Many students in the program have told us they find the prospect and process of securing an internship site to be, well...daunting. You are not alone! But did you know how easy it is to access information about the approved sites and necessary paperwork, right from your MyLaSalle start page?

See page three of this newsletter for more details about how to use this resource and other important placement news and notes.

### A FEW WORDS ABOUT....
Sharing wisdom about private practice, employment after graduation, and licensing exams

**On private practice ...**

It has come to my attention that a few students have been discussing providing therapy to clients in a private practice setting before earning their master’s degree. This is not illegal, but it is unethical. As a program, we recommend that you do not begin a private practice until licensed, and have considerable experience working with clients. We also recommend that if licensed, once you begin a private practice that you continue to have supervision. Please be aware that you are entering a profession which abides by the highest standards, and while in this program, and beyond, we would hope and expect that you too abide by the highest standards.

Private practice is mentioned as the ultimate goal by many of our students. It is certainly an important goal, and quite achievable. It is also something that one needs to be thoroughly prepared for, and aware of, the responsibility one takes on with becoming a private practice clinician.

Our program is excellent in preparing you as clinicians and professionals, but by itself it is not sufficient for immediately beginning a private practice. You will learn much from your future clients and supervisors, and this continued learning will greatly enhance and strengthen your skills. Ours is a profession of continued...
The Comprehensive Examination Committee recommended this change for a few reasons. One is that in recent years Ethics has been added to the exam, and most recently a 15 question test on Field Placement has been added as well. With the addition of these two sections, and most of the exam focusing on clinical information and skills, the committee reasoned that it would be appropriate for the entire exam to have a clinical focus; therefore after numerous discussions it was recommended by the committee to eliminate Statistics. Additionally, the Statistics section of the exam has always been an option, not a requirement, for the Professional Counseling students; therefore not all our students were taking the Statistics portion of the exam. On a practical note, this change may enable students to take the exam earlier.

Continued on P. 3

Feeling out of the Loop? It’s time to get with the Program!
Use this URL to join LaSalle’s MA Psychology Listserv.
It’s the #1 way to stay informed of upcoming events and much more.
http://www.lasalle.edu/~collins/psych/students.htm#join
scroll to nearly the bottom and enter your email address for LaSalleGradPsych

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Erin Tries for A Tri

Erin is training for the triathlon while working full time at The Energy Cooperative, which is a non-profit co-op for renewable electricity and discount home heating oil. She normally takes two classes each term in LaSalle’s Master’s program, however this semester Erin chose to take on three classes! If you check out the credits for the newsletter, you will notice she is also the layout design artist. Erin is also an active member in Psi Chi and a student member in AAMFT.

Previously, Erin was not active with any structured fitness plan so this is all new for her. She decided to take on this challenge with the encouragement of her co-worker and triathlon teammate.

She credits the support of her friends and family and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team In Training, as being major factors in her incredible improvement so far.

Please check out Erin’s progress at http://www.active.com/donations/fundraise_public.cfm?key=ErinMaloneyTri
If you can spare a donation of any size, please give what you can. If not, just pass a note of encouragement on to Erin.

Her goal is to swim: .9 mile, bike: 26 miles and run: 6.2 miles!

Good Luck Erin!
MPSA Call for 2006 Nominations

The Master’s Program Student Association (MPSA) aims to foster communication and collaboration among students and between students and faculty.

Currently a student in the program attends the Graduate Psychology Department’s monthly steering committee meetings. The purpose is to raise student issues and assure timely feedback to students regarding programmatic and university updates. For more information, or to raise issues, give concise feedback, etc. please email Trish Miller at trishmill1@verizon.net.

Another achievement of this new organization is the student newsletter. Members who have teamed up to produce the student newsletter every semester include, editor Rhonda O’Shea (gradpsych_ro@comcast.net) and design and layout artist, Erin Maloney. Additionally, a student developed the Extended Learning Program (ELP) and will need assistance developing this program for future semesters. Please contact Julie Marsden (extendedlearning@hotmail.com) for information or to volunteer to help.

