



CMGMH CONNECTION

International Service Learning Programs

Each year, William James College (WJC) students and faculty take part in international immersion initiatives in low- and middle-income countries. These service learning programs give students and faculty an opportunity to volunteer at various clinics, hospitals, and social service agencies that serve historically marginalized communities. Immersion programs are currently offered in Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, and Kenya.

In early July 2017, WJC students and faculty took part in a 10-day immersion experience in Haiti. The primary objective of the 2017 Service Learning Program was on creating and implementing a Youth Leadership & Community Engagement Initiative for adolescents and young adults in the rural town of Vallue, Petit-Goâve. In collaboration with the Association des Paysants de Vallue, local educators and other stakeholders, the program focused on building the skills needed for adolescents to be effective leaders in their communities. Program participants engaged in hands-on learning experiences aimed at promoting active community involvement, fostering positive youth development and empowerment, strengthening community-based partnerships, and sustaining positive community development.

In late July, 2017 another group of faculty members and Global Mental Health concentration students traveled to Guyana for 10 days to conduct workshops to enhance women and youth's empowerment as well as facilitate a 2-day suicide gatekeeper training with community leaders to address Guyana's high incidence of suicide. The workshops and trainings were conducted in partnership with The Guyana Foundation; Sherjoy Daycare, Playgroup, and Nursery; and the Guyana District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas. WJC students immersed themselves in Guyana's cultural traditions and practices to better understand the mental health needs of the Guyanese community. Students' development and facilitation of culturally-informed workshops have informed their clinical practice and enhanced their multicultural knowledge and skills, in ways that will benefit clients from historically marginalized groups and underserved communities.



2017 Haiti Cultural Immersion Program

In This Issue

- ◆ International Service Learning Programs
- ◆ Division 52's Student Representative
- ◆ Faculty Leadership Award
- ◆ CMGMH's Anniversary Celebration
- ◆ Become a CMGMH Partner!
- ◆ Save the Date: Upcoming WJC & CMGMH Events
- ◆ September Holidays
- ◆ Professional Development Conferences
- ◆ Current Events Corner

Continue onto the next page.

International Service Learning Programs (cont.)

In August 2017, five WJC students, one faculty member, and the Director of the Latino Mental Health Program traveled to Guayaquil, Ecuador for a four-week immersion experience where they learned, worked and collaborated with the Instituto de Neurociencias de la Junta de Beneficencia, a consortium of hospitals in the area.

Faculty led a well-received presentation on Integrating Psychological Services in Primary Care for 120 attendees. Students rotated between four different departments within the Institute: Center for Integral Rehabilitation, Center for Addictions, Outpatient Hospital, and Residencies. Side by side with local psychologists, students conducted intakes, administered neuropsychological and projective batteries, assisted in writing reports, participated in clinical discussions, led psychoeducational workshops and worked with family members. Furthermore, students co-facilitated activities at the Center for Integral Rehabilitation, which included music groups, gardening, physical therapy, dance, yoga, tai chi, and art groups.



2017 Guyana Cultural Immersion Program



2017 Ecuador Cultural Immersion Program

Moreover, students had the unique opportunity to observe Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) administered to individuals with severe emotional disorders. In addition to learnings related to psychological practice and systems, students were able to learn about the culture and improve their Spanish skills by attending advanced classes, residing with local families, and touring beautiful Guayaquil and its surrounding cities. We are grateful to our partners in Ecuador for their professionalism and warmth.

Also this July, another cohort of immersion students and faculty spent two weeks in Thika, Kenya, participating in a collaborative project between WJC, the Kimo Wellness Foundation, and the Muthuru School. This program is supported by a grant from Proctor & Gamble Kenya's Safe Drinking Water Program that works to increase access to safe drinking water. This year's immersion project combined the delivery of clean drinking water supplies with a whole community, social-emotional learning program to insure sustainability, continuity of care, and positive change.

While in Thika, students worked alongside teachers and community organizers in the children's classrooms to implement the strength-based curriculum. The program began and ended with a community meeting that included parents. In these meetings, WJC students and faculty outlined intentions and clarified goals. The culmination of the program was a community-wide presentation where parents and local officials celebrated the work of their children and their school. The cultural immersion programs gave CMGMH students experience at the local level where they were able to integrate into a community and perform services while weaving the opportunity into their course curricula.

