# Michigan School of Professional Psychology

# REALIZING OUR POTENTIAL

## 2016-2017 Annual Report

www.mispp.edu

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As President of the Michigan School of Professional Psychology I am very proud to share the Annual Report. There is much to celebrate and many to honor.

In these pages you will notice the dedication of the Board of Trustees, students, faculty and staff as they each contribute their unique gifts to the School's growth and success. You will recognize the generous support of alumni and friends. All work together to impact and improve the well-being of individuals, families and surrounding communities.



This past year the 35th Anniversary Gala Reunion provided the opportunity to reconnect and honor our past while celebrating our present and future. Achieving accreditation milestones of the Higher Learning Commission until 2026, and the American Psychological Association for the doctoral program, created a foundation for continued success. The School has achieved greater visibility, enrollment has increased, and new curricula have been launched.

In fall 2016 the School purchased property adjacent to the current campus to house a training clinic, large community meeting space, student lounge and additional offices/ consultation rooms. A Foster the Future Campaign for the new building has been established to increase donor support through naming opportunities, a matching gift challenge and engagement in MiSPP's next level of growth.

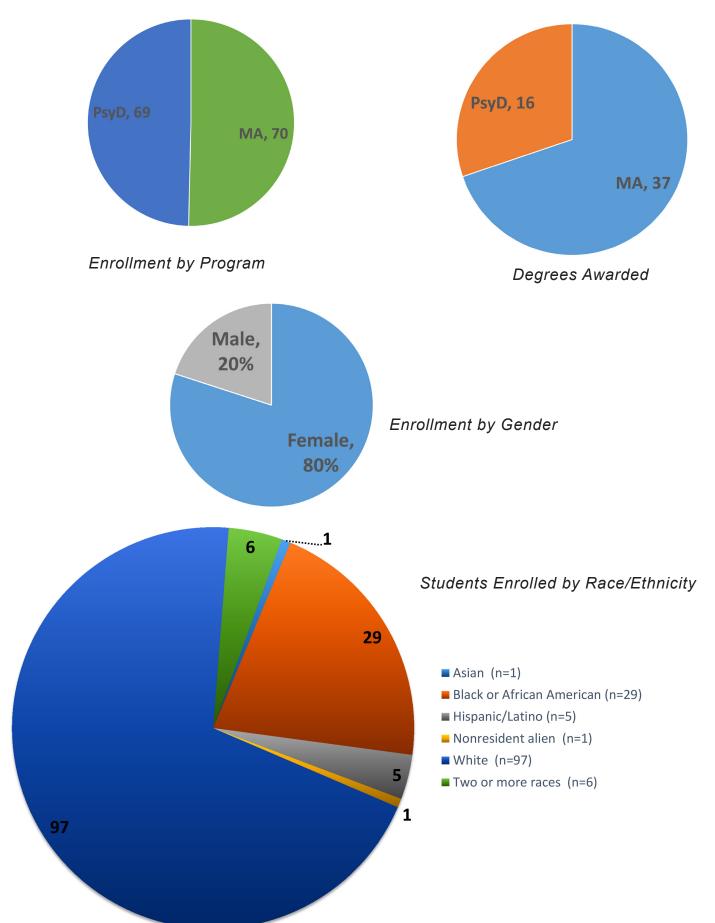
I hope you take pride in MiSPP and the remarkable paths we travel. Know that while we look to the future, we remain grounded in our core values.

"We hold promise and vision, remain constant in our intention to extend hand and heart, and are fueled with trust in the goodness of the human spirit." - Dr. Diane Blau, 2017

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## 2016-2017 Data



## 2016-2017 Board of Trustees

Sean Cook, Chair Tanya Martin, Vice Chair Stacey A. Gray, Treasurer Peter Hartman, Secretary Diane Blau, President Glen Fayolle Todd L. Lipa Heather Rae Paul D. Sturgis

## **Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate**

MiSPP is now offering a certificate program in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) that prepares students to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs). BCBAs work with individuals up to age 18 who have been diagnosed with autism, their families, and others who have developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and various behavioral challenges. These services take place in outpatient clinics, hospitals, schools, and residential treatment centers.

