



---

Counseling Psychology PsyD Program

---

# Spring 2022 Newsletter

## In This Issue...

- Message from the Director
- Graduating Students
- Faculty Spotlight - Dr. DeMartino
- Peer-to-peer Initiative: Pride Cares
- Internship Placements
- Closing



Editors: Dr. Scarlett Choi, Alex Lerner, Jennifer Tarm, and Julia Jermyn



---

# Director's Message

---

I want to welcome you to our Spring 2022 newsletter. I want to thank my dedicated fellows, Alex Lerner, Julia Jermyn and Jennifer Tarm for writing and editing this newsletter and for all the other amazing work they have done for the program this semester. In this busy time of wrapping up another academic year, I invite you to pause to look around and share your care, support and celebration. First of all, I want to celebrate a successful completion of a full academic year of in-person learning. This is thanks to everyone's efforts: everyone's cooperation with the COVID-related policies, close communication among the students, faculty, and the college, our students' resiliency and enthusiasm for learning despite any hardships, and the faculty's supportive and flexible class management. While the world is returning back to normal following the COVID pandemic, many students, faculty and staff suffered from COVID, flu, and other illnesses throughout this semester. It seems like we are all trying to get our immune systems back in working order. I hope you all take time this summer to engage in self-care, physically, mentally and spiritually, and come back in fall semester with a rejuvenated immune system.

I also want to invite you to expand your attention and care to the larger, global community. The COVID pandemic reminded us that we are the world. What happens in one region of the world is not only limited to that region, but affects everyone in the world. As a psychologist and a board member of Division 52 International Psychology, I am deeply concerned about the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, which is still ongoing. I would encourage you to pay attention to the world news, check out resources on the APA website and see what you can do to support the people struggling in the affected region and advocate for humanity at large.

Finally, I am wrapping up this letter with a personal reflection on the past three years since I joined the Springfield College PsyD program. Personally, Spring 2022 is a meaningful semester for me as I got tenured based on my 14 years of faculty experience and 3 years of service to Springfield College. The year of my arrival, 2019, I observed many transitions and instabilities of the program, department and the school. My second year, 2020, was the historical emergence of the COVID-19 outbreak. The following year, 2021, was marked by an extension of the pandemic and many concerns and movements in the social and political climates. With all these challenges, my primary goals as a new director were to create a structure to establish stability, transparency and sense of normalcy. I truly appreciate all my students' and colleagues' support, patience, tolerance and collaboration with me throughout this effort- including mistakes, trials and errors. As a result, our program has achieved significant success. I am proud of the accomplishments and growth of our program that we have made together. All students have been matched for practicum and internships, mostly for highly competitive sites; student admission application pool has significantly increased in the recent years, with increased student diversity as well; our alumni secured highly competitive jobs, with increased rate of licensure; and we successfully recruited two new excellent faculty members, Dr. Tatiana Grey and Dr. Sean DeMartino.

Thank you everyone for all your hard work and care for our learning community, and I look forward to our ongoing success and development in the coming years.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scarett Choi".

Scarett Choi, Ph.D.  
PsyD Program Director

---

GRADUATING STUDENTS

C/O  
2021

C/O  
2022

Julie  
**Scott Anderson** Freedman

Melissa Devencenzi

**Marcus Dumas** Christopher  
Trevor Philip Imholte Praetzel  
Jaskiw **Adam Landry**

Virginia Schwager

Denis **Kelsi Baker**

Uka Rachel Bristol

**Elena Cela**

Natalie Leger Stanley

**Emily Gajda**

**Tyler**





# Welcome Dr. Sean DeMartino!

Full-Time PsyD Professor  
Practicum Coordinator

Springfield College &   
Community Services Institute

Congratulations on your new position as a member of the PsyD faculty!

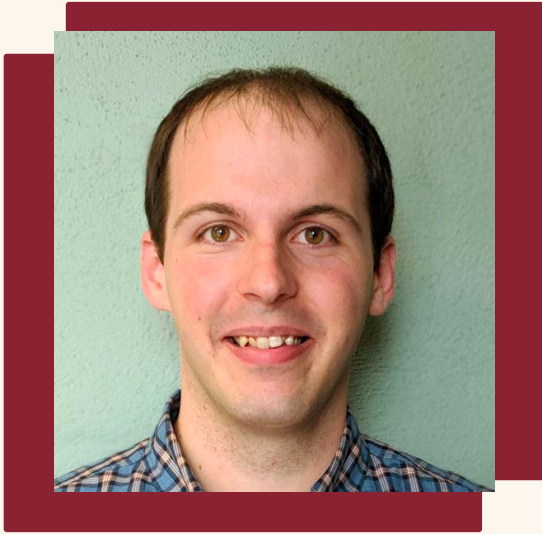
Do you have any reflections on your own journey from student to licensed practitioner and educator that you'd like to share?

"As I reflect on my journey from student to psychologist, I would encourage those of you reading this to allow yourself permission to experience and learn from the "growing pains" that inevitably occur as a student and early career professional. I am a better practitioner, a better scholar, and a better educator today in part due to the feedback, both positive and constructive, that I have received (and continue to receive) from mentors, instructors, supervisors, and trusted colleagues. That's not to say that it has always been easy, but I have found the journey to be well worth it even when there were moments as a student when I wondered if it would be."

