

# Psych Matters

Fall 2014

Editor, Jennifer Mailloux, Associate Professor of Psychology

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The Newsletter of the University of Mary Washington Department of Psychology

## Dr. Mindy Erchull Receives Florence L. Denmark Psi Chi Faculty Advisor Award

*By Randi Bryan, Psi Chi Co-president, and Kathleen Bettencourt, Psi Chi Fundraising Chair, ('13-'14)*

*The 2014 Florence L. Denmark Psi Chi Faculty Advisor Award was given to Dr. Mindy Erchull (Associate Professor) for her service to the organization, which is the National Honor Society in Psychology. Dr. Erchull was nominated by Randi Bryan and Kathleen Bettencourt, who were Psi Chi officers during the '13-'14 academic year. The letter of nomination they wrote is printed below. Randi and Kathleen did a wonderful job summarizing Dr. Erchull's myriad accomplishments!*

*The award is given to the advisor who best achieves Psi Chi's purposes, which are to promote excellence in psychological and general scholarship and to advance psychology as a science. Dr. Erchull's receipt of the award was announced during the spring 2014 Psi Chi Research Symposium awards ceremony. Dr. Erchull was especially pleased to receive the award because it is funded by Florence Denmark, an internationally-recognized pioneer in the field of psychology of women. Congratulations, Dr. Erchull!*

Dr. Mindy J. Erchull has been involved in Psi Chi since her undergraduate induction in the spring of 1996. After one year of working as an assistant professor at the University of Mary Washington, she became the faculty advisor to the university's Psi Chi Chapter in the fall of 2006. Dr. Erchull has received many honors and awards from Psi Chi, including a Faculty



Dr. Mindy Erchull

Advisor Research Grant in 2008, the Psi Chi Southeastern Regional Chapter Advisor Award in 2011, and the Psi Chi/CUR Summer Undergraduate Research Grant jointly awarded with a student in 2012, and. In addition, she furthered her involvement in 2009 by becoming a faculty consultant to Psi Chi.

In addition to her personal achievements in Psi Chi, Dr.

Erchull helps both Psi Chi members and psychology major students by serving as the faculty advisor. Every year, Dr. Erchull hosts a graduate school series and a career forum for all psychology students to foster a sense of preparedness and confidence in their future endeavors. The grad school series helps Psi Chi members and psychology majors prepare for graduate school applications. The series includes a GRE preparatory session, a graduate school forum, and a CV-writing workshop. The career forum broadens students' view on psychology by allowing them to ask questions of several guest speakers from various jobs in the field of psychology.

As the Psi Chi faculty advisor, Dr. Erchull works closely with Psi Chi officers to plan a variety of events throughout the year. Weekly meetings with officers are necessary to organize the many activities Psi Chi participates in, including fundraising and multiple service projects. She creates a sense of unity in the chapter by being present at monthly, all-member meetings; organizing a Psi Chi potluck; and supervising the rehearsals of the Platonic Myth that members participate in during the induction of new members. Dr. Erchull places a large emphasis on student involvement in research via the promotion of travel scholarships provided by Psi Chi. The travel scholarship provides students with the opportunity to obtain funds to attend various psychology conferences. Furthermore, she increased Psi Chi's contribution to the Fredericksburg community by starting an annual \$100 donation to a local charity.

One of her most significant contributions to the Psychology Department and Psi Chi at UMW is her dedication to coordinating the annual Psi Chi Research Symposium. The Symposium is a two-day event which features posters and presentations of students' research including research methods, senior seminar, and faculty-led research team projects. Dr. Erchull works with officers and members to organize scheduling, judging of presentations, and the presentation of various awards for students. Additionally, she reaches out to other professionals in psychology in order to establish a keynote speaker for the end

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*Erchull, continued from page 1*

of the symposium.

Dr. Erchull is also dedicated to her students as evidenced by her promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. Each year, she leads a research team where she collaborates with psychology students. Her research teams often attend local and national conferences to present their research. She works closely with students to provide guidance as they publish their own research. Her teaching abilities were recognized by the Society for the Psychology of Women (Division 35 of the American Psychological Association) when she received the Mary Roth Walsh Teaching the Psychology of Women Award in August, 2010. More recently, she was honored once more by the Society for the Psychology of Women by being named a Fellow of the American Psychological Association.