MiSPP's ABA certificate program combines a 1000-hour practicum training experience with 21 hours of coursework approved by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board. Students who have a masters degree in psychology or education from another institution may complete the ABA certificate in 2 years (six semesters), taking one course per semester along with five semesters of practicum.

The certificate may also be integrated into MiSPP's Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology program. Students must meet all requirements for both programs, including clinical and ABA coursework and both clinical and ABA practica. It is anticipated that it will take a minimum of 2 years to complete these requirements.

Graduates of this certificate program are eligible to sit for the international exam to become Board Certified BCBAs; these professionals are in high demand.

The program is led by Ruth Anan, PhD, BCBA-D. For more information, contact Dr. Anan at ranan@mispp.edu.

## **2017 Outstanding Alumni Service Award Recipient**

The Outstanding Alumni Service Award was established to honor alumni who have made significant personal contributions in their local communities through dedication and service to others. This award recognizes alumni who promote and demonstrate the humanistic values that sit at the core of MiSPP training in clinical psychology.

#### "Those who knew me knew my heart was in it."

Dr. Paula Whitman (PsyD Class of 2004) has dedicated her life to supporting women in recovery from substance abuse dependence. After 10 years of working at the Salvation Army Harbor Light, she recognized that for women to be successful in recovery, they needed reliable and supportive housing. She saw safe housing as the missing piece of the recovery puzzle.

In 1999, Dr. Whitman established Women Empowering Women, Inc. and began gathering community support for her vision of providing a safe and supportive residential recovery space for women and their children. Her dream became a reality in September 2004, when she created and became Executive Director of Paula's House, a home that could support up to six women in residence.

This original Paula's House represented a great start, but Dr. Whitman wanted to add another, bigger space – one that could accommodate women in recovery and their children in one place. Through fundraising and strong community support, in August 2013 she opened Paula's House II in a building that houses up to 24 women and their children. Both homes are designed to feel like a private home. Paula's House II is filled with positive and affirming art work – the sounds of children's laughter mixes with the splash of dishes being washed and women in conversation. Both homes provide 24 hour support.

Under Dr. Whitman's care, women are given the space and time needed to commit to sobriety in a supportive environment that affirms their positive choices and offers hope for successful recovery and future independent living. Residents attend AA meetings, go to therapy, and are taught the skills they need for daily living. Paula's House II also provides essential clinical training opportunities for MiSPP practicum students each year.

The success of Paula's House established Dr. Whitman as a leader in Monroe community. Two years ago she was asked to run for City Council. She rose to this new challenge and won.

Dr. Whitman offers her own personal story, including struggles with substance abuse, as proof of the possibility of recovery through the hard work of personal growth and the help and support of others. She credits her experience at MiSPP for instilling the humanistic values that serve to guide her clinical work.

Confident in the good that her work can accomplish, Dr. Whitman feels inspired on a daily basis by her interactions with the women she serves. "I feel like I am one of the most fortunate women ... because I have purpose."

For information about Paula's House visit: http://www.paulashouse.



## **Scholarships Make a Difference**

In addition to attracting students from economically and ethnically diverse backgrounds, scholarships recognize excellence and help students in times of need.

Privately funded by alumni and friends, these awards directly touch the lives of students. Because funding for these scholarships and grant programs is limited, only a fraction of our deserving student population benefit from this assistance. You can help ease the financial burden and increase a student's ability to complete his or her academic requirements by contributing to one of MiSPP's scholarship funds. In addition to those below, it is possible to name and fund your own scholarship or award.

