



School Psychology Newsletter

| FALL 2022 | JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY |
| GRADUATE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY |



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Students

Welcome to Our Fall 2022!

Kicking off this year with a great start, we welcomed seven new students to our program: Angela Ji, Julia Shin, Lisandra Artilles, Ivy Morra, Sharice Mehlenbacher, Kayla Hearl, and Fatima Rahman. Congratulations!

Students got to know each other through orientation week and the graduate student back-to-school picnic. We are excited to see what's in store for the remaining fall semester!



The School Psychology Graduate Program would like to congratulate Chutikarn Cotham, Logan Dasher, Emily Davis, Christian Fary, Courtney Hassan, Michelle Moore, Sa'Mone Moore, Jacob Nadler, Jordan Phipps, and Julia Unger for receiving their Master of Arts in School Psychology! On August 21st, the recent graduates, professors, family, and friends gathered to celebrate the hard work, time, and major milestone the group achieved. The students have successfully completed their master's level training and the official first step of becoming School Psychologists. Congratulations to our Second Years!

Team Building

On Friday September 9th, our first- and second-year students were invited to participate in UREC's Team Empowerment with Adventure for Madison (TEAM) challenge course. There were several team exercises created to challenge participants, help build relationships, and encourage collaboration. Teams were challenged to "rescue a friend" without touching the ground and to navigate through a "laser maze." Students had a great time strengthening their bonds and learned to listen and lean on each other in order to overcome obstacles. We are excited to take on future challenges with new-and-improved leadership skills!



Professional Development

Inter-Professional Education Seminar

The second year JMU School Psychology graduate students were invited to participate in the Inter-Professional Education seminar, in late October. During this seminar, school psychology students presented information on the day in the life of a School Psychologist. They also were exposed to the demands of other professions like Social Work, School Counseling, Exceptional Education, Applied Behavioral Analysis, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Language Pathology. In a collaborative manner, groups were developed to review case studies where expertise and teamwork were practiced and appreciated from all disciplines.



Beyond the Rainbow

In early October, the JMU School Psychology program, along with practicum supervisors, were invited to attend a virtual professional development on WAIPER schools and Therapeutic Supports for LGBTQ+ Youth. WAIPER schools are schools with Welcoming, Affirming, Inclusive, Proactive, Equitable, and Responsive for all students and staff. The group refreshed their memory and developed a new understanding of inclusive terminology surrounding LGBTQ+ youth. Because of the newly developed legal requirements, NASP is working to develop a statement and new ethical standards for School Psychology practices to best support the LGBTQ+ community in schools. Our program is thankful for the experience and advocacy of LGBTQ+ youth.



Dr. Sam Ortiz: Nondiscriminatory Assessment

On June 2nd and 3rd, the JMU School Psychology program welcomed students, staff, and practicum supervisors for a professional development opportunity with Dr. Sam Ortiz. Dr. Ortiz presented on nondiscriminatory assessment and procedures for English language learners, in schools. Dr. Ortiz elaborated on multicultural differences, the use of interpreters, and other ethical and legal guidelines when working with this population. Participants engaged in discussion about Cross Battery assessments and were presented with research supporting the Culture-Language Test Classifications (C-LTC) and Interpretive Matrix (C-LIM). Our program is thankful for Dr. Ortiz's professionalism, knowledge, and opportunity for professional development.



Awards

The **O. Ashton Trice Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to **Jacob Nadler** for his academic excellence and highest GPA within the program.

The JMU School Psychology Program would like to recognize and congratulate **Tammy Gilligan, Ph.D., LCP**, for **25 years of service** and **Tiffany Hornsby, Ph.D., LCP, NCSP**, for **5 years of service** to James Madison University.



| FALL 2022 CONFERENCE |

Virginia Academy of School Psychologists

As school psychologists, we can be leaders in fostering psychological safety for K-12 students through our assessment practices, intervention, and advocacy efforts. This was the focus of the Fall 2022 VASP conference, coordinated by our own Dr. Tiffany Hornsby, VASP President-Elect and conference committee. The conference was held at the Richmond Omni, where Virginia practitioners, trainers, and students were able to reconnect, gain awareness, and build on current competencies on how we can make a difference through our practice to promote healthy environments for children to succeed.

Nationally renowned Dr. Byron McClure, D.Ed., NCSP presented, "Why the Time is Now to Shift Towards a Strengths-Based Approach." Dr. McClure is the Founder of Lessons for SEL and co-author of the new book, *Hacking Deficit Thinking: 8 Reframes that Will Change the Way You Think about Strength-Based Practices and Equity in Schools*. Dr. Janise Parker (William and Mary) was the inaugural winner of the VASP Social Justice in School Psychology award that Dr. Hornsby, along with veteran practicum and internship supervisors, Todd Coughenour, Ed.S. (Frederick County Public Schools), and Laura Early, Ed.S. (Chesterfield County Public Schools) helped conceptualize as co-chairs of the VASP Social Justice Committee.

