



# News from the U

July 2007

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## Welcome!

Since the last News from the U, we've graduated six students and enrolled five new students. Although we will sincerely miss the graduates, we look forward to working with them as colleagues. In the past, News from the U was only mailed to site supervisors, but we've decided to include the program's alumni as well. Although our alumni may no longer live in the Baltimore area, each one has an important role in shaping the program. For alumni information and updates, check out the new Alumni Corner on page 3.

We've begun preparations for the vigorous process of re-accreditation. As this process examines every aspect of the program, we encourage every-

one to complete the e-mailed surveys and provide feedback. We have organized an accreditation committee to conduct an internal program review. Please feel free to contact the program or the specific committee members if you're interested in assisting with a

particular area.

Good luck to everyone taking the ABGC Certification Exam this August!

Below: The Class of 2007 and 2008 took a field trip to Elwyn on April 18th. The students show off the fashionable hair nets they received before touring the work facilities.



## Special points of interest:

- ABCG Certification Exam General Exam - August 15th
- Genetic Counseling Exam - August 16th
- UMD orientation - August 20 - 27
- Classes begin - August 27th
- 26th NSGC AEC - October 12 - 16

## Clinical Rotations update

Student	Summer 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2008
<b>Carolyn Dinsmore</b>	UMMS Prenatal	York Hospital	UMMS Pediatrics UMMS Cancer
<b>Rosemarie Keefe</b>	Sinai Hospital UMMS Cancer	UMMS Pediatrics	St. Joe's Hospital
<b>Jodie Martin</b>	George Washington Hospital	UMMS Pediatrics	UMMS Prenatal BWMC Cancer
<b>Andrea Short</b>	UMMS Pediatrics BWMC Cancer	Harbor Hospital	York Hospital
<b>Karen Siklosi</b>	GBMC	St. Joe's Hospital	UMMS Pediatrics

## Class of 2007

With seven students, the MGC class of 2007 is the largest class to have graduated from the program. Many of the students are choosing to stay in the Baltimore/Washington area while others are heading to the west coast. Megan Skinner, Aimee Piurk, and Georgette Saba are all currently living in Maryland. Laura Krass plans to return to Maryland after spending the month of July site-seeing in Europe.

West coast natives, Liz Peterson Platt, Becky Crotto, and Emily Malouf are all moving back across the country to use their master's degree. Liz and Emily will be living close to each other with Liz living in Sacramento, CA and Emily living in Davis, CA. At the end of the summer, Becky plans to return to her home state of Washington.



## Class of 2008

The class of 2008 is busy completing their first clinical rotations, volunteering as camp counselors, learning Smith's, and submitting thesis proposals to the IRB. All five students are enrolled in the summer course, Advanced Clinical Genetics, taught by Shannan Delany Dixon. This course reviews birth defects and syndromes through lectures and stu-

dent presentations organized by body system. The students are also gaining invaluable experience by spending a week as counselors at camps for people with genetic disorders. Carolyn Dinsmore and Andrea Short had a wonderful experience at Emory University's Metabolic camp, a camp for women and girls over age twelve with PKU, MSUD,

and IVA from June 17<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Rosemarie Keefe and Jodie Martin will be attending camp New Friends for children with neurofibromatosis in Buckeystown, MD. Karen Siklosi is heading back to her home state of Maine to volunteer at Flying Changes as a therapeutic riding instructor.



## New Additions - Class of 2009

We are proud to introduce the newest faces to the UMD Genetic Counseling program. Natalie Beck has been living and taking classes in Boston since graduating from George Washington University with a bachelor's in exercise science in 2005. Lauren Doyle has worked as the resident

director at SUNY Geneseo, her alma mater, after graduating in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in biology. Jackie Francis will move her studies to the downtown UMB campus after completing a degree in biology from Loyola College of Maryland this spring. Cathy Griswold will join the program after graduating from

Drew University this spring with a bachelor's in biology. Stephanie Miller is a veteran of the University of Maryland education system as a new graduate with a degree in biological sciences from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



## Accreditation 2008

Our last re-accreditation occurred in 2002; thus, it's that time again! In order to provide adequate training for genetic counselors across the country, the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) establishes standards that programs must meet in order to receive accreditation. These standards ensure that all students receive a well-rounded education and sufficient clinical experience. Programs must complete a thorough evaluation by the ABGC every six to eight years to maintain their accreditation status.

As this evaluation encompasses every aspect of the program, an accreditation committee and subcommittees have been formed. These committees and their corresponding coordinator are listed to the right.

The vigorous process of re-accreditation involves an internal review of all the program requirements including coursework, clinical rota-

tions, laboratory rotations, and the independent study projects. The program will also conduct an audit of the clinical, academic, and facility resources available to students such as professors and researchers, textbooks and multimedia. All alumni and current students are surveyed about their experiences with the program and suggestions for improvement. Once these tasks are complete, the ABGC accreditation committee will visit the program and review the data compiled from the internal review before re-accrediting the program.

This summer the UMD genetic counseling program will be conducting site visits of all of our accredited centers. We will be contacting site supervisors in the near future to schedule visits. As always, we would like to thank all of our supervisors as the program could not exist nor succeed without your hard work and dedication.

### Committees

Clinical Rotations – Jessica Rispoli Joines  
 Counseling Curriculum – Erynn Gordon  
 Didactic Medical Curriculum –  
     Amanda Scaffè Higgs  
 Independent Study Projects – Toni Pollin  
 Laboratory Rotations – Erin Strovel  
 Financial/Dean – Miriam Blitzer  
 Student Records – Pamela Shinnick  
 Student Representative –  
     Carolyn Dinsmore.  
 Surveys –  
     Alumni – Jessica Scott  
     Employers – Stephanie Ashley  
     Faculty – Meredith Weaver

## Alumni Corner

Although the alumni convene every year at a desert social held during the AEC conference, the program would like to keep in contact year-round. Thus, we are currently in the process of establishing an Alumni Liason committee. We have begun collecting contact information for all alumni, but we're still missing information. If you have not already done so, please e-mail the address and phone number at which you'd like to be contacted to [cdins001@umaryland.edu](mailto:cdins001@umaryland.edu).

All alumni will be e-mailed surveys concerning

their experience and preparation by the UMD Genetic counseling program. As the survey is posted on Survey Monkey, all responses are confidential. The survey will take approximately a half an hour to complete. We appreciate your taking the time to complete it, since this allows us to continually improve the program, student experiences, and student education.

We will also be surveying the employers of students from the classes 2002 through 2007. Employer responses will be entirely anonymous as well. Please encourage your employers

to respond to this survey as this is one of the best mechanisms to enhance our students' professional preparedness.

If anyone has alumni announcements, new job placements, marriages, or births that you would like to see published in News from the U, please e-mail Pam Shinnick at [pshinnik@umaryland.edu](mailto:pshinnik@umaryland.edu).

Thanks to all the alumni for making the Maryland MGC program a successful and highly respected graduate program.

### Peyton Bennett Ashley

Stephanie Ashley('04) and husband, Adam, welcomed Peyton on May 24th at 6:18pm. He measured 20.8 inches long and weighed 7 lbs 14oz. We wish Mom, Dad, and baby all the best!



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