**Cereta Perry Scholarship:** Honoring MiSPP's co-founder and her contributions to alumni and diversity, this scholarship is awarded to incoming students and promotes the diversity of the student body.

2016 MA Recipient, Ashley Craft 2016 PsyD Recipient, Andrea Taylor



**Jill Benton Humanistic Psychology Scholarship:** This scholarship honors MiSPP's former librarian and alumna. The award goes to a second-year doctoral student who demonstrates excellence in furthering the field of humanistic psychology.

*"I am truly honored to be this year's recipient of the Jill Benton Humanistic Psychology Scholarship. Since I set foot in MiSPP and began my graduate education in the master's program, I knew it was a special place." - Jessica Dluzynski, PsyD Student* 

**Aombaye Ramsey Diversity Award:** Honoring MiSPP's late faculty member and champion of social justice, this annual award is presented to a third-year doctoral student in recognition of his or her personal and academic commitment to diversity.

"This award solidified and validated my experiences and my motivation to continue fighting. I hope I can one day be an inspiration to others much like Aombaye Ramsey, and others like him, were to me." - Quaneece Calhoun, PsyD Student



**Marjorie Scott Scholarship for Excellence:** In honor of this MiSPP faculty member's endless commitment to excellence, this award is presented to graduating students of each academic program who are selected for excellence in research, academics and clinical work.

2017 MA Recipient, Adam Duberstein

2017 PsyD Recipient, Melanie Ho

**Student in Need Grant:** The grant provides direct financial support to students in good academic standing but at risk of withdrawal due to financial hardship.

## **Foster the Future**

In 2016 MiSPP purchased property adjacent to the school, providing the opportunity to expand the campus. The existing residence will be converted into a teaching and learning environment housing a training clinic, instructional space, large event room for continuing education and community outreach, and several meeting and consultation rooms. The transition from residence to school requires extensive construction and renovation.

For more than 35 years MiSPP students and graduates have been making a difference in the lives of others. The Michigan School Clinic widens this impact by providing psychological services to individuals and families in underserved populations who struggle with mental health conditions but cannot afford therapy. Under the supervision of faculty supervisors, students in clinical training will provide these much-needed services and will gain valuable experience. The event space will be used to offer professional seminars, conferences and workshops as well as a variety of community outreach programs.



Planned MiSPP Expansion

### Fundraising Has Begun!

There are numerous naming opportunities: a room, the clinic, or the entire building! All gifts create a legacy and fosters the future.

Support MiSPP's growth through a one-time gift or a multi-year pledge. All gifts designated for this campaign will be used solely for the purpose of renovation and construction of this new facility.

Through her personal generosity and in support of this dream, MiSPP's President Dr. Diane Blau has announced a matching gift challenge. Through December 31, 2017, Dr. Blau has pledged to match every dollar that is contributed to this campaign, dollar for dollar, up to \$150,000.

To learn more or to make a donation, please visit mispp.edu/future.

## Naming Opportunities for MiSPP's Campus Expansion

Please consider a one-time gift or a multi-year pledge: The (your name here) Clinic Main level with interior and exterior signage \$250,000 The (your name here) Event Hall Main level with interior and exterior signage \$250,000 The (your name here) Lounge Named! Main level \$25,000 The (your name here) Conference Room Named! Main level Upper level \$10,000 \$25.000 The (your name here) Seminar Room (3) Main level Upper level \$25,000 \$20,000 The (your name here) Consultation Room (2) Upper level \$15,000 The (your name here) Garden Small garden Large garden \$50,000 \$10,000 Benches (4) Trees \$1,000 per bench \$250 per tree 3 remaining

In addition to individual plaques and signage, naming donors will be commemorated collectively with a permanent plaque located near the main entrance. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## Celebration 35th Anniversary Reunion Gala

**Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future.** Our 35th Anniversary Reunion Gala, held in beautiful downtown Detroit on September 24, 2016, was a rare opportunity for current students, alumni, faculty, and staff to celebrate our rich institutional history. Attendees were invited to reconnect with the past through building tours of the former homes of the



Merrill Palmer Institute (MPI) and the Center for Humanistic Studies (CHS). After honoring our past, President Blau announced plans for an anticipated expansion of the current campus of MiSPP that will house a clinic and a community education and training center. *Special thanks to Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute and Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center for welcoming alumni and guests.* 



Peg Butler, Daphne Hauber, Jill Benton & Diane Blau



Angela Masur, Ann Renard & Paula Merideth



Heather Rae, Mareitta Alston-Williams & Tanya Martin



Shawn Rubin & Roxanne Chistensen

### Celebration Foster Our Future Brunch

President Blau reflected on the success of the Foster Our Future Brunch held on Sunday, June 4th.

"The Foster Our Future Brunch portrayed how MiSPP continues to grow in unique and fitting ways, solid in its foundation, sound in the present, and genuine in its vision."

At the June event, MiSPP alumni and guests gathered on campus for a celebratory brunch. Guests toured the newly acquired property, explored student research, and reconnected with friends and colleagues.



Guest Speaker: Dr. Miriam Engtrom

Guest speaker, Dr. Miriam Engstrom (PsyD '08) recently received the 2016 AAFSW Secretary of State Award for

Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad for her work with women refugees in Turkey.

*"...the reward of service is not an award or recognition. Service itself is the reward. I was in Turkey at a time of great need and, together with many other great souls, I responded."* 

While living in Turkey Dr. Engstrom produced The Women4Women Project, a theatrical fundraising event featuring an international cast of women that addresses issues women face globally. She also provided weekly group counseling, community building projects, and free tutoring to refugee women in Kirikkale, Turkey. In addition, Dr. Engstrom co-established ROLE (Refugees Online Learning English) for refugees to practice English on SKYPE with volunteers.

#### Many thanks to all of the alumni and guests who showed their support by attending!



Salma Ajo, Diane Blau & Carol Chambers



### Academic Scholarship at MiSPP

Academic scholarship is essential to the MiSPP community. We recognize the following contributions by faculty and students in the 2016-2017 academic year:

#### **Publications**

Blackstock, R. (2016). Origin stories: The phenomenological relationship between players and their characters. *International Journal of Role-Playing*, 7, 5-9.

Shepler, D., & Perrone-McGovern, K. (2016). Differences in psychological distress and esteem based on sexual identity development. *College Student Journal*, 50(4), 579-89.

#### Presentations

Dr. Douglas Callan (Core Faculty) presented *Communication styles and MS* for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Family Day Conference in April 2017. Dr. Callan also presented at Birmingham Maple Clinics on *The Role of Personality Disorders in Treatment* in May 2017.

Nathan Hayrynen (PsyD 1) facilitated a workshop on dream therapy, covering Imagery Rehearsal Therapy and the DRAW method of dream interpretation in March.

#### **Conference Presentations**

#### Society for Humanistic Psychology Annual Conference – March 2017

Dr. Diane Blau (MiSPP President) and Dr. Lee Bach (Core Faculty) presented *Self Transformation Through Heuristic Inquiry*.

Dr. Kevin Keenan (Core Faculty) presented Using Supervision/Consultation for Personal Development As A Therapist: Recognize and Work Through Countertransference Issues with MiSPP alum Dr. Nicole Reynolds (PsyD 2014). Dr. Keenan also presented Four Authors In Search of Meaning: Implications of The Film 'Anesthesia' For Understanding How We Construct Meaning In A Meaningless World with Dr. Sarah Kass, Dr. Brent Dean Robbins, and Dr. Alicia Trotman.

Dr. John Brennan (Associated Faculty) and Dr. Betz King (Associated Faculty) presented Who Let the Dogs Out? Clinical and Forensic Implications of the Rapidly Growing Emotional Support Animal (ESA) Movement.