"Spending time with my family and playing with my two sons helps to ground me. My oldest son just started tee-ball, so I'll be spending time over the next several months at the baseball field cheering him on! I am also a big Marvel and DC fan and am a bit behind on the most recent shows and movies that have come out since my youngest son was born in September, so I will also be working to catch up on those over the next several months. Professionally, I plan to work towards obtaining certification from the Biofeedback Certification International Alliance (BCIA) in neurofeedback. I am also excited to continue working on collaborations for potential in-house training opportunities for students!"

There is more to you than counseling and education, though.

Tell us about what you do for yourself and what may be on the horizon for you.



# Welcome Dr. Sean DeMartino!

Full-Time PsyD Professor  
Practicum Coordinator

Springfield College &   
Community Services Institute

Every educator has a personal style that leaves an impression on the identity of a program.

What impression do you think the incoming 2022 cohort will get with you on board?

"The word authentic keeps coming to mind as I think about this question. My hope is not only that I will provide the impression that I am authentic to who I am as a psychologist, but also provide the impression that students can be authentic to who they are as a psychologist-in-training."

"It is safe to say that telehealth is here to stay. I anticipate that we will continue to see developments in the use of virtual methods for therapy, assessment, and prevention efforts. I would encourage aspiring counselors to look out for ways to integrate technology into their practice. I would also encourage aspiring counselors to become familiar with trauma informed approaches to therapy as mental health issues (hopefully) continue to become less stigmatized and more people seek services."

No one can see the future - but that doesn't mean we can't make some educated guesses!

What trends or opportunities do you think aspiring counselors should look out for in counseling psychology in the next decade?

# Pride Cares

We are proud to announce the launch of a student-led initiative called Pride Cares co-piloted by four of our PsyD students, Hunter Soens, Olivia Vasiloff, Nicole Walden and Connor Croan!

Pride Cares aims to connect students with resources for them to stay physically and mentally healthy. Modeled after The Green Bandana Project at the University of Wisconsin, Pride Cares aims to train student volunteers to understand mental health topics, recognize warning signs, and appropriately connect with their peers in time of need.

Training sessions were held this spring semester and led by Lauren Gray (LICSW), our PsyD students, and Robert Accorsi. Trained students will then carry a green tag where it is visible (e.g., on a backpack) so a student in need of mental health support would know they can approach them in confidence.



This coalition of students will not offer mental health counseling, but instead start a dialogue with their peer and help connect them to other mental health resources. Student volunteers for Pride Cares come from many different groups across Springfield's campus such as Springfield College Student Athlete Leadership Team, Minds in Motion, and students in the College counseling psychology doctoral (PsyD) program.

---


*If you are interested in learning more about Pride Cares, please contact  
Lauren Gray at [lgray2@springfield.edu](mailto:lgray2@springfield.edu).*

## INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS




**Charisse  
DelVecchio**

**Child Guidance Center of  
Southern Connecticut**

**Stamford, Connecticut** 

**Mary  
Iellamo**

**Brattleboro Retreat**

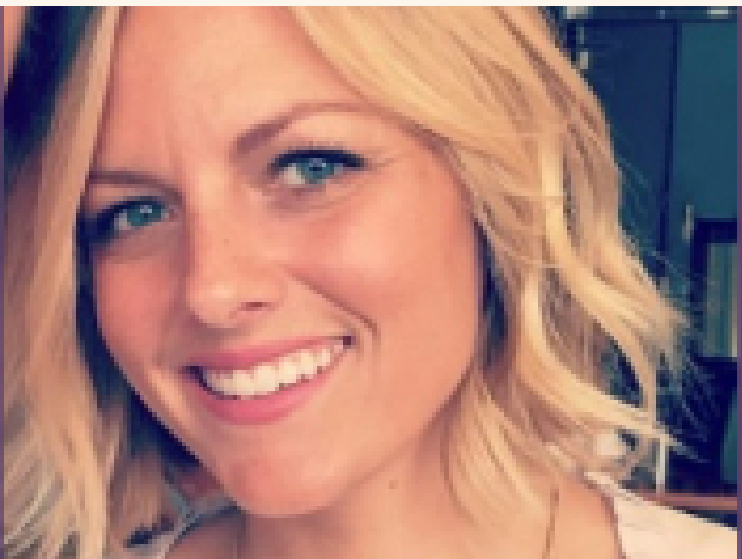
 **Brattleboro, Vermont**



**Amy  
Renolds**

**Edith Nourse Rogers  
Memorial VA Medical Center**

**Bedford, Massachusetts** 




INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS




Jaleesa  
Marshall-Jeng

University of Massachusetts  
Center for Counseling

Amherst, Massachusetts 

Alyssa  
Shock

State University of New York  
at Oneonta

 Oneonta, New York



Congratulations to all of our internship applicants on receiving placement next year! We wish you much success in this next chapter of your journey!





---

Counseling Psychology PsyD Program

---

# Stay Safe and Healthy!

**Remember, the semi-annual PsyD Program Town Hall is on May 2nd at 5:30 PM and will be held in person at East Campus. We look forward to seeing everyone!**

Have a Great Summer!

---



*Follow us on [Facebook!](#)*