

August 26th, 2024



# School Counseling Program NEWSLETTER

Welcome back!

Hello school counseling students, alumni, faculty, staff and supporters of the school counseling program! It is with great excitement that we inaugurate the monthly school counseling program newsletter that will share information about the program, stories of successes, general happenings, and important upcoming dates. The goal of this newsletter is to build community and share all things related to UMD School Counseling. If you have anything to share as part of the upcoming newsletters, please email your stories and ideas over to Romy Stancofski or Dr. Ileana Gonzalez.

## Welcome Incoming Cohort!

On August 20th, the School Counseling Program welcomed seven new future school counselors. Faculty, 2nd year students, and staff shared important onboarding information and students learned more information about the program. We welcome our new cohort members!





Students enjoying lunch in the courtyard after orientation



Welcome first year students!

## Congratulations to Dr. McKechnie!



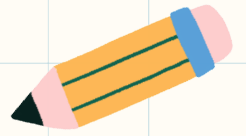
We are so proud of our very own Dr. Jessica McKechnie, who was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor this past Spring. Her hard work and dedication to the school counseling profession is evident!

Congrats, Dr. McKechnie!

## Field Experience News

There will be on-campus fingerprinting events scheduled for Tuesday, September 10 and Wednesday, September 11, 8:00am-5:00pm, in the Margaret Brent Room, B 2112 (2nd floor), Adele H. Stamp Student Union.

This is an alternative location for all applicants who are unable to go to the PGCPSS Sasscer Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. You must pre-register. Please reach out to Dr. McKechnie for more information.



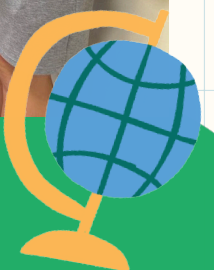
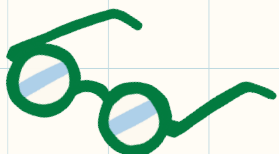
## Post-Master's Certificate Partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools Approved!

We are excited to announce that the post masters certificate program titled “Supporting Immigrant Students for Professional School Counselors” will have its first inaugural cohort this Spring 2025. This post master's certificate program is a four-course program designed to inform practicing school counselors of the impact of the migration experience on families and communities. Two of the courses will be from the Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education department and the other two from the Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership department. Practicing Prince George’s County Public School counselors will learn about U.S. immigration policy and the migration process and the mental health impacts on students. For more information about the program, click [here](#).

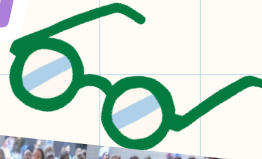


### Guest Speaker and Author Dr. Harris

Over the summer the 2nd year cohort read “The AntiRacist Leader” by fellow Terp Dr. Damon Harris as part of the School Counselor Leadership course. Dr. Harris was kind enough to pay a visit to class and engage with students about the impetus for the book, lessons learned and implications for school counseling. We thank Dr. Harris for lending his time and wisdom to the school counseling students.



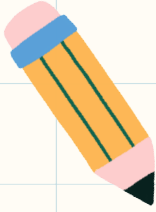
# School Counseling Students Attend the ASCA National Conference in Kansas City



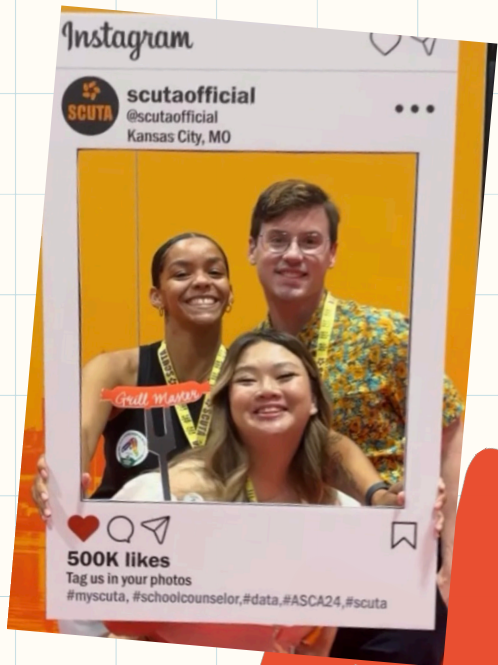
Current school counseling students, Terp Alumni, and faculty descended upon Kansas City this July for the American School Counseling Association Annual Conference. Current students attended through the BRICK grant that covered conference expenses. 2nd year student Alex Berner stated, “I spent much of my time listening to conversations around the legal and ethical considerations of the new Title IX regulations that would be rolling in this August with the exception of 15 states that are currently in legal battles over the regulations. Much of these conversations were about student liberties, in particular, the rights and privacy of trans students. Several of these conversations were led by the esteemed Dr. Carolyn Stone, whose textbook was used in our program's Professional Issues Seminar. Overall, this experience was greatly encouraging in my pursuit of a career in education. I left much more motivated to finish my master's and all the more excited to join this professional sphere fully next year!”



Lauryl, 2nd year, shared, “My favorite session I attended was led by Maryland’s own Dr. Maureen Ponce on how to advocate for school counselors’ appropriate role when working on 504 plans. This session not only helped to clarify what a 504 really is but I also learned the continued importance of defining and reminding school staff what my work as a school counselor is and is not. A close second was a session on utilizing bibliotherapy to help students see themselves with love, see others with admiration, and tap into their imagination to think deeper about the world all around us. I cannot recommend going to the conference enough when you get the opportunity. It’s an eye opening experience that personally, made me feel super jazzed about our profession.”



Lastly, 2nd year student Vivan said, “Seeing hundreds of counselors who are passionate and proud of their profession was incredibly inspiring. Meeting the people there and engaging with the ASCA community opened my eyes to the versatility and breadth of this field.” We look forward to seeing everyone next July at the 2025 ASCA Conference in Long Beach, California.



Follow us on Instagram!  
@umdschoolcounseling