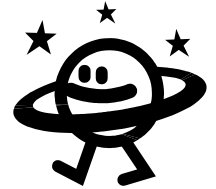




# The **SPACE** Place

## School **P**sychology **A**nd **C**ounseling **E**vents



Volume 4, Issue 1

March/April 2010

### Rtl Advanced Practicum at Hornell City School District

By: Jessica Hussar

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#### Upcoming Events:

##### April

5 - Fall Registration Begins  
23 - Honors Convocation  
23 - Intern Day  
23-25 Hot Dog Day Weekend

##### May

15 - Commencement

Hello from the second year Rtl grant cohort: Jessica Hussar, Stephenie Reilly, Katie Ribble, Rachel Scaccia, and the self-proclaimed "Rtl groupie" - Julie Gomez. As many of you know as part of the Rtl grant the five of us go to the Hornell City School District once a week on Tuesday and help with their Rtl implementation process. In the fall we were supervised by Dr. O'Connell and for the spring we are now supervised by Dr. Fugate.

The fall semester had us all working hard to get involved in the school culture and getting to know the different buildings and teachers. Dr. O'Connell helped facilitate our progress consulting with teachers to brainstorm appropriate interventions, using AIMSweb, and assisting with progress monitoring. We all certainly put our problem-solving skills to good use. Additionally, we got to experience grade level team meetings and attend Instructional Support Team meetings, as well as directly interact with building administrators.

Currently we are excited to provide direct services to the students as we all missed interacting with the kids last semester. Dr. Fugate continues to help us increase our own knowledge and expertise in appropriate goal setting as we all

assist the teachers and administrators increase their knowledge and proficiency in this area.

On top of our regular Tuesday schedule, we rolled out our research efforts this fall as well. The five of us decided we wanted to know more about teacher attitudes toward Rtl implementation and we created surveys to be distributed to the five partner districts to the Rtl grant. We were all very excited to analyze the data and present it in March at NASP in Chicago! Whew! We certainly had a busy fall semester and the spring semester is shaping up to be even busier!

Rtl is **TIER**rific!



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## HOLD THE ROPE

By: Caroline Falcone

On September 29, 2009, the Alfred University Graduate Counseling program went to Houghton College for a day on their Ropes Course. It was a cold, rainy day but that did not diminish the fun we all had.

The ropes course is designed to build communication, teamwork, and trust between yourself and others. In each activity the entire group (consisting of students and professors!) would have to work together in order to complete the task; no task could be done by a single person. Our entire cohort participated in a whole group activity and split group activities as well.

Our whole group activity required each member of the group to pair up. One person was given a piece of PVC pipe that had been sawed open to create a luge, and instructed to close their eyes. Their teammate was going to act as their eyes and direct them as needed; however, we had to keep our hands on their shoulders. The goal was to line up our PVC pipes to create a "slide" for a golf ball so it landed in a bucket. The catch was that we were positioned a distance away from the bucket so every team would have to go at least twice. One member of the group would have to guide their partner to the end of the line and verbally direct their hand placement so each piece of PVC pipe lined up for the ball to roll through. If the ball fell we had to start at the beginning. It took a few tries but eventually we got the ball into the bucket. Right from the start we realized that we had to have better communication, listening to each individual of our

team as well as the group as a whole.

Because we are quite a large cohort we were split into two groups and sent off to do more activities. At the end of the day everyone was given a chance to climb 65 feet up a tree, climb up onto a tiny platform set high off the ground and jump off (trying to reach a bell), and walk across a wire roped between two trees. It was all about learning to push yourself to accomplish your goal.

Although the day was wet and rainy the AU Graduate Counseling program had a fun-filled, exciting day. We all worked together and communicated with each other to achieve our group goals as well as our individual goals. Most importantly, we all put our trust in one another. It was a day that I'm sure none of us will forget.



