A Word from Melissa...

Although this is our spring edition, we’re still waiting for the weather to confirm that winter is ending and spring is actually beginning! Luckily, there is no shortage of great beginnings and endings in our program. At the start of the spring semester, we welcomed 5 new first-year students. And of course, most of our second-year students will be ending their time with us in just about a month. You can read about some of the exciting new beginnings they have planned for themselves in this issue, including new jobs, doctoral programs, and some well-deserved trips.

Congratulations to all of our graduates who will join our impressive list of program alumni! I’d also like to congratulate the winners of our annual CP Awards. Amanda Sigan will be receiving the Outstanding Graduate Student in Community Psychology Award. Andrea Shaker will be receiving the award for Excellence in Community Psychology Research. Congratulations Amanda and Andrea!

In this issue, you will find interviews with current students, alumni, and our newest adjunct professor, Dr. Shin. Second-year students should particularly take note of an alumnus noting that Consultation Seminar was one of the most helpful aspects of the program!

You will also see some pictures of the CP Research Lab’s takeover of the SCRA Regional Conference at the Eastern Psychological Association’s convention in Philadelphia in March. Nine students, Dr. Macias, and myself attended and led several well-attended presentations. The students did an amazing job representing the CP Program.

If we ever make it, I hope all of you enjoy a restful or, at the very least, a revitalizing summer.

As always, WE...BE...CP!
KAYLYN TAYLOR, FIRST YEAR

Where are you from?
I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon and just recently moved to Connecticut to attend the University of New Haven Community Psychology Graduate Program.

Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?
I completed my undergraduate degree at Western Oregon University located in Monmouth, Oregon where I majored in Psychology and minored in Spanish.

How did you become interested in the UNH Community Psychology Program?
When I discovered the Community Psychology field as a freshman in undergrad, I immediately knew that this field is where I belonged. The prestige and maturation of the UNH Community Psychology Program attracted me given the relative newness of Community Psychology as a field.

What aspect of the CP program have you found to be the most beneficial/interesting?
I enjoy how much of a voice I have in classes. Before graduate school I was not the type of student to actively participate in discussion. I found myself transforming as a student who used to stay quiet into someone that actually enjoys participating in class discussions. Also, the class content directly aligns with my interests and passions in community psychology.

What is your concentration?
I have a concentration in Program Development.

What are your future professional goals?
I plan to attend a Community Psychology doctoral program immediately following my completion of this program. A long-term goal of mine is to eventually start my own non profit organization or serve as the executive director of a nonprofit.

What is something interesting about yourself that you would like to share?
Growing up in Portland, Oregon, I had the privilege of being surrounded by a large Latino population and because of the many relationships, experiences, and insight I have gained with the Latino community and culture, I have always had a passion for serving this community. My passion and admiration for the Latino community has lead me to volunteer abroad for the past five years working with at-risk youth in some of Latin America’s most deprived areas.

"When I discovered the Community Psychology field as a freshman in undergrad, I immediately knew that this field is where I belonged."

What advice would you give to the first-year students in the CP program?
My advice to undergraduates looking to apply to this program is to not allow the rumor of psychology degrees being unprofitable to deter you from following your passion in CP. It is important to remember that the degree itself is not what makes you successful but instead who you are as a person, your work ethic, and how you treat others is what truly deems your success.

What do you like to do in your free time?
Some of my hobbies include traveling, dancing, makeup, hiking, fashion, trying new foods, shopping, couponing, and cooking. I enjoy walking my dog, reading, hanging with friends, and/or watching makeup tutorials on youtube.
What aspect of the CP program have you found to be the most beneficial/interesting?
The most interesting class that I am currently is Psychological Assessments. I find Dr. Danielle Moreggi to be very knowledgeable in her field.

