The Newsletter of the University of Mary Washington Department of Psychology

A Warm Welcome for Dr. Virginia Mackintosh

This semester, **Dr. Virginia Mackintosh** joined the UMW faculty as a tenure-track assistant professor of psychology. Dr Mackintosh is a developmental psychologist, so she will be teaching courses in that area. This semester, Dr. Mackintosh is teaching two sections of Developmental Psychology: The Adolescent and Adult and two sections of Psychology of Aging. Next semester, Dr. Mackintosh will teach two sections of the same developmental psychology course as well as two sections of Psychology of Exceptional Children and Youth.

These courses are some of the courses that were taught by Dr. Tom Moeller, who retired last year. Although the retirement of Dr. Moeller resulted in an unfillable void in our department, the hiring of Dr. Mackintosh illustrates that when one exceptional professor leaves, another can follow.

Dr. Mackintosh was born and raised on Long Island in New York, and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Dr. Mackintosh always knew that she would have a profession in the field of psychology. Before entering graduate school, Dr. Mackintosh lived and worked in Connecticut, where she managed a program with the goal of providing support and finding jobs for developmentally disabled and mentally ill individuals.

After moving to Virginia, Dr. Mackintosh decided to go back to school. She attended VCU where she received her master's and doctoral degrees in developmental psychology. Her master's degree work investigated relationships between children of incarcerated mothers and their caregivers. Her dissertation work examined the expectations and stress associated with choosing and providing treatment in parents



Dr. Virginia Mackintosh, daughter Emily, and husband Dave

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Department Celebrates Dr. Dave MacEwen's 40 Years and Jean Bennett's 20 Years of Service

This year, the UMW Department of Psychology is celebrating both **Dr. Dave MacEwen**'s 40th year and **Jean Bennett**'s 20th year with the department. Dr. MacEwen, professor of psychology, and Jean, psychology department office manager, have been integral parts of making the department so great!

Dr. MacEwen started teaching at Mary Washington College in 1969. At that time, the department was extremely different than it is today. When he began, there were only eight faculty members and no office manager. In addition, Mrs. Eileen Dodd, after whom Dodd Auditorium is named, was head of the department. Within the next few years, there was much turnover in the psychology department. Dr. MacEwen describes this time as very exciting with all of the new faces

and new ideas. The department, Dr. MacEwen reminisced, was very full of energy. From 1979 to 1985, Dr. MacEwen served as the department chair and hired both Dr. Steve Hampton, associate professor of psychology, and Dr. Debra Steckler, associate professor of psychology and current chair of the department.

When Dr. MacEwen first began teaching at Mary Washington College, he taught General Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, and the Applied Behavioral Analysis lab. He also taught a comparative psychology class, which examined species' differences in learning, and a class on the use of computers in psychology. Today, Dr. MacEwen still teaches the Applied Behavioral Analysis lab and Learning and Motivation,

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Dr. Mackintosh

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of autistic and Down syndrome children.

Dr. Mackintosh's experience in psychology is extensive and impressive. She has taught a number of developmental psychology courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. One course, Mentoring Children at Risk, is an interesting course that Dr. Mackintosh would like to develop for the UMW curriculum. For this service learning course, which would be offered during the summer, students would work for one week at a residential camp for children of incarcerated parents. Prior to serving at the camp, students in the course would learn about topics such as the impact of incarceration, risk and resilience, and managing problem behaviors in children. The department is excited about this potential opportunity for our majors.

In addition to her teaching experience, Dr Mackintosh has a lot of experience outside the classroom. She worked at a clinic for the assessment of developmental disorders and as an evaluator of curricula in the Richmond school system. Additionally, she has experience working with families with children of autism.

In 2000, Dr. Mackintosh married Dan Ruben. They reside in Midlothian, Va., with their daughters, Emily and Meghan. The family has three cats. When Dr. Mackintosh isn't running around trying to keep the cats out of trouble, she loves to hang out with her family and watch the television show *Heroes*.

Dr. Mackintosh is excited about her first semester at UMW and loves the feel of our psychology department. The small class sizes and friendly atmosphere are making her feel right at home.