## **New Year! New Faces!**

### **Meet Alfred University's First Year Counseling Class Representatives**

#### **Meet Magan Straight:**

My name is Magan Straight and I joined the graduate counseling program this past August. I am from Wellsville, NY and completed my undergraduate work here at Alfred University with a bachelor's degree in clinical/counseling psychology. As you can tell, I love Alfred so much so that I decided to continue here and I could not be happier! Alfred is such a beautiful, unique, little town that is accepting of all people. I have a cute little apartment within walking distance where my backyard is often filled with wild life year round. It is the simple things in life that often give me pleasure and Alfred is filled with little pleasures. Almost every evening I am honored to get an inside sneak peek into the lives of four deer that traveled together. There is something about watching animals go about their daily lives as we do that brings such an awareness of life outside of our own worlds. As soon as I step out my front door to make my way to class, my apartment is surrounded by little footprints and I'm so happy to know that there is so much life here!

Since I have been in Graduate school I have learned that it is about more than just academics. It is about meeting new people, learning from their experiences, and really taking the time to understand yourself, your values, and your goals in life. I feel an infinite amount of support from my professors and classmates. Every day is an exploration of thoughts, feelings, and of sharing a heartfelt goal of helping others. I have bonded with my classmates in such a way that I'm reminded of the power of the human connection. We have formed a supportive, loving environment for one another and we are growing in ways we would not have thought. Each day of this program is a new discovery, a new meaning, and a new aspiration. I can't wait to see where this program takes me because I know it will take me far!

#### **Meet Caroline Falcone:**

My name is Caroline Falcone and I am from Dix Hills, NY on Long Island. I am currently a first year student in the Master's program in Counseling at Alfred University. I also received my Bachelor's in Clinical/Counseling Psychology from Alfred University. While I was an undergraduate student at Alfred, I was a member of the University's Varsity Equestrian Team, and a member of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society for Psychology. I also sang in Chamber Singers (of which I am still a part), and was co-president of Alfred University's female a cappella group, The Lady Eight.

Originally I had wanted to take a year off from school before pursuing my Master's. Due to the current economy, I felt that it was best to stay in school. Staying at Alfred was appealing because it offered that sense of security and comfort. The program is very involved and hands on. It gives its students a chance to thoroughly learn about themselves and what exactly they are looking to accomplish. The faculty is very interested in the students' input and feedback, as well as their well-being. It is a very close-knit and supporting atmosphere. The greatest asset to the program, however, is the other students. I know that if I am having a rough time, I can turn to any member of my cohort and be provided with care and support. I enjoy my program that much more because of the wonderful people I get to interact with every day.

I chose Alfred University for both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees because I love the atmosphere. Alfred is a place where people accept you for who you are and embrace the differences between its students, faculty/staff, and community. The community is another fantastic aspect of Alfred; they reach out to those in need and are willing to lend a helping hand to anyone that may be struggling. I was always able to express my individuality and expand my horizons. I have met some of the greatest friends here at Alfred, friends I know that I will stay in contact with for years to come. Alfred University will always hold a special place in my heart.

## **New Year! New Faces!**

### **Meet Alfred University's First Year School Psychology Class Representatives**

#### **Meet Chad Swanson:**

Hi! My name is Chad Swanson and I am one of the class representatives for the first year cohort in the School Psychology program. I grew up in my hometown of Jamestown, NY and graduated from Jamestown High School in 2005. I recently graduated from SUNY Fredonia with my Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology last May. I had many great experiences at Fredonia including tutoring psychology, doing an undergraduate internship with a School Psychologist, and conducting research using pre-school students as participants in my study. During the past two summers I have also worked as a counselor for the Children's Summer Treatment Program sponsored by Chautauqua County's department of Mental Hygiene, which has been one of my most rewarding experiences.

