

Class Notes

FALL 2020

We're excited to share this first edition of PAU Class Notes - and there are a lot of them! Over 40 alumni responded, highlighting career achievements, research and publication news, personal milestones, and more. We hope you enjoy their responses as much as we did!

Caroline Sakai, Class of 1991 & 1993, M.S. Psychology & Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

I retired from Kaiser Permanente Hawaii as Chief Psychologist after 31 years there, including four years at Kaiser Santa Clara. I have been on trauma relief missions to New Orleans post-Katrina, and have been to Rwanda to work with genocide survivors for 10 years. My book [Overcoming Adversity: How Energy Tapping Transforms Your Life's Worst Experiences--A Primer for Post-Traumatic Growth](#) was published in 2014. I am now in private practice in Honolulu.

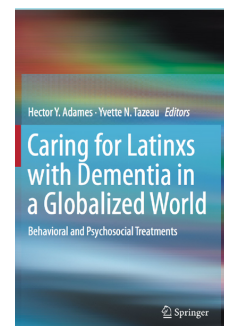
Sharon Clark, Class of 1994, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

My career is very fulfilling since I figured out how to discern what services were most aligned with my skills and values! After 15 years of working with high conflict families of divorce including doing custody evaluations, I transitioned to working with families that contract to stay out of court. I work with a collaborative divorce team that supports the couple emotionally, helps them find solutions for sharing income and dividing assets peacefully. When there are children, the focus is on them, keeping them out of the middle and maintaining a cooperative parenting relationship for their future. I also enjoy seeing clients in individual and family therapy. I love working with teens and preteens, helping them become their best selves. My practice is in San Jose near the Rose Garden with easy access off 880. At times my clients and I enjoy neighborhood walks or a visit to a nearby labyrinth that represents all the twists and turns in life and also a peaceful center! Namaste.



Yvette Tazeau, Class of 1995, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

September and October are the months that recognize Hispanic Heritage and World Alzheimer's! The theme of this year's Alzheimer's Disease Intl.'s campaign is [Let's Talk About Dementia](#) to raise global awareness around dementia and challenge the stigma that continues to persist globally. In sync with this theme, Dr. Tazeau co-authored the book, [Caring for Latinxs with Dementia in a Globalized World: Behavioral and Psychosocial Treatments](#) (Springer, March 2020). To learn more about Dr. Tazeau, please visit www.DrTazeau.com.



David Jull-Patterson, Class of 1995, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

After maintaining a clinical practice for nearly 35 years, I've stepped away from direct clinical work and I'm now an associate professor teaching full time at California Northstate University's College of Psychology in Rancho Cordova, CA. It is a new program, just starting its third year, and we eagerly look forward to our APA accreditation site visit in six weeks. One of my proudest accomplishments at CNU is shepherding an Advocacy and Social Justice course into the core curriculum of the school. I am the chair of the California Psychological Association's Ethics Committee, where I have the pleasure of working with PAU faculty member Nancy A. Haug, Ph.D. Starting during my internship and fellowship, I taught at the UCSF School of Medicine for nearly 25 years, concluding my work there by being inducted into the Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators. On a personal note, my husband Stephen and I raised four children and now delight in our 3-year-old grandson.

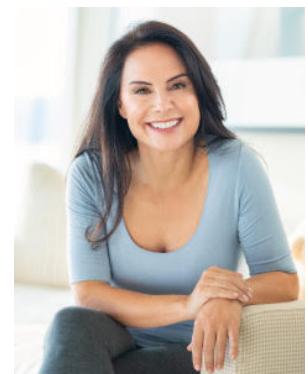


Mary Mendoza Newman, Class of 1999, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Mary is starting her 18th year as Senior Psychology Training Director at Stanford University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). In the 20 plus years since graduating from PGSP (now PAU), Mary worked at the University of San Francisco as a postdoctoral fellow and UC Berkeley as a staff psychologist for three years before landing at Stanford to develop the internship and postdoctoral fellowship training programs. In addition to her training role, she is a CAPS manager and a liaison to El Centro, where she provides clinical services. Mary also has leadership roles as an APPIC Board Member and has presented multicultural competence in supervision and other training and selection related topics. Mary, a native to San Francisco, lives in the peninsula and has a 19-year-old college sophomore at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Kristine Klussman, Class of 1999, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Kristine Klussman is thrilled to be publishing her first book with Sounds True early next year. [Connection: How to Find the Life You are Looking For in the Life You Have](#) introduces her simple method for cultivating well-being and true life satisfaction, which builds on her experience as a health psychologist and connection researcher. Over the past year, Klussman and her team at the non-profit [Connection Lab](#) also published a number of groundbreaking research studies in peer-reviewed academic journals, examining connection as a theoretical construct as well as ways to objectively measure it. Their paper on the role of self-connection in the relationship between mindfulness and meaning appeared in *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being* in April 2020. Kristine has a San Francisco-based private practice in the Presidio and is offering pro bono sessions for essential frontline workers during the pandemic. More information on Kristine's practice, research and book is available at kristineklussman.com