It would be an understatement to say that Dr. Mackintosh is a good fit for the psychology department. She teaches some of the most popular courses offered in our department and her research interests are sure to engage students. Furthermore, Dr. Mackintosh's warm personality

and laid-back attitude are reassuring to students. Her fellow faculty members are glad Dr. Mackintosh accepted the position and they are looking forward to working with her for many years. Welcome to the UMW Psychology Department, Dr. Mackintosh!

David Flores and Stephanie
 Kulakowski, Psychology
 Student Representatives

Department Celebrates

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which focuses on human behavior, in addition to statistics courses. Besides teaching classes and maintaining the department website with Paul Murray, psychology department multi-media student aide, Dr. MacEwen is in the process of building a house in Colonial Beach. He also makes it out of Chandler Hall to go on trips with Dr. Steckler and Dr. Hampton to the beach, and he



Jean Bennett and Dr. Dave MacEwen

enjoys hiking and playing racquetball.

In 1988, Dr. MacEwen went on sabbatical at Arizona State University. While there, he did research on how animals are able to tell time, and he discovered that they use a sort of pacemaker to differentiate time. While Dr. MacEwen was on sabbatical, the late Dr. Topher Bill, then chair of the Department of Psychology, and the chair of the Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion, hired Mrs. Jean Bennett as the office manager for both departments. This decision has proven to be one of the best for the department over the last few decades!

Before coming to Virginia, Jean worked as an office manager in Pennsylvania for 16 years. Then, on October 1, 1988, she began what has become 20 years of service to the department. Jean's years of service are appreciated by all who have had the privilege of working with her!

She continued to serve as office manager to both departments even when the classics, philosophy, and religion department moved to another building. Jean remembers walking back and forth between Trinkle Hall and Chandler Hall, spending a few hours in each building each day.

In 1991, Jean began working solely for the psychology department. When asked, she can list many differences between the department when she was hired and the department now. Then there were still only eight professors and all offices were in one suite on the main floor of Chandler. For the first 15 years at the school, Jean did not have her own office. Instead, her desk was located in the middle of the suite, often the meeting place of many professors and students.

Jean says she misses those days because of the frequent, informal meetings of all the professors around her desk; however, privacy was an issue at times! Now, her office is in the

third floor psychology suite, and she is happy to have a window.

The biggest change that has occurred in Jean's life while she has been at UMW was the loss of her beloved son, Matthew, on April 1, 2005, when he accidentally rode his bicycle into the

path of an oncoming car. As she put it, "Matthew was my life." Everyone in the psychology department was profoundly affected by Matthew's death. The department grieves for Matthew and with Jean and her husband, Ed. Importantly, members of the department keep Matthew's memory alive by thinking about him and reminiscing about him with Jean.

In October, 2003, Jean won the Charles Coleman Memorial Service Award. This award is the greatest honor UMW presents to a nonteaching member of the staff for their outstanding service and commitment to the university. The current chair of the psychology department, Dr. Steckler, is in constant appreciation of all Jean does and is continually praising her dedication to the department. When not acting as office manager, Jean works with Ed, raising cattle on their 140-acre farm. In addition, Jean loves to work in the garden.

Both Dr. MacEwen and Jean have been great assets to the department over the last few decades. When asked about Jean, Dr. MacEwen states that she is now an indispensable part of the department and is "never allowed to retire."

Jean's first memory of Dr. MacEwen was not of Dr. MacEwen himself because he was on sabbatical, but of a monkey he kept on his desk for many years. Since that first year, Jean has only great things to say about Dr. MacEwen's many years with the department. The Department of Psychology thanks and congratulates both Dr. MacEwen and Jean Bennett for their many incredible years here!

- Stephanie Kulakowski and Maggie White, Psychology Student Representatives

Dr. Mindy Erchull and UMW Alumna Jennifer Gorman Rose '97 Address Women's Issues



Dr. Mindy Erchull

Dr. Mindy Erchull, assistant professor of psychology, has recently joined forces with a former Connecticut College colleague and Mary Washington College graduate, **Jennifer Gorman Rose**, to conduct research in the area of feminist psychology. Ms. Rose began this line of research as a Mary Washington College undergraduate; she was a member of one of the research teams of **Dr. Christine McBride**, professor of psychology.