Do you have a job right now, if so what do you do? What is a typical day at work like for you?
Yes, Currently I am the Director of Programs and Case Management Services with the Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH). Within my role I oversee all federal, state and city funded programs. Our programs offer a menu of services to various populations within the Havens and Hamden. Our primary focus is individuals experiencing homelessness, vulnerable populations (individuals w/ mental health concerns, developmental disabilities, victims of assault/violence, elderly, etc.) and those economically disadvantaged.
My organization serves over ten thousand residents within an 8-month period, therefore my typical work day can be quite busy at times. Though my work day can vary, as I am frequently in meetings within my organization and other state/city entities, my primary responsibilities include supervising and coaching employees, writing grants, developing program budgets and reports, training, and interviewing.

How did you become interested in the UNH Community Psychology Program?
As a program administrator with the Community Action Agency of New Haven (CAANH), I have attended many events at the University of New Haven Campus, which piqued my interest in the program.

What would you like to do after leaving the CP Program?
Once I have completed the CP program, my goal is to move on to a PhD program. In lieu of completing my PhD; I would like to attain my LPC.

What is something interesting about yourself that you would like to share?
I have been in the helping professions for the past 12 years. Within my 12 years in the field I have both supervised programs/directly worked with a variety of populations in clinical and non-clinical settings.
Over the years I have focused my skills in client centered strength-based approaches, Motivational Interviewing, Crisis Planning, Conflict Resolution, Employment Counseling and Case Management Services.
KATHRYN THAMSEN, SECOND YEAR

Where are you from?
I always have to explain where I’m from in relevance to NYC and Westchester. So, I was born and raised in Stony Point, NY. It’s about 40 minutes north of the city and right across from Hudson River from Westchester!

Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?
I received my Bachelor’s degree from University of New Haven (I’ve been here for a while).

What is your concentration in the CP program?
I am in the Clinical-Community Services concentration.

How has your experience been applying to doctoral programs? What was the process?
It has certainly been a long process applying to many doctoral programs in just a few short months. I completed the process in January, so since then I have simply been waiting to (hopefully) hear back from some programs-so fingers crossed!

What advice do you have for other students thinking about applying to doctoral programs?
The worst thing that you can hear is “no.” With that in mind, there is no harm in giving it a try. I knew that I would always look back and wonder if I would’ve gotten into a program hadn’t tried, therefore-I did!

How did you become interested in the UNH Community Psychology Program?
I actually really wanted to stay at UNH for graduate school. So I decided to stay here and get my Master’s degree in the Community Psychology program.

What aspect of the CP program have you found to be the most beneficial/interesting?
The Community Psychology program at UNH is small which made it really easy to get to know my classmates who turned into great friends! Additionally, its small size made me feel like my professors and peers really knew me, which allowed me to feel like I was an integral part of the classroom.

"The [CP Program's] small size made me feel like my professors and peers really knew me, which allowed me to feel like I was an integral part of the classroom."

What are your future professional goals? What sort of job would you like to have 5 years from now?
In the future, I hope to be working as a clinical psychologist with forensic populations. Specifically, I am interested in administering clinical tests and assessments to those individuals.

Where are you doing your internship, and what are the main things you do there?
I currently intern at Hidden Acres Therapeutic Riding Center in Naugatuck CT where I help facilitate unmounted horsemanship, mounted horsemanship and equine-facilitated learning sessions that focus on mindfulness and working in the present. We assist individuals who possess a wide range of disabilities and challenges. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience so far!

What are some of your hobbies/interests? What do you like to do in your free time? Any plans for summer?
If it wasn’t evident from my internship placement, I really enjoy riding my horse Elizabeth. I also like to do some amateur photography, yoga, reading and spending time with my family, friends and dog-Charlie! I hope to do more of that once I graduate!
Where are you from?
I was born in Bridgeport, CT. I grew up in Bridgeport, CT part of the time and in Nashville, TN. My mom relocated for a short while to attend college in Nashville, TN.

Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?
I completed my undergraduate degree in New York at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. My original interest was to become an FBI profiler, so I studied forensic psychology and legal studies at John Jay.

What is your current job, where do you work?
My current job is with K-Assist, LLC (HOME program). It is a private practice that involves going directly into the client's home, however we often go to schools, probation offices, parks, hiking trails, etc. The primary model is to meet the client where they are in the home. However, in my experience, as well as other clinician's experiences, client's don't always want to conduct therapy at their kitchen table or living room. If it is nice out, they would like to go for a walk or grab a cup of coffee and go to the park. For client's suffering from depression or agoraphobia, this is very healing and a big step in their personal growth and reduction of isolation.

