Greetings faculty, students, alumni, and friends! We are pleased to present our EIGHTH edition of the JMU School Psychology Newsletter, where we keep you updated about the current events of the School Psychology Program.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Debi Kipps-Vaughan**

The School Psychology Program is proud to introduce new faculty member Dr. Debi Kipps-Vaughan! Dr. Kipps-Vaughan is originally from Virginia and received her Bachelor Degree’s at Virginia Tech and then went on to get her Master and Ed.S. in School Psychology from James Madison University.

Dr. Kipps-Vaughan was then a school psychologist in Halifax County and active member of VASP for 15 years. After recognizing her rural county’s need for more intense interventions through counseling, she came back to JMU to pursue her Psy. D. in the Combined - Integrated Doctoral Program in Clinical and School Psychology.

**Tara Cullers**

The School Psychology Department would like to welcome Tara Cullers to the team! Tara is from Harrisonburg and was working in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department prior to joining the Department of Graduate Psychology. She is our new Programs Support Assistant and is available to support our students, faculty and staff wherever needed. Tara is an outgoing person and if you’re ever in trouble Tara is a trained EMT.
Dr. Kipps-Vaughan returned to Halifax County for 10 more years after earning her doctorate because she “fell in love with the area.” Dr. Kipps-Vaughan credits the county with being very supportive of her expanded school psychologist role. She was given the opportunity to be involved with programming at every level and to implement prevention and district-wide programs. Before becoming a faculty member this year, Dr. Kipps-Vaughan also contributed greatly to the profession through VASP. She has served in numerous leadership roles including regional representative before becoming the president of the Academy in 2005, succeeding fellow faculty member Dr. Tammy Gilligan.

Dr. Kipps-Vaughan has a wide range of interests when it comes to research. She recently presented at NASP on a Teacher Wellness program and plans to continue this research with current second year student Tyler Rosenberg by implementing the program in another school. Other interests include anger management with high risk youth, resiliency indicators, and identifying interventions to reduce emotional and behavioral disorders.

Dr. Kipps-Vaughan is more than an awesome school psychologist and researcher; she enjoys walking the ridge at Massanutten and reading by the pond. Both faculty and staff are extremely pleased to have someone joining our program with such a wide breadth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. Welcome to the program Dr. Kipps-Vaughan!!

Madison Magazine featured an article about JMU’s School Psychology program in its Spring 2009 edition. The article, tagged “JMU School Psychology Program Grads Leading Change in the Field”, highlighted the strengths of JMU’s program, the program director Patti Warner, and three alumni who have won the NASP award for School Psychologist of the Year. The article also stressed the benefits of the profession of school psychology. It was a great tribute and honor so be sure to check it out! http://www.jmu.edu/madisononline/madison/
Where are they now?
The JMU School Psychology 3rd year students have been on internship at various sites across the United States since Fall 2008.

Erin Byrnes, MA: Hamilton Township Public Schools, Mays Landing, NJ. “I provide psychological services to two elementary and one middle school with diverse student populations. These experiences include: case management at the middle school; counseling diverse students; implementation of RTI through Aimsweb; assessment; and implementation of the School to Parent Initiative. From these experiences, I have learned to think outside the box!”

Genevieve Cullen, MA: Charles County Public School, La Plata, MD: “I provide psychological services in one elementary school and one high school with a diverse population of students. My role includes assessment, group and individual counseling, participating with various team-based decisions, providing instructional consultation to teachers and parents, and participating in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team.”

Angela Falco, MA: Manassas City Public Schools, Manassas, VA: “I conduct psycho-educational assessments at PreK-12 level. I am an active member in eligibility, IEP, Child Study, Crisis Intervention, and Student Assistance teams. I provide individual counseling at the primary and high school levels, including crisis/suicide intervention and grief counseling, co-lead middle school/high school counseling groups in alternative school placement, and regularly consult in an Autism classroom, as well as with parents, teachers, and staff, as needed and appropriate.

The number one thing to remember is that your team is invaluable!”
Lucas McKittrick, MA: Bath County Public Schools, Bath County, VA and Shenandoah Valley Child Development Clinic, Harrisonburg, VA: “My school based roles include providing psychological services in two K-7 grade schools and one 8-12 high school. Roles include assessment, group and individual counseling, participating with various team-based decisions, and providing consultation to teachers and parents. Clinical duties include: psychological, educational, and developmental assessment of children ranging from preschool to high school age; interprofessional team based collaboration with social workers, medical professionals, and occupational therapists; development of recommendations and diagnosis pertaining to various learning, developmental, and emotional disabilities; and consultation with parents, families, and community based resources.”

Danielle Melberg, MA: Cherry Creek School District, Denver, CO: “I provide mental health services in one elementary school and one high school. My role includes data collection in response to intervention; formal assessment for providing special education services; group and individual counseling; school-wide and targeted prevention and intervention programs including positive behavior support; and participating in team-based decision-making meetings.”

