

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER



Contents:

Page 2: *NASP Convention & VASP Updates*

Page 3: *Workshops*

Page 4: *Cohort Updates*

Page 5: *Symposium Day*

Page 6: *Graduating Class & Awards*

Page 7: *Grants, Fellows, & SPGSA Updates*

Page 8: *Upcoming Events*

Page 9: *Contact Us & Supporting Future School Psychologists*

Welcome to our first full year back in person!

The JMU School Psychology students and staff officially completed their first full year back in person, following the COVID-19 pandemic. After 2 full years of virtual learning and mask wearing, the 2021-2022 school year brought the program connectedness, classroom-based education, and in April of 2022, mask-less smiles! The program continues to adjust to its new normal and students and staff are beyond excited to continue to do so.

2022 NASP Convention

Boston, Massachusetts

This year's National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Annual Convention was held in Boston, Massachusetts. Current students enjoyed attending sessions and meeting with school psychologists as well as other graduate students from across the country. Recent alumni Anna Weaver, Ed.S. and Emily Walsh, Ed.S. presented their poster presentation titled "From LGBTQ Ally to Accomplice: Narratives from Students and Teachers" with Tammy Gilligan, Ph.D.

This year's keynote speaker was activist and motivational speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin, who gave a speech based on what she wrote about in her new book 'Navigating Autism'. The theme of this year's convention was 'Engaging Hearts and Minds'. Our faculty also presented their own research:

- Dr. Tiffany Hornsby presented with Dr. Heartley Huber of William and Mary, Dr. Brian Leventhal of James Madison University and Dr. Sara Snyder of James Madison University. Their presentation was titled "Engaging in Effective Interprofessional Collaboration with BCBA's"
- Dr. Tammy Gilligan presented with Dr. Kerri Clopton from the University of Northern Iowa on the topic of "Supporting Midcareer Practitioners through Values Exploration and Appreciative Inquiry"

Along with all the NASP sessions and the JMU reunion, faculty members Drs. Tammy Gilligan and Tiffany Hornsby were able to visit an interactive Frida Kahlo exhibit at Lighthouse Artspace at the Castle!



Second year, Alison Palmer and Jordan Otto, joined professor, Tammy Gilligan, Ph.D. at the NASP conference.



Students attending the NASP presentations, together, through the NASP online resource.



VASP Update:

We would like to congratulate Tiffany Hornsby, Ph.D., for being nominated for President Elect of the Virginia Association of School Psychology (VASP)! Your hard work and achievements do not go unnoticed. Thank you for being an influential and supportive faculty member of the School Psychology program.

Workshops

Hip Hop to Prevent

On March 30th students in both the first- and second-year cohorts had the privilege of being introduced to a program used to prevent substance use and HIV. The program titled “Hip-Hop 2 Prevent” was created and presented to students by Dr. Thandi Hicks-Harper. It was designed to increase adolescents' knowledge and skills related to drugs and HIV/AIDS through the integration of Hip-Hop culture.



Students attending the Hip Hop to Prevent Workshop with Debbie Kipps-Vaughan.

Popcorn, Pot, & Porn

Addiction can come in different forms and with different habits. Thanks to Dr. Debbie Kipps-Vaughan, the JMU Substance Use Disorder Education grant sponsored a presentation named “Popcorn, Pot, and Porn” by retired VCU nurse practitioner and current addiction consultant, Dr. Linda Hancock, FNP. On April 7th, current first year school psychology students were given the opportunity to join students and staff from the nursing, counseling, and social work programs to learn about the “habit loop.” Dr. Hancock stressed to her audience one main takeaway, practice curiosity over criticism with the people you encounter, especially with those who have addictions.

Motivational Interviewing

On Friday, March 4th, the first-year School Psychology cohort was introduced to Motivational Interviewing, alongside first-year Counseling students. The workshop was led by Paige Hawkins M.Ed., a Substance Use Interventionist at JMU. The session was filled with open discussion and small group practice for applying the concept, Motivational Interviewing, into professional counseling and consultation scenarios.

