

InTouch

Graduate Psychology Programs

SPRING 2026

Welcome to the spring 2026 edition of Chatham University's graduate psychology newsletter. The graduate psychology programs have had lots of exciting developments since our last edition and we can't wait to share them with you. Be sure to alert us to any exciting news or accomplishments so that we can share them with our community.

Read on for all of our latest news, student and faculty highlights, and more—

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Jill Paquin Receives National Teaching Honor from the American Psychological Association



Jill Paquin, Ph.D., professor of graduate psychology at Chatham University, has been named the 2025 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Group Dynamics Award from the Society for Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy of the American Psychological Association (APA).

The national, peer-selected award is among the highest distinctions for psychologists who teach group dynamics.

Dr. Paquin has been a faculty member at Chatham for 14 years, during which time she has mentored and trained hundreds of students who now lead group therapy sessions in a range of professional settings. The APA recognized her integrative, evidence-based approach to teaching group counseling, which blends theory, research, and clinical experience. Her professional background includes work in Veterans Affairs hospitals, community mental health centers, college counseling services, private practice and correctional facilities.

“I am deeply honored to receive this award recognizing my work in training group psychologists and therapists,” Dr. Paquin said. “I am passionate about group therapy, and I believe my students can sense that. In addition to my roles as a researcher, journal editor, therapist, clinical supervisor, and dissertation advisor, teaching students how to

effectively facilitate therapy groups feels especially meaningful to me. Both my personal and professional experiences with groups — positive and challenging — shape how I train students in best practices for leading impactful, ethical, and effective group work.”

At Chatham, Dr. Paquin teaches graduate-level courses in advanced research design, evidence-based practice and group counseling. She also supervises students through their applied training experiences.

FACULTY/STUDENT COLLABORATIONS

Chatham Professor and Students Kick Off Links, Inc. Weekend Wellness Conversation

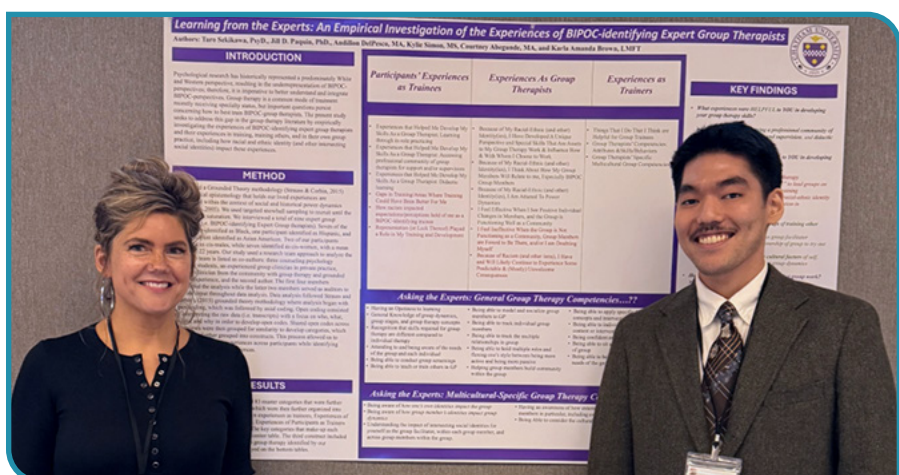
On October 4, 2025, **Dr. Tina Russell-Brown** (right), along with doctoral candidates **Ryan Whitlow** (left) and **Sheria Giles, MAP '22** (center), kicked off the Links, Inc. Weekend Wellness Conversations event. Their conversation, *Should I Lean in or Just Sit Down? When and How to Manage Stress in Your Everyday Life*, covered current research applicable to the Black community and how it can be used to inform their everyday lives. Topics covered included John Henryism, Racial Battle Fatigue, Superwoman Schema and help seeking, and the effect of racial awareness on youth socialization.



This was the second year in a row that Dr. Russell-Brown was invited to speak at a Links, Inc. event. On October 26, 2024, Dr. Russell-Brown and her doctoral advisee, **Autumn McBride '15, MSCP '18**, presented at the Links Wellness Symposium for Black women, focusing on the topics of stress and stress reduction techniques. Congratulations to Dr. Russell-Brown and our doctoral students for contributing to such important events!

Chatham Professor and Recent Grad Present at National Multicultural Conference and Summit

Recent Chatham graduate **Taro Sekikawa, PsyD '25** (right) and **Professor Dr. Jill Paquin** (left) recently attended the 2026 National Multicultural Conference and Summit (NMCS) in Seattle. They presented a poster based on Taro's dissertation research examining the perspectives of BIPOC-identifying expert group therapists and their experiences with training and practice, including their racial-ethnic and other intersecting social identities and how these influenced their group work at all levels of training and professional practice.



“Attending NMCS was a wonderful experience as I got to share the work of my talented research team. In addition, being surrounded by others who are passionate advocates for socially just and culturally competent therapy was also a valuable experience that I will continue reflecting upon,” notes Dr. Sekikawa. “It was energizing to attend a multidisciplinary conference around the themes of multiculturalism and social justice and learn more about what students and faculty around the world are working on to expand our knowledge base regarding historically under-researched groups. Really inspiring stuff that I am excited to take back to our classrooms!” agreed Dr. Paquin. She also notes that, “getting to catch up with Taro was the real highlight of the experience for me.”

