

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



Spring 2024



Chair's Welcome

Spring 2024 has been a semester of change. We celebrated our 2024 graduates and saw them off into the world. We celebrated the long tenure of Dr. Ervin as she stepped down as chair of the GCP program. We celebrated the career of Pat Corr, our amazing administrative assistant, as she retired.

These changes, as most are, have been bittersweet. We're immensely proud of all of our new alumni, thankful for Dr. Ervin's hard work as director, and happy for Pat to enjoy retirement. Luckily, Dr. Ervin is still with our department. We will miss the rest of you. Read on to learn about what's been going on!

- *Matt Mutchler* - matthew.mutchler@delval.edu

Highlights

Congratulations Graduates!

Day of Scholarship 2024

Changing Roles

Staff Focus

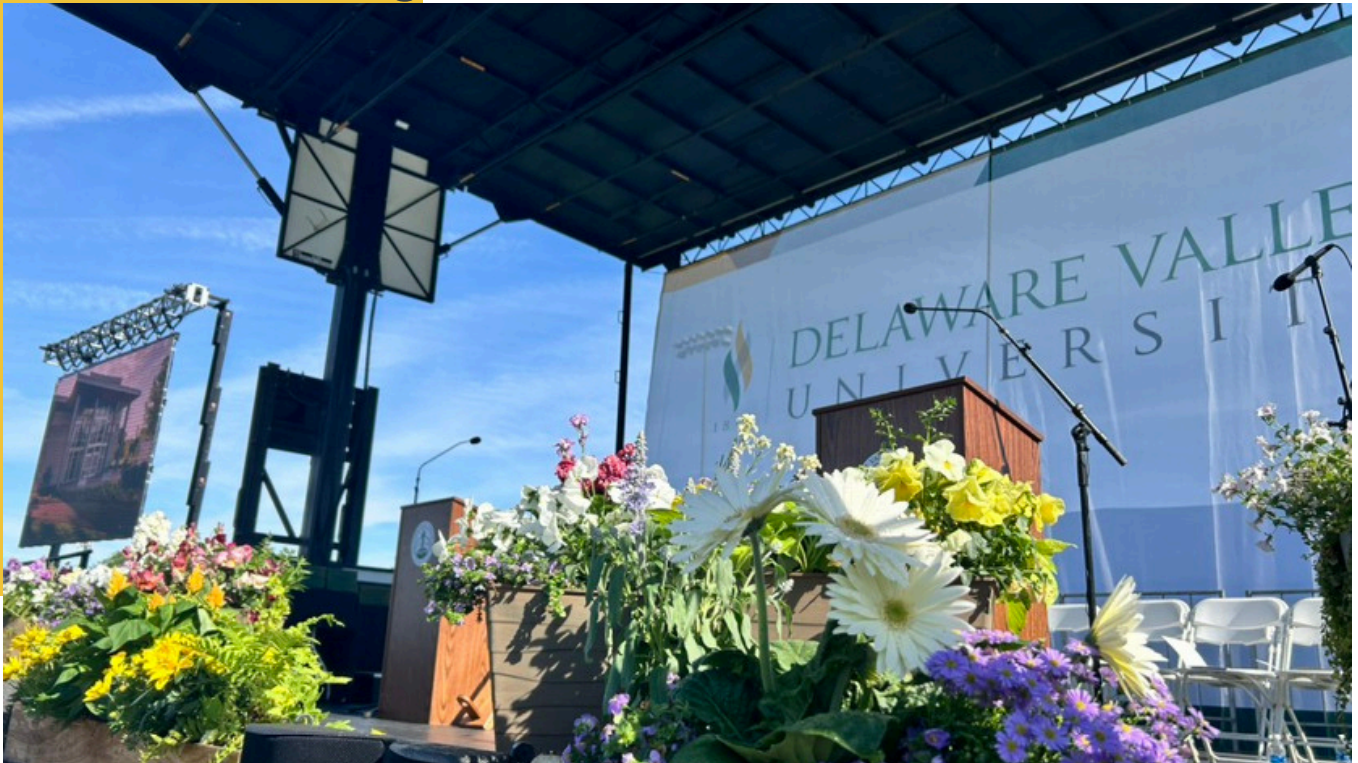
Telling The Story:
BAS Colloquium

Keepers of the Way:
Graduate Counseling
Psychology Speaker's Series

Welcome Baby Morgis!

Notable Accomplishments

Congratulations Graduates!



