Welcome back undergraduate and graduate students and faculty to the Fall 2012 semester. From a clinical training perspective, fall is the time of year when our Ph.D. candidates in their fourth or fifth year of study undergo the competitive process of applying for clinical internship. The clinical internship consists of a full-year of supervised clinical practice in a healthcare setting. It represents, typically, the first time in the career of a doctoral student that they would be engaged in the full-time professional practice of clinical psychology, as opposed to engaging in a blend of teaching, research, and clinical activity. This year, Suffolk University has 13 students entering into the competitive process of obtaining an internship slot within a program approved by the APA. We also have 20 students who are currently on clinical internship. The annual cycle continues for those 20 students as most of them are now applying for a clinical post-doctoral fellowship, though some of them may be thinking of applying for their first job as psychologists! The goal of a post-doctoral fellowship is typically to focus on the advanced preparation of the candidate in a specific area of professional practice and/or research (health, pediatric, forensic, neuropsychology, etc.). The clinical internship year involves more general preparation in diagnostic, assessment, and intervention skills. Continued on pg. 4

Meet the New Faculty in the Psychology Department

Dr. Rose DiBiase
Dr. David Medoff
Dr. Tim Poynton
Dr. David Shumaker

This past summer, the Psychology department welcomed four new faculty as we were joined by the Mental Health and School Counseling Masters programs. Turn to pg. 2 and get to know them better!
Meet the Faculty, Continued

Dr. Rose DiBiasie

How did you become interested in your field?
I was a biology major for most of college. So, after college I got a job doing research on parental behavior (with rats) in a behavioral neuroendocrineology lab at Harvard Medical School and began a Masters Program there. One of my first courses was a developmental psychology course taught by Dante Cicchetti. He was an absolutely captivating teacher and hooked me on the subject.

What fascinates you the most about what you do?
I have a job where, in both my teaching and research, I am constantly learning new things and sharing them with people who are interested. What could be better than that?

What drew you to academia?
I was actually planning to have a strictly research career through most of graduate school but when I was ABD, I took a teaching job at Bates College just for the experience. I ended up loving it but wanted to live in Boston. So, when a job came up at Suffolk, I went for it and have been here ever since.

Who influenced you?
I have been fortunate to have had a number of fantastic teachers and mentors over the years. I already mentioned Dante but some of my other influences have been Michael Lewis, who was my dissertation advisor. His enthusiasm, energy, and creativity were contagious. Bill Overton was another wonderful teacher, he made me really think about the process of developmental change and how it happens from a theoretical perspective. And finally, though I only worked with him tangentially, I really enjoyed Gerry Kagan’s work.

If you hadn’t been a professor, what would you be?
I’d love to write travel guides but more realistically, I’d likely be working in biotechnology.

Tell us a little bit about your current research.
In general my interest is in the interaction between children’s inborn characteristics and the environments that they are being raised in. My research is specifically focused on exploring whether children with certain temperaments are more likely than others to develop behavior problems when they are raised in unfavorable circumstances. I have just started a short-term longitudinal study, working with Gloucester Pathways for Children (Head Start) and several local nursery schools, to examine this in preschoolers.

What does your current work entail?
In my capacity as a tenured Associate Professor, I direct a graduate program in Mental Health Counseling and teach a variety of graduate courses including Forensic Psychological Assessment, Psychological Testing, Ethical and Legal Issues, Psychological Diagnosis, Clinical Practicum and others. I provide academic advising to many of the students enrolled in our program and I serve as a mentor and career advisor as well. I also conduct research, publish and present at professional workshops and seminars on a wide variety of clinical and forensic topics.

What aspect of your work do you enjoy the most?
I love what I do. I think the collaboration and interaction with others that is inherent in my work is what I enjoy the most. In teaching my graduate students, conducting research and presenting at professional conferences I am involved with others for a common goal. When teaching, I am assisting in the provision of newly attained knowledge, and that is extremely gratifying. When conducting research and/or presenting I am providing valuable information to the other mental health professionals, members of other professional disciplines and to the public.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
In my free time I have been known to sit back, relax and light up a nice cigar. The good news is that I don’t have that much free time. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

Tell us something about yourself that your Suffolk Colleagues don’t know.
I have very fond memories of going freshwater spin fishing as a child with my father and my brother. Although I do not seem to find enough time to do so, I still find myself returning to that rare childhood-like peaceful state of mind when I get the opportunity to cast a line.

