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From the Program Director

I am pleased to share with you some of the most recent program activities and the achievements of students and faculty in the Health Psychology Program. Over the past year, we welcomed new faculty and students, celebrated accomplishments, suffered losses, and launched new initiatives. This year, the program has taken some notable steps to focus on program planning and to develop a strategic plan for the upcoming years. Specifically, we have had multiple meetings – with students and faculty separately and jointly - to identify strengths of the program, challenges, and opportunities. We have been using these insights and have discussed collaborative next steps. Our first program meeting in January will continue the conversation, so we can make sure we are taking actionable steps as we move forward!

I hope everyone had a smooth end of the semester and a happy holiday season! I am wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2020 and a good start into the Spring semester!

Dr. Gil-Rivas

Interview Day will be on Friday, February 7th 2020!

Program Meetings for 2020 (12pm-1pm)

January 17th – Cone 111
Discussion around program initiatives (based on the faculty/student joint meeting in Fall 2019)

February 21st – Rowe 130
Speaker: Jeanette Bennett

March 20th – Rowe 130
Diversity committee event TBD

April 24th – Rowe 130
Volunteering event TBD
Welcome to our new program faculty!

Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, Ph.D. joined the Health Psychology faculty in Fall 2019 from the University of South Alabama.
Dr. L-R has 25 years as a licensed Clinical Psychologist and has amassed over 120 peer reviewed publications in her role as a scientist and professor. The majority of these publications focus on her longstanding interests in relationship and family violence (e.g., stalking, rape, physical abuse, and the intergenerational transmission of relationship behaviors), and adolescent risky, unhealthy, suicidal, and/or life-diminishing behaviors. Her most recent research is community-based, focused on underserved and disadvantaged populations, and occurs while integrating mental and behavioral health care into primary care and school settings. In particular, implementing, evaluating, and educating others to provide evidence-based, solution-focused and resiliency-enhancing interventions is a priority for Dr. L-R.
We are very grateful that Dr. L-R joined us in the Fall semester and that she has also taken on the role as the program Ombudsperson for students! Welcome :-)

Welcome to our new incoming cohort (Fall 2019)!
A total of five students joined us in the Fall 2019.
Kirby Magid joined the general concentration!
Michelle Chen, Aimi Hardy, Fallon Richie, and Cody Dillon-Owens joined the clinical concentration!
Niner Nation Unites, Remembers, and Rises!

April 30th, 2019 is the saddest day in UNC Charlotte's history and it will always be a part of our history. Words cannot adequately express the heartbreak that UNC Charlotte experienced on April 30th 2019. As Chancellor Philip L. Dubois highlighted, “each passing day since the tragic events of April 30th has left its own imprint on the collective consciousness of Niner Nation. We shared disbelief and sadness as we learned of the loss of Reed Parlier and Riley Howell. We united physically and virtually in memory of them and in support of Rami, Sean, Emily, and Drew through the candlelight vigil, in-person and online donations of time and resources, countless supportive words, and the permanent Niner Nation Remembers website.”

“Niner Nation has united together, and now we will rise together. Rising together requires acknowledging and understanding what we have endured as a community and as individuals. Rising together requires reaching out when we need help or encouragement, and lending strength when we have some to spare. Rising together requires embracing our grief and each other, allowing the memories of April 30th to propel us forward one step at a time. Niner Nation rises, but we will never forget.” (Philip L. Dubois, UNCC Chancellor).

The Health Psychology PhD program is deeply saddened by the horrific events on April 30th and encourages everyone to find comfort and support as we process, remember, and respond to this event. We strongly encourage both students and faculty to reach out if they would like to find a way to honor the memory of the victims of this event.

The Niner Nation Remembrance Commission final report was recently sent out. Please see the email from Chancellor Philip L. Dubois on January 7th for more details.
Concentration Updates

Clinical Concentration: APA Update

After a long process, the Commission of Accreditation (CoA) has finally announced our program’s APA accreditation renewal!! The process began with the submission of a program self-study on May 1, 2017, followed by a productive and positive site visit on November 16 and 17, 2017. In May, 2018, we were asked to provide additional information. Eventually, in August of 2019, our Clinical program received a renewal of its APA Accreditation Status until 2027. Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Amy Peterman, our clinical director, and everyone involved in this process!!!