"What I found most valuable is the relationships with my professors and classmates that exist to this day...They are a great support network to stay connected to."

Looking back at your time at UNH, what aspects of the program did you find to be most valuable?
What I found most valuable is the relationships with my professors and classmates that exist to this day. I still keep in touch with former professors from time to time, as well as classmates. Relationships are important. There are times when unfamiliar hurdles will come and you want to turn to people who have extensive knowledge, experience and know how you think and process. They are a great support network to stay connected to. I really liked my professors.

What was your concentration?
My concentration was community-clinical.

Where did you do your internship? What were your experiences there?
I completed my internship at the Stamford Mayors Youth Services office. My experiences encompassed working with boys and girls ages 9-16 years old. I co-facilitated a girls group as well as a co-ed group. It was designed to encourage youth to express their emotions in healthy ways, while learning new coping skill to heal from anger, trauma, past abuse, loss and more.

How did your internship help prepare you for your future career?
It helped me in terms of all the subsequent groups to come within my career. I have facilitated several group types including LGBTQ, Anger management, Adult survivors of sexual trauma, sexual harassment and sexual assault groups, parent training groups and workshops, women's groups and more. It really prepared me to not only speak publicly and confidently but to utilize my skills and growing knowledge to help and support clients and their families.

What are some of your hobbies/interests?
I like to hike when it is nice out and ok I admit it, watch The Real Housewives! There, I said it! I like playing with my two cats, Gucci and Lucy. I like to cook and hang out with my friends and family. I used to travel often and would like to get back to that. My bucket list is to return to Paris and buy a cottage and maybe a vineyard.
What is a “typical day” like in your job?
What are the biggest challenges you face in your work?

A typical day is low stress, as I make my own schedule, I create my breaks throughout the day and end my day as early as I would like. I currently have 18 clients and see them weekly. Client’s who are doing well, I may see once a month or every two weeks, as they are improving on their goals.

The biggest challenges I face in work are the trauma cases I see with children and adults. It is heartbreaking, however with compassion, empathy, therapeutic interventions and guidance, many client’s recover and I am honored to see their growth and healing. The hardest part is before the healing takes place, as client’s have suppressed and some have never talked to anyone about what has happened to them, so it is a challenging part in the journey to see them to the light of hope and strength, but as long as they know you are authentically supporting them, they begin to trust again, strengthen and learn new coping skills and perspectives.

What have your experiences been regarding traveling to a patient’s home for counseling?

I like working in a clinical setting such as an office, However, I like going into the homes more, as you are able to gain greater awareness into the client’s world. There are areas I can observe in the home that I can not see in the office, as some clients may minimize, hide or not bring up and important issue or barrier to treatment i.e alcoholism (empty bottles all over the apartment), hoarding behavior, neglect of pets, self-care issues or boundary issues with family or neighbors who barge in. I can observe, how the client interacts with others, how they handle conflict that unfolds in front of me and more i.e how does my client suffering with depression, trauma or agoraphobia respond to the environment outside of the office. This level of insight can be missed if the client minimizes or does not mention in the office.

What are three pieces of advice you would give to current CP students for making the best use of their time?

1. Network often and early

2. Build relationships with others

3. Conduct research outside of class to create a wealth of broad knowledge outside of class
What is your current job, where do you work?
I'm currently working at Naugatuck Youth Services as the Prevention & Leadership Coordinator. I coordinate activities for our prevention coalition, Step Up Naugy, and work with youth to build leadership skills.

What is a "typical day" like in your job?
Mornings are for coalition initiatives. We are always engaged in providing information and support, and enhancing skills when it comes to youth substance use prevention. Currently, I'm organizing opioid misuse prevention materials for the Change the Script campaign, including letters to local prescribers, youth-led presentations, and informational materials for the community. Afternoons are for the kids! We run programs nearly every day of the week, so I get to spend a lot of time working directly with youth.

