Here’s to the Class of 2014!!

For those who have passed, for those to come – Reach for Excellence

For the final Spring 2014 issue of Psych ACCESS, the graduate students would like to congratulate all the seniors on your commencement. No matter where you end up, treasure the memories of your time spent here at Virginia Tech! All the Best!

More inside!
Senior Spotlight: Sonia Shultis

Sonia began college in 1999. During her first "round" of undergrad, she was a member of Chi Delta Alpha Service Organization (2001-2003) and held offices such as Sisterhood Chair and Vice President. She was highly involved as an NRV community volunteer for over 20 different services projects. She was also a UUSA volunteer from 2001-2003. Sonia left Virginia Tech in 2003.

Later, she graduated from the National Massage Therapy Institute. She is currently board certified and licensed to practice massage and body work. She got married on September 2, 2006 and she has two children: Sun-Ah (age 4) and Tru (age 2).

Sonia returned to Virginia Tech in May 2012 to finish her undergraduate degree. Since being back, she has been a volunteer rock-climbing leader for the VT Rock Climbing Club. Further, she works as a certified massage therapist and prenatal massage specialist at Eucalyptus Massage Therapy (being a working mother who is also in school to finish her degree is QUITE impressive!). After graduation, she plans to move back to New York and to attend chiropractic school.

Congratulations Sonia on your accomplishments! Hoping for only the best for you and your family!

Senior Spotlight: Alexander J. Simmons

Alexander served as the President of the Association of Black Psychologists at Virginia Tech. He volunteered for the Recovery Effort after Adult and Child Trauma Lab. He served on the National Residence Hall Honorary and worked as a resident advisor for two years. Further, he was a lead data collection assistant at the Center for Survey Research at Virginia Tech. He was an “Each One Reach One” Mentor and served on the Eggleston Community Council. Great to see how much you were involved while here at Virginia Tech! Congratulations on your accomplishments!

Senior Spotlight: Alex Wood

Alex Wood will be graduating Cum Laude. Alex was a member of the Pre-Dental Club while at Virginia Tech. Further, Alex served as a resident advisor for 2 years. He was the Senior Residential Advisor for 1 semester. Alex is a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor and Service Society and worked as a lab research assistant in the Cognition, Emotion, and Self-Regulation (CEaSR) Lab with Dr. Brad White. Best of luck in all your future efforts!
Senior Spotlight: Lauren Summerill
Lauren accepted a research assistant position at the Center for Social Development and Education at UMass Boston. She will be moving there shortly after graduating. Hoping for many future successes!

Senior Spotlight: Elisabeth Kane
Elisabeth will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to earn her Ph.D. in School Psychology! Awesome to hear and good luck!

Senior Spotlight: Quettara Drayton
Quettara will begin a Masters Program in Public Administration at Virginia Tech. She also plans to earn her Financial Management certificate so she can run a Financial Aid office at a university close to her family. Best of luck!

Senior Spotlight: Megan Lowery
Megan will graduate with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Business Leadership. She will be attending East Carolina University to study Industrial/Organization Psychology. She could not be more excited!

Senior Spotlight: Samantha Lugar
Samantha will graduate Magna Cum Laude. She will be attending the University of Central Florida for a Masters in Clinical Psychology. She plans to become a licensed professional counselor. Great job, Samantha!

Way to Go!

The Wheres and Whens
Commencement takes place across two days, with the University ceremony and Department ceremonies taking place separately. Check out where the events are taking place and some suggested dress tips below.

1. The University Commencement Ceremony takes place on Friday, May 16 @ 9 AM in Lane Stadium. Be sure to arrive early. Wear the gown and something appropriate underneath, but no need for anything extremely nice. If you have an Honor’s sash, wear that.

2. The Psychology Department Ceremony takes place on Saturday, May 17 @ 2:30 PM in Burruss Hall. Typically, people wear dresses or shirt/ties under robes. Wear all your sashes, cords, medals, etc. This is your time to shine. FYI: it gets really hot in Burruss.

3. Celebrate with friends, family, and loved ones! Take lots of pictures.

After graduating, Kara is going to attend William and Mary in the Masters of Psychology program!
Senior Spotlight: Jennifer Nguyen

While at Virginia Tech, Jennifer worked at the Child Study Center with Dr. Ollendick. She was a research assistant there for one year until she left to study abroad at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. She returned to Virginia Tech and worked as an undergraduate research assistant for three semesters in the CAP Lab with Dr. Bell. Jennifer presented a poster at the Undergraduate Research Conference titled “Self-Regulation as a Predictor of School Readiness in Preschool Children.” She also presented a poster with Danielle Smalls at the Mini-Sociology conference titled “Land of the Free? Sex Trafficking in America.” She has been working part-time as a research assistant at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute in the CKC Lab and will be starting there full-time after graduation. She will be leaving in February for her Peace Corps service in Madagascar. Best of luck in all you do!

Senior Spotlight: Nick Vayer

Nick has several presentations/posters under his belt. Titles include “Perceived Social Support as a Mediator between Depression and Post-Traumatic Cognitions,” “Indirect Effects of Attachment Security on Meaning of Stressful Event Integration via Perceived Social Support,” and “Testing the Enabling Hypothesis of Coping wiring Physical and Sexual Assault Survivors.”

Nick will be attending the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs for a Masters program in Clinical Psychology! Congratulations Nick!!

Senior Spotlight: Kathleen Driscoll

Kathleen will be graduating Magna Cum Laude in Psychology and Human Development (dual degree) with a minor in Women’s Studies. She will be attending the University of Florida for a Masters in Mental Health Counseling. She will be graduating there in 2016 and hopes to continue on to a Ph.D. Hope all goes well!!

These are just some examples of the many accomplishments the graduating students of the Department of Psychology have achieved while here at Virginia Tech. This is just a taste of future plans and possibilities. We hope for only successes in all future endeavors. Congratulations, Class of 2014!