In 2006, we are looking to expand the current foundation we have built for the MPSA. Therefore we are calling for officer nominations for executive positions. The positions available for nominations are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

In addition to these positions, or in cooperation with some of these positions, we are seeking Project Managers such as: Educational Coordinator, Social Coordinator or Recruitment Coordinator. Educational Coordinator would be responsible for the ELP programs and setting up lectures. Social Coordinator would set up socials, fundraisers, etc. Recruitment Coordinator would be responsible for recruiting and maintaining new members.

See where we are going with this? The positions do not have to take up much of your time attending meetings. That is why we are going with more informal “project” manager positions rather than positions requiring students to attend formal meetings. Project Managers can use email and phone for setting up their projects. Also, our Secretary would be required to send out mass emails rather than type up formal minutes.

If you would like to nominate a student for one of the EXECUTIVE positions at this time, meaning President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, please send an email to gradpsych_ro@comcast.net. Please feel free to nominate yourself as well as others. And let us know if you are just interested in becoming a member, or volunteering to help with one of the programs. To become a member of MPSA please jot an email to: LaSalleMPSA@hotmail.com.

REMEMBER:
People can only hear your voice if you get INVOLVED! The best way to learn is to PARTICIPATE! Don’t forget, involvement always looks good on a resume.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM (continued from P. 2)

This change in no way indicates that the Comprehensive Examination Committee believes that the course in Research and Statistics is not important. Actually, it is quite the opposite. We are well aware of the importance of this course to your professional development. It is our hope that you, the student, will have less anxiety about learning statistics for the exam, and more energy for learning the information offered in the course. This course is valuable to you as a clinician and professional. We hope this change will heighten your recognition and appreciation of the need and value of research and statistics, and how they both inform and enhance our understanding of human behavior, thoughts, and emotions.

Donna Tonrey, David Falcone, Dee Hannigan
Comprehensive Examination Committee
The MPSA—or “Master’s in Psychology Student Association”—held its first social on September 30, 2005 at Finnegan’s Wake on Spring Garden Street. Many students who were interested in becoming more involved in the program, and just out to have a fun time for the evening, came to socialize.

The MPSA looks forward to having more events like this in the future! We welcome your suggestions for new activities and locations.

Focus on Fieldwork: Internship & Practicum Updates

Where do I start? Try the myResources: GR Psych tab of your mylasalle portal.

This tab should appear as one of the boxes on the main screen after you log into your mylasalle page. If you don’t see it, you simply need to add the GR Psych channel into your mylasalle layout, as follows:
1. Click on layout (located at the top of the page)
2. Click on mylasalle tab (or the tab where you want the channel to reside in your mylasalle layout)
3. Click on New Channel button in the layout
4. Select category - Academics
5. Select myResources – GR Psych and click add.
6. Log out of mylasalle, and when you log back in, the GR Psych box with “Internships Agency Listings” and “Grad Psych Forms” will appear on your page. You’re ready to start exploring!

If you need assistance with this, please contact Jim Sell, Director of Portal Communications at 215-991-3615 or jsell@lasalle.edu

Planning to Start Placement in 2006?

Information meetings for students planning to begin field placement in the Summer or Fall will be held at the beginning of these Professional Seminar Classes. This is your opportunity to get answers to all your questions and concerns.

I/O students not preparing for licensure need not attend these sessions. Instead, they should meet with Tim Erb to begin planning for their internship.

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Still need help? Contact the MA Psych office or the Director of Field Placement, Kevin Riley.
A Few Words...  (continued from P. 1)

If you earn 48 credits and graduate, and begin working in the field while earning the remaining 12 credits needed for licensing, you then begin to fulfill the experience requirements for licensing.

As an MFT, the exam you take is the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board's (AMFTRB) Examination. You cannot take the exam until you meet the education and experience requirements for licensing. AMFTRB expects that candidates will sit for the examination only after their credentials have been examined by their state licensing board, and are found to meet the education and experience requirements for licensure or certification. Once you have met the requirements, and apply for the license, you then will receive notification and instructions from the licensing board to contact Professional Examination Service (PES) to schedule the exam. After passing the exam, your results will be sent to your state's licensing board, and you will receive your license in the mail.