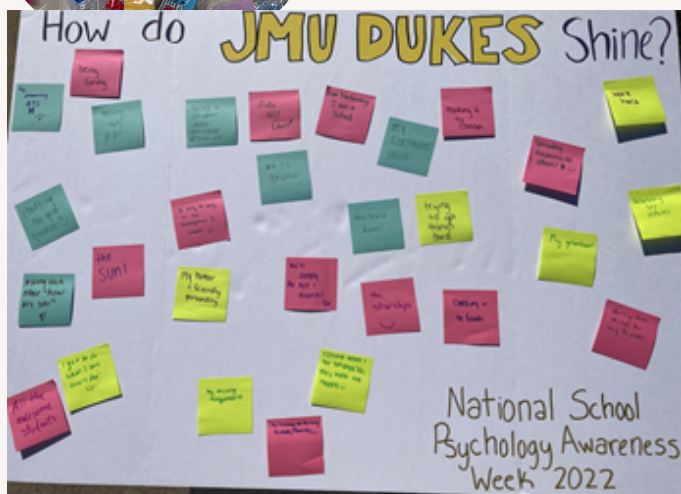
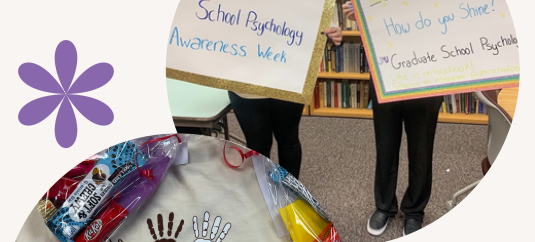
Alum Kiarra Steer, Ed.S. (Hampton City Schools) and Dr. Debi Kipps-Vaughan had a presentation accepted—Supporting Self-Advocacy Skills in Students with Disabilities—which was well attended and received. Several JMU alumni were present and had the opportunity to connect with each other, and it was great to be back in person this year. If you did not make it this time, we hope to see you at the Spring 2023 VASP Conference which will focus on for school psychologists as leaders at every level!



National School Psychology Week

This year, National School Psychology Week took place from November 7-11th with the theme: Together We Shine. The school psychology community celebrates this week every year through various activities and initiatives. The JMU School Psychology program has a tradition of gifting goodie bags to school psychologists in surrounding counties to show appreciation for their valuable efforts and contributions to the community. In addition, students of the program spread awareness of school psychology and self-care by standing near the quad on JMU's campus and asking community members "How do JMU Dukes shine?" Participating members contributed their answers on sticky notes which were displayed on a poster to show how our community members shine.

The JMU Graduate School Psychology Program would like to thank and bring attention to all School Psychologists for their advocacy, dedication, and drive to help children and adolescents. Your work does not go unnoticed. We ask you now: How do you shine?



Where Are Our 2022 Graduates Now?



Kiarra Steer – Hampton City Public Schools, VA

Katie Brittain Kelly – Harrisonburg City Public Schools, VA

Ishmael Valdez – Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

Cara McQuaid – Kent County Public Schools, VA

Davina Putz- Charles County Public Schools, MD

AJ Levey – Loudoun County Public Schools, VA

Maya Rivers – Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

Allison Poggendorf – Roanoke City Public Schools, VA

Monica Holtz – Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

Madeline Brawley – Henrico County Public Schools, VA

Rianna Taylor – Fairfax County Public Schools, VA



The Practicum Experience

The JMU School Psychology Program would like to thank our practicum sites and supervisors for teaching and guiding future school psychologists through their professional journey. We would like to welcome the new supervisors and practicum sites for volunteering your efforts to assist our graduate students. The JMU School Psychology program is grateful for the opportunities and experiences these supervisors offer.

Greene County Public Schools: Jeremiah Jordan & Jessica Williams-Chase

Harrisonburg City Schools: Jason Rutt

Louisa County Public Schools: Meredith Wilkinson & Cyndi Young

Rockbridge County Public Schools: TJ Wills

Rockingham County Public Schools: Pamela Gamble, Lori Golden, Jennifer Martin, & Phil Wickline

Shenandoah County Public Schools: Krista Gieseke-Smith & Kate Grisdale



School Psychology Graduate Student Association (SPGSA)

"SPGSA is a great way for students who are members of the school psychology program and undergraduate students who are interested in the program to connect. Our main goals are to raise awareness of School Psychology, show support and appreciation to faculty and practitioners, and to participate in community events. Some meetings are centered around bonding activities while others are purposed to make cards or goody bags for professors, faculty members, and local School Psychologists. We do this so that students not only feel like they have a sense of community, but to further deepen our relationships with everyone who supports our program on a regular basis." Logan Dasher (President)

If interested in joining or wanting to learn more about our program:

Follow our SPGSA social media!
(Instagram: @jmuschoolpsych)

Or by email: spgsa.jmu@gmail.com

Students gathered for self-care and philanthropy opportunities!

Dukes cross the finish line! Second year students, Jordan, Jake, and Michelle, participated in the JMU Color Run to celebrate the start of the schools year, in early September

Second year students Jake, Julia, Jordan, Sa'Mone, and Michelle hiking the High Knob Fire Tower trail.

To honor student veterans and first responders for September 11th, Jacob attended the JMU Valor and VA momentum 5K run.



Contact Us

Tammy Gilligan, Ph.D
gilligtd@jmu.edu

Debi Kipps-Vaughan, Psy.D
kippsvdx@jmu.edu

Tiffany Hornsby, Ph.D
hornsbtc@jmu.edu

And Visit Our Website!

<https://www.jmu.edu/grad/programs/snapshots/psychology-school-psychology.shtml>

Support Our Future Psychologists

Make a donation to the Program and training of our students by going onto the School Psychology Webpage and clicking the 'Give Now' button! We value your continued support in maintaining our educational excellence by providing funds that go toward professional development and materials for student research. Contributions can also be made specifically to the O. Ashton Trice Scholarship and the Patti Warner Award, which both award summer tuition support. Please keep in mind that many Graduate Assistantships no longer cover the full 12 credits per semester or any of summer tuition.

If you wish to send a check, please mail it to the address below:

Advanced Gift and Record
James Madison University
800 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22807