2017 State of the School Message

Dear Friends,

Greetings from GSPP’s Ammi Hyde Building where we are settling comfortably in our 41st year of existence! Celebrating the 40th anniversary with so many of you over the past year was thrilling - hearing how you’ve used your GSPP degree to impact the communities you serve has been a humbling and rewarding experience. As you visited the School, read our newsletters, and attended events, you shared reoccurring feelings of pride and gratitude for how GSPP impacted your lives; both professionally and personally. As I reflect on our past, present, and future, I understand that GSPP has always been creative and socially responsive in the way we train students and in the many ways we serve the public. Connecting with our founders, Drs. Nelson Jones and Joe Dodds has reinforced this realization. We’ve managed to stay true to our values while also growing and remaining current with community needs, expanding into new ways to use psychology and impact the people and places we serve. This makes me proud - I hope you are, too!

We’re entering our third year in implementing growth in four strategic areas at GSPP:

**Sustainability and Accessibility**

We are committed to increasing the accessibility of our services and education, and this requires more external funding. Through our Board of Advisors, we’ve brought in some amazing external leadership who will help us strategically understand and implement plans to obtain the kinds of external funding that will make our education and services accessible long term. Additionally, we’re working to create a culture of philanthropy and gratitude at GSPP among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. In the past year, we’ve created easy entry points into donating to scholarships and have increased the number
of endowed scholarships by 27%. We feel the immense need to find scholarship aid for prospective and current students so that the alumni loan debt is lessened. Our alumni giving participation rate is the highest on campus among graduate alumni (7.83%) and for the third year in a row 99% of GSPP’s faculty and staff have shown their support of the school through donations. We believe in the work that we’re doing here!

**Quality, Relevance, and Reach**

Our excellent quality continues to improve. This year we had over 500 applicants for the 35 PsyD student openings and out of our cohort of PsyD students applying to internships, 100% of the students matched with 100% APA accredited internships, compared to a 79.3% national average. Faculty in all our programs continue to serve as content experts in their respective fields and are routinely mentoring students through conference presentations, publications, clinical training, and research. We’re averaging 79 graduates each year in our master’s programs, with each alumnus entering the workforce with solid clinical skills and unique content experience to impact communities in Forensic Psychology, Sport and Performance Psychology, International Disaster Psychology and Sport Coaching. Additionally, GSPP now is offering content expertise in three relevant specialty areas - Latino Psychology, Military Psychology, and Health and Oncology Psychology. Finally, we’ve secured funding to start specialty areas in Substance Use Disorder and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.

**Visibility and Impact**

GSPP is advancing the field of psychology by broadly sharing our expertise which reduces stigma and increases GSPP’s place in the community as a trusted knowledge creator. Through a strategic social media presence, relevant and community minded events, and faculty presence in local and national media outlets, GSPP is striving to be the hub for mental health in the communities we serve. In June, GSPP hosted community members for a conversation centered on women Veterans and their narratives of resilience and on October 11th, we’ll host a launch event for a new collaborative focusing on an interdisciplinary initiative that addresses those impacted by identity-based violence due to radicalization and discrimination based on race/ethnicity, nationality, faith, and ideology.

**Community**

We want GSPP to be the go to resource in the community for mental and behavioral health. Do you need CE? Do you need direct service? Do you want to go back to school? Do you just want information? GSPP can address these needs. Serving as an inclusive and diverse lighthouse for the community around substantive topics, GSPP is engaged on the local, regional, national, and global level. We are dedicated to the public good and this dedication is visible in all that we do - over 96,000 volunteer student field placement hours per year, partnerships with over 250 community agencies, sliding scale clinic fees, diverse clinical offerings, and so much more.

As we look ahead to the next 40 years, we’re proud of who we are and we want to move forward in the communities we serve with an even greater impact. We’re striving to be relevant in solving the bigger problems in our communities and in the world. Because of our ambitious goals, we know it’s important to look inward as well as outward. GSPP is preparing to go through our reaccreditation cycle with APA and will enter the self-study phase of the process at the end of this year. We’re excited about this opportunity and approach it with optimism, seriousness, and willingness to reflect. As we’re
evaluating ourselves, we want you to be a part of the process. We welcome your feedback and good ideas as we strive to be even better than what we are now. We can only do that together. Can we be engaging you as an alum or a friend in a more meaningful way? Are you missing something from us? Do you want more? Do you want less? Please share your ideas with us through whatever means you prefer. Email, call, post on social media, or stop by in person to share your input. It’s meaningful to us and will aid in our growth.

Best Wishes from GSPP,

Shelly Smith Acuña, PhD

PsyD Program Poised for APA Reaccreditation

The University of Denver PsyD Program began in 1976. The program was first accredited in 1979 and has been continuously accredited over six review cycles. The last site visit was in 2011. The next self-study is due to the APA Committee on Accreditation in May 2018. There will be a three-person team who makes a two-day site visit to Ammi Hyde in fall quarter 2018.

Besides conducting the self-study to keep accreditation, other goals include highlighting the growth, development, and relevance of one of the oldest PsyD programs in the country. The self-study will help us to identify areas of strength, redirection, and growth. Faculty will be able to update program goals and objectives to match the clinical needs of the Denver-area community and DU 2025 strategic plan. A fourth goal is to obtain seven to ten years of full reaccreditation.

All current PsyD program students, core and adjunct faculty, supervisors, and alumni, along with GSPP faculty, staff, students, and DU administrators are being informed of this process. There will be ways in which you may be asked to provide data and updates that will be included in the self-study. Please anticipate and participate in our surveys. Quarterly updates and summaries will be provided.

