

# M.A. CHRONICLE

## the year in review

### Graduate Program Updates

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. Each year we report updates in the graduate program, including faculty and student accomplishments, collaborations and any other items we are excited to share. This spring we graduate fifteen students in our final rotation of our 45-credit program, which featured both a thesis and practicum track. It also marks the end of the first year of our 60-credit program, which prepares students for licensing as mental health counselors, and a 45-credit program

designed to prepare students for doctoral training. Students in both programs are represented in this issue for their future plans as well as their research collaborations and conference presentations. We are proud of our student accomplishments and know you will appreciate reading about them in this newsletter.

J. Platania  
Newsletter editor

## professional collaborations in research and conference settings

### Students in bold

#### Publications

Comstock, C., & Platania, J. (2017, in press). The role of secondary traumatic stress on perceptions of safety. *American International Journal of Social Science*.

Zaitchik, M.C. (2017). Legal knowledge and knowledge of the empirical literature. In Pirelli, G., Beattey, R.A., and Zapf, P. (Eds.) *The ethical practice of forensic psychology: A casebook*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Zaitchik, M.C. (2017). Consideration of idiographic data. In Pirelli, G., Beattey, R.A., and Zapf, P. (Eds.) *The ethical practice of forensic psychology: A casebook*. New York: Oxford University Press.

#### Conference Presentations

Aksterowicz, A., **Beeler, D., Gelvin, B., Todorovic, K., & Platania, J.** (2017, March). *Perceptions of hearsay evidence through the lens of reactance theory*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

**Beliveau, P., & Leguizamo, A.** (2017, April). *Ethnic differences in sentencing for sexual offenses: Preliminary findings*. Poster presented at the Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Conference.

Brooks, K., & **Haidemenos, H.** (2017, March). *Building each other up as we build ourselves up: Understanding the experiences of GRR! participants*. In Girls Rock! RI: Development and Evaluation of a Feminist Music-based Empowerment Program. Symposium

conducted at the meeting of the Association for Women in Psychology, Milwaukee, WI.

Cottle, J. L., & **Hopkins, C.B.** (May 2017) *Effects of morality and emotion perceptions on tendency to infrahumanize*. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

Leguizamo, A., Tooley, E.M., **Patel, D.**, Clavette, J., Masuk, A., McHugh, S., & Ziolk, H. (2017, May). *Generational and gender differences in mindfulness, resilience, and spirituality*. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

Leguizamo, A. & **Beliveau, P.** (2017, April). *Framework for gaining multicultural competence as a sex offender treatment provider*. Workshop to be presented at the Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers conference.

Leguizamo, A. (2016, November). *The elephant in the room: Multicultural issues in sex offender treatment*. Plenary presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers conference, Orlando, FL.

Platania, J., **Rumschik, D.**, **Gelvin, B.**, & **Todorovic, K.** (2017, May). *Counterargument and initial position in the context of positioning theory*. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

Rice, J., **Beeler, D.**, **Gelvin, B.**, **Todorovic, K.**, & Platania, J. (2017, March). *Implicit stereotypes: The role of empathy*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

**Shuster, C.**, & Houck, C. (2017, May). *The role of emotion regulation in parent-child communication about sexual behaviors*. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

Toglia, M., Berman, G. L., Gloger, C., **Todorovic, K.**, & **Beeler, D.** (2017, April). *An archival analysis of the Innocence Project*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Showcase of Osprey Advancements in Research & Scholarship (SOARS), University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL.

**Uber, J.**, Behrends, E., Dinnean, M., Ferrari, N., & Leguizamo, A. (2017, May). *Barriers to the reporting of campus sexual assaults: An exploration of gender differences*. Poster accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Psychological Science, Boston, MA.

### Thesis Project Descriptions

The following are brief abstracts of thesis projects.

Perceptions of Mental Illness and Help-Seeking through the Lens of Perfectionism  
*Lexi Nichol, Thesis Advisor Judith Platania, Ph.D.*

In the current study, we are examining the relationship among perfectionism, stigma, and other traits associated with mental illness. We are examining whether perceptions of help-seeking are related to the access services offered to the distressed.

Predictive Ability of Attachment Style and Alcohol-Use Constructs on Young Adult Relationship Satisfaction  
*Briana Ransford, Thesis Advisor Erin Tooley, Ph.D.*

Alcohol use and attachment style are important factors in predicting relationship satisfaction in adults. The current study examined these constructs in a young adult sample. Attachment avoidance and anxiety predicted relationship satisfaction over and above alcohol use constructs.

*Juror Perceptions of Disability: Victim Credibility, Testimony, and Decision Making*  
*Jacqueline Garcia, Thesis Advisor Judith Platania, Ph.D.*

Our study examines the moderating influence of victim age in the relation between type of disability and perceptions of the victim. We expect juror attitudes towards individuals with disabilities to predict perceptions of both the defendant and victim.

*Perceptions of Police Legitimacy: The Role of Police Officer Rank and Level of Aggression*  
*Marissa L. Donahue, Thesis Advisor Judith Platania, Ph.D.*

In the current study, we examine the influence of aggression and rank on individuals' perceptions of rule violating behavior, legal cynicism and police legitimacy. In addition, we examine the mediating effects of procedural justice.

## future plans

### *professional goals*

We are proud to report the academic plans of the graduating class of 2017 which include acceptance and admission into the following clinical psychology programs commencing Fall 2017. Congratulations to all our upcoming graduates and best of luck in your academic and professional careers!

#### *Psy.D.*

Loma Linda University  
Nova Southeastern University

#### *Ph.D.*

Alliant University  
Palo Alto University  
Sam Houston State University

### *some successes we are proud to report*



*Alejandro Leguizamo, Ph.D. and Seung Lee (Class of 2014) at the annual meeting of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). Seung is currently attending a PhD program at Carleton University in Ottawa. He delivered two presentations at this conference. Dr. Leguizamo was one of two keynote speakers at ATSA addressing multicultural issues in sex offender treatment.*

#### *Class of 2008*

**Trevor H. Barese**, Ph.D. is Publisher and Editor-In-Chief of the *Open Access Journal of Forensic Psychology*. **Nathan E. Cook** is Associate Editor.

#### *Class of 2009*

**Paiva-Salisbury, M. L.**, Gill, A., & Stickle, T. (2016). Isolating trait and method variance in the measurement of callous and unemotional traits. *Assessment*, 1, 1-9.

Campbell, I. L., **Rivard (Rowback), J.**, & Schreiber-Compo, N. (2016). Mock-jurors' perception of blind v. non-blind interviewing: The role of recantation. *Psychological Inquiry*, 21(2), 15-22.

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