Congratulations to our B.A. and M.A. Class of 2024! You worked hard and you made it. We are excited to see and hear about your next steps in life. Keep in touch!

Undergraduates (B.A.):

- Karter Ericsson
- Mary Koch
- Zoe Miller
- Emily Milnik
- Kaela Stankiewicz (Fall 2023)
- Jamie Weinstein (Fall 2023)

Graduates (M.A.):

- Quazetta Alexander
- Monica Alfieri
- Michael Bluestein
- Elizabeth Hafft
- Ashley Fox
- Megan Gambino
- Alexandria Kazandjian
- Ezri Lutz
- Shannon McGovern
- Obed Nogueta
- Johanna Parkin
- Barbara Pizarro
- Josephine Pizzino
- Brenna Ritter
- Samantha Salvati
- Gianna Speranza
- Timothy Turner
- Jennifer Wielgus

Karter Ericcson

Karter was the recipient of this year's Psychology Department Achievement Award in recognition of their outstanding academics and contribution to the department. Karter will be continuing their studies in Social Work and Advocacy.

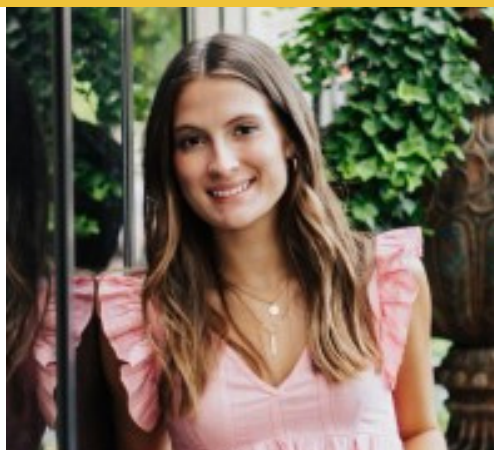


Mary Koch

May has been an excellent student and student athlete during her time at DelVal. She also regularly cared for the dogs of the Psych Department through her work at Holiday House! Mary will continue her studies in the GCP program at DelVal this fall.

Zoe Miller

At DelVal, Zoe's passion for helping others has been evident through her service as a peer mentor, RAMbassador, and student club leader. Off campus, she gained significant experience in the legal field and volunteered in the community. Zoe plans to apply her knowledge of mental health to work in the criminal justice system.

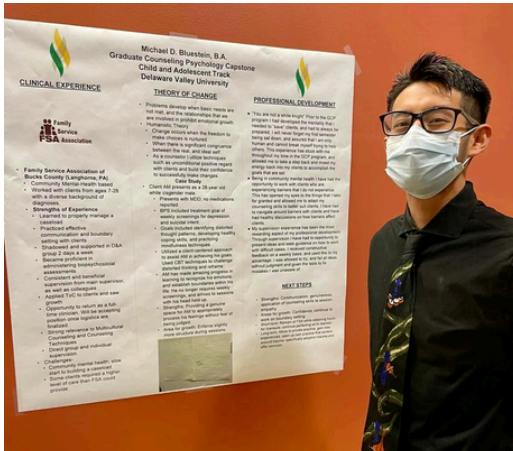


Emily Milnik

Emily has been an active student in her courses, the psychology club, and through her work at the library. She has also been a volunteer client for graduate students. After completing a year working in the Disney World College Program, Emily will continue her studies in the GCP program at DelVal.

Day of Scholarship

The Day of Scholarship allows students the opportunity to share their research and growth and development through poster presentations. This experience is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Here is what some of our GCP students had to say about their posters.



Michael Bluestein

Michael uses humanistic/person-centered theory in his theoretical orientation. He interned with Family Services Association of Bucks County located in Bristol, PA. His take away from his internship experience is to “trust the process and your clients” and to always be the client’s biggest support.

Obed Noguera

Obed uses Family Systems and CBT approaches in his theoretical orientation. He interned at Central Behavioral Health in Norristown, PA, where he worked extensively with Spanish-speaking clients. His take away is that doing therapy in Spanish is more than just translating - it’s a whole new vocabulary!



Monica Alfieri

Monica uses CBT and Person-Centered Therapy in her theoretical orientation. She interned with Valley Youth House. Her take away is that individuals, even from similar backgrounds, require different tools to make change. She also learned that having a supportive working environment makes for the best care.

Day of Scholarship Continued...