Timothy Tays, Class of 2000, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

I've been practicing in Scottsdale, AZ since 1997 and publishing books written through the perspective of a clinical psychologist. I'm now semiretired and doing psychotherapy via screens because of COVID-19.

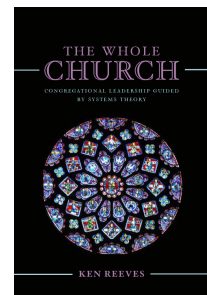
Andre Bessette, Class of 2000, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

After an amazing PGSP (PAU) experience and graduating in 2000, my wife, daughter Nathalie, and I returned to Connecticut (CT), where we have been ever since. We settled in northeast CT on a beautiful lake in a rural but neatly-situated community about an hour from Boston. In the intervening years, we had two more children: Yvonne, a freshman in college, and Henri, who is in 9th grade. From 2000 to 2006, I worked as the lead psychologist at a therapeutic residential and day school specializing ASD/anxiety spectrum issues. I then went into private practice and consulting for the next six years. During this time, I was recruited by a local social services program (TEEG), where I helped develop their renowned Intensive Child/Adolescent Mentoring program (IAM). In 2011, Day Kimball Hospital brought me on to start up their Adolescent Behavioral Health Program, and I am now the overall Outpatient Clinical Director. Our program was just nominated as one of best behavioral health facilities in Eastern CT.



Kenneth Reeves, Class of 2001, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Hello PGSPers! My note is that I wrote a book drawing from the family systems theory I studied at PGSP and applying that theory to ministry. The book is: [*The Whole Church: Congregational Leadership Guided by Systems Theory*](#). Otherwise I continue a therapy and assessment practice in the Boston area. I hope you are all well.



Tracie Caccavale, Class of 2007, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

I am working as a licensed psychologist for state of New York Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. I just direct commissioned as a Captain in New York Army National Guard as a licensed psychologist.

Emily Hugo, Class of 2007, Psy.D. Clinical Psychology

I am proud to be the Director of [*StandTALL*](#), a trauma-focused psychotherapy clinic within Peninsula Behavioral Health. StandTALL helps clients heal and be empowered after they have experienced sensitive life events, relying on empirically-based, gold-standard treatments for trauma. In addition to StandTALL, I am a Staff Psychologist at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and an affiliated Clinical Associate Professor at the Stanford University School of Medicine.



Jill Reelfs, Class of 2009, B.S. Psychology & Social Action

I am honored to have been commissioned into the [*United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps*](#), who works on the front lines of public health in July 2020. In September 2020, I have become Board Certified in Clinical Psychology.



Feng Shui for Children
|organizing for children with
autism

Zeno Franco, Class of 2009, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Dr. Zeno Franco is an Associate Professor of Family & Community Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Franco was recently featured in a Wisconsin Public Radio interview, [Coronavirus in LatinX Communities](#). He is currently the primary academic partner for the \$500,000 research grant, *STOP COVID-19: Co-design culturally relevant risk-reduction communication for vulnerable communities in Milwaukee County*.

Nicole Carr-Lee, Class of 2012, Psy.D. Clinical Psychology

Nicole currently resides in the San Diego, CA area with her spouse and their two children (ages 2 and 6). She is currently working as a clinical psychologist at San Ysidro Health, a federally qualified health center. She works in an integrated care setting and was recently promoted to the position of Behavioral Health Clinic Director.



Shara Francin, Class of 2013, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

I am a clinical psychologist working in Hawaii at Tripler Army Medical Center in their Intensive Outpatient Program treating service members and their families diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and affective disorders.