Dr. Erchull attended Connecticut College as an undergraduate. During her senior year, she met Ms. Rose, a '97 graduate of Mary Washington College, who was beginning her work toward a master's degree at Connecticut College. Ms. Rose helped code data for a qualitative study that Dr. Erchull was working

on for her honors thesis in the area of feminist psychology. After earning her bachelor's degree from Connecticut College, Dr. Erchull went to Arizona State University and earned a doctorate in social psychology before coming to UMW. Connecticut College hired Ms. Rose as a full-time lecturer and laboratory instructor after she finished her master's degree; she is now a senior lecturer there.

This year, Dr. Erchull and Ms. Rose began research together that they hope to present at the biennial meeting of the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research, an interdisciplinary group of social and health scientists, humanities scholars, health care providers, policy makers, and students who have an interest in women's reproductive health. Dr. Erchull and Ms. Rose are currently investigating Virginia physicians'

attitudes toward pre-menstrual syndrome. This topic is one that Ms. Rose first studied while working at Mary Washington College with Dr. McBride. In



Jennifer Gorman Rose

fact, some of the data Dr. Erchull and Ms. Rose are analyzing was compiled while Ms. Rose was an undergraduate. That data is nearly 12 years old; however, it will allow Dr. Erchull and Ms. Rose to compare physicians' current attitudes to physicians' attitudes 12 years ago. They hope to study possible shifts in attitudes.

Dr. Erchull and Ms. Rose have worked together several times in different contexts. In 2002, they published the paper, "Education and advertising: A content analysis



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to go to the Psychology Department. Your donation would be used to support student scholarships and student presentations at conferences. We would appreciate your support!

Erchull and Rose

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of commercially produced books about menstruation," in The Journal of Early Adolescence. Dr. Erchull, Ms. Rose, and colleagues examined the content of educational booklets about menstruation produced by feminine hygiene product manufacturers in an effort to understand attitudes toward menstruation. They found that booklets published more recently were less likely to portray menstruation as a crisis, but that they were as likely as those published less recently to portray menstruation as something that should be kept private.

These findings have implications for developing material about menstruation that is appropriate for adolescents. Incidentally, this report was based on the honors thesis data that Dr. Erchull collected and which Ms. Rose helped code.

In addition, Dr. Erchull and Ms. Rose are members of the Association for Women in Psychology; they cocoordinate the Researchers' Caucus. Also, Dr. Erchull and Ms. Rose have served together on the executive committee of the Society for the Psychology of Women, Division 35 of the American Psychological Association.

Currently, Dr. Erchull teaches General Psychology, Social Psychology, Health Psychology, Psychology of Women, and Research Methods for Psychology. In addition, she works regularly with students on research teams, often investigating women's issues. Specifically, her research interests include feminist identity, objectification, and women's reproductive health.

Ms. Rose continues to lecture and conduct research at Connecticut College. Her areas of interest include gender roles, psychology of women, health psychology, and attitudes and expectations; she often focuses her research on attitudes towards menstruation.

- Grace Boyers, Psychology Student Representative

Students Named Scholarship and Award Winners



Dr. Debra Stecker and Katie Nelson, Outstanding Senior '07-'08

A number of students were awarded scholarships for the '07-'08 academic year. Topher Bill Scholarships, for students who best exemplify dedication to statistics and research, were awarded to Melissa Falkenstern and Jillian O'Rourke. Burney Lynch Parkinson Scholarships, for students who intend to make education a career, were awarded to Diana Gallup and Katie Palmer. Minnie Rob Phaup Scholarships, named in honor of a former faculty member, were awarded to Heather Butler. Kerri Buscaglia, Kristynn Sullivan, and Maggie White. Last, the Outstanding Senior Award was given to Katie Nelson.

Students Awarded Honors in Psychology

Honors are awarded to academically outstanding psychology majors who complete a theoretical paper or an empirical investigation either independently or as part of the work of a research team. In addition, these students present their work to an honor's project committee for evaluation. Sabrina Askari, Sarah Axelson, Kirsten Jimerson, Katie Nelson, Whitney Rife, and Kristynn Sullivan were awarded honors for the '07-'08 academic year. Congratulations!

