Hello John Jay Students & Graduates!

We hope you are all well. We have exciting news to share. Our clinical psychology program has been granted a site visit for APA accreditation. The site visit will take place on March 26th and March 27th, 2015. We would love for you to be part of this process. The site visitors will meet with faculty, current students and alumni during their visit. If you are available for the site visit, please email Professor Rebecca Weiss at rweiss@jjay.cuny.edu. We particularly need alumni to participate.

Thank you!

We hope to highlight some alumni updates in each issue. We will also be adding an alumni listserv, as well as a Facebook and twitter account by this spring! Please look out for those.

Alumni Updates

Elizabeth Arias (Graduated 2011). In September 2014, Dr. Arias transitioned from working on the forensic inpatient service to working at the Manhattan Forensic Psychiatric Court Clinic. Her current position involves completing forensic assessments for the courts, including competency to stand trial evaluations, presentencing/pre-pleading evaluations, probation/diversion mental health evaluations, and psychological testing. In addition, she began a private practice in July 2014, providing individual psychotherapy, general

John Jay Newsletter: What is it about?

We hope that this newsletter will be the first in an annual series that will feature our students’ many successes. The primary purpose is to update you regarding our alumni achievements and to highlight our current student’s accomplishments. Today’s classmates are tomorrow’s colleagues. We are extremely proud of our students and we hope that a tighter and more informed network will lead to inspiration, opportunities and collaborations. Additionally, we will use this forum to reach out about exciting program developments, such as our upcoming site visit.
assessment, and forensic assessment.

**Megan (Schaffer) Chesin (Graduated 2013).** Dr. Chesin is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Columbia University and a Research Scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Her research involves developing and testing mindfulness-based interventions to prevent suicide attempts in high suicide-risk patients. She also investigates the pathophysiology of suicide attempts in psychiatric subjects. In March 2013, she was awarded a grant from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to support her research.

**Stephen Hoover (Graduated 2011).** Dr. Hoover is a licensed psychologist in California working for CNS Network, a company that does clinical trial research for a variety of CNS disorders.

**Samantha Miller (Graduated 2009).** Dr. Miller is licensed in New York and Texas as a clinical psychologist. She conducts comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, custody evaluations, and forensic evaluations of child maltreatment. She consults with outpatient mental health programs, day treatment hospitals, and therapeutic school settings on evidence-based treatments and behavior management strategies. Dr. Miller provides academic instruction and clinical supervision to graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Miller served as the Director of Training at the Child Mind Institute in New York City. Previous to this, she served as the Director of Behavior Management at the League Treatment Center, a day-treatment hospital in New York.

**Gianni Pirelli (Graduated 2010).** Dr. Gianni Pirelli was a member of the first incoming class in 2004. He maintains a full-time private practice in clinical and forensic psychological assessment. He is licensed in New York and New Jersey. He has two offices one in Verona, NJ and one in Morristown, NJ. He is Member-at-Large for AP-LS and an editorial board member for *Law and Human Behavior, Open Access Journal of Forensic Psychology*, and the *New Jersey Psychologist*. In addition, Dr. Pirelli is an Assistant Professor (non-tenure track) in the Psychology Department at Montclair State University. He is very happy and is keeping busy writing and giving talks, but most importantly, by spending time with friends and family.

**Joseph (Jay) Toomey (Graduated 2013).** Dr. Toomey is living with his wife and two daughters in Massachusetts. He became licensed in June and took a position as a Forensic Evaluator for Bridgewater State Hospital. He currently conducts forensic evaluations for the MA court system. He also spends a fair amount of time training mental health and correctional staff in identifying and managing risk of suicide within the department of corrections. He serves as an adjunct professor for Bay State College. He has previously worked for Bay State College, and held a position as one of four regional psychologists for the MA Department of Correction.
SELECTION OF CURRENT STUDENTS’ RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Publications


Grants & Awards

Emily Edwards: Graduate Peer Mentoring Scholarship; 2014 International Society for Research on Aggression Young Investigator’s Award

Lindsay Davis: American Psychology-Law Society Grant-in-Aid for “Sexual Homicide of Children and Adolescents: Toward a Profile of the Offender.”
Presentations


