

The Genetic Counseling Connection:

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



2004 Holiday party at the home of Carol Christianson

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program is to provide an exemplary environment to foster the academic, clinical and research training of genetic counseling students. It is expected that Program graduates will provide the highest quality of culturally competent care to their clients, work effectively in interdisciplinary settings, participate in research to advance the profession, and become leaders in the field.

News from the Program

Nancy S. Warren, M.S., Program Director

We are doing well...we have great students who are making good progress at a rapid pace to prepare for the job of their choice. Good luck to second years in your search process, and welcome first years. (You'll be there before you know it!)

Thanks to everyone who contributed input, feedback and time into our Program Re-accreditation preparation. We are reviewing, writing and documenting our past 5 years of program accomplishments, changes and outcomes. Thanks especially to the graduates who took the time to complete surveys, asked their employer

to do the same, and sent us a CV so we could document your accomplishments. We are so proud of all you have accomplished since entering the genetic counseling profession.

As for me, the accreditation preparation has been keeping me busy, in addition to the usual routine of classes, meetings, etc. Professionally, my 5 year term of office with the American Board of Genetic Counseling was completed in December 2004, which included of many interesting and challenging activities. One project I proposed to the board was very successful...I ran several "*How to Start a Genetic Counseling Program at YOUR Institution*" workshops for genetic counselors, geneticists and administrators who wanted to learn more about the ABGC training program requirements and best practices. I gave these workshops at the NSGC and ASHG meetings this fall, and at the Hispanic Congress of Health-Related Professions in San Juan, Puerto Rico (nice!). Over 80 genetic counselors, geneticists, and college deans attended one of these three workshops.

Another project I am proud of is "*Changing the Face of the Genetic Counseling Profession*." In January, I received \$25,000 from UC to convene a retreat of the Midwest genetic counseling program directors, minority partners

from our institutions (mine was the minority recruiter from Graduate Studies) and speakers who were well-versed in minority perspectives on health professions careers and cultural competence. The retreat, held in August, was a resounding success in that we gained a better understanding of some of the unique barriers to minority recruitment into genetic counseling. However, it's clear that the Midwest is no different than anywhere else, and that any future successful initiatives will need to be at the national level. I'll keep you posted about this project in this newsletter and in *Perspectives in Genetic Counseling*. We are hoping to write follow up proposals for continued efforts in this important area.

Update on my kids: Sarah is a successful (Physiology major) sophomore at McGill University, Ariel is a HS senior who is applying for colleges-she wants to be a nurse, and Jacob is a HS sophomore whose days and nights are busy with soccer and basketball practice and games, in addition to a tough academic schedule including AP Bio. Its busy, but they're all doing great!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to You and Yours!

Nancy

Carol Christianson, M.S., Clinical Coordinator

Well, after six years, all of the wise counsel provided by past graduates of the program has paid off. I am pleased to report that we have finally found a clinical orientation strategy that works. This year we instituted a formal four-week orientation at the start of fall quarter to familiarize students with the policies, procedures and the physical lay out of the institutions where they will be seeing patients. During this time, students were also able to complete all of the paperwork and the growing number of tests required to obtain their badges. Beginning their fifth week of classes students began observing in clinic and by all reports, the transition was smoother than it has been in the past.

Another change that we made this year was to decrease the number of DHG Journal Clubs held each month and increase the number of genetic counseling journal clubs. In our genetic counseling journal club we discussed three papers this quarter that had to do with patients' responses to fragile X, unexpected ultrasound findings and participation in support groups after a loss. We also spent time discussing how to evaluate journal articles. Again, these changes are in direct response to the feedback that many of you so graciously provided.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the national meeting in Washington DC this year. I was also impressed with the number of UC graduates who were on the program. As usual, you all did a great job! I am proud to be associated with this program and all of our fine graduates and students at UC.

I wish you all peace in the new year.
Carol

Update from the Class of 2005

Andrea E. Harbison

My summer internship was great. I enjoyed being back in the Land of Enchantment and loved working with

UC Grad Christy Koil at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. Another great opportunity was going on outreach clinic trips to rural parts of New Mexico, like Las Vegas and Gallup. I hope to return to the Southwest after graduation. I would love to be back in Albuquerque. I am also interested in getting a job in Houston because that's where all my family lives.