Psychology Department Baby Boom!

Over the last several months, three faculty members welcomed additions to their families. Dr. Jennifer Mailloux and husband Dr. Joseph Reiner welcomed Adam Joseph on March 14, 2008. At birth, Adam weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20½ inches long. Adam loves to laugh at Leo, the family dog!

Dr. Miriam Liss and husband Julian Kilmartin welcomed Emily Elizabeth on April 23, 2008. At birth, she weighed a little over 8 pounds. Her 2-year-old brother, Daniel, likes to give her lots of kisses!

Dr. David Rettinger and wife Julie welcomed Ellery Isabel on July 21, 2008. At birth, Ellery weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 ½ inches long. Ellery's arrival has increased the frequency of grandparent sightings in town!



Adam Joseph Reiner



Ellery Isabel Rettinger



Emily Elizabeth Liss Kilmartin

Hands-on History of Psychology...in Europe!

In May 2008, **Dr. Denis Nissim-Sabat**, professor of psychology, completed the second successful Psychology in Europe trip, along with his wife, Mary-Lou, and 11 students. During the two week trip, Dr. Nissim-Sabat and his companions visited a number of cities and sites in Europe in an effort to provide a hands-on experience of the history of psychology.

The group visited two cities, London and Vienna, which were included on the first UMW Psychology in Europe trip; however, four cities not previously visited by the Psychology in Europe group were included this time around. Those cities were Amsterdam, Zurich, Geneva, and Linz.

Sites visited included Freud's and Darwin's houses, both in London, the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, and the Piaget Archives in Geneva. This year, the group took two overnight trains, an experience that will not be repeated next time around. Senior Meredith Bojarski reflected on her experience in these cities. She states, "Each day's activity, whether it was seeing Freud's couch, the concentration camp at Mauthausen, or the Swiss countryside by train, was something completely new and exciting."

In addition to the new cities visited, this trip also implemented a reading and discussion component. Students were required to read nine articles and watch two movies prior to going on the trip.

After visiting the corresponding site in Europe, all students participated in a



Dr. Denis Nissim-Sabat, Peter Roden, Quela Carlson, Meredith Bojarski, Brande Reiter, Keshia Bagby, Maggie White, Kimberly Miller, Liz Shewark, Rebecca Claar, Marley Horner, and Moire Garahan

discussion led by one student. The discussions worked well not only because of the prior preparation, but also because of the cohesiveness of the group. Students this year "really gelled," according to Dr. Nissim-Sabat. Both he and the students believe that the discussions and the overall cohesiveness really added to the trip.

Dr. Nissim-Sabat's goals for the Psychology in Europe course are to provide different experiences of European culture, to recognize the value

of traveling, and of course, to make history come alive! Bojarski feels that this year's trip definitely achieved those goals. "My favorite experiences were those that brought history to life in a way that was tangible," she said. "I also loved the travel itself during the trip. Going from city to city instead of staying in one place was incredibly special because each culture was unique and expanded my world view."

All students had favorite places and experiences that affected them in different ways. As for Dr. Nissim-Sabat's most meaningful experience, that would be visiting the Mauthausen Concentration Camp. He stated that he was more moved there than at any other place, and he felt completely aware of the gravity of the events that occurred at the camp.

Next summer's trip will be a combination of the best experiences of the past two years. Students will begin in London, travel to Amsterdam, then Paris, Geneva, Munich, and finally Vienna. The 2009 trip will also count for the Global Inquiry goal of the new UMW general education curriculum. Students attending should be flexible in their expectations of the trip and be prepared to carry luggage through the streets of Europe! Dr. Nissim-Sabat is excited about this year's trip and looks forward to the new experiences it will bring.

– Maggie White, Psychology Student Representative

Psi Chi Inducts New Members

At the Spring '08 induction, Dr. Steve Hampton, the keynote speaker, welcomed a number of psychology majors into the UMW chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. The inductees were Abigail Bates, Grace Boyers, Kerri Buscaglia, Kimberly Dennis, Jessica Leiman, Machelle Miller, Iris Onks, Katie Palmer, Christine Park, Mara Rice, Melissa Tully, Jessica Waldman, Margaret White, and Brian Anderson.

