

Welcome **Class** of **2014**

We are thrilled to welcome the UMGCP Class of 2014 to our community and look forward to working with them over the next 2 years. Based on their past record of success, we know that they will have a lot to offer in the future.

Julie Frank earned her B.A. in Biology from St. Mary's College of Maryland. As an intern at Genetic Alliance, she worked as a member of the Baby's First Test Team and helped in the creation of a website designed to provide information to parents about newborn screening. While at St. Mary's College, Julie also worked as a peer health educator and resident assistant.

Lauren Hipp earned her B.S. in Neuroscience from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2010. Beginning as an undergraduate, Lauren worked on multiple research projects for the van Anders Social Neuroendocrinology Lab here at U of M. Her advocacy experience includes working as a shelter and help line volunteer for Safehouse Center in Ann Arbor.

Christine Hong earned her B.S. in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Since graduating in 2009, she has worked as a Research Associate in the Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics Department at UCLA and as an intern at the St. Joseph Hospital Cancer Genetics Program. She also volunteered as an advocate for children in a mental health treatment program.

Deanna Julian earned her B.S. in Biology and Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. As an undergraduate, she gained advocacy experience as a volunteer counselor for a rape crisis center, a resident assistant and a peer academic advisor. Deanna's research experience includes data analysis for the Rudd Adoption Center.



Lauren Hipp, Julie Frank, Caroline Weipert, Christine Hong, Deanna Julian, Emily Moe.

Emily Moe earned her B.S. in Biochemistry at Alma College in Michigan. She interned for Cancer Services of Midland, Michigan, where she created and delivered presentations on cancer genetics to support groups. As an undergraduate, Emily also worked at a women's shelter as a crisis line volunteer and was part of a biochemistry research team.

Caroline Weipert earned her B.S. in Biology from the University of Virginia. Caroline's advocacy experiences include volunteering for a help line, a riding therapy program for children with developmental and physical disabilities, and the AIDS Partnership Michigan. She has also worked as a research assistant for the Chairman of Surgery at Henry Ford Hospital and a tutor for at-risk children in the Detroit Public Schools.

Congratulations to the **UMGCP CLASS** of 2012!!!

Brittany Batte, MS Genetic Counselor
MD Anderson Cancer Center: Houston, TX

Heidi Dreyfuss, MS Genetic Counselor
William Beaumont Cancer Genetics Program: Royal Oak, MI

Andrie Klass, MS Genetic Counselor
Stay tuned...to be announced!

Michelle Kluge, MS Genetic Counselor
Mayo Clinic: Rochester, MN

Katya Brossart, MS Genetic Counselor
Advocate Illinois Masonic Antenatal Resource Center: Chicago, IL

Jillian Tietjen Huang, MS, MPH Genetic Counselor
University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center: Ann Arbor, MI



Brittany Batte, Heidi Dreyfuss, Andrie Klass, Michelle Kluge, Katya Brossart, Jillian Tietjen.

Emily Higuchi: Neel Genetic Counseling Fellowship Recipient, 2012

The Neel Genetic Counseling 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, Emily Higuchi is the recipient. Her research project is entitled *Attitudes Towards Disability in a World of Advancing Prenatal Testing*. The results will inform efforts to assess how the availability of noninvasive prenatal diagnosis may affect the public's perceptions of those with disabilities, especially children with Down syndrome. Non-invasive prenatal testing offers couples the opportunity to prenatally detect a variety of genetic disorders without the risk of miscarriage. Through the use of an online survey, Emi will analyze attitudes towards non-invasive prenatal testing for Down syndrome, towards individuals living with Down syndrome and towards parents of children with Down syndrome. Emi's research committee includes, Bev Yashar, MS, CGC, PhD, Jane Sheldon, PhD, R. Beth Dugan, MS, CGC, Kelly Beaudry-Rodgers, MS, CGC, Brian Zikmund Fisher, PhD, and Stephanie Cohen, MS, CGC.



Emily Higuchi and Sally Camper.

Congratulations to Amy Curry Sturm: Diane Baker Alumni Award Recipient

The tradition of excellence that distinguishes our genetic counseling program alumni owes a great deal to our founder and first Program Director, Diane Baker, MS, CGC. The annual Diane Baker Alumni Lecture honors Diane's vision and commitment to the profession. The year 2012 also marks the Centennial Anniversary of graduate education by the Rackham School of the University of Michigan.

We were thrilled to welcome Amy Curry Sturm (Class of 2001) back to Ann Arbor on October 1 to receive the 3rd Annual Diane Baker Alumni Award. Her visit was co-sponsored as part of Rackham's Centennial Anniversary. During her visit, she provided the Diane Baker Alumni Lecture, entitled "**Genomic counseling? Genetic counseling in the genomic era.**" Amy's talk utilized her experiences providing genetic counseling for the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative (CPMC) research studies and in the Ohio State University Center for Personalized Health Care Virtual Genomics Clinic. She challenged faculty and students to consider the consequences of the clinical application of genomics to personalized medicine. Amy also provided mentorship to our genetic counseling students throughout the day on diverse topics ranging from student research projects to networking and job searches. Her visit left students and faculty inspired by the tremendous accomplishments Amy has made since earning her degree. Amy's career path is emblematic of the contributions to the profession, students, and patient care that we celebrate in the Diane Baker Award Lecture Series.



Amy Curry Sturm.

Previous awardees include Barbara Biesecker and Jill Stopfer. Nominations for the 2013 recipient will be requested in the Spring of 2013.

The Evolution of the University of Michigan Genetic Counseling Research Program

The UMGC Research Program is an integral part of our overall curriculum and was initiated with the Class of 2005. The research program provides first-hand experience in research and fosters intellectual development and critical thinking skills. Ultimately, our students are also contributing new knowledge to the field of genetics and the practice of genetic counseling. Because each student's research project grows out of their own interests, the lessons learned are unique to each project.

As nearly 50 research projects have been undertaken, we recently reviewed the evolution and success of the research program. The research projects have covered diverse topics including genetic testing, risk communication, family communication, psychological and behavioral impact of genetic counseling and testing, delivery of genetic services, and policy issues. Genetic conditions studied have varied across the medical specialties and have included Alzheimer's disease, autism, bipolar disease, cardiomyopathy, cleft lip and cleft palate, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, hereditary cancers, macular degeneration, congenital myopathies and muscular dystrophies, Progeria and Trisomy 18. The diversity in the students' research projects is a direct consequence of the intellectual depth and wide variety of interests of research mentors which have included genetic counselors, physicians, basic scientists, and social scientists representing several departments, specialties and schools on the UM campus.

The rigor and merit of the research studies are impressive, with greater than 80% of students being selected to present their results at the NSGC Annual Education Conference. The majority of the findings were presented in platform presentations. Students' research has also resulted in publications including 7 peer-reviewed papers, 1 book chapter, and 1 patient education booklet, with several students preparing manuscripts.

While many of our alumni have gone on to work in positions that include research activities, the research experience at UMGC provides valuable tools in critical thinking that are applicable to multiple dimensions of genetic counseling practice. We look forward to seeing where the next 50 research projects take our students!

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Friday October 19, 2012, 3-5 pm
An Introduction to the UMGC
UM Department of Human Genetics
RSVP: monicama@umich.edu

Friday October 26, 2012 7:30-9:30
UMGC Reunion at the NSGC AEC
The Forum
755 Boylston Street
Boston, MA

Tuesday January 15, 2013
UMGC 2013 Application Deadline

For more information about any of these events, contact Monica Marvin at monicama@umich.edu