



DRURY UNIVERSITY

Letter from the Chair

Greetings from the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and what a remarkable year it has been. According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* reopening tracker, Drury is one of just 2% of the country's nearly 3,000 colleges holding fully in-person classes this year. What an accomplishment!

I am also happy to report that 100% of our students who applied were accepted to graduate or law school this year. This level of success is due, in part, to our Scientific Core curriculum that requires students to

complete an intensive research project that culminates in a thesis. Students who elect to complete a series of revisions can receive a hard bound thesis. Three students, all mentored by Dr. Jennifer Silva Brown, have accepted the challenge.

Bethany Bierman ('20) double majored in Clinical-Behavioral Neuroscience and Spanish and triple-minored in Advanced Scientific Analysis, Community Health, and Sociology. Her thesis was entitled, "Holistic Coping Interventions for Emotion Regula-

tion." Bethany is attending the University of Missouri-Kansas City completing her PhD in Clinical Psychology.

Mackenzie Cox (*photo-left*) was our outstanding graduating senior in Sociology in AY 2019–20. Her thesis is entitled, "Sub Versus Dub: The Effects of Translation Method on Comprehension and Perception." Mackenzie will attend American University to earn her MA in Sociology Research and Practice.

Nina Spitzhorn (*photo-right*) is double majoring in Psychol-

ogy and Sociology, minoring in Animal Studies, and earning a certificate in Sports Leadership. Her thesis is entitled, "The Value of Feedback on Performance: A Focus on Self-Efficacy and Motivation." With plans to become a practitioner, Nina has been accepted to five different graduate programs and is currently weighing her options.

Would you like to know more about our students, faculty, and graduates? Turn the page and keep reading!

Vickie Luttrell, '86



“Justice Denied” Leading the Pack



“Justice Denied: Wrongful Convictions” has become Drury’s most sought-after certificate program, and we extend our thanks to participating faculty.

Dr. Jennie Long serves as director of the program. Long studies the death penalty and has been a member of the Missouri Battered Women’s Clemency Coalition. Dr. James Scollione, a Certified Reciprocal Alcohol and Drug Counselor, has worked with clients with substance use and co-occurring disorders and has served on a variety of problem-solving courts.

Janis Prewitt, J.D., teaches law courses in the Breech School of Business, as well as the certificate course on constitutional criminal law and procedure. Also focused on legal aspects, Tony Brown, J.D., works for the Missouri Attorney General’s Office where he prosecutes murder, child victim, and public corruption cases. He is also a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

Dr. Chris Panza from the Department of History, Philosophy and Religion examines whether, how, and to what degree, a person can be considered morally responsible and blameworthy for various types of criminal misconduct. Jeanie Carver, who will step into the capstone course in Spring 2022 has master’s degrees in forensic science administration and microbiology/clinical virology. Carver has served as a medical consultant for attorneys and reviewed cases for the Midwest Innocence Project.

As part of the current capstone course, taught by Dr. Long, students participated in a book club, which focused on “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson. All students were provided the book, free of charge, by the Faculty Advising Fellows. Capstone student, Samantha Lohman (*photo above*) is double majoring in Criminology and Psychology and is interested in the Juvenile Justice System, crime scene investigation, and forensics.

Sweet Caroline’s Family Feud

In June of 2019, the Drury community lost one of its brightest lights when Caroline Conrad passed away in a car accident. She would have been a senior this year double majoring in Psychology and Criminology. She was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, Drury Student Union Board, Residence Life, the Drury Bowling team, New Student Programming, and Community Outreach and Leadership Development, was a 4.0 student, and so much more. Her influence on our community and the lives of her friends is immeasurable.

Although the Drury community continues to feel her absence, anyone who knew Caroline knows that she loved lighting up the room with her silly sayings, impulsive adventures, constant line dancing, and love for Steve Harvey. Caroline adored Family Feud and its eccentric host, and even had a Steve Harvey costume and a

picture of him on the back of her phone case.

ZTA recently hosted a “Sweet Caroline: Family Feud” fundraising event that focused on Caroline’s love for games and constant willingness to find the happiness and positivity in life. As part of the Family Feud event, attendees could win tickets to put towards the chance to win raffle baskets. Contributing to the collection of available prizes, the Department of Behavioral Sciences created three raffle baskets, to include a banned books basket, a fur baby basket, and a sustainability basket. Check out the department’s Facebook page for a photo!

All funds went to the ZTA Foundation, which is home to a memorial scholarship in Caroline’s name. The scholarship helps to ensure Caroline receives the lasting recognition she deserves while continuing her mission to uplift others.



