

# In Sync with Psych

Rowan University Department of Psychology Quarterly Newsletter  
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 March 2016



## Psychology: Making monumental strides at Rowan

### Message from the Department Head

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for Rowan University's Department of Psychology. The department has experienced unparalleled growth in the past several years. As the largest department on campus with 946 majors, we offer a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology as well as a Bachelor of Science in Psychological Science. This Spring, we became one of two majors to offer an online degree completion program with Rowan College of Gloucester County and Rowan College of Burlington County. Starting Fall 2016, the department will be offering a 3-year accelerated BA in Psychology program. Finally this past Fall, we began a Concentration in Neuroscience offered in conjunction with Biological Sciences.

In addition to our undergraduate degree programs, the department has implemented several initiatives to support students. Our department now has two dedicated professional academic advisors to ensure that students are able to stay on track while pursuing their individual career goals. Last year we started a peer advisement system as well as organizing a job fair for our majors. This past fall we created a Transfer



MaryLouise E. Kerwin, Ph.D.,  
BCBA-D

Department Head and Professor,  
Department of Psychology

Department of Biomedical Sciences at Cooper Medical School  
of Rowan University

**Technology's influence in research within community programs headed for new goals and positive success. Would you believe there's a phone application that supports sobriety? Yes, there's an app for that!**



Dr. Kirby has been conducting research in behavior analysis, behavior pharmacology, and substance use for over 30 years. She has primarily focused on developing practical strategies for disseminating behavior analytic treatments for drug and alcohol use disorders and fostering longer-term behavior changes. In addition to studying treatments that focus on providing incentives for biologically-verified drug abstinence, she has examined methods for arranging reinforcement through a patient's natural community. This includes family-based treatments and exploring group contingency management to generate social contingencies from peers. Currently she has two projects examining Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT), a method for teaching parents strategies for influencing the behavior of an adolescent or young adult with a substance use disorder. She is also initiating a new study examining a mobile application that assists patients in their recovery. The application gathers information to detect behavior patterns that suggest an increased risk for relapse to alcohol or drug use, without requiring input from the patient, and it automatically sends messages to the patient, treatment provider, or sponsor to support sobriety.

**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Psychology Research  
Conference and  
Awards Ceremony**



**Thursday  
April 14, 2016  
9:00am – 5:00pm  
Eynon Ballroom  
Chamberlain  
Student Center @  
Rowan University**

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*(Message for Department Head continued)*

Learning Community (TLC) for students transferring into our major from other schools, and this spring, we have Learning Assistants in two sections of Statistics in Psychology as well as drop-in tutoring hours.

We also have some exciting news at the graduate level; we will be welcoming our first cohort of students into the Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology program this Fall under the leadership of one of our new faculty members, Dr. Georita Frierson. Dr. Frierson came to us from Howard University where she was the Director of Clinical Training. She was recently named to the American Psychological Association's Committee on Accreditation. We continue to offer outstanding training for students in our MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Applied Behavior Analysis, and School Psychology programs. Students in our Clinical Mental Health Counseling program scored 100% on a national practice exam while our students achieved a 80% pass rate on the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's exam.

Finally, the faculty in the department have been working hard as scholars this past year. Since July 1, 2016, 11 of our 14 research faculty members submitted 18 grant proposals. This hard work is resulting in impressive recognition. Bethany Raiff, Ph.D., BCBA-D was awarded the B.F. Skinner Award by Division 25 of the American Psychology Association. In addition, one of her publications was voted Best Article of the Year by the editorial staff of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. With an eye towards continued development of student-oriented research, we will be hosting the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual research conference on April 14, 2016. If you are interested in coming, please email [stokess@rowan.edu](mailto:stokess@rowan.edu).

I am very proud of all that we have accomplished and I am looking forward to having the opportunity to tell you about even more new initiatives in the future. In the meantime, we hope you will remember our department when you are considering a gift to Rowan; your donations assist us continue to develop into a flagship department within the university.

# Field Experience at Helping Hand Behavioral Health

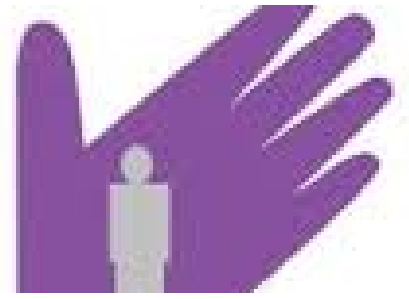
The plaque over the doorway reads “Growth Happens in the Right Environment” and the staff at Helping Hand Behavioral Health strives to provide that environment for the nearly 120 adult consumers who walk through its doors each day. An outpatient partial care program located in Clayton, Helping Hand was established in 1995, and is dedicated to working with members of the South Jersey community who are dealing with serious and persistent mental illnesses and addictions. Di-Anne Kelly, MA, the Director of Mental Health Services, has been with the organization since 1996, and she and her professional staff take pride in the fact that they individualize their approach to mental health care for their many clients, noting that “support looks different for each person.”

The program offers a variety of both therapeutic and social/recreational activities, which according to Brandi Mosley, Helping Hand’s Senior Case Manager, involve “a mix of everything”, including educational activities focusing on health and nutrition, wellness and recovery, and symptom and medication management. Additionally, consumers attending the program are provided assistance and information focusing on interpersonal relationships, communication, and daily living skills. Within the past year, Helping Hand has also extended its programming to offer help to those seeking outpatient treatment and recovery from addictions, where individuals coping with drug and alcohol dependence often deal simultaneously with mental and emotional challenges.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Kelly, Ms. Mosley, and two of several Rowan alumni who are now Caseworkers at Helping Hand, Eric Barry and Jessica Rossi. Prior to joining Helping Hand shortly after his graduation in May of 2015, Eric had completed field experiences with Dr. Jan Segal at

the Salem County Correctional Facility, and also in the private counseling practice of Ms. Glenda Beschen, LPC, of Washington Township. Jessica had actually done her field experience at Helping Hand, and was hired in November to work within the program. Eric claims that one of the primary reasons he enjoys his position at Helping Hand is because “every day is different”. On any given day, he might be running psychoeducational groups focusing on anger management, relaxation, and medication in addition to more recreationally - focused groups like interactive games and discussions on current events. Eric notes that Helping Hand is “like a school” in terms of the structured nature of the program, and that a “sense of humor is the most important thing” when working with the clients, “who learn more if they laugh”. Jessica admits that she was “a little nervous” when beginning her internship, but found the clients to be “very warm and friendly”, which quickly increased her comfort level and her confidence. She notes that the Helping Hand field experience is “very hands on” and probably “the best internship you can get if you want to be in the field” (of mental health).

When it comes to being successful as a field experience student at Helping Hand, Ms. Mosley laughs and notes that compared to many other experiences that are primarily observational, “we actually make you work!” When asked what it takes to do well in a field experience capacity, and ultimately as a professional within the mental health field, Ms. Kelly says that one needs a “good sense of humor and a thick skin” and that “those not willing to get their hands dirty” won’t find the profession to be a very good fit. Ms. Mosley also notes that in addition to being compassionate and respectful, there should be “no talking at” the persons served, but rather an emphasis on “talking with” the consumers, engaging them in their own story and meeting them “where they are” cognitively and emotionally.



WE LEND A HAND TO RESTORE HOPE  
AND HELP YOU RESTORE YOUR IN-  
DEPENDENCE, AND YOUR LIFE

Eric and Jessica were in agreement as to the undergraduate classes that were most helpful when preparing for a career in the mental health field. Both alumni believe that the Intake and Interviewing class was invaluable, and that both Abnormal Psychology and Health Psychology were foundational as well, the latter particularly because as Ms. Mosely notes, many consumers deal with physical challenges such as diabetes and hypertension, which can make managing their mental challenges more difficult. Ms. Kelly also believes that research and statistics classes, as required in Rowan’s curriculum, are also helpful, noting that successful mental health professionals need to keep abreast of new treatments and new medications so as to provide consumers with the best programming possible.