What advice would you give to someone entering the field of forensic psychology now?
My best piece of advice to anyone entering the field is to acquire thorough formal training. Forensic work can be remarkably diverse and rich in complexity. It therefore demands a breadth and depth of knowledge that is impossible to acquire without solid training. For mental health practitioners, it is the merging of clinical knowledge and experience with the foreign culture of the law. For attorneys, it is the blending of specialized legal knowledge with the complexity of psychopathology and the field of mental health. Both fields are fully established independent areas of practice, and it is where these fields intersect that it gets really exciting and challenging. To meet these challenges well, one needs thorough formal training.

Dr. David Medoff

What does your current work entail?
As an Associate Professor, I direct a graduate program in Mental Health Counseling and teach a variety of graduate courses including Forensic Psychological Assessment, Psychological Testing, Ethical and Legal Issues, Psychological Diagnosis, Clinical Practicum and others. I provide academic advising to many of the students enrolled in our program and I serve as a mentor and career advisor as well. I also conduct research, publish and present at professional workshops and seminars on a wide variety of clinical and forensic topics.

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All Psychology Faculty Offices are located on the 6th floor of Donahue. Please visit our website for office hours:
http://www2.suffolk.edu/college/12099.html
Dr. Tim Poynton
What is your title?
Associate Professor and
Director of the School
Counseling Program

Where did you go to school?
BA, State University of New
York, Albany
MS, University of New York,
Albany
CAS, University of New York,
Albany
EdD, Boston University

What are your specialty areas?
School counselor preparation;
technology applications; data-
driven decision making;
professional development;
program evaluation

Tell us a little bit about your
current research.
My research interests are in the
realm of issues affecting K-12
students and the school
counselors who serve them. I am
currently engaged in research
examining the postsecondary
transitions of graduating high
school seniors, focusing on
how in school experiences and
attitudes relate to
postsecondary outcomes with
a focus on the transition from
high school to college. I am
also engaged in research
examining instruments
designed to measure the
attitudes and beliefs of school
counselors. Embedded in the
above research projects are an interest in
technology applications,
particularly issues around
the use of online surveys
and methods for
improving their efficacy
and usability.

Dr. David Shumaker
Where did you grow up?
Cohasset, Mass

Go to school?
BA, Harvard University
PhD, University of South
Carolina

How did you become interested
in your field?
Well...I've always been a peculiar
sort of dude.

What fascinates you the most
about what you do?
The challenge of and
complexities associated with
trying to be a force for positive
change through my words,
presence, and being.

What drew you to academia?
I love teaching and working with
students. I also enjoy having the
opportunity to do some research.

Who influenced you?
Many good people and a few less
good.

If you hadn't been a professor,
what would you be?
A man with a lot of free time on
his hands…

Tell us a little bit about your
current research.
I am very interested in finding
ways to incorporate existential
thinking into empirically
validated treatment approaches
for both adolescents and adults.

What do you like best about
teaching and working at Suffolk?
My students and colleagues.

What are some of your favorite
things to do outside of school?
Spending time with my
wife and kids and
dogs. Sleeping.

Specialty Areas:
Developmental psycho-
pathology; existential-
integrative therapy; child
and adolescent anxiety
disorders; high-conflict
divorce; group-therapy
training

Meet the 2012—2013 Psychology Department Student Workers

Calli Baylock is a junior Psychology major and double minor in Management and Women Gender Studies. Originally from Terryville, CT, Calli is an equestrian rider. In her spare time, she likes to be outside, cooking, dancing, or biking. She’s always dreamed of owning a horse and understands she must work hard in order to have this dream come true. She hopes to become a Human Resources Manager for an agricultural or environmental company (GO GREEN!). She enjoys working with or for people that work with animals or with the environment. After graduation, she hopes to work at a company of her interest and then go onto graduate school for her master’s in business administration.

Andrea Corriveau is a senior Psychology major originally from Tewksbury, MA. Not only is this Andrea’s second year in our office, she also is interning this semester at Cradles to Crayons as a College Corps. Volunteer Leader. In her spare time, Andrea enjoys running.

Elissa Gonzalez is a freshman Psychology major from Weston, Florida. When not working in our office, Eli can be found reading, baking, listening to music, and dreaming about traveling. She is very eager to discover what field of psychology will allow her to help people as best as she can.

