

PSYCHOLOGY-CHILD LIFE FIELDWORK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 1st edition of the Psychology-Child Life fieldwork newsletter! We present here important, interesting, and noteworthy fieldwork dates and opportunities to share with you.

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Psychology-Child Life Students and Faculty in The Dominican Republic



Psychology-Child Life student alum Dana Simpson, now in UC's Master of Occupational Therapy program

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Welcome!

We have been making many exciting changes in the Psychology-Child Life department and this newsletter is just the start of them! As you may have heard, we are just beginning to implement our master's program for those wishing to become Certified Child Life Specialists off the ground. Bearing that in mind, we also want to make sure we are giving ample attention to the ripple effects that causes in the undergraduate program. As the focus of my

position is mainly concerned with fieldwork, I hope that this newsletter will serve as an appropriate medium for highlighting opportunities for those students at both levels. I cannot express the importance of these opportunities to you enough and hope this newsletter will be an instructive tool to helping you find the ones that will afford you and your careers the most advantageous opportunities possible!

Upcoming Important Dates and Deadlines

MANDATORY MEETING FOR
THOSE STUDENTS
COMPLETING PRACTICUM
PCL 272 and PCL 272L:

February 8th- 2pm- Willard
Conference Room

February 13th- 2pm- Willard
Conference Room

MANDATORY MEETING FOR
THOSE STUDENTS
COMPLETING PCL 460:
Fieldwork Experience

March 1st- 2pm Willard
Conference Room

March 8th- 2pm- Willard
Conference Room

Those students that cannot either of their assigned sessions need to contact me ASAP to schedule an individual time to meet-

DeAnna Bay- dlbay@utica.edu

****Also please note that not all fieldwork opportunities go by the same name. All agencies have different terms such as volunteers, interns, student workers, etc. Please consult with me to determine if the agency and placement in question is providing an appropriate opportunity.****



Have you met Kyle yet? Kyle is the administrative assistant for the Office of Education and Psychology-Child Life. Kyle is an integral part of our operations and it would be in your best interest for him to be able to put a name to a face! Stop in the Library Concourse- C 128 and say hello!

Local Fieldwork Opportunities



PCL Student Sabrina French at a Teddy Bear Clinic-Spring 2017

**** Not all sites are able to take fieldwork students every semester. Please always make sure to contact the site as early as possible to ensure that they are able to offer student placements.****

- 1) Building Blocks- Childhood Development Center- childcare and education-
Contact- Michelle O'Brien- President-
mobrien@buildingblockscny.com
- 2) Kids Oneida- programming to support families- internships@kidsoneida.org
- 3) Sauquoit Valley Elementary School- School Social Work
Contact- Paul Dischiavo- pdischiavo@svcsd.org

**Stay tuned for our camp edition in the next volume!*

National/International Fieldwork Opportunities

Tenement Museum- Lower East Side, NYC

Support Museum Educators who work with school-aged children learning about immigrant life from the late 1800's-early 1900's.

Email me if interested- dlbay@utica.edu

NPH- Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos Orphanages – San Pedro, Dominican Republic

<https://www.nph.org/ws/volunteers/programs.php>

Water Planet- Panama City, FL

Assist children with disabilities and their families with therapeutic programming and wild dolphin encounters.

Email me if interested- dlbay@utica.edu

Crystal Ladder Learning Center- Toronto, Ontario

Providing services to children and families with autism and related diagnoses.

Email me if interested- dlbay@utica.edu

Interview with Danielle Gaertner: Fall 2017 Internship Student at Hutchings Psychiatric Center, Syracuse, NY

Q: Why did you pick this particular internship site?

A: There are a number of reasons I chose to complete my internship at Hutchings Psychiatric Center. Prior to beginning my internship, I was interested in various career paths, including social work, clinical psychology, and child psychiatry. I knew that at Hutchings I would be able to observe professionals in all of those careers, ultimately aiding in my decision to choose where I would go next. Another reason I chose Hutchings is the setting itself. I had always wanted to know what a psychiatric center was like, and I felt more comfortable at Hutchings because I would be in a building specifically for children (and adolescents) only. Finally, the hospital is an acute care unit with 19 beds in which the average length of stay for a patient is 3 weeks. Therefore, I was able to meet and learn from many different patients throughout my internship.

Q: How do you feel as though the PCL program prepared you for this internship?

I don't think I realized how much I had learned in my four years at college until I began my internship. The PCL program includes a number of courses regarding child development, early childhood education, and psychological disorders. I found all of this knowledge to be relevant as well as helpful during my internship. However, what I found to be most beneficial was the knowledge I had gained regarding family systems, individualized treatment, and interpersonal relationships. The program taught me to see each child within the context of their family and the world around them. It taught me how to competently interact with patients, families, and professionals.

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Q: What was the best part of your internship?

A: On the last day of my internship, my supervisor had arranged to have the patients make goodbye cards for me. It wasn't until the moment when I read those cards, that I realized I may have actually positively impacted those patients' lives. I had the opportunity to attend their treatment plans, spend time playing games with them, spend time talking with them, and help them with their schoolwork. I never tried to be a therapist or a doctor, just a friendly face. I wanted to help every child that came into the hospital, especially after knowing what they were going through. However, I knew that it was not my job to treat them. My goal was to make their stay a little better, and give them another ear to listen when they wanted to talk. Patients would often share things with me regarding their struggles, worries, or their past. They felt comfortable talking to me because they knew I was "just an intern". I told them I would have to share information I thought would be important and helpful to their treatment, and sometimes I gave suggestions, but mostly I just listened. And on the day the patients gave me their goodbye cards, I realized how much of an impact I had really made. It was extremely rewarding and only further convinced I was making the right choice to pursue a career in social work.

Q: What do you wish you knew more about before your internship that you know now?

A: As I mentioned, I felt prepared going into my internship. However, one thing I did not know was how difficult it would be to see patients and families suffering. I knew that the children would be seriously ill and potentially suicidal. I knew the families would be heartbroken, scared, and confused. I did not know how that would affect me. I have learned to show empathy while building emotional boundaries. Going in, it would have been helpful to have already learned how to build those boundaries and keep my personal feelings aside. It's not easy to detach feelings and I'm not sure if it's even possible. Nonetheless, it's important to remember to take care of yourself and when you feel yourself getting emotional take a step back.

Q: What was the most unexpected part of your internship?

A: While on internship I learned a lot about the issues surrounding our nation's mental health care. I knew going in that the number of people in need of mental health services severely outnumbered the amount of services available. I saw firsthand how this was affecting the community and those in need. Unfortunately, there's a lot of work to be done and it seems it may be a while before the system improves.

Q: What advice would you give future students going out onto fieldwork experience?

A: I would recommend students research any potential sites and find out as much about them as possible. Make sure that the site is a place you will be able to learn and feel comfortable asking questions. During your field experience, I would recommend participating whenever possible. Become a part of the agency you are working with and ask the professionals any questions you have. Regardless of whether you end up loving or hating your experience, the information you'll learn is invaluable. It's a great experience, make the most of it.