Her strong sense of motivation and dedication extend beyond Psi Chi to multiple other organizations involved

in psychology. In 2012, Dr. Erchull became a co-coordinator for the Featured Feminist Science Symposia Series for the Association of Women in Psychology / Society for the Psychology of Women and a program chair for the latter in 2013. Additionally, she is a membership chair, coordinator, and elected member of the Board of Directors for a six-year term for the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research. In addition to these positions, Dr. Erchull has been a devoted reviewer for conference submissions, grant proposals, and several scholarly journals.

Dr. Mindy J. Erchull's fierce dedication to Psi Chi, teaching, research, and numerous organizations/societies is truly remarkable. She continues to approach new projects enthusiastically and enjoys guiding Psi Chi members during their undergraduate experience. Through all of her achievements, Dr. Erchull clearly has made an impact in Psi Chi and psychology at the state, regional, and national levels. She is a committed faculty advisor and is truly deserving of the Florence L. Denmark Faculty Advisor Award.

After the panelists introduce themselves, the floor is opened for questions. Typically, the questions reflect the concerns the student attendees have about life in the field of psychology after college. Along the way, the panelists respond to the undergraduates' questions and offer advice for successfully navigating graduate school and/or the workplace after graduation. In sum, the career forum gives undergraduates a chance to talk to peers about careers involving psychology.

Last spring's career forum panel included **Haley Miles-Mclean** who graduated from UMW with a degree in Psychology in 2013. Currently, she is a Clinical Research Assistant at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. Haley's primary responsibilities include preparation of applications to the university's Institutional Review Board, to ensure participants are treated ethically during experiments, and data management.

**Kim Lett**, Program Manager and Deputy Director for the disAbility Resource Center (dRC) in Fredericksburg, was also a panelist. The dRC helps people with disabilities and their families improve their quality of life by locating resources and by providing support, advocacy, and skills training. Although she does not have a background in psychology, Kim works with many people who do. Some of the positions that Kim supervises, in which people with an education in psychology are useful, include Case Manager, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Assistant, and Youth Services and Transition Specialist.

Another of the panelists, **Diana Weigel**, graduated from UMW with degrees in Psychology and Business Administration in 2011. Currently, she is a Work Force Development and Training Program Specialist at the Naval Service Warfare Center in Dahlgren, Virginia. Diana designs management skills and leadership development training programs.

## Career Forum Panelists Encouraged Students to be Flexible While Planning Their Futures

*By Jacob Hargis, Psychology Student Representative ('14)*

As their college careers progress, students think more and more about what they are going to do after graduation. Should they go to graduate school? Should they get a job? If so, what kind of job? Should they travel? Those rapidly approaching graduation often feel pressure to have a concrete plan. Thankfully, last spring's career forum panelists came to provide students with fodder for their plans. In addition, the panelists encouraged students to be flexible, allowing room

in their plans for growth, change, and the unexpected.

Every year, the UMW Psi Chi chapter invites individuals (often, but not always, UMW graduates) working in the field of psychology to the career forum, and these individuals serve as panelists who share their experiences following graduation with current undergraduates and answer those students' questions. At the start of the session, the panelists talk about their current positions, how they got those positions, and where they think the future might take them.

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*Career Forum, continued from page 2*

**Jennifer Watson**, who graduated from UMW with a degree in Historic Preservation in 1997, also participated in the forum. Currently, she is a Resource Development Manager at Stafford Junction, a faith-based, non-profit organization, serving Stafford County, Virginia. The mission of Stafford Junction is to improve the lives of children and their families in low-income areas by providing educational, nutritional, and healthy

living programs. Jennifer is responsible for securing resources, from food for the children to marketing materials. Also, she coordinates volunteers, produces newsletters, and manages the organization's database. The last panelist was **Andie McConnell**, who co-founded a non-profit organization in Fredericksburg called the Fairy Godmother Project. The organization's mission is to help families of children who are being treated for cancer. Largely, the organization found that these families need help with day-to-day activities (e.g., cooking, cleaning), so that is part of what the organization provides. Also, the other co-founder is a professional photographer who offers photo sessions for the families. Most of the discussion that began once the floor was opened for questions