Nisrine Naqqad is a senior Psychology major and Sociology minor from East Boston, MA. In her spare time, she likes hanging out with friends, working out, and dancing. She enjoys all types of dance, especially belly dance. Her goal is to enroll in Suffolk’s Administration of Higher Education Graduate Program in Fall 2013 and become a college president one day.
DCT Update Continued from cover page

The following is a list of the settings Suffolk doctoral students are currently engaged in post-doctoral fellowship- Harvard Medical School, Bedford VA, Brown University Memorial Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, UCLA Semel Institute, and Massachusetts General Hospital. Many of our graduates remain in the area, and after fifteen years of program operation, the Suffolk Ph.D. program in clinical psychology is developing a significant local presence.

One of the interesting aspects of our doctoral program is the range of professional activities our graduates engage in. A significant minority take advantage of our Teaching of Psychology and Teaching Practicum programs and become college professors (Susan Enck- Pine Manor College, Sara Beth Golden- Lesley College, Liz Carey- Bridgewater State College). Other alumni are primarily involved in professional practice but spend part of their time teaching, at least three of our alumni from the community teach in our graduate programs (Dr. Art Ferguson, Dr. Justin Hill, and Dr. John Smolinsky). For undergraduates who are trying to understand the difference between Ph.D. and Psy.D. programs, one of the differences is that the university-based Ph.D. programs often teach doctoral students how to teach- an option not necessarily available at a professional psychology school where the Psy.D. is obtained. Psychology is a dynamic field providing multiple opportunities to its graduates!

Mental Health Counseling Update by Dr. David Medoff, Program Director

The Mental Health Counseling (MHC) Program is off to a great start this fall in its new home within the Psychology Department. The transition has been smooth and we have settled into our new surroundings with relative ease, due in no small part to the gracious welcome from our new colleagues in the Department. We thank you all.

Welcome to our first year students who are well underway this fall and adjusting to life in graduate school. Our second year students are enjoying their classes combined with their year-long Clinical Practicum field placements all around the state - keeping their eyes on the prize of graduation this spring. Our CAGS (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies) students are also busy in their field placements and will be well prepared to sit for their licensing examination upon completion of this academic year. The MHC Program as a whole is looking forward to forging new alliances, making new connections, and collaboratively sharing the wealth of resources that it brings and finds in its new home.

Advising Update by Dr. Yvonne Wells, Coordinator of Undergrad Advising

We come to an end of another priority on-line registration advising season. During the semester we cleared approximately 340 of our Psychology majors with help from Faculty members who went above their quota to advise everyone. Of this number, about 150 attended our group advising sessions led by Dr. Yvonne Wells and Lauren Vermette. If you were in that group of advised students, good luck in getting into all of your favorite sections. We suspect that a number of you still need to meet with an advisor, either to be cleared, to discuss the courses you are planning to take, or to talk about you plans after graduation. For these issues I have office hours available and you can make an appointment to come by and talk. Remember, you can also contact your advisor or any other faculty member during their regular office hours, posted by their office doors and on our website. Have a successful ending to the Fall 2012 semester and a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

CE Workshop Recap by Dr. Lisa Coyne

Lisa Coyne and her colleague Aisling Curtin, M.Sc., a Clinical Psychologist affiliated with Trinity College, Dublin, and Director of ACT NOW Ireland, held a two-day workshop in basic and advanced Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) this past September. Suffolk University partnered with the Association of Contextual Behavioral Science New England Chapter to host the workshop. Participants included social workers, clinical psychologists, researchers, graduate students, and human-resources professionals. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy is an approach that emphasizes compassionate awareness and acceptance of difficult emotions so that one can pursue meaningful and valued goals in one’s life. The workshop used both didactic and experiential content, and received glowing reviews from participants. “We hope to host a weekend workshop twice per year, in addition to our monthly Chapter workshops, which are on the first Monday of every month, and are free of charge,” stated Dr. Coyne. For more information, contact Lisa Coyne at lcoyne@suffolk.edu.

Colloquium Event featuring Ben Lovett

By Alex Jordan, Doctoral Candidate, Clinical Psychology

On October 10th, Dr. Benjamin J. Lovett of Elmira College delivered a colloquium talk entitled “Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Research-Based Practice.” Dr. Lovett presented a provocative collection of empirical evidence that calls into question current practices in testing accommodations, and he engaged the audience in a lively discussion of what a more rational set of accommodation policies might look like.
Psychology Living Learning Community
As told by Reycine Thomas, Resident Assistant and Psych Major

The Psychology Living Learning Community at Suffolk University is relatively new, only commencing this Fall 2012 semester. The purpose of the Psychology LLC is to give on-campus Psychology majors the opportunity to form deeper connections with each other, faculty and graduate students, by participating in events and activities related to the major outside of the classroom. The LLC students all live within a single community (usually one floor) and have the added benefit of forming relationships with one another based on similar academic interests and pursuits.

