As we greet the spring, there is much to celebrate in the Psychology Department. We are finalizing another wonderful class of doctoral students, masters' students, and undergraduates. Mentored lab experiences have ensured an intimate interaction among these diverse groups of learners and between students at all levels and faculty. Teams of faculty experts in the department along with our adjunct faculty experts have begun overseeing undergraduate and masters' training experiences. Many other remarkable efforts are underway. Congratulations to Dr. Michele Zaccario for developing and getting approval for a Minor in Neuroscience. Under Drs. Denmark and Velayo's continued leadership, we plan to introduce a course on Psychology at the United Nations. Dr. Mowder continues to tirelessly champion the doctoral program and is currently working on getting approval for elective courses for the Fall. Dr. Hart continues to shepherd the clinical training at the McShane Center. Dr. McCarthy's hard work and gentle words of wisdom have led the doctoral students toward the best externships and internships in the tri-state area and beyond. Our pre-tenure faculty in the department, continue to energize the department with their ideas and their endless enthusiasm. The senior faculty continue to provide a vision and inspiration for the future. Dr. Sossin, as Chair of Strategic Planning, is kept busy trying to integrate sage words of wisdom with boundless innovation. So we move forward to another year of fun... I hope you will join us in some of our new endeavors!

Note from the Editor
Lisa Rosenthal, PhD

Psychologists and Social Justice Part 2: What Has Happened in the Past Year?

A year ago for the Spring 2014 issue of PsychEye, I wrote about questions surrounding the roles and responsibilities of Psychologists in human rights and social justice issues. In the past year, there have been many important and interesting events that have happened related to the issues that I was discussing a year ago. I cannot review all of them, but will highlight a few, with the hope of continuing the conversation around what we as Psychologists or Psychologists-in-training can or should be doing related to social justice.

Over the past year, many states have taken steps to support the legalization of same-sex marriages, signaling continued progress over the rights of lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals in the U.S. Currently, same-sex marriage is legal in 37 states, with many states having made these decisions within the past couple of years. This leaves 13 states still banning same-sex marriage currently (although these numbers are changing all the time). Further, the U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments and make a decision about same-sex marriage this spring, presenting the possibility of an official national policy supporting marriage equality.

On July 17th, 2014 in Staten Island, New York, Eric Garner died as a result of being placed in a chokehold by... (continued, page 2)
On August 9th, 2014, police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown. The police killings of Eric Garner (43 years old) and Michael Brown (18 years old), both Black, sparked nation-wide and even world-wide increased attention to, political organizing around, and protests addressing police violence toward people of color. These issues were further heightened with military-style policing of protests in Ferguson, grand jury decisions not to indict officers in either case, and more incidents of police violence toward people of color accumulating.

On August 29th, 2014, Lennon Lacy, a Black 17-year-old high school student, was found hanging from a swing set in Bladenboro, North Carolina. Lennon Lacy was a football player on his high school’s team, and he had been dating an older white woman. Police quickly deemed the incident a suicide, despite many pieces of evidence that would arouse suspicion of a lynching murder. This case is currently under the investigation of the FBI.

On February 10th, 2015, Craig Stephen Hicks shot and killed three Muslim Americans (23-year-old Deah Shaddy Barakat, 21-year-old Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and 19-year-old Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha) that were his neighbors in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Police have been reporting that the shootings were motivated by a dispute over a parking spot in their complex, but many have disagreed with this report and are calling for investigating this incident as a hate crime.

So, what do any of these events have to do with our work as Psychologists? From the perspective of psychological research, there are any aspects of these events that can be studied. For example, many Psychologists study what factors affect people’s implicit and explicit intergroup attitudes, such as prejudice toward other groups, as well as views toward policies. Psychologists also study factors that affect aggression and violence, including that which may be motivated by intergroup attitudes. As the other side of that coin, many Psychologists study the effects of experiencing prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, and violence for the health and well-being of the targets of that prejudice and violence. Further, Psychologists study factors that lead people to become involved in social movements (collective action), and the psychological results of that involvement. In thinking about social change, there are also many Psychologists that test ways to intervene to reduce prejudice and violence, improve intergroup relations, and protect targets of prejudice and violence from the adverse effects of those experiences. There are also Psychologists that are specifically involved in advocating for structural changes to promote social justice related to these issues.

If you are interested in these types of issues, consider exploring ways that you might be able to address them through research, teaching/training, service, or clinical work. We will be starting a Social Justice and Diversity Interest Group within the NYC Pace Psychology Department, with our first meeting taking place Monday, April 6th, 12:10-1:10, 41 Park Row, Room 1319. All faculty, staff, and students at all levels of the department are welcome to join. If you would like more information, please contact me at losenthal@pace.edu.

To broaden this conversation and get input from a student perspective, Sarika Persaud, 1st year PsyD student, has some thoughts to share on the connection of these events to School-Clinical Psychologists-in-training.

(See page 17)

Faculty Announcements

Dr. Baptiste Barbot’s Individual Differences in Development Lab has recently welcomed three new undergraduate students’ members in the mentored lab class program. Recent journal articles accepted, in press or published include:


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Dr. June Chlsholm has published an article in the Journal of Information Systems Education, Spring 2014, “Review of the Status of Cyberbullying and Cyberbullying Prevention.” From the abstract: “Cyberbullying may be one of the ‘diseases’ of the 21st Century. Despite efforts to curtail its incidence and prevalence over the past 20 years, its direct and indirect harmful effects have made it a public concern about the wellbeing of children, adolescents, and adults...The purpose of this review is to provide an overview of the current status of the research and theoretical perspectives on cyberbullying in hopes of encouraging good scholarship, improved methodologies and thoughtful inquiries to better inform educators, parents, mental health service providers, policy makers and others so that they can more effectively promote healthy online and offline behaviors among digital users.” (See Chlsholm, J., (2014). Review of the status of cyberbullying and cyberbullying prevention. Journal of Information Systems Education, 25(1).

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Dr. Florence Denmark signed a contract with Michele Paludi to do the Fourth Edition of The Handbook on the Psychology of Women with Praeger. She has also submitted an article on Hillary Clinton with Hillary Goldstein, Adrian Twooreckie, and Kristin Thies to the editor Denish Sharma. Dr. Denmark attended EPA and served as a discussant on one meeting, and a chair on another. She also presented at PCUN’s forum, “Women’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in Post-2015,” on forms of violence against girls and women, and factors contributing to wellbeing, with Dr. Janet Sigal.
Dr. Thalla Goldstein, since Fall 2014, has had two peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication:

1. (Goldstein, T.R.) Since the fall of 2014, Goldstein has had two peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication: (19). Understanding and feeling the emotions of your character: Commentary on Heisel. Empirical Musicology Review. 10 (2).


Dr. Goldstein will be presenting as part of a symposium at the Association for Psychological Science convention in NYC in May, on "The Development of Social Cognitive Reasoning in the Arts as part of the symposium "Current Research on the Psychology of Creativity, Aesthetics, and the Arts" and as part of the American Psychological Association Annual Convention in August on "The effects of a RCT of drama games on Social Emotional Skills". Her lab, The Social Cognition and Imagination lab, will be presenting one talk and three posters at the upcoming Society for Research in Child Development biennial meeting in Philadelphia. Students Avalon Henry (MA Pace University) and Alison Boyle (PsyD Pace University) will be presenting posters, and Dr. Goldstein will present a poster and a talk. Dr. Goldstein will also be giving invited colloquia at the Dyson Seminar Series on March 9, entitled "The Psychology of Acting and Fiction", and at New York University on February 28, entitled "Conceptual and Social Cognitive Understanding of Fictional Worlds".

