

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition 2021



Movies for Mental Health!

In December, students from HHS 304: Communicating in the Helping Professions attended a unique virtual event titled "Movies for Mental Health." This 2 hr. interactive, online experience featured a chat-based discussion on mental health, the stigma that frequently surrounds mental illness, and media portrayals of mental health issues. Students viewed three award-winning short films and participated in a variety of brief therapeutic activities to consciously connect minds and bodies, and explored what work means for us as helping professionals. Adjunct Professor Henry Alicea and Academic Coach Joel Simundich led a lively discussion on mental health services and strategies for wellness during these uncertain times.

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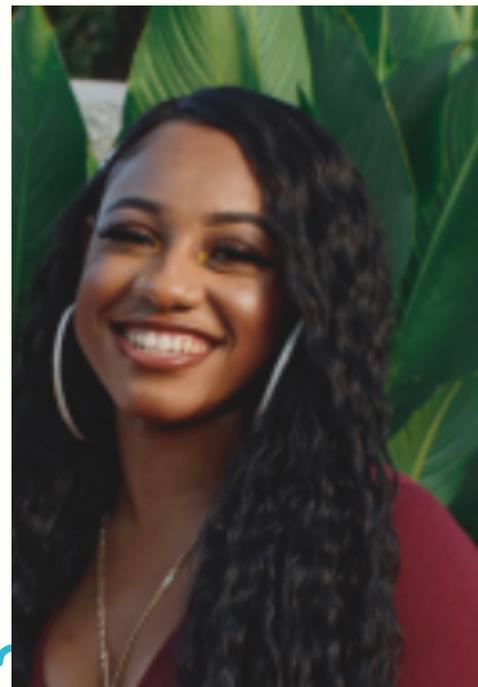
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Student Spotlight!

As an incoming Freshman, I, (Latonia Hornsby), was unsure about my major and the field of work I wanted to pursue. In my junior year of undergrad, I found myself confused and at a loss of hope in my academic career. With the help of Dr. Kathryn Wiezbicki-Stevens, I was able to go over the numerous undergrad programs that Bay Path has to offer. The Human and Health services reflected personal goals that I wanted to achieve for myself. I knew I had a love for both science and community services. In the HHS program, Bay Path will not only equip students with the skills and knowledge to be a community advocate but as well as provide the latest and up-to-date information about what's happening in our communities today. The HHS program has provided me with much insight into being able to understand the health of others, social services, and policies. Dr. Kathryn Wiezbicki-Stevens did not only help me find the major that was for me but provided me with resources, as well as connected me to Bay Path Alumni to help me smoothly transition from one major to another. As a current senior who is a short few months away from graduating, I can say that I feel complete with who I am and where I'm going. As a student who has spent the past 4 years here, I can truly say that Bay Path has strongly inspired me to continue my education in which I look forward to being a part of the Masters of Public Health program at Bay Path for Fall 2021!

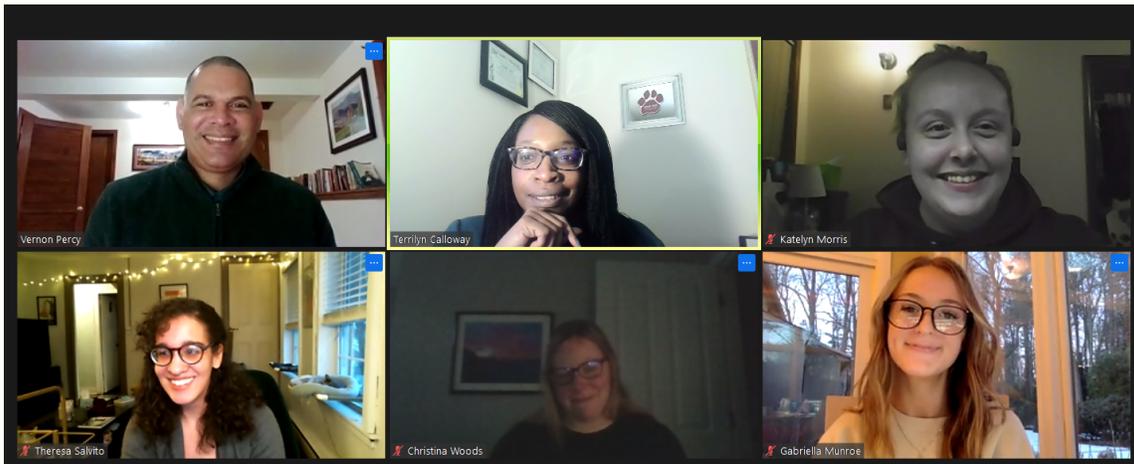


Faculty Spotlight!