Reycine Thomas, the Resident Assistant responsible for the Psychology LLC, along with Dr. Gary Fireman, her advisor, have done an excellent job of ensuring that LLC students are aware of the resources available to them and the manner in which they can manipulate these resources. Dr. Fireman has offered to advise all of the LLC students during their time here at Suffolk, and the students have responded with gratitude knowing that they have the Chair of the Psychology department as their mentor.

The first Psych LLC event for the semester was “Speed-Meeting with My Professor,” a business casual dinner in which professors, clinical psychology graduate students, and LLC students all came together to network and get to know each other better. The next event for the semester, a trip to the McGovern Brain Institute at MIT, was held on November 29th. The students had the opportunity to hear a little about what type of research they do at the institute, tour animal and human imaging centers, tour the MEG lab and Wet Lab (and hear researchers in those labs talk about their work), and also learn about possible opportunities for summer internships at the Institute. This trip was arranged by Jill Bloom, the General Psychology professor, who teaches the class all of the LLC students are enrolled in.

Undergraduate Psychology Club - A note from Eric Gerdner, Club President

On November 15th, The Suffolk University Undergraduate Psychology Club held a departmental Research Panel where a number of the faculty came to introduce their on-going research to students interested in getting involved. The event was a success, as we were able to make some connections between the students and the faculty, while maintaining an informative discussion. A few of the students and faculty remained afterwards to carry on and deliberate more in-depth about their opportunities! We hope to continue and perpetuate this sense of community within the department. However, the ultimate goal of the club is to provide a setting for students to construct and/or refine their interests within the field of Psychology. In order to accomplish this, we wish to be a resource for the student body by being able to present relevant, contemporary information regarding future professional and educational opportunities. Upcoming plans include bringing in speakers, collaborating with Psi Chi, as well as spring Jobs/Career event.

If you're interested in finding out more, please check us out at suffolk.collegiatelink.net/organization/psychologyclub

Psychology Dissertation Research Award

The Psychology Department plans to acknowledge outstanding academic achievement of a graduate student engaged in dissertation research through its Psychology Dissertation Research Award. This is a meaningful opportunity for alumni, parents, and friends to contribute to the success of a deserving Ph.D. student. You can be confident that your donation of $25 or more will directly benefit the Department’s award winner, to be announced in March. If you have already made a contribution, THANK YOU! If you have not, but would like to, please see the link below to make your gift online. Click on “Donate Now” found in the bottom right corner, and then under “Area of Giving” please select OTHER and enter: Psychology Award.

http://www.suffolk.edu/84.php

If you prefer to send a check by mail, please indicate “Psychology Award” on the MEMO line and remit to:

Suffolk University
Office of Advancement
8 Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
Alumni Highlight: B.A. in Psychology

Nicole Pitts graduated from Suffolk University in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a minor in Philosophy. She decided to continue her education and is currently attending Suffolk Law School to receive her J.D., while working part time at Black Rock Country Club in Hingham, Ma. She is currently in the process of applying to internships and is very interested in criminal law and thinks she want to become a criminal prosecutor.

Favorite memory at Suffolk?
It’s difficult to pick just one favorite memory at Suffolk; however, my study abroad trip to Australia was by far the best experience of my life. I went spring semester of my junior year, which I felt was the perfect time to go because I had completed the majority of my required classes at Suffolk thus allowing me to select my preferred classes in Australia. Learning about a new culture in the classroom is one thing, but being able to go out and experience what you’re learning first-hand is indescribable. The experiences I took part in and the people I met will forever hold a special place in my heart. My cousin, Breana, also attended Suffolk and we were lucky enough to experience Australia together. I gained a new appreciation for life and I thank Suffolk for allowing me to take part in such a life-changing adventure.

As an undergraduate, I also enjoyed participating in various volunteer opportunities. I graduated from a private, Catholic high school thus community service has always been a part of my life and knew I would continue volunteering in college. Specifically as a psychology major, I was required to participate in community service for a certain number of hours but ended up completing much more because of the experience. I volunteered at The Boston Rescue Mission and enjoyed every moment there. Helping others less fortunate than yourself allows you to appreciate everything you have and realize that quality is what matters in life, not quantity.