PSYD STUDENT NEWS

Two Students Selected for Military Health Professions Scholarships

Third-year PsyD student **Eleanor Kim, MAP '23** was selected for the Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program, which provides full tuition, required fees, and a monthly living stipend to healthcare students during their training. Eleanor recently matched at Malcolm

Grow Medical Clinics & Surgery Center in Washington, D.C., for her predoctoral internship. During this training year, Eleanor will advance her evidence-based clinical training and begin her professional career as an officer in the Air Force. Upon completion of her residency, she will serve as an Air Force psychologist and captain in an outpatient mental health clinic located within a medical treatment facility at one of the 70 sites in the continental United States and overseas.

Third-year PsyD student **Cloey Layton, MAP '23** was selected for the Health Professions Scholarship Program through the United States Navy. This highly competitive scholarship is designed to recruit and train the next generation of military healthcare leaders dedicated to supporting the mental health and operational readiness of the fleet. The HPSP provides full tuition coverage, a monthly living stipend, and structured pathways to doctoral internship within the Navy, along with dedicated support for obtaining licensure. As part of her preparation for Navy service, Cloey will attend Officer Development School in Newport, Rhode Island this summer and will complete her doctoral internship at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. Following her training, she will serve as a commissioned officer and Navy psychologist, with opportunities to provide care in military treatment facilities, major naval hospitals, shipboard settings such as aircraft carriers, and installations around the world.

PsyD Student Presents at International Neuropsychological Society Conference

PsyD student **Ahrianna Keefe, MAP '24**, attended the International Neuropsychological Society's annual conference in Philadelphia this February, 2026. Her poster presentation, *Differences in WRAT Word Reading Scores Based on Education*, was the culmination of her work with neuropsychologists and other students at UPMC and Pitt.

"I really appreciated this opportunity to work with other students and professionals on this project, and to connect with students with similar interests at the conference," noted Ahrianna. "The conference also helped me further develop and explore my interests in neuropsychology and counseling psychology through attending other poster and paper sessions to learn more novel work being done to support improved clinical care."

Her advisor, Dr. Jill Paquin, notes "Ahrianna is passionate about research and reached out at her practicum site to ask about research opportunities available to her — and because they were sufficiently impressed with her hard work as a clinical trainee, they invited her on as a collaborator. She is now using some of these data for her dissertation!"

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Sherrier, R., Brilmyer, J., O'Donnell, A., Schreiber, J., **Hamilton, D.**, & **Dimoff, J.** (2025). A qualitative analysis of the implementation of an intensive model of physical therapy for children. *Pediatric Physical Therapy*. Advance online publication.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/PEP.0000000000001221>

Attenborough, M. B., & **Dimoff, J. D.** (2025). Autism × Social Psychology: A Collaboration Whose Time Has Come. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 19(4), e70054.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.70054>

Dimoff, J. D., Del Pesco, A., DiLuzio, G. M., Perkins, D., Keefe, A., & Folio, F. N. (2025). Need for closure moderates the relationship between social circle's and own influenza vaccination behavior in a two-wave survey of U.S. adults. *Health Psychology*. Advance online publication.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/hea0001467>

ALUMNI NOTES

Zamen Abo-Zebiba, PsyD '21 started her own private practice. And, she added another Little One to her family, a girl. ▶



◀ **Talia Abreu, PsyD '25** has her license to practice psychology in Maryland and is a PsyPACT provider. Congratulations!

Luke Collier, PsyD '21 is in Texas and thriving at a specialty private practice—OCD continues to be a specialty for him. He recently got engaged, with the wedding slated for 2026. And he's become a homeowner. He noted, "things are feeling pretty permanent when I think about staying in Texas!"



◀ **Tricia Collins, PsyD '21** welcomed her daughter, Hannah Grace, to her family on Oct 20. Everyone is healthy and happy!

Marina Costa, PsyD '24 relocated to Seattle, Washington after internship and is working in a staff psychologist position with Health Point, and FQHC.

She says her job involves many of the goals of the HAPPY fellowship, working in primary care and providing integrated behavioral health services exclusively for vulnerable and underserved populations with complex medical and mental/behavioral health needs. My role has a large focus on refugee mental health care, gender-affirming care, substance abuse treatment, and community resource care coordination. The work is very rewarding—and challenging!


Chris Maddox, PsyD '25 was married in May 2025, moved to Roanoke, VA, and started at a private practice!



◀ **Noel Maurizi, PsyD '23** is in private practice and supervising a practicum student from Carlow University. She's picked up neuropsychological assessments as a skill set and is loving it. She and her husband, Brian, adopted a puppy, Freya, a 160-pound St. Bernard/English Mastiff who believes she is a lapdog and is BFF with her cat Jackson!

Vinny Pietropaoli, PsyD '22 is working in private practice with several Chatham alumni. He's recently adopted a new puppy as well and, at least as of this summer, had gotten engaged and deeply into wedding planning.

Christine Simpson, PsyD '16 received the College of Health Sciences Young Alumni Excellence Award this fall. She supervises some of Chatham's doctoral practicum students at the Counseling Center and continues to teach as an adjunct for the program.



Special thanks to the alumni who spoke with the first year doctoral students: **Luke Collier, MSCP '17, PsyD '21; Rachel Coury, MAP '19, PsyD '24; Angela Dao, PsyD '22; Kacie Yost, MAP '16, PsyD '20, Chris Wilson, PsyD '19; and Ehren Emter, PsyD '20!** If you're interested in talking with our first years in the fall about your exciting career and your time in the program, let me know. Our new students LOVE connecting and hearing about your experiences.

Finally, if you have any interest in being a mentor to our current students, let me know! Several alumni have expressed interest, but just in case you didn't see the call or, like I can do, meant to reply and just did not quite get there...we're open!

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