Dr. Goldstein was recently named an associate editor of the APA Journal of Psychology, Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts, and has been interviewed on the WNYC Leonard Lopate show (listen: http://www.wnyc.org/story/inside-mind-actor/), and spoken at the United Nations German Youth Assembly's Side Event "Social Transformation/Swap your shoe".

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Dr. Mercedes A. McCormick is the Coordinator of the MA Psychology Program at Pace University-New York. She is an associate adjunct professor who teaches graduate and undergraduate students in the psychology program. Current teaching focus is on social psychology, human learning, child and developmental psychology. She is the Pace Chapter Advisor of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society for Psychology at Pace University. Research publications and interests include the global development of student leadership, mindfulness in working with post traumatic patients, digital abuse, memory concepts pairs for classroom teaching, and spinal cord patients coping with personal and family issues in late adolescent.

At the start of 2015, Dr. McCormick completed six years of significant psychological professional leadership responsibilities at the international, national, and regional levels. Currently at the International Level, Dr. McCormick is the 2015 Past-Past-President of APA Division 52 International Psychology. Past-Past-President responsibilities include being on the 2015 Div. 52 Nominating and Election Committee to consult and develop the 2015 Div. 52 election ballot for positions to begin in 2016. Dr. McCormick leads Div. 52's webinars and virtual professional meetings/conferences. In Dec. 2014 she moderated the Div. 52 Webinar on An Emerging Role for a Psychologist in the Field of Immigration. At the start of 2015, Dr. McCormick participated by Internet audio to the APA Div. 52's winter meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Here Dr. McCormick discussed her work as Chair of the committee-Building Bridges in International Psychology between Div. 52 and Psi Chi and other associations and organizations interested in the field of psychology. Dr. McCormick presented at the 2015 Eastern Psychological Association (EPA) annual meeting in Philadelphia - March 5 - 7 in Philadelphia. At EPA Dr. McCormick will present on the symposium Leadership Strategies and Internet-Based Technologies to Promote Internationalization of Student Psychology Organizations her work on Making a Difference in Student Leadership; as Advisor of Pace Psi Chi Chapter she will join Pace Psi Chi Chapter officers 2014-2015: President: Jennifer Trujillo-Armijo; Vice-President: Rachel Wandishin; Secretary: Laura Rodriguez; Treasurer: Jessamin Cipollina ...for the symposium Psi Chi Chapter Exchange–Management of an Effective Psi Chi Chapter.

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Dr. Yvonne Rafferty is working on a number of articles that focus on aftercare services for children who have been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. These articles will focus on data collected during interviews with governments, United Nations staff, and aftercare program staff in South and South East Asia. In her capacity as Professor and Wilson Center Faculty Fellow, she interviewed more than 150 government representatives, United Nations staff, and key personnel involved with the recovery and reintegration of girls who had been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. These articles will build on her extensive research on preventing child trafficking. She highlighted her work on promising protection strategies at the United Nations in March 2015 during the Commission on the Status of Women (see below). Her presentation is entitled Mental Health Service Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking. Yvonne continues to represent the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues at the United Nations – and is actively involved with committees involving child rights, the girl child, trafficking, and mental health. Dr. Rafferty was also recently on a panel at Pace University where she joined with other activists to highlight advocacy strategies for social justice.

The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 9–20th, 2015. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the session. The session also addressed opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda. See more at: http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015#sthash.My4Bqtd2.dpuf

Dr. Rafferty’s talk in the ECOSOC Chamber with 582 dignitaries was entitled Promoting Girls Physical and Psychological Health in the Post 2015 Agenda

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Dr. Sheldon Siporn, adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, New York City, has recently published an article entitled, “Lighting the darkness of addiction: Can phototherapy enhance contingency management based treatment of substance related and addictive disorders?” in the Journal of Addiction Nursing (October, 2014).

To date, interventional phototherapy (exposure to high intensity light) is limited primarily to the treatment of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). SAD is a circadian based depressive illness that affects sufferers during low light periods during the winter months. The article highlights recent findings that suggest that phototherapy may also have potential application to addictive and drug abuse disorders. This is highly significant given the scope of the problem.
Addiction is a major, treatment resistant disorder. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (2012), estimates that 23.9 million Americans (aged 12 or older) have used illicit substances such as marijuana/hashish, cocaine/crack, heroin, hallucinogens and inhalants, or have abused prescription psychotropics. The physiological effects of drugs may amplify the addict’s urge to use by altering circadian based (day/night cycle) reward systems in the brain. The article describes research that indicates that light therapy may normalize these brain systems through effects on hypothalamic as well as mesocorticolimbic areas. This could improve addiction treatment outcomes, which rely on behaviorally based, positive reinforcement contingency paradigms. Professor Siporin previously was primary co-author of an article on drug abuse treatment along with Dr. L. Baron, chief addiction psychologist at Coney Island Hospital. This semester, he is teaching Life Span Development at the New York City campus.

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Dr. John Stokes was recognized by APA as demonstrating proficiency in the field of personality assessment. APA has granted the Society for Personality Assessment the authority to award proficiency status, which has been awarded to fewer than 100 psychologists at this time. The following graduate students and faculty presented at the Annual Convention of the Society for Personality Assessment.


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Dr. Richard Velayo is serving as Chair of the Publicity Committee for the United Nations Psychology Day Planning Committee. (The Psychology Day at the United Nations will be held on April 30, 2015). He has served in the capacity for the past seven years. His recent publications are as follows:


Among his recent scholarly presentation are:


Dr. Velayo also served as a discussant on a panel symposium titled “Internationalizing Psychology: Towards a Cross-disciplinary and Culturally-sensitive Global Approach to Intervention” at the 26th Annual Convention of the Eastern Psychological Association held on March 5-7 and composed of: Panel: Jonathan Palumbo, Giselle Levine, Shagufta Asar, Ashley Bogatch, Llenell Paz (Pace U.), Maria Jessa Cruz, Srishti Sardana, Marvelyn Brentum (Columbia U.), John Walsh (ITAP).
Graduate (Psy.D. and M.S.Ed.) Psychology
Program Updates
Barbara Mowder, Ph.D.
Director, Graduate Psychology Programs and Associate Chair

From the Fall 2014 semester to the Spring 2015 semester, there has been a significant degree of continued program development activity in the Psychology Department. As reported previously, the faculty developed and unanimously supported sending forward two Ph.D. program proposals, one in School Psychology and the other in Clinical Health Psychology. These programs are being discussed further within Pace University and indications so far are of a very positive nature. Serving as the strong basis for both of the program proposals is the existing APA accredited Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in School-Clinical Child Psychology program. Dr. Mark Sossin, Associate Chair for Program Development, has been the primary faculty person shepherding the proposals through the approval process. Dr. Sonia Suchday, Psychology Department Chairperson, has been the leader in so many of the program development activities within the department. In the end, the anticipation is that these programs would be operational by the Fall semester of 2016.

In considering the two new proposed doctoral programs, in conjunction with our excellent Psy.D. program, there are a number of factors regarding graduate education within the Psychology Department which stand out. First, the Psychology Department faculty is excellent and contributes consistently to the scholarship within the field of psychology. Second, the research labs within the Psychology Department provide outstanding research opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students. Third, the current M.S.Ed. and Psy.D. students, as well as the M.A. students (led by Dr. Velayo, the Associate Chair for the M.A. program), are significantly involved in research activities and are well represented at local, state, and national professional associations in terms of posters, presentations, and symposium participation.

As the M.S.Ed. and Psy.D. programs move forward toward Fall of 2015, we look forward to some programmatic changes, especially in terms of the elective course offerings. Approximately three years ago, the doctoral program committee discussed developing a range of 2 credit hour courses (e.g., neuropsychology, psychopharmacology). This involves changing some of the current 3 credit hour elective offerings to 2 credits and also introducing some new electives to the program. The changes in the doctoral program have been submitted to the NYSED and we are awaiting approval to move forward with these changes.