Advice for undergraduates?
You have your entire life to experience new things. Take advantage of the excellent education programs at Suffolk University while you have the opportunity, especially the Psychology department. It is never too early to get involved and start making connections with people. I was fortunate enough to have Dr. Susan Orsillo as an advisor and Dr. Amy Marks as a professor, and they both influenced me to pursue my education further. Their positivity and helpfulness pushed me to get involved and do the best I possibly could. When it came time to apply to law schools, it was Dr. Orsillo and Dr. Marks that willingly wrote recommendations for me. Their compassion and support was a huge part of me reaching my goal and getting accepted into law school. The Psychology department is an excellent program and its welcoming atmosphere is what made my college experience as successful and enjoyable as it was.

Alumni Highlight: M.Ed. in School Counseling

Originally from Danbury, Connecticut, Heather Northrop attended undergrad at Eastern Connecticut State University and majored in Psychology with a minor in Health. She moved to Boston 4 years ago to attend Suffolk and completed her M.Ed. in School Counseling in 2010, and had decided to stay ever since! She’s worked with youth since her first summer in college and hopes to stay in education for many years to come. She currently works at Malden High School as a School Counselor, and feels very privileged every day to have the job she’s always wanted.

What is your favorite memory at Suffolk?
Many of my favorite memories at Suffolk are from when I worked in the Student Leadership and Involvement Office. As a grad fellow in that department, I had the opportunity to work with student leaders and assist with planning campus wide events. Through this role I got to meet influential people like Jason Mraz and Johnny Earle (also known as Johnny Cupcakes).

What’s the best advice for undergrads?
The best advice I can offer any undergrad is to take advantage of your resources while you have them. Your professors, colleagues, and friends all have valuable experiences that you can learn from and help you get on your path. Those type of resources, and that kind of community feel, are more difficult to find after college. When it comes to Psychology majors, I strongly advise that you try different internships, jobs, and other opportunities in the field to get a sense of what direction you want to go in. Psychology is a big field with many different specific areas that you can indulge in!
Alumni Highlight: Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Dr. Veronica Sanchez Varela moved to the United States to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at Boston College. In 2002, Dr. Sanchez Varela enrolled in the PhD in Psychology program at Suffolk University. While at Suffolk, she completed clinical rotations at the Ballotti Learning Center, the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital and the Brandeis University Counseling Center. After completing her pre-doctoral internship at the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology, she defended her dissertation on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Survivors of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and joined the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute as a post-doctoral research fellow. After licensure, Dr. Sanchez Varela worked in private practice while continuing her research affiliation at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and she recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Rush University Medical Center, in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Sanchez Varela currently works as the clinical psychologist for the Bone Marrow Transplant and Stem Cell Therapy Unit. As a clinical psychologist for the transplant team, Dr. Sanchez Varela conducts pre-transplant psychological evaluations, provides patients with continuous assessment and interventions, and screens transplant survivors for psychological distress post-treatment. Dr. Sanchez Varela is also involved in research projects regarding the quality of life of cancer survivors. Dr. Sanchez Varela is married and enjoys talking walks through newly found neighborhoods and trying new restaurants.

What is your favorite memory at Suffolk?  
My favorite memory at Suffolk is my dissertation defense. Defending was harder than I anticipated; not because of content, but rather because of its meaning. By the time of the defense, I knew my dissertation subject and my data like I know a favorite song. But when the defense was over and I heard the word “doctor” for the first time in front of my name, I knew that a long trajectory had come to an end. It was particularly meaningful to have my family, my friends, and the faculty that had always believed in me present to challenge me and accompany me through that experience.

Do you have any advice for current graduate students at Suffolk University?  
Yes. It gets better! Sometimes I found myself and my graduate peers discouraged by the seemingly never-ending tasks, exams, papers, hours in clinic, that are required to graduate. It all has a purpose, and once you are licensed and practicing, the purpose becomes clear. To keep you focused, rely on your peers, on the faculty, and especially on your friends and family who are not in the program to help you remain grounded and enthusiastic about your training. It is a beautiful career, and it is worth the hard work.

Departmental Happenings

Announcements

Daniel Richard recently credentialed as a Qualified Examiner (QE) by the Massachusetts Department of Correction and conduct evaluations of Sexually Dangerous Persons at the Massachusetts Treatment Center

Sue Orsillo was awarded at the Center for Teaching Excellence Teaching and Learning Innovation Grant

Publications


Chiupka, C. A., Moscovitch, D. A., & Bielak, T. (2012). In-vivo activation of


**Presentations**


Basseches, M. (2012, June). Psychotherapy change mechanisms from the perspective of viewing psychotherapy as a...


