VCPCP is on a Roll!

by Mike Stutts, Ph.D., DCT

Since our inaugural newsletter last fall, there have been several notable developments for our program. As most of you likely recall, APA site visitors were here November 11 and 12. The visit concluded with a very positive exit interview. The site visitors’ written report arrived just before the new year and closely paralleled the interview feedback. Here are some excerpts:

- “The sequence of courses, research, and practica experiences is impressive in that it is carefully thought-out and constructed.”

- “Research preparation is also sequenced well.”

- “The goals, competencies, and objectives are thorough, well thought-out and complete.”

- “The transition from the Psy.D. program to the Ph.D. program has been handled well in the managing of courses and research and practica experiences.”

We have responded to that report as required by APA.

(Continued on Page 2)
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Our response was a single-page and comprised mainly of correcting typos or minor details; there were no significant concerns to address. APA’s Commission on Accreditation does not meet again until April but we have no reason to expect anything less than a seven-year accreditation for our now-PhD program and reaccreditation of our soon to be inactive PsyD program.

On February 7, we conducted our second and final interview day for applicants for the class of 2019. The following Monday, I made offers to our top six candidates. Three of those have accepted; none have turned us down as of this writing (recall that we are starting this process about three weeks sooner now; those still holding offers have other interviews pending).

Finally, we matched all six of our fourth year students to APA-accredited internship sites on February 21, national internship match day. Most of our students matched to one of their top choices.

These major accomplishments resulted from the unselfish contributions of all our program’s constituencies — faculty, supervisors, students and staff.

As our program’s leader, I cannot thank you all enough times for your unwavering support and effort on behalf of VCPCP.

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**Internship Match Outcomes 2014-2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Internship Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Megan Brokenbourgh</td>
<td>LSU Health Science Center New Orleans, LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis Hackett</td>
<td>Sharp Mesa Vista Healthcare San Diego, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Minifie</td>
<td>Vanderbilt, UVA Internship Consortium, Nashville, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katharine Seagly</td>
<td>NYU Med Ctr./Rusk Inst. New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valerie Ward</td>
<td>George Mason University Counseling Center, Fairfax, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy White</td>
<td>Henry Ford Health Sciences Center Detroit, MI</td>
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New Faculty Spotlight: Kristin Heron, Ph.D.

by Robin Lewis, PhD

Dr. Kristin Heron received her Ph.D. in 2011 from Syracuse University in Clinical Psychology. She completed her clinical internship in the Behavioral Medicine track in the Clinical Psychology Training Consortium at Brown University. During the last three years, Dr. Heron has worked as the Associate Director of the Dynamic Real-time Ecological Ambulatory Methodologies (DREAM) program at the Penn State University Survey Research Center. The DREAM Program was established in 2011 and provides infrastructure and support to researchers interested in conducting studies using mobile technology (e.g., smartphones) for intensive, real-time assessment or intervention studies.

Dr. Heron's research interests are broadly in clinical health psychology, with a specific focus on health behaviors including disordered eating, physical appearance-related concerns, physical activity, and smoking. Much of her work aims to assess and understand the dynamic states and experiences (e.g., mood, symptoms, behaviors) in people's everyday lives, and how this information can be used to inform theory, enhance understanding of psychological and physical disease processes, and improve interventions. Her research frequently uses Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) techniques to allow people to report on their current or recent contextual, physical, social, cognitive, behavioral, and/or affective states. These studies typically use mobile technology, including palmtop computers, smartphones, and/or wearable sensors to facilitate the intensive, real-time assessment. In addition to her work with EMA, she is also interested in developing psychological and health behavior interventions using mobile technology. Referred to as Ecological Momentary Interventions (EMI), this treatment strategy allows researchers and clinicians to provide people with real-time support in their daily lives to encourage improved psychosocial functioning and behavior change.

At Old Dominion, Dr. Heron will continue to conduct real-time assessment (EMA) and intervention (EMI) studies around health behaviors including disordered eating behaviors and physical activity. In the fall she will be concluding data collection from a study that is using smartphones and Bluetooth-capable accelerometers to provide overweight and obese adults with real-time feedback on activity levels to encourage greater daily physical activity. While at ODU, Dr. Heron plans to continue several lines of research involving the application of real-time assessment and intervention methods for studying a range of clinical health issues and health behaviors.

The Psychology Department is very pleased that Dr. Heron will be joining us!
Many individuals who are students, graduates, or faculty for the Consortium deserve special recognition for their recent research accomplishments.

Dr. Scott Debb, assistant professor at NSU and a recent addition to the contributing VCP faculty, received the Thomas Nelson Community College Foundation Mini-Grant, “Integrating social justice and conflict analysis, management, and resolution into existing psychology curricula.” He also has a recent 2013 publication with the Virginia Counselors Journal entitled, “Meeting the Needs of Families Struggling with an Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Community-Based Approach Case Study.” In addition, he will be presenting a paper with Dr. Desi Hacker, A-DCT, at the 121st annual convention of the American Psychological Association, taking place this August in Washington D.C. The accepted paper is titled, “Initial Validation of the Connor-Davidson Resiliency Scale with African-American College Students.”

Farrah Tassy, a graduate of the consortium, recently published a study based upon her dissertation, chaired by ODU professor Dr. Barbara Winstead. “Relationship and individual characteristics as predictors of unwanted pursuit.” was published in the January 2014 edition of Journal of Family Violence.

Emily Oettinger, a 3rd year in the Consortium, defended her thesis titled, “Moderating Effects of Daycare on Cognitive Development of Children with Depressed Mothers” on October 30, 2013. Her thesis was chaired by Dr. James Paulson, an Associate Professor of ODU. In addition, Emily will be presenting a poster on the “Effects of Early Maternal Depression on Male Cognitive Development” at the Association for Psychological Science Convention in San Francisco, California this May. Her poster titled “Moderating Effects of Care Quality on Cognitive Development of Male Children with Depressed Mothers” has also been accepted by the American Psychological Association Convention for presentation in Washington DC this August.

The research of two 1st year students also affiliated with Dr. Paulson’s Early Family Lab, Jessica Block and Tiren Parker, was accepted by the Association for Psychological Science for a poster session presentation on “Postpartum Relationship Satisfaction of Younger and Older Parents” at the annual convention in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. J.D. Ball recently collaborated with other members of EVMS’ Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences to publish a study on the “Clinical outcomes of mild isolated cerebral ventriculomegaly in the presence of other neurodevelopmental risk factors.” This appeared in the Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine in November, 2013.

(Continued on page 5)
Dr. Robin Lewis’ research on sexual minorities continues to grow. In coordination with other Consortium faculty including Dr. Michelle Kelley, Dr. Barbara Winstead, and Dr. Cathy Lau-Barraco, she has a first author publication in press with *Violence Against Women* titled, “Emotional distress, alcohol use, and bidirectional partner violence among lesbian women.”

She also has these other recent and upcoming publications:


Dr. Cathy Lau-Barraco’s BARSLab continues to be very prolific. In collaboration with other members of her laboratory, 2nd year Consortium student Cristina Bain presented a poster on “Norm Compliance and Its Impact on Alcohol Consumption among Emerging Adults” at the November 2013 Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies conference in Nashville, TN. She has also a poster under review for presentation at the Virginia Psychological Association’s biannual meeting in Norfolk, VA. Dr. Lau-Barraco’s other presentations and publications include the following:


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