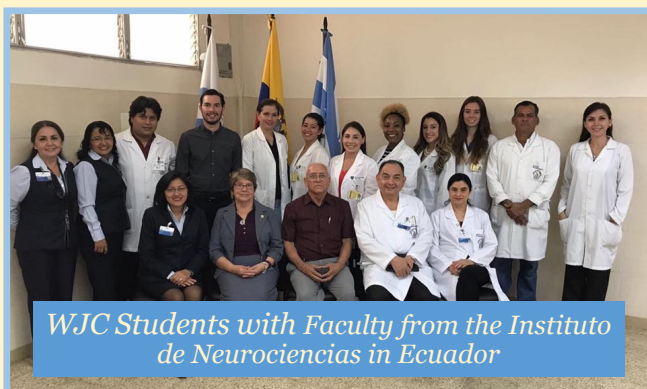


2017 Kenya Cultural Immersion Program

International Service Learning Programs (cont.)



Expressive Arts Workshop in Guyana



WJC Students with Faculty from the Instituto de Neurociencias in Ecuador



Instituto de Neurociencias, Ecuador



Students and Faculty in Thika, Kenya



Kenya Cultural Immersion Program



Students and Faculty at the Institute of Social Work & Social Science in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

APA's Division 52 Student Representative

Adetutu Ajibose has been elected as a Student Representative of the American Psychological Association's Division 52 (*International Psychology*). Adetutu is a 3rd year student in the Clinical Psychology Program at WJC with concentrations in Children and Families of Adversity and Resilience, and African & Caribbean Mental Health.

Division 52 seeks to develop a psychological science and practice that is contextually informed and culturally inclusive, serves the public interest, and promotes global perspectives within and outside of APA. As the Student Representative and Student Committee Chair, Adetutu will serve a 2-year term as chair of the Student Committee and as a student member on the Board of Directors. The Student Committee encourages student division membership, and helps students become involved with the dynamic community of international psychologists. Adetutu is interested in addressing mental health disparities and serving culturally diverse individuals and communities locally and across the globe.



Adetutu Ajibose



Dr. Bennasar (left) receiving the Professional Leadership and Excellence Award from Dr. Kermit Crawford.

Professional Leadership & Excellence Award: Dr. Mari Carmen Bennasar

On June 22, 2017, Dr. Mari Carmen Bennasar was honored at the 45th Annual Celebration of the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology at Boston Medical Center where she received a Professional Leadership & Excellence Award. Congratulations, Dr. Bennasar!

Celebrating One Year Of Excellence!

On June 15, 2017, the Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health (CMGMH) at William James College (WJC) celebrated its first anniversary. "CMGMH is a critical piece in the work that we do here (at WJC) by educating the public as well as facilitating various initiatives and events related to diversity," explained WJC President, Dr. Nicholas Covino.



Attendees at the June 2017 Anniversary Celebration of CMGMH

Become A CMGMH Partner!!!



WILLIAM JAMES
COLLEGE

Center for Multicultural &
Global Mental Health

The primary mission of William James College's Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health (CMGMH) is

to train, educate and mentor a cadre of professionals to address mental health disparities, practice trauma-informed care, and serve culturally diverse individuals and communities locally and internationally. **CMGMH is looking to build partnerships with schools, clinics, community health centers, social services agencies, and faith-based organizations that serve immigrant, refugee and historically marginalized populations to offer clinical field trainings and service learning opportunities for our graduate students.** Please contact us at cmgmh@williamjames.edu for more information.