Please congratulate our three students who are on internship this year. All three students matched with their first choice and all three sites are APA accredited!

- Nadia Jafari is currently at the National Psychology Training Consortium in Washington State, where she specializes in integrated primary care.
- Ana Orejuela is completing her internship at the James A Haley Veterans Administration Hospital in Tampa, FL, where she completes rotations in health psychology, trauma, and general clinical psychology.
- Olivia Riffle is completing her internship at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Medical Center in Houston, TX., where she receives training in general clinical and clinical health psychology.

Best of luck to all clinical students who are in the process of applying for internship (starting in 2020)!!

Congratulations are also to a number of program graduates whose degrees were conferred during Spring and Summer of 2019: Dr. Leila Forbes, Dr. Cara Blevins, Dr. Brooke Palmer, and Dr. Nicole Hilaire

We are very excited that our graduates continue to contribute so much to the field of health psychology!

Practicum Placements Fall 2019/Spring 2020

Paisley Lewis – UNCC Counseling Center GA
Marie Hayes – Myers Park Internal Medicine
Meredith Harrison – Wake Forest Oncology
Brittany Price – VA Charlotte
Sydney Park – Neuropsychological Services Charlotte
Alyssa Minnick - UPenn, Philadelphia
Courtney Rogers – Myers Park Internal Medicine
Cecily Basquin - Child and Family Development
Megan McComas - Teen Health Connection
Magin Day – Dyess Air Force Base, Texas
Aria Ruggiero – VA Charlotte
Victoria O’Connor – Carolinas Rehabilitation
Lena Etzel – VA Charlotte
Maggie Gigler – Elizabeth Family Medicine
Leslie Snapper – Elizabeth Family Medicine
Austin Coates – Child and Family Development
Jan Mooney – UNCC Counseling Center, Advanced Practicum
Alexis Mitchell, Iris Fraude, Jodie Lisenbee, Maria Alessi, Rachel Uri – UNCC Counseling Center, Beginning Practicum

In 2019, our clinical students worked with over 1000 clients at various practicum sites in the Charlotte community and surrounding area.

Current community collaborations and partnerships

Boulder Crest Institute for Posttraumatic Growth, Bluemont, VA
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Child Care Resources, Inc.
Communities in Schools
Community Free Clinic of Concord
CrossRoads Corporation for Affordable Housing and Community Development, Inc.
Davidson College
KinderMourn
Teen Health Connection
United Way of Central Carolinas
Urban Institute (UNC Charlotte)

Thank you to all students and faculty for their contributions to different communities!
Events 2019

Fundraisers
- In the Spring, our primary fundraiser was the Health Psychology program t-shirt sale. Funds raised by HPGSA during fundraisers are used for things such as social events, student gifts, operational costs, etc.
- Lastly, we hosted a Winter Donation/Book Drive to support “Promising Pages”, a local nonprofit organization. Current students crafted bookmarks and motivational letters that were distributed to children who participate in Promising Pages’ literacy programs. Faculty provided generous financial support to fund the materials needed to do the crafting and to directly support the organization, as well as books given to be used as part of the Literacy programs! Thank you to everyone for helping HPGSA with this great cause!

Social Events
- We also organized a number of social events including brewery socials and a fun night out at the White-Water Center during the holidays.

Volunteering
- This year, we volunteered with a number of organizations (over 16 hours), including the on-campus Food Pantry at UNCC.

Advocacy
- Concentration representatives attended advisory committee meetings and served as liaisons between HPGSA and the advisory committee, as well as between their respective concentrations and HPGSA.
- A number of students participated in the Charlotte NEDA Walk in Fall 2019!