ASIST TRAINING

Death by suicide is a public health crisis that continues to increase year after year. Yet, this remains a challenging topic to discuss. In 2020, suicide became the 11th leading cause of death in the U.S. On February 3rd and 4th, the first year JMU School Psychology cohort joined EMU counseling students and others, for a suicide intervention training, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Over the course of the two days, students practiced and discussed real life scenarios and intervention techniques, that can be used with people of all ages, in everyday settings. The training shaped students to apply a model of identification of risk, suicide first-aid, prevention, and intervention safe plans. Our future school psychologists are equipped and certified in ASIST techniques.



First year students presenting their ASIST Certifications.

If you or someone you know has suicidal ideation, thoughts, or behaviors, please refer, or reach out for support.

JMU Counseling Center 540.568.6552
JMU after Hours Mental Health Facility
540.568.6552 (press “1”)
Sentara RMH Emergency Department
540.689.1414
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
800.273.8255

Program Updates:

Welcome 2022 Cohort!

Another year of screening days down! The School Psychology Program completed two full days of virtual screening for applicants. After the successful experience, the JMU School Psychology Program would like to welcome the new cohort of eight students, who will graduate in the Spring of 2025! Welcome, Lisandra Artiles Suarez, Fatima Rahman, Michelle Pineda Hernandez, Angela Ji, Ivy Moraa, Julia Shin, Kayla Hearl, and Sharice Mehlenbacher!



Taking Thier Skills Out Into the World!

We are happy to say that our second years had a smooth experience applying for internships sites during the fall and spring semesters! Researching possible internship opportunities, reaching out to public school systems and waiting for applications to open can be a very stressful experience, but our Second-Year students handled it with grace and are gearing up to step into their full-time roles working with and supporting students.

Taylor Bronaugh: Rockbridge County Public Schools, VA

Hannah Delmonte: Loudon County Public Schools, VA

Robyn Devendorf: Broward County Public Schools, FL

Liliana Ferrufino: Montgomery County Public Schools, MD

Mason Folk: Augusta County Public Schools, VA

Tyler Frink: Union County Public Schools, NC

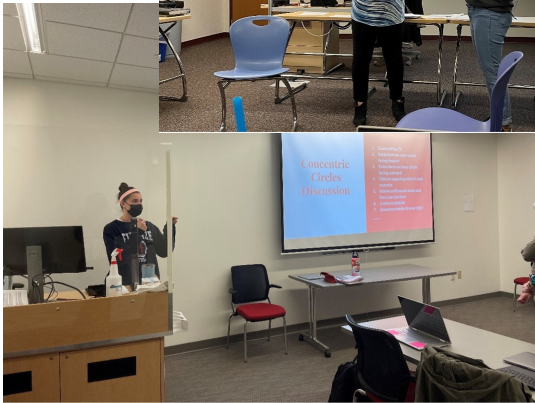
Zaakirah Fulani: Chesterfield County Public Schools, VA

Arayana Harris: Henrico County Public Schools, VA

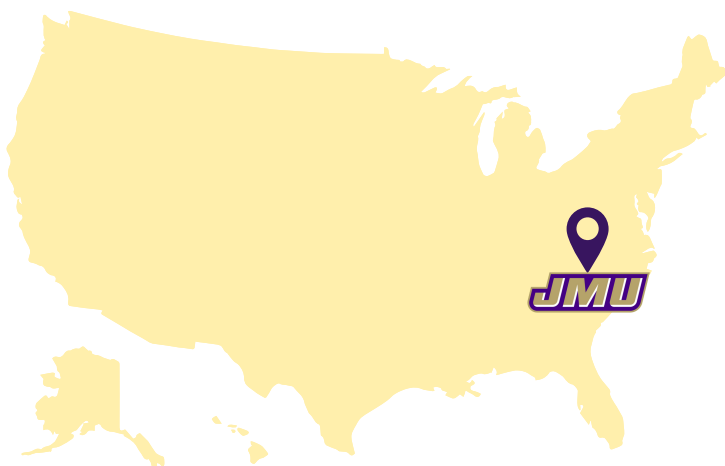
Stephanie Harris: Union County Public Schools, NC

Jordan Otto: Albemarle County Public Schools, VA

Alison Palmer: Cape Henlopen School District, DE



Second year students, Alison and Zaakirah, presenting in class.



