

Psychological Sciences Newsletter

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Current Students,

I write this note feeling grateful for many things, among them a semester that went better than I could have imagined. Our students did a remarkable job with following safety protocols. Our faculty and staff worked to offer high quality in-person and online learning environments. Our graduate students were an important resource as teaching assistants while also making progress through our M.S. program. I was impressed with the creative ways that faculty offered research opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students. As highlighted in this newsletter, we continued to hold events to promote diversity and inclusion. Also highlighted is our new Assistant Professor, Meghan Quinn. This article made me think of the experience of everybody who was new to William & Mary this year and how challenging it must have been to learn the culture of a new environment under the current circumstances. We also tried new things to help build community this semester including an evening of Pictionary with graduate students and a game of "Among Us" on the last day of classes with undergraduate students (I thank the students for their patience as I learned how to play this game!). In all that we do, our faculty will evaluate what worked well, what can be improved, and continue to make adjustments as we prepare for the spring semester.

We now all have the opportunity to re-charge and I hope that students, staff, and faculty are able to do so. I wish you a safe, restful, and healthy holiday.

Sincerely,

Josh Burk, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychological Sciences

Inside This Issue

Letter from the Chair	1
2020 New Faculty	2
2020 Diversity Events	2



2020 New Faculty

The Department of Psychological Sciences welcomes one new faculty member this year:

Dr. Meghan Quinn, PhD, joined the department as an Assistant Professor. Before coming to William & Mary, she earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology at Northwestern University and completed postdoctoral training at Vanderbilt University. She is currently teaching two courses relevant to clinical psychology—Abnormal Psychology and Behavior Modification. Her research examines the ways that physiological stress responses and cognitive processes contribute to depression and related disorders. She is working with a team of graduate and undergraduate students to establish her new lab in the department. When not working, you can find her hiking with her dog, Gracie, or dreaming up new recipes to cook.



You can learn more about these new faculty members by visiting our Faculty Directory page:

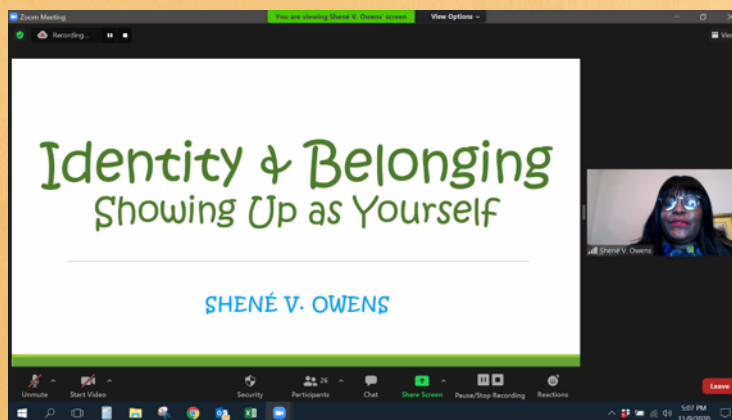
<https://www.wm.edu/as/psych-sciences/facultydirectory/index.php>

2020 Diversity Events

The **Diversity Committee** organized and held two virtual diversity events in Fall 2020. The first event was “**Identity & Belonging: Showing Up As Yourself**,” presented by **Shené V. Owens, Associate Director of the Center for Student Diversity at William & Mary**. The event abstract is as follows:

“Who am I? Do I belong here? Why did they choose me?”

Through our time together, we will explore issues of identity and belonging as college students. Your identity defines who you are, what you represent, and how you interact with others. Belonging means that you feel welcomed and accepted. Regardless of who you are and if the culture and environment is set up for you to be welcomed, you still must show up as yourself and get the job done; but it’s not always easy. Let’s talk about it.”



2020 Diversity Events

The second event was an end-of-the-semester social event designed for students to relax and wind down before exams, titled “**Among Psychologists.**” Students were encouraged to join virtually and play the popular game Among Us with their peers and professors.

The Psychological Sciences Diversity Committee, which is made up of faculty, staff, and students, looks forward to hosting more events in the spring semester.

Among Psychologists

Friday, 11/13/2020

3:00 – 5:00

<https://cwm.zoom.us/j/97369634301>



Sponsored by:

The Diversity Committee in the Department of Psychological Sciences

Before you start studying for finals, take advantage of this opportunity to thank your professors for all their hard work. Track them down, eject them into space, or better yet, leave their corpse for someone else to find. That's right, join us for a game of Among Us and some friendly conversation. It's a unique end to a unique semester.

Would You Be Willing to Share Your Success?

Here in the Department of Psychological Sciences we try to show our undergrads some of the various paths to professional success for psych majors and of course that success can be within psychology or in a variety of other areas – public service, education, health care, law, etc. Once or twice each academic year we bring alumni to campus to meet with undergrads to discuss their own professional development to help students see various opportunities. Would you be willing to be considered for this? If so, please submit your CV or resume to psychology@wm.edu.