**Graduate School Panel 4/11/16**

Min Lee (Social Psychology) jlee@psych.udel.edu

* Looking at cultural differences and feedback amongst friends.

Garret Sacco (Clinical Psychology) gsacco@udel.edu

* Process of change in therapy – how psychotherapy works, what makes therapy better or worse

Don Sharples (Jefferson Admissions)

* Been there for 18 years – works closely with University of Delaware
* Occupational Therapy; Couple & Family Therapy

Caitlin Posillico (Behavioral Neuroscience) cposillico@psych.udel.edu

* Research assistant at UD focusing on immune system of pregnant rats

Kirsten Johnson (School Psychology) johnkm@udel.edu

* Masters & certificate (between masters and PhD)

Lizzy Neely (School Psychology) emneely@udel.edu

* Masters & certificate (between masters and PhD)

Fabi Blake (Clinical Psychology) fabi@udel.edu

* Just got accepted to graduate program this fall (recently went through the process)

Brittany Osborne (Neuroscience) bosborne@psych.udel.edu

* Behavioral Neuroscience PhD program

**Q**: Wants to be a clinical psychologist, how rigorous is the application process?

**A**: Applied after her Masters degree. Networking and reading up on what professors all over the country are doing is imperative so that you can apply and find the best fit for yourself.

**Q:** What is a way to stand out besides doing research?

**A:** Community service. The same things college admissions would look for, except more in depth. Areas that show leadership and time management skills. Get to know the institutions and understand which schools is the best fit for you. Apply early, and make sure you’re on the right timeline during the application process (taking tests when you need, completing application components on time). Present yourself professionally and communicate well. The school wants to know about your passion regarding the program that you are applying to.

**Q:** What classes do school psychologists take?

**A:** currently taking special education courses, but next semester is statistics. Varies depending on semester and there is a clinical component as well.

**Q:** Internships are good, but it’s tough to get psychology internships. What do you suggest I do to get experience?

**A:** PSYC365 is a great class to take to gain experience (need a car) – Look into UNIV364 as well (more independent based). Working for suicide hotlines gives you a unique perspective and allows you to be there for someone – it is volunteer work. Volunteer work in general is great for experience.

**Q:** What are prerequisites for PSYC365?

**A:** PSCY100, 207, 209

**Q:** When should I apply to graduate school?

**A:** Often times it is the summer before senior year, but check with the specific institution that you’re interested in. Give yourself enough time to take you admissions tests as well.

**Q:** What is the day to day for a graduate student like? And how is job placement?

**A:**  2-year masters program. Classes two days a week but it is a 40hr a week experience because you will be dealing with patients – 14 clinical sites in or around Philadelphia. Jobs usually within six months.

**Q:** Is there anyway to get shadowing experience with doctors as an undergraduate?

**A:** Check with university hospitals – some let shadowing occur if you are a volunteer

**Q:** Do people make friends in Grad School or is it all work and lonely?

**A:** Definitely different than undergraduate program – More work, less opportunities to party and socialize. Make great friends with people in your cohort. Some days you fight off loneliness, but there are a lot of things to be involved in. Look into the environment of the department you are applying to because they vary greatly – the same goes for the type of other students in the program. Email a graduate student and ask questions!

**Q:** What is a typical schedule like for behavioral neuroscience?

**A:** Every program is different. At UD you take 2 classes a semester and do research all day when you’re not in class. Classes depend on program you’re accepted to.

**Q:** Is there a lot of research for school psychology?

**A:** Depends on the level at which you study. PhD usually emphasizes research.

**Q:** Is Grad school too time consuming to have an outside job?

**A:** PhD you’re not allowed because they fund you with a stipend. Don’t let part time jobs interfere with anything school related – you should never tell faculty “I can’t do that because I have to work”. Most degrees other than PhD you have to fund yourself (think about your return on investment), however there are exceptions to this.

**Q:** What skillset do you think you use most in behavioral Neuroscience?

**A:** Time management is the most useful for whichever you choose. Check the website of the lab you’re interested in – sometimes they list their protocols and experimental procedures.

**Q:** Would it be difficult to get into a psych graduate program if you’re not a psych major?

**A:** Because you’re a psych minor, you clearly show interest and understanding so I would say it is possible

**Q:** How significant is the GRE for the programs at Jefferson?

**A:** It depends on the program – they have different cut-offs. Most departments advertise their average cut-off.

**Q:** How is the job market for a clinical PhD in psych?

**A:** Most people will do a post-doc after they finish their PhD. There are a lot of opportunities and options for social science graduates (private practitioners, professors, psychologists, etc.). Job availability also depends on location (NYC, Boston and bigger cities will be more difficult to get jobs in because there is more competition).

**Q:** Is the lack of science in a B.A. major going to make it more difficult to get into PhD programs?

**A:** Research experience can supplement your application and your knowledge. You can also take science courses as electives. Writing a thesis and being involved in research says more for you than a B.S. degree would.

**THANK YOU!**