What are the biggest challenges you face at your job?
One of our coalition's biggest problems is the legalization of recreational marijuana, especially as Massachusetts has recently voted for legalization. While there are minimum age requirements, it is still having a large impact on our youth's attitudes and behaviors. They're receiving a lot of mixed messaging, particularly that it is safe for them to use. We do our best to educate them about brain development, and the permanent impacts that substances like alcohol and marijuana can have while their brain is still developing (which usually happens until around age 25). However, half of our youth report that they don't believe, or aren't sure if they believe, that marijuana is harmful to them. As marijuana becomes rapidly normalized in our culture, it becomes more challenging for prevention coalitions around the country to impact youth substance use.

What are three pieces of advice you would give to current CP students for making the best use of their time?
1. Schedule time to schedule.
It's so helpful to have time planned and set aside for each assignment. Mapping out my time kept me focused and made my last semester so much more manageable.

2. There is always time for self care.
You're all juggling a lot right now between school, work, internships, and your personal life. Find a day, or at least half of one, where you can focus on your own needs.

3. Find what's difficult for you and do it as much as you can.
Don't be so worried about failure that you squirrel away your weaknesses. Instead, find opportunities to let them grow stronger.

Where did you complete your internship?
I completed my internship at Naugatuck Youth Services, where I helped to develop the framework for a mentoring program. I was able to ‘choose my own adventure’ throughout my internship, which encouraged me to look for and build the experiences that I wanted - that was an unbelievable aid to my confidence.

Where are you from?
I grew up in Hyde Park, New York, which is a small historic town about two hours north of NYC.

Where did you complete your undergraduate degree?
I completed my undergraduate degree in Psychology at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

What was your concentration in the CP program?
My concentration was in Program Development.

Looking back at your time at UNH, were there specific courses/experiences that helped guide your career plans?
Consultation! Not only was it valuable in teaching skills in consultation, but I've found that it has really helped me learn to communicate professionally with others in general. I also worked in the Academic Service Learning office with Sally Anastos, which allowed me to apply a lot of what I was learning in the classroom to the real world. Sally was an incredible mentor, working with her gave me experience in building relationships with community partners, a skill which I now use every day!

What do you like to do in your free time?
I grew up riding horses, and that is still my absolute favorite thing to do. I teach riding lessons on weekends, and have three horses of my own. They take up nearly all of my free time - but I wouldn't have it any other way!
Where did you complete your undergraduate and graduate degrees? What is your field of specialization?

I received my BA in psychology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Right after I graduated from college, I worked as a data analyst at Child and Family Research at NICHD for several years. Then, I went back to school again. I completed my MA in psychology at New York University and my PhD in social psychology at the University of Maryland College Park. I also received another bachelor degree in piano at Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea.

Where are you from?

I was born and grew up in Seoul, South Korea.

What classes are you currently teaching at UNH?

I am currently teaching a graduate course, Social Stratification in Community Organizations (SOCL-6602), and an undergraduate course, Statistics for Behavioral Sciences (PSYC-3301).

What drew you to the field of psychology?

I started thinking about psychology while I was in college in Korea. At that time I was a piano major student. In the very beginning, vaguely, I wanted to understand myself and other people better and I thought psychology might show me how to do that. Also, at that time, there were many problems in Korea and I saw many people were suffering from unfair treatments, which led me to question about why these things happen and how we can reduce these problems. I thought that understanding the minds of people (i.e., studying psychology) would help me find the answers to these questions.

And then, I came to the US and went back to college as a psychology major. During my first year as a psychology major, I came to realize that "prejudice" was what I had been interested in and doing research is my type of job. Since then, I have been working on studying prejudice and its relevant topics.
HYEYOUNG SHIN, FACULTY

What are your major research interests?
I am interested in why people have prejudice and how this process differs cross-culturally. I have focused on this line of research since I started studying psychology.

I examined cultural differences between Northern European-heritage and East Asian cultures in stigmatization of non-normative groups and in the role of economic competitiveness in prejudice toward immigrants and foreign workers.

My goal is to continue to illuminate general and culture-specific processes in intergroup prejudice developing theory-based intervention.