In terms of APA accreditation, the Psy.D. program is accredited through 2021. However, the program is being further refined in terms of specifying and measuring competencies and an updated report on the program competencies will be submitted to the APA early in September, 2015.

During this Spring, 2015 semester, the Psychology Department is searching for individuals to hold key positions with regard to graduate training. One position is the Director of the McShane Center for Psychological Services and the other is to replace the faculty member in research methodology and statistics. The McShane Center Director is important in terms of carrying on the significant professional practice training opportunities, developed over time by Dr. Beth Hart, which provide such rich assessment, diagnostic, and intervention training for our graduate students. Dr. Hart started the McShane Center in the early 1970s, in four small rooms, on the first floor in the 41 Park Row building. The McShane Center now enjoys extensive professional space in the 156 William Street building. The research methodology and statistics faculty member will add greatly to the course offerings and the research consultation for students and faculty in the Psychology Department. Excellent candidates for each of the positions have been and are in the process of being interviewed.

The professional practice field work our students are engaged in, as well as their various scholarly presentations and publications, speak well of our graduate programs. The students, staff, and faculty all contribute in their own way to our excellent graduate programs.

Best wishes for Spring of 2015 as well as the upcoming academic year!

Dr. Barbara A. Mowder
Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Psychology Programs (Psy.D. and M.S.Ed.)
M.A. in Psychology
Program Updates
Richard Velayo, Ph.D. & Mercedes McCormick, PhD

The M.A. in Psychology program is flourishing. There continues to be an concerted effort to increase the number of applicants to the program through on-campus open houses, virtual information sessions, and the implementation of other recruitment initiatives with the help of Pace’s Graduate Admissions Office and the Marketing Department. We anticipate that given these efforts, there will be significantly more students who will be admitted in fall 2016.

On February 6, 2015, psychology faculty participated in the MA in Psychology retreat, which proved to be very productive. Proposed initiatives for improving student recruitment, program assessment, and MA student experience were generated. On May 18, there will be a follow-up retreat for both the MA and the Undergraduate psychology programs. In addition to a follow-up brainstorming session for psychology faculty on ways to enhance these programs, curricular and administrative updates will be also presented.

We also urge MA students to attend and present at the 23rd Annual Pace U. Psychology Conference on May 9 (Saturday). This event will provide an opportunity for students to highlight their research work (independently or with faculty). It is anticipated that we will have about 250 attendees at this conference.

New elective courses are going to be offered beginning Fall 2015. These will be announced as soon as they are approved.

We also encourage you to join our student-administered Facebook group – “MA in Psychology Pace” (https://www.facebook.com/groups/795064643905053/)

Best wishes to you all. We appreciation for your cooperation and professionalism with the MA program in Psychology at Pace University.

Dr. Richard Velayo
Associate Chair and Director of M.A. in Psychology Program(s)
rvelayo@pace.edu

Dr. Mercedes A. McCormick
Coordinator and Advisor, M.A. Program in psychology
mmccormick2@pace.edu

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Undergraduate Program Updates
Michele Zaccario, Ph.D.

Pace undergraduates have been quite busy this year within the Psychology Department! Besides taking courses, students are actively working on research with professors, as part of Mentored Lab, Experimental Psychology, or just as a voluntary professional experience. Students have co-presented at Psychology conferences, such as EPA and SRC; and have even been co-authors with faculty on recently submitted scholarly papers. Psi Chi has been actively meeting and has also co-organized with Career Services a "Careers In Psychology" event on Tuesday, April 14th from 3:30 to 5:30. (Thank you, Psi Chi!) Finally, Psychology and Applied Psychology Majors have been pursuing practical experiences or volunteer work – at the United Nations, at NIDA, and within metropolitan hospital and clinic settings - as part of course requirements or additional professional development. Congratulations to all of our majors for their hard work and efforts!

The Annual Pace Psychology Conference is being held on Saturday, May 9th, 2015 from 8:45am to 3:00 pm In One Pace Plaza. All undergraduate Psychology students are invited to submit a proposal for a poster or brief paper presentation by April 17th, 2015. The work must be related to psychology – of course – and must feature the student as the first or sole author. Thank you to Drs. Niu, Godfrey, McCormick, and Velayo for organizing and planning this annual departmental event!

Summer is almost upon us, and with that, graduation for our Psychology and Applied Psychology Seniors! We wish all our graduating majors good luck as they move forward in their personal and professional lives. We also invite all graduates to continue to communicate with the Psychology department should the need arise for career and scholarship advisement, as well as to advise us of your continued accomplishments post-commencement. For the remaining Psychology Majors, please note that there are indeed opportunities to take Psychology courses in the summer. The NYC Psychology Department is offering Psy112 Introduction to Psychology, and Psy205 Statistics in Summer I; and Psy112, Psy297 Psychology and the Cinema, and Psy304 Social Psychology in Summer II. There are also a number of online courses offered by both NYC and Pleasantville campuses, so check Schedule Explorer for further information!

Wishing everyone a productive second half of the semester, and a happy and healthy Summer Break!

Dr. Michele Zaccario
Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Psychology Programs
Prerna Arora, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Psychology Department

**What brought you into your current position?**  
For the previous three years, I had been working exclusively in academic medical settings. There, I was fortunate to engage in high quality and innovative research related to the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices in schools and community settings. Though these experiences were incredibly valuable and have shaped the course and focus of my current research, I knew that I wanted to make my professional home in a more traditional School/Child Clinical Psychology program. The reason for this included a strong desire to help train the next generation of school/clinical child psychologists, particularly in the engagement of culturally responsive, evidence-based practices. As such, I am extremely excited about having joined the Psychology Department at Pace University. An added perk has definitely been the dedicated students that I have since met, as well as a diverse and supportive faculty in (arguably) one of the best cities!

**Tell us about a memorable experience you have had at Pace so far.**  
There have been a lot of memorable moments to date! Namely, an open door policy has led to quite a few exciting conversations...However, I would generally say that I recall several visits with students during which other faculty have stopped and joined. These meetings prompted great discussions about dissertation projects, the importance of bridging clinical work and research, and work-life balance. These types of conversations generally quite rejuvenating and something I have greatly enjoyed since joining the faculty Pace University.

**What is one common challenge you notice that students in this program have?**  
Every setting has both strengths and challenges. With that being said, I would note that a challenge I have noticed and has been presented to me is simply how busy many of our students are. While this is a general challenge across graduate programs in professional psychology, it is still something that must be considered as one plans course requirements, opportunities for research, exposure to advocacy experience, and, quite simply, scheduling meetings! However, it has been exciting to learn about the breadth and depth of the students' academic and clinical exposure, as well as their general preparedness as they begin their professional roles in the field of School/Clinical Child Psychology.

**What is your favorite discovery you have made in/about New York City?**  
This remains an active endeavor! Above the food, architecture, and cultural events, the people I have encountered have been my favorite discovery. I have appreciated the diversity of backgrounds of those peers and students I have met. Specifically, it has lovely to note the diversity of professionals entering our fields, something which I believe is truly needed as we strive to meet the needs of youth in the city. I look forward to moving closer to the city in order to experience more of what the city has to offer!

Christopher John Godfrey, PhD  
Coordinator/Co-Director, Undergraduate Psychology Program  
Director, Center for Urban Health and Education Research

**Tell us about a memorable experience you have had at Pace so far.**  
The Psychology Conference is always memorable. It’s an opportunity to see students at the very beginning of their professional career, and it’s often a chance to meet their families. In fact the conference is really the Psychology Department’s unofficial ‘Family Day’ for many of our students and our faculty. A few years ago, one of my students brought four generations of her family to the conference. Her grandmother, her parents, siblings and a nephew in a stroller were there. It was Saturday morning and they had all dressed up and beaming with pride for the student. During the poster session they gathered around her and her poster and asked me to take their picture. It was a wonderful moment.

**What is one common challenge you notice that many students in this program face?**  
One of the more challenging aspects of being at Pace is the common misperception that our students are universally from affluent backgrounds. In fact, many of our students are from working class or economically disadvantaged backgrounds, many are first generation college students, many others are from groups who have been historically underrepresented in higher education and many are first generation American students. These factors add to the challenges of navigating college. This may be particularly true for our psychology majors where the path from undergraduate education to career may not be as clear as it is for other majors, such as business or pre-med. One common challenge for our students is planning for the next steps in their professional development, which means continual (and realistic) assessment of where they are on the path toward a career in psychology or related fields.

**What is some advice that you have for Undergraduate students in this program?**  
Meet with one of the Psychology Undergraduate Program Advisors at least once a year. Take the Mentored Lab course at least once. And, if a student is planning on being a clinician then take advantage of being in one of the most dynamic and diverse centers of health care in the world and volunteer at one of the many hospitals, community health centers, adult care or skilled nursing facilities in the New York City area. Over the past year-and-a-half we have put several initiatives in place to help students. One of the best is the Mentored Lab course where students have the opportunity to work directly with a faculty researcher and their research team. This is often the best opportunity for students to receive one-to-one mentoring on what they need to do to take the next steps in psychology. I also recommend meeting with the Dyson College and Undergraduate Psychology Program Advisors at least once each year when students beginning in junior year. Of course students who are not yet juniors can also meet with us, though junior year is a good time to start planning concrete steps toward postgraduate careers and education.

**What is your favorite discovery you have made in/about New York City?**  
New York is a terrific city. There is always something new to discover. The new Brooklyn and Queens waterfront parks have excellent activities and stunning views of the city.
Alumni Profiles

Keara Conway, PsyD
PsyD in School-Clinical Psychology, Class of 2011

What are you currently doing in terms of your career? How similar or different is it from what you did at Pace?
I have been very fortunate that my current career allows me to use all of the skills that I learned and began to develop at Pace. I am able to apply these skills in both clinical and school settings. I currently work for a private organization in Stamford, Connecticut that operates three private schools. In addition to their private schools, they also offer a variety of services to the community including therapy, specialized tutoring and instruction, and educational consulting. I spend three days a week in our school programs where I see students for counseling, facilitate groups, consult with teachers and school personnel, and participate in team meetings. The populations of the school are unique in that one school is a special education placement and serves many students who are on the autism spectrum as well as students who have ADHD and other learning issues. The other school I am involved with is a therapeutic program and primarily consists of students with anxiety, depression, and other internalizing disorders. During the two days when I am not in the school, I conduct comprehensive psychological evaluations, conduct individual and group therapy sessions, and see students for executive functions coaching. I have also had the opportunity to work with the staff at an inpatient hospital in New Canaan by conducting neuropsychological evaluations for patients in their adolescent program. It is a very busy week but my position requires that I use a variety of skills and gives me the opportunity to work with a rich, multi-disciplinary team.

Tell us about a memorable experience you had at Pace.
The support and camaraderie of my cohort was extremely important throughout the program, especially in the beginning when we were all getting our footing. One of the experiences that stands out is celebrating with my classmates after our qualifying examination. At the conclusion of the first year, students are required to take the qualifying exam to determine whether they can continue their studies. We all waited for each other in the park after the exam and walked down to the South Street Seaport together so that we could celebrate making it through our first year.

Do you have any advice that you would give to a current Pace psychology student?
My advice would be to take advantage of all of the resources available to you, especially your professors and supervisors. One of the biggest challenges after graduating has been not having the same network of supervisors, professors and peers with whom to consult and obtain advice. Now, working full-time and having a packed schedule, it is not as easy to get guidance or consult with other psychologists. I have to make it a point to take the time to do these things, as well as to keep up with current research. Also, while you are in school, it is easy to get into the habit of completing reading requirements and coursework in order to cross if off your “to-do” list. However, I would strongly recommend that you take the time to process, think about, and make connections to the information you are learning. This information becomes the foundation for both future learning in the classroom and your experiences working with people in clinical and school settings.

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Urmila Jani, M.A., M.S., Psy.D.
M.A. in Psychology, Class of 2006

What are you currently doing in terms of your career? How similar or different is it from what you did at Pace?
Currently I am a licensed clinical psychologist working in both private practice (The Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Center of New Orleans) as well as teaching part time at the undergraduate level (Loyola University of New Orleans). This fall I am looking forward to being a full time assistant professor at Xavier University in Louisiana’s first ever Clinical Psy.D. program while maintaining a smaller caseload in private practice. I specialize in cognitive behavior therapy and really do look back fondly at Dr. Velayo’s cognition class as well as Dr. Hallak’s multicultural classes as laying foundations for many of my professional interests within the field of psychology.

What has been the most challenging realization you came to after graduating?
After graduating from Pace? ---- That there was a long road ahead. The path to becoming a psychologist is a marathon, not a sprint. But it can be done; It has been done and it is do-able. That sometimes others in your life may not always see or agree with your vision, but that conversations and open communication with family, friends and professors are all necessary if you want to progress. A former supervisor once said graduate training is about delayed gratification. That notion has stayed with me through the more difficult times.

If you are not currently in New York City, tell us a little about where you currently are located, and perhaps any unique cultural issues you may face there.
I am currently living in New Orleans, Louisiana. I never thought I’d leave the northeast, let alone live in the south, but we moved here about 3 years ago to support my husband in pursuing his dream of becoming a cardiologist. Nola is such a vibrant and dynamic city and for way more reasons than Mardi Gras (though it really is the best time of the year!). Also, I can’t say enough nice things about how kind and warm the people are down here. The cultural issues are quite interesting here as you may imagine. The terrain (both physical and emotional) has forever been changed by Hurricane Katrina. All the locals I meet informally define time as either “A.K.” or “B.K.” (“After Katrina” or “Before Katrina”), and the stories they have to tell are incredible. Stories of love, loss, despair, hope. Many of the stories are heartbreaking and yet they are all inspiring. They show the capacity of human resiliency in its rawest and most elemental form. Additionally, I was interested to learn that African Americans are actually the majority population in this city and yet they face such an uphill battle when attempting to access care and therefore health related disparities are abundant.
Alumni Profiles

Shonda Lackey, PhD
M.A. in Psychology, Class of 2007
https://drshondalackey.wordpress.com/

What are you currently doing in terms of your career?
Currently, I provide psychotherapy at an outpatient center and I am also in private practice in NYC. In my practice, I offer psychotherapy for adults with depression and anxiety and coaching with a focus on singles 30+ who have relationship or quality of life issues. I also combine my passion for psychology and the Arts by consulting with filmmakers and authors on the psychology of interpersonal dynamics and personality.

Tell us about a memorable experience you had at Pace.
My most memorable moment was working with Dr. Weihua Niu on my Master's thesis. I had the chance to test a theory that my friends and I had talked about and observed for years. My research centered on examining the influence of race on quality of campus life in college students. I gained valuable research skills and students I interviewed told me they felt my research got to understanding the heart of the problems they were experiencing.

What has been the most challenging thing/realization you came to after graduating?
The most challenging realization I've come to after graduating is how difficult it can be to balance self-care with my interest in helping other people. But I realize it's a necessity for my personal life and for me to be effective in my work with patients. I make time to do things I enjoy and it's a skill I'm continue to practice.