If you are interested in learning more about field experience opportunities at Helping Hand Behavioral Health or any other available positions within the community, please see Dr. Davis-LaMastro for an application and further details. She is currently working on placing students for the Summer and Fall semesters, and since placements are made on a first-come, first-served basis, you are encouraged to apply as early as possible!



# Psychology making key moves to improve your education

Long time faculty member, Denise Kerth, Ph.D., BCBA-D, spoke about the notable changes recently made to the **MA in ABA program**! Dr. Kerth stated, “We have increased the credit requirement from 36 to 45 credits. The increase in credit requirements strengthens the MA in ABA program by incorporating a more rigorous and in-depth experimental research and applied experience requirement, placing our program in line with other Universities in the United States Master’s programs accredited by the Association for Behavior Analysis International. We believe these changes will better prepare our students for competitive careers in clinical and academic settings. “

If you are not sure about the new changes and how they can relate to you, please make an appointment to speak with your advisor promptly. They will provide you with all the information you will need to stay on track.

Rowan University’s Psychology Department is also proud to announce its new **Bachelor of Science in Psychological Science program**, which started this past fall. Lisa Abrams, Ph.D. explains, “this program exposes students to more in-depth and broad-based knowledge in the field of psychology. Students in the B.S. program also have the opportunity to create and implement their own research project. This degree program highlights the diversity within the discipline of psychology. To that end, the Psychology Department aims to introduce sub-specialties into the program including, but not limited to, neuroscience and applied behavior analysis. The **B.S. in Psychological Science** prepares students to pursue a variety of careers, including those that necessitate research-intensive graduate programs. “



Carolyn Giordano, PhD,  
Director, Office of Institutional  
Research, at Thomas Jefferson  
University

## *Alumni contributions continue to make a huge impact at Rowan*

*Many thanks to our Alumni for continuing to come back to Rowan University to provide support and inspiration to our students. It means so much to them to see someone who has travelled a similar path to great success. Carolyn Giordano, PhD will be a guest speaker for the campus in April 2016, sharing her journey and success. Kudos to Dr. Giordano for continuing to give back!*

### **About Dr. Giordano ‘99**

Carolyn Giordano joined Thomas Jefferson University in 2008 and specializes in research design, applied statistics, and interprofessional education. She consults with many faculty members on their research and has collaborated and published in a wide array of areas. She has completed research and evaluation of interprofessional education for the Jefferson Inter-Professional Education Center and has made numerous presentations to national and international conferences. Dr. Giordano edits the Health Mentors Newsletter Evaluations column and was a founding member of the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative. She teaches for several departments at Jefferson in the area of Statistics and Psychology. Prior to coming to Thomas Jefferson she worked for the National Board of Medical Examiners.

# Alumni Spotlight: Tiffany Marcantonio



Tiffany Marcantonio

**Student Status:** 2015 Graduate of the MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

What is happening in your life since graduation?

"Since graduating I have had some incredible opportunities and experiences! I am the current Lead Counselor for the Family Link program at Center for Family Services. At Family Link I work with youths between the ages of 9-17 who are facing a variety of mental health and behavioral concerns. When I am not there, I do in-home counseling with families, which allows me to work with a family for six months to a year. Outside of counseling, I am the current Lab Coordinator (and former graduate student) for the Aggression, Substance and Sexuality Research Team (ASSeRT). Due to my lab experience, I have a first author manuscript accepted into publication and one under review, along with 15 plus oral

and poster presentations in research. Bringing these two wonderful experiences together (and some fabulous schooling from CMCH), I was able to apply to PhD programs in Clinical, Social and Public Health disciplines. In January, I was granted acceptance into the University of Arkansas' Public Health PhD program and was thrilled to accept the offer! I will be leaving in July to live in Arkansas and pursue doctoral training with the hope of becoming a professor at a university one day."

What would you like those interested in the MA CMHC program to know?

"I love this program. Of course, I love my degree, the classes I took, and that I am a licensed professional working in a field I am passionate about but it is more than that. The faculty at this program truly value their students and really want to see their success. Without the support of several of them, I could not have accomplished even a fraction of what I did. They also provided me with several of the opportunities listed above and below, truly creating several new chapters in my life. Furthermore, I have made connections at CMCH that will last the rest of my life; members of my cohort are bridesmaids in my wedding and faculty are invited, too. The term mentor and mentee has renewed meaning to me. I will forever look back on this experience with gratitude and

warmth. This is the type of graduate program you want to attend."

What would be your biggest advice for current MA CMHC students?

"This question is difficult to answer. I feel that I have so much wisdom to give! My advice for current students is to take every opportunity (and make your own if there isn't one) that is offered in this program. When I was a student, I took a position being a TA for a professor, worked on a grant funded project, agreed to publish a paper, obtained a full time job, applied for student grants and scholarships, traveled to conferences, and attended any and all department functions I could. Every single experience helped shape me into the professional I am and were all discussed in interviews for jobs and graduate schools; each time the interviewer was impressed by the array and depth of my experiences in such a short period of time. So, CMHC students of 2016 and 2017, take advantage of the intimate setting of our program, get to know your faculty and make great connections! Be sure to take care of yourself while doing this all though: self care was always something I valued and counselors in training need to remember to take care of themselves!"

**Faculty Quote:** "I am not sure how I would work with such a



## Alumni Thank You

### Mrs. Virginia Yurman Nelson '78



A very gracious thank you to Mrs. Virginia Yurman Nelson '78 for your contribution to the Psychology Department. The support and strength of our Alumni are so important to the continued movement, growth, and success of our future graduates.

### Are you a Member of our Valued Alumni Group?

Go to our website at:

<http://www.rowan.edu/colleges/csm/departments/psychology/>

### Would you like to make a donation, volunteer, or host a current student?

Go to our website at:

<http://www.rowan.edu/home/foundation>

You may also contact

Shelia Stokes at  
[stokess@rowan.edu](mailto:stokess@rowan.edu)

large number of students nor be as productive as I am without the help of Tiffany. In short, she just "gets it" and I find myself aligned with a highly competent individual who continues to strive for an expanded knowledge base and experience as a budding researcher."--D.J. Angelone, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

# Three cheers for the 1st Transfer Learning Center (TLC) launch

In Fall 2015, the Psychology Department treated a group of transfer students to a little “TLC” by launching Rowan University’s first Transfer Learning Community! A group of 35 transfer students volunteered to participate. The students were placed into three courses together, with one of their breaks scheduled in a classroom. The Psychology Department provided activities during some breaks, and at other times, the classroom was available for study breaks, or group bonding.



TLC students participated in a variety of educational, social, and stress relief activities throughout the semester. The students started off the semester with a Scavenger Hunt, visiting many resources and locations on campus.

Workshops were provided to assist students with note-taking and time management, and to familiarize the group with transfer services on campus. Psychology professors visited the group to talk about Psychology graduate school, getting involved, and their research areas. Many members of the group participated in stress relief days, including a puppy visit, a coloring day, and an end of the semester Study and Pizza party.

Participant Bryan Stites said: “TLC granted me a comforting transition into Rowan University culture. It gradually showed me the ropes on how to be successful by providing information sessions and a strong community to grow with. Most importantly though, TLC provided me with a network of friends that have aided in my success both inside the classroom as well as outside.” Through his connection with TLC, Bryan expanded his involvement in the department by joining Professor Haugh’s research lab during his first semester on campus.

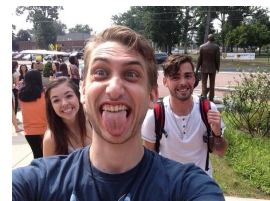
Head Peer Advisor Kaitlyn Bleiweiss also observed the success of TLC: “As the Peer Advisor for TLC, I got to see firsthand how the program helped the students; the students would come to our time together and be able to

## Wall of Fame Award Winners

### College of Science & Mathematics

**D.J. Angelone**, Psychology, Advising  
**Matthew Bealor**, Biological Sciences, Teaching  
**Gregory Caputo**, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Advising  
**James Haugh**, Psychology, Teaching  
**Robert Haynes**, Psychology, Teaching  
**John Herrmann**, Physics & Astronomy, Teaching  
**Subash Jonnalagadda**, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Teaching  
**Jennifer Kay**, Computer Science, Advising  
**Elizabeth J. Pantesco**, Psychology, Teaching  
**Eve Sledjeski**, Psychology, Teaching  
**Nancy Tinkham**, Computer Science, Teaching  
**Timothy Vaden**, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Teaching & Advising

vent, work together on homework, and study for tests. I was particularly excited when the students would create their own review sessions, and work with the other students who may be struggling. In addition, they often hung out outside of class time, and I would hear about it during the next TLC class. I could see how the program was helping develop close friendships between the students.”