Do you have any ideas for future projects?
My next research project will be about cultural differences in dehumanization. I am planning to collect data in the US, Canada, Japan, and South Korea.

What do you know now that you wish you had known BEFORE you started graduate school?
I thought that once I complete my degree, there would be some change in my life. However, I did the same thing, e.g., analyzing data, writing paper, next day and I’m doing the same thing every day. The difference was that I’m doing more things within the same period of time since I started teaching. Fortunately, I like doing research and teaching, so I’m fine. However, if I knew that there would be no big change in my life after I finish my degree, I would focus more on my daily life rather than focusing on “completing a degree” itself.

What are some things you are currently working on in your research?
Recently, I have finished a paper titled “Social and biological intergroup hierarchy beliefs: A cross-cultural comparison between the US and South Korea” (with John Dovidio, Jaime Napier, Charles Stangor, and James Uleman). This paper will be published in Group Processes & Intergroup Relations this year.

Also, I have just submitted a paper titled “Differences, threats, values, and country-specific prejudice toward immigrants and foreign workers in the United States, Germany, and Australia” (with John Dovidio). This will be published in Journal of Social Issues this year.

What advice would you give to undergraduate students thinking about applying to a graduate degree in psychology?
Do what you would really like to do. I mean when you choose a major area. It would be a long journey that has lots of ups & downs. I was able to complete mine regardless of all unexpected obstacles because it was what I like to do.

Also, those with a minority status in any perspective (e.g., race, ethnicity/culture, gender, socio-economic status) may have to do some extra work to get the same credit. Sometimes, you might feel that doing these extra work is unfair. It would be an unfair thing (period) if you stop doing these extra work. However, if you keep doing these extra work and get into a certain level, these extra work and experiences would be a part of your ability. None of your extra work and experiences would be wasted.
EASTERN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION 2018 CONFERENCE

This March the CP Research Lab left Harugari and headed to Philadelphia for the annual Eastern Psychological Association Conference.

Nine students and two faculty members represented the University of New Haven and the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA). Student presentations took the forms of workshops, roundtable discussions, and poster presentations!

The students had a wonderful experience representing the Community Psychology Program. In fact, two of our students won an award for best graduate poster! Congratulations to Katie Tsitaridis and Andrea Shaker for their poster on Music Haven!

Aida Morales, Carsin Conner, and Rachel Caffey led a workshop on a type of trauma-informed approach utilized by the ALIVE Program in New Haven.

Katie Tsitaridis and Meghan Flynn led a roundtable discussion on "How to Enact Change During Times of Tragedy: Addressing Community Trauma and Policy Change after Mass-Shootings".

Andrea Shaker, Dr. Macias, and Kathryn Thamsen led a presentation focused on Cultural Adaptation in Community-Based Practice and Research.

Andrea Shaker (left) and Katie Tsitaridis (right) presented research on Music Haven, an after-school arts program targeted towards youth living in at-risk neighborhoods.

Danielle Todd and Brianna Grant led a workshop that explored methods of conducting motivational interviewing with forensic populations.
Community Psychology Club

The Community Psychology Club has been keeping busy this semester! We strive to represent the University of New Haven both on and off campus. Recently, we have been focused on giving back to our communities in the form of volunteering. This semester our members have gathered together to volunteer at the Bella Vista Senior Center, as well as on campus for Disable the Label. We also hosted an interactive workshop and panel to help students interested in getting their LPC. Our students donated for a community Thanksgiving food drive, and donated school supplies for Kaylyn Taylor's service trip to Costa Rica! You can read more about her trip within this newsletter. Our final plans for the semester involve working with the Counseling Services' "Mental Health Week".

We want to thank our current members and eboard for a successful and productive year. Congratulations and good luck to our CP students who are graduating this May!

