

LaSalle University Masters Program in Psychology



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Your New MPSA Board

This past semester the student body elected three new officers to the Master's Psychology Student Association (MPSA) Board.

Joe Spause, our new Vice President, is a second-year student specializing in Professional Counseling. He is currently working at a non-profit agency called Cradles to Crayons which provides, free of charge, low-income and homeless children from birth to pre-teen the basic essentials they need to be safe, ready to learn, and valued. He is a graduate of LaSalle College High School in Wyndmoor, PA and earned his undergraduate in psychology at Loyola College in Maryland. Some of his main goals with this new position are to increase student involvement in MPSA activities and to create additional methods of communication among current students, recent alum, and faculty.

As the new Bucks County campus representative, **Mike DeCristofaro** comes from a history of working in finance but now desires doing therapeutic work. He began at La Salle in spring 2008 concentrating in marriage and family therapy and plans to start internship this summer. He currently is also serving as a graduate assistant helping with open houses and working with prospective students and those newly accepted, answering any questions they may have about the program, "This puts me in the natural position to continue offering my experiences and assistance to students new to the program who are also taking courses at the Bucks campus." Mike would like to see the commitment of MPSA continue and expand and looks forward to offering himself as a resource for all students.

Marlo Santagata is enjoying her third semester in the professional counseling track here at LaSalle. She hopes to eventually get her PsyD in health psychology and work with chronically and terminally ill children. She currently volunteers her time at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia entertaining and talking to kids in the respiratory unit. She is also currently involved in pain research developing a scale measuring pain and depression. She is the new representative for La Salle's Montgomery County Campus and will work as a liaison for students and faculty between Montco and Main. She looks forward to getting to know more students in the program.



The MPSA Board: Joseph Spause, CP Mirarchi, Quyen Vuong
Marlo Santagata, Stephanie Young
(Not Pictured: Mike DeCristofaro)

Psi Chi Awards

On April 19, 2009, La Salle hosted an awards and induction ceremony for Psychology students. Seventeen new members were inducted into Psi Chi, the honor society for psychology majors and minors, including three of the new MPSA board members: Joe Spause, Marlo Santagata and Michael DeCristofaro (see page 1). Among those specially recognized for their hard work and achievements was former MPSA representative, **Teresa Lepitre** who was awarded the *John D. Rooney award for Excellence in Academics*. Teresa was also instrumental in helping construct the MFT Alumni Committee.

Two other students were recognized for their achievements in research. **Tennisha Riley** and **Joseph Sass** were awarded the *John D. Rooney award for Excellence in Graduate Research* for their work on adolescent's and their predisposing factors to alcohol consumption. For this research project, Tennisha and Joseph examined how an adolescent's socioeconomic status and parental relationship affect their alcohol use. On behalf of MPSA and the rest of the master's students and faculty we congratulate everyone who was honored at this event for their hard work and dedication to the field of psychology. We wish all of you the best of luck in the future.

Spotlight on LaSalle Researchers



Joseph Sass and Tennisha Riley with their research awards at the Psi Chi ceremony.

For the last two years, my research at the University of Pennsylvania's Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center has concerned health psychology, with a specific focus on addictive behaviors and physical activity in adolescents and young adults. Understanding how an individual's biological make-up, behavior and social environment influence their physical and mental health is of extreme interest to me. For this research project, my partner and I examined how adolescents' socioeconomic status and parental relationship affects their alcohol use. We decided to study the association between adolescents' alcohol use and their environment in order to help to finding a way to reduce adolescents' exposure to risk factors and high usage rates. Our aim was to identify environmental factors that could be either beneficial or detrimental to the adolescent's development. An awareness of these factors could assist adolescents to make health-enhancing behavior changes - *Joseph Sass*

I have always been interested in areas of development and behavior within the child and adolescent population; especially in risky behavior leading to behavior disorders. Joe and I both work in research that is aimed toward understanding the behavior of adolescent tobacco use, but we wanted to look in another direction that could have serious implications for adolescent alcohol use within certain demographics. The more we researched alcohol consumption among adolescents the more apparent it became that this was a rising issue in the U.S. The results that parental monitoring and parental education, through communication, had an effect on alcohol consumption were exciting for me being a Marriage and Family therapy student. I was thrilled to find significance of family dynamics and the implications it could have for intervention. Overall, I think Joe and I really wanted to research something that could relate to the current culture and lifestyle of adolescents in the U.S., and look for something that could significantly improve their health - *Tennisha Riley*

Happy Hour!

Master’s students celebrated the end of the semester and the beginning of summer at Cactus Bar and Grill in Manayunk. Twenty students spent a Friday evening enjoying fabulous food and cold drinks while reminiscing about the semester. Students were introduced to the new board and congratulated the new graduates. Everyone had a great time unwinding after final projects and papers. This event was brought to you by the MPSA and has been held at the end of each semester for several years. We hope to see you at our next event!



CP Mirarchi and Susanne Friedman

Caitlin Brown, Nicole Barnes & Nick Raftis



T - SHIRT SALE!!!

Come purchase a one of a kind grad tee while you still can
Buy 1 for yourself, 2 for friends, and 3 for the family!

Design



T-shirts are in dark navy with yellow inking
Cost: \$16/shirt (2XL tees are \$18). We only have M-2XL left so get them quick.
We accept cash or check. Please make checks payable to LaSalle MPSA.

Any questions about shirts can be directed to any one of your MPSA officers or to vuongq1@lasalle.edu

Dates to Remember:

June 3rd: PBTA Event: *Treating Depression and Anxiety Disorders*; 5-8 pm (www.philabta.org)

June 7th: Written Comps Review Session; Wister 301, 11-3pm

June 13th: Written Comps Exam (like you forgot!)

June 17-20th: PPA Annual Convention in Harrisburg (www.papsy.org)

August 6-9th: APA Annual Convention in Toronto (www.apa.org)

October 9: NBCC Licensure Exam @ Montco

IMPORTANT Licensure Information

Counseling students who will have completed most of their 48 credit courses "not having to have finished their internship" may become members of NBCC and take the exam needed for state licensing. *If you graduated 6 months prior to the exam date you may join and take it at LaSalle.*

We will offer it in Montgomery Co at the LaSalle Metroplex Center on **October 9, 2009**. Cost \$295.00 Next date: April 10, 2010

Only paper applications are available and must be picked up or mailed to you and returned back to me by **July 1, 2009**. Although this is the same test for licensing, when you take the test at LaSalle through our affiliation with NBCC you are actually joining NBCC to become a *National Certified Counselor (NCC)* after completing 2,000 hours of work experience and then as you proceed to 3,600 hours for the state licensing you use the testing results for that application process. You do not have to take the test again unless you did not pass. If needed, you can take it 3 times a year either at LaSalle or at a national site.

For more information: Sue Morano -
Morano@lasalle.edu/610-834-1056

The MPSA would like to say **CONGRATULATIONS** to all of the recent graduates of the Master's Psychology program!


One of our recent grads, **Anthony Neri** (the former editor of the MPSA newsletter), was honored to receive a Graduate Academic Award recognizing his excellence in academics and notable contribution to field experience. Our own advisor Dr. Darlene Hannigan presented the award to Tony at a brief ceremony that was held on May 13 at the student union building. Tony is currently working as a therapist in a transitional residence for recovering and chronically homeless adults. *Congratulations to Tony!*

A special thanks to Quyen Vuong for committing her time and effort in making all of the t-shirts for our fundraiser!



Questions, comments for your Student Association? Or would you like something printed in the newsletter? Contact us!

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