

News from the U

November 2007

Welcome!

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UMD SAlumni Corner

Since the last News from the U, the class of 2009 has joined us at the University of Maryland Baltimore campus. We have enjoyed getting to know them and are excited for them to begin meeting each of you during their observational rotations.

As we discussed in the last News from the U, we are actively working towards submitting our reaccreditation documentation and preparing for our site visit from the ABGC. The members of the accreditation committee have worked diligently to thoroughly evaluate all aspects of the MGC program.

We would like to thank all of you who have completed the supervisor, employer, and alumni surveys. As always, we would like to thank all of our supervisors and alumni as the program could not exist nor succeed without your hard work and dedication.

> Shannan Dixon & Jessica Joines



From Left to Right: Aimee Piurek ('07), Liz Platt ('07), Georgette Saba ('07), Laura Krass ('07), Megan Skinner ('06), Brad Williams ('06), Melissa Ortiz ('06) and Ania White ('06).

Important Date

December 21, 2007: last Day of Fall 2007 semester

January 18, 2008: Supervisor Workshop

January 22, 2008: First day of classes Spring Semester

March 17-21, 2008: Spring Break

May 15, 2008: MGC Precommencement Ceremony

May 16, 2008: UMB Graduation

Clinical Rotations update

Each of the students in the MGC program participates in several observational rotations during the first year (Down syndrome, Neurogenetics and Metabolic clinic at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, Adult and Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis clinic, Prader-Willi and Endocrine clinic, AFP, Metabolic and Cytogenetic Laboratory rotations and prenatal and cancer observational days). Starting in June of the summer between the first and second year, each student completes three 12 week rotations. Students may elect to attend an extra rotation in January of their second year. Each student is required to keep a log of the cases that they see and the different counseling roles completed. The logbook is reviewed twice a semester for completeness. Beginning in January 2008, the ABGC will no longer require that candidates applying for the certification examination (2011 exam cycle) submit a logbook. Students enrolled in the MGC program will continue to complete logbooks tracking their cases and demonstrating exposure to roles within the genetic counseling session. We are in the process of developing new logbook forms specific to the University of Maryland. These will be distributed to the students and supervisors in late Spring of 2008.

Class of 2008

The class of 2008 is taking the Baltimore-Washington area by storm. Carolyn Dinsmore is currently rotating at York Hospital. In the spring she will be rotating at The University of Maryland Pediatrics and Cancer departments. Carolyn's thesis is titled: *The Uptake of Invasive Prenatal Testing in the Infertil*

ity Population Compared to the Naturally-Conceiving Population .

The UMD Pediatric Genetics team is currently supervising Rose Keefe and Jodie Martin. Rose will be working with the counselors at St. Joseph's Hospital in the spring. Her thesis is titled: The Mother Daughter Cancer Connection: Risk, Worry and Impact of Event Study.

From left to right: Jodie Martin, Rose Keefe, Andrea Short, Carolyn Dinsmore, and Karen Siklosi

Jodie will be completing her spring rotation at the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Fetal Therapy. Her thesis is titled: *Determination of Risk Assessment Protocols for Midtrimester Amniocentesis in Prenatal Care Centers*.

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Karen Siklosi is currently completing her Fall rotation with the genetic counselors at St. Joseph's Hospital. She will be rotating with the UMD Pediatric Genetics division in the Spring of 2008. Karen's thesis is titled: Attitudes of Genetic Counselors Toward a Pictorial Representation of Disability.

Andrea Short is currently completing her Fall rotation at Howard County General Hospital. She will be working with the genetic counselors at York Hospital in the Spring. Andrea' thesis, sponsored by a generous grant from Genzyme Genetics is titled: Assessment of Physicians' Screening Practices and Knowledge of Genetic Disorders in the Ashkenazi Jewish Community.

The MGC program's application process is now entirely online. http://medschool.umaryland.edu/mgc/

Class of 2009

The class of 2009 is busy completing their first year in the MGC program. All five students are working on a joint project with the Genetic Alliance identifying areas within Wikigenetics to develop and expand.

http://wikigenetics.org/index.php/Main_Page

Natalie Beck is a graduate of George Washington University. Natalie is currently volunteering for Sibshops of Baltimore.

Lauren Doyle is a graduate of SUNY Geneseo. She is volunteering with Parent Network (formerly PODS of Howard County.

Jackie Francis is a graduate of Loyola College in Maryland. She is volunteering with the Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group.

Cathy Griswold is a graduate of Drew University. She is volunteering with the Howard County Autism Society of America.

Stephanie Miller is a graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Stephanie is volunteering with Hope for Henry.



From left to right: Jackie Francis, Lauren Doyle, Cathy Griswold, Stephanie Miller and Natalie Beck.

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Supervisor Workshop

The MGC program is thrilled to announce that we will be hosting Patricia McCarthy-Veach, MS and Bonnie LeRoy, MS at the University of Maryland, Baltimore to lead a supervisor workshop on Friday January 18, 2008. Pat and Bonnie are experts in the field of genetic counseling supervision. We will be distributing some reading materials prior to the workshop and ask that area supervisors begin thinking of challenging supervision situations to discuss during this workshop.

The workshop is free to all supervisors in the Baltimore-Washington D.C. area. We will supply light snacks and lunch. Additionally, we plan to apply for CEU's for this conference for those people who are interested in accruing them. A formal announcement will be distributed in the upcoming weeks.



Above: Liz Platt and Laura Krass ("07).

New Faces of MGC

UMB: We would like to announce some changes in faculty in the MGC program. In September, we were sad to see June Dennen leave UMB and move to Sinai Hospital to provide prenatal genetic counseling services. Lucy Talbot (Class of 2006), the Maryland State NBS coordinator moved to Pittsburgh where she is currently working for Pediatrix in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We are thrilled to share that Stephanie Ashley (Class of 2004) is now working in the Center for Advanced Fetal Care. Lastly, Megan Skinner (Class of 2006) rejoined the UMB Pediatric Genetics team as a full time counselor.

Area Supervisors: Debbie Axtell started a new prenatal genetic counseling position at Howard County

General Hospital. Meg Menzel has joined the prenatal faculty at George Washington Hospital. Laura Krass (Class of 2007) is now working as a prenatal counselor at Georgetown University Hospital. Best wishes to all.



Liz Platt ('07), Amanda Higgs ('00) and Megan Skinner ('06)



Jessica Scott ('05), Erynn Gordon, Andrea Short ('08) and Ania White ('06) . Below: Stephanie Miller, Lauren Doyle, Natalie Beck and Jackie Francis (Class of 2009)



Alumni Corner

The MGC program hosted our annual reunion at the NSGC Annual Education Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Jessica Scott (Class of 2005) coordi-

nated a wonderful dessert reception at the Pierponts Restaurant in the historic Kansas City Union Station. Both the Class of 2008 and the Class of 2009 were able to attend the AEC this year. The reunion provided them with a wonderful opportunity to begin to network in the genetic counseling community.

We would like to congratulate Colleen Landy Schmidt (Class of 2005) and her husband Matt on their June 9, 2007 wedding in Sayre, PA. We would also like to congratulate Nikki Justice (Class of 1999) and her husband David on their October 13, 2007 wedding in Atlanta, GA.

Again, we would like to say thank you to all of the alumni who participated in the alumni surveys for the reaccreditation process. We had a 95% response rate! 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 Shinnic at pshinnic umaryland.edu.

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