Psychology and Business Majors Receive Writing Center Recognition

Lauren Fuller (psychology),
Robert Harrison (psychology),
Rachel Malone (business), Carla
Meyerhoeffer (business), Jovana
Rajacic (business) and Stacy
Vanderlyn (psychology) won
recognition in the 2007 Writing
Center Contest. They wrote a
paper, titled "Gender diversity in
an organizational setting," for their
Business Administration course
taught by Dr. Larry Penwell. Their
paper was a winner in the Natural
and Social Science category.
Congratulations!

Keep in touch with your psychology department and fellow graduates. Join the UMW Department of Psychology Alumni Group on Facebook!



New Student Representatives and Lab Aides for '08-'09

Four students were elected by their peers to serve as psychology department student representatives. Returning from last year is **Maggie White**, who has been joined by **Grace Boyers**, **David Flores**, and **Stephanie Kulakowski**. The representatives have been busy organizing events like the Majors Meeting and the Fall Picnic this semester. Also, they contributed to this newsletter!

Four students were selected by their peers to serve as lab aides. Returning from last year are co-head lab aides **Melissa Falkenstern** and **Jillian O'Rourke**, who are joined by **Brittany Killian** and **Caitlin Messinger**. The lab aides oversee the computers labs in Chandler Hall that serve all psychology and business majors.

On behalf of the psychology and business departments, thank you to the psychology representatives and the lab aides for the services you provide.



Caitlin Messinger, Brittany Killian, Dr. Jennifer Mailloux, Jillian O'Rourke, and Melissa Falkenstern



Stephanie Kulakowski, Maggie White, Dr. Debra Steckler, Grace Boyers, and David Flores

Psi Chi Symposium Presenters Given Awards for Outstanding Research

At the Psi Chi Symposium, outstanding research was recognized in three categories: Methods Course Research, Laboratory Course Research, and Independent Study Research. Kelley Hargrove, Paul Murray, and Hannah Pearson were given the award for best Methods Course Research. Their project was titled, Ready, set, goals! An investigation of goalsetting behavior. They completed this project in Dr. Dave Rettinger's class. Meghan Clay, Julianna Taylor, and Kim Miller were given the award for best Laboratory Course Research. Their project was titled, Rats' responses to "aversive" odors. They completed this project in Dr. Dave MacEwen's course. Last, Erin Bailey, Erika Boward, and Sarah Goodrum were given the award for best Independent Study Research. Their project was titled, The effects of composite building on face recognition. They completed their research with Dr. Steve Hampton. Congratulations to our award winners and to all the Psi Chi Symposium presenters!

These awards were presented following a keynote address by Dr. Deborah Clawson, associate professor of psychology at the Catholic University of America. Her address was titled, *Did you forget something? Prospective memory and the effectiveness of a mnemonic strategy in multiple sclerosis.*

A Moment in the History of the Psychology Department

Historical information courtesy of Dr. Tom Moeller, Emeritus Professor of Psychology

In '73-'74, faculty member Dr. Alice Rabson was appointed our first career advisor in response to students' concerns about finding a job with a psychology major. Today, we have two career advisors, Drs. Steve Hampton and Miriam Liss. Also, the department publishes a booklet called *Career Options, Career Planning, and How to Land a Job: Written for the Psychology Major*. For students interested in continuing their study of psychology, the department publishes a booklet called *Graduate Education: A Guide for UMW Psychology Majors*. These booklets are available online at psyc.umwchandler.net under Careers and Grad School.

Fall Picnic

This year's Fall Picnic took place on a balmy day in early October at St. Clair Brooks Park. Students and faculty enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, some faculty-made side dishes, and cake. Rounds of horseshoes and volleyball games kept folks busy. A fun time was had by all!





Where Are They Now?

Sabrina Askari '08 moved to Boston to pursue a master's degree in family therapy at the University of Massachusetts. Also, she was granted an assistantship to serve as the administrative assistant for the program director of the family therapy department.