concerned finding jobs to apply for and preparing for the application process. The panelists and **Dr. Mindy Erchull** (Associate Professor), who also attended, suggested using online search engines as well as searching specific organizations' websites. For those interested in research assistantships, Dr. Erchull suggested searching the National Science Foundation's website to find scientists who have been awarded grants recently and contacting those individuals to inquire about a position. These scientists may be more likely to hire assistants in

personal; and be open to any opportunity even if it is not a perfect opportunity. In particular, the last bit of advice rang true for the panel; most of them commented that their first experiences were not what they had imagined as ideal, but those experiences did allow them to obtain knowledge and/or skills that they used to transition into other positions. The panelists provided these and other excellent tips that, surely, most students will use to formulate their concrete (or not so concrete) plans. This year's career forum will take place on March 19, 2015 at 5 pm, panelists and location to be announced. Any psychology major planning for the future is sure to benefit from attending!



**The Career Forum Panel: Haley Miles-Mclean, Kim Lett, Diana Weigel, Jennifer Watson, and Andie McConnell**

the near future. The panelists strongly advised students to take advantage of all the opportunities available to them while at UMW, including resume workshops, mock interviews, and discussions with their professors as well as the staff at the writing and speaking centers. Also, they reminded students that many activities count as experience, not only those on campus, like research projects and internships, but also off-campus activities like volunteering at a community services organization or working at a summer camp.

To close the career forum, the panelists offered a few final words of wisdom. Those words included: be organized in your search for a graduate program or job; stay encouraged, knowing that rejection is not necessarily

the near future.

To close the career forum, the panelists offered a few final words of wisdom. Those words included: be organized in your search for a graduate program or job; stay encouraged, knowing that rejection is not necessarily

the near future.

## Dr. Mindy Erchull Receives the Waple Faculty Achievement Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Mindy Erchull**, Associate Professor, who was given the second, annual Waple Faculty Achievement Award. The award was established in honor of Shirley Van Epps Waple. Dr. Erchull was nominated by her fellow faculty for the award, which is given based on the recipient having produced scholarly, creative, and/or professional achievements that have had a significant impact in the her or his field.



# A Journey through Europe with Freud, Darwin, and von Helmholtz!

By Brittany Simmons, Psychology Major ('15)

For the seventh consecutive year, the psychology department offered students the opportunity to travel abroad and study the history of psychology right where it started... in Europe! A group of seven students led by Dr. Dave Kolar, Associate Professor, took a fantastic journey through four different cities and three different countries in only two weeks!

The first stop in our two-week, whirlwind tour was London. On our first day, we explored the city. Many of us embraced our tourist status, visiting Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, and other well-known sites. We experienced one of the sunniest weeks of the year in London; frequently, Londoners informed us that the weather must have brightened up for our arrival!

We spent two more days in London during which we visited psychology-related sites. We visited the Freud Museum in London, where we saw Freud's infamous couch; we toured Down House, the home of

Charles Darwin; and attended a lecture at The Open University, situated in the very interesting neighborhood of Camdentown.

After four days in London, we flew to Germany; Wurzburg was our destination. While in Wurzburg, we went to the Centre for the History of Psychology and received a guided tour. We saw many interesting historical artifacts, including instruments used by Herman von Helmholtz! Also, we were able to speak to psychology students studying at the University of Wurzburg. They offered a unique perspective about studying psychology in a different country.

After two days in Wurzburg, we took a train to Munich where we had a free day for tourist activities followed by a tour at the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry. We learned more about the history of psychology and were able to see some incredibly fascinating artifacts, including lesioned brains! The following morning, we took a self-guided tour of the Dachau Concentration Camp. Each member of the group experienced the

concentration camp at their own pace and everyone agreed that the experience was simultaneously poignant, somber, and memorable.