Tatsuya Tanaka, Class of 2013, B.S. Business Psychology

Hi all, I was an international student from Japan and graduated with Business Psychology degree in 2013. After graduation, I got a job with the tech company, SoftBank, where I manage project development & sourcing for new company to invest. With my job, I moved to Tokyo, China, Paris, and back to the San Francisco Bay Area. If you are interested in technology, please feel free to get in touch with [me](#).

Andrea Scott, Class of 2013, M.S. Psychology & Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

I am excited to share that I co-founded [SessionSync.com](#), a nationwide technology platform exclusively for licensed psychologists to deliver telepsychology. It's free to join and provides psychologists with HIPAA compliant video, secure messaging, secure document transfer, note writing interface and more. Session Sync currently supports psychologists across 26 states and continues to grow! If you are interested in running your own private practice by telehealth, Session Sync is the all-in-one technology platform that provides you everything you need to get started. And for those who need provider referrals, Session Sync's searchable directory allows you to search by state, gender and treatment focus. I'm very proud of what we've created and I thank PAU for playing an important role in my professional journey! Fellow alumni, I hope you are all thriving and doing well! Current students, stay at it. It's a marathon not a sprint, and the finish line does exist. Keep going!



Laura Khoury, Class of 2013, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Hello PAU Alumni! My husband and fellow PAU alum, James de Quinto, and I recently celebrated the September birthdays of our two children; Kaiya is 4-years-old and Ronin is 1-year-old. This year has brought many changes, including starting my private practice, [Kaleido Psychological Services](#). I work with teens and young adults with mood & anxiety disorders, substance abuse, suicidal ideation/gestures, self-harm, and other risky behaviors. I utilize DBT and CBT via Telehealth and walk-and-talk therapy. Like a lot of others, James and I are balancing the work from home life with two small children and practicing gratitude for the increased time with our family. We hope all is well for everyone in our PAU community!



Susan Pennington, Class of 2014, B.S. Psychology & Social Action and M.A. Counseling - Marriage, Family & Child Emphasis

I am currently in private practice as an LMFT in Boise, Idaho. I have a full caseload and I am also currently focusing on a few specialized trainings: Emotionally Focused Therapy, Brainspotting, Developmental Model and Narrative Therapy. I am the Co-Chairman of the Idaho AAMFT Geographic Interest Network, assuming the full role at the end of 2020.



Russel Dubois, Class of 2014, M.S. Psychology

Hi fellow Alum! It's amazing to think that it has already been six years since graduating with my master's degree from PAU! Since this time, I've received my Ph.D. from Northeastern University, married a wonderful woman (...also a psychologist...), held research and clinical positions at amazing training sites including Harvard and Hasbro Children's Hospital at Brown University, and now work as the clinical and research director of a mental health technology company focused on digital assessments and measurement-based care. I couldn't have done it without PAU!



Martha Aguilar, Class of 2014, M.A. Counseling - Marriage, Family & Child Emphasis

After 20 years of providing direct services to various communities through non-profit and county agencies, I've transitioned to working with County Behavioral Health Quality Improvement (QI). My role at QI is to help ensure the community receives equitable services and that behavioral health staff receive cultural humility trainings in order to provide services that are respectful of our diverse community needs. I'm still able to provide therapy services through a small private practice focusing on first-generation college students. Navigating both of these careers during a pandemic has been challenging; however, I've also witnessed so much flexibility and resilience from clients and therapists that that I'm truly honored to be able to provide these services during such turbulent times.

Julia Carter, Class of 2014, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Hi!! I'm excited to share that I have been working at the VA in San Antonio, TX as a staff psychologist since 2015, and am currently the DBT team lead at our VA. I supervise interns and residents in both clinical and research projects. I've also received certification in behavioral and cognitive therapy through ABPP. I've also been recently married and had a baby girl who is now 11-months-old!

Nick Grant, Class of 2015, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Dr. Grant is currently a Clinical Psychologist for the U.S. Navy. In January 2020, he was the most junior Naval officer to be appointed to co-chair the Naval Medical Forces Pacific Transgender Clinical Care Team. In March 2020, Grant Deployed with the USNS Mercy to Los Angeles to support civilian hospitals in response to COVID-19, serving as as lead mental health clinician for the ship's crew.