As a faculty member in the Psychology department, Dr. Vernon Percy teaches a variety of courses including introduction to psychology, interviewing and counseling, and childhood psychopathology. In addition, Dr. Percy teaches courses within the Health and Human Services Program including Introduction to Health and Human Services, Sport-based Youth Development, and Effective Youth Development & Mentoring. His research interests center around the role of sport in youth development, specifically exploring how to best create environments suited to promoting positive youth development. Dr. Percy enjoys sharing his curiosity and passion for this subject with students many of whom choose to pursue careers working with young people as program directors, teachers, therapists, coaches, etc. Dr. Percy views his broad background working with youth in educational, clinical, and sport settings as an advantage in mentoring and advising students on the many career possibilities in the field of youth development. A favorite part of his role as faculty is to witness the growth of students throughout their academic careers. He enjoys seeing students apply concepts (i.e ethics, professionalism, multiculturalism, models of delivery, etc.) learned in courses like Introduction to Health and Human Services to actual experiences in the field whether they be personally relevant or through community service learning in courses like Sport Based Youth Development and/or through internship hours. He is most appreciative when students encounter the "a-ha" moment, making that connection between the conceptual and "real-life" and then realizing they can make a positive difference in someone's life.

Take a Look at the HHS 100 Course!



This course introduces students to the profession of health and human services, including Occupational Therapy. A broad-based view of the purpose, preparation, and theoretical orientation of these professions is provided, including roles, responsibilities, and professional organizations. Issues relating to access to health care, vulnerable populations, and ethical issues are examined. A "round-robin" approach of career guest speakers to explore the many types and career settings of human service professions is a hallmark of this course. Students will also have an opportunity to engage in an AARP virtual workshop entitled Disrupt Aging Classroom facilitated by Andrea Cordis, BS, COTA Occupational Therapy Fieldwork and Clinical Assistant in the Occupational Therapy Department. This workshop is a 2.5-hour, interactive curriculum that challenges students to examine their aging perceptions and think about how the growing aging population is relevant to their personal lives and future careers. Photo includes Prof. Dr. Vernon Percy, Psych Dept Adm Asst, Terrilyn Calloway, Theresa Salvito, Christina Woods, Katelyn Morris, Gabriella Munroe.

Disrupt Aging Workshop in April

For HHS and PreOT students, this is a virtual workshop that will examine trends, issues, and needs of the older population. Did you know that the nation's 65-and-older population has grown rapidly since 2010, driven by the aging of "Baby Boomers" born between 1946 and 1964. The 65-and-older population grew by over a third (34.2% or 13,787,044) during the past decade!

Many of you may work with older people in your future career. You may also be (or become) a caregiver to older family members. We are happy to offer this workshop from the AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). Our very own Andrea Cordis BS, COTA/L, faculty member from our Master's Program in Occupational Therapy, is a trained facilitator and will lead this workshop for us. Full completion of the workshop by attending all 3 sessions will result in you earning a Certificate of Completion from the AARP. Great credential to add to your resume!!

HSW 400 Capstone Course for HHS Seniors

As part of the HSW 400: A Healthier Community course students are challenged with developing and presenting a strategy that promotes a healthy community. Sarah Power '21 is currently completing an internship at Square One in Springfield working with Kindergarteners who are virtually learning. This course is taught by Dr. Sheila Foley. As part of her capstone project, Sarah requested permission to run the class for the day and teach the students about COVID focusing on the importance of wearing a mask and disinfecting the classroom. Sarah stated, "they often do not understand the importance of masks and why their first year of school is not traditional. They often get frustrated with having to be online all the time". Sarah wanted to use this opportunity as a way to help them understand that this is not the norm. She emphasized that "after all, these students are our future generation and it is important that they understand, even from a young age, the importance of the safety of our community". Following her instruction, Sarah reported that "the director at Square One loved the presentation and is even going to use my activities for other classes. The kids loved the activities as well!"

Certificate in Autism Studies

The Autism Studies Certificate Program is designed to prepare professionals to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure the academic, social, behavioral, and emotional needs of students identified as having Autism are met. This Certificate seeks to provide individuals with the skills, knowledge, and creativity needed to support students' success in the classroom and the community. In addition, the Certificate provides depth in particular areas of educational practice, policy, curriculum, and state-of-the-art inclusionary best practices. The Autism Certificate includes 4 three-credit courses, all online.

Courses for the Autism Certificate include: (12 credits)

- Teaching Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Advocacy, Collaboration, & Problem-Solving for Students with Autism
- Supporting Communication and Social Development for Students with Autism

To learn more about adding this Certificate to your program of studies, contact your Academic Advisor!

DIA'S CORNER!

Hi, my name is Dia Arias and I am the Student Assistant in the Psychology Department. I am currently a sophomore majoring in Communications, and I enjoy traveling whenever I have the opportunity. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions at hhs@baypath.edu.

