The Forensic Psychology Program Newsletter

We are excited to roll-out our first newsletter. This will be a forum to keep everyone updated on program news, and to celebrate the accomplishments of current students and alumni. We invite everyone to contribute to this forum and email us about any professional or academic accomplishments to include in our newsletter! Also, if you’d like to write an article for the newsletter detailing an experience in the field of forensic psychology, please let us know by emailing Jane Howitt at jhowitt@gwu.edu.

The Forensic Psychology Program to Co-Host Pre-Convention Workshop with APA Division 18: Police & Public Safety Section

We will be co-hosting a pre-convention workshop titled “Emerging Trends and Innovations to Enhance the Practice of Forensic Psychology” with the Police & Public Safety Section of the APA on August 2, 2017. It will be an all-day event with various expert speakers in the field.

The Police & Public Safety Section of the APA works with law enforcement, fire departments, nuclear regulatory agencies, emergency medical services and other public safety entities. They are involved in the selection of employees, fitness for duty evaluations, critical incident stress debriefing, management of mental health programs, criminal investigative analysis (profiling) and hostage negotiations.

Forensic Psychology Alumni Event - August 4, 2017

We plan on having an alumni gathering during the APA convention at a location near the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Please let us know if you’ll be in DC for the convention, or live in the area, and would be interested in attending. We hope to see you there!

The Student Association for Forensic Psychology Holds Career Information Sessions

The Student Association for Forensic Psychology (SAFP) held their first Career Information Session on February 2 at the Arlington Police Department. Sgt. Bryan Morrison of the Arlington Police Department spoke to Forensic Psychology students about his experience working in law enforcement, and his current position with the K-9 unit. He and his partner, Jax, a Belgian Malinois, who everyone welcomed enthusiastically.

On February 22, SAFP held their second Career Information Session. Sarah Fletcher, current student in the program, spoke about her job as a crime analyst for the Fairfax County Police Department. Crime Analysis is an interesting and growing field, and it was great to hear an insider’s view.

The SAFP formed in Fall 2016. The goal of the association is to provide opportunities to network with outside organizations, have fun social activities with fellow students, and expand knowledge in both law enforcement and psychology with workshops to enhance what is learned in the classroom. Everyone is welcome! Please contact SAFP President, Justina Hauss, at jhauss@gwmail.gwu.edu, if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

Class Notes

Current Students

Mia Hendricks will be starting Georgetown University’s PhD program in Psychology with a concentration in Human Development and Public Policy in fall 2017.

Maggie McGuire will be starting Loyola University of Maryland’s PsyD program in fall 2017.

Maritza Miller will be starting Florida State University’s Counseling Psychology and School Psychology Combined PhD Program in fall 2017.

Sarah Nobles will be starting the University of South Florida’s Criminology Ph.D. program in fall 2017. Sarah’s dissertation will be focused on intimate partner violence, rape myths, honor killings, and juvenile crimes in relation to abuse.

Jordan Ohanessian will be starting George Washington University’s PsyD program in fall 2017.

Devin Randel will be a Master’s Level Therapist at a non-profit in Indianapolis after graduation. The position is based out of the juvenile court house/detention center, where he’ll work as a therapist for juveniles reintegrating into society, as well as an advising resource for the local judges.

Sarah Snyder was accepted into Palo Alto University’s PsyD program in Clinical Psychology.

Paulina Sorbi will be starting James Madison University’s Combined-Integrated Doctoral Program in Clinical and School Psychology in fall 2017.

2014 Graduates

Melissa Donadio began the University of Hartford’s PsyD program last fall, and will soon be starting her first practicum at Cheshire Correctional Facility. This is a maximum-security state prison where Melissa will be focusing on treatment of sexual offenders and beginning to log hours for ATSA membership. In addition, she’s a current research assistant of Dr. Kathy Delisi. Their study is looking at the experiences and creative resilience of homeless, LGBTQ+ youth.

Danielle Graddock is a third year doctoral student at Wright State University. She has two notable academic presentations. The first was a structured discussion around professionalism and diversity (what does it mean to be a professional as a black graduate student?) at the American Women in Psychology Conference that took place in Milwaukee, WI in March. The second presentation will be a poster on juvenile sex offenders and the ethics around treating them.