First-Year CSP Students Visit the Massachusetts State House

The first-year doctoral students met with Dr. Pearrow at the Massachusetts State House in November 2013. The goals of the State House visit were to learn about how to advocate and “speak up” for disadvantaged populations in the legislature and to form partnerships and meet legislators and influential people in the area of Mental Health. The students and Dr. Pearrow took a tour of the State House with a local representative. During the tour, students discussed how the State House is run and ways they could get involved. Additionally, students had a private meeting with the chair of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse committee. This meeting provided students with knowledge about the best ways to advocate for disadvantaged populations. Overall, the state house visit was an exciting opportunity for all involved, and one that the department hopes to continue for many years to come!
Faculty Highlights

Sharon Lamb received her PhD in Philosophy of Psychology and Education in January at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. She also became a Board Certified Psychologist in Counseling Psychology in March of 2014. See Dr. Lamb’s opinions about girls and “warrior toys” in the NYTimes front page article on March 23.

Professor Laura Hayden completed her book, due to be released in June, addressing how school counselors can use physical activity to support life skill development in youth. Her research team is currently conducting data analysis and interpretation on a youth development program housed at the Dever School in the Fall, designed to promote personal and social responsibility among elementary students using physical activity.

At the annual convention for the national association of school psychologists, Dr. Codding chaired and co-presented in a symposium entitled, Mathematics Intervention Development and Examination of Intervention Intensity, as well as co-presented results from a recent study entitled, Relative Value of Common Screening Measures in Mathematics, in a second symposium. On April 11, 2014 Dr. Codding has been invited to the University of Utah as part of the Harry Bluhm Lecture series and will present to students, faculty, and local professionals on treatment integrity as well as innovations in academic and behavioral interventions.

Professor Gonzalo Bacigalupe began his two years tenure as President of the American Family Therapy Academy, he continues his work in the Basque Country as a researcher in e-health and chronic illness. With colleagues at the Department of Family Medicine, he is PCORI co-principal investigator in a research project studying cancer screening shared decision making. Similarly, several projects related to e-health and family health are undergoing with his UMASS Boston research team. This spring, after publishing two widely read columns in the NPR CommonHealth blog on the recent high school suicides, he was interviewed by WGBH Greater Boston and the Boston Globe.

At the National Counseling Psychology Conference in Atlanta, Sharon Horne presented at 9 symposia, panels or poster sessions with 8 graduate students. This month, she is the keynote speaker for Brandeis University’s 6th Annual Sex and Sexuality Symposium. Along with graduate students Darren Freeman-Coppdage, Tangela Roberts, and Meredith Maroney, she also is conducting a workshop on LGBT client concerns related to substance use for the Modern Assistance Programs at the Local 103 International Union of Electrical Workers’ Hall. She is actively preparing to take the students enrolled in the Transnational Social Justice course to Kyrgyzstan in May for their social justice project.

New CSP Department Faculty
Our department is growing! We are excited to welcome four new faculty to our department. Dr. Kyle Killian joined us this Spring, and Dr. Melissa Collier-Meek, Dr. Adam Feinberg, and Dr. Timothy Poynton will be joining us beginning in the Fall of 2014. Stay tuned for the Fall newsletter where we will spotlight Drs. Killian, Collier-Meek, Feinberg, and Poyton’s backgrounds, accomplishments, and research interests!

Welcome our New Department Head!
Dr. Takuya Minami is an Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology. Outside of academia, Dr. Minami enjoys playing the piano as well as traveling to national parks.
CSP Students Travel Across the World

Second-year PhD students in the Counseling and School Psychology Department are traveling to Kyrgyzstan this summer. The editorial staff had a chance to interview two students regarding their upcoming trip.

Ali Plocha and Ryan Martin are second-year doctoral students in the CSP Department. Ali is in the Counseling program and Ryan is in the School Psychology program. Both students are incredibly excited about their upcoming trip to Kyrgyzstan. Here is what they had to say.

1. What do you plan on doing while in Kyrgyzstan?
Ali: We will be in Kyrgyzstan from May 16-26 working with American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek. While there, we will offer workshops and give presentations to students related to resume building, cover-letter writing, applying to graduate school, and work-life balance. Also, we will implement individual and group interventions to help students with career decision-making, and visit a school as well as a grass-roots organization for children with disabilities. Finally, we will be meeting with faculty in the Psychology Department at AUCA to discuss their plans for establishing an Assessment and Consultation Center to meet the community needs for testing for autism, learning disorders, and other issues.