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Email Meghan Flynn to get involved! (mflyn4@unh.newhaven.edu)

CPC 2017-2018
Executive Board Members:

Carsin Conner - President
Katie Titaridis - Vice President
Rachel Caffey - Secretary
Becky Taylor - Treasurer, 2nd Year
Kara Caouette - Co-Treasurer, 1st Year
Brianna Grant - 2nd Year PR Chair
Meghan Flynn - 1st Year PR Chair
Kaylyn Taylor - Community Outreach Chair
Sophia Fisk - 1st Year Liaison

Kaylyn Taylor in Costa Rica with donated supplies from CPC members!
COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY
ANNUAL PARTY

SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd
4-7pm
135 Ardmore St. Hamden, CT 06517

1st years bring a dish (main/side)
2nd years bring a beverage or dessert

Significant others welcome to join!

Email Meghan Flynn to sign up to bring food/drink
(mflyn4@unh.newhaven.edu)
WHERE WILL YOU GO AFTER GRADUATION?

I plan on continuing my education by pursuing a Masters in Human Services and finishing coursework towards my LPC. I will also be staying at my internship site, Family Intervention Center.
-Jess Miller

I will be working at Shoreline Wellness Center and gaining hours towards my LPC!
-Glory Smith

I am applying to jobs and going on a cruise to Bermuda.
-Brianna Grant

I’ll be taking classes towards my LPC. I’m starting my new job as a clinician and program coordinator at Shoreline Wellness Center in West Haven. I’m also planning on going to Italy this August!
-Katie Tsitaridis

I am working as a clinician at Shoreline Wellness Center and studying for my LPC exam.
-Laura Kaul

I will be taking my LPC exam and traveling to New Mexico.
-Kimaira Bernardini

I hope to continue working in Student Affairs either at the University of New Haven or at another New England institution.
-Amanda Sigan

Starting a clinical psychology doctoral program at the University of Hartford.
-Danielle Todd

I will be starting my new job as a clinician at Shoreline Wellness Center. I also am applying to doctoral programs and hopefully traveling on my days off!
-Andrea Shaker

I am exploring doctoral programs. When all is said and done, I plan on becoming a psychologist!
-Murray King

After graduation I am going on a 10 day trip to Germany!
-Cheyenne Payette

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018 GRADUATES:

Kimaira Bernardini  Cheyenne Payette
Rachel Caffey  Macie Prajer
Carsi Conner  Andrea Shaker
Sarah DeFumeri  Amanda Sigan
Ebony Graham  Glory Smith
Brianna Grant  Ashley Smith
Laura Kaul  Kathryn Thamsen
Murray King  Danielle Todd
Jesse Miller  Katrina Tsitaridis
Aida Morales  Leslie Wilborne
Upcoming Events:

APRIL:

APRIL 11 - Disable the Label
Rec Center; 10am-4pm

APRIL 18 - CPC Meeting & Elections
5:15pm, Harugari 118

APRIL 22 - Coastal Clean-Up at
West Haven Beach
(11am-1pm)

APRIL 22 - Community Psychology
Department Party
(4-7pm)

APRIL 29 - CPC Hiking Trip at
Sleeping Giant (11:30am)

MAY:

MAY 2 - Reading Day;
No Classes

MAY 3-11 - Final Exams

MAY 12 - Commencement

How do I Get Involved?

Become a member of SCRA;
Society for Community Research and
Action, Division 27 of the American
Psychological Association
Student membership - $30; visit www.sgra27.org

Join Community Psychology Club (CPC)
Look out for meeting reminders,
or email Meghan Flynn for more information;
[mflynn4@unh.newhaven.edu]

UNH CP Research Lab
email Melissa Whitson if interested;
[mwhitson@newhaven.edu]

What Are Your Plans This Summer?

"I plan to visit Sesame Place with my daughter,
and enjoy the Dominican Republic for my best
friend's birthday. This summer includes a lot of
self care and relaxation with my daughter!"
- Keona Leary

"I am taking a family vacation to
Greece. It's my first time visiting a non-
Spanish country!"
-Alexandra "Lexie" Mercado

"Traveling somewhere new!"
-Sophia Fisk

"I'm "unplugging" from all
technology and going camping
for a week! I also plan to visit
friends & family."
-Meghan Flynn

"Studying for my GRE!"
-Kaylyn Taylor

"I'll be working and taking
summer classes. In July I'm
going to a concert and in
August I'm going home to
Georgia to visit family!"
-Jordan Drake