

Department of Graduate Psychology

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Research Spotlight

Assessment & Measurement assistant professor **Allison Ames** has been working to incorporate her service as CARS assessment liaison to the Madison Collaborative into her research. With a team led by doctoral students **Nick Curtis** and **Madison Holzman**, Allison has been working on a novel method to score performance assessments that yields more reliable ratings than conventional rubric-based methods. The innovative approach compares essays scored under the conventional approach to the same essays scored under the new method. The findings yielded more reliable scores, resulting in more confidence given to the inferences made about students' ethical reasoning abilities. In addition, Allison

and doctoral student **Thai Ong** have been using advanced statistical models to detect rater fatigue in both methods. The combined efforts of the team have resulted in presentations to the Madison Collaborative Council, National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME; May 2017), and the Psychometric Society (IMPS; July 2017).



Important Dates in April and May

Last day of Classes

April 27

Finals

April 28-May 3

**Spring Celebration and
Graduation**

May 4

Summer Classes Begin

May 15

**School Psychology Masters
Ceremony**

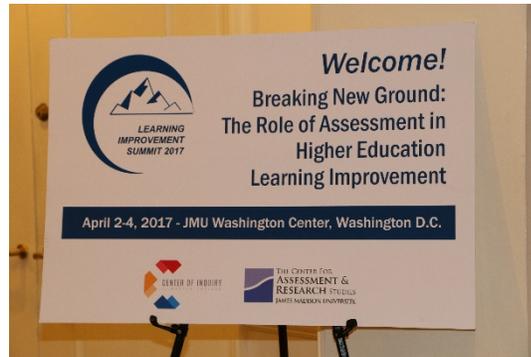
July 27

Program News and Noteworthy Happenings

Assessment and Measurement

Learning Improvement Summit

CARS, in partnership with the Center of Inquiry at Wabash College, recently hosted the first Learning Improvement Summit. Thirty of the most influential and innovative minds in higher education met in Washington, DC to discuss learning improvement. The summit began with an idea from **Jeanne Horst** and **Allison Ames** who initially proposed a small tele-conference on learning improvement. This idea blossomed and with the help of **Paula Love**, CARS administrative assistant, the Learning Improvement Summit was born.



The summit gave many students and faculty from JMU the opportunity to shine. CFI's **Cara Meixner** did an amazing job co-presenting with **Keston Fulcher** on Learning Improvement by Design, showcasing what happens when assessment, faculty development, and academic degree programs partner. **Linda Halpern** – Summit benefactor - gave a powerful TED-type talk on JMU's first big improvement effort: the creation and empirical validation of a more effective general education program.

Several A&M students, including **Nick Curtis**, **Madison Holzman**, **Kelly Foelber**, will be presenting at AERA/NCME along with faculty members. The conference is being held in San Antonio, TX this year.



Kristen Smith, of the A&M Doctoral Program, recently received The Graduate School Innovation Award. Great job!!



A&M alum **Megan Good** and A&M student **Kristen Smith** teamed up for a TED-type talk of their own highlighting their stellar dissertation work on

Summer Registration

Registration for summer classes is open. It is very important that everybody register as soon as possible so we can have accurate counts for each course offered.

improving ethical reasoning skills in partnership with the Madison Collaborative. Fellow A&M alum and ETS representative **Javarro Russell** participated in a panel of



national leaders regarding the state of affairs of learning improvement. Current A&M students **Nick Curtis** and **Madison Holzman** facilitated many of these conversations.



Assessment and Measurement students continue to publish and present along with faculty members at conferences across the country and world. **Nick Curtis, Heather Harris, Jessica Jacovidis**

and **Courtney Sanders** all have upcoming publications in the SAGE Encyclopedia of Educational Measurement. **Elisabeth Pyburn** has an article coming out soon in *Multivariate Behavioral Research*. **Nick Curtis, Madison Holzman and Heather Harris** will have presentations at the International Meeting of the Psychometric Society in Zurich, Switzerland this July. **Nick** will also be presenting at the International School Psychology Association Conference in Manchester, United Kingdom. **Thai Ong** will be traveling to Boston in May to present at the Association for Psychological Science Conference.

Clinical and School Psychology

Drs. Gregg Henriques and Ken Critchfield will be attending and presenting at the Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration's 33rd Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado in May.

Dr. Gregg Henriques recently published an article, "Character Adaptation Systems Theory: A New Big Five for Personality and Psychotherapy", in the Review of General Psychology.

Dr. Anne Stewart traveled to Vancouver, BC, Canada, in April to present at the Children and Nature Network conference.

