

Welcome to the class of **2012**

The UMGCP Class of 2012 arrived on campus this fall with great energy and enthusiasm. They come from diverse backgrounds and life experiences and we look forward to their accomplishments here at U of M, and into the future.

Brittany Batte graduated from McMaster University in Ontario with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Psychology. As part of her undergraduate training she studied a family with a chromosome rearrangement. Her advocacy work involved peer education and counseling to help new students integrate into their school community.

Katya Brossart earned her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Illinois in 2010 as a returning student. She also worked as a research assistant on a longitudinal study of the impact of early relationship experiences and volunteered for the Champaign County Mental Health Center crisis hot-line.

Heidi Dreyfuss earned a B.S. in Education from the University of Michigan. Heidi has been a clinical and research intern for the cancer genetic counselors at William Beaumont Hospital. In addition, Heidi volunteered at a crisis pregnancy center.

Lesli Kiedrowski received her B.S. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin in 2009. Since then, Lesli has worked as a cytogenetics laboratory technician and cared for autistic and developmentally delayed children. She also volunteered with a family support services program and was a parent advocate on the Parent Stressline.

Andrie Klass graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 2005 with a B.S. in Horticulture. She researched RNA binding proteins in yeast at Stanford University and completed a genetic counseling internship at the University of California - San Francisco. Additionally, she volunteered as a sexual assault counselor.

Michelle Kluge received her B.A. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College. She worked as a Collegiate Fellow / Resident Assistant for Gustavus Residential Life and also volunteered at a therapeutic riding center for children and adults.



Andrie Klass, Brittany Batte, Heidi Dreyfuss, Michelle Kluge, Lesli Kiedrowski, Katya Brossart

Barbara Biesecker: Recipient of the Inaugural Diane Baker Alumni Award

We are thrilled to announce that Barbara Biesecker (UMGCP Class of 1981) is the recipient of the inaugural Diane Baker Alumni Award. Those nominating Barbara for this award describe her as a true pioneer, working to move the field forward and “chart ways genetic counselors can strive to provide the most comprehensive and integrated care to their clients and families.” These efforts are evident in her exemplary teaching, clinical, research and professional activities.



Barbara Biesecker

Founding and directing the John Hopkins University/NHGRI Genetic Counseling Training Program in 1993 represents the fulfillment of one of Barb's early career goals. In this position, Barb has created a world-class training program that emphasizes the centrality of a client's psychological and educational needs. In the clinical arena, Barb's work has focused largely on Pediatric Genetics where she strives to provide psychotherapeutically-grounded genetic counseling services. As one alumnus commented, “when other genetic counselors were just discovering Carl

Rogers' theoretical framework, Barb was already incorporating advanced client-centered counseling techniques and adopting methods of other theories in her practice.” Barb is also passionate about her research endeavors which explore the quality of life of individuals with genetic conditions and the process and outcomes of genetic counseling and informed consent. Finally, Barb has been a leader in local and national efforts to promote our profession. Barb served as NSGC President (1989-1990), on the editorial board of *Clinical Genetics*, *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, and *Genomic Medicine*, and has contributed to a variety of committees, consortia, and working groups at the NIH, National Marfan Foundation and American Society of Human Genetics.

Barb's accomplishments and contributions to the field of genetic counseling in teaching, research, and clinical care exemplify the Michigan tradition of being the “Leaders and the Best.” Barb's award will be recognized during the Inaugural Alumni lecture on January 10, 2011.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

UMGCP Reunion at the NSGC AEC

October 16 at 7:00 pm
Beckley Brewhouse:
1111 N. Beckley Avenue,
Dallas, Texas 75203

Thomas D. Gelehrter Lectureship in Medical Genetics

Speaker: Francis Collins, NIH Director
October 22, 2010 at 2 pm
UM Basic Science Research Building

An Introduction to the UMGCP

October 29, 2010, 3-5 pm
UM Department of Human Genetics
RSVP: monicama@umich.edu

ELSI Chalk Talks

Rackham Graduate School, 2nd Floor
West Study Hall North Alcove
Nov. 11 and Dec. 16, 2010 12-1 pm

Diane Baker Alumni Lecture

Speaker: Barbara Biesecker
January 10, 2011 at 4 pm
UM Department of Human Genetics

Congratulations to Darcy Huismann

Recipient of the 2010 Neel Genetic Counseling Fellowship



Darcy Huismann

The Neel Fellowship is intended to support the development of genetic counseling clinical research scholars. Each fall, one genetic counseling student is awarded this fellowship based on the quality of his/her research proposal. This year, Darcy Huismann is the recipient. Her research project is entitled Self-perception of quality of life and autonomy in emerging adults with congenital myopathies and congenital muscular dystrophies. Darcy plans to evaluate factors that relate to both overall and health-related quality of life in this patient population, as well as to determine the relationship between perceived autonomy and quality of life. Her study will provide valuable information that can help genetic counselors and others provide the most appropriate care and support to a patient population whose medical condition calls for increased dependency on others at a time in their life when they are developmentally becoming more independent. The primary mentors for Darcy's project are Jane Sheldon from the Department of Behavioral Sciences and James Dowling from Neurology. We look forward to Darcy's contribution to our understanding of the needs of this patient population.

UMGCP CLASS of 2010

Working for a Living!

Congratulations to our newest graduates!
We wish them the best of luck as they begin their genetic counseling careers.

Class of 2010 (pictured on right): Barry Tong, Anna Cisler, Brittney Dye, Maureen Mork, Alicia Giordimaina, Kailey Owens



Maureen Mork

Genetic counselor
Medical Genetics Laboratories
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston

Anna Cisler

Genetic Counselor
Reproductive Genetics Institute, Chicago

Barry Tong

Regional Medical Specialist
Myriad Genetics Laboratory, Houston

Brittney Dye

Genetic Counselor/Research Coordinator
Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia Program
John Hopkins, Baltimore

Alicia Giordimaina

Research Project Coordinator
University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor

Kailey Owens

Genetic Counselor
University of Michigan Pediatric Genetics, Ann Arbor

GLOBAL REACH

Jessica Ordonez Travels to Chile for a Summer Internship

Born and raised in Southwest Colombia, 2nd year genetic counseling student Jessica Ordonez is passionate about integrating her linguistic and cultural background into her training in genetic counseling and expanding genetic counseling services in underserved populations. During the summer of 2010, Jessica completed a summer clinical internship with the Center of Human Genetics, Universidad del Desarrollo in Santiago, Chile. She has this to say about her rotation:

"The 7-week rotation proved to be an incredible journey where I gained first-hand exposure to the process of initiating services and training programs at a site where the profession is not yet solidified. The challenge allowed me to educate not only our patients but also health professionals and researchers about the value of genetic counseling services. I actively participated in scientific meetings, case conferences and journal clubs where, in addition to sharing my perspectives as a genetic counseling student in the US, I learned about how health professionals approach genetic services in a Spanish-speaking environment, and a traditionally paternalistic health-service model. I am hopeful that this experience opens lines of communication and partnership between the international and US-based genetics community. The internship was an educational exchange that enhanced not only my experience as a student and soon-to-be practicing counselor, but also that of my supervisors." Jessica is optimistic about playing a role in expanding genetic counseling services to underserved Latin American countries.