Annual Spring Symposium

On April 22, 2022, James Madison University hosted the annual Graduate Psychology Spring Symposium in person for the first time in two years! Students shared their experience and findings on their thesis and research projects. These past two years, the School Psychology program was able to hold their own virtual symposium for their faculty and students but was excited to once again, be able to share this experience with other psychology graduate programs. The pre-recorded Keynote address for this year's symposium was given by Dr. Sara Finney, who is an Associate Director for Student Affairs Assessment and a Professor of Graduate Psychology.

The Annual Symposium in Research and Practice offers a forum for students to share their developing areas of expertise. The presenters came from graduate programs in School Psychology, Clinical Mental health counseling, School Counseling, and the doctoral program in Integrated Clinical & School Psychology. The current School Psychology Interns presented on the following topics:



Interns outside of Taylor Hall, on Symposium Day.

Aj Levy: *The Role of Teacher Efficacy in Readiness to Support LGBTQ+ Students in Schools.*

Katie Brittain: *Motivation in Virtual Learning during the Pandemic.*

Kiarra Steer: *Self-Advocacy Skill Development in Students with Disabilities.*

Allison Poggendorf: *Teacher Perception of a Brief Mindfulness-Based Curriculum and the Impact on Social Skills and Self-Regulation in a Preschool Classroom*

Rianna Taylor: *Youth Caregiver Focus Group: An Exploration of School Support Staff's Perceptions of Youth Caregivers*

Madeline Brawley: *Too Busy for Stress Management? The Importance of Teacher's Slowing Down and Connecting with One Another.*

Davina Putz: *Reading Skills and Problem Behavior in Middle School Students a Systematic Literature Review*

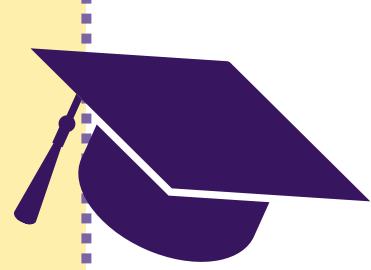
Ismael Valdez: *The Perceptions of Multilingual Learners about their Experiences Learning English in the School, Social, and Community environments*

Cara McQuaid: *Phonemic Proficiency and Oral Reading Fluency in Middle School Students*

Maya Rivers: *School Racial Climate and Discipline Practices: An Analysis*

Monica Holtz: *Substance Use Intervention and Collaboration Between School Counselors and School Psychologists*

Congratulations to Our Graduating Cohort!



Congratulations to our graduating class, who never imagined their schooling would be impacted by a global pandemic but persisted all the same! We are excited to see the differences they will make in the School Psychology world!

Awards:

Outstanding Service: *Ishmael Valdez*

Ishmael Valdez was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Service Award. This award is given to a student who goes above and beyond in serving the schools that they work in. The work that they do surpasses course requirements and supports the community via school psychology services.

Outstanding Teaching: *Arayana Harris*

Arayana Harris was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award. This award is given to a student in the Program who goes above and beyond in their teaching positions here at JMU. The work that they do goes above and beyond course requirements and supports the department of Psychology and its faculty.

Outstanding Research: *Davina Putz*

Davina Putz was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Research Award. This award is given to a student in the program who goes above and beyond in their research positions here at JMU. The work that they do surpasses program requirements and supports the development of the field.

Distinguished (Service, Teaching, Research): *Aj*

Levy

AJ Levy is the recipient of the Distinguished Service, Teaching and research award. This award is given to a student in the program who has engaged in outstanding contributions in multiple areas while a graduate student.

Tina Kauten Memorial Service Award: *Taylor*

Bronaugh

Taylor Bronaugh is the recipient of the Tina Kauten Memorial Service Award. The Tina Kauten Memorial Service Award is presented to the School Psychology Program student who has made significant contributions to the program, to the professional growth of other students, and the profession.

Patricia Warner Leadership and Advocacy

Award: *Liliana Ferrufino*

Liliana Ferrufino is the recipient of the Patricia Warner Leadership and Advocacy Award. This award recognizes future leaders in the School Psychology Field.

O. Ashton Trice Scholarship: *Arayana Harris*

Arayana Harris is the recipient of the O Ashton Trice Scholarship. This memorial scholarship is open to all school psychology students and is awarded to the student with the highest GPA and exceptional academic performance, honoring the intent of the donor.