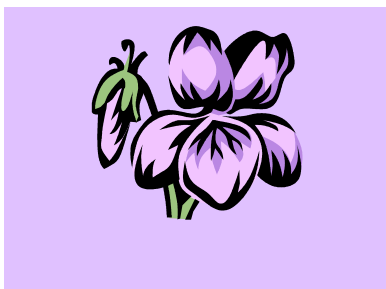
The activities I was involved in at SUNY Fredonia and my summer job have led me to choose to go to graduate school in the field of School Psychology because I enjoy working with children. I chose Alfred's School Psychology program to complete my graduate training because of its great reputation and the emphasis of applied practice that the program offers. So far, being in the school psychology program has been challenging but also very rewarding. Besides my role as a class representative I have also been active in the Rural Justice Institute's mentoring program and have recently gotten involved as a research assistant for a doctoral dissertation candidate.

I am glad I chose to come to Alfred and I have made so many new friends within the School Psychology and Counseling programs which has made my first year in the program very fulfilling!

#### **Meet Joy Stevens:**

Hi! My name is Joy Stevens and I am School Psychology MA/CAS first year graduate student. I am originally from Boston Massachusetts. I attended Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI for my undergraduate program where I majored in Psychology and double minored in criminal justice and American studies. During my time at Roger Williams I was an active student leader, and a Resident Assistant to incoming freshman students. My interest in the field of school psychology peaked in the summer of my junior year during an internship with the Department of Youth and Social Services at the Massachusetts Key Program. However, my general interest in working with children began long ago during my time spent in my mother's special education classroom.

Although moving to Alfred, NY was a big leap from the city life of Boston MA, it has been a great experience and I couldn't have asked for a better place to train for my career. Alfred is a wonderful program that really gives each student the support they need to be the best school psychologists they can be. I've enjoyed my field placement school where I've made strong interpersonal connections with fellow staff members and more importantly the kids!! I'm also continuing to expand upon and apply the skills which I am learning in the classroom to the field. Next year I hope to be able to work closely with 'Noah' the Alfred School Psychology therapy dog during clinic practicum. In the future, I plan to implement animal therapy into my regular practice as a school psychologist in the schools. I look forward to finishing my degree at Alfred and beginning my journey as a response to interventionist!!



## New Year! New Faces!

### Meet the New Division of Counseling & School Psychology Faculty Members

#### Meet Dr. Yung Chi Chen:

Hello! I am a native of Taiwan. Although I grew up in a small, traditional Hakkanese town, I spent about 10 years going to schools and working in Taipei before coming to the U.S. to pursue my advanced degrees. I received my B.S. in Psychology from National Chengchi University in Taipei, M.A. in Psychology from University of South Dakota, M.S. in Management from New Jersey Institute of Technology, and M.S. in Education with Professional Certificate in School Psychology from Queens College. According to my friends, I was a professional student who liked to collect degrees as a habit. Finally, I completed my Ph.D. in Educational Psychology (with School Psychology Specialization) from The Graduate Center of City University of New York (CUNY) in 2009, making my parents very happy because I could actually have a "real" job. While being told that I was graduating at the worst time possible during my commencement, I was lucky enough to be offered a faculty position at Alfred University.

While working on my doctoral degree, I taught Introduction to Psychology, Health Psychology, Human Sexuality, and Chinese language courses at Hunter College and Queens College. These experiences sparked my interest in teaching, in addition to psychology research and practice. Prior to coming to Alfred, I was working as a school psychologist in a special education preschool in Brooklyn. I am certified bilingual school psychologist.

I decided to come to Alfred because the School Psychology program at AU had a high reputation in our profession. However, moving from New York City to Alfred was, and still is, quite a transition for me. It's a challenge for someone like me who doesn't drive and prefers warm weather. Nevertheless, I have enjoyed the friendliness of people here and I am constantly amazed by the enthusiasm and dedication of faculty members and students in our division. I should mention that I had my very first s'more at Gayle's cabin. I also appreciate the close relationship between faculty and students, as well as the unique training approaches (e.g., clinic, academic intervention, student feedback sessions) offered in our program. My current research interests include: the impact of chronic illness on family and children, multiple minority oppressions and ethnic gay men, lesbians, bisexuals' mental health, and bilingual assessment issues.