Last, but not least, we arrived in Vienna where we saw an Opera at the world-renowned Vienna Opera House, went to Freud's (other) house, and visited the Alfred Adler International Center. All of the cities we visited provided not only enrichment of our knowledge of the history of psychology, but also broadened our cross-cultural experiences.

Psychology in Europe is a summer course which will be offered again next year. To fulfill course requirements, all of our visits to historically-relevant sites required completion of readings or other relevant assignments. For example, we read *Night* by Elie Wiesel and watched the film, *Schindler's List*.

The course is open to students of all majors. Upon completion of the trip and its assignments, students earn three interdisciplinary course credits. Completion of General Psychology is the only pre-requisite. Furthermore, the trip can fulfill the Global Inquiry General Education requirement.

Next year, Dr. Dave Kolar will once again lead a small group of students on a journey through Europe. He has, however, changed the itinerary a bit; the group will now travel to London, Paris, Wurzburg, and Vienna. (Instead of Munich, the group will visit Paris this year.) If you are interested in the trip or have questions about it, please contact Dr. Kolar at [dkolar@umw.edu](mailto:dkolar@umw.edu).



The Psychology in Europe Group at Buckingham Palace: Andrea Stegman, Christina Nicholas, Brittany Simmons, Sharon Wildberger, police officer, Katie Adragna, Jennifer Carroll, Dr. Dave Kolar, Krista Robinson



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the **UMW Psychology  
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Alumni** group on Facebook!

## Dr. Virginia Mackintosh Awarded Tenure and Promoted to Associate Professor



Dr. Virginia Mackintosh

Congratulations to **Dr. Virginia Mackintosh** who is serving her first academic year as Associate Professor with tenure at UMW. Dr. Mackintosh is a Developmental Psychologist who teaches

courses in development across the lifespan as well as The Psychology of Exceptional Children and Youth, Mentoring Children at Risk, Research Seminar in Development Psychology, and General Psychology. Dr. Mackintosh's research interests are in the areas of autism and other developmental disabilities, family functioning in the face of risks, and the effects on children of having incarcerated parents. Currently, she is the Psychology Department Career Advisor and she serves as the treasurer of the Virginia Academic and Applied Psychologists Academy of the Virginia Psychological Association.

## New Student Representatives, Aides, and Tutors for 2014-15

Last spring, **Abigail Heller**, **Amanda Houghton**, **Celeste Kelly**, and **Brittany Simmons** were elected by their peers to serve as psychology department student representatives. The representatives have been busy organizing events like the Majors Meeting and the Fall Picnic this semester. The student representatives work with Dr. Debra Steckler (Department Chair and Associate Professor) to bring these events about. Also, the student representatives contribute to this newsletter!

Three students were selected to serve as lab aides. **Amanda Houghton** is returning from last year. She will be joined by **Jennifer Dunn** and **Laura Morris**. The lab aides oversee the computers labs which serve psychology and business majors. The lab aides are advised by Dr. David Rettinger, Associate Professor.

Two students will serve as statistics tutors. Returning from last year is **Janine Crossman**; she will be joined by **Veronica Boyd**. During the summer of '14, **Kelly Barill** served as the statistics tutor.

Last but not least, **Brittany Simmons** is serving as the subject pool student coordinator. She is advised by Dr. Hilary Stebbins, Assistant Professor. **Rachael Dearborn** is serving as the community service learning (CSL) student coordinator. She is advised by Dr. Holly Schiffrin (Associate Professor).

On behalf of the psychology department, thank you to the student representatives, aides and tutors (and to their advisors) for the services you provide.

## Psi Chi Symposium Presenters Given Awards for Outstanding Research



Dr. James Morris

At the Psi Chi Symposium, outstanding research was recognized in three categories: Methods Course Research, Seminar Course Research, and Independent Study Research. **Sarah Lynch**, **Analuiza Martinez**, and **Grace King** and were given the award for best Methods Course Research. Their project was titled, *The effect of type of music on reading comprehension of college students*. They completed this project in Dr. W. David Stahlman's Research Methods class.