Deanna Hutchinson

So far, I'm enjoying my second year in the program, it seems like time has been flying by. Over the summer I interned at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. I loved my experience and hope to move to LA next summer and work



in a prenatal counseling position. I just submitted my thesis proposal for IRB approval and hope to hear back in a few weeks. My thesis is entitled *Assessment of Parental Satisfaction with Management of a Child's Nonsyndromic Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate*, and will assess the satisfaction of parents whose children are seen by cleft palate or craniofacial clinics in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, specifically focusing on the areas of feeding management and cleft surgery.

Jill Kelsay

Well, my first quarter of my second year has flown by, as I was afraid it would. It's been awfully busy, and I'm looking forward to seeing my family over break. Things are going well, though--I had a great summer internship in Hawaii (thanks, Tammy!), and I'm getting ready to submit my research proposal to the IRB for approval. I'm looking forward to starting data collection soon. I can't believe that I only have two quarters left of the program!

Jamie Poskochil

I can't believe I am a second-year! I spent my summer in Omaha, Nebraska at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I had a great time there. Everyone was so fun to work with and it was great being close to home. This year I have been spending a lot of time on my thesis, Neurologists' use

and referral practices regarding genetic testing for Alzheimer's disease. I am getting ready to submit to the IRB and am looking forward to getting started!

Ann Reinhard

I can't believe that the 1st quarter of my 2nd year is almost over. It has been go, go, go since the summer. I had a great summer internship at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah. I also got to spend some time at Myriad Genetics, which was a great opportunity. Since being back this year, classes have been keeping me busy. I am enjoying being a TA in IGC and getting to know our 1st years. I have received IRB approval so I'm anxious to get started contacting my thesis subjects. At the end of the quarter, I will be job interviewing for prenatal jobs in New Hampshire. Wish me luck!

Jenny Smith

It's been a busy year so far for me between classes, clinic, thesis and everything else. I had a great summer experience in Charlotte, NC, working at the Perinatal Diagnostic Center. I saw a ton of interesting cases and it was a very worthwhile experience. My thesis is entitled, "Impact of the Word 'Counseling' on Likelihood of the General Population to Schedule an Appointment for Genetic Counseling." I'm currently waiting for IRB approval before beginning to collect data. I've

also started the job hunting process and am looking to settle somewhere in the Southeast, particularly near Charlotte.

Kami Wolfe

It feels so good to be well into my second year and looking for jobs. I spent my summer in Minnesota doing mostly cancer genetic counseling, for which I have developed quite a passion. I recently received IRB approval for my thesis on minority recruitment into genetic counseling. It has been motivating that there is much excitement about my project from a wide variety of people from both within and outside of the profession. My classmates have been so helpful and wonderful to have around, and I will

be sad to move away from them at the end of the year. My greatest joy lately has been from family additions since my brother had his first son the end of September, and my sister is pregnant with her first child. When I have been able to take a break from my studies, I have played on several soccer teams and enjoyed Cincinnati as much as possible.

Getting to know the Class of 2006

Jenna Fick

Hello! My name is Jenna Fick. I am originally from Midland, MI and I spent the last four years getting my BS from



Valparaiso University in Biology and Psychology. During my undergraduate study I spent time researching mutants in *Neurospora crassa* as well as working with the Lupus Foundation. So far, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here in Cincinnati. I have had the chance to explore a little, though the program keeps me busy most of the time. I went to the Celtic Festival this fall and have located all the stores, coffee shops, and bookstores that I need to survive. The program had been fantastic so far! Clinical experiences remind me weekly that this is exactly what I want to be doing, the classes are challenging and interesting, and my classmates are wonderful. I definitely could not get through this experience without them, and any free time that we manage to find always seem to include getting together for good times!

Brandie Heald

Hi everyone! I am a first year student here at UC. I am originally from Pennsylvania, but I have spent the past four years at Case Western in Cleveland. I was a biology and psychology major at Case, and I also participated in colon cancer research. I served as women's health educator at the Free Clinic and was involved in numerous activities at the university and in my sorority. I have really loved my experiences in Cincinnati so far. Within the first quarter I have learned so much. Clinic is really great and I am

looking forward to starting my research project!