"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."
-William James

Save the Date: Upcoming CMGMH Events

- September 27: **CMGMH Welcome Night.** 6:30-8:30pm (contact cmgmh@williamjames.edu)
- October 18: **Immersion Program Presentation.** 11:30am-1pm (contact cmgmh@williamjames.edu)
- October 27 & 28: **Syrian Refugees Conference.** 9:00 am – 4:30 pm, https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=MSPP&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=a5d7a74e-8380-43a0-bae2-48f4c2590449
- November 13: **Implications of Islamophobia: Its Impact Beyond the Muslim Community and Key Components of Allyship.** 6:30pm-8:30pm (contact cmgmh@williamjames.edu)

September Holidays & Observances

- September 1: **Eid al Adha**
- September 4: **Labor Day**
- September 10– 16: **National Suicide Prevention Week** <http://www.suicidology.org/about-aas/national-suicide-prevention-week>
- September 11: **Patriot Day (National Day of Service and Remembrance)**
- September 15–October 15: **Hispanic Heritage Month** <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>
- September 20: **Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown**
- September 21: **Muharram begins at sundown**
- September 21: **International Day of Peace** <http://internationaldayofpeace.org/>
- September 29: **Yom Kippur begins at sundown**
- September 30: **Ashura begins at sundown**

Professional Development Events & Conferences

- September 20th, 2017: **Project Venture – Positive Youth Development for American Indian and Alaska Native Youth Webinar.** <http://tinyurl.com/ProjectVentureRegistration>
- September 23rd, 2017: **State of Haitian-American in Massachusetts, 5th Conference (West Roxbury, MA).** Call for info. at 617-799-7009
- October 6th-7th, 2017: **Building Bridges between Haiti and the Diaspora (Miami, FL).** <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/rebati-sante-mentale-13695590716>
- October 13th-14th, 2017: **Diversity Challenge Conference (Boston, MA).** <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/lsoe/sites/isprc/diversity-challenge/Registration.html>
- October 21st– 22nd, 2017: **New England Psychological Association (NEPA) & Northeast Conference For Teachers of Psychology (NECTOP) Annual Meeting.** <http://www.newenglandpsychological.org/>
- October 27th-Nov 4th, 2017: **Cuba APA International Learning Partner Program Trip.** <http://www.apa.org/international/outreach/learning-partner.aspx>
- November 4th, 2017: **Massachusetts Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Conference.** <http://www.masspsych.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=993362&group=>
- March 15–17, 2018: **10th Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference.** <http://mailchi.mp/380d7527b397/muslim-mental-health-conference-call-for-proposals-399495?e=5ba106d246>
- May 4th-5th, 2018: **LGBT Health Workforce Conference.** <http://bngap.org/lgbthwfconf/>
- June 29th-July 1st, 2018: **Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues' 2018 Summer Conference.** <http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?pageId=480>
- July 1st-5th, 2018: **International Congress of International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP).** <http://www.iaccp.org/node/627>
- October 18th-21st, 2018: **The National Latina/o Psychological Association Conference.** <https://www.nlpaconference.org/>
- November 13th-17th, 2018: **Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology.** <http://crcp2018.org/>

Current Events Corner

Mental Health in the News

- **“50-state resource aims to help parents prepare for possible deportation”** *Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.* A clinic has released a new web-based resource to help guide immigrant parents and their representatives as they put legal protections in place for families in case parents are detained or deported. [Read Here.](#)
- **“Online Resources for Working with Refugees, Victims of Torture, Detainees, & Asylum-Seekers”** In helping torture survivors and those who have been officially detained, seek asylum, or find refuge in new countries, a major problem is quickly locating resources that fit the situation and the individual. [Read Here.](#)
- **“Mental health programs in schools: Growing body of evidence supports effectiveness”** *ScienceDaily.* School-based mental health programs can reach large numbers of children, with increasing evidence of effectiveness in improving mental health and related outcomes, according to a research review. [Read Here.](#)
- **“How Do Refugee Teens Build Resilience?”** *NPR.* Researchers interviewed Syrian tweens and teens who had been displaced because of war about resilience. [Read Here.](#)
- **“Frailty And The Human Being: Mental Health At Work Becomes A Critical U.K. Business Issue”** *Forbes.* U.K. employees surveyed across 30 organizations about poor mental health and their job. [Read Here.](#)
- **“Preventing Teen Suicide: What the Evidence Shows”** *New York Times.* Rates of teen suicide continue to rise and evidence-based measures to try to reverse this course. [Read Here.](#)