**Catherine Gauthier**, **Tessa Northcott**, **Heather Curry**, and **Hannah Ellis** were given the award for best Seminar Course Research. Their project was titled, *Influence of image type on categorization*. They completed this project in Dr. David Rettinger's Research Seminar.

Last, **Hester Godfrey**, **Leanna Papp**, and **Lauren Waaland-Kreutzer** were given the award for best Independent Study Research. Their project was titled, *The dark side of romance: Romantic beliefs predict intimate partner violence*. They completed this project with Drs. Mindy Erchull and Miriam Liss. Congratulations to our award winners and to all the Psi Chi Symposium presenters!

These awards were presented following a keynote address by Dr. James Morris, Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia. His address was titled, *Characterizing individual variability in neural circuitry underlying social perception*.

## Psi Chi Inducts New Members and Elects New Officers for 2014-15

In the spring of 2014, a number of psychology majors were welcomed into the UMW chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. The inductees were: **Katlyn Baines, Austin Brooks, Kelly Flynn, Maura Flynn, Jennifer Freud, Madeline Grey, Kelsey Herrick, Meliza Rubinos, Rebekah Selbrede,** and **Kathryn Tsagronis.**

Also, the Psi Chi chapter elected new officers last semester. **Janine Crossman** and **Brittany Simmons** were elected Co-presidents, **Kiersten Pyrtle** was elected Secretary, and **Jennifer Carroll** was elected Treasurer. Also, **Illeana Perez** was elected Historian and **Rebekah Selbrede** was elected Fundraising Chair.

## Students Named Scholarship and Award Winners

First, the *Outstanding Senior Award* was given to **Elizabeth Storey**. Congratulations, Elizabeth! In addition, a number of students were awarded scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year. One *Topher Bill Scholarship* was awarded to **Brittany Simmons** for her outstanding academic performance, particularly in statistics and research methods. Four *Burney Lynch Parkinson Scholarships*, for students who intend to make education a career, were awarded to **Kelly Bryant, Abigail Heller, Erin Keener,** and **Katie Lebling**. Three *Minnie Rob Phaup Scholarships*, named in honor of a former faculty member, were awarded to **Celeste Kelly, Emma Leheney,** and **Hannah Mills.**

In addition, two psychology majors, **Emma Leheney** and **Kathryn Tsagronis**, were awarded the *Emily Cella Scholarship*, for their outstanding academic achievement in social science.

## Haley Miles-McLean ('13) Receives Student Award for Psychology of Women and Gender Research

**Haley Miles-McLean** was awarded the 2014 student prize for psychological research on women and gender by the Society for the Psychology of Women, a division of the American Psychological Association, and the Association for Women in Psychology. The award was for a paper titled, "Gender microaggressions: Sexual objectification as a source of insidious trauma." Drs. Miriam Liss, Professor, and Mindy Erchull,

Associate Professor, are co-authors of the paper as are the other students who were on the research team that completed the project: Michelle Gnoleba, Charlotte Hagerman, Leanna Papp, and Caitlin Robertson. The award was presented last August at the meeting of the American Psychological Association and Haley will present the paper at the Association for Women in Psychology meeting this coming March. Congratulations, Haley!

## Leanna Papp ('14) Receives Recognition from the Virginia Psychological Association

**Leanna Papp** was given the Frederick B. Rowe Award for the Best Undergraduate Paper presented at last spring's annual meeting of the Virginia Psychological Association. Her presentation was titled, "Looking over her shoulder: Women's justifying beliefs and experiences of objectification predict fear of rape and rape avoidance tactics." Leanna completed the project under the supervision of Drs. Mindy Erchull, Associate Professor, and Miriam Liss, Professor. Congratulations, Leanna!

## Students Recognized at the Undergraduate Research Forum on Women's Studies

**Hester Godfrey ('14), Leanna Papp ('14),** and **Lauren Waaland-Kreutzer ('14)** presented a poster titled, "The dark side of romance: Romantic beliefs predict intimate partner violence," at last spring's Undergraduate Research Forum on Women's Studies. Their presentation was recognized as the best poster presentation. They completed their work as an independent study under the supervision of Drs. Miriam Liss and Mindy Erchull. Congratulations, Hester, Leanna, and Lauren!



