

# PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION 2021

**The Fall 2021  
Edition will  
include:**

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Spotlight

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## Student Spotlight!

My name is Coriann Willingham. I transferred here to Bay Path starting in the fall 2020 semester. If you see me on campus, there is a very good chance that I will be knitting, since I like to make small knit animals in my spare time. You might also see emails from me about the Creative Writing Club, since I am its current president-- feel free to hop into a meeting if you are interested! Some advice I might give to beginning psychology students, or to students in general, is to take advantage of every opportunity you can to get real-world experience. For instance, I had the opportunity to be a part of the psychology co-op program, which gave me a chance to get eighty hours of supervised work experience with a professor's guidance. Through it, I worked with a summer camp in Connecticut, giving me the chance to help suggest and design activities, sort pictures of past camps, and learn a bit about their management system. I would definitely recommend the co-

op program to other students. As well, taking the chance to conduct research while you are still here is a great idea. I'm currently conducting a research study with a faculty advisor, Dr. Wiezbicki-Stevens, about how COVID has affected student academic performance. Having her support during this experience has been extremely helpful to me. Getting the opportunity to get that experience here with guidance is really amazing-- if you have the opportunity to help with or conduct research, I suggest you take it! Overall, I have really enjoyed my time here at Bay Path. This college has offered an amazing community experience, even through the difficulties of online classes. As long as I have put in the time to get involved, that effort has paid off. Between the things I'm learning in class and the community activities I have participated in, my time at Bay Path has helped me to learn and grow in more ways than I imagined. I can only look forward to seeing what the next semester will bring!



## Faculty Spotlight!



Henry Alicea moved to the New England area at the age of 18, from San Juan, Puerto Rico. At that point, he began to explore the field of Human Services, working as a residential staff volunteer for two years at Youth Challenge of Greater Hartford, CT, in a two phase substance abuse program. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services at Springfield College. At the same time, he began to work for the Department of Children and Families in Connecticut (DCF), continuing there for eight and a half years. He continued his education in Counseling Psychology, obtaining a Master's degree from Cambridge College. Henry has worked for a methadone program, the Springfield School Department, a counseling outpatient clinic, and the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

For the past three years, he has worked at Behavior Health Network as a Crisis Clinician, a Professional Development Trainer, and part of the Trauma Response Team. He is also involved in a faith community setting, where he serves and enjoys helping the community. Henry is an outgoing person and a strong believer of education. He believes strongly that "Knowledge is the only thing in life that no one can take away from you." Henry describes himself as someone that is learning every day, and eager to share his knowledge with the upcoming generation.

## Community Partner Spotlight: Square One!



Square One's programs include early education and care at centers in Springfield, home-based care settings located throughout greater Springfield, and out of school time care for elementary school age children. Our parent education, support and training programs are offered through groups, home visitation and personalized case management to help parents access whatever services are needed to be successful in their role as their child's first teacher. Square One loves having BPU students as interns!

Child Psych major Audira Cave and Communications major Cora Swan painted this wonderful mural to honor retiring Square One President & CEO Joan Kagan. This will be showcased in the Square One school in Springfield MA.





## Eagle Eye Field Trip!

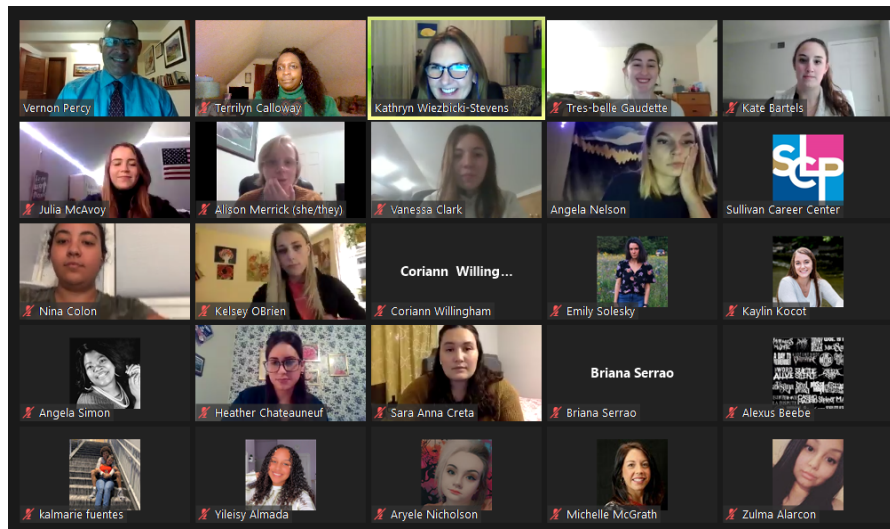


Students from the Psychology Department and those pursuing a certificate in Youth Development were joined by Dr. Foley and Dr. Percy on a trip to explore the Eagle Eye Institute. Eagle Eye believes in the right of all people to a healthy environment and a positive relationship with nature, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic status. Their mission is to ensure equitable access to nature so that all people are empowered to be environmental leaders and decision-makers.

The day was spent hiking the trails and learning about the organization. The students walked away enriched and with "tools for their toolboxes". The experience was led by Program Director Cass Pastorelle and Chris Cato.



## Annual Career & Networking Event



The Annual Career & Networking Virtual Event was a success. On November 11 Dr. Vernon Percy hosted this special event. A panel of alumni from the Psych Program shared their career journeys, information about graduate study, and advice for making the most of your time at Bay Path. The panelists included Kate Bartels, Psy D'14, Graduate Psychologist at Bedford VA, Heather Chateaufneuf, MS, LMHC '12, G '19, Outpatient Clinician, Center for Human Development, Sara (Creta) Subocz, MSW '16, Outreach Social Worker, Smith Voc & Ag High School and Imani Zavala '16, Supervisor at Healthy Families, Springfield MA.

# Psyched about Psych!



Psychology students joined faculty at the beginning of the semester to connect and celebrate the return to campus!

## Guest Speaker!

Christine Judd (Director of Roca Springfield and Holyoke) and forensic psychology Bay Path alum Sara Roper (Assistant Director of Learning and Development) visited Dr. Hall's Psychology of Criminal Behavior class to talk about Roca's program and its response to urban violence. Young adults in the program are 16-24 years old who have experienced trauma, been involved in the criminal justice system, have lower literacy abilities or lack a high school degree or equivalent, have no sustained employment history, and have been involved with guns, gangs, and drugs. The students learned how community partnerships and persistent outreach are helping to reduce recidivism rates and giving the highest-risk young people the tools needed to become a positive member of society and their family.

## Zoom workshop on Mental Health: More than the Individual

Did you know that nearly 1 in 5 Americans experience a mental illness? This workshop was offered Oct 20 by Ysabel Garcia, MPH and a BPU alum, to help students build awareness, knowledge, and sensitivity to this important issue. Topics included:

- Expanding our definition of mental health through a social justice lens
- Understanding the concept of oppression and its multiple forms
- Recognizing practical examples of how oppression and its multiple forms influence mental health
- To learn more about the important work that Ysabel does for our community, visit her website: [www.estoy-aqui.org](http://www.estoy-aqui.org)



## Dia's Corner



Hi, my name is Dia Arias and I am the Student Assistant in the Psychology Department. I am currently a junior majoring in Communications and minoring in Sociology and I enjoy traveling whenever I have the opportunity. I am very involved here at Bay Path I am currently the President of the Alana Club, a multicultural advocate Please feel free to email me if you have any questions at [psychdepartment@baypath.edu](mailto:psychdepartment@baypath.edu).