Dr. Anne Stewart Dr. Anne Stewart was invited to be a member of a working group of eight leaders in interprofessional education to develop an Interprofessional Seminar on Integrated Primary Care. The workgroup was convened as part of an APA Presidential Initiative on Psychology and Integrated Care launched by 2016 APA President Susan McDaniel, Ph.D.

The goal of the curriculum is to enhance the competencies of psychologists to participate in and contribute to integrated care environments as leaders, educators, supervisors, researchers, consultants, and clinicians. The curriculum, which can be used across a variety of healthcare disciplines, was completed in January 2017. Modules from the curriculum were discussed by first

and second year students enrolled in the CI doctoral seminar, Psychology 825. Students created presentations to cover topics including interprofessional ethics, leadership, quality improvement, and healthcare policy and advocacy. Several members of the workgroup, including Dr. Susan McDaniel served as guest speakers in the class. A copy of the APA Interprofessional Seminar on Integrated Primary Care can be retrieved at

<http://www.apa.org/education/grad/curriculum-seminar.aspx>

Dr. Ken Critchfield was awarded a Graduate Student IMPACT award. Well done!!

Dr. Craig Shealy, as President of APA's Division 52, International Psychology, is busy preparing for the divisions 20th anniversary. Along with **Dr. Renee Staton** and **Dr. Lee Sternberger**, he will be planning anniversary events for the upcoming APA conference this August in Washington, DC.



Several C-I students and faculty attended and presented at the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology's midwinter conference, in Richmond, VA the first week in March.

This May several C-I students will participate in an exchange program with the University of Leicester, UK. **Chris Bilder, Caroline Conners, and Mariafe Panizo** will travel to Leicester to learn how training is conducted in the UK. This fall the C-I Program will host students from the University of Leicester. This is the second year the exchange has been going on.

Counseling Programs

Lennie Echterling will be facilitating a **JMU Counseling Alumni Panel!** It will feature both school and clinical counselors who have gone through the JMU programs, who are now working in the real world or completing Ph.D. programs! They will be able to answer any questions about the JMU program (i.e. practicum, internship, other requirements) as well as talk about jobs in the future. Join us on April 27th at 6:30 in the SSC. Refreshments will be served.

Dr. Michele Kielty has enjoyed her sabbatical, but we are glad she will be back from leave to join us for summer session.

Drs. Renee Staton, Michele Kielty and **Tammy Gilligan** recently had an article titled "Whole-School Approaches to Incorporating Mindfulness-Based Interventions: Supporting the Capacity for Optimal Functioning in School Settings", published in *Childhood Education*, V3.

Dr. Debbie Sturm is leaving on her 3rd Study Abroad to Malta on May 7th. She will be taking 20 undergraduate Honors students to study *Environmental Leadership & The Psychology of Sustainability*. She will be back to JMU on June 7th. Safe travels!



Anne Metz won a Graduate Student Association's travel grant award. Congratulations Anne!

Counseling and Supervision doctoral student **Tiffanie Sutherlin** traveled to Clemson University April 16-19th to participate in their Doctoral Pathfinder Program. It's a program focused on diversity & inclusion. They invite students of color from other doctoral programs who are interested in becoming faculty members. The program provide networking opportunities, a chance to talk with academic departments, workshops, and sharing research. Here is the link with more information.

<http://www.clemson.edu/inclusion/oie/program.html>.

Mina Attia has signed on as an adjunct faculty member to teach this summer at Johns Hopkins University's Counseling Programs. He is a first-year student in the Counseling and Supervision Program.

Congratulations to everyone who successfully completed their EdS projects in preparation for graduation! **Bryant Satterlee, Matt Martin, Hunter Greer, and Caitlin Powell**...way to go!

Congratulations to **Dr. Daria White**, on successfully defending her dissertation, *Being and Beholding: Comparative Analysis of Joy and Awe in Four Cultures*. Her committee chair was **Debbie Sturm** and members were **Lennie Echterling** and **Cara Meixner**.

CSPA

Several students from the CSPA Program submitted proposals to JMU's Graduate School Showcase, which was held on April 20th. The proposals were based on work done in **Dr. Cara Meixner's** Statistical Methods in Psychology course last Fall semester. **Shannon Edmond, Kelsey Bowen, and Kate Bergey** were part of a panel presentation titled, "Why Assessment Matters: On the Road for Change". **Katie Kinniburg, Caitlin Powell, Matt Olmsted, and Blakeney Hartka** submitted a poster, "Facilitated Departmental Dialogues".

Danielle Gallagher, Katie Kinniburg, and Kendall Valente were the winners of one of the Graduate Student Association student awards. They each won a \$100 professional development grant.

Danielle Gallagher made a poster presentation at the National American College Student Personnel conference in Columbus, OH.