In 2020, Grant was the recipient of a Presidential Citation from APA's Division 19 and chaired the work group that revised the APA The Resolution on Opposing Discriminatory Laws, Policies and Practices Aimed at LGBTQ+ Persons, which passed the APA council with a 100% vote, a rare occurrence in this body of delegates. In August 2020, he was the recipient of the inaugural APA Division 44 Distinguished Contribution to Public Policy Award at the 2020 APAP Convention. In September, APA also awarded Grant an Early Career Achievement award based on his achievements, and demonstration of leadership in the field of psychology.

Grant has served on the board of directors for GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality since 2015, and in 2019 was elected as the first-ever psychologist to be elected to the presidential track. In September 2020, he ran the Boston Marathon as a fundraiser for this national non-profit organization focused on LGBTQ health, raising over \$5,000.

Christina Shirey, Class of 2015, M.A. Counseling - Marriage, Family & Child Emphasis

Christina was licensed in December 2019 and is currently employed at Foresight Mental Health in San Jose. She is in the process of becoming certified for EMDR.

Andre DeOcampo, Class of 2015, B.S. Business Psychology

I found a great opportunity joining my former PAU professor, Leslie Kimitsuka, at the County of Santa Clara's Registrar of Voters (ROV). As the current manager of the Training & Staff Development team, I am tasked with facilitating the organization's development and achieving transformational goals which directly support the mission, vision, and values of ROV. The world of elections is really one of the most complex industries, coordinating 12 divisions to conduct an election. This line of work has been a blessing for me. The skills required not only match my personal interests, but align very well with the education I received at PAU. I am very fond of my memories of PAU and still remain close with many of the friends I made in my cohort. Thank you PAU for the lessons you've taught me, and the friends you've brought me.

Jeannie Celestial, Class of 2015, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Jeannie Celestial, Ph.D. serves as a Staff Psychologist at Kaiser Department of Mental Health in Vallejo, CA, providing individual and group therapy. She enjoys supervising PAU doctoral students and served as an Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Liaison for the Kaiser Northern California Mental Health Training Programs until 2019.



Dr. Celestial continues to advocate for culturally responsive care in the Filipino community, helping launch the [Filipinx Mental Health Initiative](#) in Solano County in 2019. Along with Drs. Jan Estrellado and Lou Felipe, Dr. Celestial is editing a book on *Clinical Interventions for Internalized Oppression*, proposal accepted by Cognella and APA Division 45's Advances in Culture, Race, and Ethnicity series. In November 2019, Dr. Celestial co-authored *The Filipino Instant Pot Cookbook*, which quickly became a bestseller, connecting people through Filipino food and culture. She can be reached at jcelestial@paloalto.edu and on Instagram @jeanniecelestial.

Sirena Friesen, Class of 2016 &2020,

B.S. Psychology & Social Action, M.A. Counseling - Marriage, Family & Child Emphasis

After graduating in June '20 and obtaining my Associate Marriage and Family Therapist registration number in early Sept. '20, I'm excited to announce I've followed my initial passion which led me to grad school at PAU and am seeing clients at two private practices in the Sacramento Valley; Sierra Treatment Center and Eating Disorder Collaborative, which both specialize in eating disorder treatment. Stay tuned as I'm also currently working on revamping my blog and website and will be creating a new online presence soon. I'm open to collaborating, networking, meeting, and talking with fellow therapists and mental health professionals passionate about eating disorder treatment, attachment theory, family systems theory, CBT, DBT, and trauma-informed approaches - [feel free to reach out!](#)

Susan Oryzak, Class of 2016, M.A. Counseling - Marriage, Family & Child Emphasis

After moving with my family from San Francisco back to my hometown, Melbourne, Australia, I began an internship to complete my registration as a psychologist in Australia. I obtained employment with Forensic Intervention Services, Corrections Victoria, as a clinician treating violent and sexual offenders. I obtained full registration as a psychologist last week! It is highly challenging and rewarding work. Whilst my work is obviously forensically focused, I find myself actively drawing on skills from my studies at PAU.

Heather Unrue, Class of 2016, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Working as a Pediatric Psychologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center, taking on my first post-doctoral trainee, and just had my second child who is now 10-months-old.

Cassie Solberg, Class of 2016, Psy.D. Clinical Psychology

Cassie and her partner, Keith, welcomed their son, Logan Alexander Perret Solberg, fashionably late on 9/5/2020! He is healthy, wiggly, and all three are doing well.