Erin O’Keeffe, MA: Baltimore County Public Schools, MD: “I provide psychological services in a high school and two elementary schools. My role includes conducting psychological assessments; group and individual counseling; consultation with school personnel and parents; providing a wide variety of direct and indirect interventions with the high school ED program; participating in a variety of teams including attendance committee, school improvement team, IEP teams; and leading the Student Support Team.”

James Osgood, MA: Avon Grove School District, West Grove, PA: “I provide district wide psychological services in four schools at the primary and secondary levels. My role includes the following: assessment for educational, diagnostic, and intervention planning purposes; group counseling; team-based decision making; provision of instructional support and consultation; assist in system development processes; and providing a wide range of direct and indirect intervention services.”
Kristin Shiflet, MA: Spotsylvania County Public Schools, Spotsylvania, VA: “I provide psychological services in two elementary schools. My primary responsibilities include assessment, consultation, and FBA/BIP development for schools across the county. I’ve experienced so many things over the course of the year, but most importantly I’ve learned to keep a positive attitude and open communication when dealing with tough situations.”

Bethany Stanton, MA: Arlington County Public Schools, Virginia. “I provide a range of psychological services in a multicultural setting, including educational and personality assessments, individual and group counseling, risk assessments, and parent and teacher consultation. I have come to value the power of collaboration when tackling any problem within the schools.”

Stephanie Torkelson, M.A.: Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, Newark Education Center, Newark, NY: “I provide psychological services for students in grades K-12 with global developmental delays and/or speech/language impairments. My role includes assessment, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, and consultation with teachers and parents.”

Brandon White, MA: Calvert County Public Schools, Prince Frederick, MD: “I provide psychological services in an elementary, middle, and high school. My role includes multifaceted evaluations, individual and group counseling, instructional consultation, and group problem solving.”

VPA Fall 2008 Conference

Virginia Psychological Association held its Fall Conference in Virginia Beach, October 15th – 18th. Faculty, students, and alumni represented JMU at the conference.

VASP’s goal is to promote the development and maintenance of quality psychological services in the schools of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It contributes to the advancement of the profession by sponsoring continuing professional development programs for members. The organization communicates with and educates the public regarding the purposes and objective of the profession, which are
to serve the interests of the children, families, and school.

Alumna Kassidy Haslacker, April Howard, Erin King, and Professor Tammy Gilligan presented their research on “Perspectives on the School Psychology Internship.” This session provided participants with ideas about securing an appropriate internship and strategies for getting the most out of their internship year. Perspectives from the intern and intern supervisor were emphasized.

Second year students Morgan Beale, Kirsten Burley, Kara Dragan, Karol Mendoza, Tyler Rosenberg, and Professor Ashton Trice presented their research on “Educational Ethnographies.” This session presented information regarding education systems and cultural information on countries from Central America, South America, and Asia.

Congratulations on all your endeavors!

School Psychology Awareness Week

What is a school psychologist? This year’s graduate students attempted to answer this question and more by taking part in 2008’s National School Psychology Awareness Week, November 10-14. The purpose of School Psychology Awareness Week is to increase awareness of the role and importance of evidence-based academic and mental health services in supporting children’s successful learning and development, as well as appreciating current school psychologists.

The week of November 10th was filled with awareness raising activities. The students prepared an article that ran in the Graduate School Gazette. Sidewalk chalk decorated the JMU Commons letting the campus know about School Psychology Awareness Week. Information about becoming a school psychologist was available in the Psychological Assessment Resource Center (PARC) all week. Undergraduates were invited to come by PARC to learn about the profession and the graduate program. The program designed school psychology t-shirts that were worn that week. In addition to these awareness activities, the graduate students also baked cookies for the surrounding area’s
school psychologists to show their appreciation for the work they do.

**NASP 2009 Convention**

NASP hosted its annual convention for students, practitioners, and trainers to present research and learn about current trends in the field. This year’s convention was held in Boston February 24-28 2009. The theme was “Take Strides to Make a Difference.” Professors Patricia Warner, Tammy Gilligan, and Debi Kipps-Vaughn attended the conference as well as several first year students. Alumnae Erin Banks, Dr. Warner, and Dr. Gilligan presented a paper titled “Cultural Competence: Measuring Effectiveness of School Psychology Training.” Dr. Warner and Dr. Gilligan also presented a poster with Alumnae Melanie Rittenhouse “Effective Provision of Psychological Services to Children in Foster Care.” Dr. Kipps-Vaughn led an excellent and well attended Mini-Skills Workshop, Counseling Skills for Implementing a Teacher Wellness Program. JMU alumni, faculty and current students were clearly well represented at our national conference! First year students were excited to have the opportunity to meet Dr. Jerome Sattler and other leaders in our field.

Alumnae LeAnne Rawls Parr hosted a JMU social where alumni, professors and current students met and mingled. We are also very proud to announce that JMU alumnus Steve Feifer (’86, ’91S) was named the 2009 School Psychologist of the Year! He was recognized at the conference making him the third JMU alumni to receive the honor since 2002! The NASP 2010 annual convention will be held March 2-6, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. See you there!
JMU’s program was awarded 2nd place in the NASP YouTube Contest! The goal was to encourage high school students, undergraduates, and professionals (young and seasoned) to become school psychologists.