As a Professional Counselor, you will take the National Counselor Examination for Licensure and Certification (NCE). This exam can be taken before you meet all the licensing requirements. The reason for this is that many people take this exam in order to become credentialed by the National Board for Certified Counselors and Affiliates (NBCC). NBCC requires you to take certain courses and graduate with a 48 credit master's degree before taking the exam. (After passing the exam, to be credentialed by NBCC you also need to have 3000 hours of experience.) For our students, if you follow the sequence of courses for the 48 credit degree, you have a choice in those 48 credits to take two of the following three courses: Psy 612, 619 or 674. NBCC requires all three of these courses to take the exam; therefore you will actually have earned 51 credits before being eligible. On another note, it does cost more to take the exam for NBCC credentialing than it does to take the exam for licensing. If you take the exam through La Salle for NBCC credentialing, you will get a discounted price. Please contact Sue Morano, our Administrative Assistant in our Gwynedd office at

Continued on P. 6
A Few Words... (from P. 5)

215-641-5595 and she can inform you on how to go about taking the NCE exam through La Salle.

If you are planning or being licensed as a Professional Counselor in PA, and your concentration is Addictions Counseling, you can take the NCE exam, or you may choose to take either the Advanced Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Counselor Examination (AAODA) given by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Inc. (C & RC/A)ODA, or the Examination for Master Addictions Counselors (EMAC) given by NBCC. I am not sure of the exam choices in NJ or other states.

To prepare for the MFT exam you can check out the web site for Family Solutions Institute at www.fso.com. They are test prep company that prepares you for the AMFTTRB licensing exam. If you are planning on taking the NCE exam, you can check out the web site for the Association for the Advanced Training in the Behavioral Sciences (AATBS) at www.aatbs.com to learn more about their program in preparation for the NCE.

For further information ...

If you have any questions about licensing in PA, you can contact the board at (717) 783-1389, or go to www.dos.state.pa.us/ to get information, or www.pacode.com to read the licensing regulations. The licensing code is Title 49 - Professional and Vocational Standards, and the Chapter for MFTs is 48 and for PCs it is 49. Also, I am a board member of the PA State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors, and I would be glad to answer your questions. You can contact me at tonrey@lasalle.edu.

If you are interested in licensing in NJ, you get some information online by going to http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/medical.htm. I would suggest that you call the NJ State Board at (973) 504-6582 or (973) 504-6415 and request a copy of their regulations, because they are not presently posted online.

- Submitted by Donna A. Tonrey, Psy.D., LMFT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Abstracts
17th Annual Student Research Poster Symposium &
60th Annual Eastern Colleges Science Conference
Saturday, April 22, 2006
Saint Joseph’s University Chapter of Sigma Xi
"A Celebration of Student Research"
http://www.sju.edu/srs

COMPS! Dr. Montague will be giving a lecture on Human Behavior on Monday 2/27 from 2:30-3:45 in Holroyd 17. This written comps review opportunity was coordinated by Trish Miller. Please come prepared with questions and RSVP to trishmiller1@verizon.net.

STUDY PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT: Garbette Garraway, a Ph. D. candidate in PennState’s Counselor Education & Supervision program is seeking student participation for a dissertation research study examining the relationship among the social attitudes of master’s level counselors-in-training, the amount of program credits they have completed, and counseling program accreditation.

Students are eligible to participate if they are currently enrolled in a master’s level counseling program, or if their latest date of completing such a program was in December 2005. The survey is available online at www.psychdata.com. Students should enter the survey number (#11178) in the space provided next to “Go to survey” and click “GO.” This will grant access to a letter of implied informed consent and two surveys that will take less than 15 minutes total to complete on-line.

For every 100 eligible students who complete and submit the surveys, $40 will be donated in the name of The Social Attitude Research Study 2006 to ACA Foundation for its continuing work in assisting those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

If you have any questions, would like more information about the study, or wish to suggest other ways of increasing participation in the study, please contact Ms. Garraway at gmg183@psu.edu.

These announcements were among many recent postings on the LaSalleGradPsych Listserv. (Hosted by Yahoo Groups)

See page 2 of this newsletter for details on how to sign up to access this valuable resource.