Psychological Sciences



Psychological Sciences student **Jon Cromer** was awarded the 2017 Graduate School Outstanding Thesis Awarded for STEM, Health and Behavioral studies. Jon's thesis was titled "911 Calls in Homicide Cases: What Does the Verbal Behavior of the Caller Reveal?". Jon received his award at a ceremony held April 20th in the Madison Ballroom.

It was a clean sweep for the Psychology Department, winning all the College of Health and Behavioral Studies faculty awards this year. Some of the faculty also teach in the Psychological Sciences Program.

Dr. Jeff Dyche was the Madison Scholar

Dr. Kethera Fogler received Outstanding Junior Faculty

Dr. Krisztina Jakobsen was awarded Distinguished Teacher Award

Dr. Suzanne Baker received the Distinguished Service Award

BCBA 100% Pass Rate

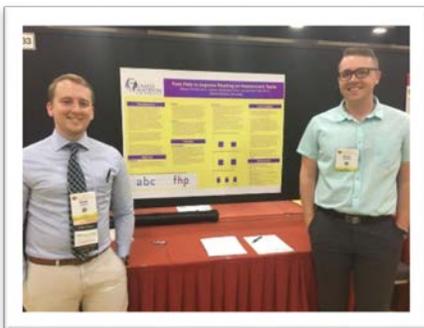


The pass rates for 2015 have come out and 100% of students who completed the BCBA program at JMU passed. This is an exceptional accomplishment. Well done!



School Psychology

Dr. Debi Kipps-Vaughan is enjoying the end of her educational leave. We look forward to seeing Debi around more this summer.



The NASP conference in San Antonio, Texas took place this past February. Several School Psychology students presented, including **Steven Powell & Denton Warburton** whose poster was titled "Font Fails to Improve Reading on Assessment Task". School psychology alum **Nick Curtis**, who is currently in the A&M Program presented with **Dr. Tammy Gilligan** on Cultural Competence in School Psychology.

Mandi Simmers and **Dr. Tammy Gilligan** attended the Virginia Council for Learning Disabilities Annual Conference, which was held at JMU this April. They presented a poster entitled "Addressing the Needs of Students with Emotional Disabilities: Current Practices".

Drs. Tammy Gilligan and Michele Kielty gave an invited presentation for the Physician Assistant Program at Mary Baldwin University. The presentation was "Mindfulness and Wellness for the Healing Practitioner".

Jessica Meeks, Kaitlynn Carter, Neo Moss, Alexis Morse, Ginger Wayland, Lizzy Coalter, Breonna Davis, Mandi Simmers and Debi Kipps Vaughan attend Spring VASP in Richmond, VA. Several alumni also attended. What a great JMU showing.

Retirement Celebration for Patti Warner



After 27 years of service to James Madison, **Dr. Patricia Warner** will be retiring this spring. If you mention Patti's name around the JMU community you will discover that people have nothing but praise and positive things to say about her. During her time at JMU she has mentored over 270 graduate students, had more than 45 publications, visited dozens of interns around the country, and touched the lives of everybody in the Department. Patti is warm, caring, thoughtful, generous with her time, and an inspiration to students and faculty alike.

The School Psychology Program faculty will be hosting a retirement party for Patti on June 4th from 4:30 until 7:00 at the [Stonewall Jackson Hotel](#) in Staunton to celebrate her more than 25 years of service to the university, the department, and the profession. There will be a cocktail hour, dinner, and then a brief and gentle roasting. The inclusive cost will be \$40 per person. Contact Dr. Ashton Trice (tricead@jmu.edu) to make reservations.

IPEC Team Challenge, Event and Experience

Students from Graduate Psychology, Nursing, and Communication Sciences and Disorders recently completed a three-semester Interprofessional Education and Collaboration seminar. During the final semester, the interprofessional student teams, along with a supervising faculty member, met with a member from the community to work in a collaborative manner to address health concerns. Some of the students who were not able to meet on campus were able to participate in these meetings using the Beam Pro (a robot that allows for video conferencing). At the final meeting, the students shared one-word descriptors for their experiences such as grateful, reflective, humbled, and inspired. What a wonderfully rewarding experience for all!



Provost Award Winners

Congratulations to Dr. Lennie Echterling for winning this year's Provosts Award for Advising and to Dr. Jennifer Cline, a Counseling Program alum, for winning the Provosts Award for Part-time Teaching.



Counseling Fellowship from NBCC and Affiliates



Congratulations to **Mina Attia** who was recently awarded a \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship from the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). The fellowship includes funding and training to support his studies and to facilitate his service to underserved minority populations. To learn more about NBCC and the fellowship programs you can visit their website at <http://www.nbccf.org/programs/fellows> .

Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Trevor Stokes has been selected for a Fulbright Award for Georgia-Sakartvelo. Trevor will partner with the School of Arts and Sciences and the Child Development Institute at Ilia Chavchavadze State University in Tbilisi. His activities will include developing connections between the primarily theory-oriented classes and opportunities for practicum, and make reference to those experiences to augment classroom instruction. Trevor will work within their clinical psychology and applied behavior analysis programs. As a Fulbright Scholar, Trevor will make 3 trips to Tbilisi over three successive semesters, starting in January 2018. Trevor has had eight consecutive years of work in community agencies in Tbilisi which have prepared him for these activities at Ilia State University.



Graduate Psychology Spring Symposium



The 2017 Graduate Psychology Spring Symposium took place on April 21st from 9:00am – 3:00 pm. The event opened with a keynote address from Dr. Elena Savina titled, “The Future of Our Children: Bridging the Global and Prosocial Learning in the Journey Around the World Curriculum”. The rest of the



day was filled with presentations from the Assessment & Measurement, Counseling, Psychological Sciences, and School Psychology Programs. School Psychology interns returned to JMU to make presentations on their current research. There were poster presentations by School Counseling students as well. Student presenters, faculty, and site supervisors took a break from the activities to enjoy lunch together.



Student Presenters



Welcome

We will be welcoming two new faculty to the Graduate Psychology Department this fall. The Assessment and Measurement Program/ CARS held a successful search and has hired Brian Leventhal from the University of Pittsburg. The School Psychology Program just completed their search and has hired Tiffany Hornsby. Tiffany is finishing up her doctorate in educational psychology with a concentration in school psychology this spring. She is currently working for Harrisonburg City Public Schools. We are so happy to have them both joining our department.

Challace J. McMillin Center for Sport Psychology



The [Challace J. McMillin Center for Sport Psychology](#) has had a busy spring furthering its mission of fostering the pursuit of performance and personal excellence in the athletic community, and in the Shenandoah Valley. McMillin Center co-assistant directors, **Chad Doerr** and **Chris Bilder**, recently wrapped up an 8-part workshop on student-athlete well-being with Mary Baldwin University's athletic department. The center partnered with the JMU Athletics Sport Dietitian, Courtney Gallagher, for the Mary Baldwin workshop focusing on nutritionally fueling for performance. McMillin Center members and JMU Psychological Sciences master's students, **Kaleb Cusack** and **Cierra Williams**, also recently held a workshop for the Spotswood High School track and field team that centered on pre-performance routines.

Statistics Boot Camp

A statistics boot camp will be offered again this August for students who will be enrolling in PSYC 605 during the fall. The camp will be held in Lakeview Hall on August 22-23 from 9am-4pm, with breakfast and lunch provided (thank to 4-VA). On August 24th, the camp will be held in Miller G025 from either 9am-noon or 1-4pm. This is a zero-credit course and free to take. Students from last year gave the boot camp high marks. Don't miss out this year for a chance to brush up on stats. For more information or to sign up contact **both S. Jeanne Horst** at horstsj@jmu.edu and **Derek Sauder** at sauderdc@jmu.edu

Summer Institute in Counseling 2017

The JMU Summer Institute in Counseling now has a website and registration for all the workshops is available! Students...this is an excellent opportunity for you to get specialized training for a great low fee. Take a look! Join us this summer! <http://psyc.jmu.edu/counseling/summerinstitute/>

VAPT Summer Workshop 2017

VAPT will be hosting a summer workshop at James Madison May 18th and 19th. The two-day workshop will host Sueann Kenney-Noziska, LCSW, RPT-S. The first day will focus on "Play Therapy for Children, Tweens and Teens: An Evidence-Informed Approach" and the second day's workshop will focus on "Integrative Play Therapy for the Treatment of Childhood Trauma". For more information or to register visit <http://vapt.cisat.jmu.edu/summerconference17/index.html>

Open Enrollment

If you receive your health insurance through JMU the open enrollment period for signing up and making changes is scheduled for **May 1-May 15**. Please be aware that EmployeeDirect, the online tool will **NOT** be available this year. Employees will need to fill out an [Active Employee Enrollment Form](#) found online or request it from the HR Benefits Team once they are released. These must be turned in to HR before the 15th. Please watch your emails for updates from HR. If you have any questions you can contact Raven King at HR (kingrd@jmu.edu).



To save \$17 a month on your health insurance for both you and your spouse (total of \$34), visit www.myactivehealth.com/cova to complete or update an online health assessment. It's as simple as answering a few questions about your health and lifestyle, and in exchange you will receive a personalized report that can serve as your guide toward better health PLUS you'll save money on your monthly premium! To earn the premium reward beginning July 1, complete or update your online health assessment between May 1-15. To earn a reward after July 1, complete or update your online health assessment by the 15th of the month, and you will receive a reward in about six to eight weeks.