Watch how JMU is becoming more visible: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjEmXy mN06c

**Diversity in Action**

Second year students Morgan Beale, Kirsten Burley, Kara Dragan, Karol Mendoza, Tyler Rosenberg, and Professor Ashton Trice presented their research on “Educational Ethnographies: Deconstructing the Concept of ‘Hispanic’” at the President’s Office Third Annual Conference on Diversity. This session presented information regarding education systems and cultural information on countries from Central America (Cuba, Honduras) and South America (Peru, Venezuela, and Ecuador). The program faculty also presented a poster at this conference highlighting the School Psychology Cultural Competency Initiative.

**Education Outside the Classroom**

2008-2009 has been an excellent year for education outside of the classroom. This past fall the students attended the workshop Working with Interpreters led by Susan Magowan-Black. The students learned about best practice when working with families from a different cultural perspective.

This semester our program attended the workshop Neuropsychological Assessment of Low Incidence Disorders led by former faulty member Dr. William Ernst. The students and faculty were educated about a wide variety of issues in neuropsychology.

The first year students attended a Suicide ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). The ASIST workshop is for caregivers who want to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.
Thanks to all those who supported Big Brothers Big Sisters through the 2009 Bowl for Kids' Sake event. This was a very special event to our students, as many participate in the organization as Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This year, just over 900 bowlers pledged nearly $58,000 in support of local BBBS youth mentoring programs. JMU’s School Psychology program had 8 bowlers who pledged $450. Together with other JMU teams, 58 total JMU bowlers raised $2,766.83. With your help this year BBBS of Harrisonburg-Rockingham will serve over 900 local children! Thanks for making a positive difference in our community.

Students, faculty, friends, and family participated in the 2nd Annual 5k Walk/Run for Autism on Saturday March 28, 2009, hosted by Gamma Sigma Sigma, Circle K, and Fiji in the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center/Westover Park.

This year $13,000 was raised for the Shenandoah Valley Autism Partnership (SVAP). Their vision is to create “a place where parents and professionals come together for positive change.” SVAP continues to raise awareness of autism in our valley community through dissemination of materials about autism and the organization; to provide respite care for families who need time away from their loved one; to continue to offer trainings and support to parents and
professionals; and to share resources with other organizations in our valley community who assist persons on the spectrum. This year, some of the money raised will be set aside for a scholarship fund to help families who need financial support.

Fighting cancer is a team effort. Relay for life is a 12 hour event held at Bridgeforth Stadium to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The impact the teams make together is greater than what anyone could do alone. This year many of our students are participating on the Graduate Psychology team, as well as on other teams.

If you would like to support the Graduate Psychology team please make a group donation at the following site: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=12646&team_id=396663

In Memory of Sherry B. Anderson, Ed.S.
5K Walk-Run

Sherry Burcham Anderson received her undergraduate degree from Madison College (now JMU) as well as her Ed.S. in School Psychology in 1981. She was employed at Beverley Manor Middle School in Augusta County, Keister Elementary School in Harrisonburg, Virginia and most recently at the Shenandoah Valley Child Development Center at JMU. A beloved member of the community, Sherry Anderson impacted many people's lives. Sherry was an avid runner as well as a member of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia. "Faithful," "loving," "caring," "dedicated" and "energizing" were just a few of the words used to describe her. Sherry valued education and spent her entire life teaching kids. She was an active member in many community organizations. Sherry had enthusiastically volunteered to assist with the HEF’s 5K Walk-Run prior to her death. She was a devoted wife and mother. Sherry was tragically
killed while running on the morning of January 6, 2009.

Students, faculty, staff and friends will be participating in the Walk-Run on April 25, 2009. The 5K Walk-Run is a fundraiser that has been designed to support the local educational programs implemented by the Harrisonburg Education Foundation as well as to celebrate the life of Sherry Anderson. Sherry was committed to teaching children in the Harrisonburg, Virginia area. She was also an avid runner. By establishing an event such as this, we not only honor Sherry Anderson by participating in something she loved to do but also fund specific programs which benefit the children in the Harrisonburg City Public Schools.

Be the Change. Make a Difference.

To support the School Psychology training program, please consider making a contribution to the JMU Foundation (specify Account Number 14789). We value your continued support in maintaining our educational excellence by providing funds that go towards student professional development and student research.

Please mail checks to:
Advancement Gifts and Records
James Madison University
800 South Main Street
MSC 3603
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
Contact Us!

Patti Warner, Ph.D.
Program Director
warnerpj@jmu.edu

Tammy Gilligan, Ph.D.
Professor
gilligtd@jmu.edu

Debbi Kipps-Vaughan, Psy.D.
Assistant Professor
kippsvdx@jmu.edu

Tara Cullers
Programs Support Assistant
cullertl@cisat.jmu.edu

Check out the JMU School Psychology website at:
http://psyc.jmu.edu/school/

What did we miss?
Please send us your professional activities and changes in email-addresses!