## Psychology Majors Invited to Join Phi Beta Kappa

The following psychology majors were invited to join the UMW Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa: **Danielle DeVille, Emily Farnsworth, Charlotte Hagerman, Felicia Hamn, Erin Keener, Celeste Kelly, Katie Lebling, Emma Leheney, Daniel Lipscomb, Leanna Papp, and Brittany Simmons.**

Phi Beta Kappa, founded in 1776, is well-known for being the oldest undergraduate honors association in the United States. Its mission is to foster and recognize excellence in the liberal arts and sciences.

## Alumnae Publish Paper in *Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research*

**Kathryn Callaghan ('13)** and **Claire Growney ('13)** published a paper titled, "The impact of music and mood on creative thinking" in the *Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research*. In the paper, Kathryn and Claire reported a study in which they had undergraduates watch video clips to induce happiness or sadness, then had the undergraduates listen to music selected to induce happiness or sadness

while completing a creating thinking task. Kathryn and Claire found that, after being put into a sad mood by the video clip, participants were less creative when they listened to happy music than when they listened to sad music; being put into a happy mood did not affect creativity. This study was completed in Kathryn and Claire's Research Methods in Psychology course taught by Dr. Hilary Stebbins (Assistant Professor).

## Where Are They Now?

**Johnny Ackley ('12)** began law school at the University of Minnesota this fall. He received a full scholarship to attend.

**Joni Briganti ('08)** completed her third Ironman Triathlon in Maryland this fall. In addition, she qualified for four events at the USA Triathlon National Championships in Milwaukee, Wisconsin last year.

**Alyssa Berns ('11)** earned a degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg last May. Shortly afterwards, she began her residency in Emergency Medicine at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey.

**Stephanie Brownley ('14)** is currently working as a special education advocate for a law firm. She prepares for cases, works one-on-one with clients, and attends meetings at schools to advocate for clients.

**Kathryn Callaghan ('13)** began the masters in speech-language pathology program at James Madison University this fall.

**Brodie Collins ('11)** began his second year of the master's in social service program at Bryn Mawr College.

**Samantha Davidson ('09)** is currently a case manager at Castle Medical Center in Kailua, Hawaii. Recently, she earned her master's in social work from Hawaii Pacific

## 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. **Danielle DeVille** and **Leanna Papp** were awarded honors for the 2013-14 academic year. Congratulations, Danielle and Leanna!

Please consider recognizing the Department of Psychology with a monetary contribution. Please make checks payable to the **University of Mary Washington Foundation**, and specify that the donation is for the Psychology Department. Please send checks to the following address: University of Mary Washington Foundation, Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 1119 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5412. Your donation would be used to support student scholarships and student presentations at conferences. We would appreciate your support!

Find our new and improved psychology department website at: [cas.umw.edu/psychology](http://cas.umw.edu/psychology) Recent faculty news and upcoming events are posted to the site. Our current students will find information on, for example, program requirements, experiential learning opportunities, and Psi Chi happenings. Furthermore, alumni can keep in touch by providing updates. Check it out!

*Where Are They Now, continued from page 7*

University, and she will receive her license in social work soon.

**Emily Anne Davis ('14)** began the master's in elementary education program at the University of Mary Washington this fall.

**Danielle DeVille ('14)** is currently completing a post-baccalaureate research internship at the Laureate Institute for Brain Research in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Katherine Dubrowski ('13)** is a human resources assistant at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP, a law firm in Washington, D.C.

**Heather (Demko) Fuller ('04)** and her husband, Brian, welcomed a baby girl in September of 2013.

**Catherine Gauthier ('14)** began the master's in early childhood special education program at Teachers College, Columbia University, in New York City this fall.

**Amy Gerrard ('14)** is a student in the master's in nursing, Clinical Nurse Leader program, at the University of Virginia. At the end of the two-year program, Amy will take the exam for licensure.

**Abigail Gellene-Boudoin ('13)** began the master's in social work program at the University of Southern California with concentrations in Mental Health as well as Military Social Work and Veteran's Services last fall. In addition, Abigail married her husband, David, last June.