Lori Daniels '84, the 2006 Graduate in Residence, recently relocated to Portland, Ore., where she will work as a military sexual trauma psychotherapist with the Portland Veterans Outreach Center. Also, Lori recently served as an American Red Cross mental health disaster responder for individuals affected by hurricanes Gustav, Hanna, and Ike.

Robyn Fielder '05, a doctoral student in clinical psychology at Syracuse University, and her colleagues published a manuscript, "Stress management interventions for HIV+ adults: A metaanalysis of randomized controlled trials, 1989-2006" in Health Psychology. Also, she has conducted research on "hooking up" in college freshmen, and recently received a grant from Psi Chi to fund a follow-up study on the mental health consequences of hooking up. Otherwise, she has been busy teaching introductory psychology, presenting posters at conferences, preparing to write a grant, and preparing to see clients.

Rossana Finegan '08 began the K-12 Special Education Post-Baccalaureate Initial Teacher Licensure Program this fall. After completing the licensure program, she will pursue a master's degree at the UMW College of Professional and Graduate Studies.

Mallory Frazier '07 began the doctoral program in behavioral and cellular neuroscience at Texas A & M University this fall. She will study inflammatory pain in a rodent model of multiple sclerosis.

Allison Gorczowski '07 is completing an internship at Heritage Behavioral Systems in Decatur, Ill.

Christopher Hock '07 began the Medical University of South Carolina's accelerated bachelor of science degree program in nursing this fall.

Stephanie Beguin Howard '97 is a family and community partnership manager at Head Start, and she is pursuing a master's degree in social work at VCU's School of Social Work, Alexandria Campus. Also, she is the mother to two beautiful girls.

Molly Hurt '07 began a master's degree in social work at Boston College this fall.

Kirsten Jimerson '08 began the master of science degree program in marriage and family therapy at the University of Maryland this fall.

Nicole Kierein '95 is spending time at home with her 2-year-old daughter after having worked for the government the last several years. Nicole has a doctorate in industrial/organizational psychology from S.U.N.Y. Albany.

Autumn (Brown) Kujawa '06 began the clinical psychology doctoral program at S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook this fall. In June, she married her fiancé, Eric.

Megan McAuliffe '01 received a doctorate in developmentalclinical psychology from the University of Delaware.

Kimberly Miller '08 and Meghann Siebert '08 began the master of science degree program in elementary education at the University of Mary Washington this fall.

Annice Mulhare '06 was accepted into Naropa University's transpersonal counseling program. She began the master of arts degree in art therapy program there this fall.

Mary Naylor '08 is working as a physical therapy aide in her hometown of Warrenton, Va.

Kristina Ryan '08 is a special educator in the King William County Public School system.

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Where Are They Now?

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She is teaching English to 9th and 12th grade students and algebra to 12th grade students. Kristina is providing school-to-career transition training also.

Erin Reyhan '08 began the master of social work degree program at Rutger's University this fall.

Amy (Riggs) Davis '08 moved to Columbia, Mo., after getting married to husband, Joe. She plans to continue working for KinderCare Learning Center.

Ashley Tucker '07, a student in the counselor education program at the College of William and Mary, was selected as the School Counseling Graduate Student of the Year by School of Education faculty. The award is given to a student who demonstrates leadership and excellence. The award

is sponsored by the Virginia School Counselor Association (VSCA). Ashley attended a VSCA conference during which she was presented the award.

Sam Shafovaloff '08 began working for AT&T as a business account executive following graduation.

Eve Sledjeski '00 moved to southern N.J., where she will be teaching research methods and psychopharmacology at Rowan University as an adjunct professor. Her husband has a tenure track position in the psychology department at Rowan University.

Kevin Timmins '08 began the doctorate program in physical therapy at the University of Delaware this fall. In the future, Kevin hopes to open his own clinic.

Dan Uyar '04 began St. John University's master's degree program in business administration this fall.

Dawn Weisenberger '08 began the master of social work degree program at Virginia Commonwealth University this fall. Dawn also works as a case manager for a prison reentry program, volunteers at Micah Ministries where she helps homeless individuals access area resources, volunteers at Fredericksburg Counseling Services where she administers anxiety and depression screenings, and advocates for the Colon Cancer Alliance. Her son started kindergarten this year.