While not working, I enjoy operas, modern dance, theater, and indie movies. I rode 150 miles alone by bicycle from northern Taiwan to Southern Taiwan without planning when I was in college, which terrified my parents. Traveling independently in England was a unique experience for me and I certainly would like to travel around the world. I am hoping one day I can run the New York City Marathon.

#### Meet Marleah Bouchard:

Greetings! I am from western NY -- Wellsville to be exact. Although I never anticipated moving back to the area, now that I'm here I simply cannot image a place I would rather be! I did my undergrad work at SUNY Geneseo as an education major. I worked as a 5th grade urban school teacher in an inclusive classroom. I did my master's work in Rochester at Roberts Wesleyan College and then came to AU for my doctoral work. I plan to finish my dissertation this summer.

During my master's studies, I quickly realized that my passion for teaching was still strong. While I didn't regret leaving the public school teaching profession, I decided that teaching at the graduate level would be my ultimate career aspiration. While completing my course work here at AU, I appreciated the student-focused nature of the graduate programs here. I also respect the practitioner-scientist model that was pioneered by the AU program. For me, AU is the perfect career setting, as it allows me to teach at the graduate level while still impacting children and improving their lives through the work of our graduate students. I also love living close to my family once more so that my daughter can develop everyday relationships with her grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins!

The one thing that I like most about teaching is learning. Each day when preparing for a lecture, I have the responsibility to learn (sometimes re-learn) material to be taught. For me, being the perpetual student is the perfect job. Additionally, I love the questions and responses that come from our graduate students. I am beginning to move toward a more process learning approach for my courses, involving small group activities and discussions.

Alfred University is a place of many positive experiences, but if I had to choose one, it would be waking up each morning feeling excited to go to work. Ending each class feeling rejuvenated and inspired to learn more. Friends and family have stopped asking the common question, "How's work?" because they all know my answer will be, "Really good, I'm loving it." I am grateful for this opportunity to work with such a fantastic group of students and colleagues.

Now, even though all of you believe that Professors do not have a life outside of research and class I do! My husband and I have a 2 1/2 year old daughter, Grayson. We love listening to her opinions. The other day she informed me that I was not allowed to be a doctor. She explained, "No, Mommy. I (!) am going to be a doctor. You have to be a pirate." So lately, I've been doing a lot of pirating. Other than that, I enjoy cooking, wine tasting, and laughing.

## Alfred University Presentations

### Trainers of School Psychologists Conference Chicago March, 2010

*The Use of Qualitative Data Collection to Investigate Validity of Measures of Perceived Organizational Health and Teacher Efficacy*

Dr. Nichol Moses & Dr. Cris Lauback




### National Association of School Psychologists Convention Chicago March, 2010:

*Violence Prevention Programming: Evaluating Second Step in a Rural Setting*  
Dr. Hannah Young, Dr. Ellen Faherty, Psy.D., & Jennifer McLaren

*Helping Schools Assist Child Victims of Domestic Violence: Long-term Effects*  
Dr. Hannah Young, Dr. Ellen Faherty, Psy.D. & Jennifer McLaren

*Facilitating RTI Implementation in Schools: A Client-Centered Consultation Process*  
Dr. Mark Fugate, Dr. Ellen Faherty, & Dr. Lynn O'Connell

*Evolving Attitudes of Teachers Throughout Varying Stages of RTI Implementation*  
Katherine Ribble, Julie Gomez, Stephenie Reilly, Jessica Hussar, Rachel Scaccia,  
Dr. Mark Fugate, & Dr. Lynn O'Connell



### American Counseling Association Convention Pittsburgh, PA March, 2010

*Implementing and Evaluating a Rural-Based Youth Mentoring Program:  
Making Connections to Reduce Juvenile Delinquency*

Dr. Robert Bitting, Amanda Bowen, Julie Gomez, Jennifer Johner, Dr. Cris Lauback,  
Magan Straight, & Dr. Hannah Young

*Self-Injurious Behavior: College Student Experience.*  
Dr. Hannah Young, Dr. Amanda Lienau-Purnell, & Dr. Regina Kakhnovets