The Psychology Department plans to expand and continue the Transfer Learning Community in Fall 2016 with a new group of transfers.



TLC Gang - 2015 Fall Semester





## ***And the 2016 Employee Values Award for Student Centeredness goes to.....***

**Congratulations** on a job well done to Brenda Harkins for gracefully earning the 2016 Employee Values Awards Program at Rowan University. The Annual Celebrating Excellence Awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 5, beginning at 4:30 pm in the Eynon Ballroom of the Chamberlain Student Center on the Glassboro campus. This award was established in 2015 under the guidance of Rowan's Strategic Priorities Council. The Employee Values Awards are designed to recognize and reward faculty and staff for their extraordinary efforts to support the values of the University.

## ***Faculty Scholarship***

**Bethany Raiff, PhD, BCBA-D** - "Single Case Experimental Designs" March 30, Society for Behavioral Medicine in Washington, DC presenting "The Nuts and Bolts of Behavioral Intervention Development."

"Use of Technology in Applied Behavior Analysis" March 3, Texas Association for Behavior Analysis in Dallas, Texas

"Behavioral Economics to Promote Healthy Behavior: Effects of Individual and Group Incentives", May 31 at the Association for Behavior Analysis, International in Chicago, IL.

**Mark Hale, PhD** - Contribution of review and suggestions for the newest edition of Wiley's Cognition (9th ed.)

**Megan Kately** - Certificate of Merit in the New Advisor category which recognizes the outstanding work she has done in the field of academic advising.

"Transfer Services: A Map to a Better Transfer Student Experience", March 16, Annual Region 2 Conference, Hyattsville, MD.

**MaryLouise E. Kerwin, PhD, BCBA-D** - Presenting at the Association for Behavior Analysis International in May 2016

**Georita M Frierson, PhD** - The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), has requested Dr Frierson's assistance in identifying psychologists for membership on a Job Task Analysis Task Force (JTATF). ASPPB will use this study to update the EPPP domains, and to develop an examination to assess a psychology candidate's professional skills at the point of licensure.

Appointed for a three-year term on the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA). CoA serves a vital role within the APA governance system, and the efforts of its members have a great impact on professional education and training in psychology

**Meredith Joppa, PhD** - New publication as follows: Journal of School Health - April 2016, Vol. 86, No. 4 - American School Health Association Research Article "Pilot Investigation of the Katie Brown Educational Program: A School-Community Partnership"

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Psychology Career Fair

Rowan University  
Savitz Hall - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lobby  
201 Mullica Hill Road  
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Wednesday, April 6, 2016 - 10am to 3pm

## *First Impressions Are Lasting Impressions*

- Employment and internship opportunities
- Mental Health, Applied Behavior Analysis, Direct Care
- Full time and part time positions
- BA and MA level positions
- Dress to impress
- Arrive early
- On the spot interviews
- Bring plenty of resumes



Any questions please contact Valerie Lamastro @ 856-256-3789 or [davis-lamastro@rowan.edu](mailto:davis-lamastro@rowan.edu)

And Shelia Stokes @ 856-256-4500 x 3775 or [stokess@rowan.edu](mailto:stokess@rowan.edu)



## Upcoming Events

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Psychology Job Fair

Wednesday, April 6, 2016 10:00am to 3:00pm

### Dean's Outstanding Senior Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 5:00pm

### 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Psychology Research Conference and Awards Ceremony

Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:00am to 5:00pm

### Commencement and Psychology Event

Tuesday, May 10, 2016 10:00am

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