Dr. Betz King (Associated Faculty) presented *Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy* with MiSPP alum Dr. Vanessa Brown (PsyD 2013). Dr. King also presented *Unleashed: Communication of Emotionally-Charged Topics Between Individuals with Differences in Political Viewpoints* with Adam Duberstein (MA), Jessica Dluzynski (PsyD 4), and Amanda Sternitzky (PsyD 4).

Roxanne Christensen (PsyD 4) presented *Creating Justice, Finding Humanity, and Supporting Love:* Behind the Gates of Evin.

Lindsay Najor (PsyD 4), Priscilla Zoma (PsyD 4), and Alicia Width (PsyD 2) presented *Working With Clients From Collective Cultures with A Humanistic Perspective.* 

#### Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Conference – April 2017

Dr. Dustin Shepler (Core Faculty) presented the following posters with current and former students: *Comparisons of Desired Partner Behaviors: Sexual Identity and Gender* with Alicia Width (PsyD 2), Kevin Johnson (PsyD 3), and Priscilla Zoma (PsyD 4); *Balancing Multiple Minority Statuses in the LGB Community* with Alicia Width, Kristen Suing (PsyD 3), and Andrea Rawat (PsyD 2); *Exploration of Sexual Anxiety, Dysfunction, and Satisfaction for LGB People* with Kristen Suing and Jared Smendik (PsyD 1).

## **Psi Chi International Honor Society**

This year MiSPP's chapter of the International Honor Society in Psychology (Psi Chi) hosted the Third Annual Psychology Research Symposium that welcomed student research on the *Intersection of Psychology and Neuroscience*. Students from MiSPP and other local graduate programs showcased their research posters and led panel discussions. The keynote address, *The Addicted Brain*, was provided by Dr. Sean Callan.

For the second consecutive year, MiSPP received the Model Chapter Award from the national orgainization.



Patrick Whitney, MA student



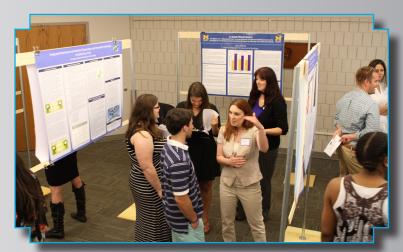
Priscilla Zoma, PsyD Student



2016-2017 Psi Chi Inductees



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sean Callan



**Research Poster Presentation Session** 

## **Community Engagement & Outreach**

Community engagement and outreach is a priority at MiSPP. This year's outreach efforts began with the annual Out of Darkness Walk in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) in September. In time for the holidays, Psi Chi members volunteered in Oakland County's program to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault through HAVEN's annual Gift Giveaway in December. In January, the Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Alliance (IDEA) committee collected supplies to fill 103 purses for the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries who support the homeless. During MiSPP Spirit week in the spring, students, faculty, and staff showed their #MiSPPride by donating money and supplies to once again support HAVEN. Throughout the academic year many student involvement opportunities focused on personal and professional development and career preparation.



Purse Collection for the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries



**HAVEN Volunteers** 



Famous Psychologist Scavenger Hunt



AFSP - Out of The Darkness Walk

## Thank you to our Donors!

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## **2017 Continuing Education**

All sessions approved by MCBAP Hours fulfill continuing education requirements for psychologists

> Psychology, Ethics and Law Wednesday, October 11th 6:00 - 9:15 pm

Cultivating Mindful Self-Compassion Wednesday, November 15th 6:00 - 9:15 pm

## 2018 Sessions

Transforming Despair into Repair: Rebuilding Relationships after Trauma

Domestic Human Sex Trafficking

Ethics and Sex

Intro to Treatment with Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Fluid Individuals

Suicide & Self-Harm in Correctional & Substance Abuse Treatment

Models of Understanding Alcohol and Drug Abuse Origins

Sex, Attachment and Substance Use

See www.mispp.edu/ce for detailed information