Do you have any advice that you would give to a current Pace psychology student?
Before you make the financial and emotional investment in a degree, speak with people further along in the field of psychology and ask about how you can get the best return on your investment. It's also really important to practice self-care. Undergraduate and graduate programs can be stressful at times, and you don't want to get burned out. You can't help anyone else if that happens. When you schedule time to reward yourself for how hard you've worked during the week, it helps your performance and keeps you present when providing psychotherapy.
**Student Profiles**

**Monique Hawthorne**  
Psy.D. in Clinical and School Child Psychology, First Year

**What did you study in your undergraduate/masters program? How different is it from what you are now doing at Pace?**  
I studied psychology in my undergraduate and masters program. I actually completed my masters program at Pace in December 2009. The PsyD program brings all the concepts and book knowledge to life. The program challenges you to expand in your thinking while making the connections between theoretical concepts and the real world. When you are in the program you have it set that this is your future. Helping people help themselves is your calling in life.

**How would you describe your research and/or clinical interests?**  
My clinical and research interests are to work with lower socioeconomic minority families, specifically African Americans who are not able to afford appropriate treatment. I am also interested in working with domestic abuse and child abuse survivors, at risk youth, the family dyad, as well as parental roles and how they correlate to the well-being of children in adulthood. I would also like to work in the realm of the anxiety disorders, specifically obsessive-compulsive disorder.

**What is your favorite discovery you have made in/about New York City?**  
I think as of right now my new favorite discoveries are the concerts at Lincoln Center. I never appreciated Jazz before but I recently went to a Jazz concert at Lincoln Center and was enthralled by the show. I had a new found appreciation for this genre of music. I know that Lincoln Center will be a new place of discoveries for me in this new year.

**Do you have any advice that you would give to a undergraduate/masters psychology student?**  
The advice I would give to an undergraduate/masters psychology student is to be open to all experiences and people that cross your path. You can learn a lesson from each and every one of them. By interacting with different cultures and people it helps you to become a more open person and to see each person as an individual and bypass general stereotypes. I would also say to seek out a mentor in the field. Despite everyone’s journey being different, they still have first-hand knowledge of the obstacles you may have faced as well as what you may go through and can help you bypass or conquer those obstacles. Mentors are also just an indelible source of information in how to navigate this psychological field.

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**Sonja Javani**  
M.A. in Psychology, First Year

**How would you describe your research and/or clinical interests?**  
Since I started working with the OASIS program at Pace, I’ve become very interested to further explore connections between biological basis and genetic factors with certain Neurodevelopmental Disorders (specifically autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and specific language impairments (SLI)). Diagnoses for these disorders are currently made based on observed behavior and parental report, and no biological test exists for them. A biological marker or test could aid in earlier diagnosis, and I look forward to be more involved in this area of research.

**What has been the most challenging thing for you so far during your time at Pace?**  
Public speaking is not one of my strengths, so I’d have to say the most challenging thing, especially the first semester, was all the presentations I needed to give. However, it has helped me to better manage my tension and use that nervous energy to my advantage and communicate enthusiastically, convincingly, and passionately.

**What is your favorite discovery you have made in/about New York City?**  
Through one of my friends, I found out about a non-profit organization called “The Future Project” that inspires students to live lives of passion and purpose. It’s been one of my favorite discoveries in NYC, and I’ve been to many of their exciting and motivating events in the past few months.

**What does your typical weekend look like?**  
I love to try new brunch places in the city with my friends, followed by a long walk in central park. Time Warner Center is an amazing place to end a Saturday night by listening to some Jazz music and relaxing with friends. And of course the weekend is not complete without a study session at Barnes and Noble on 86th Street.
**Research Team Profiles**

**Social and Health Psychology Lab**
Led by Lisa Rosenthal, PhD  
Irosenthal@pace.edu

In the Social and Health Psychology Lab, we examine prejudice, discrimination, and stereotyping, including the social, academic, and health consequences of being a member of a stigmatized group. Our work seeks to understand how experiences with discrimination, marginalization, and inequality contribute to gender, racial/ethnic, and other academic and health disparities. Currently, we have ongoing quantitative and qualitative research projects focused on stigma-related experiences of individuals in same-sex and interracial relationships, diverse women’s experiences of discrimination in relation to sexual and reproductive health, and intersectional societal stereotypes of men and women of color related to sex and parenthood.

**Spring 2015 meetings:** Tuesdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm

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**IndiDvidual Differences In Development Lab (IDiD)**
Led by Baptiste Barbot, PhD  
bbarbot@pace.edu

The Individual Differences in Development Lab (IDiD) investigates individual differences in development with an emphasis on the accurate implementation of advanced quantitative methods. Our ongoing research focuses on the study of creativity and innovative behaviors, their components and correlates (e.g., self and identity, personality traits, aesthetic sensitivity, emotions, psychosocial adaptation and intelligence), their development in a range of populations and contexts (in particular, adolescents and detained juveniles, corporate organizations and people management), and related methodological issues (measurement, domain generality-specificity, differentiation and change processes).

For more information on the IDiD Lab, please visit: [http://webpage.pace.edu/bbarbot/](http://webpage.pace.edu/bbarbot/)

**Current Members:** Wallis Back; Baptiste Barbot; Alexandra Blanchard; Jessica Harlow; Lindsay Hartman; Alana Miller; Nils Myszkowski; Kristen Piering; Matthew Berler; Maria Gianoli; Giselle Levin; Baruch Wohlenheler; Krystina Sanchez; Jessamin Cipollina; Jamie Kalf

**Regular Lab Meetings and Journal Club:** Mondays: 3:00 – 4 p.m., 41 Park Row, Room 1319  
**Juvenile Detention Study Research:** Tuesdays (Bi-weekly) 2pm-3pm

**Student Requirements:** Mentored lab students are required to provide 4 hours of RA, PsyD students will work with Dr. Barbot on an individual basis.
Featured Library Resource

As an instructional services librarian at Pace, I have created three interactive quiz modules for students in experimental psychology using SoftChalk.

Module 1 covers tests and measurements:
http://appsrv.pace.edu/library/softChalk/EXP_PSY_MODULE_1/
This interactive quiz covers material for finding psychological tests and measurements in these resources: PsycTests, PsycINFO, Mental Measurements Yearbook, Measures of Personality & Social Psychological Attitudes, and the Directory of Unpublished Experimental Mental Measures. It includes print and electronic resources.

Module 2 covers the differences between PsycINFO and PsycARTICLES: http://appsrv.pace.edu/library/softChalk/EXP_PSY_MODULE_2/

Module 3 covers database searching tips and techniques including and, or, nesting, and truncation:
http://appsrv.pace.edu/library/softChalk/EXP_PSY_MODULE_3/

Janell Carter
Instructional Services Librarian
Birnbaum Library

Graduate Student Psychology Association (GSPA)

The GSPA has been hard at work scheduling a variety of events for the Psychology Department and its students. In February, they hosted a Private Practice Panel, where the guest speakers spoke about their experiences in private practice, gave some helpful tips for those who would like to start a private practice, and answered any questions that the audience had. This coming May, GSPA will be hosting APA’s Stephen DeMers, who will be discussing the trends and issues in professional licensure. GSPA is also planning some end of the year events for graduating and incoming students. For more information about GSPA, contact Shannon Martin at shannon.martin317@gmail.com and Imani Whitfield at imaniwhit@yahoo.com.

Psi Chi
(Pace NYC Chapter)

Join Psi Chi during their weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 12:15-1:10 in the Psychology Lab on the 13th floor, 41 Park Row (Room 1319). We talk about the newest developments in psychology as well as pick a specific topics having to do with psychology to discuss with members. Free food and refreshments are provided.

Spring Semester Activities

Movie Showing
Friday, February 27 at 12:10-2:10
Psi Chi will host a movie showing in which all are invited to watch a psychological thriller chosen by members. Come by!

EPA conference in Philadelphia
Join Psi Chi as they present a seminar on how to run an effective chapter! They will present on March 6 at 3:30-4:30pm at the Marriott Hotel in Philadelphia! All are welcomed to attend and support Psi Chi!

Psych Hunt
March 27 (Friday) at 1:00-3:00pm
Students were encouraged to partake in a scavenger hunt around Pace University in pairs to compete for some gift cards! First place winners each get a $50 gift card while second place winners each get a $25 gift card.

Careers in Psychology
April 14 (Tuesday) at 3:30-5:00pm, Rooms TBA
This event is co-sponsored with Career services. We will host a panel of guest speakers (including professors from the psych department) to guide students in different paths of psychology. We will also talk about the grad school process on how to apply and what to expect when it comes to the application! All are welcome to attend.
The International Honor Society in Psychology

Students Raising Awareness on Campus!

By Jennifer Trujillo-Armijo, Helpline Intern

NEDA is well known around the psychology department at Pace University. Half of the members of Psi-Chi (The International Honor Society in Psychology) have volunteered at NEDA and have loved being a part of the organization. I've always had a passion to help people and this would be the perfect opportunity to do so. Being the President of Psi-Chi at Pace and volunteering at NEDA, I am able to mix the two together to get more people involved and raise awareness about eating disorders. Eating disorders affect both women and men especially during their college years, and there is no club currently on campus that promotes awareness. Psi-Chi is the perfect club to raise awareness and bring attention to eating disorders because everyone who is a part of Psi-Chi is interested in psychology one way or another. We not only reach out to psychology students, but also students in all majors. For the first time ever, we participated in the 2014 NYC NEDA Walk! We were all so inspired that we are planning to walk again next year! We are also planning a 2015 NEDAwareness Week dinner to raise money for NEDA to continue towards a world without eating disorders. Future plans for Psi-Chi will also include activities during NEDAwareness Week because we feel it is important to raise awareness across the campus. So far, my experience of being a volunteer has been great! I have learned so much and continue to learn something new everyday. I am glad to be a part of the National Helpline because we are helping people get the treatment they need and deserve. Being a part of such a great organization has already changed me and I hope to continue to be inspired by the people behind NEDA!

How to raise awareness in your community!

One of the easiest ways you can help the cause is by simply posting information on local bulletin boards. We have free informational handouts on our website that can be printed and we also sell brochures. Even just placing our Helpline business cards on bulletin boards on college campuses, in cafés, libraries and other public places can help get the word out. Please visit http://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/learn for handouts.

Students pictured above: Jessica Harlow, Betsey Paulino, Erica Crespo, Jennifer Trujillo-Armijo, Anna Crawford, Jessamin Cipollina, Carly Gottfried, Vanessa Vitello, Laura Rodriguez, Alejandro Cervantes, Helen Haidemenos, Kirsten Dagrosa, Prabhjoot Lally, Kaitlin Eitz, Nicholas Mediate
A couple of years ago, I attended the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology (NITOP) Conference held in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, where I came across a poster presentation by Dr. Kit Nast from the Social Sciences/Psychology Department of Bishop State Community College. With the help of funds from the Association for Psychological Science's Fund for Teaching and Public Understanding of Psychological Science, Dr. Nast was able to develop “career advice videos” for his psychology page – www.drkit.org/psychology. These videos help students as they consider which area in psychology to pursue by watching short video clips from psychologists and students offering advise on various psychology programs. It also provides video clips on areas/disciplines related to psychology and volunteer opportunities in a number of organizations.

Below is a list of what you can see on his psychology page. Each are weblinks that bring you to advice videos below. I think it’s worth taking a look, especially among undergraduate majors and general masters students. Just go to www.drkit.org/psychology.

Advice from Professors In Psychology Programs

- PhD (Clinical Psychology)
- PhD (Human Factors)
- PhD (Industrial/Organizational)
- PhD (Experimental – Comparative Psychology)
- PhD (Counseling - Sport Psychology)
- PhD (Cognitive Neuroscience)
- PhD (Educational Psychology)
- PhD (Social Psychology)
- PhD (School Psychology)
- PsyD (School Psychology) – coming soon!
- MA (School Psychology) – coming soon!
- MA (Industrial/Organizational)
- MA (Forensic and Legal Psychology)
- MA (Quantitative Psychology)
- MA (Cognitive and Social Processes)
- MS (Marriage and Family Therapy)
- MA (Sport and Performance Psychology)
- MA (Social Psychology)
- MA (Psychology – General Track)
- BA in Psychology

Advice from APA related to going to graduate school (not a video)

- PhD (Clinical) – Lindsey & Renee
- PsyD (Clinical) – Jackie
- PhD (Industrial/Organizational) – Rachel, Keaton
- PhD (Human Factors) – Alex
- PhD (Assessment and Measurement) – Matt
- PhD (Counseling, Sport Psychology emphasis) – Joey
- PhD (Counseling) – Grant
- PhD (School Psychology) – Austin
- PhD (Social) – Shana
- PhD (Experimental – Social) – Jessica
- PhD (Experimental – Comparative) – Chris
- MA (Quantitative Psychology) – Kristen
- MA (Counseling) – Meryl
- MA (General Psychology) – Summer, Dora
- MA (Industrial/Organizational) – Vera, Taylor
- MA (Social) – Kristin
- MA (Sport Psychology) – Chad
- BA (Psychology) – Abby, Jasmine
- Psych student working on a minor in Spanish – Sandra
- Psi Chi (Honor Society) – Jane
Clinical and Counseling

- Clinical Psychologist – Dr. John
- Clinical Child Psychologist – Dr. Stephen
- Clinical and Sport Psychologist – Dr. Jess
- School Psychologist – Dr. Grover
- School Psychologist/Mental Health Counselor – Tara
- Director of Mental Health Hotline – Ingrid
- Substance Abuse Therapist – Cherish
- Mental Health Counselor – Chris
- Mental Health Counselor (University setting) – Dr. Christine
- Therapist (Licensed Professional Counselor) – Anna
- Psychiatric Technician – Brianna
- Case Manager – Amy

Research, Quantitative, Testing, and Teaching

- Educational Research Scientist – Carol
- Research Assistant – Jason
- University Professor – Dr. Bill
- Community College Professor – Dr. Saundra

Industrial/Organizational and Human Factors

- Senior Research Scientist – Ian
- Organizational Development Specialist – Candys
- Human Resources Organizational Development Specialist – Brittany
- Recruitment Manager – Carie

Related Careers, may begin with a Psychology (BA)

- Psychiatrist – Dr. Kenan
- Psychiatrist (Child and Adolescent) – Dr. Finn
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker – Wendy
- Licensed Social Worker – Emily
- Child Life Specialist – Meghan
- Occupational Therapist – Katie
- Occupational Therapist – Ellen
- Occupational Therapist – Joe

Stand Out In the Job Search: Volunteer!