Group Picture Above: Cohort 9 graduate students Beth Hafft, Samantha Salvati, Alexandria Kazandjian, Obed Noguera, Monica Alfieri, & Michael Bluestein.

Group Picture Right: Quazetta Alexander, Johanna Parkin, Monica Alfieri, Shannon McGovern, Megan Gambino, & Obed Noguera.



Brenna Ritter

Brenna uses a combination of person-centered, choice theory, and gestalt theory in her theoretical orientation. She interned with Pinebrook Family Answers. Her take away from her experience is “the job can be hard but every single baby step shows progress and that’s what matters.”

Quazetta Alexander

Quay uses existential theory in her theoretical orientation. She interned at Laurel House. Her take away from her experience is to trust in herself and her abilities more within session. She also learned that bringing her authentic self to sessions not only helps clients but helps her hone her therapeutic identity.



Megan Gambino

Meg uses a combination of feminist therapy and cognitive behavior therapy in her theoretical orientation. She interned at Aldie Counseling Center. Her take away from her experience is that addiction (and its stigma) reaches everyone, and that there is no wrong way to reach recovery.

Changing Roles



Dr. Audrey Ervin

After 12 years as the Program Director of the Graduate Counseling Psychology (GCP) program, Dr. Ervin has decided to step down from that role and focus her efforts on undergraduate education.

Dr. Ervin says, "It has been a privilege to direct the GCP program for the past 12 years. I am thankful for my incredible colleagues who work tirelessly to mentor the next generation of culturally competent counselors. Although I will certainly miss working with the graduate students, I feel great peace returning to work with our undergraduate students and plan to spend more time with my family. I am confident that the GCP program will continue to thrive, and I am excited to see what the future holds."

Many thanks to Dr. Ervin - your contribution to the department has been tremendous and we look forward to your energy for years to come!

Mr. Chris Walter, LPC

Chris Walter joined the Psychology Department in 2013 as the Clinical Coordinator for the GCP program. Over the past 11 years, he has worked hard to ensure that our graduate students have high quality placements for their practicum and internship experiences. Over that time, we have had a 100% placement rate for interns.

Mr. Walter will take on the role of Interim Program Director of GCP in Summer 2024. He is excited to step into this new role, stating, "It's a new experience to step into a director role, and I'm excited for the opportunities and challenges. Everyone has been supportive, and I've had some fantastic mentors in my colleagues. My hope in this interim role is to support the ongoing success of the GCP program and our amazing students"

We are excited to see where Chris' leadership can take the GCP program!





Pat Corr, seen here telling us how it is.



At Pat's farewell lunch, from L to R: Chris Walter, Pat Corr, Audrey Ervin, Allison Cohen, Matt Mutchler, Brianna Morgis, Terry Jackson

Staff Focus: Pat Corr

In May we said goodbye to our Friend and Administrative Assistant Pat Corr, who decided she's had enough of our shenanigans and retired. Pat has been with DelVal and the Psychology Department since 2018 and has made a mark in our world since then.

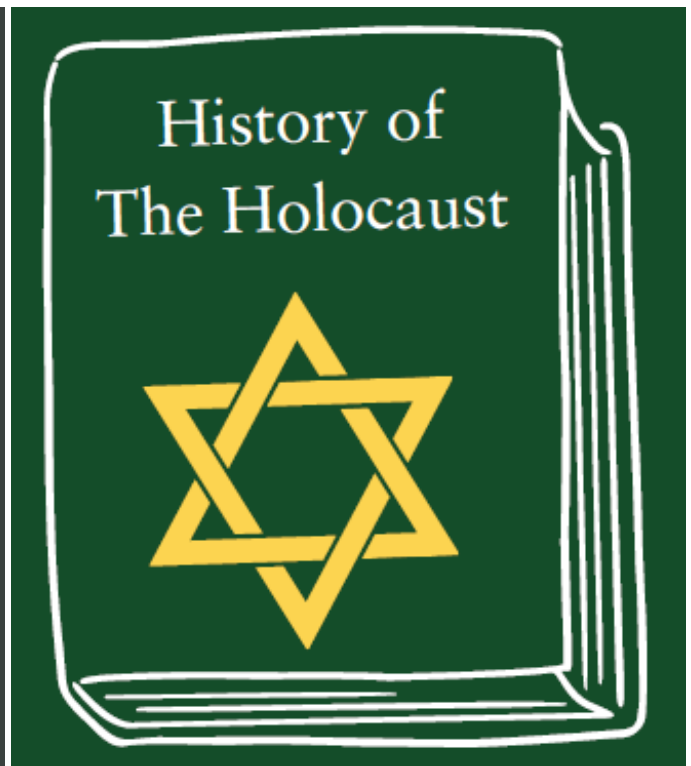
Pat strikes a precise balance between kindness and suffering no fools. If something needed doing, we all knew we could rely on Pat to get it done well and thoroughly. When she worked on the 3rd floor of Lasker Hall, we'd all stop at the top of the steps to say hello and catch up - and not just because we were out of breath from all the steps!