Katie Krepkovich

I'm a first year student from Cleveland, Ohio, where I earned a B.A. and an M.S. in Biology from Case Western Reserve University. I am so excited to be here in Cincinnati and be a part of this program. In all of our free time, I have enjoyed getting to know my classmates and I feel fortunate to be here with such a great group of people. I feel like I have learned so much already, and it is hard to believe that this first quarter is almost over. I'm looking forward to finals being over and planning a summer rotation in Boston.

Donnice Michel

Hello everyone! I'm so excited to be a member of the class of 2006. I am originally from Dallas, Texas and I got my undergrad at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Cincinnati is the furthest North I have ever lived and I'm really enjoying the weather and the hills. I can't believe the quarter is almost over. It has flown by and yet I'm amazed at the amount of information I have absorbed in such a short time. I have really enjoyed my experiences in clinic. I've been familiar with genetic counseling for a while, but it's really exciting to start participating in sessions and actually be moving towards the goal of being a Genetic

Counselor. The program is very challenging, but I'm thrilled to be here and be learning such interesting and important things.

Victoria Raymond

One quarter down, only six more to go! And it flew by! Grad school has been an adjustment, but I am making it along. Even though I just shifted down the street, UC is very different from Xavier University. I am keeping busy with classes and clinic which are both very interesting and keep me on my toes. I am having a great time getting to know my fellow first years and my second years. They are a great group. I am looking forward to break and coming back rested and ready to jump into basketball season, Go X!. Oh yeah, and ready to start classes again :)

Heather Taylor

Hello!! I am originally from Springfield, OH, which is about an hour and a half drive from Cincinnati. I graduated from Wright State University, in Dayton, OH where I majored in Biology. Clinic is the best part of the program by far. It appears that I am the "no-show queen" this quarter, but I hope to see more patients next quarter. I am looking forward to my summer rotation in Texas, with a UC graduate, Courtney Drake-Sebold. I am very excited to be part of the Cincinnati program!

Misti Williams

Hi everyone. I am a transplant from Virginia by way of California and have enjoyed getting to know Cincinnati. I entered the program after participating in variety of science research and working with students in special education classes. I'm looking forward to finishing up the quarter and spending some time and money on those riverboat casinos that I've heard so much about.

Katie Ziegler

Hello all! My name is Katie Ziegler. I'm from Canton, Ohio and I did my undergrad work at Miami University. I have a degree in microbiology with a minor in molecular biology. I'm really enjoying Cincinnati so far. Not that I have much time to enjoy the city itself, but I at least I like the program. And the little bit of the city I have seen I've enjoyed :) Obviously, the program it's keeping me extremely busy, but I've wanted to be a genetic counselor for such a long time that I'm still excited about everything. My classmates are fabulous sources of support and silliness, which helps maintain what sanity we have left! I'm living with one of my classmates as well, which has worked out well for us. We're both keeping busy, but having fun!

News and Congratulations

Class of 2003

- Elizabeth (Barry) Butler was married to Matt Butler in August 2004 and then they honeymooned in Hawaii.