The Voice of a Graduating Senior: Alie Pasternak



The first day I was on Drury's campus was freshman first day and while I was excited, my mother was very nervous. Dr. Luttrell noticed this apprehension and approached us. She told my mother not to worry as I was going to be in great hands because she vowed to take me under her wing. It's hard to believe this conversation happened four years ago, as it feels like yesterday. As graduation approaches, I reflect on my experience here at Drury.

When I began, I had an interest in behavioral neuroscience. As I continued my classes, I appreciated the challenges my classes offered me but knew I wanted to do more. With the encouragement from the faculty in my department, I began exploring additional areas. I will now be graduating with Honors degrees in both Clinical & Behavioral Neuro-

science and Spanish, as well as minors in Advanced Scientific Analysis and Biology.

The reason I love Drury so much is the incredible support and love I received from my professors. I have a unique relationship with each and every professor in our department as well as other departments. Each professor provides me with personalized assistance and advice, something I am very grateful for. I often wander the halls of Pearsons, looking for open doors so I can stick my head in and catch up with the most influential people I have met.

After Drury, I will attend the University of Denver to study social work, public health, and Latino mental health. My time here at Drury has evolved me into a bright and determined individual, and I hope my professors will smile when they think about me in the future, just as I will with them.

The Voice of a Graduating Senior: John Schupbach

I think that, in a way, motivating potential is not just about bringing something from inside yourself out to the world, but also requires overcoming obstacles that can discourage you from doing so. This work is a cooperative effort, which requires both yourself and those around you to successfully excavate your dreams to reality.

Since starting my residential studies at Drury, I have found this work to be brilliantly facilitated by the faculty of this department. This was obvious to me from the start when I was encouraged to complete an independent research project. When I presented my idea of researching identity theory, Dr. Luttrell was excited to hear my ideas and to work with me on developing them further. Even when I felt stuck, I was able to find thoughtful direction and gracious encouragement. I was then able to take the ideas

I developed and apply them in my research thesis that next year with Dr. Utley. Through the guidance and support I received, my partner and I were able to persevere through the joys and frustrations of the project. This allowed us to be the only team to present our findings at the annual research conference the department attends, despite being deeply affected by the unusual circumstances of Spring 2020.

I have had quite a bit of success during my time at Drury, but there have certainly been times when other obligations tested my ability to focus. During those times, I found solace in the faculty who refused to let me abandon my dreams. Though I am excited to continue my graduate studies with Teachers College at Columbia University, I will never forget the relationships I have built here.



Utley Named to the APA Member Panel



The American Psychological Association (APA) is the leading professional organization representing psychology in the United States, with more than 122,000 researchers, educators, practitioners, consultants, and students as its members. Its mission is to promote the advancement, communication, and application of psychological science to benefit society and improve lives.

The organization accomplishes its mission by utilizing psychology to make a positive impact on critical societal issues, elevating the public's understanding of and regard for psychological science, and preparing the discipline and profession of psychology for the future.

Dr. Mary Utley, Professor of Psychology, was recently named to the APA's Member Panel, which includes disciplinary experts who collaborate to advance the APA's mission. Utley commented, "I have been involved

with the APA since I became a student affiliate in graduate school. After receiving my PhD, I continued as a full member in the APA. In Fall 2020, I was nominated to the panel, and we were selected to represent overall APA membership based on demographics and specialization field."

"The APA member panel serves a number of purposes. We help decide what is next for the APA by assisting in preparing the discipline of psychology and APA members for the future, and we act in public service by determining how psychology can improve lives and address social change. We also develop new initiatives that fit with the members' interests, seek to find the best ways to communicate with our members, and aid in suggesting new products and services for APA members. Overall, we serve psychologists, the discipline of psychology, and the public."

The Woman Behind the Curtain

I am the woman behind the curtain. The person who assists in bringing the department's newsletter to life every semester. I have been designing the layout for the newsletter since the Fall of 2011. My name is Charity (Stepp) Burkholder. I was born and raised right here in Springfield, MO. I graduated from Central High School in 2006, and in 2007 I graduated from Ozarks Technical Community College with my Associates Degree in Business & Marketing.

After taking a semester off, I started attending Drury in the Fall of 2008. I graduated in December of 2010 with my bachelor's degree in Design Arts. Since graduating, I have worked in several capacities as a Graphic Designer. Now, I am a freelance graphic designer,

stay-at-home-mom, and small business owner.

My husband, Chad, and I met in August of 2011 and married a year later. We have a 5-and-a-half-year-old son, Alarik. We adopted him from South Korea. We started the adoption process in May of 2015. Ten days after submitting our application, unbeknownst to us, our son was born. We were matched with him in November of the same year, and officially became a family on January 23, 2017. He is our light and our whole world.

On top of raising our son, we are also small business owners. We started Jumping Jacks Event Rentals in May of 2018. Our life is busy and non-stop, but we wouldn't have it any other way.



Photo credit: Locke Photography