Pat was a member of our team and contributed to our development of the department and both of our programs. If we didn't know an answer, Pat did. If she didn't know, she knew how to find out. Pat - we will miss you dearly and we are so happy for you to enjoy retirement. Chicken Finger Fridays will never be the same.

Telling the Story

On April 17, 2024, Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen hosted a panel discussion entitled “Telling the Story,” focused on the various ways people in different professions share information about the Holocaust. This timely discussion was well-attended by students, faculty, staff, and community members.

This event was part of the School of Business, Arts, & Sciences “Question It, Change It!” Colloquium. This year’s theme was “Education in Crisis.”



After a guided discussion led by guest speakers, audience members had the opportunity to ask questions and engage more deeply with how this history remains relevant today.

The panel featured:

- Dr. Henry Sandberg - Historian & DelVal Lecturer.
- Dr. Krista Hegburg - Sr. Program Officer, Jack, Joseph, & Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
- Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D. - Holocaust survivor, author, and Krauskopf biographer.

Reflecting on the event, Dr. Cohen said, “I was honored to be part of this important event that brought together people with different backgrounds and experiences. Members of the audience asked thought-provoking and difficult questions in a respectful manner. It truly captured DelVal’s commitment to Value the World of Ideas.



GCP Speaker's Series: Keepers of the Way

On March 25, 2024, the Graduate Counseling Psychology Speaker Series and the Office of Diversity & Inclusion hosted an intimate viewing of the Keepers of the Way documentary. It was open to all DeVal students, faculty, staff and the larger Bucks County community. It was hosted in the Life Sciences Building on campus.

Raising Awareness

In this portrait told through the eyes of leaders of Pennsylvania's Lenape Nation, a challenging spiritual journey unfolds to heal past wounds and keep a culture alive.

After viewing the documentary, the audience heard from members of Pennsylvania's Lenape Nation about Pennsylvania's complex history and intertribal politics. Members also shared moving stories that invited the audience to take action.

Panelists included filmmaker Evan Cohen, director Elijah Reeder, and tribal members Chuck Demund, Ken Macaulay, Ellen Rolph, and John Martin.

Q&A Facilitated by GCP Interim Program Director Chris Walter



Throughout the evening there was a clear message of solidarity as audience members learned about the many struggles the Pennsylvania Lenape Nation has faced to get to where they are today. They still have a long road ahead. You can discover more at <https://www.lenape-nation.org>.



Welcome Baby Morgis!

William Paul Morgis made his debut on April 2nd at 1:04am. Dr. Brianna Morgis said he was due on April 1, but he must have known she did NOT want an April Fools' baby so held out for just enough time.

Baby William and family are doing well! Congrats Dr. Morgis!



2023/2024 Notable Accomplishments

- B.A. Grads had **100% placement in jobs or graduate school**
- M.A. Cohort 9 had **100% pass rate** on the National Counselor Exam
- M.A. Cohort 10 and 11 had **100% placement rate** for practicum and internship
- The Psych Department had **more students than any previous year** (Majors, Minors, Grad Students) at **123!**



M.A. Graduate Tim Turner

Faculty Activity

- **Cohen, A.** - Co-PI for a Schoenfeld Foundation grant to support undergraduate student research
- **Cohen, A.** - Co-PI on a NSF Foundations for Success grant supporting and studying STEM student scholars
- **Ervin, A., Morgis, B., & Mutchler, M.** - Antiracism *Strategies for White Counselors*. Presentation at PCA Conference in Harrisburg
- **Mutchler, M.**- Moderator for panel discussion, *Our Mental Health Crisis - A Path to Hope & Help* - on campus.
- **Mutchler, M. & Morgis, B.** - organizers of PAMFT Conference on Attachment & Family Therapy in Philadelphia



Dr. Mutchler, M.A. graduate Michael Bluestein, & Dr. Morgis at the PAMFT Conference