- Crisis Hotline Volunteer Advice – Megan
- American Cancer Society – helping people with cancer - Jessica
  - Volunteer – Beverly
- Hospice – helping patients in hospice care – Patty
- Ronald McDonald House – helping families experiencing medical crises – Stephanie
  - Volunteer – Justin
- Big Brothers Big Sisters – helping children facing adversity – Paula
- The Salvation Army - helping to provide hope to those in need – Stacey
- The Humane Society – helping animals in need – Monie
- Food Bank – helping people who need food – Karla
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) – getting ready for disasters – JoAnne
- Habitat for Humanity – helping low income families – Rebecca
Taste Buds
Sarika Persaud

Oscar’s Place
466 Hudson St (West Village)
Near 1, A, B, C, D, E, F, M trains

This small British café and restaurant is a perfect place to have breakfast or lunch with a small group of close friends (however, not the place for a “boozy brunch”), or a dim, candlelit, quiet, romantic dinner in the evening. There are only about six tables here, though in the summer, they have sidewalk seating. White subway tiles line the walls, as well as chalkboards with the restaurants specials written on them. The kitchen is small and mostly exposed, in the style of an “open kitchen,” which lends an intimate feel between diner and chef. Their eggs are consistently well-seasoned and cooked with care, and their omelettes come highly recommended. Other dishes of note include their pan-seared salmon, baked gruyere macaroni and cheese, “saucy” Belgian waffles (with strawberry sauce, chocolate sauce, whipped cream, and vanilla ice cream), and of course, British favorites like bangers n mash, fish and chips, and steak and kidney pie. They also have a small mussels menu, available in 1 and 2-lb portions. For drinks, they specialize in ales, though they have a dedicated tea menu as well. Servers can occasionally be forgetful, but are overall very friendly. Prices are affordable and well-worth the quality of the freshly-prepared food served here.

Vapiano
113 University Pl (near Union Sq)
Near 1, 2, 3, F, M, L, N, Q, R, 4, 5, 6 trains

This Italian eatery combines a fresh, made-to-order, gourmet Italian menu with serve-yourself service for a unique upscale-casual dining experience. Diners enter this large, two-floor space and are given a card by the maître d, which diners scan at one of three open-concept kitchen areas upon ordering your meal. The seating area is airy and large, and combines rustic wood-based décor with clean neutral and metal lines to create a space that is both modern and inviting. There is a tall tree in the middle of the first floor space, an unexpected visual anchor, which overlooks long wooden tables and a few smaller tables, allowing for a communal dining feel. The second floor has a decidedly more intimate vibe, with walls dividing the space into smaller areas, setting it apart from the completely open concept space below. Diners stand in lines at each kitchen area (which can be frustrating on more crowded nights) and watch their pasta, pizza, or other classic Italian dish, being cooked right in front of them. Ingredients are unquestionably high quality, and because diners interact with their chef(s) directly, dishes are easily customizable. The menu contains a large variety of dishes, and is very vegetarian-friendly. Their dessert menu contains Italian classics, like cheesecake, as well as shooter glasses of tiramisu, panna cotta, and chocolate cake. Upon leaving, diners scan their cards and pay at the door. The system is efficient, and makes it easy to break up checks when a group is dining together. It can be difficult to get a hold of a server if you need assistance while seated, but staff behind the counter and in the kitchen areas are helpful and friendly, and clearly passionate about food. Prices are on the low to moderate end, though meals can easily be split amongst a group to keep costs down, without really sacrificing the quantity of food being eaten.
DIVERSITY & PSYCHOLOGY
Commentary: Why Understanding Our Privilege Makes Us Better Psychologists
Sarika Persaud

As psychologists, we are taught to be constantly critical of our own gaze, whether through possible bias in research, or in our gaze on our patients’ beliefs, roles, and life issues. So, it sometimes comes as a surprise that more psychologists are not involved in examining the gazes present in social narratives. We remain uninvolved with observing how the struggles and victories of certain groups of people are portrayed and related to in popular culture. We often believe that as long as we believe in “equality for all,” we are doing our part to ensure that prejudice due to racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, or any other exclusionary way of thinking is not perpetuated. But is a support for some nebulous idea of “equality” really enough for us to truly be enacting this conviction? In many cases, it is not. It is easy to become complacent, to highlight certain news stories or initiatives in our minds that support our notion that our society is moving towards a more egalitarian perspective, but as Dr. Rosenthal highlighted above, there is a pattern of violence, sometimes subtle, sometimes very apparent, that continues daily and affects many people, many of whom are unaware of the healing that they may need.

For example, it is a fact worth celebrating for many that same-sex marriage is moving closer to legalization across the United States, and that same-sex couples are gaining more visibility and representation in the entertainment world. It is very easy to take these facts into consideration and assume that while there may be a few individual “outliers” who still discriminate against others from a place of ignorance, society is largely moving towards equality for LGBTQAI+ individuals. However, a poem by Alok Vaid-Menon, a South-Asian queer poet and activist highlights the troubling reality that initiatives that may be intended to be helpful often do not address other hurtful attitudes and situations:

for richer, for poorer
tell that to El’Jai who lost his job last year
His state is one of only 12
where you cannot legally be fired
for having a body that doesn’t sit right with your heart
but his job “could only be done by a man”
and his genitals did not conform to his employers expectations.

[I do not know if he won the court case, only that he has a son,
and that being brown and trans means being 4 times less likely to find work]
but who needs money for bread when you can eat wedding cake!

- Alok Vaid-Menon (from “rainbows are just refracted white light”)

We are becoming increasingly aware of anti-Black racism in schools, or bullying due to homophobia. But there are often more subtle variants of intolerance at play which people outside of minority groups remain largely unaware of. Perhaps this is out of fear, perhaps because it seems like too much work to deal with our own baggage regarding what might be our own intolerance. But I would like to think that we owe ourselves and the people that we hope to help more than that.

We shy away from words like “privilege,” or often get angry or offended when we hear them pointed at us. “I had a hard life, too,” we might think. “Just because somebody is White, or upper/middle class, or straight, or cisgendered, does not mean that they do not have their own share of problems.” Undoubtedly, this is true, but this is not what is meant by “examining privilege.” It does not necessarily involve radically changing one’s political identities or making anyone feel guilty about who they are. This is about making simple, frequent reflections about how power dynamics that remain hidden from view may be at play between you and other groups. Gina Crosley-Corcoran gives the following examples in her essay, “Explaining White Privilege to a Broke White Person”:

Citizenship - Simply being born in this country affords you certain privileges non-citizens will never access, [even outside of language or accent].
Race - I can swear, or dress in second hand clothes, or not answer letters, without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, the poverty, or the illiteracy of my race.
Class - Being born into a financially stable family can help guarantee your health, happiness, safety, education, intelligence, and future opportunities.
Sexual Orientation - By being born straight, every state in this country affords you privileges that non-straight folks have to fight the Supreme Court for.
Sex - By being born male, you can assume that you can walk through a parking garage without worrying you’ll be raped and that a defense attorney will then blame it on what you were wearing.
Ability - By being born able bodied, you probably don’t have to plan your life around handicap access, braille, or other special needs.
Gender - By being born cisgendered, you aren’t worried that the restroom or locker room you use will invoke public outrage.

Because we may operate from a position of privilege, we may not see issues of inequality where they exist. For example, for many people who saw the film, American Sniper was just an action movie about a soldier fighting in the Middle East, featuring award-winning actors and modern, appealing cinematography. It may have already faded out of our pop culture purview. For the Muslim-American community, as well as non-Muslim South-Asians and Middle-Eastern people, it was another depressing example of how Brown people are not fit for a role in a film unless they are terrorists or nerdy sidekicks. Many see it as “just a movie, nothing to get so sensitive about.” This does not absolve us of our frightening reality in which narratives perpetuated by the entertainment industry reflect larger cultural attitudes. It is not “just a movie” in a society in which there have been growing strains of passive or fully aggressive violence against people who have been stereotyped as belonging to terrorist groups in mainstream media. Seeing a poster of this movie on the subway might remind a young Muslim woman, who happens to be wearing a hijab, to keep her gaze lowered – not out of humility, but to avoid fearful, enraged gazes directed at her.
Examining our privilege is not simply about learning facts about peoples’ histories so that we do not offend people. It is about investigating how power structures throughout history are perpetuated even today, though in changing forms. We need to consider at least as a possibility that perhaps power dynamics (race, gender, etc.) from colonial eras may have become memorialized in the institutional power structures of today. How are these smaller outcroppings of violence part of a larger story that has been going on for centuries? For the psychologist, this is of utmost importance, as we come to understand how the political is personal, and the personal is political. Understanding our history helps us to raise awareness of implicit unfairness in contemporary inter-group relations.