**Allison Gorczowski ('07)** is working at Rosecrance, a substance abuse and mental health agency in the Chicago area. She is a licensed counselor who is working with children, adolescents, and families. She married her husband, Adam, this fall.

**Michelle Gnoleba ('13)** is pursuing a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Higher Education at George Mason University. Currently, she is serving as the Graduate Assistant for Off-campus Student Programs and Services also.

**Madeline Grey ('14)** is a care manager at the disAbility Resource Center (dRC) in Fredericksburg. The dRC helps people with disabilities and their families improve their quality of life by locating resources and by providing support, advocacy, and skills training.

**Lauren Hartwell ('11)** was promoted to quality improvement data analyst at Boston Children's Hospital. Formerly, she was a research coordinator at the hospital.

**Wesley Horton ('14)** is currently working as a research assistant for the Georgetown University Memory Disorders Program.

**Melissa (Glennie) Holt ('04)** taught a course on the psychology of marketing at Disney World last May. She is currently an assistant professor of psychology at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri.

**Ashley Jacoby ('10)** earned a master's of health administration in health systems management from George Mason University. Currently, she is a program coordinator at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. One of her primary tasks is promoting their new diabetes education program.

**Eric Knapp ('14)** is currently working as a special education advocate for a law firm. He prepares for cases, works one-on-one with clients, and attends meetings at schools to advocate for clients. Eric intends to apply to law school.

**Stephanie Kulakowski ('09)** is a medical social worker in the Intensive Care Unit of the McGuire

Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Richmond. She received her master's in clinical social work from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2011, and she will receive her license in clinical social work soon. Last, Stephanie became engaged to her fiancé, Keith, recently.

**Lula Ruggles Lambert ('14)** began the master's in art therapy program at George Mason University this fall.

**Valerie Lewitus ('14)** began taking pre-medical courses at George Mason University this fall. Her long-term plans are to attend medical school to prepare for a career in neuropathology research.

**Courtney Lynn ('13)** received her master's in school psychology from the University of South Florida last May. She is continuing her work in pursuit of a doctoral degree.

**Rosana Marzullo-Dove ('11)** received her master's in clinical psychology last year from the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University in Washington, D.C., along the way to her receipt of a doctoral degree in clinical psychology (Psy.D.). This fall, she began her fourth year of study. In addition, Rosana is a teaching assistant at Argosy University, and she has been teaching psychology courses at Germanna Community College for the past one and a half years. Rosana has attended many meetings and participated in many conferences, including those sponsored by the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, and the Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration. Last April, she attended the 7th Psychology Day at the United Nations in New York. Rosana began her advanced externship at Howard University Counseling Center in Washington, D.C., this fall.



**Sarah Meharg ('01)** earned her master's in social work from The Catholic University of America in 2013 and became a licensed graduate social worker shortly after receiving her degree. Currently, she is a family social worker in the Innovative Connections program at the National Center for Children and Families in Washington, D.C.

**Maggie (Smith) McNelly ('11)** is a therapeutic day counselor at the National Counseling Group, Inc., and she provides services in the Spotsylvania County School System. In addition, she is married to her husband, Ryan, and they have a one-year-old daughter.

**Melissa McTernan ('10)** completed her third year of the doctoral program in quantitative psychology at University of California, Davis. In addition, she is working as a research data coordinator at Boston Children's Hospital.

**Caitlin Messinger ('10)** is an assistant teacher in the early childhood program at Odyssey Montessori School in Fredericksburg. Last spring, she married her husband, Danny, also an UMW alumnus.

**Nani Moskal ('12)** has spent the past two summers (one in Wyoming and one in California) working as a field instructor for an organization called SOAR (Success Oriented Achievement Realized), an adventure-based program designed to help individuals who have learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and Asperger's syndrome focus on activities (e.g., canoeing, horseback riding) during which they can develop generalizable coping strategies, building self-esteem and self-confidence. In January of 2013, Nani relocated to Salt Lake City, Utah, and began working as a field instructor for Wilderness Therapy, an intervention program for at-risk teenagers struggling with substance abuse, mental health issues, and/or family issues. She helped

lead groups of teens with similar issues through physical, emotional, and behavioral challenges in Utah as well as Colorado. During their time in the wilderness, the teens engage in individual and group therapy also, in an effort to recognize and change maladaptive patterns of behavior.

