, for sharing your research and wisdom! For more info, here is Dr. Roche's professional website [www.jennyroche.com](http://www.jennyroche.com) .

## School Psychology

**Dr. Debi Kipps-Vaughan** is enjoying her Educational Leave with spending more time in the public schools. Harrisonburg City Schools has invited her to conduct a series of Teacher Wellness sessions at Skyline and Thomas Harrison Middle Schools.

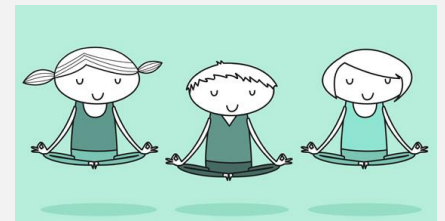
**Dr. Kipps-Vaughan** also continues to lead an Autism Parent Support Group. Parents of adolescents with autism meet once a month on a Tuesday evening at Blue Ridge Hall to share their concerns and their wisdom with one another. Autistic adolescents and their siblings also attend the meetings, but in a separate room. The kids are provided low structured activities facilitated by second year school psychology students. We could not provide this service without the on-going commitment and support of the School Psychology Program 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. Big thanks to **Neo Moss** and **Jessica Meeks** who keep this as a priority on their calendars!

School Psychology faculty, **Drs. Ashton Trice** and **Tammy Gilligan**, will attend the annual convention of the National Association of School Psychologists in San Antonio, Texas on February 21<sup>st</sup> – February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Gilligan** will present a paper co-authored with School Psychology alum and current Assessment and Measurement doctoral candidate, **Nick Curtis**. **Dr. Trice** will present with School Psychology graduate students, **Steven Powell** & **Denton Warburton**.

## Family Fun Night

**Drs. Tammy Gilligan** and **Michele Kielty**, along with school psychology graduate students **Alexis Morse** and **Katie Hughes**, provided mindfulness strategies to families at Hugh K. Cassell Elementary School in Augusta County during the school's annual Family Fun Night. The theme of their event was "Keep Breathing! Supporting Your Families Strength."



## High School Partnership

First-year School Psychology students are supporting a service project at Fort Defiance High School in which they partner with adolescents who are developing literacy skills and provide support and practice opportunities for reading.

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## Assistant Professor Search

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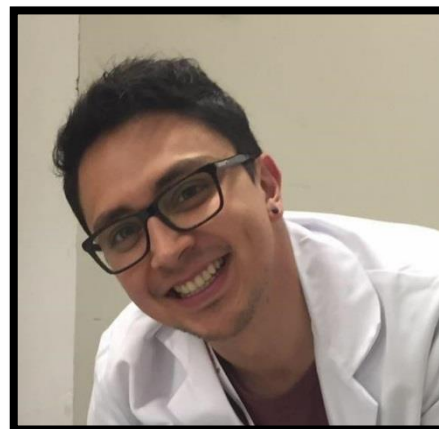
The School Psychology Program is searching for an Assistant Professor to join their community in August, 2017. The search committee, chaired by **Dr. Gilligan**, includes **Drs. Trice, Kipps-Vaughan, and Staton**, and current program clinician-in-residence, **Susan Magowan-Black**. Please participate in on-campus interviews later this spring. More information will follow as interview dates are known.

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## Visiting Scholars

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**Pedro Alvarado, M.D.** (pictured) is a medical resident specializing in psychiatry, currently finishing training at Benito Menni Hospital in Barcelona, Spain. He will be a visiting scholar for the spring semester, working closely with **Dr. Ken Critchfield**, of the C-I Program, to learn methods of Interpersonal Reconstructive Therapy while also contributing to departmental dialogues about international and inter-professional work. Pedro has an office in the first floor lab space in Miller Hall. If you see him walking around, please welcome him to JMU.



Psychological Sciences faculty member, **Dr. JoAnne Brewster**, is sponsoring a well-known police psychologist and forensic scientist to JMU via the Visiting Scholars Program. **Dr. David Englert**, the clinical director/operational psychologist of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, will be giving a talk entitled "Investigative and Forensic Psychology" on **Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:30pm in Miller 1101. All students and faculty are invited.

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## Movie Night

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The School Counseling and School Psychology Programs will partner to host a documentary movie night, "Paper Tigers", for all interested graduate students on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in HBS G040.