Other
- HP students were able to obtain a significant amount of travel funding from the Graduate and Professional Student Government as members of HPGSA.
- HPGSA played a significant role in the coordination of interview day in 2019, and will continue this tradition in the coming year 2020. For example, we provided/will provide lunch to applicants and program members. Additionally, we helped/will help to monitor the obtainment of housing and travel for applicants as needed.
Looking Ahead - HPGSA Speaker Series 2020

Friday January 10th, 2-4pm:
Dr. Galati will present a tutorial on linear mixed effects models in R
Room: Colvard 3140

Tuesday, February 11th 4-5pm:
Dr. L-R will talk about her work on the National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative projects
Room: TBD

Friday, February 21st 10-11am:
Dr. Basinger will present on qualitative research and communication in the context of health
Room: Colvard 3120

Tuesday, March 10th 4-5pm:
Dr. Markant will present on “Open Science Framework”.
Room: TBD

Friday, March 13th 12-1pm:
Dr. Rohling will present on the Rohling Interpretive Method
Room: TBD

Friday, April 24th 1-2pm:
Dr. Dahl will present on "Grant seeking and writing"
Room: TBD
Awards and Honors:

Dissertation defended:
Alyssa Minnick

Dissertation proposed:
Courtney Rogers
Nadia Jafari
Lydia Roos

MA thesis/Second-year project defended:
Megan McComas

Program Health Psychology Summer Research Fellowship 2019 Recipients:
Aria Ruggiero, Victoria O’Connor, and Lena Etzel

Other Awards:

Ruggiero, A. R., "Best of the best" oral presentation award - American Psychosocial Oncology Society Conference

Ruggiero, A. R., "Best of the best" poster presentation award - American Psychosocial Oncology Society Conference

Fraude, I., Nomination for the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistantship Award

Roos, L. G., P.E.O. Scholar Award 2019-2020

Roos, L. G., Psi Chi's and APA's Edwin B. Newman Graduate Research Award Winner 2018/19

SCRA Outstanding Educator Award Recipient: Dr. Jim Cook
Dr. Jim Cook was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) Outstanding Educator Award. “This award recognizes a SCRA member who has made exemplary and innovative contributions to the educations of students about community psychology and community research and action.”

Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence Recipient: Dr. Jennifer Webb
Dr. Jennifer Webb received the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence!!
The award is one of the most important and prestigious traditions at UNC Charlotte. It honors outstanding tenured teachers on our campus and provides an example of the University’s commitment to excellence in teaching. For more information about the award: [https://teachingaward.uncc.edu/](https://teachingaward.uncc.edu/)

**Sample Scholarly Achievements**

**Sample Publications with Student Authors**


Sample Presentations of Current Students


Johnson, J. E., Hailemariam, M., Key, K., Jefferson, B., Mumammud, J., Greer, D., McCoy White, J., Miller, R., Richie, F., Robinson, D., Saddler, S., Spencer, B., & Summers, M. (March, 2019). The Flint Women’s Study: Overview of findings. Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Healthy Flint Research Coordinating Center (HFRCC), Flint, MI.


Richie, F., Lathan, E., Selwyn, C., & Langhinrichsen-Rohling, J. (April, 2020). BITTEN by the system that cared for them: The impact of healthcare institutional betrayal on patients’ health behavior. Poster to be presented at the annual convention of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.


Learned and Obstacles to Overcome. Poster presented at the 16th annual meeting of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society. Atlanta, GA.


Other Updates & Photos

Weddings 2019

Leslie Snapper (Clinical concentration) & Nate Hudgins

Megan McComas (Clinical concentration) & Justin Shrievess

Lydia Roos (General concentration) & Matteo D’Angelo
Engagements 2019

Cecily Basquin (Clinical concentration) & Drew Gadaire (Community concentration)

Olivia Riffe (Clinical concentration) & Lee Blandford

Events 2018/2019

Kim and Kevin welcomed Tommy to their family in 2019

MA Graduation (left to right): Brittany Price, Sydney Park, and Marie Hayes
Announcements and Reminders

Announcements

- **Dissertation Defense Announcement Template:** In an effort to standardize the way in which dissertation defenses are announced to the campus, the Graduate School introduces a new one-stop-template for announcements: [http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/dissertation-defense-announcements](http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/dissertation-defense-announcements). Now information can be entered one time, which will automatically post to the web and be shared with Academic Affairs. No need to send multiple emails in order to get announcements published.

Thank you for your interest in our Health Psychology Program newsletter. If you have any information you would like to include in future newsletters, or if you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please contact Lena Etzel (letzel@uncc.edu)

Follow us on Instagram @ uncchealthpsych