Birtwell, K. B., Coyne, L. W. & Thompson, A.D. (2012, November). A proposed model for Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for parents of children with ASD. Poster accepted for presentation at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Conference, National Harbor, MD.

Birtwell, K.B., Thompson, A.D., Coyne, L.W. (2012). A proposed model for Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for parents of children with ASD. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Washington, DC.


Cavalar, R., DuBard, M., Birtwell, K. (October 2012). Increasing tolerance of routine physical exams in an adolescent female with autistic disorder. Presented at the annual meeting of the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy (BABAT), An Affiliated Chapter of the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAII) and of the Association for Professional Behavior Analysts (APBA), Amherst, MA.

Clapp, M., Basseches, M., Alvarez, V., Thomas, A., & Smidt, M. (2012, June). Toward a more broadly applicable and user-friendly approach to developmental analysis of change mechanisms in psychotherapy… and perhaps beyond. Presentation on Panel at the "Change mechanisms in psychotherapy: State of the art, state of the science, and a bridge between them." 43rd International Meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, Virginia Beach, VA, USA.


Orsillo, S.M. (November, 2012). Panelist in J. Block-Lerner & L. Cardacioto (Chairs), Building Psychological Flexibility Within and Outside of the Classroom: ACT-Based Approaches in Higher Education. Panel presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, National Harbor, MD.
Therapies, National Harbor, MD.


**Poynton, T.** (Presenter & Author), ASCA Annual Conference, "Guiding Professional Development," American School Counselor Association, Minneapolis, MN. (June 24, 2012).

**Poynton, T.** (Presenter & Author), 2012 Technology Symposium, "EZAnalyze, a free alternative to SPSS for teaching basic statistical concepts," Suffolk University, Boston, MA. (May 10, 2012).


**Dissertation Defenses**


**Pictured Left:** Suffolk Psychology Professors and Ph.D. students at a poster session at an ABCT Conference held on November 16th, 2012 in National Harbor, MD.
Chair’s Notes by Dr. Gary Fireman

The end of the semester fast approaches as folks finish up work and ready for the holidays. For December graduates this time is enriched with the excitement and anticipation. Congratulations, as the completion of the degree is a great accomplishment of which you should be proud. Hearty success to ya’ll on the next steps in your career. Please stay in touch with us as we love to hear how you are doing. In fact, you will occasionally receive email surveys from us in our ongoing efforts to enhance our curriculum to better serve Suffolk University students in being competitive in the jobs market. These efforts are consistent with the University’s new strategic plan and with the vision of Suffolk University’s Ninth President, Dr. James McCarthy. This plan has clearly articulated a student-centered approach to “empower students to become successful contributors to our global world.” In the Psychology Department we are excited to be engaged in this effort and are reviewing are undergraduate and graduate curriculums with an eye to build upon our success for offering hands-on experiential learning through partnerships in the Boston Metropolitan area.

Supporting these efforts, we have had the privilege of welcoming two new Masters programs to our department. The Mental Health Counseling Program and the School Counseling program both have a strong history of training graduate students to be license and/or certificate eligible in their areas of expertise and to contribute to the betterment of our community in health and education services. The new programs have significantly enriched the intellectual and professional community within the Psychology Department and the four new faculty have been a tremendous resource in advising undergraduates interested in pursuing Masters level training post college.

A second initiative in the department involves our becoming one of the new undergraduate student Living Learning Communities (LLC). As a member of this community a group of incoming students who self identify as interested in Psychology live together in the same residence hall with the support of a specially trained and wonderfully talented Resident Assistant (RA) and Psychology Faculty advisor. As a member of the LLC there have been monthly events organized by RA Reyicine Thomas and the Faculty advisor to enrich the educational and social experience of the students. During the Fall semester some examples of events include a catered dinner meeting with many members of the Psychology Faculty and Psychology Ph.D. students to discuss research and professional opportunities, and an organized lecture and tour of the trip to the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT. This has been a thrilling and successful new program and we look forward to continued involvement with the Office of Residence Life and Housing.

These are exciting times in the Psychology Department and at Suffolk University. I encourage you to follow our growth through newsletters and visiting us online. In fact, a new University Web page has been built and is being implemented over the next months. Please visit and let us know what you think. For now, have a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!