*As director of "Paper Tigers," James Redford documented the lives of staff and students of Lincoln Alternative High School in Walla Walla, Washington. Students at this high school had behavioral issues and poor academic performances and were usually suspended from school. After discovering the studies on adverse childhood experiences, the high school changed its approach to handling the students with kindness and in-school suspension versus automatic punitive punishments.*



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## 4VA Grant Awarded

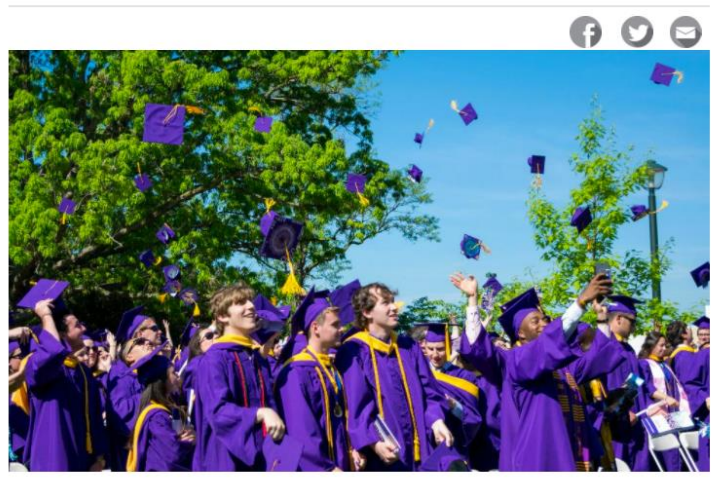
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**Drs. Gilligan, Kielty, and Staton** received a 4VA grant to develop a course "Mindfulness and Self-Care for Helping Professionals." This three-credit course will be offered during the first six weeks of the summer session. A description is provided below.

*This course is designed for upper-undergraduate as well as graduate students who intend to work as a helping professional. It will enhance knowledge and skills related to self-care and wellness, specifically through the understanding and application of mindfulness-based contemplative practices. In addition to exploring the evidence-based literature in a variety of helping professional fields of study and practice, students will learn about the role of mindfulness in: burnout prevention; physical, mental, emotional and relational well-being; and personal and interpersonal meaning-making through both play and nature. Self-care and wellness modalities will be practiced in order to help professionals avoid burnout and to develop skills and attitudes that can help them thrive in their work. Finally, students will have the opportunity to explore their own professional identities in greater depth and to offer interdisciplinary education and best practices in a collaborative classroom environment.*

If you have been following the JMU news, you may have seen a survey in which JMU alumni participated. The survey results were compared to results nationally and JMU alumni ranked high in overall well-being. The survey measured well-being on a number of different dimensions including workplace engagement, civic and community engagement, health and wellness, financial stability, and strong social relationships. Congratulations to **Keston Fulcher, John Hathcoat, Heather Harris, and Courtney Sanders** from the Center for Assessment & Research Studies project – as well as **Dary Erwin** (School of Strategic Leadership Studies), **Fletcher Linder** (IdLS/University Programs), **Heather Patterson** (Pre-Professional Health Advising), **Randy Mitchell** (Student Success), **Ashley Privott** (Alumni Relations), and **Brad Kurtz** (University Advancement – Data Analysis and Reporting) for their work on this project.

## JMU alumni better off than most according to Gallup



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Challace J. McMillin Center for Sport Psychology

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The [Challace J. McMillin Center for Sport Psychology](#) at James Madison University will be actively involved in serving the Shenandoah Valley during the spring semester. The McMillin Center is proud to announce that they will be hosting their free Annual Coaches Clinic with Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation on February 17. The clinic, "High Performance Culture," will include a keynote address from JMU head baseball coach **Marlin Ikenberry**; a college student-athlete panel; a featured lecture from **Dr. Robert Harmison**, Kibler Professor of Sport Psychology at JMU; and presentations by six other professionals in the field of sport psychology who will provide tips to build, assess, and maintain a high-performance culture.



The McMillin Center is also pleased to announce a partnership with Mary Baldwin University Athletics for a series of seven workshops on student-athlete well-being. The workshops, to be led by McMillin Center co-assistant directors **Chris Bilder** and **Chad Doerr**, will consist of four sessions with the student-athletes covering values and happiness, stress management, physical well-being, and creating a daily purpose. The series will also include three workshops with the universities' coaches and will include an overview of student-athlete well-being; coach, team, and athlete values; and environmental resources for student-athletes.

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## VAPT Winter Workshop 2017

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VAPT just hosted their Winter Workshops. There were two one-day sessions that participants could attend. The first was, **Easy as ABC: Creating an Amazing Bibliotherapy Collection**, presented by former CI students Danielle Budash, PsyD, RPT-S and Megan Fiore, PsyD, RPT-S. The second workshop was **Ecstasies and Agonies in Case Supervision: Advanced Skills for Play Therapy Supervisors**, presented by Eric Green, PhD, LPC, RPT-S. Many Graduate Psychology students helped out with these events, as well as attended. Anne Stewart is the President of the VAPT, so please contact her with any questions about joining or future events.