Denial and disinterest in our histories only benefits the privileged. We, not only those who are victims in these power dynamics, are responsible for learning our histories, and questioning not only the stories told, but who is telling the stories, who is controlling which stories are heard and not heard. For clinicians, this goes for stories which are heard and which go unheard within the therapy room. It is a worthy venture to start asking new questions of ourselves related to positions of privilege. How might the dynamics of privilege affect how experiences are shared between clinician and patient? Which stories might be more difficult to tell depending on the identities of those present in the room? How can we use an understanding of these underlying dynamics to continue to hold space effectively? As psychologists, we understand that what goes unsaid and unacknowledged can often have the most intense impact on what happens in conscious experience. Unpacking the various painful aspects of internalized experiences faced by those with a lack of privilege, whether those experiences belong to the clinician or patient, can only help us to serve others even more.

Of course, we cannot assume that all marginalized groups are equally disadvantaged, or that every person within a particular intersection of identities is going to have the same life story. Nor can we generalize what we have learned from our own research to every individual we encounter. It is about balancing observations of larger societal trends with anecdotal experience. We, as psychologists, know the importance of examining the big picture as well as individual differences. It is time to apply this same psychological understanding to our own lives. It is imperative that we, as psychologists, are not perpetuating the same uninformed systems of relating to others which we hope to eradicate from institutions and dominant value systems.

As university students and professors, we all have the privilege of education, and it would be an expression of our compassion and integrity to use our voices, our ability to make change, to lend allyship to others who do not have that privilege through our work. Those who are subject to micro- and macro-level aggressions against them are often in a position where they feel that their voices are not being heard by those in positions of power. We have the opportunity to lend our voices and actions towards change. And we can also ask the question, that despite the belief that we are, of course, anti-racist, classist, sexist, etc., why might we still be dismissive of and resistant to taking on the burden of change-making?

Sources:


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**Denise’s Column**

I hope everyone is having a great semester so far.

I would like to thank all of those who generously donated food items at our food drive this past holiday season; we collected and donated over 100lbs of food 😊

For our continuing students, I would like to remind everyone who is interested in summer 2015 that registration has begun for both Undergraduate and Graduate students. Fall 2015 registration is almost here, Graduates begin to register on April 13 and Undergraduates begin to register on April 20. Don’t forget to see your advisors.

Wishing you all the best of luck on your upcoming final exams!

**CONGRATULATIONS to the class of 2015!!!** I look forward to celebrating with you all on Wednesday, May 20 at The Theatre at Madison Square Garden.

Denise Moreno
Psychology Department Program Manager and Administrator
Upcoming Holidays & Observances

March
20-28 Vasant Navratri, 28 Rama Navami (Hindu)
29 Palm Sunday (Christian)

April
3 Good Friday (Christian)
5 Easter (Christian)
4-11 Pesach/Passover (begins at sundown on 3rd) (Jewish)
14 Vaisakhi (Sikh)

May
24-25 Shavuot (begins sundown on 23rd) (Jewish)
24 Pentecost (Christian)

June
18 Ramadan Begins (Muslim)

Miscellaneous

Dr. Barbara Mowder meeting with some students at the NAOP Conference
(Bhopal, India)
Upcoming Conferences & Student Opportunities

Hunter College Psychology Conference
http://www.hunterpsych.com/convention/
April 26 (Sunday), Hunter College, New York City

Psychology Day at the United Nations
http://unpsychologyday.org
April 30 (Thursday), Conference Room 3, United Nations Complex, New York City

Pace University Psychology Conference
http://pacepsychologyconference.net
May 9 (Saturday). One Pace Plaza, Pace University, New York City
Proposals due on April 17 (Friday)

Association for Psychological Science (APS)
http://www.psychologicalscience.org
May 21-24, New York City

International Council of Psychologists (ICP)
http://icpweb.org/convention
August 1-3, Toronto, Canada

American Psychological Association (APA)
http://apa.org/convention
August 6-9, Toronto, Canada

Second Annual Bullying Symposium at Pace University

Bullying and Sexual Assault: Perceptions and Realities in 21st Century Society
Tuesday, April 7th, 2015 | 6-9pm | Bianco Room, One Pace Plaza

Organized by June Chisholm, PhD and James Lawler, DPS. For more information, contact James Lawler at jlawler@pace.edu

Dr. Brandon Adams of Pace's Psychology Department and Ella Quinlan, a student in Pace's Graduate Psychology program are seeking participants for a new research study. The study is being done in collaboration with Lumos Labs (producers of Lumosity.com) to determine the effectiveness of Lumosity's brain fitness training program in a young adult population. Eligible participants will undergo a 16-week training program along with concurrent cognitive assessment to measure training improvement. Participants will be expected to complete daily training online (approx. 15 minutes a day 4-5 days a week). Participants will be able to train from their smartphone, home, school, or work computer. Interested persons should contact Dr. Adams for study eligibility at badams3@pace.edu or Ms. Quinlan at an.ella.quinlan@gmail.com. Participants who complete the program will be eligible to win a Moto360 Android smartwatch or an Apple iWatch!

Social Justice & Diversity Interest Group

Growing out of the interests of many members of our department, we will be starting a Social Justice and Diversity interest group, open to any and all Psychology faculty, staff, and students. We are inviting you all to our first meeting to be held in Room 1319 (the "lab") in 41 Park Row on Monday, April 6 from 12:10-1:10, which will serve as an initial meeting during which we want to get input from everyone and discuss what the group's objectives and plans over this and coming semesters will be. Please join us for this meeting if you are interested.

If you are interested in being involved with this group but are not able to make this meeting time, please send your name and email address to Lisa Rosenthal at lrosenthal@pace.edu so that you can be added to the contact list for the group. If there are any particular ideas you would like to share, you can send those as well.
Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit proposals for the poster and the brief paper presentations. The first author (or sole author) for all proposals must be a student.

Proposals must be received no later than April 17, 2015 (Friday). Submissions on topics related to psychological research from non-Psychology majors and departments are also encouraged.

To submit for a poster or oral presentation, go to http://www.pacepsychologyconference.net. Then, click on the link called Proposal Submission.

➢ **Posters** (1 hour): (NOTE: Poster size should fit a trifold 3 ft. x 4 ft. poster board which will be provided for you.)
1. Title, author(s), institutional affiliation(s), mailing address, and e-mail address and telephone of first author.
2. Brief summary of your completed study (no longer than 150 words).

➢ **Brief Paper Presentations:** (NOTE: You will be provided 15 minutes to present.)
1. Title, author(s), institutional affiliation(s), mailing address, and e-mail address and telephone of first author.
2. Brief summary of your completed study (no longer than 150 words).
   [NOTE: The acceptance rate for brief paper presentation proposals may be lower than poster proposals, depending on the number and quality of proposals submitted for brief paper presentations.]

**First authors will be notified by email on the status of your proposal application no later than April 25.**

For accepted poster and brief paper presentations, abstracts will appear in the conference proceedings which will be made available on the conference website a few days prior to the conference and in print form to be distributed on the day of the conference.

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For more information about the newsletter, to be added to the newsletter mailing list, or to submit to the Fall 2015 edition of Psych Eye, please contact Dr. Velayo at rvelayo@pace.edu.

The newsletter may be accessed at: http://www.pace.edu/pace/dyson/academic-departments-and-programs/psychology—nyc/student-activities-and-resources/

[The next issue of Psych Eye will be made available in October 2015.]