Class of 2001

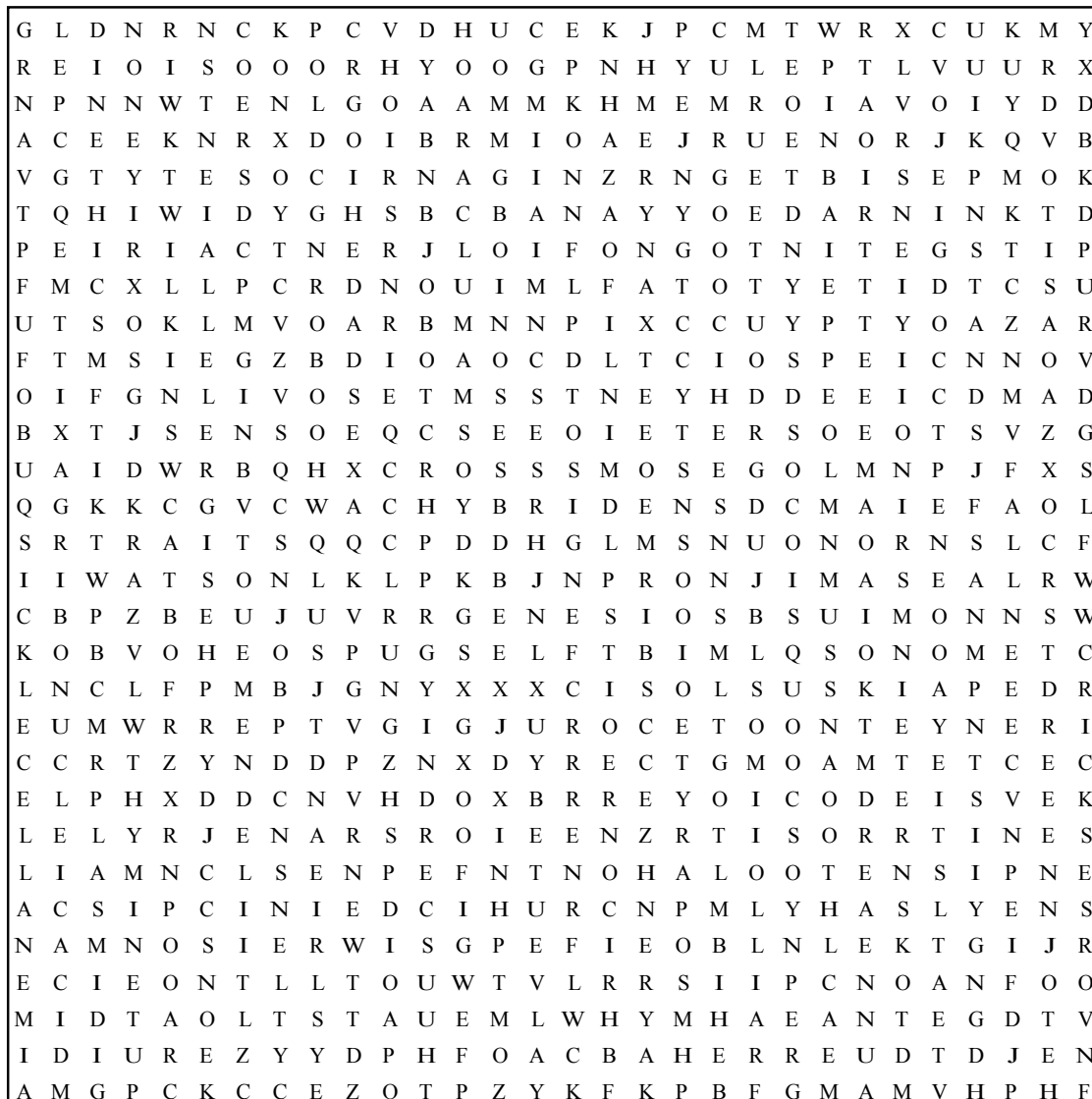
- Congratulations to Betsy Peach and her husband on the birth of their son, Aidan.
- Kerry Shooner and her husband, Byron, are expecting a baby (they don't know the gender yet!) - due Valentine's Day 2005.

Nancy Steinberg-Warren was nominated to receive the 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, which acknowledges individuals with characteristics exemplifying Dr. King. These characteristics include being sensitive to issues of dignity, caring for and helping others, and possessing qualities of leadership, vision, patience, humility, open-mindedness, and strong inner faith.



The first years are hard at work!

Genetics Word Search



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|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Adenine | Daughter cells | Guanine | Mutation | Recessive |
| Allele | Deoxyribonucleic acid | Heredity | Nitrogen bases | Replication |
| Amino acids | DNA | Heterozygous | Nondisjunction | Ribonucleic acid |
| Blood Types | Dominant | Homozygous | Parents | RNA |
| Cell reproduction | Down Syndrome | Hybrid | Pea plants | Self-pollination |
| Chromosomes | Ethics | Incomplete dominance | Phenotype | Sex chromosomes |
| Cloning | Family tree | Inherited | Plasmid | Sex-linked traits |
| Codominant | Genes | Karyotype | Probability | Sickle cell anemia |
| Colorblindness | Genetic code | Meiosis | Proteins | Thymine |
| Cross-pollination | Genetics | Mitosis | Punnett square | Traits |
| Cystic fibrosis | Genotype | Mutagens | Purebred | X chromosome |
| Cytosine | | | Recombinant DNA | Y chromosome |

The puzzle includes the last names of six people who have made contributions to the field of genetics. Who are they?

Contact Donnice.Michel@cchmc.org for the answers to the word find.