Brigid Oram, Class of 2017, M.A. Counseling - Marriage, Family & Child Emphasis

I have recently become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and have started a private practice in Los Altos, CA.

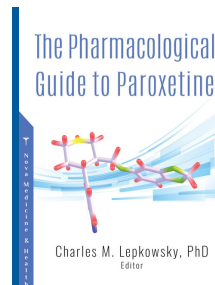
Christina Dennis, Class of 2017, B.S. Psychology & Social Action

Shortly after my graduation with PAU in 2017, I continued to work as a behavioral technician and was eventually inspired to continue my education! I finish my M.S. in psychology November of this year! I am also returning to work at the beginning of October as a client coordinator for Kadiant.

Victoria Liou-Johnson, Class of 2017, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

New textbook for which I am a chapter author.

Liou-Johnson, V. & Johnson, B. E. (2020). Paroxetine Use with Older Adults. In C. M. Lepkowsky (Ed.), *The Pharmacological Guide to Paroxetine*. Nova Science Publishers.

**Audrey Johnson, Class of 2018, Psy.D. Clinical Psychology**

I have recently become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and have started a private practice in Los Altos, CA.

Christi Morales-Kumasawa, Class of 2018, M.A. Counseling

Christi Morales-Kumasawa splits her time providing counseling to school-aged youth at StarVista and advocating for culturally-relevant mental health services for the Filipinx community through her work as a co-chair of the Filipino Mental Health Initiative of San Mateo County (FMHI-SMC) -- a part of the Office of Diversity and Equity's (ODE) Health Equity Initiative program.

**Cameron Mosely, Class of 2019, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology**

Dr. Mosely is a licensed as a psychologist in Georgia and starting a position at Anxiety Specialists of Atlanta.

Carlos Castaneda, Class of 2019, M.A. Counseling - Emphasis Clinical Mental Health

I was admitted into a Doctoral in Counseling Education at Texas Tech University for Fall 2020. I develop [The Missing Peace Counseling Podcast and blog channel](#) that also offers consultation to practices and universities who work with individuals with Autism.



Bre Gentile, Class of 2019, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

After working at Google on their UX Hardware team, I started working for a non-profit organization, Center for Youth Wellness serving as the Director of Product Design. I create products and services with a trauma-informed lens that help the residents, community-based organizations, and healthcare providers of Bayview deliver a whole-person care model to its families.

Paula Orrego, Class of 2019, B.S. Psychology & Social Action

So much has happened in my life since I graduated last year! I moved to Washington to attend the University of Washington (UW) and study speech-language pathology. At UW, I became a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. I am also a cheerleader on Seattle's official cheerleading team, CHEER Seattle. In addition, I am working as the Therapy Interrelations Manager for a nonprofit organization called My Scars Are Beautiful, which assists people living with physical and/or emotional scars by hosting support groups, connecting survivors with trauma-informed therapists, and so much more. Also, I am on the Seattle Commission for People with disabilities as one of their youngest members. My team and I work alongside the Mayor to get important legislation and policies passed that bring positive change to people with disabilities in the city!

Shweta Ghosh, Class of 2019, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Hello fellow Alumn! In addition to riding the wave to cope with COVID=19, I recently completed my pediatric psychology fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital, University of Washington School of Medicine. I am so excited to also have accepted a position as an Attending Pediatric Psychologist at Children's Hospital of Orange County where I will be developing a practice in Integrated Pediatric Primary Care! I hope to use my role to impact marginalized families and improve health care disparities for these populations.

Susan Lewis, Class of 2020, M.A. Counseling

What a year it's been so far. After completing an internship as a therapist at Canada College in Redwood City, CA and getting a crash course in providing telehealth amidst COVID-19 shutdowns, I recently began working as an AMFT for CASSY in Milpitas, CA, assigned to provide therapeutic support to Palo Alto elementary school students. I'm also writing grant applications part time for a local charity. Looking forward to learning what others are up to during this year of great change and challenges. I wish everyone health and happiness.

**Monica Alegre, Class of 2020, B.S. Business Psychology**

I was accepted to the Master of Human-Computer Interaction and Design (MHCID) program at UC Irvine.

Thank you for reading! If you'd like to submit a Class Note, please visit our web page at <https://www.paloalto.edu/alumni/classnotes>.