2. What are you looking forward to the most?
Ryan: I’m looking forward to traveling to an area that I literally knew nothing about before meeting my fellow Kyrgyz classmates and planning the trip. Doing so will undoubtedly change my worldview, both broadly and in terms of psychology and education. This is quite literally an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

3. How do you think this experience will benefit your education?
A: This trip will provide me with an opportunity to learn about the nature of counseling services in other parts of the world. This trip also represents our program’s commitment to social justice not just in philosophy, but in action.
R: I think any type of travel is beneficial to one’s education because it can lead to a significant change of perspective. I think this is especially important in the field of psychology, since we both work with and live amongst individuals within a certain sociocultural and historical context; it’s easy for us to lose sight of the bigger picture and the possibility of multiple points of view. Traveling to other countries is a great way to fix this problem.

4. Do you think it is important for students in the CSP Department to have this experience abroad? Why?
A: On behalf of my entire cohort, I would like to thank Sharon Horne and Elena Kosterina for all of their hard work planning this for us. We are all extremely grateful!
R: I feel extremely lucky to be part of a program that values this kind of international collaboration and, better yet, actually made a trip like this possible.

Practicum Sites: Where Are They?

- Wellesley College Stone Center Counseling Service
- Brandeis University Psychological Counseling Center
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design Counseling Center
- Franciscan’s Children Hospital CBAT Unit
- South Middlesex Opportunity Council
- Department of Education and Secondary Education
- UMass Lowell Counseling Center
- South Boston Behavioral Clinic Cambridge
- Simmons College Counseling Center
- Emerson College Counseling Center
- Salem State Counseling Center
- Burlington Public Schools
- Cambridge Health Alliance
- Boston Public Schools
- Fenway Health in Primary Care

2nd year Selda Celen is the coeditor of the International Psychology Bulletin
UMass Boston was represented by numerous PhD students and faculty at national conferences


- Dr. Codding, Dr. Methe, & Ryan Martin: Assessment to Intervention for Math: Putting Theory into Practice
- Dr. Bontrager: Activities for Learning Progress Monitoring
- Dr. Codding: Mathematics Intervention Development and Examination of Intervention Intensity
- Sheila Desai, Dr. Methe, & Dr. Bontrager: Assessment Integrity and the Use of Curriculum-Based Measurement
- Erik Maki, Dr. Pearrow, & Victoria Sheppard: Fostering Community And University Partnerships Towards Comprehensive School Behavioral Services
- Ryan Martin and Dr. Methe: Evaluating Intervention Procedures in Early Math through Brief Experimental Analysis
- Meghan Silva: Assessing the Effects of the HOPS Curriculum
- Victoria Sheppard: Developing Trade Tools: Intervention Kits

**2014 Counseling Psychology Conference: Atlanta, GA**

- Darren Freeman-Coppadge, Dr. Levitt, Dr. Horne, &Tangela Roberts: Boston Gay Families: Approaches to Managing HIV Risk (Kay Sweeney, Meredith Maroney, Shannon Peters, Lucas Dangler)
- Emily Wheeler & Dr. Horne: “To Change the World Here and Now”: The Development of an LGBTQ Activist Identity in International Contexts
- Dr. Bacigalupe & Ali Plocha: Families’ Struggles with Dietary Changes: The Case of Celiac Disease
- Selda Celen-Demirtas: Online Counseling: Can Counseling Psychology Catch Up with Technology?
- Dr. Vannoy: Suicide Prevention in Counseling Psychology
- Dr. Hayden, Dr. Cook, and Meghan Silva: Promote Holistic Health Among Latina ELL Students: Examining the Effects of a Curriculum Integrating Life Skills, Academic Skills, and Physical Activity
- Selda Celen-Demirtas, Tinatin Surguladze, & Boaz Levy: Are We Medicating Psychosocial Distress? (Kay Sweeney)
- Elena V. Kosterina, Dr. Horne, & Elena Tsoy: Counseling Psychology Around the World
- Dr. Vannoy: Counseling Psychology and the Aging Client: How Counseling Psychologists Can Meet the Diverse Mental Health Needs of Older Adults
- Dr. Horne & Emily Wheeler: Counseling Psychologists on the Fault Line: Voices of LGBTQ+ and Ally Faculty and Student Activists

Do you have something you would like to see in the upcoming CSP newsletter? Questions? Comments? Please contact the editors:

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