You can find more information here >>

I welcome your questions, concerns, and interest in the PsyD Program reaccreditation process!

Terri M. Davis, PhD
PsyD Program Director
Look Back at Last Year’s Events

Jan. 2017 | Alumni & Friends Hockey Reception
Our yearly tradition continues! GSPP Alumni & Friends gather every January to reconnect and cheer on the Pioneers.

Feb. 2017 | COPE Stories of Survivorship and Caregiving
The Center for Oncology Psychology Excellence hosted a panel of caregivers and cancer survivors at its yearly community event in February.

May 2017 | Philanthropy Gala & Alumni Awards
This year's Philanthropy Gala honored Dr. Lavita Nadkami with a faculty honor and GSPP alumni, Drs. Ken Martinez, PsyD ’78 and Emily Markley, PsyD ’15, with the School's 2017 Alumni Achievement Awards.

June 2017 | Narratives of Resilience - Women Veterans
The Sturm Specialty in Military Psychology and the Sturm Center hosted a panel of women veterans to share their stories of resilience while serving our country. The event was moderated by DU alumna, Anne Munch, Esq.

Student Feature: Lindsay Kibler, Sport Coaching Program
Spending two years doing anything will surely have an impact on your life, but Lindsay Kibler says that GSPP’s MA in Sport Coaching program opened up opportunities for her that she thought would only stay pinned on her cork board. Read about Lindsay's experience here >>

Alumni Feature: Marc Perkel, MAFP ’13, ’PsyD ’17
Marc is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital! The PsyD program allowed him to receive a core clinical foundation, while also pursuing specialized training experiences in
Faculty Feature: Dr. Tracy Vozar, Director, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Specialty

Tracy is excited to be joining GSPP in October as the Director of the new Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialty. She comes to us from Tulane University in New Orleans where she was a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science.

Tracy was previously on the faculty at Erikson Institute and at the University of Chicago’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. She completed her internship and post-doctoral fellowship in infant mental health at Tulane University. Tracy earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Iowa.

Her clinical and research interests involve the intersections between perinatal and infant mental health. She works clinically with parents and their young children using individual, dyadic, and group approaches to treatment. Tracy researches constructs central to these areas including perinatal depression and anxiety, parenting self-efficacy, and cultural adaptations to treatment approaches. She is looking forward to supervising students interested in working with pregnant and postpartum families.

In her spare time, Tracy loves spending time with her family, their two dogs and cat. She is a member of two Mardi Gras krewes that will keep her busy crafting and costuming from afar. Tracy and her husband enjoy live music and are looking forward to their first trip to Red Rocks.

Faculty Abroad Highlights!

Prague, Czech Republic; Copenhagen, Denmark; Monrovia, Liberia; the UK; Budapest, Hungary; Coatepeque, Guatemala; Durban and Cape Town, South Africa; Trujillo, Peru; Ayacucho, Peru; Sevilla, Spain! See photos and details here >>
Recent Awards & Media Appearances

- Dr. Brian Gearity, Director of Sport Coaching, weighed in on a local news story surrounding abusive high school coaching practices.
- Dr. Apryl Alexander, Forensic Psychology, received an APA Achievement Award for Early Career Psychologists at the 2017 APA Convention.
- Dr. Mark Aoyagi, Sport & Performance Psychology, was interviewed about a college football player's openness on having an eating disorder.
- The PsyD program earned a 100% match rate after Phase II of the APPIC Internship Match.

Read more recent news here >>

ENGAGE WITH US
Join Us for these Upcoming Events

Oct. 11 | Colorado Resilience Collaborative Launch Event
The Colorado Resilience Collaborative (CRC) is an interdisciplinary initiative addressing identity-based violence due to radicalization and discrimination based on race/ethnicity, nationality, faith, and ideology.

RSVP for this free event here.

Oct. 13 | Inside the Minds of High Performers
Join us for this event in NYC featuring Dr. Shelly Smith-Acuña, Dean of the Graduate School of Professional Psychology and DU alumni, Dan Quinn, PsyD, Senior Partner for Korn Ferry (GSPP ’00) and Eivind Lorgen, CEO, Nordea Investment Management North America, Inc. (Daniels ’85).

RSVP HERE
Oct. 20-21 | DU Homecoming

The 2017 NCAA Men's Hockey Champions return to the ice to take on Lake Superior State in the first regular-season home game of the year. Return to campus this fall for incredible hockey action and the return of cherished traditions for a weekend you won’t want to miss.

Learn more at [homecoming.du.edu](http://homecoming.du.edu)

Oct. 25 | MAIDP Student Presentations

2nd Year students from GSPP’s International Disaster Psychology program will present on their 2017 summer internships abroad. Themes include pre-departure, cross-cultural experiences, re-entry, and personal and professional growth. The formal presentation will be immediately followed by an opportunity for community networking at a free reception.

RSVP Online Here

Nov. 6-11 | Veteran's Appreciation Week

Save the Week! DU will honor our Veterans with a full week of programming. We’ll end the week on Veteran’s Day at the DU Men’s Hockey vs St. Cloud Game on Nov. 11th.

More Info Coming Soon

Jan. 19 | GSPP Alumni & Friends Hockey Reception

Our annual tradition! Join GSPP alumni, students, faculty, staff, & friends for a family fun night of engagement and connection while we watch DU Men’s Hockey take on Nebraska Omaha. Go Pios!

RSVP Online Coming Soon>>
Since 1976, we have been advancing the public good through innovative research, service, and training, meeting the mental health care needs of diverse and underserved populations in Denver and beyond—improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities.