

◆ The Genetic Counseling Connection ◆

The Official Newsletter of the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program
University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center



Class of 2004

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Edited by Ann Reinhard, Class of 2005

News from Nancy

Regards to alumni, congratulations to graduating students, a hearty welcome to the Class of 2004-2006, and happy summer interning to the Class of 2003-2005. Thanks to everyone who contributed items of personal and professional note to this newsletter. Happy reading!

We are busy working on a new minority recruitment project. We were awarded a grant to convene a retreat for Midwest Genetic Counseling Program Directors and minority partners from our respective institutions. We will learn from national experts about genetic workforce needs, successful minority recruitment strategies in other professions, and organizational cultural competence. Next, we will brainstorm, problem solve, and propose projects that will be conducted by individual programs and/or collaboratively. Our final outcome will be the development of a regional minority recruitment plan. This project is generating much enthusiasm both inside and outside of the genetic counseling profession. We're proud that our Program is at the leading edge of this important topic. We expect that there may be some changes in our admissions procedures or program design based on this venture. We'll keep you informed.

Several other initiatives keeping us busy include:

--Preparing our ABGC Accreditation self-study. If you graduated from the program in the past 6 years, you'll be hearing from us. Thank you in advance for your responsiveness to requests for information and feedback. Your input is critical.

--Offering online CEU courses. We have a ways to go to get there, but we are moving towards this goal. We are hoping to target practicing counselors, other GC programs, and allied health students. (Keep your fingers crossed to keep us technology glitch-free...HA!)

Otherwise, all is well on the home front. Now that the cicadas have gone to bed for another 17 years, I can enjoy our nice hot summer.

All the best to you and yours,
Nancy

Good Bye to the Class of 2004

Angela Bedard

I've really enjoyed my last two years here at the University of Cincinnati. I have learned so much not only about genetic counseling, but about myself too. It has really been a wonderful experience. I'd like to thank all of our outstanding supervisors, thank you so much for helping us to turn into genetic counselors in only two short years. A special thank you to Nancy and Carol for dedicating the immense amount of time you do to our program to make it what it is, and still always having time for your students. Good bye Carol T, you're the best! Lastly, but certainly not least, a heartfelt goodbye to my fellow classmates. I will truly miss you all. You will all be a part of my most fond memories of these past two years.

Rachael Bradshaw

As the end of my two years here draws near, I certainly feel a mix of emotions! I am excited about the prospect of going out into the world and being a real genetic counselor, but sad to think about leaving my friends here. I feel so lucky to have been surrounded by my seven wonderful classmates--I don't think I could have picked a better set if I had tried! I know you will all go on to do amazing things, and it helps knowing that we have (at least) three weddings coming up in the next year where I know we'll be seeing each other. And to the First Years, as the TA for Intro to Genetic Counseling, I feel like I have had a special opportunity to get to know you. I have seen you grow and learn so much this year and I wish you all the luck in the world. Finally, I have to thank all of the great instructors I have had here. All of the time and dedication you have devoted to our training is invaluable. Good luck to all, and keep in touch!

Carrie Gill

These past two years have gone by so fast and I can't believe it is almost over. I think back to a year ago when I didn't believe that I would ever know everything I needed to in order to graduate, but here I am weeks away from the big day. I still don't believe it is happening. Though I won't miss putting in 14 hour days, it will be very hard for me to say good-bye to the friends that I have made here. Without them I wouldn't have made it this far. So I want to say thank you to everyone who has come into my life in the past two years and helped me to make it through all the thesis crises, relationship issues, and mol-gen exams. Every time I eat a s'mores I will think of all of you and smile.

Natalie Jansen

Goodbye Cincinnati and Hello Atlanta...but not until August! I cannot fully express how excited I am to start a new life with my fiancé as well as finally being able to practice what I've learned from the program. However, I will sorely miss the many friends I have made while here and especially my fellow classmates. Who can forget letting loose after our first quarter at Bar or getting to know each other (too well at times) at the sleepovers or long road trips to conferences. Even though we will be spread across the country, I hope this never stops us from visiting every once in a while and certainly not stop us from calling or emailing on a regular basis. I would like to thank Nancy, Carol, and all the genetic counselors, doctors, and faculty that have taken their time and expertise to make sure we are fully prepared and confident in our new roles as genetic counselors. This program has taught me more than I ever thought was possible to know in less than

two years. Now, seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, I can honestly say that all the stress and hard work was a small price to pay for being in a field I thoroughly enjoy.

Linda Lardinois

It is unbelievable to me to be this close to graduation already. It's amazing to look back at how far we've come and how much we've learned. It's certainly been a busy 20 months- between classes, clinic, thesis, job-hunting, and, oh yea, planning a wedding, I don't think I've ever accomplished this much in so short a period of time. I couldn't have asked for a better group of classmates. It's strange to think of working as a genetic counselor without each of you around the corner to share success and stress, celebrations and breakdowns. I look forward to many reunions in years to come and keeping in touch as colleagues rather than classmates. Look out world, here we come!

Trisha Mulhaupt

It is difficult to believe that our time in the Genetic Counseling Program is almost over. Until now, it was difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but now it is as if we have performed all of our accomplishments in a blink of the eye. My data collection will soon be complete, and I am looking forward to uncovering the information that the data holds (and hoping that it is worthy of publication). My job search has been relaxed as it seems that Ryan and I might stay in Cincinnati until he is accepted to an MBA program in January. Although I am looking forward to officially beginning my career, it will be difficult to say good bye to all of the wonderful people affiliated with this Program - especially my classmates. I could not have hoped for a more caring, supportive and fun group of people with which to tackle genetic counseling training.

Sara Rankin

It is so hard to believe that our time in the program is drawing to an end. The past two years have been an amazing challenge, in both my academic and personal life. Through it all, I feel so lucky to have been surrounded by 7 amazing women. We have shared laughter, tears and frustration and managed to have a lot of fun in the process. When I started graduate school, I didn't know that my classmates were going to be part of the reason that I made it through to graduation (knock on wood). I'm going to miss each of you so much. I wish you luck but I know that you will each be successful in whatever it is you choose to do from here. Make sure to come back to Cincinnati often to visit! I will also miss the support and guidance of both Nancy and Carol. Your doors always seemed to be open when I needed it most. Thanks for everything!

Jill Siegfried

Wow, I can't believe graduation is just around the corner. I have learned so much over the past 2 years and I am ready to join the "real world" finally! I am very excited to move back to the Northeast, though I am not sure exactly where I'll be. At the same time, I'll miss my classmates very much, but I know I'll keep in touch with them all --- And thanks to Linda, Natalie and Trisha, we have 3 weddings coming up over the next year where we can re-unite again!! (Congrats ladies!) I'll miss you guys next year, but I wish you the best of luck!

Where Are the 1st Years Spending the Summer?

Emily Adkison

I am going to Chapel Hill, NC, where I will be seeing primarily cancer cases.

Andrea Harbison

I am going to beautiful Albuquerque, NM this summer to work at the University of New Mexico Hospital. I am excited to work with Christy Koil, who let me shadow her when I was an undergraduate and who encouraged me to apply to the University of Cincinnati. I will be seeing prenatal cases as well as some pediatric cases. I'm from Albuquerque but my parents recently moved to Houston so I will be staying with a family friend this summer. She has always been a second mom to me and I look forward to spending time with her and all of my friends.

Deanna Hutchinson

I am interning at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles this summer. My rotation will be mostly prenatal with a little pediatric genetic counseling. I will be staying with my aunt and uncle who live in LA.

Jill Kelsay

I am going to Honolulu, Hawaii, and will be living with my aunt. I'll be at the Fetal Diagnostic Center at the Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women & Children, working in prenatal genetic counseling.

Jamie Poskochil

This summer I will be in Omaha at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I will be seeing a variety of cases including, general genetics, prenatal, cancer, teratology and many others. I will be living with my newlywed friend from high school and her husband! I am looking forward to the experience and to being closer to home!

Ann Reinhard

I will be spending my summer rotation at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah. I will be staying with my uncle, aunt, and cousins, who live just outside the city.

Jenny Smith

Hello everyone! My upcoming summer should prove to be fun and exciting and I can't wait! I'm going to be practicing my skills in prenatal counseling at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, NC. My supervisor will be Janet Ulm. Charlotte is home for me so I'll be living with my parents for the summer. I'm looking forward to spending some time with my family and friends while I get some valuable clinical experiences!

Kami Wolfe

I will be living in Minneapolis this summer with my brother and sister-in-law, who are expecting their first baby in September. My summer rotation will be split between working with two cancer genetic counselors. I will work with one near Minneapolis two days/week and I will work with the other counselor at Mayo clinic in Rochester, MN three days/week. I will likely have the additional opportunity to work with some of the genetic counselors working in the Mayo Clinic laboratories.

1st Year Research Topics

Emily Adkison

Currently there is no growth chart for patients with CHARGE association. I will be working with Meg Hefner and Carol Christianson on developing a CHARGE association growth chart.

Andrea Harbison

Health literacy has become an increasingly studied and important topic in the last few years. Low health literacy prevents Americans from using information to improve their health. Many people are not aware of what genetic counseling is. Therefore, I am developing a brochure about genetic counseling written in plain, simple language specifically for patients.

Deanna Hutchinson

There are a total of 296 cleft palate and craniofacial teams in North America that provide health care services and information to individuals and parent's of children with clefts. Studies have been performed by individual centers assessing the satisfaction of their patients with the services they have been provided; however, studies have not been performed to assess the satisfaction of individuals seen in cleft palate or craniofacial clinics nationwide. The goal of my research is to assess the satisfaction of parents of children with isolated clefts who are seen at cleft palate and craniofacial clinics across the country. The objectives are to identify the areas of cleft care that need enhancement or expansion and suggest areas and/or methods for improvement.

Jill Kelsay

I am following up with people who have participated in research genetic testing over the last few years. I am assessing their understanding of the testing, as well as any positive or negative outcomes they have encountered as a result of undergoing the testing.

Jamie Poskochil

Based on observations and discussions with genetic counselors it appears that relatively few people who have early onset Alzheimer's disease are being seen by genetic professionals. I will be surveying neurologists to assess their knowledge and use of genetic testing for Alzheimer's disease as well as their referral practices to genetic counseling in order to determine why this population is not being seen by genetic professionals.

Ann Reinhard

Perinatal Hospice helps women and families who are continuing pregnancies in which a lethal fetal abnormality has been diagnosed prenatally. Through telephone survey of families who have used the service, we hope to learn which Perinatal Hospice services were most and least helpful, what other services and help that families would have liked to receive but were not offered, and how well Perinatal Hospice helped them to cope overall with their personal grief. We hope to demonstrate that Perinatal Hospice is of significant value to the families dealing with the perinatal diagnosis of lethal disorders, and to identify ways we can improve the program. We also hope that it will serve as a guide to other centers interested in providing a similar service.

Jenny Smith

For my thesis project, I'm going to be working with Jessica Everett in the Hereditary Cancer Program. I am planning to investigate the impact that the content of a referral can have on a patient's intent to follow through and schedule an appointment with the Hereditary Cancer Program. I believe that the inclusion of an explanation of what to expect during a genetic counseling session and use of "cancer risk assessment" or "genetic consultation" instead of "genetic counseling" in the referral can alter whether or not a patient who receives the referral will then call to schedule a visit. I will be giving surveys of referral scenarios to people from the general population in order to test my hypothesis.

Kami Wolfe

My research topic is minority recruitment into genetic counseling. I am planning to survey undergraduates about their interests, values, and career goals, to try to identify differences between African Americans and Caucasians that may make African Americans less likely to apply to a genetic counseling program.

Introducing the Class of 2006

Note from Nancy: We increased our class size this year to include a Yates Fellow and a part-time student

Jennifer Fick-Jennifer graduated from Valparaiso University where she majored in Biology and Psychology with a minor in Chemistry. Her research included an Honors project entitled, "A Water Pollution Crisis: Will China Sink or Swim?" and independent research entitled, "Temperature Sensitive Germination Mutants in *Neurospora crassa*." She also worked as a day camp counselor for Chippewa Nature Center and volunteered at the Spring Valley Shelter Child Enrichment Program.

Brandie Heald-Brandie graduated from Case Western Reserve University with majors in Biology and Psychology. She was a member of Georgia Wiesner's lab in the Dept. of Human Genetics at Case Western and conducted research that investigated the relationship between *N-acetyltransferase* genes, colon cancer and diet among siblings. Some of Brandie's volunteer work included counseling women at the Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland.

Donnice King-Donnice has a B.A. in Biopsychology from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. In 2003, she worked as an intern at the University of Texas Medical Branch and later that summer as a research intern coding and analyzing data and drafting a manuscript at the NHGRI, National Institute of Health. While at the NIH, Donnice did qualitative research through a study on women with Turner syndrome and the effect this disease has on their lives.

Katherine Krepkovich-Katherine received a B.A. in Biology from Case Western Reserve University in 2002 and a M.S. in Biology from Case Western in 2004. Her recent research includes the impact of polymorphic genes on the severity of pulmonary

disease in Cystic Fibrosis – specifically the beta-2 adrenergic receptor; experience in maintenance of cell lines, ELISA, Western blotting, and PCR. Katherine's volunteer work has included Rainbow Babies and Children at University Hospitals, and the Cleveland Free Clinic.

Kristen Lipscomb-Kristen attended Eckerd College where she received a B.S. with a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She was employed as a Molecular Biologist for a contractor of the Cincinnati based EPA office. Kristen spent a year in Sweden as a Fulbright Scholar where she published a report on public health response for the Swedish Defense Research Agency. Kristen will be a part-time genetic counseling student, as she will be simultaneously working to achieve a doctorate in Molecular and Developmental Biology.

Victoria Raymond-Victoria graduated from Xavier University with a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She worked as a client advocate at Cincinnati Pregnancy Center East and as a research assistant for the Cincinnati Foundation for Biomedical Research and Education at Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Victoria is also an X-Action volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. Victoria Raymond was awarded a UC Yates Fellowship to support her two years of study in the Genetic Counseling Program.

Jeremy Reichel-Jeremy graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa where he received a B.A. in Biology. He interned at the Family Service League where he provided crisis intervention and advocacy to clients. He was a resident assistant who offered personal and resourceful support to students. And he served as student body vice president. Jeremy's research included: "Psychotherapy in Genetic Counseling," "Psychotherapeutic Treatment of Depression," and "Epidemiological Survey of 5-HT Receptor Gene Polymorphisms and Links to Major Depression."

Heather Taylor-Heather graduated from Wright State University with a B.S. in Biology. In 2003 Heather completed a six month independent study in genetic counseling at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio where she was able to observe various counseling situations. Some of her volunteer work has included mentoring children as a 4-H Advisor and doing various activities for American Nursing Care.

Misti Williams-Misti received a B.A. in Biology from Bard College, NY in 1997. She is currently working as a Teacher's Aide. She also teaches 11th grade special education biology. Her volunteer work includes being an Interpretive Programs volunteer and a Peer counselor for an adult re-entry program at Humboldt State University, a Crisis Counselor at a woman's resource center, and was the Assistant Producer for an include Field Intern for the Columbia River Avian Predation Project in Chinook, WA., Research Assistant for the Public Health Institute in Berkeley, CA., Research Technician in the Molecular Sciences Institute in Berkeley, CA., and Research Assistant for Whitney Laboratory in St. Augustine, FL.

Katie Ziegler-Katie graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she received a B.A. in Microbiology. During her undergraduate career she worked at Miami University's Learning Assistance Center as a peer tutor, and worked at the University of Akron in a genetics lab doing microbial evolutionary genetics research. Katie also volunteered as a crisis hotline counselor at the Butler County Community Counseling

and Crisis Center. Her honors thesis is on the research done at the University of Akron titled "A phylogeny of enterics based on 16S rRNA gene sequencing."

News from Grads

Kristen Beck - I have a genetic counseling private practice in Bellingham, Washington. I just recently started another business, a house exchange website at <http://internationalhouseexchange.com>. I will list genetic counselors for free if anyone would like to join!

Annie Fuchs - I will be getting married on June 20, 2004 in New York City to Adam Pockriss. After our honeymoon in Greece, we'll continue living in New York. Adam works in public relations for ABC News and I'm working at Beth Israel Medical Center.

Bobbi McGivern - My manuscript "Family communication about positive BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic test results" has been accepted as an original article for publication in Genetics in Medicine. It will likely be published in volume 6, issue 6 of the Nov/Dec issue.

Deborah Cragun - My manuscript "Undetectable Maternal Serum uE3 and Postnatal Abnormal Sterol and Steroid Metabolism in Antley-Bixler Syndrome" has been accepted for publication in the American Journal of Medical Genetics.

Karen Huelsman - Greetings from Cincinnati! The Huelsmans are having a busy and blessed year. We are awaiting the birth of our third (!) child in July. We decided to make the gender a surprise this time--very difficult for a curious GC and radiologist. Our two boys are getting excited about "helping" with the new baby. We also moved to what hopefully is our final home. It is only a mile from our old house, but has more space for our growing family. The new address is: 2812 Ambleside Place Cincinnati OH 45208. Please note that my NSGC directory listing was incorrect and should also include my email as: kdhuelsman@fuse.net. Hope to see you all at NSGC this fall!

Kate Lynch - My husband (Mike) and I had a baby on Feb. 5, 2004. His name is Sam William Lynch. He and his big brother, Jack, are doing very well.

Susan Manley - Jim Downs and I are getting married on June 26, 2004 in Wisconsin and will honeymoon in Hawaii for two weeks. We live in Clarksville, Maryland. Jim and I met at the NSGC Annual Education Conference in 2001 in Savannah, GA!

Trisha Mulhaupt - After much speculation about when and where, I became engaged to my long-time boyfriend, Ryan Buell, during the December holidays while on a trip in Florida. We are planning a June 2005 wedding on Ryan's family farm in Michigan.

[Lisa Paglierani](#) -I had a baby girl, Eve Corinne, on March 17, 2004. She weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and is very healthy. So far the consensus is that she looks like her Daddy!

[Nancie Petrucelli](#)--I had a baby girl on February 6, 2004. Her name is Ella Marie.

[Mary Pritzlaff](#)--I have had a lot of changes over the last year. I left my job with Center for Medical Genetics, and accepted a job with Genzyme Genetics. I am still working in Dallas, in a busy perinatal practice. Also, my son, Riley, was born on Dec. 17, 2003.

[Jennifer Beeman Stroop](#) - Hello, I graduated in 1993. My husband, Matthew, and I are celebrating life with our son, Jonathan. He was born on Sept. 26, 2003. Jonathan watched all the Bearcat basketball games in March (at least the ones we can get in Connecticut!).

[Joyce Tannebaum Turner](#) - I am the proud mother of a bouncing baby boy. His name is Payton Michael Turner and he was born on Valentine's Day. Oh, and I've left my full time job and am only working a day a week. Hope everyone is well.

[Michelle Wojtasiak](#) - My fiancé, Errick Coughlin, and I will be married on August 21, 2004 in West Chester, Ohio.

[Linda Reis \(Lardinois\)](#) - I married Chris Reis on June 19, 2004. The day was beautiful and we enjoyed our honeymoon in Banff, Canada. We will be moving to Milwaukee where I will be working at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

PRAISE Conference



The annual College of Allied Health Sciences Presentations of Research and Innovative/Scholarly Endeavors (PRAISE) Conference was held May 20, 2004. Graduate student research was shared through oral presentations and poster sessions. The 2nd years all presented their research with posters.



Angela Bedard shares the results of her study with fellow classmate Carrie Gill.



Natalie Jansen shows off her poster about Fabry disease.