RISE-UP & HRSA

Grants

With the help of the HRSA grant, the Clinical Mental Health, School Counseling and School Psychology programs collaborated for the RISE-UP Program (Rural Interdisciplinary Services and Education: Unlimited Potential). Principal Investigator, Dr. Evans, and Project Directors, Dr. Gilligan, Kielty and Atwood, created this program to train RISE-UP Fellows in providing evidence-based behavioral health services in rural populations. Appointed Fellows are awarded grant money throughout the course of either a practicum or internship at an approved site while working to effectively address the behavioral health needs of children, adolescents, and transitional age youth. The School Psychology program's current Second year students were the first cohort to be Fellows under this grant, and the program has been able to accept all the students in the current first year students who are eager to participate next year!

DEI Fellows

The JMU School Psychology department is very pleased to offer Sa'Mone Moore, Liliana Ferrufino, Arayana Harris, and Jah Cotham the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Fellow positions for this summer. An important goal for the program is the implementation of a mentoring program for REM (racially and ethnically minoritized) students and program alumni. The Fellows will assist the program during the summer months with establishing the goals and objectives of this program, communication, and perhaps finding resources for mentoring. The School Psychology program's vision is a mentoring program for students that is developed by students!

SPGSA Updates:

School Psychology Graduate Student Association

Intramural Sports

What an active bunch! Some members of the School Psychology program took part in intramural sports, here at JMU. The members consisted of first and second years who partnered up with other JMU students to stay active and to practice some self-care, after classes. The teams played both basketball and volleyball and had a fun filled season.



Students Sa'Mone, Courtney, Logan, and Alison celebrating their big win with their team.

Students Walk For Hope

The Walk for Hope was held in person again this year and celebrated its 10th anniversary of bring together community members from James Madison University, Blue Ridge Community College, Bridgewater College, Eastern Mennonite University and area residents to raise awareness about depression & suicide prevention, while encouraging the spread of hope.

During the event the crowd walked about a mile and a half around JMU's east campus while passing signs inspiring hope and reaching out to those around us. This was followed by a keynote speaker and creative activities to encourage self-care!



Students at Walk For Hope.

Congratulations to SPGSA's New Executive Board!

President: Logan Dasher

Vice President: Emily Davis

Secretary: Sa'Mone Moore

Treasurer: Julia Unger

Philanthropy Chair: Christian Fary

Social and Wellness Chair: Michelle Moore

Upcoming Events:

Lavender Farm Self-Care for the Second Year Students

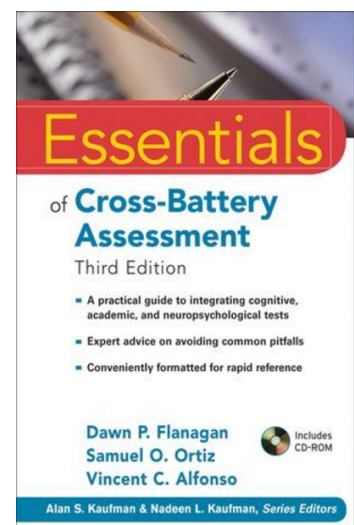
As a way to celebrate the accomplishments of the year and to engage in self-care, Drs. Tiffany Hornsby and Patti Warner will take second year students to visit the White Oak Lavendar Farm in Harrisonburg at the beginning of May. This trip celebrates the completion of the practicum experience and facilitates conversations about self-care and mindfulness. Students will get to enjoy lunch on the patio, a walk around the farm, and breathing in the lavender filled air.

“The air was fragrant with a thousand aromatic herbs, with fields of Lavendar, and with the brightest roses blushing in tufts all over the meadows”



Professional Development with Dr. Ortiz

The JMU School Psychology Program will sponsor a 2-day professional development event with Dr. Sam Ortiz. The workshop will be held on June 2nd and 3rd and will focus on nondiscriminatory assessment, legal compliance in assessment, use of interpreters, and research regarding the Culture-Language Test Classifications (C-LTC) and Interpretive Matrix (C-LIM). We're very excited and grateful for the opportunity to hear Dr. Ortiz's presentation!



CONTACT US!

AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

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SUPPORT OUR FUTURE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS!

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:

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Harrisonburg, VA 22807*