**Kima Nieves ('14)** is currently working as a junior analyst for The Columbia Group, a government contracting company that performs research for the military. She is working for the Marine Corps base office located in Quantico, Virginia.

**Leanna Papp ('14)** began working in the Development Lab at the University of Maryland as a data manager for the Bucharest Early Intervention Project last July. The project is a study of the effects of foster care intervention on Romanian children raised in an institution.

**Melissa Peters ('14)** began working at Maggie's Place, which provides shelter, food, clothing, and emotional support to pregnant and parenting women in need in Phoenix, Arizona, last summer.

**Erin (Hopkins) Peterson ('04)** and her husband, Connor, welcomed a baby girl in January of 2014.

**Akhil Rachamadugu ('10)** earned his master's in biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University. In addition, Akhil began working as a pharmaceutical consultant with Cognizant Tech Solutions. In this position, he will focus the development of drugs affecting the central nervous system.

**Riplee Royster ('11)** earned her master's degree in forensic psychology from Marymount University in 2013. She is currently a technical writer for Future Technologies, Inc.

**Karen Siegmund ('11)** worked as a case manager for Green Door, an organization that provides mental

health services to underserved populations in the Washington, D.C., area, after she graduated. Currently, she works for the after school program at Canterbury Woods Elementary School in Annandale, Virginia. Karen interacts with children in the school's gifted and talented program; she gets to see kindergarteners playing chess and 6<sup>th</sup> graders doing algebra! She leads many science activities; specifically, she helped implement a nutrition and physical fitness program called Fab Five. Karen intends to pursue a master's degree in human nutrition and become a registered dietician.

**Rachel Sisk ('14)** is currently working as an office manager and billing clerk for Mid-Atlantic Pathology Services in Sterling, Virginia.

**Brittany Staton ('14)** began the master's in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program, with an emphasis in autism, at Ball State University this fall. This program will allow her to take the Board Certified Applied Behavior Analyst exam within the next two years. Brittany will continue to work as an ABA therapist, accruing practicum hours along the way.

**Emily (Day) Stevenson ('05)** earned her master's in counselor education from North Carolina Central University last December. She obtained her licensed professional counselor associateship last summer and plans to open a practice in the near future. Emily is married to Tony Stevenson, also an UMW alumnus. Together they own and operate a riding and boarding stable called Victory Calls ([www.VictoryCallsRiding.com](http://www.VictoryCallsRiding.com)) in Mebane, North Carolina.

*Continued on back page*



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*Where Are They Now, continued from page 9*

**Elizabeth Storey ('14)** began the doctoral program in school psychology at the University of South Florida this fall.

**Dixie Turner ('06)** is a licensed psychologist at Georgia College and State University. She began this position after receiving her doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from Louisiana Tech University and completing a postdoctoral residency in the Wellness Center at Dickenson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

**Maggie White ('09)** earned her master's in social work with a certificate in animal-assisted social work from the University of Denver last summer. Currently, she is an animal-care

specialist at a rescue farm in Colorado. Last, Maggie married her husband, Daniel, this fall.

**Danielle Whitty ('14)** began working at Jill's House, a respite center in McLean, Virginia, last summer. She is a specialist for children with intellectual disabilities.

**Meghan (Wilmoth) Davis ('13)** began the master's in school counseling program at Old Dominion University last May. Also, she married her husband, Mark, last April.

**Ian Wise ('13)** is currently working for Easter Seals in Northern Virginia. Easter Seals provides services, including therapy, rehabilitation, and respite to

children, adults, and veterans with disabilities and their families.

**Rachael Wonderlin ('11)** is a memory care program coordinator and manager for Brookdale Senior Living in Greensboro, North Carolina. She began this position after earning her master's in gerontology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Kayla Zahrn ('14)** began the master's in clinical mental health counseling program, with a specialization in trauma counseling, at Regent University this fall.